THE SPIKE

OR

Victoria College Review

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Literature of Capping Carnivals</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spike and University Problems</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capping Day</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey (Women)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey (Men)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debating</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Union</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socials and Entertainments</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glee Club</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Tournament, 1908</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Appeal Case</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Nubibus</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.B.C. of A Blessed Cow</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cadi’s Seat</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Leaf</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen IX</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen XI</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro Patria</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To B.A.</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Notes</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes from other Colleges</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers to Correspondents</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Illustrations:
- Student’s Association Committee | 1 |
- Football First Fifteen | 18 |
- Professor Adamson | 33 |
- Hockey First Eleven (Women) | 38 |
- Hockey (Men) | 42 |
- Victoria College Graduates, 1908 | 51 |
"I was just going to say, when I was interrupted, that one of the many ways of classifying minds is under the heads of arithmetical and algebraical intellects. All economical and practical wisdom is an extension or variation of the following arithmetical formula: \(2 + 2 = 4\). Every philosophical proposition has the more general character of the expression \(a + b = c\).

I have an immense respect for a man of talents plus 'the mathematics'."

—The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table.

As his Presidential Address to the College Debating Society. Professor Picken recently delivered a speech on the subject of "University Ideals" which excited very great interest both amongst students and members of the outside public, and dealt so comprehensively with so many of the important questions and difficulties of the true College life that we regret we are unable to publish the address in full.

The Spike is so warmly in accord with the Professor's views (on some aspects of which it proposes to enlarge a little) that it is pleasantly surprised to find that he has left it one or two opportunities of justifying its name and its existence as an impartial observer, constitutionally bound over as it is not to keep the peace with any man, much less a Professor,
As a youthful student-body still on the highroad to maturity and anxious to avoid errors by the wayside, we feel a particular interest in the Professor’s experience of older institutions. While he deplored the dangerous tendency of modern University life to give pride of place to the College society and to the College function rather than to College studies, it was reassuring to hear that he was keenly alive to the value of real social intercourse amongst students—intercourse of the kind that is really only possible in the student days before the busy world claims us and scatters us far and wide.

We are not instinctively charitable, and the Professor’s sketch of the degenerate tendencies existing in the Home Universities was the more acceptable to us from the comfortable feeling that we, admittedly free as yet from serious blight of the same kind, were indirectly exalted at the expense of our English brothers. The Professor has evidently found time to dip into the study of human nature. Though to-morrow may find us as they are to-day, in the meantime we gaze complacently on their lowered status and glory exceedingly.

However, the Spike at least is far from feeling quite satisfied with the conditions prevailing in our own midst. At the present time, speaking from the general standpoint, we consider that “study” has become the dominating factor of our College life to such an extent that there is a distinct tendency to completely lose sight of the opportunities for social intercourse which College life affords. If it be necessary to run to one extreme or the other, possibly we are in better case than our fellows at Home, but we fail to see why it should be necessary.

It is an unfortunate fact of our New Zealand University life that, because of the practical absence of residential Colleges, and because so many of our students are students and wage-earners at the same time, ideal social intercourse of the kind extolled by Professor Picken—the long discussions with fellow-students over the dying embers—is practically impossible. We are too busy, alas, and have too many other interests claiming our attention to have any time to attempt the cultivation of our friends. But in the meantime are we making the most of what opportunities we have? Assuredly not. Of the 400 students attending Victoria College how many have a part in the real life of the institution, or ever think of it save as the abode of lectures? Probably one half of that number know not the meaning of the term “College society” in a practical sense though they may occasionally forsake their principles long
enough to attend a College function; yet in the absence of better conditions these are the means by which is to be fostered the growth of that College atmosphere and of that social intercourse and friendliness which should form the background of University culture. We hope that the conditions will so change that our successors will, under happier circumstances, reach nearer to Professor Picken’s ideal. In the meantime our University life is what we like to make it, and Professor Picken has at least pointed out the direction in which our future footsteps should lead us.

The pursuit of knowledge should unquestionably take first place in the student’s programme if his term at the University is to realise the best results. On this point we are all agreed. But it need not do so to the exclusion of what should really be the remaining component parts of the complete College career. Yet this is what it is doing for too many of us to-day. With a few glaring exceptions our past experience goes to show that the prominent performers in the field and in the social hall may also be looked for with some degree of certainty amongst the academic successes of the year. Active participation in all departments of College life will make for the speediest production of the perfect type of student.

The reason for the prevailing state of affairs may be laid at many doors; “the struggle for existence” and “the commercial spirit of the age” are favourite alleged causes, while we have sometimes had misgivings as to the innate selfishness of a certain type of student. Whatever it may be, there is no controverting the statement that the majority of our students seek the world again without gleaning much from their Alma Mater save the book knowledge necessary to support their claim to be regarded as University bred, which they are not, and a University Degree which, as a guarantee of culture, partakes of the elusiveness of the red herring.

Now for the examination and degree system. Professor Picken, while admitting its value as a factor in the evolutionary process, considers that its day of usefulness is now past, and that the student of the future should be free to study as he pleases (with the advantage of advisory assistance in selecting a course) and that there should be no reward of his labour save that of knowledge attained and truth conserved. With this view we are unable to agree. We understand and appreciate what we believe to be the ideas prompting the Professor’s view of the matter, but we are not sure that they apply to every day
conditions. There must always be something to act as the hallmark of mental efficiency, and as such the degree is not to be regarded as a useless ostentation but simply as a credential of so many years' work faithfully performed.

Also, at the outset of the College career it is well to have a definite purpose in view, the non-achievement of which will argue a waste of opportunity. Effort is stimulated in the earlier years, while at the same time is taking place the development of a wider outlook on life which should ensure that the goal, when attained, is not considered an ultimate resting place. Viewed from this standpoint the existence of the degree is a direct inducement to study. Take an extreme case where the sole object of a College course is to obtain a degree for the sake of its commercial value. Had there been no degree there would probably have been no study. Yet even when obtained under such conditions as these the resulting increase of knowledge is a direct benefit to our national life, and the study habit once formed may continue to flourish as a cherished possession long after the base ideal which gave it birth has been swept away by the vigorous onrush of its increasing growth. At any rate if one of the gold-brood can pass four years at Victoria College and still cling to his illusions, it is not a high tribute to ourselves or our leaders. In a minor way, too, degrees and like distinctions have their uses as a means of comparison and as an aid to selection. Imagine for a moment that the lure of gold has proved too strong for one of the occupants of the Professorial Chairs of Victoria College. He departs and the position falls vacant. Two men in England (or possibly 200, if they are abreast of the times and have heard of us) apply for the honour of election to the post. How are their rival claims to be considered? To a great extent by the authentic records of their scholastic attainments gained in generous competition with their fellows.

The real danger of the present system, it seems to us, lies not in the existence of the degree, but in the conditions governing the attainment of that object. Here there seems room for much improvement. The average examination-paper for instance, is not the best test of a student's real knowledge of his subject, but tends to set a premium on "cram" and memory. The only man who is competent to judge a student's progress is the Professor under whom he has been sitting. There is much to be said in favour of the system in vogue in America, where degrees are granted solely on the reports and recommendations of the professors. Of course there is room
for abuse when those gentlemen happen to fall short of the high moral standard generally associated with the fraternity, but we in New Zealand need have no fears on that score. In America also (we have it on the authority of Sir Robert Stout) post-graduate work is encouraged. In New Zealand there is a serious risk that the struggle to obtain a degree may be exalted in the student's mind to stand, not for the means, but for the end. One rung of the ladder has been surmounted, but the heights are still to climb. By the time the requisite amount of study to secure the degree has been accomplished it is to be hoped that the student will have some appreciation of the study-habit for its own sake, which, until he has had some experience of regular study, and been in close contact with men of learning and culture, he could not be expected to possess. It is the part of the Professors to instil this sentiment into the minds of their charges. The existence of the degree only to be gained by a course of general study ensures a foundation of general knowledge which may serve as the basis of continued steady culture. Professor Pickren's idea that the student of the future should be a perfectly free agent in his choice of a University course seems to suggest that specialisation in one or more subjects might be indulged in from the start of a College career. We think this would be extremely inadvisable. The majority of new students enter College straight from the secondary schools, in many cases ill-prepared, and are very callow individuals indeed. Until the student has gained some general culture, and is in a position to know what he is best fitted for, specialisation should not be unduly encouraged. This point is the more important from the fact that even when it does rest on a broad initial basis of general culture, specialisation is inclined to run to excess, and has so often furnished "the narrow-minded College don who is the world's commonest reproach to the Universities."

It is not for us to encourage conservatism in University affairs. That is not our function, and it can never be forgotten that we have a University Senate. But the fuller life preached by Professor Pickren is providentially not dependent on Senatos or degrees—it's attainment rests with the men and women, professors and students of our Colleges who are willing to lend a little of their brain and sinew to the common cause—perhaps a little to a virtuous Spike, ever ready to champion the oppressed, and to drive a nail in the coffin of Unrighteousness.

The recent inception of a series of football matches with Sydney University marks a distinct step forward in the history of the athletic life of the University of New Zealand, and the
primary movers are to be heartily congratulated on the success of the initial venture. At one of the many functions tendered to the New Zealand team in Sydney, it was suggested that the idea of Inter-University contests at present applied to football was capable of expansion, and that in the future athletic contests might be arranged between the several Australasian institutions somewhat on the lines of the present New Zealand Inter-University College Tournament. Though the difficulties at present confronting such a scheme, notably expense and time, are so great as to appear almost insurmountable, still the New Zealand Colleges are expanding very rapidly, and we think that the idea of instituting such contests should be expressed and allowed to mature. As gatherings of University men these tests would have a deeper significance than that of mere athletic meetings. Competitors would be as friends visiting friends of about the same age, not thrown upon promiscuous hospitality, and should be young enough to learn something from their wanderings.

Associated with the scheme are certain dangers which we cannot afford to overlook. Travelling teams carry the honour of their Universities in their hands, but the exercise of proper care in the selection of representatives, and a clear conception of the responsibilities involved should go far to obviate any risk of regrettable incidents on tour.

At the present time athletics is in grave danger of losing its status as a useful function of our social life and degenerating into a demoralising struggle for superiority on a cash basis. This will surely encourage the growth of the sentiment that all means are well, provided that the game is thereby won.

One duty of the University to the community is to combat all such tendencies, and the best practical method of dealing with this particular case is by actual demonstration of the real aims of sport in contests where individual interests are subordinate to those of pure sport; where there is no room for the "pot-hunter" and where the reward of merit is in the joy of successful strife alone.
The Literature of Capping Carnivals.

It is the special function of a University to cultivate letters. They have been a stay in times of adversity and a pride in times of strength. Literature, in one form or another, has poured forth in steady stream from the sacred founts right down the ages, and has more than once been lost in that river of comment and criticism which so often crosses the shallows, and passes off in vapour before it reaches the classic sea. It has become a special function of the University student to lay a yearly offering at the feet of Pallas. This offering has been gently and persistently directed towards obscurity by the sandalled foot without the aid of scientific comment or "intelligent criticism."*

Yet, why should capping literature escape this condemnation? It is true that from its very nature it is not one of those permanent forms which claim the attention of men by an appeal which may be called "universal." On the contrary, capping literature is necessarily local and topical. Its object is to bring a year’s life and work under review, not with the sober insistence of the examiner, but with the light-hearted exuberance of the youthful examinee; one who is content to have tasted the humour of the lecture room and the joy of the green turf. Capping literature aims first at "hitting off" the academic year. It may, and ought to be, incidentally, a record, but its devotees have never claimed for it the enduring qualities of history. There is no reason, however, why a form which is used for temporary and passing needs should not be subjected to the same kind of investigation as the higher forms of art, and this article is written in the belief that the application of "higher criticism" may give help to some who see in carnival song-books only a barren scrip on which ancient jokes may be stereotyped. Professor Picken, in his Presidential address to the Debating Society, warned us that the sources of witticism are apt to run dry. Professor Picken will doubtless live to see his words prove true in Wellington as in Glasgow, for the danger is one to be met and faced at every turn, and new Professors come not with each succeeding year. But the possibilities of variation are more numerous than is generally thought; the "sources" are more abundant than a casual acquaintance with the "streams" would lead one to suppose.

Let us consider for a moment what is expected of a Carnival Programme. The Carnival is somewhat in the nature of

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* This is not a reference to the commentaries of the *Evening Post.*
a reaction after a somewhat dull capping ceremony. In the afternoon the University public is mildly disappointed if there is no “fun,” and the Press screams if there is. Someone has to be disappointed. But even Sir Robert Stout expects some effervescence in the evening. It is in the nature of things that the student body makes use of a day which tradition has dedicated to freedom. It is for the literary craftsman to find fitting words to allow some of the youthful exuberance to escape in song.

The Carnival as an undergraduate safety-valve is already an ancient institution in Australasia, and although its literature has been used to enliven many more or less interesting items of entertainment, the products extant and procurable do not suggest that the literary art has often been used in any full and scientific way. On the one hand, topical words have been applied, through the medium of song-parody, to isolated events of College interest; on the other hand, comic operas have been attempted, which have used the song-parody to illuminate an imaginary theme. The first have been too slender to stand of their own weight; the latter—as far as information can be obtained—have usually been too ambitious and have demanded too much of the performers to be successful in the hands of a scratch Carnival team. Though it must be admitted that there is little Australian data to dogmatise upon, it can probably be said with truth that the literary expression has not been set fairly to meet the needs of the case. The matter and the form, to use Professor Mackenzie’s trenchant phrase, have been unjudiciously separated.

Some two years ago Victoria College set itself to deal with the problem in what appeared to be a new way, and certainly in a way which had some reasoned basis. Literary expression had to be found for the “soul awakening.” It must be dramatic, for the public must see as well as hear. It must be original and striking, for the public refuses to believe that a student’s Carnival is a failure merely because the beat comes on the wrong bar. It must be topical, partly from tradition, partly from inherent vice. Added to which, no Wellington carnival can for years expect to find a body of students who can give time for a long course of preparation.

Now it was proposed to make the main part of the programme into what was afterwards called, for want of a better name, a “musical extravaganza.” It was to be a kind of glorified capping song, a series of songs on topics of College interest, woven together by one central idea into a literary unity. It was to be dramatic, for the songs were to be
arranged and designed for acting; it was to derive an appearance of originality from a certain solemn grotesqueness gained partly from the setting and partly from the mechanical method of the tableau vivant. It was to be easy of performance, to the extent that drill movements and cake-walks are easier than conventional acting and dancing. On the whole, the details of the scheme seemed to coincide well with the apparent needs of the case. Such was the idea of which "Munchums" was the first fruit.

It may be some apology for considering the matter further to repeat what has already been implied, that "Munchums" was an attempt to solve a difficulty which had already brought despair to many Students' Association Committees. It was an attempt to solve the difficulty not only for one Carnival, but for many yet to be. If the theory was sound, if the idea worked out in practice, it could be repeated year by year. It could become the characteristic of the Carnival and be a Victoria College tradition. The originators, at any rate, bequeathed their estate in it to the College in the hope that something might be useful to posterity.

