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# Contents

## PROLOGUE
- WHAT THE FIRST EDITOR SAID  
  AND NOW IN OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR, R.W.B.  
  FOREWORD, T. A. Hunter  
  FIFTY YEARS, F. A. de la Mare  
  ROLL OF HONOUR  
  A FOUNDATION PROFESSOR WRITES OF THE EARLY YEARS, T. H. Easterfield  
  COLLEGE LIBRARY, James Bertram  
  SIX BROADCAST TALKS
- PERSONALITIES OF VICTORIA COLLEGE, G. W. von Zedlitz  
  SCIENCE AT VICTORIA COLLEGE, P. W. Robertson  
  THE SOCIAL STUDIES AT VICTORIA COLLEGE, H. C. D. Somerset  
  AUTHORSHIP AT VICTORIA COLLEGE, I. A. Gordon  
  LAW AND VICTORIA COLLEGE, W. E. Leicester  
  SPORT AT VICTORIA COLLEGE, L. A. Tracy  
  VARIED VOICES
- THE GOAL, Eileen Duggan  
  FRIENDSHIP, Beryl G. Osborne (nee Armstrong)  
  THE BISHOPS SHOOT A GODWIT, Douglas Stewart  
  THE RIVER, Douglas Stewart  
  TWO POEMS, Mary Milne  
  OGDENASH ON SOMEONE LIKE SAROYAN, Anton Vogt  
  THE SPECTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY RED, James Winchester  
  POEM, Anton Vogt  
  THREE POEMS, K. J. Hollyman  
  THE DANGER TO HUMANIST EDUCATION, D. N. Y. Olsen  
  WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS, E. Badian  
  BRANDYGALLISM AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPT, Brian Bell  
  FIVE POEMS, P. S. Wilson  
  THREE POEMS, Lyster Paul  
  TWO POEMS, Lorna Clendon  
  THREE POEMS, W. H. Oliver
UNIVERSITAS

THE FIRST YEARS OF THE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY IN RETROSPECT
I H. B. Kirk
II D. K. Picken
III J. S. Tennant
IV F. P. Wilson

GREETINGS
I St Andrews, Scotland
II Massachusetts
III St John’s, Cambridge
IV Worcester College, Oxford
V University of Glasgow
VI General Smuts

REPORTS ON EXPERIENCE

THE LIBRARY, H. G. Miller
MUSIC, Frederick Page
WEIR HOUSE, W. H. Oliver

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT, Denzil Brown
THE DRAMATIC CLUB, G. H. Datson

STUDENT PRANKS, G. W. Turner, H. Williamson

NINETEEN YEARS OF STUDENT JOURNALISM, A. O. McLeod

CATHOLIC STUDENTS’ GUILD, B. M. O’Connor

LITERARY SOCIETY NOTES, A. St. C. Murray-Oliver

THE DEBATING SOCIETY, K. B. O’Brien

INTERNATIONALS IN SPORT, John Carrad

HOCKEY, Ivor Ting
RUGBY, J. B. Trapp
CRICKET, John Carrad

SPORTS CHORUS

ATHLETICS, F. W. Duckworth

BASKETBALL, June Scott

TENNIS, B. M. O’Connor

OFFICE BEARERS OF STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION 1899-1949

ILLUSTRATIONS

SIR THOMAS HUNTER facing page 9
SIR ROBERT STOUT, G. G. S. ROBISON facing page 24
THE STAFF 1924, THE STAFF 1948 facing page 25
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE facing page 32
THE ARCHITECT’S PLAN, OFFICIALLY OPENED facing page 33
THE OLD CLAY PATCH, RICHARD JOHN SEDDON facing page 48
SIR THOMAS EASTFIELD, PROFESSOR MACLAURIN
PROFESSOR VON ZEDLITZ, G. F. DIXON, F. A. de la MARE
PROFESSOR MACKENZIE, PROFESSOR RANKINE BROWN

GREETINGS FROM ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY facing page 49
WEIR HOUSE, THE GYMNASIUM facing page 72

POST-WAR TEMPORARY LECTURE ROOMS
THE LIBRARY
LADIES’ HOCKEY TEAM 1908, RUGBY FIRST FIFTEEN 1946 facing page 73
Sir Thomas Hunter, K.B.E., M.A., M.Sc.
Principal
SONG OF VICTORIA COLLEGE

Tune: "Clementine."

Aedem colimus Minervae
   Acti desiderio
Artes nosse liberales
   Hoc in Hemisphero.

CHORUS

O Victoria, sempiterna
   Sit tibi felicitas:
Alma mater, peramata,
   Per actates maneas.

Aedem colimus Musarum
   Sub Australi sidere:
Nos a Musis maria longa
   Nequeunt dividere.

 Studiosi, studiosae
   Captant sapientiam:
Circa venti turbulentii
   Auferunt desidiam.

Omnium Collegiorum
   Surgit hoc novissimum:
Ergo vires juveniles
   Exhibent fortissimum.

Nomen quod profert, sodales,
   Fausto sit oraculo;
Ut Deus regno reginæ
   Faveat curriculo.

Per vias laboriosas
   Doctrinarum omnium
Docti ducent professores
   Obsequens servitium.

Corpus sanum ne sit absens
   Properamus ludere
Subter iugum occupantes
   Fuste pilam trudere.

Oratores, Oratrices
   Audias effundere
Voces dignas Cicerone
   Et sellas pertundere.

J. RANKINE BROWN
Prologue

WHAT THE FIRST EDITOR SAID

Vol. 1 June, 1902 No. 1

"This I have read in a book," he said, "and that was told to me, And this I thought that another man thought of a student of chemistry."
ADAPTED FROM RUDYARD KIPLING.

We be wayfarers together, O Students, treading the same thorny paths of Studentdom, laughing at the same professorial jokes, grieving in common over the same unpalatable "swot," playing the same games, reading the same indigestible books. Let us also pause for a few moments together and stretch out a hand of welcome to a small white stranger, that has come amongst us with little preliminary under the name of The Spike. Hast thou The Spike, fellow-student? If not, I pray thee make all haste to procure it, less worse things befall thee, and thou art impaled on its venomous point.

Much time and trouble was taken in choosing an eligible name for this venture. The idea was to hit on one that would cling in the elusive student memory, and, at the same time, would suggest the idea that our magazine is to be run as a free lance, dealing out to each and all their just meed of blame or praise without fear, prejudice, or favour. We would have it said of us in the words of Kipling (again slightly adapted)—

"To criticise all is our portion,
The College at large is our share,
There was never a skirmish to windward
But The Spike was aproving there.
Yes, somehow and somewhere and always
We were there when the trouble arose,
From the last Annual Students' Meeting
To the earthquake when Beere blew his nose."

We humbly advance our opinion that The Spike fulfils these qualifications. We hope to be able so to point it that it will stick, not only in the most indiarubber-like memory, but also in anything and everything else against which it is turned.

But we do not wish our pricks to penetrate more than skin deep. We should be sorry indeed to write anything that had not the saving grace of good humour in it, or, in the exhilaration of the skirmish, to wound, however slightly, the feelings of a single soul. Remember then, all ye at whose expense we have presumed to joke, that we laugh with you in good-fellowship rather than at you, and therefore we pray you join your smile with ours if perchance you should recognise yourselves in these pages.

Our aims are threefold. Firstly, to make The Spike an official record of the doings of the College, and of all clubs and institutions in connection with it. Secondly, to bring out the dormant talent, perhaps even genius, in both art and literature, that cannot help but exist, and too often lie hidden, amongst two hundred University students. In so doing, it is our ambition to attain to as high a standard of literary excellence as possible. Thirdly, and perhaps our chiefest ideal, to strengthen the bonds of union and goodfellowship amongst us, to help us to take more interest in the social life of the College and our fellow-students, to foster that brotherly comradeship which, to our mind, is the chief charm of studentdom. In doing this we humbly advance the suggestion that the presence of The Spike will, in some measure, compensate for the absence of a home of our own.

In pursuance of our first object we extend a very hearty welcome to our new professor, and earnestly hope that the pleasure with which we hail his arrival will be mutual now that he has had time to take stock of the winning ways of New Zealand students. Professor von Zedlitz arrived when he was most needed, not, indeed, by the students, for we were especially fortunate in having the services of Professor Brown and Mr Joynt as French and German lecturers respectively but on account of these two gentlemen themselves who, for more than two years, have been doing, without sparing themselves, the work of three men, and indeed, all the Professors are still bearing the double burden of two subjects unfinchingly.
We, in common with every loyal son of the British Empire, have this month been stirred to our souls by the glad pealings of the peace-bells, and though these good tidings affect us no more than any other of the five million "sons of the blood" of Australasia, yet, so great an event it is in our life times, that we cannot let the occasion go by in silence, we, who long for the day when swords shall be beaten into ploughshares, when we, or our successors, shall come, not to bring The Spike, but a meeker, less virulent periodical; and when we can say, in the words of one even greater than Virgil:

"Tu regere imperio populos Britanniæ memento
Hac tibi erunt artes pacisque imponere morem
Parcere subjectis et debellare superbos."

AND NOW, IN OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR . . .

NEARLY FIFTY YEARS AGO, when Euphemia and Selina were respectable christian names, and bowler hats were worn, King Dick, corpulent, mass-bearded, wary, having stormed into power, sat astride a horse on an Old Clay Patch. With Sir Robert Stout, he had helped to found a University College in Wellington, the Capital City. There remained the question of a site, and a building.

As the College was coming into formal existence, far away in antipodean waters, and at home, there were stirrings of patriotic pomp as men poured out in ships to South Africa. Swinburne lay in a madhouse, as mad as a March hare; Bernard Shaw was beginning to strut the stage. Here in New Zealand, Edith Searle Grossman was writing about the intellectual Engländer, the exile in a primitive country; William Satchell was searching the North Auckland gunfields for material for a novel. Victorianism was going out, and Victoria herself had only a little time to live. Vigorous writers were singing the praises of social advancement. The alert Left was appearing. By the skin of her teeth, this College gained the name of Victoria.

The student group in this new College did not become articulate for three years. In June, 1902, a slim volume appeared with the curious title The Spike. Very shortly, names formidable in College literary circles were appearing in these pages—Seaforth Mackenzie, F. A. de la Mare, Siegfried Eichelaum. It became established as a biennial production—in June the literature, in October the statistics. There were extravagant details of Club activities, mute portraits, some Georgian verse, much frolic, the most extraordinary-looking sports' teams, and a (very rare) scratch of original writing. It became patterned and formalised. The chapter-heads, drawn very early in the piece by the late Fanny Irvine Smith, remained unaltered for years. Well-known students and officials were celebrated in random verse which delighted to pun on such words as 'stout,' 'ostler,' 'hector,' 'gambler,' and 'beer.' To us, in 1949, it looks a very stiff and uninviting field of literature, but a valuable source of very human statistics.

I have been temerarious enough to revert to the original title—The Spike—to use the baptismal name again. Why should it be thought necessary to revert to a title which has been out of use for several years, and which, so I am told, cannot help but be typographically ugly? Let me quote from The Spike, Vol. 1., No. 1:

"Much time and trouble was taken in choosing an eligible name for this venture. The idea was to hit on one that would cling in the elusive student memory, and, at the same time, would suggest the idea that our magazine is to be run as a free lance, dealing out to each and all their just meed of blame or praise without fear, prejudice, or favour . . ." "Hast thou The Spike?" was the cry. It was never a Spike, or any old Spike, or just Spike; it was THE Spike. Except for the saving of a little printer's ink, there seems nothing to justify the action by an Editor in the late 1930s of dropping the first word from the title. So I have put it back.

Since Vol. 1., No. 1., appeared, there have been three Memorial Numbers—a War Memorial Number (1921), a Silver Jubilee Number (1924), and a Foundation Number (1934). Counting out the first-named as being of a special nature, I found it hard to believe when I started out, and read the other two for the first time, that the Editors had had a settled policy before they began. Now, on the eve of publication, I see why. One must always be suspicious of a Memorial
Number. In its marmoreal innocence, it never quite knows whether it should shed soft tears for the past, gloat over the gloss, estimate the achievement, or just laugh with peals of silvern laughter at the folly of it all.

It seemed a grand scheme to invite everybody who had ever put pen to paper to write something, and pick out the choicest cherries. And that's precisely what I did. To a museum in Canada, and a parliamentary lobby in Finsbury; to apartment houses in Paris, and universities all over the earth, the letters went out. Dons, lawyers, fellows, doctors, professors, business-men, students, housewives, all were paged. The result, of course, had they all answered, would have been disastrous. But, as previous Editors have found again and again, there was no danger of that. One has to print everything that comes, even if it stumbles in on one leg.

In spite of heavily sounded warnings, when I began, I felt that on this occasion a whole field lay spread before me—like a huge orchard, with ripened, inviting fruit. But, once bitten, the fruit tended to freeze. Inside it proved taut and dry and grey. Slough off the persevering skin, where the old purposes are fought out by the familiar opponents—take out the conscientious sagas of hockey and cricket and football—and, save for a loyal, luscious pip or two, the new fruit glitters rosily in somebody else's oasis. What is here is a very mixed basket.

A peculiar and impressive difficulty was the appearance side by side with this small magazine, of a formal history of the College by Dr J. C. Beaglohole, and a new edition of The Old Clay Patch. I am anticipating that the former will trace the rise of the College and its institutions, re-fight the battles of the site, and resurrect the various crises over freedom of speech and university reform; and that the latter will reproduce the odes and poems and songs which perpetuate the memory of Seaforth Mackenzie, Siegfried Eichelbaum, Hubert Church, J. C. Beaglohole, Marjory Hannah, Ronald Meek and the rest. But it was left to these pages of mine to record the latest and newest thoughts of all Victorians who still live and who were accessible. The generations were meant to speak with their own voices; to say what they think of the sights and sounds of our mid-century years. The History will tell of them, The Old Clay Patch will repeat what they used to think. I wanted them here to speak from the past about us. That is the magazine's primary raison d'etre. With a disappointing response to my appeal, it would be foolhardy to suggest that this coat-of-many-colours does so more than patchily. Some reprinted broadcast talks span the years; a group of retired members of the staff document the earliest days; some of our best younger poets are represented; there is a whirl of hard thought from Oxford; and a couple of short stories. But altogether, this section is rather like the exhausted literary leavings of fifty eight-month years of exasperated, if adventurous, effort.

The Roll of Honour was an adventure in research. It was undertaken primarily to ensure that those who died would not be forgotten as long as Victoria College exists; and its grievous length testifies to the very severe sacrifice made by the student group during the struggle with Fascism. These men lie in many a battlefield of which they did not dream. In Greenland and Guadalcanal, in the Atlantic and the Azores, at Trieste and Tripoli, they died while serving their country. Our College will always speak with reverence of them and of their deeds.

Considerable care has been exercised that no names should have been omitted, or included in error. In this connection, I should like here to express my very great thanks to the three Service Departments for readily supplying me with complete Casualty Lists, and for checking the names that I submitted to them; and to the small band of helpers who assisted in the prodigious task of setting the complete College Rolls from 1899 against the Armed Forces Casualty Lists. If there are errors or omissions, I should like to express my regrets here to relatives and friends of those concerned.

It may be that someone willing to undertake the task of compiling a World War II Memorial Number will be found. For that reason, the names are published here under the Service headings. It is not possible in this issue to publish further details, but those which have been assembled are left in the hands of the Victoria University College Records Officer.

I should like to record my sincere thanks to those who conscientiously and laboriously completed club histories; to my assistant editors and Mr J. B. Trapp for substantial help in the selection of plates, the arrangement of material, and the reading of proofs; and to Messrs Angus and Robertson, Sydney, for their permission to reprint the short story and poem by the important young ex-New Zealander, Douglas Stewart.

And with that, I send this prim, many-coloured birthday cake to its dubious fate, confident that the bright young literary things will not read the annals of the sports' clubs, equally confident that the leather-hunters will scorn the verse; and supremely certain that all will want the Editor's scalp. That is the price one must pay for helping in a Jubilee venture.

R. W. B.
FOREWORD

The Spike

The feeling for a good human job anywhere, the admiration of the really admirable, the disesteem of what is cheap, shoddy, and unimportant — this is what we call the critical sense, the sense for ideal values. It is the better part of what men know as wisdom. — William James.

Some attending the Jubilee Celebrations were present at the ceremonies connected with the opening of the College. They are the favoured few who are able to survey in the span of one memory the long journey from 1899 to 1949. As one who joined the pilgrimage in 1904, after the hectic days of the “battle of the sites” were over, I have no personal knowledge of the first difficult but glorious years. Fancy the audacity — or was it ignorance? — of our political leaders who were prepared to found a university college on an annual grant of £4,000, a considerable part of which had to be devoted to school scholarships!

But I have seen the College grow from small things to great, have known the foundation professors and the founder of the College, Sir Robert Stout, have been privileged to watch academic leaders and teachers who brought rare gifts to the College and spent themselves in its service, I have known on the field, in the social hall, and in the classroom generations of students who came not only to take what Victoria had to offer but to render that service without which the work of the university would be poor, stale and unprofitable.

To me therefore has been allotted the task of writing this foreword: I shall content myself by trying to answer two questions: What has the College done for the Community? What has the Community done for the College?

