

Bannister

versus

DON OWERS

WHILE Roger Bannister has been making international news with his achievement of the four-minute mile, Don Owers, of Barking Laboratory, has been concentrating on the same distance with such success that he ran in the same heat with the redoubtable Bannister in the A.A.A. Championships at the White City last July.

A member of the Ilford Athletic Club, he began to train for the mile under Mr. Harry Turvey last March and from a time of 4 min. 36 sec. got down to 4 min. 25.5 sec. in his first race of the season in May. Later in the month he came third in the Essex County Championships with a time of 4 min. 22.8 sec., and was selected as a reserve for Essex at the British Games where, however, his services were unfortunately not required.

On June 19 he got below 4 min. 20 sec., taking fifth place in his heat at the Southern Counties Championships in 4 min. 18.6 sec., but was not sufficiently recovered to do more than finish ninth in the finals two hours later. He gained the Southern Counties standard, however, and three days later at his own club championships came first in the club record time of 4 min. 16.1 sec., which is still his best time for the distance.

At the White City, running in the same mile heat as Roger Bannister and J. W. Brown, he came fifth in 4 min. 18.3 sec. and did not, therefore, qualify for the final, but he gained the A.A.A. National Standard Medal which entitles him to try again next year, and we look forward to seeing him distinguish himself in the final then.