Professor Von Zedlitz, from whom much valuable comment might have been expected on the question of capping songs, has helped us in one respect alone. He has told us about the unities. Now, in one respect, it would appear that "unity" is the first essential of our musical extravaganza. It is not the unity of plot or incident, for that would generally restrict the topical interest and necessitate undue weight being laid on a too slender framework. Many College incidents which may legitimately support one tableau would be crushed by four. Neither is it the unity of time, because if there are four tableaux there must be four contrasts, and for this purpose it may be useful, if we begin with the rustle of the Garden of Eden, to end with the clash of Armageddon. The unity which should be principal part of our stock in trade is what may perhaps be termed the unity of purpose. Some general idea should be taken, it should be kept "steadily in view" all the time, and be implicit where it is not explicit. It should be voiced in the beginning, it should be shouted in the grand finale—it should be the background throughout. It should be helped by all the artifices at command, and for this purpose a "run-through" chorus may be useful to suggest, where repetition would be vain, that the common purpose survives.

Let no one imagine that this is a detail. It ought to supply, as far as any one factor can, that which is the crowning mark of good work in literature, the "atmosphere." In its highest forms "atmosphere" is a matter of genius, and defies
argument. You know it is there, and you cannot tell why. But it is possible to get a spirit into the extravaganza which, in a rude way, is akin, and this may be produced by the writer who can use a good general idea; who can get a stage manager who "sees right through" it, and a musical director who will subordinate his baton to the humour of the situation.

And here we may revert to Professor Picken's fear lest the sources of witicism should run dry. It is not too much to say that, under the genial influence of two different points of view, the same witicism may do duty to the third and fourth generation. Who thought of complaining this year that Professor Kirk's "emu" was stale? As a "memory from abroad" it burst upon us with all the freshness of a new joke, and perhaps with a little of the added joy of an old friend. Comic papers take advantage of this and surprise us with jests which made us chortle in our cradles. It is very much a matter of setting, and a general idea will give us what is necessary to lead the minds of our audience whether we will and how we will, whether it be through old fields or into new pastures.

The literary effectiveness of this unity is also a matter of some moment, but this is only one of the fortunate accidents of the scheme. It is another of those accidents that the general idea will provide material to work upon. Bring any idea which has a universal bearing into relation with any set of incidents and you will find that it supplies suggestions which would otherwise have passed unnoticed. It is possible that the bigger the idea and the smaller the incident, the more humorous may the application become. True it is that the sources of witicism enlarge enormously when the one initial difficulty is overcome.

Perhaps, considering the proximity of examinations, we may leave the matter here for the present. Many points of detail will suggest themselves to anyone who tries to sketch out an extravaganza along these lines. "Munchums" and "The Golden Calf" will help anyone who is interested to see how an a priori theory worked out in actual practice. It may lead to further development along the same line—it may lead to a reconstruction of the theory. The aim is the development and perfecting of some characteristic form of Carnival literature at Victoria College, and a discussion of the form from a critical and literary standpoint cannot fail to arouse new interest and raise the standard of work which is very often attempted and very generally and justly condemned.

F.A.M.

(By Order of the Company.)
"The Spike" and University Problems.

By Graduate.

THERE seems to be an inherent tendency in all College magazines to degenerate into a mere recital of the social and athletic doings of the particular institutions whose pleasures and recreations they rather vainly seek to perpetuate in an abstract of games played and functions past. That there is a legitimate place in College magazines for racy comment on current affairs no one will deny, and The Spike, no doubt, compares more than favourably with the publications of other University Colleges. But it is bad policy to measure oneself by an inferior standard. An ideal is absolutely necessary to progress, and unless new fields are exploited by The Spike it must find itself gradually wandering into the old accustomed path. It is in the hope that future columns of The Spike will be devoted to some more serious questions that this short article is written.

Surely there are enough questions of vital interest to New Zealand University, and more particularly to Victoria College, that offer scope to those older students who have an interest in the future of their Alma Mater! And what better purpose could the columns of The Spike be put to than a consideration of those questions that are being raised in connection with our academic, political, and social institutions?

To raise one small point by way of illustration - the difficult question of the value of Home Examinations. As one who has but recently passed through the anguish of the struggle for a pass, and the long, dreary wait before the verdict can be given, I may be allowed to put the matter from the point of view of undergraduates. What the examination in England was meant to do - and what it accomplished in a more or less satisfactory manner - was to remove the granting of a degree from all local influence, and to submit the estimation of a candidate's work to well known English scholars. This was expected to give the degree a unique value. But since the precious document has come into my possession through the hands of the Vice-Chancellor, I have been rather concerned to find that the celebrated English scholars who have passed me as worthy have not appended their valuable signatures to the important document. Now, what better am I for the knowledge that someone - I know not whom - situated on the other side of the world, and who knows nothing of me except what
my answers failed to conceal from him, has put his mark of
approval upon me?

On the other hand, what have I paid for this—I mean out-
side the graduation fee that raises the righteous indignation
of the law student. What are all undergraduates paying for it?
They are endeavouring to put a year’s work into six months,
with the inevitable consequence—overstrain and ill-health; they
gamble their three years’ labour on a few examinations set by
men who know nothing of the candidates’ work during that
period; they must persevere take the chance of losing a whole
year by what is not an infrequent occurrence—an attack of ill-
ness at the critical examination time. This is bad enough in
all cases, but when it is remembered that there are time limits
in the case of Senior Scholarships and Honours, the matter
becomes of increasing importance. The position can never be
retrieved.

Nevertheless, most undergraduates, no doubt, hold the
view, that as a freshman I did, that a degree given by English
authorities must be far better than one granted from within
the Dominion? But when one has been through the mill and
gathered himself together: surveyed, perchance, his wrecked
constitution and, certainly, a wrecked educational course, he
begins to ask himself whether the so-called advantages of the
Home system are worth the cost.

As far as a degree is concerned, the present system seems
to offer decided inducements to cram, as the students’ work
during the year, except in so far as it bears on a few questions
set for the degree, has no power to influence the granting or
withholding of a “pass.”

But not only does the system curtail the educational func-
tions of the Colleges, it, to a large extent, prevents the social
and physical development of its undergraduates. This is par-
ticularly the case when many students have to support them-
sewells during their College course. The free hours are so few
that any time not spent at grinding at text books or lectures
are looked on as lost, and as every evening is fully occupied
with lectures, if the prescribed work is to be covered, a student
who wishes to qualify as quickly as possible is often tempted
to neglect the needful physical exercise and the interchange of
views with other students that have such an immense influence
in developing character. The College has primarily, no doubt,
to impart knowledge, but the student should be able to give a
reason for the faith that is in him, and how can this possibly
be accomplished if there be no spare hours that can be given
to the interchange of opinions?
To most undergraduates preparing for a degree the actual University course is distasteful, and principally because—in order to meet the requirements of the outside examination—they are driven along at a pace that gives no time for reflection, no time to digest the mass of material that must perforce be bolted. Mental dyspepsia inevitably follows, and, as with the stomach so with the mind, food becomes absolutely nauseous. The student who survives and, having obtained a degree, is able to continue more freely, finds an interest in the work that is in pleasing contrast to the lethargy to which his mental faculties succumbed under the examination discipline.

If this short article succeeds in arousing in graduates and undergraduates some serious thought on our University methods and the means for improving them, and if it awakens contributors and subscribers to the fact that The Spike should be an organ of power in the University world and in the larger world of life and endeavour, it will have rendered no small service to the University and to The Spike.
FOOTBALL FIRST FIFTEEN, 1908.
As accuracy is a point upon which we pride ourselves, we cannot say that the record of the Club in this season’s football is an unexpected disappointment. Despite the optimistic paragraphs which appeared in the daily press at the beginning of the season forecasting our probable performances with joyous anticipation, we were not misled, and have always had a tolerably good notion that final results would be just about what they are. An unusual number of accidents and the breaking up of the team in mid-season by the visit of the University team to Sydney may stand partly responsible for the worst failures, but these are not the only reasons. As brute strength and ignorance have been more in evidence than science in senior football this year, it is the more unfortunate that we still seem unable to furnish many exhibitions of which scientific play is an outstanding feature.

Ever since the Club was founded it has been customary in discussing our continued defeats, to cloud the issue by dilating on the improvement sure to follow the erection of proper training quarters. A good gymnasium has been at the Club’s disposal all this season, and there is certainly no improvement due to a regular use of it—on one occasion three men held the floor. Until a keen desire to train is more cultivated in our midst, we may expect history to repeat itself. In the heyday of the season, some excellent fights were put up, notably against Melrose, but the best that can be said of us is that we play the game in a decent spirit rather than with a murderous determination to succeed at all costs. Taken altogether, affairs are no worse than usual, and we may rest content that our achievements fairly represent our deserts.
As blatant optimism has achieved so little in the past, we venture to express a conviction that, whatever the distant future may have in store, Victoria College will not win the championship next season.

Hitchings, de la Mare, and Prendeville have represented Wellington Province on different occasions during the season.

de la Mare showed fine form during the recent visit of the New Zealand University team to Sydney. A typical newspaper opinion from the other side runs thus:—“Two men who stood out throughout a hard game were Lang and de la Mare, and their work was occasionally reminiscent of New Zealand representative forwards.”

On the eve of his departure for Edinburgh, a complimentary dinner was tendered by the Club to G. V. Bogle, captain of the First XV, since 1906.

FIRST XV. MATCHES.

V.C. v. Melrose. Lost 11—0. Our men were in great heart after the win against Wellington on the previous Saturday, and gave probably their best all-round showing of this season. Till within fifteen minutes of the finish there was no score, but by that time the Melrose forwards “tactics” had completely worn down the lighter opposition, and three tries were scored in quick succession. “Melrose stand or fall by their forwards” as the admiring cry of the sporting writers so often has it, and when it comes to a question of winning at any price without much regard to the ways and means of accomplishing that object, we should imagine that they are unparalleled in this or any other city.

V.C. v. Poneke. Lost 11—0. Poneke were strongly represented; Wallace was again selected and appeared to earn his place. College were shorthanded, and on a wet ground were quite out-played by the opposing forwards.

V.C. v. St. James. Lost 29—0. The fact that the flower of our flock were absent in Sydney and several more were injured, making it necessary to take the field with ten juniors, must stand as an extenuating circumstance of this awful rout. St. James's backs played an excellent open game, throwing the ball about with a most reckless disregard for the chances of unexpected disaster which might so easily overtake any team which held our heroes too cheaply. Providence was with them this time.

V.C. v. Southern. Lost 8—3. “An even but essentially uninteresting game” vide Evening Post. Southern scored at the start while we were a man short, and again towards the end of the day. The middle game was all to our advantage and several chances were narrowly missed. Cartuyne scored nicely from a line-out.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost 9—3. Our team was strengthened by the return of the Sydney contingent, and as Wellington were burning to avenge their former defeat, a tight game was expected. However we quite failed to reproduce our form of the first match and suffered defeat as above.
CANTERBURY COLLEGE MATCH.

The Spike has no hesitation in disagreeing with the two local journals which considered that Victoria College were unfortunate in being defeated by Canterbury College and which asserted that the score of sixteen points to nine did not accurately represent the abilities of the two teams. In the first spell the V.C. forwards kept the ball at their feet and had the better of the play. However, at half-time, the score stood at five points to three. C.C.'s try obtained by Rattray, resulted from Arch. Tudhope with nobody backing him up, waiting for the ball to bounce, which it did—in the wrong direction. V.C.'s try was scored by Fathers from a very rugged forward rush. The same player spent some time in having shots at goal during the course of the spell. In the second spell Canterbury wisely made the game open; Victoria, ever courteous, did the same and further assisted their opponents by consistently refusing to tackle a man below the shoulders. McMorran got the ball away occasionally to O'Leary at five-eighths, who did his best to outshine the three-quarters by consistently refusing to let them have the ball. Goodhere rested on his laurels and should have felt much refreshed at the end of the game. A. Tudhope at full-back found the line once in the first spell and twice in the second, whilst the forwards spent the intervals between the scrums in wandering aimlessly about the field. The Reds played a dashing open game which, though quite safe against V.C., would have been somewhat reckless against any other team. For them Williams scored two tries and Collyns one, converted by McCallum, during the second spell. As a result of the continued practice he obtained during the game, Fathers managed to kick two penalty goals for V.C. The final result was Canterbury College 16; Victoria College 9.

JUNIOR MATCHES.

V.C. v. Kia Ora. Lost 9—0. Feel rather proud of this result, as opponents ultimately went through to the final.

V.C. v. Poneke. Lost 20—0 Once more our dashing forwards played their usual fierce game. Naturally a little rest was necessary on occasion, and Poneke efforts during these lapses were too strong for the back division. No one particularly worse than his fellows.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost 6—5. So near and yet so —. Backs positively brilliant—at times. An extra-special concerted movement saw G. W. Reid over the line, and East converted the try. We led 5—3 till well on time, when one of our many breaches of off-side rule occurred under the posts. Result as above.

V.C. v. Malrose. Lost 15—3. A close game in our favour except as regards points. In second spell we kept them very busy, while we piled on our three—a “simultaneous” try by Smith and Reid.

V.C. v. Selwyn. Lost 23—5. We faced the foe with a miscellaneous team of all grades. Lyon scored from a “centre” after a fine three-quarter-line rush. Long score due mostly to silly mistakes in which the whole team cheerfully participated.
V.C. v. Petone. Lost 48—3. Nice quiet game. Petone were leading for the championship, we were not, and we are "sports" if nothing else. We were but eleven anyhow till big John Ross saw "green" and farewelled his relatives on the side line to join the gallant fray. Mitchell scored from a nice opening by Hill, but generally speaking we were amenable to reason.

THIRD XV.

V.C. v. Kia Ora. Won (by default.)


V.C. v. Poneke. Won (by default.)


V.C. v. Railway. Lost 6—0. Only three third-class men took part in this match, the remainder of the team consisting of Professor Hunter and eleven fourth-class men. Play all through was of a scrambling nature, but finally our condition gave out, and the other side put on a couple of tries in the last ten minutes.

V.C. v. Oriental. Drawn 0—0. Twelve men on each side lined up, after much consultation, on a field half of which was at least six inches under water. Skinner touched down in the corner, but lost the ball immediately after and no score was given, while our opponents kicked "a poster" right on the call of time. A draw was a fitting result of a very fast and even game.

V.C. v. Southern. Won (by default.)

V.C. v. St. Johns. Won 13—0. Full team for once owing to Juniors having finished their games. Tries scored by Enting, Burnett and A. Rutherford. Randrup potted a goal.


FOURTH XV. MATCHES.

V.C. v. Athletic. Lost 11—5. Dowling kicked a goal from a try by Nicholls. Superior combination, especially among the backs, gave our opponents a win, although we had much the better of the second half.

V.C. v. Melrose. Lost 8—3. Spratt had his back injured, and most of the game was played with only fourteen men. As usual we ran over the opposition in the second spell, but the only score was a well-deserved try by Clemance.
V.C. v. Southern. Drawn 3—3. This was at least a moral victory, for we were first to score a try against our opponents, the ultimate winners of the championship. We had easily the best of things in the first half. Gray scored from a forward scramble, but the position was reversed in the next spell, and we had hard work to keep our line clear. "Jenness D," at full-back, played a great game, and made not a mistake from start to finish.

V.C. v. Poneke. Won 36—0. Ten Poneke men were rash enough to face the green avalanche on this occasion, and they led the strenuous life for sixty minutes. If our two five-eighths and centre had not been quite so anxious to show what a tremendous amount each could do, by himself, the score might easily have been doubled.

V.C. v. Old Boys. Lost 12—0. If several "sports" had come out and taken a hand in this game, instead of watching a certain hockey match on the Basin Reserve, we should at least have made a draw of it.

UNIVERSITY RUGBY.

SYDNEY v. NEW ZEALAND.