Even a cursory survey of the past five decades shows clearly enough that the College has made a very worthy contribution to the life of the people. Men and women of Victoria have occupied, and are occupying, positions of responsibility in all spheres of public life. In Parliament and in local body administration, on the Bench and at the Bar, in the pulpit and in the Church Assembly, in the educational life of the country (primary, secondary, university), in the Public Service, in the great Social Services (public and private), in peace and war, we find in posts of influence men and women who look to The Old Clay Patch with gratitude and affection. Nor must we overlook the labours of the common man or woman, those who by their conscientious and self-denying efforts carry on their shoulders the essential work of the community and bear forward the great traditions of the race.

We may obtain more specific replies to our first question if we consider with what success Victoria has performed the essential functions of a university. The first function of a university is to be the guardian of the truth, it is the custodian of the standards and ideals of the intellectual life of the community. It must try to ensure that what is proved true is conserved, that all that is based on error is exposed and eliminated. It cannot be claimed of any institution that it never failed on some occasion to attain this end, but the record of the College has been an enviable one. There has never been a traditional point of view that all were expected to take; there have always been dissenting groups which have, except on very rare occasions, been given full tolerance. At least twice in its brief history the College has been called upon to defend academic freedom, and, once, to resist the pressure of traditional methods. In face of these challenges, the College did not fail. It is not easy for an institution whose resources come mainly from the State to be really independent, but again, with very few exceptions, both the leaders of the State and the members of the College have not lacked sympathy and toleration.

The means by which a university inspires regard for truth are two: teaching and research. It is not to be expected that all the members of any university staff will be strong in both these aspects of its work. Happy is the institution whose collective staff is prepared in both parts. Every university must have those who are able to stimulate its students to distinguish between the true and the false and to follow the true whithersoever it may lead. Its main purpose must be to train its members to think clearly and honestly; it is not part of its duty to determine what they should think. “The full responsibility of a university is discharged only when its students are taught to be free-thinking, free-acting, independent persons and every movement calculated to indoctrinate youth with special social theories or with a special kind of political philosophy is subversive of the needs of a democratic society.” In this regard the College record has been good. A College which has had on its staff men like the four foundation professors and von Zedlitz, Kirk, Salmon, Picken — to mention only some — is a College than can hold its head high.

It is a common story that in the early years academic tradition based on external examination, under-staffing, and lack of facilities, made research difficult. Yet Easterfield began with research technique, and the contributions of men like Salmon, Macaulay, Sommerville, Laby, Cotton are those of which any university might be proud, and have developed in the College the spirit of research of which the strongest evidence is provided by the achievements of successive generations of students, a number of whom are now members of the staff engaged in fundamental investigations.

What has the community done for the College?
FIFTY YEARS

"When the Golden Jubilee arrives with its added laurels few indeed who shared the high hopes of the foundation will join in the songs of praise. This Silver Jubilee is the last of those great anniversaries at which the generations of Victoria College may expect to mingle with the very founders . . ."

The Spike, Easter 1924.

The contribution of those first years stands, of course, to the credit of the fifty, but the retrospect has widened, the world has changed, all our institutions have had to face new tests. If we have indeed survived the tests, how have we borne ourselves in the fight, have we surrendered at vital points, and for what?

"Look back and see if in those walls
You helped to build and cherish,
Truth walks with courage, sword by sword,
Or both before some overlord
Fall down and weakly perish."

-- T. A. Hunter, Principal.
The Spike

But first let us look at the casualties. Of the first four professors, one alone survives, and he cannot be with us. With Richard Cockburn Maclaurin, John Rankine Brown and Hugh Mackenzie, Sir Thomas Easterfield shared all the privations with all the honour of the pioneers and to him we give thanks and greeting. Of the first students certainly there are some few amongst us, mostly septuagenarians, who will take their part in the celebrations. Of those who voted in the momentous division in the House of Representatives—the story is told by Sir Robert Stout in the Silver Jubilee number—not one survives; and of the original council, all are gone. Sir Robert Stout has passed, the oldest and the greatest of the pioneers of Victoria College, and his passing marked the end of an epoch in the history of the University itself. We salute all who fought so well—not always with success—in the battles of fifty years ago and we give them thanks.

In passing from one age to another it is not merely time which counts. It is difficult to imagine a period more fraught with difficulty than that through which we have just passed. Oxford and Cambridge seem to have had centuries of fairly even development, centuries during which there was general agreement as to the cultural basis of education and as to educational methods—with a command of great scholars adequate to the tutorial and professorial needs. Victoria University College has grown up in an atmosphere of change. Throughout its fifty years it has been struggling to reform an antiquated system, it has been crippled by an effete examination tradition and a Senate dependent for progress on some measure of agreement between four Colleges whose interests were too often conflicting. Two world wars have disorganized teaching and staff and, despite the efforts of authority, have tended to lower standards. The wars and their aftermaths left the College struggling with a plethora of students, with inadequate staffs, with inadequate accommodation and with inadequate finance. In 1899 we had 100 students, today the number exceeds 2,000. The tutorial system of the great English Universities had no counterpart in New Zealand, and, with mass lecturing, the bad old examination octopus even tightened its hold. Above all, the atmosphere and the very metabolism of our social life had undergone profound change. In 1899 we were still living in the Victorian Age. In 1949 the very virtues of that age are questioned if not derided, its stability shaken, its orderly progress discredited, its optimism replaced by disillusion. Student life not only reflects, it is part of, the community life of its country, its time and generation. It is, more particularly in New Zealand, closely bound to the education system, from infant school to university entrance, a system which has tended to standardization at a non-academic level.

On the other hand there are some more promising trends. The number of full-time students has been increasing, day-time lectures are more numerous and, in response to social needs, there is a much greater recognition of the place of research in a self-respecting University.

In attempting to assess the value of an institution to its time and place there is a tendency to measure it by specific incidents and specific doctrines. This is clearly not the best method of approach. If the institution is a University, it has to be recognized first that it is an integral part of a well-ordered community, because the progress of such a community depends upon knowledge, upon an objective search for truth, and experience has shown that such a search can be prosecuted only in an atmosphere of freedom. Where such an institution exists, its influences is not to be found in the hearts and minds of the people, its value is not to be expressed in terms of gold—not fine gold—it is of the kind "hands cannot close upon." Fundamental research itself may give practical results, but its true value is above rubies, and is still impalpable. All knowledge, however, must be imparted in human tones by human beings and the story can best be gathered from the sound knowledge, the high ideals and character, the generosity and courage of men and women.

Victoria University College has made its mark upon our community because from the beginning and throughout its history it has not at any time lacked men of outstanding ability and character, men devoted to public good, willing to devote their ability and character to the public service. The first four Professors laid the foundations; and the names of T. H. Laby, D. K. Picken, G. W. von Zedlitz and Sir Thomas Hunter, who led the University Reform Movement, bear witness to the part played by our College in University leadership, as in many other departments of our social life.

It would be invidious to select from among the many who have served her the names of those who, like Harry Borrer Kirk, have been most loved, or of those who, like "Old Von," have brought to her service the most brilliant parts. It is not invidious, however, to mention some few who have attained international stature and reputation: Professor T. H. Laby, F.R.S. (in Physics), Professor C. A. Cotton (in Geology), Sir John Salmond (in Law)—men whose very names would bring distinction to any professoriate in the world; while Sir Carl Berendsen, our Ambassador in Washington, has maintained a high reputation before the United Nations. Among those who are serving or have served on the Supreme Court Bench, the names of the Rt. Hon. Sir Humphrey O'Leary, P.C., C.J., the Hon. Sir Archibald Blair, Sir Hubert Ostler, Sir David Smith, Sir Robert Kennedy are recorded on our roll of students, as is that of Sir Theodore Rigg, who four times won the University three miles and was knighted for his services to Agriculture. In the University itself Sir David Smith has become one of its most
The Spike

distinguished chancellors.
With all the handicaps under which we have laboured we have, through the years, accumulated a not-unworthy record. A number, even of our earlier part-time men, have become distinguished lawyers, magistrates and judges, while from very early days the scientific departments have continued to produce men, who, when they have gone abroad, have taken an honourable place in the great world of science outside. In the humanities it is not so easy to gauge the standards. Beginning so often with ill-prepared matriculants, we may assume that our average entrance standard is not high, and it is all the more meritorious that our best students, who go abroad, have done so well. Of some we have every reason to be proud. We cannot expect that every year Canterbury will produce a Rutherford, or Victoria a Syme, a Robertson, a Jenness, or a MacDougall. The great and abiding contribution of a University, however, is the spirit and the inspiration which has made the achievement of the greater ones possible. If in the hearts and minds of the average student there has been implanted a love of truth for its own sake, a patient industry in the search for fact, a determination to understand and to follow wherever truth leads, the community will harvest a fitting and generous reward.

In the Silver Jubilee Number there was printed some "Stray Reflections" by John William Joynt, the Registrar of the New Zealand University when Victoria was young. In his day his was a name to conjure with and his interest in the new College was unbounded. "And what," he said, "of that first batch of students? . . . . The faces and voices of many of them rise before me, across the distance of space and time . . . . Few though they were, they have their place in academic history. They laid the foundations on which great things were to be erected . . . . College patriotism and College fraternity sprang into existence as if by enchantment . . . ." Those who remember the Victoria of those days know how difficult it is to reproduce with 2,000 students the solidarity and enthusiasm which is so natural to 200, 200 working and playing against every possible handicap. It is only through the organisation of such numbers into different units—such as Weir House and the other Hostels—that the community life of fifty years ago can be recaptured, with its solidarity, its intensity and its sweetness. Today, the majority of students know nothing of our verses or our songs. Our "Sports Chorus" is almost forgotten, with "Absent Friends" and "The Final Chorus" and even The Old Clay Patch is less than a name. Nevertheless, the work of the College still pursues its quiet humanizing way.

The quiet, of course, as is the case wherever young men and women are gathered together in one place, is sometimes disturbed. Such is the nature of the young. After World War I, some students at the ancient University of Oxford passed a famous resolution indicating that they would never again fight for their country. Even then the newspapers and the megaphones found such exuberances good "copy." Even some greybeards of the period took such enthusiasm seriously, forgetting that it is better for immaturity to let off the steam of thought—even misguided thought—rather than not to think at all. It is well for intelligent people to remember that freedom itself must be bought at a price and that price often entails bearing-up in the face of the uninformed and the doctrinaire enthusiasms of the very young, as well as the conservative mauldings of the very old. What is more important and far more insidious is the inevitable entry into the stream of university thought of the pessimism, the disillusion and the vulgarity of modern life. Instead of the youth and vigour of the first Old Clay Patch we tend to achieve the lucubrations of a few stage-haunted exhibitionists who have no scruple in exploiting the lower instincts of the mob. It is always the excesses of an ignorant and stupid few which tend to undermine the great name a University bears and the great influence such a name should inspire. The excesses of generous human ideals may well be condoned, the excesses of low conduct can only be deplored.

The University claims for itself a freedom of expression and a freedom of government in a State which, as far as New Zealand is concerned, has provided the funds by which it exists. Such a state of affairs has implications. It implies the devotion of its members to its own ideals and, in the deepest sense, it implies the duty of consecration by its members to the highest good of the community. It is not without significance that, towards the end of its fifty years, in honour of Sir Thomas Hunter, the College published a volume of essays, and the volume was called The University and the Community. It is for service to the community that the right of freedom exists and by such service that its success can best be measured. The University holds "in trust" but its service may be greatest where it is least recognized.

Among the verses of our College which have fallen into oblivion are those by Seaford MacKenzie in the Ode on the Laying of the Foundation Stone. It expressed some of the hopes and aspirations of those who were present on that day of days when the animosities of "The Battle of the Sites" were laid to rest:

"Here in the common clay,
Here in our strait demesne
Lay we a stone in trust
Waiting the fuller day:
Gladly for gift and gain
Rift the light from its shroud;
Sow the grain of desire
Down in the dark of the dust;
Raise for fellow to sun and cloud
Upward—yearn of a climbing spire!"
As we pass this milestone we realize that we have travelled a long way since the Ode was written. One decade after another has passed back the torch and we may well and sincerely believe that the trust has not been betrayed. We have, without doubt, suffered from that "economic drive" which turns men from the pursuit of wisdom to the pursuit of a career, but the truth will never be without a witness so long as we remain true to the tradition of our first fifty years, ready to fight for decency and honour, to dedicate our lives and, in the last resort, to lay down our lives in the cause of freedom, truth and justice.

"For this is the burden of the World
Which it speaketh day by day;
Though many a worldly lip be curled
In a sneer that it does not pay:
In our ears is the voice of a Mammon Age,
In our hearts is a tale that's old,
The tale of our garnered heritage—
The wisdom that's more than gold!"

F. A. de la Mare.

**ROLL OF HONOUR**

In desert and forgotten places,
bright in the shadow of our doom,
among that scattered, pitiful dust
the small weed, honour, springs in bloom.

A. R. D. FAIRBURN.

---

**NAVY**

P/O
ALEXANDER, Bruce

S/Lt
BENNETT, Jock

L/A
BREINING, Robert Ian

S/Lt
BROWN, John Atkinson

Lt
CHURCHELL, Adrian Hugh, M.I.D.

S/Lt
DOUGLAS, John MacKenzie

L/A
FERGUSON, William George

S/Lt
GALL, Robert John

L/A
GALLAGHER, Charles Anthony

O/S
HALCROW, Robert John

Lt
HAWKEN, Harold Tolmie

S/Lt
HOSKIN, Regde Dennis

S/Lt
MCRBIDE, Thomas Chalmers Glen

Sgmn
MORRIS, Jeffrey Michael Grave

A.B.
RAYMOND, John

S/Lt
READ, Harold Stuart

Lt
ROWAN, Geoffrey Alexander, M.Sc.

L/A
SHADBOLT, Frederick John

Lt
STEPHENSON, John Blythe, B.Com.

S/Lt
URLICH, Joseph John

S/Lt
WALLACE, John David

S/Lt
WARNER, William Francis

Pay S/Lt
WATKINSON, Stanley

S/Lt
WATTS, Donald Graham

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**ARMY**

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AIMERS, John Bertram, LL.B.

L/Bdr
ANDREWS, William Keith

Sgmn
ASH, Bruce Vincent

2/Lieutenant
BARK, John George

2/Lieutenant
BARRING, Kenneth John, M.A.

Lieutenant
BAUCHOP, Harry Arthur

Lieutenant
BEDINGFIELD, John Deighton

Lieutenant
BOLLARD, Harold Francis

L/Sgt
BOND, Robert Henry Brome

Pte
BRANDFORD, Thomas Osborne

Major
BRITLAND, James Joseph George, M.Sc.

Pte
BROOK, Geoffrey Stephen William

Major
CHESTERMAN, Eml Richard, M.I.D., M.A.

Gnr
CHRISP, Arnold Dickson

Major
CHRISTIE, Elliott Martin, M.Sc.

Lieutenant
COOPER, Digby Charles Harrison, M. I.D.

Pte

Sgt
CORKILL, Ronald John, M.A., Dip.Ed.

Major
CORNES, Eric John, B.Sc.

Lt/Sgt
CUMMINGS, Cyril James

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Cpl
D'ARNY, Frank Hedworth

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DEMPSEY, Stanley John

Pte
DICK, Crenston Sangster

Tpr
DIEDERICH, Roy Edward, L.L.B.

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RILL, John Pengelley

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EVANS, Owens Glyn

Pte
FRASER, Charles Henry

S/Sgt
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Gnr
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Sgt
HEINE, Robert William, M.M.

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Capt
IRONSIDE, Clifford George

Major
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Dvr
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Tpr
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Lt/Col
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Pte
LOVE, Jack, B.Sc.

Cpl
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MCELROY, Raymond James
The Spike

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L/Cpl WILSON, Wynn Wallace Percy, L.L.B.
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P/O DOOLE, David Giffen
F/O DRUMMOND, Robert John Heugh, M.A.

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**CIVILIAN**

DIXON, James Yeomans
(escort to British children evacuated to Australia)
A FOUNDATION PROFESSOR WRITES
OF THE EARLY YEARS

INTRODUCTION

"Your old men shall dream dreams (of the past?)
And your young men shall see visions" (of the future?)

"Where there is no vision the people perish."

THOUGH AN OLD MAN who is well past the dreaded age of three score years and ten, and, alas, the only survivor of the four foundation professors who came out from Great Britain in February, 1899, it seems almost a duty to this generation to deal with the early years of our beloved University College. Would that my old colleagues were with us to give their recollections and to check my statements. The Editor of the Evening Post has kindly provided typed copies (1) of the Post report on the meeting held on April 12th, 1899, to commemorate the opening of the College and to welcome the professors, (2) of the reports on the inaugural lectures delivered by the professors in the following week. Sir Robert Stout's bound copy of the lectures can be consulted in the Victoria University College Library.

Should this statement of recollection appear egotistical, I claim indulgence for recording personal experiences in a personal manner. It is often difficult to suppress the use of the first person singular in a personal narrative.

At the beginning of September, 1898, an advertisement appeared in a London paper calling applications for four professorships at Victoria College, Wellington, New Zealand. The subjects mentioned were Classics, English, Mathematics, and Chemistry with one branch of Physical Science. Testimonials were at once collected from my old teachers and colleagues, any which savoured of faint praise carefully rejected, and a nicely printed application dated October 30th, 1898, with the evidence as to the suitability of the candidate persuasively displayed, was forwarded to the Agent General for New Zealand, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves. I think that only one testimonial earlier than 1898 was included. It had been issued on the occasion of an application for a position elsewhere but carried such strong recommendation that it had to be included. It was from Sir T. Clifford Albutt, M.D., F.R.S., the celebrated physician, and must have been tempting bait indeed to Dr James who had been appointed by the Government to represent the Professorial Board on the first Council until the arrival of the professors.