The difficulties in connection with what has been called the Australasian Oxford v. Cambridge have at last been surmounted. The work done by Mr. Hyam Marks some five or six years ago, of which the immediate result was the interchange of visits between Sydney and Dunedin, has been completed, and for the first time the New Zealand University as a whole has been represented in the sport's field. For the first time the Sydney University man has been able to claim his Rugby Football "blue," and the same event marks the introduction of the "blue" as a New Zealand University institution.

The arrangements for the selection of the team, were carried out as foreshadowed in last number of The Spike. Otago University and Canterbury College met in Christchurch, on 24th June, and a team selected to play a North Island team in Wellington on June 26th. Mr. F. T. Evans of Christchurch was unable to come to assist in the selection and the work fell on Dr. Irwin Hunter of Otago and Professor T. A. Hunter of Wellington. The following is a list of the winners of the "blue":

W. A. Gray and L. G. Robinson (Auckland University College), J. D. Brosnan, F. B. Goodhehere, A. D. Lynch, F. A. de la Mare and H. F. O'Leary (Victoria College), G. S. Collyns,

Hitchings (Victoria College) was picked but was unable to obtain the necessary leave of absence. Robinson, who had been bar-bound in Onehunga, arrived in Wellington about an hour after the departure of the Sydney boat, and, as an extra three-quarter was wanted, he returned to Auckland and caught the Tuesday boat from that port.

The party was completed by Dr. Hunter and Dr. Tizard of Otago.

THE TRIP ACROSS.

Within three hours of the selection the “Maitai” cast off from the Wellington wharf. Of the trip little need be said save that it was not good. It was not until towards the close of the third day that there was any general desire for fresh air, and there was very general rejoicing when the shore-line of Australia broke through the haze on the horizon. It was in the afternoon of Tuesday the 30th June, that we sailed through the Heads and sighted the great city in which we were to spend ten short days. We were met at the wharf by representatives of the Sydney University, amongst whom were Mr. Hyam Marks, president, and Mr. Frank Coen, secretary, of the University Football Club, to both of whom the inauguration and success of the venture owe so much. It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. G. V. Bogle, who acted as secretary in New Zealand, was not there to see the consummation of his work. The team was driven to the Hotel Mansion and was soon comfortably settled. There was a football ground close by at Rushcutters Bay and before night fell the advent of the black jersey told that the business of the tour had begun. The trip was undertaken primarily for football, a fact which most of the team seldom forgot, and which the manager, Dr. Hunter, did not forget at all. As long as there was a University match in view there was a practice every day, and that which energy, skill, experience, and concentrated eloquence could do for a team inside a week, that did Dr. Hunter for the New Zealand University side of 1908. Least enthusiasm for Sydney and for the people of Sydney should hide the fundamental purpose of the trip it is proposed to deal with football before entertainment, with footballers before any reference is made to dances.
THE TEAMS COMPARED.

Most of those who are interested in the game have heard all that is to be said concerning the respective merits of the teams. Scores speak louder than words. But, if this is to be a record of the trip it is perhaps necessary to recapitulate. There is, of course, only one explanation of our defeat. The scores, 39 points to 9, and 26 points to 11 declare unequivocally that Sydney University had the better side. But friends at home cannot judge from the figures why the 18,000 people who saw the first match and the 8000 who witnessed the second, were delighted with the games and with the play on both sides. The Sydney papers, which treated our team with great fairness, not to say generosity, were unanimous in saying that the margin of defeat was less than the scores indicate. “For practically two-thirds of the time” says the “Referee” of the first match “the football was tit-for-tat, full of bounce and buzz and interesting bits, with New Zealand backs, as a division, superior in attack, and Sydney forwards superior all round. In the end the Kiwi was shattered by the rushes but he had already shown some dainty movements.” The same comment applies also to the second match. The loss of Nuku as an active factor during the first spell of the opening match deprived the New Zealand side of its best opening-maker. But this could not have affected the result. As long as our forwards had their full measure of dash our backs were enabled to take advantage of the loose rushes from which the ball could be snapped. But as soon as our forwards began to flag, the magnificent opposing vanguard swooped down with a combination and skill which was not to be denied. Then it was that we called for a Roland or an Oliver, a Bogle or a Hitchings, to go down to the onslaught. Our back defence was not so strong as our attack and this told its tale in the last minutes when our scrum was being hoisted where Sydney listed.

The Sydney forwards were in fact an exceeding good lot. James and John Hughes, and Bullock have since been picked to represent the State in England. They are big strong, hefty men, keen on the leather and able to handle the ball like backs. The other forwards, too, are fast and good. Both R. G. Waddy (who goes to Oxford as Rhodes’ Scholar) and J. Fitzhardinge, hold their running “blue,” and McKeown, Reynold, and Hammond completed the octette which dealt us two strenuous defeats.

Of the Sydney backs W. F. Matthews, captain and scrum-half was the star performer. He played to his team all the
time, passed well, made frequent openings, and kicked magnificently. It was delightful to see the way he nursed his forwards with the touch-line, and his in-field kicks were so high that they would have been difficult to field without the rush which had time to accumulate underneath. Luddy and Roe were both prominent in the three-quarter line, while Nigel Barker the famous sprinter, gave several exhibitions of his speed. C. A. Verge at full-back played excellent games in both matches.

It is a difficult matter to criticise backs who had never played together in the same respective positions, and this was the case of every man in each University match. O’Leary filled a difficult position with credit on the first day, but he showed some hesitation in taking the ball in the second match. H. B. Young of Canterbury College proved a reliable three-quarter and, in the last match, an effective wing-forward. Rhodes of Canterbury should develop into a strong player. At full-back in the last match he played an excellent game. A. Adams of Otago fame played at centre in the second match and the team had the advantage of his sound judgment. Goodhere scored two pretty tries in the first match. His defence was not strong, perhaps due to the fact that he was slightly injured. Goodhere has played better games for Victoria College. Dunse, the captain, was on the whole disappointing. He did brilliant work at times, but was not consistently good, especially when watching the blind side. Lomas and Nuku the Otago five-eighths were a source of great strength to their side, and had Nuku not been injured the scores would probably have been closer. Nuku made the cleverest openings we saw in Sydney. Lomas handles the ball beautifully and passes with great judgment. W. A. Gray of Auckland is a clever little half, but his compatriot Robinson did not seem to get into his stride, due, no doubt, to his much travelling.

The New Zealand forwards, though out-classed in the scrum, could have done much better in the second match had they been in consistent training. Tansy, Lynch and Collyns, three of our best forwards were unable to last out the second spell, and the opposition took full advantage of the fact. J. H. Lang a scrummer of Otago was perhaps the most solid of our forwards and he showed great facility for getting into position for defence when he was not leading the van. He was well backed up by W. Grace who is young and should improve. Potter is also a promising player. Fenwick and Wilson played well in the front rank, but they never had weight enough behind to give them a chance of securing the ball. Ongley (five-
eighths), and Brosnan and Wigley (forwards), did well in the games they played, and will all benefit from the experience gained on the tour.

After these remarks it is not proposed to give a detailed account of each match, though something must be said of each.

**NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY v. SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.**

**First Match:** Won by Sydney 30–9.

The teams were:—

**NEW ZEALAND.**

Full Back:  
H. F. O'Leary;

Three-quarters:  
H. B. Young,  F. W. B. Goodbehere,  M. Rhodes;

Five-eighths:  
R. Nuku,  E. K. Lomas;

Half:  
R. Dansey (Captain);

Forwards:  
L. M. Tansey (wing),  A. D. Lynch,  E. J. Wilson,  W. Grace,  
G. S. Collyns,  J. H. Lang,  F. A. de la Mare,  L. Potter.

**SYDNEY.**

Full Back:  
C. A. Verge;

Three-quarters:  
C. W. Roe,  J. J. Luddy,  J. James,  N. Barker;

Halves:  
E. Fisher,  W. F. Matthews;

Forwards:  
H. Bullock,  Jas. Hughes,  R. G. Waddy,  K. J. Reynolds,  

Matthews won the toss and took advantage of a fresh breeze. The first try fell to Goodbehere after some good passing by Young, Rhodes and Nuku. The next score fell to Matthews who got through on the blind side, and shortly afterwards the same player by means of a high punt which eluded O'Leary and bounced wide, gave Waddy a chance of which he availed himself. The third Sydney try was obtained by Luddy. At the end of the first spell Sydney was leading by 9 points to three. The second spell opened with a good passing rush from which Nuku scored. The Sydney forwards
returned to the charge and Hammond scored between the posts. Verge converting. Fitzhardinge and the Hughes brothers were instrumental in obtaining the next try, and almost immediately afterwards Matthews placed Hammond in a scoring position and another try resulted. An expiring effort on the part of New Zealand transferred play to the other end and Goodbehere scored his second try. During the last few minutes Sydney had it all their own way and Matthews and James Hughes added tries the last one of which Verge converted.

Mr. Pauling was referee.

SECOND MATCH: WON BY SYDNEY. 26—11.

The Sydney team was unchanged. The following represented New Zealand:—

Full Back;  
H. F. O’Leary;
Three-quarters:  
L. G. Robinson, A. Adams, R. Dansey (Captain);  
Five-eighths:  
H. B. Young, E. K. Lomas;  
Half:  
W. A. Gray;  
Forwards:  
D. E. Fenwick, E. J. Wilson, W. Grace, G. S. Collyns, J. H. Lang, F. A. de la Mare, L. Potter and L. Tansey (wing.)

The opening stages of the game found the home team mostly on the defensive. Sydney, however, scored first, Barker obtaining the ball and giving an exhibition of his pace. The try was converted by Verge. New Zealand then came with a rush and a very pretty passing movement in which most of the backs took part resulted in Robinson scoring a try which Adams converted. A few minutes later Young marked in front of the posts and Dansey kicked a goal. Shortly afterwards a very fine series of short passes ended in Grace crossing the line. He lost the ball, however, and de la Mare who was close up, was awarded the try. Towards the end of the spell Sydney set up a strong attack, and Barker receiving a good pass from Luddy, hit home. The spell ended—New Zealand 11; Sydney 8. The second half began with fairly even play but soon Matthews made a pretty opening from which Luddy scored a good try. Now Sydney began to attack in force, and Barker after a good run, put the Hughes brothers in a strong position from which James Hughes scored, and
Verge converted. In the last few minutes Fisher scored a try which he converted and Bullock added the final one, Verge adding the additional points. The game ended—Sydney 26 points; New Zealand 11.

Mr. W. J. Howe was referee.

**NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY v. SYDNEY METROPOLIS.**

**Lost 11—6.**

The third match of the tour against a fairly strong team picked from Sydney clubs, was played at the famous Sydney Cricket Ground. The game was a very pleasant one, and played in excellent spirit. New Zealand showed a general disposition to be tired.

The following were the teams:—

**COMBINED METROPOLIS.**

Full Back:
B. St. John;

Three-quarters:
E. Hucker, H. Baker, F. Luscombe (captain), D. Carroll;

Halves:
Ward Prentice, H. Goddard;

Forwards:

**NEW ZEALAND.**

Full Back:
M. Rhodes;

Three-quarters:
L. G. Robinson, F. B. Goodbehere, R. Dansey (Captain);

Five-eighths:
E. K. Lomas, M. Ongley;

Half:
W. A. Gray;

Forwards:
H. B. Young (wing), D. E. Fenwick, A. J. Wigley, J. D. Brosnan, E. J. Wilson, W. Grace, F. A. de la Mare, L. Potter.

The first spell was characterised by a good deal of give and take play, and a good many chances were missed on both sides. The only score was a try by Burge which left New Zealand with three points to the bad. In the second spell Nuku replaced Gray who had to retire injured. For a while
play became more exciting and W. Baker scored for Sydney from a forward rush. New Zealand then put in some attack and Wigley was awarded a mark from which Dansey kicked a good goal. New Zealand now began to look dangerous, and Grace and Brosnan did some good work from which the latter scored. Sydney 8 points; New Zealand 6. The New Zealand rally was not sustained and Sydney returned to the charge. They were repulsed, however, and Nuku obtained a mark in a good position. Dansey's kick failed. A few minutes later Dansey made a dash for victory in the open, but, a pass being missed, the Sydney three-quarter Hacker, picked up and found no opposition. Another forward rush ended a minute later, in a final try, and no-side was called with the score—Sydney 14; New Zealand 6.

Mr. Martin was referee.

ENTERTAINMENT.

It is now common property that the first New Zealand Football Team had a "glorious" time on the trip. The members "made friends" from the beginning and were thus in a position to enjoy all the hospitality of the friends across the sea. Receptions, entertainments, and trips were arranged, and were so kindly conducted that all were made to feel at home. For the rest a great deal of freedom was allowed and this was taken advantage of to the full by those who wished to cultivate their private friends or see the magnificent city.

The first reception took place at the Sports' Club the day after landing. Mr. Hyam Marks was in the chair, and amongst those present were: Judge Backhouse (University Senate), Mr. J. J. Calvert (N.S.W. Rugby Union), Mr. H. D. Wood (Metropolitan Union and an old University Captain), Messrs. E. S. Marks, J. R. Henderson and W. W. Hill (New South Wales Rugby Union), and N. R. Johnson, who captained the last University team which toured New Zealand. Judge Backhouse delivered an interesting speech of welcome in which he laid stress upon the "clean sport" which ought to be and is fostered by the University. Mr. J. J. Calvert an Oxford "blue" of 1851, and Mr. E. S. Marks also spoke, and Dr. Hunter replied on behalf of the team.

At the University the team was welcomed on behalf of the Senate by Sir Norman MacLaurin, and Dr. Hunter and H. F. O'Leary replied for the New Zealand University. Amongst the other festivities was a dinner at the A.B.C. Rooms after the
first match, a theatre party to the "Prince of Pilson," and morning "tea" at Lindeman's wine cellars. An interesting afternoon was spent on the Harbour visiting the training-ship "Sobraon" which is really an industrial school. Few missed the National Gallery, in itself worth the trip across. The Botanical Gardens and the "Zoo" found many admirers. But the principal source of enjoyment was the manifold glory of the Harbour and the hills. The variety and beauty of the views seemed inexhaustible, and few of the New Zealanders who saw Sydney for the first time this year would be inclined to dispute its claim to be the most beautifully situated city in the Southern Hemisphere.

During their stay in Sydney the members of the team were invited to five dances, and the social side proved not the least enjoyable part of the trip—albeit the exigencies of football called for some heroism. The Women's and St. John's Colleges entertained us in turn and there was thus an opportunity of seeing the Collegiate Buildings and of hearing something of University life. At the Sports' Union Dance in the Paddington Town Hall, the team was allowed full measure—and no thought of Saturday was allowed to cloud the horizon. Two impromptu dances were arranged by the kindness of our hosts at the Hotel Mansion and they were very much enjoyed.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

There is no space to set forth the beauty and the strength of the great seat of learning it was the privilege of these Rugby footballers to visit. The Buildings and the grounds are worthy of the great city. There is, to New Zealanders even, a suggestion of antiquity about the great hall which is adorned by portraits of men who have left their mark on the University as students and as chancellors, and have passed with honour into the history of their country. It may be well to remember that it was these men half a century ago who laid the foundation of an institution of which Australia is proud.

Let it only be said that the children of that great University held out the hand of friendship to the children of another mother. Headed by Mr. Frank Cen they made the New Zealanders welcome. And it may be said here that not only did the University people treat us as honoured guests, but the press and the public treated us with great fairness and liberality.
It was with many regrets that the battered legion parted from its friends and embarked on the "Warrimoo." The passage was, on the whole, good, and the bitterness of parting was repeated when the team lost its unity in Wellington. Dr. Hunter carried with him to Dunedin a photo presented to him by the team which had come to regard him not only as a master of tactics but also as a personal friend.