In due course, candidates who had got as far as the short list were called to the Agent General's Office to be interviewed by a committee of some half-dozen educational experts, one of whom, a Cambridge don, was known to me personally. One question remains in my mind. It was asked by one of the committee who was certainly not a scientist: "Is there a good chemical laboratory in Cambridge?" The reply "Yes! the one in which I have the honour to demonstrate cost £40,000." The committee chuckled, and became in a very happy frame of mind. They seemed pleased that I asked the High Commissioner about the finance of Victoria College. The information supplied, like the finance, was decidedly meagre.

In the middle of January, 1899, the successful candidates were notified of their appointment and asked to get in touch with one another, if possible, and to sail by the earliest boat, which was to leave in three weeks' time; also to call at the Agent General's office and sign the five years' contract of service. Maclaurin, himself a New Zealand graduate and a star man in the Agent General's office, kindly called on me to see if I could be useful, and gave the alarming information that he did not intend to stay in New Zealand beyond the five years. However, he married an exceptionally charming Auckland lady and stayed until 1907, when he was offered the chair of Mathematical Physics at Columbia University. Two years later, he was offered the position of President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which he completely re-organised with phenomenal success. Intellectually, I always regarded him of much higher calibre than the rest of us; and probably he recognized that there was little scope for men of his exceptional ability in Wellington, where I believe he had only three Honours students during the time he remained in that city. When the contract for five years' service was submitted to me, I at once objected that it was not in terms of the advertisement for a Professor of Chemistry and one branch of Physical Science, but had been changed to "Professor of Chemistry and Physics." The Agent General said that they had no doubt arranged for teaching other branches of Physics in Wellington, and advised that the contract should be signed. (On arrival in Wellington I learned that the advertisement had been due to some misunderstanding, and that there was no provision for any assistance. Later it was suggested that I should teach Geology also. This was turned down.) He also made the alarming statement that the physical apparatus the professor would need had been ordered in London on the advice of a professor in New Zealand and asked me to see it before I sailed. On application to the firm supplying the goods, I was informed that the apparatus
was already forwarded. When it arrived in Wellington the most expensive item, a standard barometer, was broken. There was also a bottle of peas and a tin pannikin with which to show a child’s experiment on inertia! Needless to say, they arrived undamaged, but were never used. I think the total grant for apparatus for chemistry and physics was £50—though it may have been £100—increased after protest by £25. Fortunately, my Cambridge colleagues had presented me with a very high class chemical balance which is still in excellent working order. I spent a small further sum on goods which I knew could be obtained on better terms than through the Agent General’s office, feeling sure that the sum would be made good to me by the Victoria University College Council. This confidence was justified.

THE VOYAGE TO NEW ZEALAND

John Rankine Brown, Hugh Mackenzie and T. H. Easterfield sailed from Plymouth on the evening of February 11th, 1899, in the foulest of weather, together with their wives and children. Mackenzie had joined the S.S. Kaikoura in London. The Brown and Easterfield families were taken out by tender, and were in a bedraggled and collapsed condition when they reached the ship in Plymouth Sound. When the Kaikoura put out to sea things were even worse, for she drove into a first class gale which lasted three days and destroyed a large part of the captain’s bridge. However, things had become quiescent and pleasant by the time we reached Teneriffe, and before we arrived at the Cape the three professors had learned something of one another’s idiosyncrasies.

Rankine Brown and Mackenzie made it clear that they regarded their subjects as on a far higher plane educationally than mathematics or science. Easterfield considered that culture could be derived from almost any subject if it were sufficiently well taught. He suggested that ideals for the new College should be discussed forthwith, whereas they considered that it would be wisest to copy such colleges as were already established in New Zealand. He also said that as the professors were carefully selected because of their wide experience of English, Scottish and Continental universities, the Victoria College Council would expect them to be leaders in the community and implant a definite and independent Victoria College spirit. Such an independent spirit has on many occasions been shown by the College Council, the Professorial Board, and the University College students. That there have been extremists amongst them is in accord with the history of universities from time immemorial. Does not Cicero’s Universitas signify a whole that is a Universe, and are we not to expect that in a Universe of thought new ideas will constantly emerge so that these will be a mixture of the conservative and the extremely new? Without such a mixture, residence in the university will be a poor training for post-graduate life.

ARRIVAL IN WELLINGTON

The Kaikoura arrived in Wellington in the late afternoon of Saturday, April 1st, 1899, in perfect autumn weather and was met by members of the College Council and the College Registrar, Mr C. P. Powles. Mackenzie was quickly taken away to stay with relatives. One councillor tactfully stated that he had voted for me because there was no candidate from Scotland on the short list for the chair of chemistry. Another gentleman, not on the Council, thought he was at the time, told us that if the professors came out strongly for the Seddon Government they would obtain all they wanted for the College—otherwise they would get very little. Alas! He spoke the truth.

Mr Powles kindly shepherded us to a hotel on the site of the present Midland, and on the following day callers arrived; the first of them was Lady Stout. They did all in their power to make us feel that we were not strangers in a strange land.

INAUGURATION OF THE COLLEGE

On April 12th, a very large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Education Board’s building to celebrate the opening of the College and to welcome the foundation professors. The Chair was taken by the Mayor, Mr J. R. Blair, as chief citizen. He was also Chairman of the Victoria University College Council and of the boys’ and girls’ colleges. There were also present the Minister of Education, the Hon. W. C. Walker, M.A.; the Chancellor of the University of New Zealand, Sir James Hector, M.D., F.R.S.; the Registrar of the University, J. W. Joynt; the Bishop of Wellington, Dr Wallis; Archbishop Redwood; Ministers of at least four other religious denominations; members of Parliament and of the Legislative Council; Mr J. P. Firth, Principal of Wellington College and members of his staff. The report of this meeting is well worthy of study at the present day.

Sir James Hector remarked that this might be regarded as the end of the thirty years’ war, for the proposal for a University College in Wellington could be traced back to 1868. The Bishop of Wellington stated that Mount Cook (a large area at that time) was the best site for Wellington but referred to the building on it (an enormous prison) as a foul exsiccation, which ought to be removed. The Minister of Education also doubted if the building was suitable. Had the early Wellingtonians had vision the Mount Cook site might well have become a great cultural centre. It is some consolation that the Dominion Museum and Art Gallery, the Technical College and the Carillon
are on this site. At the request of his colleagues, Professor Easterfield expressed thanks for the warm welcome which had been given both at this meeting and on their arrival in Wellington. He stated that the University College could expect no permanent success unless it took a firm place in the hearts and affections of the Wellington citizens. His colleagues were enthusiastic, but they needed enthusiastic students who valued education for its own sake; they also needed a first class reference library, not merely text books. Laboratories would also be required. Above all they needed the sympathy of everyone in the city, for with this their other requirements would soon be supplied.

THE INAUGURAL LECTURES

In the week following the public welcome to the professors each delivered an inaugural lecture. As Sir Robert Stout’s bound copy of these lectures can be consulted in the Victoria University College Library only a short reference can be made to them. J. Rankine Brown produced an excellent case for the study of Latin and Greek, particularly Latin, as subjects calculated to lead to accuracy of expression in speech and writing and to prevent slipshod phrasology.

Mackenzie was equally emphatic on the study of classical forms as the basis of literary training. Unfortunately, to many the address was hard to follow owing to his strong Scottish accent. Macaulay was most interesting in dealing with Mathematics, surprising many by the statement that it was now accepted that Euclid’s axioms were no longer necessary for geometry except as near approximations to the truth. Next he spoke of wireless telegraphy, explaining that wireless waves were predicted on purely theoretical grounds by the great Cambridge mathematician, J. Clerk Maxwell, who translated Faraday’s brilliant experimental work into mathematical language, and indicated how the wireless waves should be capable of detection; but Maxwell failed in the actual experiment. Hertz, Professor of Mathematics and later of Physics at Karlsruhe after a long series of experiments succeeded in finding a ready means of producing and detecting the waves, and the properties of the waves were exactly as predicted by Maxwell; later the discoveries were put on a commercial basis by Marconi.

Macaulay then proceeded to show that many biological studies derived from the theory of Evolution were capable of mathematical treatment. The lecture was a masterly popular treatment of a most difficult subject.

Easterfield’s lecture was entitled “Research as the prime factor in a Scientific Education.” The lecture was delivered without reference to notes and contains several howlers. The main points may be stated in this way (1) That it is equally the duty of a scientific teacher to make new knowledge as to teach that which is already known, (2) That every science student should be regarded as potentially a research student if given the opportunity and encouragement, (3) That research is a great educator in itself; (4) That research habits carried into practice are of fundamental value to the human race. The lecture was well received but next morning I was told that it ought not to have been delivered as it might cause offence in other colleges. It was therefore of no little satisfaction to find that the Evening Post gave a leader headed “A laboratory for Wellington”; also a very appreciative critique of the lecture.

Two days later the Council of the Pharmaceutical Association came as a deputation to ask for help in improving the education of young pharmacists. This was followed by a visit from a man who asked me to assist him in a research on making gold from sawdust in which he claimed to have been very successful already.

THE BATTLE OF THE SITES

It has already been stated that the Mount Cook site had been suggested as the best for a University College but in a few days news came that the ministerial residence in Tinakori Road had been offered. Mr Blair, the Chairman of the Council, asked me to go and see it as he was doubtful of the advisability of taking a building which would so quickly become outgrown. I reported against it for I knew that a chemical laboratory in the building would be an intolerable nuisance to my colleagues. It had been stated by the Agent General that the number of students was not likely to exceed fifty for several years. Actually 115 took lectures in the first year and there is no doubt that the number would have been far greater if they could have been brought together in a convenient building.

The next suggestion was that Victoria University College should have the use of the Girls’ College after the girls left the building and on Saturday mornings, and two good rooms for chemistry and physics were lent by the Education Board in Victoria Street at least a mile away from the Girls’ College. Neither gas nor water were laid on and there was no drainage. Also there was no money available for construction of laboratory benches and furniture. So boards on trestles had to be used and heating had to be done by spirit lamps. The goods ordered in England had not arrived, but Mr G. W. Wilton had a sufficient stock for me to supply immediate needs for chemistry. When asked to submit his account, it came already receipted, and, when asked to explain, he said it was the least he could do after the courteous reception given to the pharmaceutical association. For practical physics a sextant and a theodolite were borrowed and there was much home-made apparatus. I do not think it was ever known to the College Council that I called on the Minister of Education and had a heart to heart talk about
the absurdity of the position and he promised to see what could be done. To everyone's surprise the Council received an intimation that a sum of £1,000 would be provided to be earmarked for chemistry and physics, and, during the first long vacation, a nicely equipped chemical laboratory was provided of which a photograph taken from a water colour painting by Sybil Johnson (the late Mrs. Hanna) hangs in Victoria College.

Various suggestions were made as to where the permanent home of Victoria University College should be. So far as I can remember it was seriously proposed by Mr. Seddon that it should be placed on Wellington College cricket ground. Kelburn Park, at that time a barren waste, was then suggested and the proposal found much support. Finally the present site was agreed to.

When it was decided to build on Salamanca Road, all members of the Professorial Board, which by this time had grown very considerably, were asked to state what their requirements would be. A prize of £100 was to be given for the best design for the building for which, I think, £20,000 had been promised (subsequently increased to £30,000 to provide a third storey) and the conditions were duly published. Three architects proposing to compete approached Mr. C. P. Powles and asked him to explain an apparent inconsistency in the conditions and he referred the competitors to me. I furnished each with a ground plan showing my ideas and insisted that the science buildings must occupy a separate block with physics and metallurgy on the ground floor, chemistry on the second floor, and biology above and indicated the very special provision which must be made in order that the chemical department should not become a nuisance. The report of the adjudicator, who was the government architect in Melbourne, was illuminating. It was to the effect that three of the plans were remarkably alike and were the only ones which could be considered. In particular, the science block left nothing to be desired. However, only one of the designs could be built for the sum provided and therefore it must receive the prize. He would have awarded it to the most expensive but for the limit placed upon the expenditure.

On the occasion of the opening of the College by the Governor General in 1906, I was roundly abused by a choleric member of the Council for having suggested such large science buildings which he regarded as a waste of money. Had he lived a few years longer he would have seen a great increase in accommodation in Physics for Professor Laby, a new biology block which cost far more than the original science buildings, and a separate building for Geology.

Probably it was in 1904 that I was asked by the late J. W. Aitken, Mayor of Wellington, to accompany him in a round of calls upon citizens who were well known to him, with the object of raising funds on behalf of the College for which I suppose the plan was already approved. Our first call was upon Mr. Jacob Joseph who appeared to be nearly blind but thanked us for calling. He was emphatic that he would give nothing for buildings but would help the College in the matter of scholarships. He died in 1905 and was found to have left £3,000 for these scholarships, the first of which, in the same year, was awarded to P. W. Robertson the present holder of the Chair of Chemistry. Our second call was made on Mr. William Weir who to Mr. Aitken's disappointment did not seem interested but intimated that he might do something later. On his death in 1926 he left something over £70,000 for the building of hostels. It is not improbable that he consulted Sir Robert Stout in the matter for it has always been said that it was owing to Stout's advocacy that the benefaction was received. A third citizen met us with insulting rudeness but we subsequently learnt that he had submitted a sub-tender for a supply of builders' sundries and had been very badly beaten. It looked as if the work we had set out for had not given any immediate result.

My wife then suggested that I should try Mrs. Sarah Ann Rhodes who lived on the Highland Park Estate, Wadestown. Mrs. Rhodes was not interested in College buildings but gave a cheque for £25 for the Chemistry and Physics Department and stated that she hoped to do something on a larger scale at some future date. In 1915 she left a sum of approximately £10,000 for the Education of women. Incidentally it is of interest that William Barnard Rhodes, her deceased husband, was a distant relative of Thomas Cawthon, the founder of the Cawthon Institute.

Why did I leave Victoria College which I loved so deeply and the members of the Professorial Board for whom I had such a high regard, never having had a serious difference with any one of them? I had the feeling that my period of usefulness at Victoria was coming to an end and that a younger man was required for the work. There was also a sensation of war weariness and frustration. I had for some time been concerned with the need for more intense agricultural research work in New Zealand and had twice, at the request of Sir James Wilson, President of the Board of Agriculture, addressed the Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Farmers' Union on this subject. There was a humorous sequel to the address to the Farmers' Union in 1912. On that day Lord Islington arrived in Wellington as Governor General, and the next day the private secretary rang up to say that His Excellency had seen the account of the address in the Post and would appreciate a few notes which he could make use of at the forthcoming Victoria University College capping ceremony at which he had been asked to speak. The notes were at once supplied and appeared practically verbatim in the speech. The Post commented on His Excellency's perspicacity in putting his finger on such an important need
for the Dominion practically as soon as he set foot in New Zealand.

Discussion had for some time taken place as to whether Wellington would be a suitable place for the establishment of a Chair of Agriculture so that science students might qualify for positions as teachers of Agriculture. The discussion ceased for the time being when a highly placed officer in the Education Department stated that “teachers of agriculture had no need for high falutin science.” The Buchanan endowment for a Chair of Agriculture was not given till some years later.

In 1916 the Trustees of the late Thomas Cawthron set up a private commission of six scientific men under the Chairmanship of Sir James Wilson to take evidence in Nelson and advise as to the best procedure for giving effect to Thomas Cawthron’s wishes. In 1917 the Trustees asked me to deliver the first annual Cawthron Lecture and to explain to the audience the report of the Commission and the great benefits which were likely to accrue to Nelson and the Dominion if these recommendations were adopted. The lecture was entitled “The Aims and Ideals of the Cawthron Institute.”

In 1919 the Trustees invited me to become Director of the Institute and to nominate a staff, and I naturally accepted. It was, however, with deep regret that I said goodbye to Victoria College and my many friends in Wellington.

May the alumni ever remain true to the excellent motto of Victoria University College—Sapientia auro magis desideranda. Still stands the ancient proverb “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and with all they getting get understanding.”

Sir THOMAS EASTERFIELD,
K.B.E., M.A., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.

Since going to press we have learned with deep regret, of the death of Sir Thomas Easterfield.

“Long is the way
Of the Seven Stages, slow the going,
And few, indeed, as faithful to the end.”

adapted from Auden

COLLEGE LIBRARY

Above the books the Nephilim appear
Who were the founders and the first professors,
With choleric or melancholy faces:
A gorgon or a painter froze them there.
Call upon Galen and they will not hear,
Summon the Absolute from perilous places,
Wrestle with truth at Sinai or Eleusis—
These gently gather dust, and do not stir.

Yet they were lovers underneath their beards
Once, and drank better boose than Waitemata;
Stormed lecture-rooms like Goths, strode over shards
With smoking pestle, reared their Alma Mater.
You are their floreat, your liveliest phrase
Epigeneric to their prepotencies.

JAMES BERTRAM
PERSONALITIES OF VICTORIA COLLEGE

FOR PEOPLE WHO WRITE DIARIES, especially diaries kept in a locked drawer, with instructions to their executors not to publish for 50 years, it must be one of the pleasures of life to say exactly what one thinks about other people. Many such diaries have been published, and there are some that still make excellent reading—but what wry faces the diarists would have made, if asked to broadcast their impressions on the spot! The personal characteristics and histories of the men and women, teachers, administrators, and students of Victoria College in the early days are in many cases full of interest; in safe privacy, things could be told that must be suppressed today; and there is time to mention only very few out of many names.

To start with, the foundation professors; men of sharply differentiated types (and the wives of the married ones even more so), all remarkable men in different ways. The three married ones, two with families, made the long voyage in the same ship; one of them, Mackenzie, nearly missing the boat, so that all had to be hoisted on board in slings, somewhere in sight of the Needles. There was time for all of them to appraise each other’s peculiarities, and the men learned to co-operate harmoniously without treading on each other’s toes. The fourth, Maclaurin, a bachelor then, preferred to pay for his own passage by a quicker route. Maclaurin was indeed a remarkable man. He had been brought to New Zealand at the age of seven, and until he went to Cambridge received his education at Auckland. So he may be called a New Zealander, and a good one at that; he had a very brilliant academic career here and in England, was legitimately ambitious, highly regarded by the pundits of the world of universities for his personal charm as well as his intellect, with everything to tempt him to go on climbing the ladder on which he had so firm a footing. But, a quixotic streak in his make-up, a patriotic feeling that New Zealand had done something to help him and he must repay, induced him to accept an obscure, poorly paid, laborious post to help with the foundation of the fourth university college in New Zealand, in a commercial town profusely indifferent to higher education. Oh that all our exported talent behaved in the same way!—still, one should be glad that at least some do. Maclaurin never intended to stay long. He told me once that a man must make the trip to England and return every other year if he did not want to be out-of-sight-out-of-mind with the dispensers of promotion. For he was worldly-wise too; he quite understood the necessity of belonging to the best clubs; he took office as a Freemason; if he had stayed long enough, he might have steered College and University into the sort of social recognition that impresses the groundlings and attracts benefactions from the rich. With no help in that direction from his colleagues, he could only look after himself. And in one way he was a typical New Zealander—he thought it important to have letters after one’s name: thus he achieved the astounding feat of qualifying simultaneously as a wrangler and as a barrister, without any intention of ever practising law. Alas that in America overwork and over-conscientiousness should have ended his life-work so soon. He was a loyal friend, a sound and very frank adviser to me, and withal a man brilliantly witty and wonderful raconteur. The funny stories he told me about the great ones of the day, political, social, and academic, could never be broadcast. When reading the Streets of our City I often felt that it must have hurt my friend, the late Miss Irvine Smith—herself an outstanding personality of the early college days—to find out so many amusing things about people after whom Wellington streets are named, and not be able to tell...

Of the three married professors, Mackenzie was the senior in years. A man devoid of selfish ambitions, with a lovable simplicity of conscientious devotion to a modest if exacting routine of duty; without any offensiveness of over-zeal such as I myself showed now and then. A generous and trustworthy man, of the type that, according to the old fable, constitute the salt of the earth. It is not generally known that, in spite of his being one of the youngest of the numerous brothers of the powerful Minister of Lands, he very nearly missed the appointment from an evenly divided College Council. His rival competitor was Lafcadio Hearn, who was then anxious to return to a European community from his voluntary exile in Japan.

The great deserts of John Brown, the Lowlander, were of a different order to those of Mackenzie or Maclaurin. His was a puzzling character on which psycho-analytic treatment might have thrown light, combining as it did apparently irreconcilable characteristics. No man could have been kinder to his students, more generously eager to win their affection and to promote their interests. Well do I remember my first conversation with him: “Your evening meal will have to be before five or after nine, as those
The Staff, 1948

Front Row (Left to Right): R. C. Bradshaw (Commerce), K. J. Scott (Political Science), Professors F. F. Miles (Maths), E. Beaglehole (Phil.), R. O. McGeehan (Law), D. C. H. Florence (Physics), I. R. Richardson (Zoo.), I. A. Gordon (English), E. J. Boyd-Wilson (Mod. Lang.), C. A. Cotton (Geology), B. E. Murphy (Economics), Sir Thos. Hunter (Principal), C. L. Bailey (Education), H. D. Gordon (Botany), H. A. Murray (Classics), F. L. W. Wood (History), Messrs G. G. S. Robson (Registrar), H. C. D. Somerset (Education), J. O. Shearer (Economics), R. W. Burchfield (English),

Middle Row (Left to Right): Messrs R. J. Munster (Physics), A. R. Caverhill (Chemistry), M. T. Te Punga (Geology), Dr H. B. Fell (Zoology), B. M. Barry (Zoo.), W. H. Dawson (Zoo.), Dr C. J. Adcock (Phil.), A. S. M. Healy (Adult Education), Dr A. E. Fieldhouse (Education), Mrs M. B. Boyd (History), Misses W. M. Isaac (Library), R. Reid (Library), F. M. Huntington (Modern Languages), J. Stevens (English), Dr H. G. Heine (Economics), Misses W. M. Ralph (Zoology), J. K. Finney (Geography), D. A. Crawford (Botany), M. Peebles (Botany), S. G. Ogilvie (Asst. Registrar), Messrs W. G. Rodger (Commerce), R. C. Christie (Law),

Back Row (Left to Right): Messrs H. D. C. Waters (Chemistry), B. E. Swedlund (Chemistry), W. Summers (Accountant), Dr A. R. Lillie (Geology), H. Hudson (Philosophy), J. M. Bertram (English), Dr J. F. Kain (Pol. Sci.), A. Miles (Eng.), Dr C. J. Scoby (Maths.), D. B. Carrad (Mod. Languages), Dr J. T. Campbell (Mathematics), Miss D. D. Detmann (Classics), Dr J. C. Beaglehole (History), Messrs T. R. Smith (Pol. Sci.), H. G. Miller (Librarian), A. B. Cochran (English), D. W. McKenzie (Geography), I. D. Campbell (Law), H. E. Strawbridge (W. Shop Engineer), H. R. C. Wild (Commerce), D. de P. Tayler (Commerce), D. Patterson (Maths.), Dr P. Mum (History), J. B. Owen (History),

ABSENT

Professors P. W. Robertson (Chemistry), J. Williams (Law), Misses E. F. Odell (Education), B. M. Spinney (Psychology), Messrs E. K. Braybrooke (Law), A. A. Congalton (Physicist), R. M. Curhong (Physicist), D. Lilburn (Music), W. S. Metcalfe (Chemist), A. D. Monroe (Chemistry), W. H. Oliver (History), G. A. Peddie (Physics), F. J. Page (Ministry).
are our only hours for teaching at present."—"I hope you won't consider my convenience in the matter."—But my voice must have shown the surprise I felt, for he answered with some asperity—"Your convenience has nothing to do with it at all. The only thing we consider is the interests of the students." A couple of months later, when we were working together on a Latin College song, we differed about the words "obsequens servitium" to describe the student body; I protested that they might legitimately object to the possible implications; Brown defended the words as from an Olympian height. When one remembers that in those days Latin was compulsory in the Arts and Law courses, one does not wonder that generations of his pupils repaid his devoted care of their interests by an unbounded loyalty of gratitude. I can't do better than quote from an account by one of them given in Sir Thomas Hunter's monograph on John Brown:

"The feeling of Brown's students for him was related not only to his consideration and helpfulness but also to his extreme conscientiousness. I doubt whether in the whole of his 46 years he ever spared the marking of his prose and unseens—and temptation must have sometimes been strong; I remember too how often he insisted on coming to College when he was off-colour and should have been in bed. Even very immature students have a queer way of knowing whether or not a man is honestly doing his job—and in Brown's case there was never any doubt about the point."

Brown had his reward not only in the love of his pupils; all his legitimate ambitions were gratified, though not all as quickly as he hoped. Throughout he clung to a sort of unofficial primacy on the Staff; he attained to high honours in the administration of the University; he was granted the doctorate honoris causa of his own University of St Andrew's; and to the satisfaction of friends and opponents alike received his knighthood, but at the close of his long life, with only a few months to enjoy the coveted honour bestowed many years before on some of his junior colleagues. But at last he did receive it, and surely no university teacher better deserved it.

Now what can be said of Easterfield, who may be listening in? Much could be said of how he, while the rest of us were looking for outside aid, single-handed, by his own energy, laid the foundations of scientific training for his students. I like best to think of him as an Englishman and a Yorkshire man at that; a typical Englishman, the only one for years on the Victoria College Staff. To me, whose early environment was English and whose grandfather came from Leeds, the word English brings warmth of emotion still.

And I cannot omit the name of H. B. Kirk, appointed next after me in 1903, for of all men I have known in a long life, he was the perfect example of chivalry, infinitely courteous, patient, gentle, self-sacrificing, yet with a disposition capable of heroism; and modest to the point of self-effacement, firmly declining the official honours offered to him for valuable services in war-time. And then his untiring, phenomenal devotion to his work. As was said of him by F. A. de la Mare, "No one has given more to Victoria University College"—de la Mare himself to my mind the most outstanding personality among that group of early students that includes so many remarkable men—one who exercised great influence for high purposes.

There were interesting personalities too among the early lecturers. J. W. Joynt for instance. A courteous and learned Irishman, a classical scholar, well-read in philosophy and in German literature. When Victoria College started, the Governor of the day—or perhaps his wife—had the bright idea of varying the ordinary routine of Government House balls and receptions by having a series of highbrow lectures through the winter. The new College would provide the lecturers. In Wellington's social world one did not refuse Government House invitations, even to hear a lecture. Joynt gave the first lecture—also the last—to our social elite. His subject was Goethe's Faust, about which his information and his enthusiasm were so great that the hour for refreshments went by unheeded, and much more. Then there was Maurice Richmond, the thoughtful, erudite philosophic lawyer, and David Ritchie, drawn from an altogether different environment. He came here for reasons of health, bringing capital for the purchase of a sheep farm. With Scottish prudence—he was heir presumptive to a great Scottish estate—he decided to investigate and learn before buying. Meanwhile, to occupy his days, he lectured at Victoria College and acted as assistant—for a short time—in the General Assembly Library. Here, while in charge of the Reading Room, he found a stertorously breathing drunk, sleeping it off on one of the Library sofas, shook him up and firmly escorted him off the premises. Such high-handed independence could not be tolerated—then—in a mere temporary civil servant. He was an Oxford graduate, a cultured gentleman with a countryman's tastes—a good golfer, a hundred break billiard player, an excellent fisherman and horseman, and became a successful farmer. Many pleasant memories his name brings back to me.

If time permitted, a long list might be given of interesting personalities among the early students. An old photograph in Miss Irvine Smith's book shows a casual college group in which are represented a surprising number of people who have distinguished themselves in various ways, paying us all amply for the cost, so sparingly doled out, of their higher education. There was George Dixon, whose organizing genius won success and smooth running for every corporate undertaking, who did nearly all the hard work, and simply
disappeared when it came to the limelight. There was a future Chancellor of the University, but he may be listening, and I won't embarrass him by the complimentary things I should like to say. There was Seaforth MacKenzie, a true poet in a group of talented writers of verse—not time limit alone stops me, but the flood of memories that come with looking through old class lists and graduation rolls. From among so many who have claims, it becomes invidiously impossible to choose. May they forgive the imperfections and lacunae of this sketch of early Victoria University College personalities.

G. W. VON ZEDLITZ
(Emeritus Professor of Modern Languages)
LOWER HUTT

SCIENCE AT VICTORIA COLLEGE

The past half-century, from the foundation of Victoria College to the present day, has seen a remarkable period of scientific development, which has been stimulated rather than retarded by two world wars. This has duly influenced the growth of the different scientific departments, whose needs in equipment and staff have increasingly expanded. The functions of a university in the teaching of science are various: in the first place it is necessary to provide a general initial knowledge of science, and a training in scientific method, for those preparing for such professional courses as medicine, dentistry, agriculture, and engineering; again a more extensive training is required for those who wish to become scientists by profession, physicists, chemists, botanists, zoologists and geologists; then finally facilities must be given for research by those who have the special temperament, ability, and enthusiasm, for this type of work. The reproach may be made that university teaching in science is too theoretical and academic, but it is found for the most part that a well-trained university student will quickly adapt himself to deal with technical and industrial problems.

A brief account will now be given of the growth and development of the different scientific departments of Victoria College. Geology began under the lectureship of Dr. C. A. Cotton, who is now professor in this subject and head of the department, which has in recent times considerably expanded. Always cramped for space, having at first a basement in the Physics wing, the Geology department now finds inadequate accommodation in the hutments on Kelburn Park. A new building to the south of the Biology Block is projected for Chemistry and Geology, and has priority in the developmental schemes of the College. Professor Cotton is a distinguished geologist with a European reputation, and well-known in America, where recently he was invited by one of its universities to be guest-lecturer. The environment of Wellington is not especially rich geologically, but it shows exciting possibilities from the point of view of structure, as indicated for example by the raised beaches on our coasts. Professor Cotton's studies on these and kindred matters are contained in his book, "The Geomorphology of New Zealand." The themes developed there are extended in his later works, namely "Landscapes," and "Climate: Accidents in Landscape-making," and the further title "Volcanoes as Landscape Forms" is of especial interest to us in this country. Students of Professor Cotton have extended this type of investigation, not only in New Zealand, but also in other countries, and among them may be mentioned Professor L. C. King, at present in South Africa, and Professor I. H. Sticht, who is in California.

Biology at Victoria College will always be associated with the name of the late Professor H. B. Kirk, whose friendly personality is remembered by many generations of students. Beginning in the early stages of our history in a borrowed class-room of a Wellington school, this department later occupied the top floor of the Chemistry Wing of Victoria College. The dream of Professor Kirk was realised with the construction of the Biology Block, which is immediately to the south of the main College building. At about this same time, Biology was separated into two departments, Professor L. R. Richardson being the present professor of Zoology, and Professor H. D. Gordon the head of the Botany Department, the combined staffs now numbering eleven. The botanists and geologists trained at Victoria College are in many ways active in the community; some have remained in academic posts or proceeded to museums, whilst others have become attached to important research institutions, that explore the application of scientific knowledge to economic problems, such as the Cawthron Institute, the Plant Diseases Division, the Soils Survey, and the Grasslands Division. At the same time pure research has not been neglected, and a wide range of subjects is now under active study, including such varied topics as the microscopic animals of fresh waters, the blood parasites of mammals, corals and sea-urchins. One of the schemes projected by Professor Kirk was the establishment of a Marine Station to be under the control of Victoria College;
certain funds have been collected for this purpose and it is hoped that its realization may not be too long deferred. Of the distinguished biologists, initially trained at Victoria College, reference is made to the late Dr J. G. Myers, who has carried out important investigations on the tsetse fly in Africa.

The Physics department was founded by Professor T. H. Laby in 1909 and occupied originally the ground floor of the present Chemistry Wing. On the departure of Professor Laby in 1915 to the University of Melbourne, Professor E. Marsden became head of the department, and supervised the construction of the present Physics laboratories, which form the southern wing of the main Arts Building. Dr Marsden became later the head of the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, and was succeeded by Professor D. C. H. Florance. In the course of the years, many competent physicists have been trained at Victoria College, and occupy positions in the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, Meteorology, Post and Telegraph, and Railways. During the recent war, the special branch of Radiophysics was introduced in order to meet the urgent demands of the Services for skilled radio experts. Among the distinguished physicists that have received their education at Victoria College may be mentioned the names of Professor P. W. Burbidge, Auckland; Professor E. O. Hercus, Melbourne, and Dr F. W. G. White, formerly professor at Canterbury University College, and now physicist to the Australian Council of Scientific Research. In more recent times, Dr C. N. Watson-Munro has given valuable services in the Radio-development Laboratory and supervised the building of the first atomic pile in England. In addition to the technical training that is provided by the Physics department, pure research is also encouraged. Dr B. M. Cwilong, a senior lecturer, formerly at the universities of Warsaw and Oxford, is continuing his investigations on low temperatures, and a special laboratory has been constructed for this purpose.

Professor T. H. Easterfield, one of our foundation professors, was the first head of the chemistry department, which began with a single laboratory in the old Technical School. When Victoria College was built the chemistry department occupied the first floor of the Chemistry Wing, and on the construction of the Physics building then expanded to include the ground floor also. That accommodation has remained unchanged in spite of the large increases in the number of chemistry students and also of the staff, and the space now available is quite inadequate for teaching and research. A new chemistry building has been designed and is a priority in the College building plans. On the appointment of Professor Easterfield, in 1919, to the directorship of the Cawthron Institute, the development of which he successfully organized with his characteristic enthusiasm, Professor P. W. Robertson was invited by the College Council to fill the vacant position. The inadequate additional staff of a part-time demonstrator has been expanded in the course of the years, to include two senior lecturers, three junior lecturers and a demonstrator. Old chemistry students occupy academic and technical positions in different parts of the world. Among these may be mentioned Sir Theodore Rigg, who has succeeded Professor Easterfield as Director of the Cawthron Institute; Dr H. L. Richardson, who until recently was adviser in soil-conservation to the Chinese government; Dr G. M. Richardson, who has carried out important work in the chemistry of bacterial processes, and is now attached to the Medical School in Dunedin; Dr F. B. Shorland, head of the fats-research division of the New Zealand Industrial and Scientific Research, who is responsible for the establishment of the new industry of extracting vitamin-rich fish-oils. During the last fifteen years the chief chemical research work at Victoria College has been academic rather than technical, being studies in chemical kinetics; the results of these investigations have appeared in a series of papers in the Journal of the English Chemical Society. The success of such team work is due in no small measure to the enthusiasm and loyalty of the collaborators, and of these special reference may be made to Dr P. B. D. de la Mare, at present lecturer at the University College, London, for whom a distinguished career in chemistry is confidently predicted. It may be noted in passing that at present aid is being liberally given and encouragement offered by the University for research in all the sciences, and it is fitting here to pay a tribute to Sir David Smith, the Chancellor of the University, for his continued interest in such matters.