F.A.M.

Our Illustrations.

The illustrations contained in this number comprise portraits of Professor James Adamson, M.A., LL.B.; the Graduates of Victoria College, 1908; the Committee of the Students’ Association, the Ladies’ Hockey First Eleven, the Men’s Hockey First Eleven, and the Football First Fifteen.

Professor James Adamson, M.A., LL.B., the latest acquisition to the staff of Victoria College, was born in 1870, and educated at Forfar Academy, Scotland.

His career at the University of Edinburgh was a distinguished one. During his progress through the Arts course he obtained prizes in Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, his connection with the faculty of Arts terminating when he obtained his M.A. These successes, however, were entirely eclipsed by his performances in the Faculty of Law. While there was hardly a law class in which he did not gain a high place in the prize list, in no less than four of the classes he carried off first prize. He acted as assistant to the Professor of Scots Law in 1895-96, obtained his LL.B. with distinction in 1896, and in July of the same year was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates.
PROFESSOR JAMES ADAMSON, M.A., LL.B.
"And what a levelling ceremony it is! None of your plays or concerts or functions orchestral where a talented few do everything."
—Kiew.

THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY.

The official Capping took place on the afternoon of Thursday, 25th June, in the Town Hall, which was filled in the gallery by students, and down stairs by their numerous friends and admirers. By comparison with previous ceremonies, the proceedings were considerably improved by the absence of senseless noise producers, and from the fact that there were none of those prolonged interruptions which can never be accused of being humorous. The Hon C. C. Bowen who presided, opened the proceedings with a short address and was followed by Mr. J. W. Joynt who read the list of graduates with his accustomed air of impressive dignity. The diplomas, other than one or two which the University authorities had managed to leave at home, were then presented to the graduates. Mr. Fleming spoke on behalf of the College Council and Professor Adamson for the Professorial Board; the latter on rising was presented with a bouquet of carrots and other vegetables, a token of esteem from a former chairman of the Board. The proceedings closed with a wail from H. F. O'Leary on his impending bankruptcy due to the extortionate fees charged for his diploma, and on some matters which the students wished to bring under the notice of the authorities.

CARNIVAL.

The usual public entertainment was given on the evening of Capping Day in the Concert-Chamber of the Town Hall, and was as interesting as could be expected when all is considered. The Carnival of 1907 was remarkable for two reasons, firstly, because preparation for it was left later than ever before, and secondly because it was easily the best entertainment ever given by the College. Such an unusual combination of events
was very satisfactory at the time, but the evil results are now becoming apparent. This year's chorus practices were begun in fair time, but the performers in the musical comedy were not in possession of their parts until within about ten days of the performance. Much time was lost in indecisive treating with former authors, who had definitely announced their intention to do nothing, but were nevertheless persecuted by the committee with a persistence worthy of a better cause, and had not the Hogben brothers stepped into the breach the matter might still have been under consideration. In fact, the present system is quite unfair to performers, authors, and public alike, and it is high time for the Students' Committee to seriously consider the whole question. If the Annual General Meeting is not held early enough to enable the new committee to deal satisfactorily with the problem, it should be attended to by the out-going Executive.

Lankshear was once more in his element with the conductor's baton, and his efforts were ably seconded by Miss Clachan, who presided at the piano. Mr. A. W. Newton very kindly devoted two evenings to coaching the principals in stagecraft, but the absence of Miss Smith or someone to take general control of proceedings as she did last year, was a distinct drawback to the success of what few rehearsals were held.

Part I of the programme was of the usual varied nature, comprising items ranging from the vocal villainies of a nigger troupe to the artistic efforts of soloists whose names would adorn any concert programme. The general choruses were not rendered with anything approaching the full-voiced enthusiasm one expects from such a body of students. The Glee Club tunefully revived the ancient query anent one Sylvia, and certain of its members relieved their pent souls by delivering two part songs with pleasing effect. Miss Strack and Miss Newman were in excellent voice and met with a hearty reception. Mr. A. W. Newton was exceedingly amusing with several well-told anecdotes. The Niggers gave a bright and breezy turn, and made quite one of the hits of the evening. The Maori haka was not as successful as has been the case in former years. The Euphonia Corps, a trio of well-known performers who wasted time between items, were believed to have something good on their programme, but if so it had not appeared by the time they were ejected by the irate secretary.

Part II was occupied by the presentation of "South Sea Bubbles," a comic opera in three acts, in which recent happenings in connection with the Arbitration Act were cleverly burlesqued. Several incidents of local significance also received
the attention of the authors, G. M. and J. McI. Hoggoth who are to be heartily congratulated on the success of their incursion into the realms of the playwright.

The plot of the piece rests on the wanderings of Professor Watt-Buncombe through New Zealand in his search for a perfect socialist system. This he ultimately finds in the Socialism of Dr. Phin Leigh, a local politician. In the first act his doings are watched with interest by a band of Auckland Press reporters. The second act finds him in "Daihape" on the Main Trunk line where he meets Adam, a labourer, who has been working there for thirty years, and Dr. Phin Leigh. He accompanies the latter to Wellington, which is the scene of the third act, and assists him to quell a strike of the local professors. Needless to relate the Professors return to work, Professor Watt-Buncombe finds his ideal system and everybody "lives happily ever after."

As Mrs. Watt-Buncombe, Miss D. Isaacs had little to do and did it well; whilst D. N. Isaacs made the hit of the evening as Adam. The heavier parts of Professor Watt-Buncombe and Dr. Phin Leigh were taken by A. H. Bogle and G. R. Hutchison respectively, and in view of their limited opportunities for rehearsal they did well enough.

THE SUPPER.

The annual supper in honour of the graduates of the year was held in the large Town Hall. As a social function the affair can only be remembered as a dismal failure. The toast list seemed longer even than usual and was certainly no less tedious. The great majority, who wish to dance, are wearied to desperation by the speeches, and the few who do listen with any degree of interest have heard the same old tales scores of times before, and could well forego their pleasure. The toasts of the King and the graduates are acceptable as befitting the occasion, but all ensuing speeches are quite unnecessary and should be abolished forthwith. The actual food arrangements of the supper could well stand pruning also. Fifty pounds was the price of this year's extravagance. If dancing were started immediately on conclusion of the main performance, a light supper could be served in an interval at half the expense, and, if the affair could only be kept free of orators, with much more enjoyment to all concerned.

Time hath an art to make an end of all things, and on conclusion of the festivities dancing was pursued in the Concert Chamber until about 3 a.m.
It has become quite the custom of late years to have the opportunity of congratulating this Club on a successful season, but never has the general success been so pronounced as during the period just concluded. The first XI, probably as expert and seasoned a team as we can ever hope to possess, has won the Senior Championship without a defeat, and might have had an absolutely clean sheet had not the Cravens inflicted a crushing blow as described below. The Second XI has been almost equally successful and is one of the four teams which have yet to play a final round to decide the possession of the Cup—so far they have a lead of three points. Their success is the more pleasing in that it ensures a supply of trained material for the senior ranks of the future. The lower teams have not been so uniformly successful, but have manfully done their share to uphold the reputation of the Club. We ardently wish that the success of the ladies could inspire the male wielders of the ash with some spirit of emulation. Something might even be done to arrange a course of instruction; such a move would be productive of much profit and enjoyment.

Miss M. Burden was a compulsory absentee from the senior ranks during the second term and her stubborn defence and lusty drives were badly missed on several occasions.

The Senior Championship was won by a margin of 5 points.

FIRST XI MATCHES.

V.C. v Petone. Won 2—0. Goals by Misses Tavendale and Casey—Referee absent. Petone footballer recklessly filled the breach.
V.C. v Wellington. Opponents could only muster seven players and defaulted.

V.C. v St. John's. Won 8—0. Scorers Misses Bissett (4), Casey (3) and McIntosh.

V.C. v Kiwi. Won 2—1. Misses K. McIntosh and Bissett scored. Considerable interest attached to this meeting with our old rivals, but fortune was again kind.

V.C. v Petone. Won 2—0. Last championship match of the season. Petone pressed hard in the first spell, but sound defence kept them at bay. Our goals by Miss K. McIntosh and a luckless Petone maiden.

V.C. v Carterton D.H.S. Won 4—0. In spite of defeat, opponents played a fine combined game. Their coach, Miss F. Scott, formerly one of our own shining lights, almost scored on two occasions.

V.C. v Craven School (Palmerston North). This match, played on the Basin Reserve, on the 15th of August, was the best experience our girls have had this year. They were beaten by seven goals to nil. The ground was faster than anything ever dreamt of at Miramar—and so were the Cravens. From the bully off there was little doubt as to which was the better team. The combined rushes of the Cravens—and all their rushes were combined—were on a much higher level than anything ever seen here, even in Men’s Senior Hockey. Their passing was as near perfection as possible; there was never a moment’s hesitation looking for someone to pass to; they knew where a girl ought to be, passed there, and were never disappointed. A marked feature of their play was that they wasted no time stopping the ball with hand or foot; with the exception of the full-backs and the goalkeeper they all stopped the ball with the stick and always with certainty. The defence of the V.C. backs—Miss L. McIntosh at centre half, and Miss O. Cook in goal were most prominent—but the best defence against a team such as Cravens is attack. There were several flashes of brilliancy by our forwards but the Cravens proved themselves as stalwart in defence as their opponents. Misses Heale, Monckton, Burns and Abraham scored for the winners.

II A. MATCHES.

V.C. v Ramblers. Won 7—0. Goals by Misses Jackson (3), Lear (2), Elliott and McRae. Ground full of pitfalls and spectators.

V.C. v Girls’ College. Drawn two all. An excellent game between well-matched teams. Our forwards in great nick.

V.C. v Wesley. Won 9—0. One forward did not score. Played at Miramar in weather sufficient to cause postponement of men’s matches.

V.C. v Kiwis. Won 5—0. Misses Jackson (3), Elliott and McKenzie scored in one of the best games the team has yet played.

V.C. v Hereawa. Won 7—1. Misses McKenzie (4), Jackson, Elliott and Lear enhanced their reputations.
V.C. v Hinemoa. Won 2—1. Fast and furious encounter, “the game of the season” according to Dixon.—Too tired to catch the boat.

V.C. v Gregg’s. Won 4—0. Misses McKenzie and Jackson (3) were the heroines of the occasion. College forwards monopolised the game.

II B MATCHES.

V.C. v Girls’ College. Lost 6—0. Girls’ College played splendidly. Petone spectators continually encroaching on side lines seemed to upset us more than opponents.


V.C. v Ramblers. Lost 1—0. No score in first spell. Heavy rain caused two renegades to retreat and Ramblers seized the opportunity to score.

V.C. v Hinemoa. Won 2—1. This victory placed opponents below our A team in the Cup contest and was the occasion of much jubilation. Miss Renner shot both goals.

V.C. v St. John’s. Lost 1—0. Played two “men” short.

V.C. v Wesley. Won 2—0. A game of lost opportunities. College forwards had about 30 “shots.”

THIRD XI MATCHES.

Results only are given below. The team appears to have struggled gamely against heavy odds, having been continually depleted to fill gaps in the higher teams. The story of their adventures at Karori, Johnsonville and other surrounding suburbs reads like a fairy tale, but alas, our space is limited.

V.C. v Roseneath. Lost 3—0.
V.C. v Johnsonville. Lost 3—0.
V.C. v Hereawa. Won 6—0.
V.C. v Wesley. Lost 1—0.
V.C. v Hereawa. Lost by default.

ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP.

Final Results IIIA Matches.

V.C. v St. John’s. Won 8—1. Goals by all and sundry.
V.C. v Hinemoa. Won 2—0. Miss P. McKenzie added both to her “bag” with an ease and skill born of a long season’s practice in the noble art.

Victoria College has a final lead of 4 points. Hearty congratulations to IIIA.
“I have endured and done in days
before;
I have longed for all, and bid fare-
well to hope.”

—R. L. Stevenson.

With the cheery optimism of all College Clubs, a small credit balance and the Third Class Championship in hand, the Hockey Club this season embarked in pursuit of the two remaining Championships and incidental glory. The same old conservative battle methods were adopted. Practices were considered inadvisable, noses were broken and influenza contracted; each man played in each other man’s place each Saturday and each former College crack (Dixon alone excepted) was in turn brought out of his honorable oblivion to fill the casualty depleted ranks. The “future in the distance” and the encouragement of youthful players by promotion, were consistently ignored and the Club is duly face to face with the unwelcome fact that its proud possession the 3rd Class Championship has passed to another and that its cherished hopes remain unfulfilled.

In the face of this however it has to be written that the season has been the most successful in the Club’s career. Of eight teams in the competition the Seniors, who occupied second last position at the end of the first round, secured third place in the final, having scored more goals than any other Club in the competition. In earlier matches their defence was weak and their play individual rather than combined, but recent performances, especially that against United, furnish indisputable proof of marked improvement. Despite their weakened team, the fight against the redoubtable Champions was a memorable one, victory being more richly deserved than the honorable draw.

There is a tradition at Victoria College that a personal interview with the Captain of the Junior Hockey Eleven at the beginning of any season will invariably elicit the same confession “The Junior Championship is a foregone conclusion,” and such indeed it has ever been,—but never for Victoria College. This season’s
Captain—one Eichelbaum—had no reason to make a different
confession, and his, as of yore, seemed born of deep conviction.
But here the resemblance to all previous seasons appeared to end.
Within a month of the season's close we were actually leading by
one point for the Championship, Then came the crucial point
and tradition once more asserted itself by selecting Y.M.C.A.
—the ultimate Champions—to check our victorious career. St.
Patrick's College Old Boys were responsible for a further fall
from grace and the season's results leave the Juniors runners-
up for the Championship. The team is to be congratulated
and the higher honor may not be beyond it next year.

The III A team who last year earned the distinction of being
the first College team to win a local Championship, found isolation
on the pinnacle of fame irksome and unbecoming and the
descent, though steady and decorous, has been sure. Four contributing causes they allege, aided them in the descent:—
An undue share of Karori ground, absence of a referee on five occasions, playing shorthanded (average strength of team 9.4
men) and the depredations of "Eichy," the Junior Captain.
Since some of their most famous successes were achieved on the
aforesaid Karori ground, shorthanded and without a referee,
it would seem that they owe their present unfortunate position
to none other than the predatory "Eichy." An infusion of stray
footballer in their latest matches has however acted as a rejuvenating tonic and they have closed the session with a brace of
memorable victories.

The reputation of the III B team is at stake. Hitherto they
have (with spasmodic lapses) justified expectations by losing all
but one or two of their matches, but this year they so far forgot
themselves as to win a series of matches at the end of the season.
On one occasion only did they threaten to return to their former
policy, when they turned out with seven men and an air of non-
chalance which enabled Wesley to secure their solitary
competition win. Socially the team has perhaps been the
greatest success. In highways and byways members may often
be seen fighting their battles over again, sighing for what
might have been and recounting their "deeds of derring do."

**FIRST XI MATCHES.**

**CAPTAIN:** R. St. J. Berre.
**VICE CAPTAIN:** A. MacDougall.

Matches played 14. Won 7, lost 5, drawn 2. Goals for 54, against 49.

Fifteen minutes from time score 5—3 College favour. Self-satisfaction again.
V.C. v Wellington. Lost 4—12. A feeble exhibition, shooting shocking. Ulrich (Wellington) found time to notch six goals. Beere (2) and Oram (2) scored ours.


V.C. v Y.M.C.A. Won 8—1. A crushing victory. College forwards ably backed up by halves, showed astounding combination. Beere (4) and Strack Bros. (2 each), who were not as “slack” as The Post alleged, arranged the goals between them.

V.C. v Vivian. Won 5—3. College weak in the circle. College shots repeatedly found Vivian’s goalkeeper, but G. Strack (2), D. S. Smith (2) and Castle caught him napping.

V.C. v Wesley. Won 4—2. Scoring arrangements in hands of Beere (3) and Smith (1). Game exciting but more scramble than hockey.

V.C. v United. Drawn 2—2. A splendid exhibition in which Champions were fully extended and honors rested with College. Smith and Oram scored. Smith also shot a third goal which was disallowed. Both he and Managhan played brilliantly.

V.C. v Karori. Won by default. An easy victory.


SECOND XI MATCHES.

V.C. v Karori. Won 4—2. A good game of which we had decidedly the better. Paterson (2), McAlister and A. H. Bogle were the scorers. “McCurdy” Tudhope and Pope played well.

V.C. v St. Patrick’s College Old Boys. Won 5—0. St. Pat’s hadn’t their best team as our debacle in 2nd round proved. Forwards fatigued. Backs, especially Niven, in good form. Oram (3), Willis and Pope found the uprights.

V.C. v United. Won 4—1. A splendid game probably best of the season. First spell, one all. Both forwards and backs played superbly. Arthur brilliant. Oram (2) and Willis (2) assisted emigration of ball into net.


V.C. v Wellington. Won 5—3. Three or four Seniors in Wellington team who agreed to give us the match by default if we lost. Wellington lost on the play and Arthur lost a tooth. Paterson who gave a fine exhibition, shot a miraculous goal. Willis (2) and Oram (2) added the others.

V.C. v Y.M.C.A. Lost 3—2. Our first defeat. Forwards “off,” score 2 all till close on time. Willis and Rigg found the posts. Pope played well.
V.C. v St. Pat's Old Boys. Lost 7—2. A crushing defeat. Team gave
sorry exhibition, but their best wouldn’t have availed much against
the vastly improved St. Pat’s. Willis goaled “two times” and he
and Rigg were redeeming features. A prominent Club Official
forgot himself after the match and wanted to protest. “Eichy’s”
speech on “playing the game,” a brilliant effort followed.

V.C. v Karori. Won 5—0. Played at Day’s Bay on something like a
ground. A return to our pristine form. Mousley played well, and
he, Broad and Oram (3) were our marksmen.

V.C. v Wesley. Won 5—0. Wesley two men short. Oram (3) and Pope
(2) were the scorers.

V.C. v Victoria College Seniors. Won 2—0. This match, the result of a
challenge, was the event of the season. In the first five minutes
Eichelbaum, with a new stick, came through like a meteor and
shot a magnificent goal, his first for a year. The Seniors headed
by Beere and Smith (who were rumoured to have something on
their respective abilities to score ten goals first) were out for blood
and for thirty minutes the going was very solid. The Juniors had
an anxious time, till Willis tricked Beere, eluded MacDougall,
cought Monaghan napping, “squared” the goalkeeper and smote
home—a beauty. The applause was deafening.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

The above report, accepted in good faith from the junior Vice-Captain,
one Willis, has been found to be inaccurate. Juniors won match by default.

III A MATCHES.

tried. Result one broken nose, a split face and an eclipsed eye.
Four short.

V.C. v Vivian. Lost 6—2. Six men this time. Scorer Smith. ‘Null
said.

V.C. v Wellington. Lost 3—1. Opponents blacked our goalkeeper’s eye
and scored winning goals on “blind” side. Scorer’s name was
Smith.

V.C. v Y.M.C.A. Won 6—1. Three referees tried. Enemy’s tactics “win,
tie or wrangle.”

V.C. v United. Won 6—0. United, who fought amongst themselves,
utterly routed. Smith the “goal demon” and Macalister 3 each.

V.C. v Wellington. Lost 2—1. The passing of the Championship. It was
always a sickly child.

V.C. v V.C. III n. Won 3—2. Both teams played as though “possessed.”
Level pegging until the III n goalkeeper succumbed to attractions
of the fair barmakers and enabled the winning goal to be shot.

V.C. v Vivian. Won 6—1. A bloodless victory S. Macalister (3), M’
Macalister (2) and Winder secured our goals.
V.C. v Thorndon. Lost 4—1. In deference Rugby Rough, severely mauled an opponent and scored. Match started very late, difficult at finish to distinguish friends from foes.

V.C. v Wesley. Won 7—0. Goals Lyon, another retired footballer, (6) and Cleghorn (1), (to break the monotony.) Referee not required.

V.C. v Wesley. Won '8—3. Half way through second spell score stood 3—2 against us. Captain Smith then addressed the team deprecating their spirit of procrastination. The III's returned to the charge with renewed vigour and before the astonished Wesleyans could recover, the game had ended as above. Scorers, Rutherford (4), Smith (2), Lyon and Cleghorn.

V.C. v Y.M.C.A. Won 5—2. Smith and one or two others scored goals. Both teams tired.

III B MATCHES.


V.C. v Wellington. Lost 9—0. Harrowing details luckily unavailable.

V.C. v Thorndon. Lost 5—0. Regaining our reputation.

V.C. v Vivian. Won 5—2. Spirits going down.

V.C. v Wesley. Won 8—2. We played like Champions.

V.C. v V.C. III A. Lost 3—2. One of our fair barrackers threw this game away.

V.C. v Wesley. Lost 5—2. We had six men and a boy. Like old times.

V.C. v United. Won 4—0. Fair, Mason, Mackay and Cook scored. Hogg absent. Team played much better.

V.C. v Y.M.C.A. Won, 5—0. Goals by Mackay, Fair, Barnard, and Cook. Hogg still absent. Form maintained.

V.C. v Vivian. Won, 5—0. More work for the dentist. Mackay (2), Mansfield, Barnard and Cook shot the goals. Team in excellent form. N. H. Hogg did not appear.

ANOTHER tennis year has ended and there can be only two opinions as to its success. Perhaps for the sake of inspiring this year’s members it would be well to summarise the work performed last season. Hic it (Cicero—here goes). During the year just ended:—the Club’s membership roll contained nearly eighty names; six teams were entered for the various local competitions; the aggregate number of matches played by these teams was seventy-five; of these matches no less than ten were won; the Club’s representatives at the University Tournament lost to Canterbury the Tennis Cup which had been held by V.C. for the three previous years; a large amount of cliff has been removed by students, non-tennis players, to make room for a fourth court; the Committee decided to let a contract to have a fourth court laid down; this decision was arrived at about three months too late for the court to be ready for use this season; the nets and the umpires’ seats were left in the open so that the winter atmosphere should thoroughly preserve them; the preservative was omitted from the winter air by Captain Edwin; the drains, formed to provide an outflow for water, have been allowed for the whole of the winter to remain filled with clay—no doubt the Club is considering the erection of a brick kiln. In order that this year’s play should be even more successful than last year’s The Spike would respectfully suggest: (1) That the members of the 1908-09 Committee should show more energy than the Committees of last season and the season before; (2) That the members of the
said Committee should condescend on occasions to do work for the Club other than playing tennis and consuming afternoon tea; and (3) That if the Committee wishes to raise the general standard of the Club’s tennis, it should discourage the lackadaisical style of playing tennis in vogue last season and should encourage serious practice.

Since the above was written the Committee of the Tennis Club has made a crowning effort. The Annual meeting was called for Saturday, 19th September and in accordance with the Constitution a week’s notice was given. On the morning of the said 19th September, the Secretary, having in the meantime further examined the Constitution, made an addition to the notice, calling attention to the fact that the meeting could not constitutionally be held until the month of October. Perhaps an honorarium to the Secretary would meet the case.
CRICKET.

"Your Committee begs to congratulate the Club on a most successful first season."

Such was the tenor of the first Annual Report of the V.C. Cricket Club. That the youngest club at College promises to be one of the most successful, seems a reasonable conclusion from results achieved in its first year's play, and the lists are entered this season with encouragement rarely forthcoming to other College clubs. A brand new constitution, an increased membership and a credit balance, which is the more satisfactory from a cricket club who are on the threshold of the coming season, are minor assets compared with the enthusiasm existing among members. Lack of facilities for practice severely handicapped the Club last year, but satisfactory arrangements have now been made for a regular practice wicket at the Basin Reserve.

A proposal to enter a senior team came before the Annual General Meeting, and the feeling of the members was embodied in a recommendation to the incoming committee in favour of the proposal. From a sentimental point of view, the idea is excellent, but the committee should seriously consider the practicability of such a step. The present Junior Eleven with a record of five matches won and five lost last season, could not even with the promised assistance of one or two senior players, be reasonably expected to cope in any way satisfactorily to the Club or to themselves with the experienced players in senior cricket, must enter largely into the consideration. With several senior players in the Eleven, the step would be justified, but at present the time is not ripe. The contention that it is better "to lose at the top than win at the bottom" is doubtless a palliative to most College clubs, but at cricket it seems that we will the sooner win at the top by first winning at the bottom.
The season just ended has been at least successful as far as the Debating Society is concerned. For the first time the Club has succeeded in winning the annual Debating Tournament conducted by the Debating Societies' Union. The College team (E. Armit, M. H. Oram and J. M. Hogben in the first debate and the two last-named and G. H. Gibb in the remainder), managed to defeat all the teams that they met. In the first debate Y.M.C.A. were beaten by thirty-five points; in the second St. Hilda's (Island Bay) were vanquished by fifteen points; in the third round the Karori team were defeated, in the best debate in which the College team took part, by nine points; and in the final round the Kent Terrace team were conquered by thirteen points. Armit obtained the highest number of marks in the first debate, while Gibb obtained an average of seventy-two per cent. in the three debates in which he took part. It will be seen that the College was not represented by its strongest team and if individual members will be prepared in the future to give up a little time to preparation, the championship should rest with the College for some years to come.

The competition for the Union Prize resulted in E. Armit winning with 23 out of a possible 30 points, John Mason being placed second with 22. M. H. Oram was the winner of the prize for the most improved new speaker. John Mason and D. S. Smith were selected as the representatives of Victoria College in the next University Tournament Debate.

The ordinary debates of the Society have been well attended and with one or two exceptions have been of a fairly high standard. Details of the various debates follow:—

On the 6th of June, M. H. Oram, in a highly coloured speech, moved,—"That the alliance between Britain and
Japan ought to be at once terminated," his chief argument in support of an impossible case, was an old friend: "East is East and West is West." He was opposed by D. S. Smith, who by the way shows little if any improvement on his last year's style, and was seconded by John Mason. The latter's speech contained some sound argument. P. J. Scantlebury seconded the opposition. Rex Mason then beamed on the audience, as also did A. M. Salek, whose style reminds one of a motor cycle which explodes every five yards it travels. Others to woo the judge were: F. A. de la Mare, G. V. Bogle and E. E. Rutherford in the heavyweight class, and C. A. Treadwell and K. McGrath, light weights. The motion was lost by eight votes to twenty-eight and Mr. P. Levi placed John Mason, Smith, Oram, Salek and Scantlebury in that order as the five best speakers.

The literary debate of the session, "That Sir Walter Scott is the greatest novelist of English literature," took place during the vacation on the 4th July. A. MacDougall was the proposer of the motion and was seconded by H. D. Skinner. B. E. Murphy lead the Opposition and was supported by C. A. L. Treadwell. Others who took part in the debate were:—Miss Coad, E. Armit, G. H. Gibb, H. E. Evans, and R. Kennedy. Mr. C. Wilson of the College Council also addressed the meeting. The motion was lost by thirteen votes to twenty-one, and Mr. T. S. Weston, M.A., L.L.B. placed the first five speakers in the following order:—Armit, Miss Coad, MacDougall, Gibb and Treadwell.

"That the adoption of vegetarianism would benefit the human race," was the motion set down for hearing on the 18th of July. W. Perry and J. M. Hogben, two ardent vegetarians, appeared in support and their arguments were at least ingenious. F. R. Lea, for the defence, failed to see the point of the joke, but was assisted by John Mason who dined on split peas on one occasion and was hungry for six days as a result. Mousley was much perturbed by the fact that he foresaw in the adoption of vegetarianism the loss of his stout and oysters—especially his stout—while D. S. Smith feared a decline in the value of his shares in the Wellington Meat Company. By way of change, A. M. Salek treated the subject seriously, but Mr. Hursthouse, a vegetarian, made Salek's speech seem, by comparison with his own, the very height of levity. Those present were in favour of the retention of stout and oysters by seventeen votes to eight. The debate was not a "regular debate" and was not therefore judged in connection with the Union Prize Competition.
Professor D. K. Picken delivered his Presidential address on the 1st of August, choosing as his theme the subject of "University Ideals." The function of the University, he said, is firstly to rear men and women who will dare to follow the truth if they know it, and secondly to train in them the powers of thought by which they may arrive at knowledge of the truth they are to follow. University students should be standing aside for a few years from the hurry and bustle of the world. The recognised central principal of University growth must be, be said, the broadening of the basis of culture. Students must remember above all that "labour is the only price of solid fame." The Professor referred to the tyranny of the examination system: "it has had its day, and there is nothing but stagnation to be had under its domination now." (Hear, hear.) He urged the students of Victoria College to set their hearts on the wisdom that is more than gold, "and with all thy getting (of wisdom) get understanding." At the close of his address Professor Picken was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

"That in view of the poverty existing in the Old World, immediate land nationalisation is imperative in New Zealand," was the motion set down in the syllabus for debate on the 15th of August. Some speakers entertained the judge and chairman (the secretary may have kept awake for a few minutes) with systems which they called land nationalisation, whilst others expounded at length schemes for the relief of poverty: some speakers spoke about nothing at all (John Mason spent about seven minutes discussing this theme.) A. M. Salek in moving the motion laid down the principle that "If you want to milk a cow, you must have a piece of land to milk it on." The opposer, E. E. Rutherford did not dispute this, but showed the weaknesses in several land nationalising schemes which Salek had not mentioned. M. H. Oram and D. S. Smith were the respective seconders, whilst the following also made a display of their ignorance:—J. M. Hogben, J. Mason, J. C. Dudley, H. W. Monaghan, Hursthouse, H. E. Evans, C. H. Taylor. The motion was lost by five votes to eighteen, and the speeches of Smith, Rutherford, Oram, Salek, and Mason, in that order, were considered by Mr. J. W. Joynnt to show the least lack of merit.

The debate on August 29th was notable for the pointlessness of the interjections from the back of the hall, to which however the speeches of the evening ran a good second. In support of the motion, "That the time has not yet arrived for
Australia to possess a separate navy,’’ A. Fair made a sound speech and was supported by some cogent reasoning from E. Armit. H. F. O’Leary who led the Opposition managed by speaking very slowly, to make his matter take up the fifteen minutes allowed the opposer. O’Leary had found somebody else who was willing to attempt the proof of the impossible in J. M. Hogben, who seconded him. The five subsequent speakers all spoke on the affirmative side of the question. They were: J. M. Richmond, who spoke with much condescension, G. H. Gibb with some common sense, E. E. Rutherford with much weight, M. H. Oram very fluently, and H. E. Evans with much precision. The motion was carried by thirteen votes to eight—the first motion to be carried this season. Professor Picken was the judge of the evening and placed the first five speakers in the following order: Fair, Armit, Gibb, Hogben and Oram.