The preceding brief review reveals that Victoria College in the last fifty years has duly fulfilled its obligations to the community in providing for the teaching of science and the encouragement of research. In my own science, chemistry, my association with the College covers most of this period, first as a student, then after a period of sixteen years abroad, as a teacher. In those early days there was a single course of lectures in the subject, and the text-books available were not of great merit; now students receive lectures over four years, and there are text-books of outstanding merit in every branch of the subject. The progress of chemistry in this time has been truly remarkable; looking back I can report that chemistry fifty years ago was a fairly simple department of human knowledge, about which a single individual without undue arrogance might claim an adequate comprehension, whilst now the subject has become so complex and highly specialized that accurate knowledge must be restricted to special fields. The possibilities of development in even such a
brief period as the next fifty years become, in the light of present advances, simply bewildering. And this is true for the other sciences also. Even so, we believe that the centennial reviewer of the development of science at Victoria College, on regarding the past, will consider that our progress in these first fifty years has not been altogether unworthy.

P. W. ROBERTSON,
Professor of Chemistry from 191

THE SOCIAL STUDIES AT VICTORIA COLLEGE

Once in fifty years is not too often for a university college to ask the community to reflect upon its achievements and its hopes. University teachers are notoriously loath to explain what they are doing; perhaps therefore it is not surprising that there are still people who look upon the College as a secluded spot where somewhat absent-minded people teach and meditate far from the bewildering movements of everyday life. The truth of the matter is, of course, that everything that is studied within the college has come into the curriculum from the past or present community; the classics and modern languages, science, mathematics, the social studies and the rest, all arose from the day-to-day activities of men. It is equally true that every advance in knowledge that is made within the university is sooner or later reflected in the community outside. There is thus a constant interchange between the college and the community; whether we are all aware of it or not is beside the point.

The most obvious interchange between Victoria College and the community is the daily shuttle relay of students, as anyone who cares to stroll along Salamanca Road any afternoon between four and six will realise. And the most obvious employment within those red-brick walls is teaching. Life is short, and every new life begins at the beginning; we must provide and maintain places of learning where communication from older to younger minds can take place. The nature of this communication is not the passing on of a body of knowledge as a banker passes on minted coins to his client. Facts are important, but their chief importance is that they provide the student with the raw materials of thought. Knowledge is a dead thing unless something new is continually born of knowledge. The function of the college is therefore the teaching of what Graham Wallas called the art of thought, an art that can best be maintained, as Rashdall has said, by bringing together, "face to face in living intercourse, teacher and teacher, teacher and student, student and student." It is the hope of the university teacher that the student will leave college at the end of his course knowing where to find his facts, at home in the world of ideas, and capable of courageous and selfless thinking of his own. The university therefore, is the home of methods and techniques of thought in the subjects it sets out to teach.

It must not be imagined, however, that in all studies the techniques of thought and research are equally well developed. The student of languages may be sure that the grammar of his subject is not likely to be shaken, though changes in emphasis are continually occurring. Again, the elements of mathematics have long been worked out, and, while there is abundant research in new fields, the beginner may be sure that he is on firm ground among the elements of geometry, algebra and the calculus. The young chemist approaches his subject knowing that it is a far cry from the days of the alchemists and that here at any rate he can depend upon the well-based principles of scientific method. In the social sciences, on the other hand, the scientific method of hypothesis, experiment and verification does not apply at all points. The physical scientists have the advantage that the material with which they are working is relatively stable. The atom, for instance, is an elusive customer, but its inner secrets are revealed at the point of scientific method made so admirably effective through the system of team work that scientists have achieved. In the social sciences the conditions are very different. The material to be explored is nothing less than mankind; not man-alone, but man in relation to man; in other words, "what man has made of man." Social science calls upon many well-established subjects, history, geography, anthropology, psychology and the like. The growing point of social science at the moment lies in an evaluation of the social scene. Here the method of experiment is obviously impossible but it is possible to devise methods of surveying the situation with scientific accuracy. This calls for a colossal amount of team work which is still far from achievement.

The fact is that the scientific method, which, since the days of Galileo, has been increasingly applied, has given us our modern world, the nature of which is too obvious to call for any description. Yet it is a world full of social contradictions. It is impossible to try to sum up the malaise of the
modern world in the space of a short talk and it would be Quixotic to try; but a clue may be found in the fact that we have seen in the past few years the finest products of the human intellect used by groups of people in the service of inhuman passion. Fascism in Europe used the products of scientific thinking in a revolt against thought itself. Here is our anxiety and our danger. The remedy lies, not in murdering thought but in giving it more life; not in less thought but in more. It is very true, as Lyman Bryson, the American educationist said recently, "the most valuable possession we have that is not widespread among the people is the scientific attitude of mind." Partial, unscientific theories based merely on local, economic or racial considerations must be replaced by more complete and more scientific thought in the service of human decency and freedom. Much may yet be achieved in this direction at the world level by Unesco, but we cannot hope for a real understanding unless there is teaching and research at the local level. It is here that the university has its part to play.

In the work of applying the principles of scientific thinking to the problems of the life of the community, Victoria College has been a pioneer in this country. In 1904 Mr T. A. Hunter (now Sir Thomas Hunter, Principal of the College) was appointed to a lectureship and later to a Chair in the twin subjects of Mental and Moral Philosophy and Economics. Into the first of these the new lecturer introduced the teaching of psychology for which he had a particular flair. Psychology, long subservient to philosophy, had acquired a new independence. The monumental work on the Principles of Psychology by William James, which appeared in 1890, had gone far to establish it as a science. Experimental work on the nature of the human mind was being undertaken in America and on the Continent. It seemed as though man, who had made such strides throughout the nineteenth century in understanding the material world might soon begin to understand himself! At the time of Hunter's arrival the scientific world was hearing of Freud's discovery of the unconscious, a discovery that was giving us a new conception of mind, just as Max Planck and Einstein were revealing a new conception of matter. It was a good time to be alive, for people of imagination saw in the new outlook the possibility of understanding the problems of human nature and of man's relation to society. But between the dream and the reality a Herculean labour of research had to be undertaken.

In 1906 Hunter went abroad to study psychology in the United States, Britain and Germany. He saw all the experimental work there was to be seen and on his return he set up at Victoria College the first psychological laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere. From then on he set himself the task of establishing psychology in the curriculum of the university, a task which proceeded by degrees until it was completed last year in the establishment at Victoria College of a separate chair of psychology.

Since 1904 the College has moved steadily along the line of developing and expanding the range of its work in social science and in the social studies generally. In 1920 a Chair of Economics was established; in 1920 also a Professor of Education was appointed. History followed in 1921 and in 1938 a Chair of Political Science and with it a School of Public Administration was set up. And this Jubilee year of the College will see established, under Professor D. C. Marsh, a School of Social Work. It is expected that the School will provide trained workers for voluntary bodies, the churches, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., for liaison work in hospitals, for public relations and personnel work in industry. The School should provide, in effect, the necessary training for all whose work lies in the realm of human relations.

The social studies demand work in and for the community beyond the walls of the College. It is impossible for anyone working in this field to confine his thinking to the study, or his teaching to the lecture room. One cannot enumerate all the ways in which teachers of the social sciences are linked with the community; it must be said, however, that Sir Thomas Hunter and his colleague however, that Sir Thomas Hunter and his colleagues have been responsible for the setting up of a Child Guidance Clinic at the College and also for the establishment of research in Industrial Psychology in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Professor of Education has always been in close touch with the Department of Education, the Teachers' Training College and the schools; local bodies and the Public Service generally are in frequent collaboration with the college department of Political Science.

In the realm of historical research the College has widened its horizon by the recent appointment of Dr J. C. Beaglehole as Research Fellow in Pacific History. His work will entail much field work in the Pacific area; it is good to know that the compilation of his researches will link the College with the work of history in the making.

The College has always been aware of its responsibility in the matter of voluntary adult education. When Dr Albert Mansbridge founded the W.E.A. his aim was to provide a link between the universities and the workers. The movement came to New Zealand in 1915 and the College gave it immediate support. The College Council has taken a large share in the administration of adult education and the staff has assisted in teaching. The College encouraged the work in its early stages and is now represented on the Regional Council for Adult Education, the body which is responsible for this work throughout the Victoria College district.

It is pleasing also to remember in this Jubilee year that the New Zealand Council for Educational
Research was sponsored in its beginnings by Sir Thomas Hunter and the late Professor Gould. Sir Thomas has been its chairman since its inception in 1934 while Professor Gould was its first secretary. The Council has published some thirty studies of the practice of education in New Zealand.

It will be seen from this brief resume that one development of the work of the College since Sir Thomas Hunter arrived nearly 45 years ago has been along the lines of the social studies, and it is to be hoped that the administration will pursue this course until it is able to say that the College is giving the fullest possible service to the community in this respect. Victoria is well placed for the work; situated in the centre of the country it has easy access to all parts of the Dominion. Within the College there is close collaboration between the various studies connected with the life of man in society. Yet the work has only just begun. The frontier lies now in the development of research in social science. The need is urgent. New Zealand has never been lacking in social experiments; the time has come to give to local conditions the close objective study of the social scientist. In this field, techniques suitable to New Zealand have to be worked out, and the principles have to be taught. A number of problems suggest themselves concerned chiefly with the effects of our housing policy, social security, medical care, the ageing population, the conditions of the rural life, the effect of the rising birth-rate. It is possible to apply to all these the principles of scientific method that have been so effective in increasing our knowledge of the physical world. And the place to apply them is in the laboratory atmosphere of the university.

H. C. D. SOMERSET

AUTHORSHIP AT VICTORIA COLLEGE

The study of literature in our College is an academic study. Academic study means something more than study within the walls of a university. It implies a certain method and a certain attitude of mind. I use the word academic advisedly, and I use it even with a touch of pride. And yet this word academic is often used as a term of abuse rather than one of commendation. When the man-in-the-street thinks a question isn't worth the time spent on discussion, he says "What of it? It's a purely academic question." And this is true whether the street he is in at the moment is Fifth Avenue or the Rue de Rivoli or Charing Cross Road or just Macquarie Street or Lambton Quay. Academic to the ordinary man anywhere implies dullness plus a touch of absurdiety.

The abuse comes from another quarter too. The bright boys of the monthly and the quarterly reviews hailing the latest and greatest piece of writing of the month or the quarter are unanimous in condemning what they call the academic critic. To them the academic study of literature is the study of books and more books and the deliberate avoidance of real life. Academic to the bright boys means dullness plus a touch of futility.

Since the term academic is so frequently a bludgeon with which to knock a man down, you may well be wondering by now why I am so cheerfully admitting that at Victoria College the study of literature is academic. Surely I should be hiding my head in some cloistered corner, safe from the man-in-the-street and the quarterly reviewer? Why be proud of being academic?

The academic study of literature depends on two things, scholarship and a sense of history. Let us spend a few minutes on each.

What is scholarship? It is the scientific and accurate study of a body of knowledge. The scholarly study of literature starts with a first hand knowledge of what the author wrote. What were the actual words he put on paper or on sheepskin? The unscholarly reader doesn't need to trouble himself about this problem. There is the book. There are the words. Surely he can read them without further ado? But the scholar must go one step further and establish accurately what he calls the text of his author . . . what the author wrote and not what some copyist or some printer or some later editor insisted he must have written. It is horrifying and it should be humbling to think that not all the lines we read in our school text of Shakespeare were written by Shakespeare. Some were written by eighteenth century editors who couldn't understand his Elizabethan English and insisted on touching it up here and there. The early prints of Shakespeare's plays have some queer misprints and errors, and it is one of the jobs of the scholar to get behind them and establish what Shakespeare really wrote.

Next there is the accurate study of literary biography. The amount of fantasy and fable that clings to the names of great writers has occupied a generation of scholarly study. Do you believe that Shakespeare got into trouble for stealing deer? Do you believe that Shakespeare got his first theatrical job holding the horses of the wealthier
patrons? Do you believe that Shakespeare was not Shakespeare but Bacon? Do you believe that Robert Burns was an iliterate ploughman? Do you believe that Alexander Pope wrote only in heroic couplets? Do you believe that Keats died of a broken heart after his poetry had been badly reviewed in The Quarterly? Do you believe that poets are rather effeminate people who have no head for business? Scholarship has dispelled all these fancies.

The scholarly study of literature includes the study of the writer's language, his education, his reading, the economic and social history of the times in which he wrote. Without these things we can make hideous mistakes. When Shakespeare makes Romeo say as he contemplates the body of Juliet,

_O here will I set up my everlasting rest,_

most readers or listeners think that Romeo is announcing that he is going to his everlasting rest. After all, these are the words he uses. But _rest_ in Elizabethan idiom meant a _bet_, and what Romeo is saying (to translate it into more modern terms) is that he is going to take his last plunge. Again, in an eighteenth-century novel, the modern reader may be surprised when the heroine comes downstairs to an evening party in her nightgown. As he reads further he notes that none of the other characters in the scene is perturbed. Why should they be? The scholar can reassure the modern reader: night-gown is eighteenth-century idiom for evening-dress, and the heroine was quite properly clad. Without accurate and informed study of the language and the life of earlier periods we run the risk of completely misunderstanding what on the face of it seems to be written in plain and understandable English.

This brings me to my second point. The academic study of literature depends on a sense of history. In this more than anything it differs from the non-academic approach. The scholar studies the development of literature from its origins. Our own literature has a certain organic growth and an overwhelming continuity. If you don't feel that continuity, you are liable to be taken in very badly. You hail as the last word something that has been said five times a century for a thousand years. Or worse, still you miss the originality of something that is being really said for the first time.

The sense of history that pervades our study is one of our reasons for our dwelling so long on the earlier periods of literature. I am all for the study of contemporary literature and believe it has a proper place in university studies, but it should not bulk too largely. Merely to read our contemporaries is to miss the sense of history. We miss something else too. We miss one of the most valuable ways of checking whether our contemporaries are writing anything worth while. The historical study of literature throws light too on even the most recent writings in the language. I suppose the most outstanding two poets of this generation and the last are W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot. Eliot is as typical of the young men of the twenties as Auden is of the men of the thirties. You might say no two men were in their time so up-to-date. But if you read their poetry and know nothing of Anglo-Saxon, much of what Eliot and Auden have to say will remain unheard.

Scholarship is a tall order. During recent years we have had some five hundred students studying English at some stage. Do they all have to undergo the fairly lengthy and rigorous discipline of scholarly study? The answer is yes and no. At Victoria we make a clear distinction between the Stage I student who is going no further than one year's study and the student who advances his study of literature for two, three or four years to the final B.A. or M.A. level. The first year programme is self-contained, and contains three elements: a historical survey of English literature studied from actual texts and not from text-books; a training in criticism, with the emphasis on "What do I think of it?" rather than on "What should I think of it?"; and (within the limits imposed by time and staffing) a practical training in effective writing. Our ideal, and certainly our hope, is that a student who has been through the first year course, even though that is the finish of his academic study of literature, will have some sense of historical development, some sense of criticism, and will be able to express himself with grace and effect. Of course we don't always attain our ideal.

Beyond that point the discipline is more rigorous. Many things just darkly hinted at in the first year are seriously tackled by those students who advance in literature, the detailed history of special periods of literature, the historical study of language, textual criticism, the methods and technique of scholarship . . . we are out on the open sea.

You will observe there is one gap in all this, one thing we do not do. We study literature, but we don't write it, at least not officially. Universities are sometimes criticised because they do not appear to encourage the actual writing of literature in their literature classes. In some American universities, there are classes in Creative Writing. I have still to be convinced that anyone can teach anyone else to be a poet or a novelist. The way to write a poem is to write a poem and not to take a class on The Writing of Poetry. I think we can honestly claim at Victoria that we haven't taught anyone to be a poet, but we have quietly encouraged and produced quite a few and I don't think we have ruined any potential good ones. One thing we can claim. Over the years, we have trained hundreds of men and women who can read with enjoyment and critical judgment. Unless there is a high standard of criticism in the community the poet and the novelist are voices crying in the wilderness.
The Spike

I’ve talked of the things we do and can do, and of the things we don’t do and don’t think we can do. Even though this is Jubilee year, I’d rather close on a questioning note. What of the things we don’t do but should be doing? The first of these is drama. I’d like to see a lot more plays produced at Victoria. Nothing brings literature so alive as producing it on the stage. I am frankly envious here of what the Canterbury players have done. They have outstripped all the other colleges. Perhaps we might persuade Ngio Marsh to come to Victoria for a season. And what of publishing? Victoria has still to produce a literary magazine of solid merit. What about it, boys (and girls) from up the hill?