The last meeting of the session was held on the 26th of September, when the subject for discussion was—‘‘That it would be expedient to adopt a system of No-license throughout New Zealand.’’ W. J. McEldowney who led the affirmative buried his audience in an avalanche of figures which were evidently intended to prove the truth of his side of the case. John Mason led the opposition and brought forward few solid arguments in a most forcible manner. The respective seconds were E. Armit and J. M. Hogben. A goodly number of speakers followed on both sides of the question: A. MacDongall, J. W. Ross, G. R. Hutcheson, F. A. de la Mare, and H. E. Evans in the affirmative, and R. Butcher, A. Fair, M. H. Oram and V. B. Willis, in the negative. The motion on being put to the meeting was carried by 25 votes to 12. Mr. Granville Hunt, the judge, gave much kindly criticism and placed the five speakers in the following order:—A. Fair, E. Armit, J. Mason, J. M. Hogben, and R. Butcher.

PLUNKET MEDAL COMPETITION.

Eight unfortunate—or misguided—members of the Debating Society made their appearance in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall on 12th September, on the occasion of the fourth pyrotechnic display by competitors for the Plunket Medal.

M. H. Oram opened fire on the subject of Queen Victoria who ‘‘was a woman before she was a queen,’’ and ‘‘although she was a woman yet she was firm” (Professor von Zedlitz
much moved.) One felt that Oram meant to be serious; he spoke in a serious manner, but much of his matter seemed out of place in an oration. D. S. Smith followed on John Hampden. Nervous at the beginning, Smith soon warmed up to his subject and delivered a fine sketch of his hero. There was a force and sincerity about his speech which appealed strongly to the audience, and no one can doubt that he deserved first place. C. H. Taylor spoke of Robert Louis Stevenson and chiefly of his struggle against suffering. Taylor also suffered apparently from nervousness—which unfortunately rendered him incapable of showing his real quality. The Spike cannot agree with Taylor that Stevenson was a "man of note in history." John Mason erred greatly in his speech on the first Earl of Chatham. Lack of preparation, circumlocution and profoundness were the chief features of his efforts, and, John, with his audience, lacked conviction. J. M. Hogben spoke of General Wolfe. Julius lacked somewhat in matter but held his audience well; his description of the ears splashing in the River St. Lawrence considerably lowered the temperature of the torrid gallery, the occupants of which followed him up the heights and to the charge but refused to die with his hero. E. Armit devoted his attention to Edmund Burke. From the literary point of view Armit’s effort was the best of the evening, but he lacked fire. His subtraction of Burke’s faults from his virtues left the audience feeling that there was a minus quantity of the latter. Napoleon, as in 1905 when he was murdered by John Graham, provided the pièce de résistance of the evening. On this occasion he was stage-managed by A. M. Salek. Salek was particularly successful in placing the accent on the wrong words, and a grateful audience smiled its appreciation on several occasions. Salek is quite a young member of the Society, and with more experience may well hope to become a successful orator. H. E. Evans was the last speaker and asked the audience to admire William III. The “dangerous demagogue” delivered an essay rather than an oration. He, like Oram and Smith, tried to convince his audience that his hero was absolutely without companion, at least in one respect. Evans’s lack of force and enthusiasm marred an otherwise excellent effort.

During the interval which was occupied in counting the votes, the occupants of the gallery gave a painful exhibition of the truth of Professor Picken’s presidential dictum, viz., that “the sources of witicism soon run dry.” Had the Debating Society Committee been possessed of any
energy and a little consideration for the public, it would have been an easy matter to have arranged for a programme of songs.

The result of the ballot was:

D. S. SMITH  ...  ...  ...  ...  1st.
E. ARMIT  ...  ...  ...  ...  2nd.
H. E. EVANS  ...  ...  ...  ...  3rd.

The Hon. Mr. G. Fowlds, in the absence of His Excellency the Governor, presented the medal and delivered a short address. Professor Picken added a few remarks, and the Hon. Mr. T. W. Hislop who "had not expected that he would be called on to speak" recited his oration as glibly as any of the competitors. The piano which figured on the programme came into requisition to accompany the singing of the National Anthem.

WOMEN STUDENTS' DEBATING SOCIETY.

The Women Students' Debating Society continues to prosper. Its meetings have been held fortnightly before the meetings of the whole society, and its thanks are due to those gentlemen who have, at some personal inconvenience contrived to be at College at 6.45 p.m. on Saturdays to act as judges and advisers. It is worthy, perhaps, of note and certainly incapable of explanation that each of these gentlemen in addressing the society has laid stress upon the fact that, though deeply sensible of the honour done him, he has come in great fear and trembling. Whether his fears, of whatever nature they were, have been justified, each one has neglected to state.

The syllabus has been, with two exceptions, the same as that adopted by the whole society. On August 1st the subject under discussion was—"That Ambition is a vice rather than a virtue," and on August 15th,—"That the reading of magazines is detrimental to general culture." The speakers have been numerous but not very many have been eligible for competition for the prize offered by Miss Mell sop to the best speaker. This involves speaking in at least half of the debates. There is still one debate to be held, but Miss Sampson, having been placed first on three occasions may be declared the winner of the prize.

It is rumoured that before long the Society will produce competitors for the Plunket Medal.

*
Christian Union.

"To live is nothing, unless to live be to know Him by Whom we live."
—Ruskin.

The number of regular meetings of the Union has been somewhat less than usual since June, on account of the necessity for the re-arrangement of the division of Saturday evenings among various College societies.

On Saturday, June 13th, the Rev. J. D. Russell, of Petone, gave an address on "Lessons from the Lives of Master Missionaries," following upon the lines of his much-appreciated address given at the Trentham Conference in December. He illustrated his subject by numerous instances showing the diversity of the talents which great missionaries have brought to bear upon their work, and convincing his audience of the justice of Canon Liddon's eulogy that among the great missionaries might be found the "moral aristocracy" of the world.

In connection with the visit of Miss Rouse, a Conference was held at Christchurch from Saturday, 18th, to Monday, 20th July inclusive. It was attended by women students from Dunedin, Christchurch, and Wellington, and by delegates from the Girls' Colleges at Wanganui, Wellington, and Christchurch. Addresses were given by various speakers upon subjects of interest to the Unions represented, the rest of the time being devoted to comparison and discussion of methods of work.

The Victoria College representatives who attended this Conference gave their reports to a meeting of the Union held on 25th July. They pointed out what, as the result of Miss Rouse's advice, appeared to be defects in the organisation and working of the University Christian Unions in New Zealand. With regard to organisation, the Executive Committee has thoroughly gone into the whole matter, and has made proposals which it is thought will meet with the approval of members. The new constitution will probably have been before the Annual Meeting before this report is in print. The organisation is, however, a comparatively simple matter; it will be the responsibility of the Union to see that it is used to the best advantage.

On Saturday, 8th August, Mr. H. N. Holmes, the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. at Wellington, gave an address upon the missionary work of the Y.M.C.A. in other lands. He gave a great deal of interesting information as to the resources and organisation of the Foreign Department, and showed how, in every
quarter the work of the Y.M.C.A. was meeting with the approval, and often the active support, of those who were strangers to the European race and the Christian religion.

On Saturday, 5th September, the Rev. G. P. Davys, M.A., delivered a most interesting address on "The Higher Criticism of the Old Testament." He first spoke in particularly appropriate terms of the two classes of critics of the Scriptural writings—the reverent critics and the insolent critics—those who approached the subject with impartial respect, and those who approached it with a desire that their criticism should be destructive. He then proceeded to outline the general results of the higher criticism of the Old Testament, and to show that the Hebrew Scriptures, despite the fact that the earlier books may with justice be attacked from a purely historical standpoint, yet contain the groundwork of the truths upon which Christianity is based.

On Saturday, September 19th, the Rev. J. Gibson Smith addressed the Union on the central doctrine of the "Atonement." He distinguished between the fact and the theory of the atonement and showed that though the fact was essential, yet a theory explaining the fact was most useful. The speaker then outlined in an interesting manner the expiatory theory of the atonement: showed its defects and explained the propitiatory theory which he held. Its essentials were a perfect repentance and a perfect faith made possible to sinful men through the life and death of Christ, who during His earthly course acquired a perfect human hatred of sin, and a perfect human love of righteousness which He will bestow on all those who believe on Him. The address was listened to with the greatest interest by an audience of forty-four students.

On Tuesday, 22nd September, Miss Leslie, the Travelling Secretary of the C.M.S., delivered an earnest address on missionary work in China and the unexampled need for Christian teachers there. A number of her missionary books have been purchased. She will probably visit us again next year.

The Union desires here to place on record its sincere appreciation of the kindness of Miss England, of Wellington, in delivering at the Sydney Street Schoolroom, on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock, a series of lectures upon the Book of Psalms, with special reference to their literary aspect. Almost everyone sees occasion to admire the Psalms as literature, and every literary critic accords to Hebrew poetry a high place, but the student's appreciation of the Psalms is made even keener by a study of the textual criticism and the historical association such as Miss England has kindly undertaken.
SOCIALS

And Entertainments.

THE BALL.

The large Town Hall proved none too spacious for the hundred and ninety couples present at the V.C. Fourth Annual Ball. The hall was canopied with green and gold butter cloth (it may have been mousseline de soie or crêpe de chine or something else with an aristocratic name, but it looked like butter cloth) hanging from one of the electroliers, and the recesses under the galleries were converted into sitting rooms, while the end of the hall opposite the stage had been made a miniature plantation. The supper was laid in the smaller hall where accommodation was at a premium within a very few minutes from the conclusion of the supper dance. The tables in this hall were decorated with wattle. The Spike must extend its sincerest sympathies to those who were not present at the ball.

HOCKEY AND FOOTBALL DANCE.

The Men’s Hockey and Football Clubs’ Dance took place at the College on Saturday, 22nd August, and was most successful, except that there was an unfortunate surplus of ladies. There were not too many present to make the room crowded and the floor was in excellent condition. Following the precedent of the Ladies’ Hockey Club, the supper was laid in the Biological Lecture Room, for which courtesy the committee are indebted to Professor Kirk. Mr. Brook appeared on the scene at midnight to bid the company good-night.
"Music, when soft voices die,  
Vibrates in the memory."  
—Shelley.

Some few weeks back, among the many notices adorning the board, might have been seen one setting forth that on a certain evening a Special General Meeting would consider the prospects of the above club. The near approach of exams and a general lack of enthusiasm had wrought such havoc in the ranks that drastic measures such as closing down for a season had even been suggested. However, the arrival of the fateful evening brought so many of the "casual" members to the meeting, curious to see what would happen, that their presence was taken as a pledge to stand by the sinking ship, and it was decided to continue practices as before. If the fates are propitious, we may even expect a concert before the end of the year, and certain signs are not wanting to indicate that the trips to Porirua and Mount View will be undertaken as usual, though whether for the edification of the audiences or the performers we are not prepared to state.
Easter Tournament, 1909.

Easter, 1909 (which is not so far distant as you may imagine, gentle reader) will bring in its train two things for the students of Victoria College, namely (1) the privilege of welcoming and entertaining 100 or more fellow students from Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin; and (2) the responsibility of carrying out the arrangements for the New Zealand University’s eighth annual Tournament, which will be the occasion of the visit of those students.

The University Tournament has now become such a recognised feature of our College, or rather of our University, life that it should suffice to remind those who are interested:

1. That the Tournament consists of Championship contests in (1) Lawn Tennis; (2) Debating, and (3) Athletics (each independent of the others), open to representatives of the four N.Z.U. Colleges.

2. That it was inaugurated in 1902, and is held annually during Easter in rotation from year to year at Christchurch, Auckland, Dunedin, and Wellington, in the order named.

3. That it is controlled by the N.Z. University Tournament Committee, which consists of two delegates from each College. Victoria College’s delegates, G. F. Dixon and J. M. Hogben, are at present Chairman and Hon. Secretary of this Committee.

4. That the Tournament is financed as far as possible out of the gate-money received at the Athletic Sports, the Colleges contributing in equal shares to make up any deficit. Admission to the Lawn Tennis and Debating is free.

5. That only two representatives are allowed from each College in each event, except that in the Ladies’ Singles and Ladies’ Doubles Lawn Tennis Championships three entries are allowed.

6. That every Matriculated student under 30 years of age who has attended not less than two-thirds of the lectures in any one N.Z.U. subject in the year preceding the date of the Tournament is eligible to represent his College at that Tournament; provided that no one shall be allowed to compete at more than five Tournaments.

7. That, apart from Challenge Championship Trophies, the only prizes given are Bronze Medals, stamped with the arms of the N.Z.U.

8. That all expenses of hospitality (which usually, but not necessarily, take the form of a picnic and a dance in honour of the visiting representatives) are borne by the local Students’ Association in each year.

9. That when possible and convenient, additional contests, such as hockey and football matches, are also held. Such contests are, however, entirely distinct from the Tournament proper.
For the more effectual carrying out of the many arrangements which require to be made with such a programme, a Local Tournament Committee has been set up, consisting of the following members: G. F. Dixon (Chairman) and J. M. Hogben (Hon. Secretary), elected by the Students’ Association; F. A. Wilson and A. H. Bogle, elected by the Athletic Club; R. St. J. Beere and A. Fair, elected by the Tennis Club, and H. F. O’Leary, elected by the Debating Society.

This Committee may be relied on to do its utmost to make the wheels of the machinery run as smoothly as possible; but if the Tournament is to be a success, as it should be, the active assistance and hearty co-operation of all our leading students is imperatively necessary.

Help can be given in the following ways:—

1. Billeting. It is the custom to “billet” all visiting representatives who desire it.

2. Umpiring at Tennis. Volunteers, students or friends, are requested to give in their names to the Secretary of the Tennis Club.

3. Arranging holidays so as not to miss the Tournament.

4. Volunteering for odd jobs. Many details will have to be arranged, and men are wanted who are not above small things.

5. Training. Victoria College expects that every student will do his best to retain the Championships we at present hold, and to add to their number. Everyone can try; and it is worth mentioning that one “trier” last year proved himself at the end of a few weeks to be in the same class with the best long-distance runners in Australasia! Verb. sap.

7. Awakening public interest by talking about the Tournament, and when Easter comes, attending and bringing friends.

The provisional programme is as follows:—

9th April (Good Friday).—Visitors arrive.

10th (Saturday).—Lawn Tennis Championships. Evening: Debating Contest.

12th (Easter Monday).—Athletic Sports. Evening: Picnic.

13th.—Finals of Lawn Tennis Championships. Evening: University Ball.

14th.—(To be arranged.) Visitors leave on return journey.

The game’s afoot, and Victoria College must see it through!

We appeal to the LOYALTY, the SYMPATHY, and the GENEROSITY, not only of our Students and Professors, but of our College Councillors and Fellow-Citizens generally, to assist in worthily maintaining the high standard of hospitality which our own representatives have enjoyed at Christchurch, Auckland, and Dunedin successively, since the former Tournament was held in this City, namely in 1905.
[IN THE COURT OF APPEAL.]

BROOK v. MACDOUGALL AND HOGBEN.

Evidence — Admission of — Practice — Doctrine of mens rea — User.

[Our reporter was unfortunately unable to be present at the Sitting, and the Law Reports are not yet to hand. In view, however, of the importance of the case to the College at large we give the bare findings.]

THE facts of the case are as follows:—The appellant, James Brook, representing the constituted authority of Victoria College, prosecuted the respondents, students, for unlawfully and without license organising meetings calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. In the lower Court the defendants were acquitted, and the application for an order to bind them to keep the peace refused on the ground that the statute creating the offence had been lost; that its existence depended on hearsay evidence; and that the constituted authority ought to have recognised that the meetings in question were pro bono publico, and not unduly riotous. From this decision the present appeal was made.