I. A. GORDON

LAW AND VICTORIA COLLEGE

IN WELLINGTON, law is in the air. This is the view of the late Miss Irvine-Smith, an outstanding personality of the early days of Victoria University College in her book The Streets of My City. Here, in Wellington, sits the Court of Appeal, the highest appellate tribunal in the Dominion; here, too, we have the Houses of Parliament and the various Departments of State, those manufactory of rules, orders and regulations that, of recent years, have descended upon us like the leaves of autumn. Is it any wonder, then, that its University College, Victoria, has made a special feature of its law studies, that the College on the hill,” during the fifty years of its history, has drawn from the well of the law much of the lifeblood of its existence!

In no small measure the prominence which its students have achieved in important spheres of our national life is due to the high standards set by its professors of law. The first of these, McLaurin, was a remarkable man. He qualified simultaneously as a barrister and a senior wrangler at Cambridge, where he shared rooms with the South African, Smuts. After lecturing at Victoria College in jurisprudence and mathematics, he was appointed Professor of Mathematical Physics at Columbia University in the United States and later President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Here, at the cost of his health, he raised so many millions for his Institute that it became one of the wealthiest of the endowed corporations in America—a striking contrast with Victoria which, in matters of endowment, has been the neglected Cinderella of the university colleges of this country.

After him came Maurice Richmond, remembered more as an erudite lawyer and a pensive philosopher than as a practical teacher. He was somewhat overshadowed in this respect by his successor J. W. Salmond who had lectured for several years at the Adelaide University before accepting the Chair of Law here. He combined the gifts of a brilliant scholar with those of an inspiring instructor and guide. In his early days, he practised law at Temuka and Geraldine, but his heart was in the theory rather than in the practice of the law; and what was Temuka’s loss and Geraldine’s became the world’s gain. As a jurist, Sir John Salmond holds today in the world of law a position no less exalted than that of Lord Rutherford in the world of science. His works on jurisprudence and torts reveal the clarity of mind and expression which made him so impressive a teacher, and they have long been leading textbooks throughout the British Empire and America. When he severed his connection with the College and entered the law Drafting Department, afterwards to become Solicitor-General and a member of the judiciary, his place was filled by James Adamson, a member of the Faculty of Advocates of Edinburgh. A very dry wit and an exceptional scholastic record always proclaimed the country of his origin. In the early days of law teaching, so many lecturers seemed to drift away to other fields of intellectual endeavour that it was suggested that the Government ought to impose a poll-tax on the exportation of local professors. No such precaution was necessary in the case of Adamson. He stayed 31 years, expounding the heavy intricacies of such subjects as Roman Law, Conflicts and International Law. His classes usually commenced at eight in the morning when the burr of his soft voice and his sepulchral tones did not always rouse to active and sustained attention the semi-somnolent whose candle had been burning brightly at both ends. His colleague, J. M. E. Garrow, who lectured on the practical side also came from Scotland but he had practised in Dunedin and served for a time as Registrar at the Otago University. His methods were more prosaic. Countless students of the many subjects that the budding solicitor had to master will recall his Sunday evening suppers at which their desire to do justice to the ample fare he had provided was tempered by the fear that a shaking hand or a clumsy elbow might render them in his eyes unfitted to enter the profession of the law. He was
ALMA MATER

The Architect's Plan

Officially opened 30th March, 1906
"The Old Clay Patch"

...Site of present building

Richard John Seddon
On the Old Clay Patch, 9th September, 1905; the day the Tennis Club commenced excavating.
a lovable character whose approach to the students' problem was always one of simplicity and kindliness. His successor, Professor Cornish, was a former graduate and followed the path of Salmon through the office of Solicitor-General to the Supreme Court Bench. The present Dean of the Faculty is Professor James Williams, well-known both here and overseas for his writings upon the subject of Contracts. Save for a short interval at Sydney University, he has occupied the Chair of English and New Zealand law for fourteen years; and, for the last five of these, Professor R. O. McGechan, who formerly practised on the equity side of the New South Wales Bar, has lectured on those academic topics that were for so long the peculiar province of "Jimmy Adamson.

Now, if the law, as Dr Samuel Johnson observed, is "the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public," it is pertinent to enquire what advantages this Dominion has derived from the many who have studied it. The answer is to be found in the proud record of our public service—judicial, legislative and departmental. In the short time at our disposal for this talk, the passing parade cannot be sufficiently mirrored. Only a few names can be given, to illustrate, and not to complete, the record. Our present Chief Justice, Sir Humphrey O’Leary, is the first home-grown product of Victoria College to fill this, the highest office of the judiciary. A fine representative footballer, he collected all the forensic prizes with his cheery assurance, his wit and his Irish eloquence. The first College graduate actually to become a Supreme Court judge was H. H. Ostler, afterwards Sir Hubert Ostler, noted for his keen, rapier-like mind and his habit of sweeping aside mere technicalities in his passion to do justice. He was followed by A. W. Blair, first secretary of the Debating Society; D. S. Smith, now Chancellor of the New Zealand University; Arthur Fair, formerly Solicitor-General and King’s Counsel; Robert Kennedy, knighted this year; H. H. Cornish; James Christie, C.M.G., formerly Law Draftsman; J. D. Hutchison, one of the best Canterbury footballers of earlier days and a keen supporter of boxing. E. P. Hay, the latest addition to the Bench, was also a student of Victoria.

To the Courts of Compensation and Arbitration the College sent the late P. J. O’Regan, all his life a stalwart champion of the legal rights of the worker, and, more recently, D. J. Dalglish, an acknowledged expert in company and statute law. D. G. Morison, present Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, is a graduate in law as was his predecessor, F. O. Acheson, who died last year.

Amongst the Magistrates, there have been J. L. Stout, a foundation student of 1899, who in length of service rivalled that of his distinguished father, Sir Robert Stout, twenty-seven years Chief Justice and one of New Zealand’s greatest public figures. Joseph Morling was Chief Judge of Samoa, L. H. D. Sinclair of the Solomon Islands. Legal knowledge imbibed within the College walls has been imparted by many to multi-coloured races in the far-flung outposts of the Empire. After the first world war, T. N. Holmden was Chief Justice of Baghdad; since the last war, C. J. Treadwell has become Assistant Commissioner of the Sudan. It is true that to attain this position he had to pass in Arabic; but more than one student has commented that this is no worse than to pass in Latin, a subject decidedly more suited to Caesar than to a degree in law.

In the delicate arena of diplomacy, Sir Carl Berendt (who shares with the late Neville Chamberlain a love for the ubiquitous umbrella) is New Zealand Minister to the United States; Guy Powies is now Administrator of Western Samoa and J. S. Reid is First Secretary to the Legation at Washington.

Old friendships and rivalries of the College appear also on the Parliamentary scene. Amongst the sitting members, we have the Honourable H. G. R. Mason, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, M. H. Oram, C. G. Harker and W. A. Sheat. There have been F. W. Schramm, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Mason of Napier and T. H. Seddon, Chairman of the War Pensions Board. T. D. H. Hall until recently Clerk of the House, was a graduate; so is H. N. Dollimore, the present Clerk. Victoria College graduates who are today King’s Counsel include P. B. Cooke, the President of the New Zealand Law Society; A. H. Johnstone of Auckland who has given signal service to the legal profession over a long period of years; H. E. Evans, now Solicitor-General and Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Wellington; and O. C. Mazengarb who is also a Doctor of Laws. So is N. A. Foden of the Crown Law Office and so was George Craig, C.M.G., who specialised in Customs Law and became Comptroller of Customs. A foundation student and a member of the first executive of the College, he represented the best type of public servant. His later years, unfortunately, were marred by the grimmest of tragedy. All three of his daughters were killed by the Japanese while being evacuated from Singapore, two (twins) had been doctors in charge of a hospital in Malaya, and the third who served under them as a nurse, on the outbreak of war, had graduated in 1928 as a Bachelor of Laws, the first of the second generation of graduates at the College.

Over the fifty years, many brilliant legal students have played a worthy part in the social and intellectual development of the College. In 1907, on the Students’ Association, one finds William Perry as President, H. F. O’Leary as Secretary and D. S. Smith a member of the executive committee. All three have since received the honour of Knighthood. Mention has already been made of Sir Humphrey O’Leary and Sir David Smith.
Returned servicemen have reason to admire the efforts on their behalf of Sir William Perry, a great imperialist and a Minister in the War Cabinet. In 1905, Lord Plunket presented to the College a "Plunket Medal" for oratory. This coveted prize has been competed for annually. Appropriately enough, it was first won by an Irish student, E. J. Fitzgibbon, speaking on an Irish statesman. The following year, H. F. O’Leary won it, and thirty-seven years later, his son did so. A number of lawyers, and not all of them Irish, have since received this award and gone on to take prominent parts in public life. In the same way, the Debating Society which came into being during the first year of the College has proved a testing-ground for the embryo lawyer, creating the opportunity in face of an audience, often unresponsive and sarcastic, to think quickly and argue well. Amongst the best exponents of the difficult art of debate have been H. P. Richmond, of Auckland, F. A. de la Mare of Hamilton, F. P. Kelly of Napier, M. H. Oram of Palmerston North, and, from Wellington, G. G. Watson and B. E. Murphy, the latter a fluent and incisive speaker, who diverted his talents from the practice of law to the teaching of economics in which he holds the Chair at his old College.

Writing of legal practitioners in medieval times, Professor Maitland says, "These lawyers are worldly men, not men of sterile caste, they marry and found families, some of which become as noble as any in the land; but they are in their way learned, cultivated men, linguists, logicians, tenacious disputants, true lovers of the nice case and the moot point. They are gregarious, clubbable men... multiplying manuscripts, arguing, learning and teaching, the great mediators between life and logic, a reasoning reasonable element in the English nation." This is a warm picture of the place of the lawyers in the community. It has an application to a present-day New Zealand as well as to an England that is past. And fifty years of law at Victoria University College have helped to make it so.

W. E. LEICESTER

SPORT AT VICTORIA COLLEGE

It seems only yesterday that I was fortunate to witness the three miles New Zealand Championship held in Dunedin in 1914 when Athol Hudson, New Zealand Rhodes Scholar in 1916, sensationally defeated by nearly 400 yards the famous Jimmy Beatson, who had just a few weeks earlier won the Australasian three mile title. Hudson’s death in World War I was a severe loss both academically and athletically to New Zealand, as well as to Victoria University College. I could devote all my time this evening telling you about this splendid athlete. I could also devote much time telling you about George Aitken, 1921 Rhodes Scholar, who captained the All Blacks the same year and who later won his Scottish International cap; of Jackie Ruru, a young Maori player whose career was cut short by illness brought about by his participation in rugby football; and of Ross Scrymgour, champion harrier of his day, who lost his life in World War II, and who still holds the three mile New Zealand University record.

But the sporting history of Victoria College is not just the history of outstanding athletes—it is the history of the large participation in healthy recreation by those who have realised the value of such recreation in assisting to regenerate a tired brain—it is the history also of many lasting friendships which extend throughout the world.

It was only natural with the arrival in 1899 of the four foundation professors—H. Mackenzie, J. R. Brown, T. H. Easterfield and R. C. Maclaurin, men steeped in the traditions of the Universities of the Motherland—that sport should play a fundamental part in the life of the students.

Tennis was the first sport to gain official recognition at Victoria College, it being recorded that a tennis club was formed in 1900. Then quickly followed: Hockey 1901, Rugby 1903, Athletics 1904 and Cricket 1906.

The first record of tennis being played by students of V.U.C. was in a match against Canterbury University College. Representing V.U.C. in that memorable match were Misses Greenfield and Ross, and Messrs Richmond, Burns and Wilson (who later became Professor F. P. Wilson), other earlier representatives being Rawdon Beere and Misses A. M. Batham and Van Staveren.

A date of historic interest to tennis at Victoria is September 9th, 1905. On that day the Rt. Hon. Richard John Seddon turned the first sod of our own courts. This was just the start. Saturday after Saturday, bands of students, organised by Rawdon Beere and others, worked with pick and shovel to make the courts available. By November 3rd, 1906, the first three courts "on the old clay patch at Kelburn" were opened by Professor Easterfield. In 1907 the fourth court was completed.

Associated with Victoria College tennis will always be the name of Cam Malfroy, who secured
world rating in the 1930’s. Representing New Zealand at Davis Cup tennis, too, was Russell Young. Others who have helped to bring tennis to the forefront are G. S. Prouse, G. V. Bogle, Charlie Atmore, Hec. Burns, Roly Fernkis and Norm. Morrison.

Now, having given tennis just the barest mention, I move on to hockey. It is a great pleasure to students and ex-students to pay tribute to the gentleman to whom belongs the distinction of forming the Hockey Club, Mr George Dixon, who is still actively interested in the sport, and is today President of the Wellington Hockey Association.

Hockey has always been popular in Victoria College and, in 1934, the College had the distinction of having the largest hockey club in Australia or New Zealand. At that time it fielded eight teams in the Wellington competition.

When talking of hockey at Victoria College the names which come most readily to mind are Eddie McLeod, Charlie Boland and Norm. Jacobsen, the latter a player from whom the tourist Indian hockey players said they had learned much about their own game. All these three players won New Zealand representation. Then, of course, the College was proud of the successes gained on the hockey field by Skelley, Ryburn, Rawdon Beere (Club captain for the first eight years), Monaghan, David Smith (now Sir David Smith, Chancellor of the University of New Zealand), Hector Lawry and Ivor Ting.

Next, Rugby football. What a lot of time I could devote to players who came from Victoria College to the Rugby field! I have already referred to George Aitken and Jackie Ruru. When I go back to the beginning of Rugby at the College I also meet with names famous in the world outside the College. In our first year the Committee included such men as Bogle, Gillanders, A. H. Johnstone, de la Mare, Hubert Ostler, Quartley and Tudhope.

New Zealand Rugby football history seems to date from 1905—the year of the immortal All Blacks—but Victoria College rugby, with the club formed in 1903, could claim that its history really started in 1904. From the 1934 issue of The Spike I take this quotation: “In 1904, Thomas A. Hunter, a newly appointed lecturer in Mental Science and Economics, joined the rearguard and it was this recruit that moved that next season we enter a senior team. The motion was carried despite many misgivings.” Had those at the meeting been able to visualise the future as had that new recruit there would have been no misgivings. The Club went from strength to strength and we all have to thank our present Principal of the University, Sir Thomas A. Hunter, for his wisdom and his guidance at that time—for he was that new recruit. Sir Thomas captured our first senior team.

Time will not permit me adequately to deal with the players from V.U.C. who have made their names in representative football, but some that I must mention are Bogle, who was a Scottish trial international in 1911-12, McNaught and Hanson, who were New Zealand Army representatives in 1919, George Aitken, Captain of the 1921 All Blacks against South Africa and a Scottish International, Keith Siddelis, an All Black against South Africa in 1921, Tui Love, of Maori Battalion fame in World War II, who, in 1926 gained a place in the New Zealand Maori team to tour Great Britain and France, Jackie Ruru, a 1931 New Zealand Maori representative, Craig McKenzie and Doug. Mackay (All Blacks in 1928), Tiny Leys (All Black in 1929), and Jules Maletre (with the 1928 British team which toured Argentine), and in more recent years, Jacob, New Zealand Maori representative in 1946 and 1948.

I desire also to place on record the great interest and enthusiasm always displayed by Professor Boyd Wilson and the late Professor H. B. Kirk in the activities of our Rugby football club and its members.

Next to Rugby, perhaps track and field athletics have brought Victoria College sport most into the limelight. In recent years the College has not been very strong in this sport, but the history of track and field is one of outstanding success. Mr G. F. Dixon, already mentioned for his grand work in connection with hockey, was one of those responsible for the formation of our Athletic Club, thus ensuring the success of the athletic events at In addition to Mr Dixon, the club owed much to the help given by Professor Easterfield himself a Cambridge Blue—de la Mare and Tom Seddon.

Victoria College athletes have won 37 New Zealand titles and three Australasian titles. Australasian title winners have been L. A. Tracy (440 yards) 1924, Roger Lander (120 yards hurdles) 1927, and Stan Ramson (440 yards hurdles) 1927. Three New Zealand records have been credited to Victoria College athletes . . . the 100 yard sprint Malcolm Leadbetter in 9.8 seconds, the 120 yards hurdles 15.2 seconds by Roger Lander and the 440 yards hurdles 56.8 seconds by Stan Ramson. Ten of our college athletes have had the honour of representing New Zealand in track and field. They are C. B. Allan, Charlie Jenkins, Roger Lander, Malcolm Leadbetter, Don Priestley, Wilf. Kalaugher, Stan Ramson, Geoff. Scents, A. B. Sievwright and the speaker. At the Olympic Games in 1928, Victoria College had W. G. Kalaugher as a representative in the New Zealand team.

In 1906, fifteen enthusiasts, largely inspired by Allan Mac dougall, Rhodes Scholar, decided that a cricket club should be formed, when two teams were entered in the Wellington Cricket Association’s competitions. In 1909, the club was classified with senior status. Three College cricketers have actually represented New Zealand while playing for the V.U.C. Club. They are—in the 1929-30 season Eddie McLeod (whom I have mentioned earlier
was also a New Zealand Hockey representative), J. A. R. Blandford 1935-36 season and J. A. Ongley 1939. Others who have also represented New Zealand while attending the College are H. W. Monaghan, Ken James, Harry Foley and Eric Tindall. Among the names of those who have attained Wellington representative honours appear Frank Joplin, Gilbert Howe, Carl Berendsen (now Sir Carl Berendsen), D. Foster, J. F. W. Dickson, J. Fanning, Craig McKenzie, Maurice Hollings, Tiny Leys and W. Tricklebank.