Held—

Per Curiam, (1)—Ignorantia juris non excusat, affirming Doyle v. Brook (2).

Per Richmond and Adamson, PP.—Judicial notice cannot be taken of documents which are not in existence and of which no certified or other copy can be found (3).

Per Mackenzie, P.—That opportunity of accused to address the Court should never be refused (4), overruling McArthur, S.M. (5).

Semple.—That any meeting of students during lecture hours is calculated to create a breach of the peace; that any Secretary of any College Club is, virtutis officii, a disorderly person, and any student meeting held by night riotous and tumultuous.

The appeal was upheld and respondents ordered to frame a Code of Rules to submit to the next sitting of the Court.

(1) von Zedlitz, Easterfield, Kirk, Hunter, PP.
(2) 1907, C.C.P. 22.
(3) von Zedlitz, P., dissented.
(4) Magna Charta (Justice should never be denied).
(5) Karori Borough v. Mackenzie (not reported).
In Nubibus.

"In plays there is always a plot and in real life there is none."
—Lyndon.

DOUBTFLESS Bay had reported that the cable was cut and Wakapuaka had failed to call up La Perouse. But the most serious information came from Ethergram Transmission Station X 34 to the effect that it had unexpectedly recorded several broken messages:—"Japanese... aeroplanes... dreadful slaughter." The news was posted at the offices of the Citizen and within an hour all work had ceased. Thousands anxiously paraded the streets. A cigar-shaped automobile whizzed through the crowds to Buckle-street to the War Office. Late into the night the teeming hundreds awaited the result of the Council of War.

* * *

The task of the Council of War was nearly finished. For three long hours they had sat in wordy and anxious deliberation. His Excellency the Governor who was presiding had counselled caution, but the newly-appointed Defence Council had determined on immediate action. "The first aeroplane Corps must be called out. The Submarine Scouts from Auckland and the Bluff must deploy across the Tasman Sea at a depth of a hundred fathoms. Every hour they are to rise to the surface, reconnoitre for aeroplanes, and report to Lord Howe Island. The Christchurch Dirigible Balloon Section to perform police duty on both coasts. Major-General Jakihunes, D.S.O., to have charge of the Aeroplane Corps, Vice-Admiral White (late Commander S.S. Motuora) to command the submarines, and Brigadier Jakihune the Dirigible Balloons.

* * *

At 8.10 p.m. Professor Bauchop, Dean of the Faculty of Military Science, had just commenced his lecture on "Swagger and Tent Pegging" when his Newbold pocket telephone rang furiously.

"Hello. What? To-morrow? 5 a.m.? Imperative?... Very well, sir." He disconnects. "I say you fellows the jolly Defence Council has ordered out the Aero-
plane Corps at six o'clock to-morrow morning. We've not got awfully much time to spare; it means that we leave here at 5 a.m. Altitude one to two thousand feet; uniforms accordingly."

At 4.30 a.m. stray shafts of grey light were forcing their way above the Rona Bay mountains. The aged firs in the College ground, wet with the glittering dew of an October night, were resonant with the twitting of birds. Silently the figure of one who was ever to the fore where V.C.'s fame was at stake, glided towards the barracks. "Twas Dixon. He was the first to appear. Others soon followed him. At first there was some difficulty in moving the aeroplane, the _Semper Ultimus_ from the planage but after much toil it was finally brought out and moored on the lower terrace. The men fell in and were then addressed by Navigating Lieutenant-Hitchings who in the first place apologised for the absence of Commander Beere who had had to return home for his Bromose. He then asked the men to remember that, "Victoria College expects every man to do his duty." A by-stander, one de la Mare, thought as an old student that it would be advisable to substitute the word "recommends" for the word "expects," but Commander Beere rushed up, assumed command, ordered the men aboard, took his own place, touched the elevation lever, turned a wheel and the aeroplane floated off with de la Mare still moving his amendment below. After removing the chimney pots from the College, it moved rapidly northward and collided very effectively with the Kiosk. Lieutenant Hitchings jumped to the rescue, adjusted the steering gear and the _Semper Ultimus_, finally took its position three cable lengths N.N.W. of Somes Islands. The points of vantage were crowded with spectators. Zak was early on the scene and the kinematograph operators were soon at work. At last the long-looked-for signal was flashed from the heights of Mount Victoria:—"The Aeroplane Corps will echelon at twenty cables length in a south-westerly direction and await further orders." In half an hour the Fleet was an almost invisible line on the horizon.

The _Semper Ultimus_ on the left wing was in the midst of a continuous shower of shot and shell. The fore turret was badly damaged. The casualties had been heavy and in-
subordination had also assisted to reduce the fighting strength. Some complained that there were more officers than men. Chief Petty-Airman Inder had been consigned to space for refusing to don an armoured helmet. Lieut. Short, Officer in charge of Parachutes, who had caught a cold in the head from the same cause, was ordered to report himself to the Surgeon of the Fleet. At a crucial stage, a difference of opinion arose as to the correct interpretation of a signal from the Flagship and while the dispute was in progress a Prusite shell carried away the starboard shaft couplings and had rendered the starboard propeller useless. The Semper Ultimus temporarily unmanageable, drifted away to leeward and at once the whole of the fire of the enemy’s right wing was concentrated on her. The havoc was terrible; artillery men fell at their posts and at last the Commander, the bravest of the brave, met his end while personally superintending repairing operations. Lieutenant Hitchings immediately assumed command of the wreck, ordered Quarter-Master Captain Cook to double the supply of grog and the torpedo nets to be got out. Everywhere the enemy’s aeroplanes were gaining ground; night was fast setting in and it was evident that only a miracle could avert a crushing defeat. At dusk however, a southerly gale suddenly sprang up and throughout the night the Semper Ultimus was driven northwards. At intervals during the night crashes could be heard and still another part of the vast airship would be carried away and more men would see their last hour at hand. When dawn broke, I was alone and the wreck had drifted through Cook Strait to Watts’ Peninsula. Only luck and the remaining propeller kept the machine from capsizing. Suddenly, when I was above Wonderland, five hundred feet in the air, the propeller caught in a wire connected with the rudder; both snapped; the Semper Ultimus overturned and I was hurtled through space to the fields below.

"By Jove my head’s spinning. What could have happened?" So I asked myself. I opened my eyes. Standing around were many footballers some in green and some in red and blue jerseys; O’Leary was rubbing my stomach; de la Mare rushed up with something in a flask; one nip and I was better. Then—I resumed my position behind the serum.
The A.B.C. of A Blessed Cow.

A is the Acre where Mac. kept his stock,
B is the Bovine that strayed from the flock,
C is the Clerk who was paid to impound it,
D is the—word—that Mac. used when he found it,
E is the Eternity spent in Karori,
F is the Felony leading to glory,
G is the Greatness that Mac. wished to sample,
H is the Hampden who served as example,
I's the Inspector whose Phairness belied him,
J is the Justice that Mac. had denied him,
K is the Knaves and the lounging Court gapers,
L is the Letters Mac. wrote to the papers,
M is the Money the which the Beak fined him.
N is the "Nowhere" to which Mac. consigned him,
O is his Oath that no mortal should best him,
P is the Policeman that came to arrest him,
Q is the Quickness with which he obeyed,
R is Prof. Richmond who came to his aid,
S is the Students, his non-arrest ruing,
T is the "Time" they had hoped he'd be "doing,"
U is the Use that Mac. made of the calf,
V is the Veal that Kirk cooked for the staff,
W is the Whisky they drank, and the Wine,
X is unknown but it fills up a line,
Y is Yawns at the yarns that were old,
Z is von Zedlitz, that bad baron bold.

S.E.
Poetry.

THE CADI'S SEAT.

God has placed conscience within you to determine,—no like an Asiatic Cadi, according to the ebbs and flows of his own passions; but like a judge,—who makes no new law, but faithfully declares that glorious law which he finds already written.—Sterne.

The Cadi's seat of Mercy, carven stone.
The spider looped aloof, with death alone,
May marvel where is he that prizeth blood
As rich as doth a spider in a flood
Of recollections of dead flies. Perhaps
A spider can't remember every lapse
To murder. True—'tis his vocation. Stay!
It can't be wrong to follow Nature's way.

The Cadi's seat of justice. Oh, forlorn
To look for any grape on any thorn.
If Justice has abiding seat within
This portico, she never ventures in;
To shut her voluntary eyes that seal
More than a jurist ever can reveal.
The Cadi, and the Prophet—that is just!
Not any flaw, not any crack for dust
To mar the balance! Dreams, poor fellaheen,
Too subtle for the Cadi! You have seen
The right become the wrong, the innocent
More black in soul than ever soul was meant.
Your blood has spouted like a water-rose;
The Cadi has decided—and he goes.

There's a bird twittering in a bough. You think
He never has a thought but meat and drink,
Though Summer's calling to the world asleep
Save for the wind and its twin slave the deep.
But he has little recollections stored,
And fear is with them. Somewhere is a lord
To tear his entrails. Not a thing that dies
So loose but has uncounted agonies.
And there's your soul—the Cadi who directs
Your right and wrong, and warps too many texts
To fit your inclination. You have made,
So carelessly you could not be afraid,
A murder of a tender heart that went
Singing for you in loveliest content.
Oh, specious Cadi of the breast, to hold
Our wishes to be truth, to see the gold
In the debasing lead; to find a flaw
In reproving Duty that would draw
Higher than any sunbeam! Too austere
For creeping minds God's silver atmosphere.

Ah, there is no appeal: when you decide
To touch the grossness goodness is defied.
What wickedness is made the precedent
For every dirty hour that you have spent!
"Thus others do, and no one marks the slur
Dimming the conscience. If I do prefer
The hard, bare line of Duty, will it be
Counted for profit in eternity?
Palabra! Let my spirit take her wings
Of uncontrollable delight in things,
No matter right or wrong?" Oh, barren judge,
Too wordy for the wisdom that doth grudge
More than the word appointed; you have made,
With your deceit and lying, Truth afraid.

What star shall shine for you if Earth allure?
The Cadi's seat within you—Is it pure?

Hubert Church.
THE LEAF.

(After the French of Arnault.)

From thy tender stem snatched free,
Poor leaf in thy misery,
Where goest thou? Nought can I say:
The storm-wind hath broken in death
The oak which alone was my stay;
And now with his wavering breath
South wind or north blowing amain,
My way through the world harrieth,
From forest to meadow beneath,
From mountain to valley again.
I go where the wind listeth
With never a plaint, fearlessly—
I go with all things to a close,
Where goeth the leaf of the rose
And the leaf of the laurel tree.

NENA N. NEWALL.

ANTIPODEAN HORACE.

Carmen IX.

See how the Tararuas stand
All glistening in their robes of snow,
Nor winter rules with iron hand,
And winds Antarctic bleakly blow.

Build high the fire and thaw the cold,
Of fuel there's an ample store;
Bring forth that jar of whisky old,
O Harcus, and we'll drink once more.

Leave all else to the gods, for they
The warring winds on seething seas
Have laid to sleep; no longer sway
In strife the venerable trees.

To-morrow's lot seek not to know,
But count it as a profit won,
What day soe'er the fates bestow,
Nor, what love offers, ever shun,
Nor ever spurn the dance, so long
As crabbed old age shall hold aloof,
And in thy veins the blood run strong
To put such pleasures to the proof.

Now to the gardens or the park
Return at the appointed hour
Of dulcet whispers after dark,
When hidden in some secret bower.

A frolic laugh betrays the maid
Indulgent to the foolish boy,
Of stealing kisses half afraid
Though lips are but demurely coy.

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Carmen XI.

Lucy, fond votaress of clairvoyance,
Thou shalt not know, in crystal though thou gaze,
What end the gods ordain of all my days
And thine, sweet witch; not all thy necromance
Can tell our destinies; whate'er bechance
'Twere best to bear; whether th' Almighty weighs
Thee out more years, or this thy last, naught stays
The wave-like motion of the years' advance.
Wisdom accepts, be wise; thy longing hope
Trim to the straiger limits of thy sphere
Of homely duty, for what must be, must;
E'en now, while thou wouldst read my horoscope,
The jealous hour is sped; to-day is here,
Seize it and to the morrow little trust.

ARTHUR CHORLTON.

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PRO PATRIA.

Shure I've found a blissed counthry, an' I'm happy I was born,
For there's meadows crammed wid cattle, and the cattle crammed wid corn,
An' there's pockets full o' money, an' help for all forlorn—
But —— m' heart is moithered sore for Ballyhony.
Faix! there's cabbage trees above me, and the emerald flax below;
An' the trees are sweatin' blossoms ye'd niver think could grow;
'Tis the land o' "Drames Come Thru," machree, but ivery drame may go,
Just to pluck a shamrock leaf in Ballyhony.

The moighty mountins thrill me as they circle round the bay,
Wid their pearly-misted pinions for to mark the dyin' day.
But there's peaks o' golder glory, and there's mists o' softer gray,
On the Sperrin' tops o' dewy Ballyhony.

Och! the laugh is in the eye iv me, but the tear is in the soul,
M' heart 'twill break wid longin' as the years they onward roll.
Bless Patrick an' his angels! an' whin I cross the goal,
Heaven grant that it may be in Ballyhony.

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To B.A.

(With apologies to Praed.)

I.

Oh, charming beautiful B.A.
For years I've sought your favour,
I've toiled for you through night and day,
Till toil has lost its savour;
For though you are of low degree,
Your guardians are heartless,
And bachelor I long shall be,
A Bachelor that's Artless:
But Time his endless changes brings,
Not always shall I pine:
Ah, when the College gets its wings,
Ah, then thou wilt be mine.
II.

When Suffragettes no longer look
   To capture what is man's;
When Richmond publishes his book
   And Adamson his banns;
When Registrar's no longer rob,
   Nor College windows rattle,
When Mr. Brook gives up his job,
   To speculate in cattle;
   When Hogben keeps his "jokes" at home,
   And Hughie Mac. his kine,
   When Popes are only found in Rome,
Ah, then thou wilt be mine.

III.

When Kirk eschews the softer parts
   And casts away the dead bits,
When girls no longer lose their hearts
   In Julius Knight or Zedlitz,
   (That rhyme may seem a bit uncouth,
   But still its rich and ringing)
When people rush to hear the truth
   Or Archie Bogle singing;
When dresses are not "simply sweet"
   Nor Clara Butt "divine,"
When merits with due justice meet,
   Ah, then thou wilt be mine.

IV.

When nought on earth is deemed a bore,
   Or Dr. Gibb a pagan,
When Auckland really wants no more,
   Or Wellington O'Regan;
When Politicians e'er refuse
   A favour, near elections,
When Auctioners or Agents lose
   In selling City sections;
When anglers ever "lose a fish"
   Or ever "break a line"
When men get everything they wish,
   Ah, then thou wilt be mine.
V.

When Bertie pulls a fearsome face,
    Or de la Mare a cork,
When Toogood wins a leading case,
    Or Stocker lad the walk,
When paltry rhymsters cease to write
    Such wretched stuff as this is,
When men who boast of deeds of might,
    Dare disobey their Mrs;
When Age admits that joyous Youth
    Knows anything; in fine
When truth is falsehood, falsehood truth,
    Then, sweetheart, thou'lt be mine.

S.E.
Proposed Volunteer Corps.

'I do not think there is enough showing to form a Volunteer Corps.'
Colonel Bauchop.