With time marching on, I find that there are many sports I have not mentioned, such as Boxing, coupled with the name of Fred Desmond; Swimming—the name of Des Dowse comes to mind. Fencing, Basketball, Association Football, Cross Country Running with the name of H. E. Moore, New Zealand Champion in 1921, Rowing and Table Tennis. All of these sports are well established and have each and every one of them helped to foster the university spirit. Then again there are those two wonderful annual gatherings of university sportsmen. First, the Easter Tournament established in 1902 as a result of the efforts of that great collegian, George Dixon, and secondly the Winter Tournament established some five years ago.

With time almost up, I want to pay a special tribute to two men. There are, I know, others who have done a tremendous amount of work in assisting sport at the College, but I do feel that the College, and those who have represented the College in any sphere of sport, are indebted to these two gentlemen. First, Mr Geo. Dixon, who entered the College in 1899—the year of the College birth—and who since then has always been, and even today fifty years later, still is an ardent toiler for the College. No man has done as much for the sport of the College. Secondly, I would like to express appreciation to our Principal, Sir Thomas Hunter, who joined the staff in 1904. Sir Thomas has always been most willing to assist in many ways and his enthusiasm has helped over many a difficulty. To these two gentlemen I say “Thank you.” I feel, looking back through the history of sport at Victoria College, that these two gentlemen can always be proud of the wonderful heritage they have given Victoria University College.

L. A. TRACY

TO READERS

Some of the advertisers in this issue have been supporting Victoria College through thick and thin for a number of years. It would help them, and it would express your appreciation, if you were to buy from them. And when buying, please mention The Spike.
Varied Voices

THE GOAL

PROMETHEUS, it is said, brought fire in a fennel stalk. There is always in legend something of prophecy, and our age is, in a way, Promethean, though this time it is man who has stolen fire from heaven. As Thornton Wilder showed in the story of Chrysis, the Andrian (a forerunner of the Magdalen), this legend with its tale of penance and vicarious renunciation seemed to foreshadow a greater sacrifice than Chiron's and a greater hope than remained in Pandora's box.

If a man were asked what was the effect of a University education upon his own individual self it would be impossible to answer; for it would assume an isolation of instruction; and no-one is isolated from his fellows, from his city, from his country, from his world. To eat in accordance with even the simplest standards, he is dependent on the efforts of earth and its creatures; the same is more true of his mental fare. Some answer may be found in the life he leads.

Ruskin held that "Education does not mean teaching people what they do not know. It means teaching them to behave as they do not behave." To some ears that may seem priggish, but a few more such prigs might have saved Europe. Dorothy Thompson, in its rubble to-day, sought what was lacking in those who caused its ruin. She found that it was not wits but, to use an old word, in-wit, conscience. When conscience goes only utility remains—a selfish mint without cosmic currency.

Jacques Maritain, discussing the rights of man, recently wrote that, in his opinion, to justify those rights we should re-discover the natural law. "We are then able to understand how a certain ideal, rooted in the nature of man and of human society, can impose moral demands valid throughout the world of experience, history, and fact, and can establish, for the conscience, as for the written law, the permanent principle and the elementary and universal criteria of rights and duties."*

In his address to UHeno on December 4th, 1947, he said that if a durable peace should one day be established it would not solely be through political, economic, and financial arrangements concluded by diplomats and statesmen. It would also depend on a change in the conscience of men.

Customs have influenced common law, but of the natural law Aquinas could say that it was a share of the external: "Lex naturalis nihil aliquid


est quam participatio legis æternae in rationali creatura." Before Aquinas, Jeremiah had written: "Saith the Lord: I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts."

Dr Mortimer J. Adler of the University of Chicago has given it as his solution also. "More people in the world must start thinking about the natural law as opposed to the positive law, if world peace is to result and endure."

Stevenson called for a 'piercing pain, a killing sin' to be run into his heart if it yielded to apathy and despair. The world has had both, and there are signs that they have re-animated conscience. Who is the favourite model of the moderns? Donne, whose poems alternate between a desperate faith and a grave-sweat of remorse! It is odd that he and Dunbar, who was pursued also by death 'gaipand', should have been resurrected in an age with the same anguish but without the same vision or hope. Carlyle wrote once of eternity 'glaring.' To-day no-one denies that the minds of men are preoccupied with a doom that seems too terrible to bear, and that, as time passes, they smell death from his heels. They call this a dreadful age, but it may be our most glorious, for words like 'charity' and 'contrition,' which have been, to so many, letter-patterns conveying abstractions, may become flesh as in the old morality plays; and the world finds the pleasant working cynicism, which once was its defence-mechanism, as inadequate as cardboard shelters against atomic fire.

A while ago I came one these lines by Pere Teilhard de Chardin, one of the scientists who discovered the Pekin Man. Each word falls heavy. "For twenty years we tried to defend the hope that our troubles were only the last manifestation of a tornado that has passed... We must now apply ourselves to the evidence that humanity is about to enter what is probably the greatest period of transformation it has ever known. The seat of the evil from which we are suffering is located in the very foundation of human thought. Something is happening in the general structure of the human consciousness. Another form of life is beginning. These are strange and awful words. If we see human phases in terms of stone age, iron age, atomic age, if he is right that man will be made over, we are still not helpless, for we, unworthy though we are, can carry over into this horrific hour the natural law, faith, and conscience, as once a donkey bore Deity into Egypt.
Thinking men, sensing ruin behind and before, are beginning to see that false values have been spread, and with the realization has arisen a desire to find out the cause. If medicine has suffered as much as education from the doctrinaire experimentalists, there would have been revolt long ago; yet to tinker with minds is even more dangerous. There are reams of theories on education, natural ideas by good, intelligent, utterly well-meaning people whose tragedy is that they lack the touchstone. Many a man who struts in pomp of state or pride of mind might be astonished to know how accurately he is assessed and how small is his stature in the eyes of those who, by his shallow soundings, are unlearned.

If this is an age of transition we, the most adaptable of creatures, can accommodate the present to the future. Our own culture was a combination of Hebrew and Greek, of Messianic and Humanist. If this surmise is true, we may be the link between two civilizations, as the Book of Cenn Faelad and the Annals of Tigernach combined the culture of Latin and Celt; but the change will be gradual. In any mountain stream it takes time for rocks to become boulders, and even man, more impatient than nature, does not eat his wheat in the ear.

As to the new threat, it may, during wars, drive us underground; but we, who were born in a volcanic country with atomic fire under our feet, know how man builds again on the cindered plains; and a Polynesian, transplanted, begins to return to an island gaping with craters. That is economic hope; but for some there is a greater. In the last analysis, if it means annihilation, this life is not all.

It would have been easier to write in reminiscence of a College in which may days were pure happiness, but my theme was chosen for me by the dead. I found a letter, written shortly before he died, by that great classical scholar, Professor John Rankine Brown, who so loved this University. Writing of "the Sahara of unintelligibility into which our poetry appears to have fallen," he said, "I have always been an admirer of that great poet and saintly woman, Christina Rossetti, one of whose pieces appears to me to be among the most immaculate things we have, and well responds to what I have come to regard as the real test of great writing, which is that as often as you read the passage you get the same thrill as you felt when you read it first. There are passages, for instance, in the greatest of all poets, Homer, which—though I have read them repeatedly to my class at Victoria College—I almost break down in reading through stress of emotion. If I have found pleasure in teaching Latin and Greek it is mainly because the poetry of these languages has been a sort of life to my soul." In that last sentence he has given the reason why, though they are to-day both flouted and clouted, the world will return to them. What our age has bemeaned was kept by others in hedge-schools, so that peasants called their children Aeneas. There is a passage in Corneille's Medee reminiscent of to-day:

**Nerine—** "Votre pays vous hait, votre époux est sans foi: Dans un si grand revers que vous restez-il?"

**Medee—** "Moi, Moi, dis-je, et c'est assez."*

Man has, in greater disasters, tried the same refuge. He has either run into himself or attempted a corporate mind against fate. Neither shelter has availed him. This age is signal for the bewilderment of its intellectuals. Too far east is west. In a horror of sentimentality they have fled from faith, from nature, and from beauty.

Someone told me a story of a young airman who, on returning home, went away from his fellows and took up a handful of earth and grass. A friend who had followed him unobserved made a laughing comment and was amazed at his curtness . . . "I don't care! It's New Zealand!" It was in every respect the right rejoinder, bare of human respect and informed with natural love.

It has, in a corporal sense, been called the hour of the common man, though an adjective capable of more than one meaning is not a happy choice; but, waiving that point, it is even more his hour in a spiritual sense. For what has been sought, by Sartre so starkly and by Kafka so poignantly, many of his kind have found and kept. They know why they were born.

H. G. Wells was by some regarded as a prophet in the realm of reason, but he chose as title for the book which appeared just before his death Mind At the End of Its Tether, and he appeared to have despaired of being able to trace a pattern or to give a compelling argument on conduct. At bay against the future, he seems to have put his hands up, owning no weapon to make it an equal encounter. From that agony of impotence he wrung humility.

Auden, on the other hand, says that all man's actions and diversions are but "the pitiful, maimed expression" of that passion, the "tropism of the soul of God." And Victor Gollancz points out that war's greatest damage is not to possessions, but to the moral sense; and that the value which includes all our other values is respect for personality. It is Gollancz, too, who felt that the presence of suffering in our enemies calls out love. These are heartening signs.

An honest bewilderment in the face of crucial questions none should condemn, but it is not a quality for leadership. It looks as though the world may have to turn to those who have kept the old homespun trinity of virtues, and ordered beneficence enforced by commonsense and conscience. It would not profit us to gain knowledge and lose wisdom.

* Medee I, v.

**EILEEN DUGGAN**
FRIENDSHIP

Seafort Mackenzie's line
Brought friends together—
Sang he, 'When air's like wine
In sunny weather.'

When on life's stony way
I trip and stumble,
That lovely lilting lay
Stills all my grumble:

Helps through the bad bits,
Lifts all the gloom,
Cheers in my sad fits,
Brightens my room.

Ring through the years to be,
Glad songs of youth;
Bringing the waters free,
Quenching our drouth!

Ring through the years to be,
O'er land and waters,
Heartening Victoria's
True sons and daughters.

Seafort's Mackenzie's line
Brought friends together—
Sang he, 'When air's like wine
In sunny weather.'

BERYL G. OSBORNE
(nee Armstrong)

Horsham Downs,
Waikato
THE SPIKE

THE BISHOPS SHOOT A GODWIT

The waves broke on the bar in snowy turmoil, but the incoming tide shouldered the headland without violence, and the sea ran to the horizon like a blue banner swaying in the wind. The men on the two or three launches between the harbour mouth and the bar were continually pulling in their lines, re-baiting them and throwing out again, but nobody seemed to be catching any fish. From the direction of Tern Island beyond the horizon, a flight of godwits, dark and rapid in the distance, sped towards the launches and the fishermen on the headland, then wheeled along the line of breakers to the north.

Mr Bishop turned to his son. "There you are, Lex!" he said. "There are the godwits."

Among the other fishermen on the rocky ledge, Mr Bishop was as conspicuous as the boy was insignificant. He sat at the extreme point of the headland—the best position, for he had come down before slack water to be sure of capturing it. His long white skinny legs, red with sunburn at the knee-joints, his new panama hat, his insufﬁciently ragged "old coat" were in themselves enough to single him out, and his hunched shoulders and the rigidity of his posture facing the open sea were a warning to trespassers against his isolation. Though his mood was amiable, any casual beggar of bait would have been intimidated by the unalterable severity of his features which years of teaching dull history to stupid small boys had frozen to the appearance of marble. It was his close-cropped hair, long skull, straight-lined face and thin though sensitive mouth as much as his profession that made his acquaintances regard him as a man born out of his age, some survivor of the persecutions in Holland or the war against King Charles. People who observed the perpetual blinking of his weak eyes behind his rimless spectacles received a distinct shock, as if this ordinary human misfortune were some unworthy secret. As a concession to his fellow-men, for he was aware of his remoteness and at times regretted it, Mr Bishop smoked a pipe, making, however, the mistake of using a large and so rank a cherrywood that the effect was at once repellent and absurd. When he ﬁlled it, he seemed to be packing a cabin-trunk for a long voyage.

"There you are, Lex!" he said. "There are the godwits."

"If I had my gun here some might ﬂy over," the boy suggested. "Shall I fetch it, dad?" He peered at his father eagerly and nervously through his horn-rimmed glasses.

"That wouldn't be any use, Lex. They can see us here and they won't come near."

"Won't they see us then tomorrow? Shall we have to hide?"

"We dig a trench in a shell-bank, Olsen tells me," Mr Bishop answered. "It will be quite a new experience." He spoke in an ironical tone, conveying the impression that new experiences, even if one welcomed them, were somehow childish and trivial. The boy's face contorted as he worked up courage to say what was in his mind. When he spoke he stuttered slightly. "M-mother says it's really cruel to shoot them."

Mr Bishop winced, and then his face grew stern and bony-looking. "You must learn to be more manly, Lex," he admonished. "I explained to you when I gave you the gun that you must never use it unless shooting for food. The godwits are for the pot. In any case, we are in Rome now, and must do as the Romans do."

Nothing but sermons ever since dad had thought of buying him the gun, Lex thought bitterly. Not to point it at people (as if he would), not to carry it through a fence, not to shoot singing birds, not to boast about it to other boys because he was legally too young to own it, not to do this, not to do that! He stared sulkily at the sea.

It really was a shame to shoot the godwits, Mr Bishop reﬂected. Marvelous voyagers! They flew all the long ocean from Siberia and then, when they had fattened on the New Zealand beaches, the great slaughter began. Shooting them from motor-cars on Ninety Mile Beach! He rather hoped that tomorrow's expedition would be a failure. But then—life was cruel, he consoled himself. Man was a hunting animal. He imagined the morning light and the clean bark of the guns and felt contented. Lex would buck up in time.

Mr Bishop lit his enormous pipe as if he were officiating at an auto-da-fe. Feeling the knock and strain of his line as the sinker shifted or a green swell rolled glassily by, he felt happy. He watched the dance of the water and the clouds rearing their pure architecture in the sky. It pleased him to see the tiny mussels clustering as thickly as sunﬂower seeds at his feet and the bigger mussels nearer the waterline. The seaweed, reddish in the green water at the rock's edge, swayed with a lovely abandon, an eternal ballet of the ocean.

Seeking to draw his son into his reverie, Mr Bishop saw that once again, because he liked to pretend the bumping of his sinker on the sea floor was the bite of a snapper, the boy had hauled in his line to rebait and had the cord badly tangled. He was plucking at it despairingly not daring to ask for assistance. As he was about to go to the rescue, Mr Bishop felt a tug on his own line. He sprang to his feet, poised himself, struck as the fish bit again, and methodically drew in the bucking line. The snapper gleamed palely in the deep water and shone copper, rose and silver as he pulled it flapping up the rocks.

"A beauty!" exclaimed Olsen beside him. "Good for you, Mr Bishop!"

"Yes, Olsen," agreed Mr Bishop with judicious
enthusiasm, "a nice fish. The first today." And no one else at the heads had landed a snapper that tide, he thought triumphantly. "And what about those godwits, eh? Do we shoot tomorrow?"

"Aye." Watched by the boy, Olsen was freeing the snapper from Mr Bishop's hook, and grunted asent without looking up. "I came to tell you, Mr Bishop. We'll get away early if it suits you." He threw the fish with a splash into a pool in the ledge.

"Capital!" said Mr Bishop heartily. "You set the time and we'll be ready. I'll bring the boy along, too. He has a new shotgun."

"So you got a new gun, eh?" Olsen said to the boy. "You got your line in a bit of a mess, too. We'll soon fix that."

He was a big man, but his fingers moved deftly among the cord. He helped the youngster, for he was very sorry for him, and not at all helpless. He was fond of Mr Bishop, too, respecting him as a gentleman and a man of culture. A Swede by birth, with big, coarse, sunburned features, Olsen had spent his whole life with boats and the sea. Some mystery, which he himself had almost forgotten, lay in his past; whether he was drunk or a woman or an accident at sea for which he had been held responsible nobody knew. He was Olsen the boatman. An authority on tides and weather, fish and birds, the vagaries of his engine and the lunacies of trippers, he led an idyllic sort of existence, hiring himself and his launch to visitors, catching a few fish for the local market and acting as carrier for settlers on the upper reaches of the harbour. Like the sluggish tides that stole over the mudflats and crept about the green piles of the jetties, he was never exactly idle, but he was never in a hurry. Mr Bishop found his insistent helpfulness on fishing expeditions somewhat trying, but tolerated it because it made him feel rather like a local squire.

Lex, who had been watching the fish gasping and flapping in the pool, came back when his line had been baited and thrown out again and took it from Olsen's huge red hand with a look of gratitude.

"All right, then, Mr Bishop. Six o'clock I'll call for you," said Olsen as he strode away.

They could hear the launch chug-chugging in the morning mist long before they could see it. Olsen made tea for them on his primus, and when they came up again the harbour was a wheatfield of golden light. It was low water and the mudflats were gleaming. A solitary gull, burnished by the sun, looked like a bird out of a legend. The steel of the guns was cold to touch, but there was warmth in the early rays on their faces and the backs of their hands.