As reported in the last Spike a committee was set up during the first term to enquire into the conditions under which a Rifle Club could be formed at the College. About fifty students attended the meeting called to hear the result of negotiations with the Defence Department, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop, Officer Commanding the Wellington District, personally attended to explain the position. It was at once apparent from the correspondence that (although the meeting was called to form a Rifle Club) existing regulations absolutely prohibit the formation of a Rifle Club as a State-assisted concern, and a private club is too expensive for consideration. However, the promoters were determined to have something, and a Volunteer corps appeared to be the next best thing. The meeting, with but hasty consideration of the obligations it was creating for itself, forthwith decided to form a company, but a show of hands revealed only eighteen intending members. Replying to a vote of thanks, Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop stated that such poor support did not justify further proceedings, but when once a man has become imbued with a sense of "duty" and red-coated enthusiasm he is not prepared to see his hopes perish so miserably, and the matter has been gone on with.

With no intention whatever of damping the spirit of the proposal, we consider that the position has not been fairly placed before students by those moving in the matter. The outstanding difficulty is one of time. The great majority of students are engaged earning a livelihood during the day, and in attending lectures and studying during the evening. It cannot be denied that the College life is already too strenuous for such students, and it certainly appears an impossibility for them to do justice to everything. From these students the Volunteer Corps must be formed and recruited. It has already
been contended that there are too many College clubs; but one thing is certain, it has ever been the experience of football, athletic, cricket, and hockey clubs alike, that it is an impossibility to get students out to practice and training. How, then, additional time is to be found to serve as a Volunteer does not seem clear.

It was made to appear at the meeting that the Volunteer regulations would be considerably relaxed in the company's favour, and that some eighteen parades, of two hours' duration, and class firing, would alone enable the company to earn annual capitation. On this assumption, and in spite of Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop's significant statement that the Defence Department had no intention of making Volunteering easy, many banded in their names. Every man must attend at least eighteen parades, three of which are to be daylight parades. Most students with previous Volunteering experience refrained from offering their services. To exist the Company will have to capitrate. To earn capitation it must be efficient, and to be efficient it must attend many more than eighteen parades per annum. The minimum number of parades usually reckoned as necessary is twenty-five, and it must be remembered that a Victoria College Corps, which could not parade during session, would, after allowing for Christmas holidays, have less than fifteen weeks for twenty-five parades. Ceremonial parades, from which the company is promised exemption, are important factors in raising the standard of a corp's efficiency. Such is the universal experience of companies belonging to the City Battalion.

The officers and men of such a company must, therefore, be prepared to serve under practically the same conditions as other Volunteers. Such a company must be prepared to face financial difficulties. One of the most prominent corps in Wellington, after being in existence for ten years, has still a debit balance. Each Volunteer by capitation earns £2 10s. per annum, or £7 10s. in three years. Out of this amount his company has to provide a full dress uniform, an undress uniform and an overcoat. In three years time these require renewing. Markers for class firing have also to be paid out of capitation.

It will thus be seen that a corps to be a credit to the College will have heavy obligations to discharge. If fifty students in real earnest about the proposal are prepared to serve at least two years and see the corps on a sound footing, there is no reason (provided it is suitably officered) why it should not be successful. But if their keenness is only tem-
porary—that is to say, the keenness born of novelty—they should, for the sake of the College alone, refrain from offering their services. We have clubs already languishing for want of support, and our duty is plain: we have the Athletic Shield to retain, and the Football, Hockey, Tennis, and Cricket Championships yet to win.

Australasian Students' Song Book.

This volume has now been compiled, and will be published before the end of the year. It will contain the best songs of all the Australasian Universities, Colleges, and Schools, as well as many by such well-known writers as Kendall, Paterson, and Lawson. The promoters of the movement hope to produce a collection of songs which will appeal not only to graduates and undergraduates, but which will also be welcomed by the non-academic public.

Revolution.

"Nothing is so hard to do as to do nothing."

During the month of August, in the year 1908, turfing and tree planting operations were commenced in the College grounds. The first decision to spend money in improving the grounds was only arrived at by the Council some thirteen months ago. As the evident intention at present is to produce a piebald effect on the banks, it seems a good suggestion that the Council should introduce a reasonable amount of green and gold colouring into the design.

Battle of the Bays.

This year's Capping Song competition was won by Cleghorn, who was the perpetrator of "Vanity, all is vain." In order to remove any doubts as to the judge's ability, it may be stated that S. Eichelbaum's "Memories from Abroad" was written after the competition closed.

Ins and Outs.

"Victoria College, famed for Picken, von Zedlitz, Mackenzie and Hunter, Easterfield, Brown, Is so "short" 'tis reduced, like a beggar, to peddle its Tatters and squalor all over the town."

H.C.

The professors now have in the entrance hall of the College a notice board all to themselves, containing their names, and indicators which purport to show whether the professors
are in or out. We understand that it was the fact of the College Council being at its wit’s end to know what to do with its surplus cash that led to the provision of this ornamental but useless luxury. Whilst the board was still a novelty, the Professor of Biology affixed to his particular indicator a notice quite in keeping with the board. “Ne nimium crede indicatorum,” it read, to the amusement of the countless authorities on Latin grammar to be found amongst the junior Latin class. We have it on good authority that there is supposed to be some connection between the movements of the professors and of the indicators. The exact principle governing the relationship has not been divulged to date.

**Gymnasium.**

The Gymnasium Committee is still in existence. Sketch plans of a proposed gymnasium have been obtained from the architect; the proposed building is of two storeys, the ground floor for debating and other meetings, and the upper storey to be used as a gymnasium (and dancing floor). The Committee will, in all probability, be unable to obtain the site which it considered most suitable, but it still considers it possible that students may see a gymnasium and social hall of their own in the year 1909. Another two or three hundred pounds will be required before the building can be gone on with.

**Athletic Club.**

The annual meeting of this club was held on the 16th of September, and at a subsequent meeting of the Committee it was decided to hold a sports meeting on the Saturday two weeks before Easter. The officers for the year elected at the annual meeting are:—Club Captain: J. M. Hogben. Hon. Secretary: J. L. Short. Hon. Treasurer: A. E. Dobbie. Committee: A. H. Bogle and F. A. Wilson, any of whom will be pleased to hear of students who are willing to assist in the defence of the Athletic Shield next Easter.

**EXCHANGES.**

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Magazines: Otago University Review, Canterbury College Review, The Kiri (Auckland U.C.), and The Scindian.
Notes from Other Colleges.

"I weep not for an absent swain,
For time may happier hours recall
And parted friends may meet again."
—Scott.

"The Canterbury College Act 1896 Amendment Act 1908" a Bill introduced before Parliament this session provides, inter alia, for a Rector of the College to undertake the duties of the American University President. He will administer to the "social, moral and physical welfare" of the students and will guide them in their "choice of a business or profession and subjects to be taken up." The wisdom of such an appointment seems undoubted, and the creation of a similar Rectorship at Victoria College should at once make for the amelioration of certain existing conditions.

Notwithstanding the close proximity of the examination season, the Canterbury College students have been heaving their labours with occasional intervals of relaxation. On 30th August the annual "Olla Podrida" of the Debating Society was held. The competition for the best original composition was won by Miss G. Wilson, with a clever miscellany of prose and verse, whilst the best impromptu speech was made by a male student who cleverly discussed "That there is a woman's hair in every pie" at five minutes' notice. A College sports meeting on a recent Wednesday afternoon, at which wrestling and an interfaculty tug-of-war were innovations, attracted a large attendance. On 5th September the Glee Club with an active membership of some forty vocalists and assisted by the Operatic Society Orchestra, made a successful initial appearance. The Tennis Club has already commenced active operations and the
Men's Singles Championship is to be decided at once. Some anxiety is felt by the Club regarding the future of its courts, as the new Chemical Laboratory is to be reared on their present time-honoured site.

Auckland U.C. seem to have the best record this year as far as football in the 'Varsity is concerned. It was their first season in Senior ranks and they finished in third position, their record being:

Matches played 7, won 2, drawn 2, lost 3, points for 24 against 66. Wilson has represented Auckland in all A Representative matches while Gray brothers, Bamford and Wilkes found places in the B team.

C.C.F.C. 1st XV.'s record this season is not brilliant. Matches played 10, won 2, lost 8, points for 53 against 210.

Otago University's record is equally hopeless. Matches played 12, won 4, lost 8, points for 79 against 104.

Canterbury College's record does not include their win against the holders of the wooden spoon in N.Z. Senior Football, to wit, Victoria College.

A.U.C. Hockey Club's First XI. finished second in the Senior competition at Auckland. Three of the team played for the Auckland representatives. O.U. First XI. have had a successful season; eight of them were included in the Otago representatives while the club was successful in winning the five-a-side championship of Dunedin.

An attempt was made at A.U.C. to form a Volunteer Corps, but as very few of the Auckland students are lacking in foresight or common sense, the support given was found insufficient to warrant definite steps and the matter is in abeyance. No Volunteer Corps or Rifle Club has been formed at Canterbury College, but we understand that the Premier has been interviewed and that a petition has been sent to the Government respecting concessions obtainable.

The A.U.C. Cricket Club has between forty and fifty members including nine men who are Senior cricketers in Auckland. The Club has been admitted to the District scheme in vogue in Auckland and a team has been entered in each of the first three grades.
Three former V.C. students appear to be taking their share in College life at Otago University. Miss Dulcie Williams is secretary of the Ladies' Hockey Club, George Gower is a member of the Students' Executive and secretary of the Tennis Club, and J. A. Ryburn (of "the class by himself") is club and field captain of the Hockey Eleven, and also captain of the Otago Representatives.

The Canterbury College cross-country championship was run on the 12th September. The course is about six miles—four miles flat and two hilly—there is one river to cross, and eight creeks and numerous fences have also to be negotiated. There were nineteen starters all of whom finished, G. S. Mackenzie, who had six minutes' handicap, arriving home first. The fastest time was put up by L. A. Dougall, who covered the distance in 85 minutes 5 seconds, beating his own record for the distance, made last year, by 1 minute 51 seconds.

The Sydney University Football team secured second place in this year's Championship Competition in Sydney. The final for the championship, when 'Varsity were beaten by 17 points to nil, was played on a ground which was slush where it was not wholly under water, in a driving wind and pouring rain. 'Varsity's record for the season in the Championship Competition is:—Matches played 13, won 11, lost 2, points for 242 against 110. Six 'Varsity men were chosen as members of the Australian team which is to tour England, but only two were able to get away.

Speaking at the Capping Ceremony at Dunedin, T. W. J. Johnston, Vice-president of the local Students' Association, appealed to the public to provide a building for the students. The accommodation required came under five heads:—1. Rooms for Ladies and men; 2. A room for Debating Society Meetings; 3. A room for Committee meetings; 4. A room for Students' Association Meetings, and 5. A room for social functions. Victoria College, he said, was O.U.'s greatest rival and Victoria College had first-class facilities in these respects. The Senate trusts that for the sake of Mr. Johnston's reputation for versatility, there was nobody in the audience who knew more about our "first-class facilities" than Mr. Johnston evidently did. We should very much like Mr. Johnston to see our "Committee Room."
S. N. Ziman, this year's Rhodes Scholar, has been accepted by Balliol College and is to go into residence there in October.

The Otago University Debating Society has followed in the footsteps of its younger sister in Wellington and initiated an oratorical competition on the lines of that at Victoria College. The first contest took place on the 21st of August, 1908. The Rev. J. W. Shaw, M.A., and the Rev. Wm. Hay judged the competition and placed five speakers:—1st. O. Mazengarlb (whose hero was Daniel O'Connell); 2nd. W. H. Pettit (David Livingstone); 3rd. F. B. Adams (Sir Robert Peel) and W. Alexander (General Gordon), and 5th W. Urquhart (Florence Nightingale.) It will be noted that the winner took the same hero as that taken by the winner of the first Plunket Medal competition. The absence of Irish competitors is also a notable fact. Mazengarlb's effort was characterised by the Rev. J. W. Shaw as easily the best of the many speeches that he had heard at Otago University.

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Our Ladies' Letter.

Dear Spike,—

Life is drear and dull, and I am desolate. I know of nothing that would interest your readers—only that life is sad and sorrowful, and that I am,

Yours,

JULIETTA.

5th October, 1908.

P.S.—A College engagement has just been announced: Mr. V. B. Willis to Miss W. Vosper, of Johnsonville.
Adam A., Diabolo, etc.—The Spike holds no dealings with contributors of the "nom de plume" order, not even when they enclose "poems."

M.H. Or-m.—(a) We are really not very experienced in publishing matters, but your business acumen and energy should move anything; print speech as delivered (sprinkle with numerous expression marks) and call it "Queen Victoria—Selections from Popular Authors." There should be a pot in it, we will review free. (b) We admit it. See (c) of answer below.

Mr. C. P. P-wl-s.—Matter referred to Professor Richmond whose opinion is as follows:—"Private trespassers are trespassers who trespass between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The word "prosecute" is derived from two Arabic words: pros to be brought before, and eute the beak. No charge made."

R. St. J. Be-re.—You write at unconscionable length, but as your letter has the saving grace of evident sincerity, we shall endeavour to answer in full. (a) There has been a Colonel Rawdon in Vanity Fair before, but that of itself is no argument to support your claim. (b) Highland costume for sure, you will drill only in summer, at least you must not admit otherwise at present juncture. Re tartans—see Professor Adamson. (c) Oram has the ringing tone but not your commanding presence. (d) Yes; insist on salute from members of the Corps, even when in civilian dress; as a matter of courtesy non-members should also salute. (e) Re marching tune—Saw Lanksheir; quite useless; he wanted to organise a band and feels very raw. There is a Bacchanalian ditty called "Beer, Beer, glorious Beer" but you are open to misunderstanding if you adopt it. (f) If MacDougall tries to "soil the whole thing" again by whistling martial music at you, and indulging in the other foolish antics you mention, have at him under the Act for "Prevention of Detection of Humbugs." (g) Keep sword out of your legs. Write again soon.

E.W. Ind-r.—We are glad to hear of your intention to take a leading part in College affairs; we always encourage that sort of thing even when it does not benefit the College. It could not further increase your present extreme popularity. Yes, you are quite old enough to go into long trousers; what about a hat?

Editor of Dominion.—If your reporter was there, he has a future before him. Competition is not decided by vote of audience, and the "young orators" are restricted by certain rules in their choice of a subject. We have communicated with Booth, Cromer, and Kitchener, and all three indignantly repudiated any suggestion that they were "men or women of note in history."
A th-r Fa-r. — Do fourteen days mean fourteen nights? The experience of all volunteers is that one night equals several days and that the last night in camp equals at least a week. N.B.—The IIIa Hockey Captain promises a report in one day but—eur. adv. vult.

VERSATILITY.

[WRITTEN FOR A RHYME—SUGGESTED BY G.F.D.]

There's one I know whose wit profound would honour any station
From lowly peasant's to the greatest leader's in the nation,
Methinks if he would take the lists he'd rival Keats or Shelley
As turban'd Vizier to the Turk, he'd out-wit Machiavelli,
He'd fill the role with equal ease of judge or humble bailiff.
And tell Arabian stories which would double up a Caliph,
With gentle words of pious praise he lures his trusting lasses
And yet contrives to make them feel that they perchance are asses.

And when he proudly points the Hutt's a Borough Council model,
Just watch how subtly he suggests a lack inside the noodle.
There's not a king could fill his place from Pole to where in Lon-Don "Ted" sits
Nor fill it with a better grace than could our Prof. von Zedlitz.

F.A.M.
THE ECONOMIC

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