"A wonderful day for it, Mr Bishop," said Olsen.

His passenger, smoking his pipe with keen relish in the world of gold and crystal, nodded gravely. Lex was preoccupied watching a ragged youth whom Olsen had brought with him fingering his small-bore with an expression of mingled envy and contempt.

"Never seen anything like that before, have you, Dick?" Olsen drawled.

"I like the big gun," the youth answered. "Won't do much good with that!"

Lex leaned over the side and trailed his fingers in the water. It was surprisingly warm.

Both he and his father were bewildered when Olsen, apparently in the middle of nowhere of the waters, switched off his engine and let go the anchor.

"We take the dinghy here and row to the shell-bank," the boatman explained. "Dick will row it back and pick us up when we're ready. Those birds won't come near us if there's anything queer."

The oars dipped and splashed, spilling bright drops. The shell-bank, a mass of millions of cockles, showed tawny across the water, and when the men landed the cream and golden shells cracked under their feet. It was a tiny island of living cockles and empty shells, sloping palely away under the shallow water as far as the eye could see. Olsen took a shovelful and scooped three hard-out, the shells scratching unpleasantly on the steel as he worked. Dick, rowing back to the launch lost in the mist, was already a long way off. As the ripples lapped their little island, Lex looked apprehensively towards the harbour mouth. What if a big wave came? What would they do when the tide rose? Suppose the ragged boy went to sleep and failed to come to rescue them?

"Well, Olsen, if the launch sinks we'll have a long swim home," said Mr Bishop jocosely. He, too, had felt that they were marooned. How quiet it was! The shell-bank, the green shallows, and the harbour fading into the fog, all absolutely silent except when a shell rattled in a retreating wavelet.

"No need to worry about that," the Swede reassured him, and Mr Bishop wished he had not spoken.

They heard guns in the distance.

"Aye!" said the Swede. "They're shooting along the beach, Mr Bishop. That'll bring the birds into the harbour. We'd better take cover." Water had seeped into the hollows he had scooped, and it took an effort of will to lie down, fully clothed, among the wet shells. At water-level the harbour seemed to be brimming over, already engulfing the islet. With a shock of terror Lex saw a dogfish swimming a few feet away from him. But his fright was soon lost in sheer wonder at a sight which to both men as well as the boy seemed like some miraculous revelation. It was a huge snapper, so big that the fin on its back jutted out of the water like a sail, feeding on the cockles. They could see it flurry the shells about and then bob upwards while they imagined the hard jaws crackling the shell-fish like a nut-cracker
a nut. Over the pale shells its body was rose-coloured, and the fin above the surface, lilac spotted with green in the sunlight, had the iri-

descence of a butterfly’s wing. It swam away with a calm grace, and a shoal of herring rattled the green surface of the shallows with a rush as if hail had fallen.

“Could have shot it,” Lex suggested, playing the man.

Peering at him through his spectacles over the rampart of shells, Mr Bishop said icily, “We would have frightened the godwits.” He was feeling damp and cramped and undignified, and the fact that the boy was shivering and blue with cold increased his irritation.

“Look!” said Olsen softly. “Here they are!”

The godwits, perhaps fifty in the flock, were flying directly towards them in a swift dark phalanx from the sea. The mist, Mr Bishop realized in a flash, had cleared. The surf, breaking creamily on the bar beyond the protecting head-

land, looked mountainously tall. He thought of one calm evening of early summer, years ago, when he had first seen the birds coming in from Siberia, a great constellation of them with their wings beating out a thin, urgent melody in the darkening air.

As the godwits saw the men, they wheeled sharply overhead, and the guns shouted together. One bird, as if of its own swift intent, plunged into the sea like a diver from the high board.

Olsen waded out to retrieve it. “The boy shot it!” he laughed as he came back, dangling the limp bundle. “And a good shot, too, boy!”

“Yes, you shot it, Lex,” Mr Bishop said. Lex was biting his lips and there were tears in his eyes.

“But I didn’t,” he cried. “I didn’t!”

“Course you did,” Olsen encouraged him. “I saw the one you aimed at.”

Lex struggled with his conscience and his desire to please his father and the big Swede. “They came so swiftly,” he burst out. “The way they turned. It was too quick. I didn’t shoot.” He looked down at the shiny blue steel of the gun his father had given him.

No more birds came over, and soon it was time to go home. By the time they had reached the launch the tide had covered the shell-bank, and unbroken water stretched to the grey-green shore. Not too depressed, for at least he had been out godwit shooting, Lex sat in silence while the launch chugged home. He was hungry and looked forward to breakfast. Mr Bishop smoked his pipe, watched the water going by, and gave an occasional nod or grunt as Olsen apologized for the poor bag and recalled fabulous successes in former expeditions.

“Well, at least you got one, Mr Bishop,” said the Swede, handing him the bird when they reached the jetty.

“Damn him!” thought the schoolmaster with a surge of sympathy for his son. “He knows very well he shot it himself.”

DOUGLAS STEWART,

Sydney, Australia

THE RIVER

God knows where the wild duck wintered, on what cold lake While the mist was still in the raupo she heard the guns, Rose, circled and was gone with the lucky ones
To some remoter peace no man could break;
God knows what months of terror or delight she spent
While our willows were bare and our paddocks under the frost
And vast over Egmont the snow spread its glistening tent,
The stream running cold all the way from mountain to coast;

But spring after spring when the willow put forth again
Its joy in the yellow buds and the green of the leaf,
She came again to the same rough nest on the cliff—
Bound to that place by what most lovely chain!
Held like the tree, held like myself, I know,
In the frozen season and most of all in the sweet
To that one place where the torrent of melted snow
Flashed to her breast and sang on the stones at her feet.
The Spike

Bound to that place by what mysterious love!
O shining and winding water, winding in me
And moving towards a song, as in the tree
To bud and leaf the sap's cool currents move,
Never have I lost, no never at any time
However ice-bound, never in any place
However distant, one eddy's splash or chime,
One ripple's flash, one still pool's darker grace.

Passion and disaster, knowledge of love and hate,
Battle of mind and body against the world
Where the rivers of men and traffic roared and swirled,
The lonely rage of the spirit wrestling with fate:
So much went into the making of a man.
But always under the struggle, oh deep below,
The grey stones stood, and one clear river ran
And into the sea of a life brought down the snow.

Into the man's mind, yes, the boy's unfurls
In rings of water and light where the kingfisher dives
To eel and crayfish living their shadowy lives
By rocks that waver as the current glides and swirls;
And the boy's mind comes with a sparkle of sun and the shock
On the swimmer's limbs, till the body is free and flowing
And flesh and mind and spirit like the wavering rock
Are one with the river, going where the water is going.

How often, too, in fantasy or in dream,
Turned country man, or painter of earth and cloud,
My days have sung as they passed, far from the crowd,
Following from sea to snow this restless gleam:
The sombre pools; the light in a sky of willows;
The red and weedy roots where the eddy is dark
And the dead leaf spins and yellows; the stony shallows
Where the silver flames of the rapids flicker and spark;

The shingle bank where the gaunt old crusher stood
And the big trout hid in the run or leaped and splashed
When the stoneflies danced and the sunset colours flashed;
The broken pillars of Chiselhurst's ancient wood,
The haunted hollows where the sunlight came to dance
Like a girl in a ruined temple: by twist and turn,
By reach and run and banks where the mosses glance,
Mile after mile till the snow lay white on the fern.

But deeper than this, deeper than boyish play;
Beyond all this, daydream or dream's delight,
That sombre water burns like stars in my night,
That silver water trembles like wings in my day;
That song of water, like women crying or singing,
Rings in my depths where still is all sound and strife;
That living water, chill from the ice, or bringing
All summer's richness, runs at the roots of my life.

As if I had built my life like some clamorous town
Where crowds jostle and voices shout in confusion
And traffic howls—phantoms at war in illusion!—
While under it all, the joy and the thunder, deep down
The hidden river pursues its own calm course:
Known to be there, some river-mist always known,
But only at the bitterest crisis of rage or remorse
Or the flowering of love—listen! Water on stone.
The Spike

At the end of a life illusion falls away.  
When the city falls, oh then in that last day, river,  
I shall come back to you as a man to his lover,  
As the bird comes back when her wild blood sets the day  
And the first leaf breaks on the willow. Symbol or truth,  
Let the day disclose! But a man's what his spirit knows;  
And what I have known for truth, now as in youth,  
Is one clear river, coming down cold from the snows.  

DOUGLAS STEWART

Sydney, Australia

TWO POEMS

BIRD IS PROPHET

Yes, there will be singing, morning and evening,  
And at noon forgetfulness in the silence.  

But now suddenly  
Shattering the heat the bird’s song,  
And in a clear moment  
Comes the knowledge, the certainty.  

Music flung boldly into the half-light,  
This is to be expected;  
Standing in the street or under the trees,  
We can bear that violence,  
Softly or loudly wrought.  
But against this sudden song  
We are defenceless.  
The bird is the prophet,  
Music the certainty.  

MARY MILNE

EXCEPT IT DIE, IT ABIDETH ALONE

Dying and dead the wheat  
Deep in the ground lying  
Mourns not life past;  
Seeing in Spring the green  
Under the wind sighing,  
And gold at last.  

MARY MILNE
The Spike

OGDENASH ON SOMEONE LIKE SAROYAN

This is the tragic story of an author who had only one plot; and who, though he wrote a lot of stories and a lot of poetry, used the same one for the whole lot. Maybe he didn’t have enough grey matter in his cranium to provide a hydroponic bath for a geranium. But what he had got he certainly made the most of, and he left a million or so more words than Ogdenash or Saroyan or I will ever boast of.

For this author was one of these fortunate men who know almost from birth that we come into this world only to pass out again. He’d got the plot early. Maybe it was only eight by three, but it was big enough to hold his thoughts while living and his bones post-humously; and even if it was up on a hill among a lot of crosses, he wasn’t the sort of fellow who would give anything away to cut his losses.

This author’s plot had been left by a maiden aunt. She had bought it for a prospective husband, but had never married, so she left it instead to her unborn nephew (or niece, as the case might be) when her plans miscarried. The only condition was that the nephew (or niece, as the case might be) would keep watch on the next plot in perpetuity. Or at any rate during his (or her) lifetime keep an eye on the plants etcetera which normally grow on the graves of arid aunts etcetera.

So this author (who turned out to be a nephew after all, thereby saving further parentheses) was brought up from birth to venerate one small piece of earth. Even when he was supposed to be at school he would play truant, and as a rule would be found trying to stretch his four-foot body over his own bit of ground. His one ambition was to grow up to be three feet wide and eight feet tall, so that when he was ready to be buried he would occupy it all. In fact it wouldn’t be pedantic to claim that if Byron was a buffoon this author was the first Great Necromantic; because after spending six of his seven ages studying his plot instead of working for wages, he completely revolutionised literature and annoyed the followers of Marx and Freud, by proving that economics and psychology can’t bring happiness because life and death are merely two aspects of the same thing. All you’ve got to bring to life, this author said, is an appreciation of the dead.

This author didn’t even write in the old-fashioned fashion about human passion. He’d been too busy on his plot to experience any, although many’s the time he’d heard lovers’ foot-steps pass and once he’d even heard a couple laughing in the grass. Instead he concentrated on eternal things like the way the wind moans in the trees, and the way weeds sprout among stones, and seed, and die away; and how, on a later day, the new plants spring up again. Only to seed, and die again, like men . . . Only men didn’t really matter: to the daisies they were only bread and butter.

If you think that’s a pretty dull theme, I’d remind you that it doesn’t necessarily make the narrator any duller than T. S. Eliot or Saroyan, or for that matter the Creator. They’ve all three got a pretty good idea of what everything is about, and they’ve come to the same conclusion as far as I can make out. Anyway this author was so serious about it that he wrote twenty books in prose and another twenty in verse without describing anything more cheerful than a decorated hearse; and in his whole lifetime he was never known to laugh at anything except a humorous epitaph, written by a nephew whose ambition is still to inherit the plot on the hill.

For I guess that if this author had guessed what was going to happen to him eventually he would have been pretty miserable all right. For when he froze on his plot one night, trying to keep the snow off the daisies whose grandchildren he was hoping to push up himself at a later date, they pried him loose and cremated him. And I know enough about this author to know that he would have been pretty crabby if he’d guessed that, after all he’d been through, they’d stick the urn with the ashes in Westminster Abbey.

ANTON VOGT
THE SPECTRE
OF THE UNIVERSITY RED

There is something exhilarating in talking about isms.

The Spike, editorial 1911.

We write up our College motto 'Sapientia magis auro desideranda' and having made this homage to the spirit of education we turn to profit making... Business is the centre around which life moves, commerce has come to set the ideals for most of our people; buying price, selling price, profits are the new Trinity.

Prof. T. A. Hunter, 1918.

(We are led to believe) that the place in the minds of the public has become a hotbed of sedition, a forcing house for disloyalty and disaffection, and a crawling mass of corruption.

J. C. Beaglehole, 1923.

Anarchic propagandists.

Canon James, 1933.

A spectre is haunting New Zealand—the spectre of the University Red. He is unpatriotic and addicted to foreign philosophies; his attitude to political and social problems is irresponsible and immature; he is defeatist and unwilling to defend his country against aggression.

Manifesto of the V.U.C. Students, 1941.

Teen Agers and Bobby Soxers Worship Tsar Stalin I.


Watersiders and students have long shared a common pillory. The watersider is a mischievous animal. The student reads books and is popularly believed to question not only the Scriptures but the Evening Post; to doubt not only God but Murphy.

Yet the Red Flag has never been broken above Victoria College, nor does the Internationale yet ring round the lecture rooms. It would, indeed, be incorrect to say that the radicals have ever been more than a leaven in the mass at Victoria. But it would not be a mistake to say that Victoria has a tradition which is not shared by the other colleges—a tradition of tolerance, of fair play and of human decency. That tradition existed in 1916 when the whole college resisted the removal of Professor von Zedlitz—something which no New Zealander should be able to recall without blushing, and which was only consummated by an Act of Parliament. That tradition is being carried on today by a Students' Association Executive, which is the only organisation in New Zealand to have protested against legislation of the last session reducing naturalised New Zealanders to the level of second class citizens.

A willingness to hear other points of view has always been a Victoria characteristic. The students were as anxious to hear Mr H. E. Holland in 1916 on the fundamentals of Socialism, during a period when those who now compose His Majesty's Government were regarded as enemies of the family of order and of civilisation itself, as they willingly extend an ear today to the current limbs of Satan, Mr Toby Hill and Mr Bruce Skilton.

Again, in 1924, when arrangements were being made at a Special General Meeting of the Debating Society to meet the Oxford University team a motion was put to the familiar packed meeting that "the V.U.C. speakers shall speak only on that side of the motion which does not involve advocating, speaking in favour of, or commenting on any matter of principle savouring of Bolshevism, socialism, extreme labour or the like, or involving the making of or upholding of any disloyal or seditious acts, utterances or sentiments." It was lost by 73 votes to 113. So too the students of 1947 decisively rejected an attempt to disaffiliate the Socialist Club following its renowned demonstration of support for the Atlantic Charter.
The University, as Dr Beaglehole has put it, is not an abstraction; it is an institution, and institutions are part of the social system. And, as Marx says the ruling ideas are the ideas of the ruling class, any challenge to those ideas is a challenge to the rule of the class. Businessmen accustomed to owning the bodies of their employees are surprised and hurt when they find that they cannot always possess all their minds. As a Mr Roundhill warned the Wellington Christian Businessmen’s Club last year with refreshing candour: “The University Colleges are the breeding ground for ideas that are so revolutionary that they can affect the businessman’s leisure and pocket.” Perhaps this is rather an exaggeration. Victoria may have affected the businessman’s complacency when in 1919 the Debating Society divided equally on the motion of Messrs Davidson and W. A. Sheat that “the Russian Revolution, being the opportunity for free development of the true genius of Russian intervention in Russian affairs, is unjustifiable”; but history presents no record of any successful inroads on the pockets of the local Chamber of Commerce members for the endowment of the most poorly endowed University College in the English-speaking world.

Radicalism of all kinds at Victoria has been mostly the concern of small groups, the first of which would seem to be the Heretics Club, founded in 1912 “to promote free and open discussion on problems of religion, philosophy and art.” An omnibus organisation, it considered the burning topics of the day which, looking through back issues of The Spike, were apparently eugenics, hell fire, theosophy, Chinese political philosophy and the legitimacy of marriage with one’s deceased wife’s sister. A war casualty, its successor was the Free Discussions Club which, beginning in 1916 with addresses on Nietzsche’s views of morality, the historicity of Jesus, and Prison Reform, was sceptically receiving in 1923 the horrid revelations of Mr A. P. Harper that he had discovered a revolutionary movement in England. The objects of the revolutionaries according to Mr Harper (the N.Z. Welfare League) were the abolition of all existing constitutions, of private ownership and of religion. The results to date had been fairly satisfactory, and included murders of prominent men, sabotage and terrorism, strikes, class warfare, industrial unrest and mystical association (sic). The plan of action was first to attack the British Empire as the bulwark of Capitalism. The methods of the revolutionaries were very subtle and included a vague subversive penetration by propagandists into Universities and Training Colleges, and the establishment of Socialist Sunday schools. Mr Harper assured this audience that he had the proofs in his office. One of these subtle propagandists was Mr Peter Fraser of the Social Democratic Party who assured the Debating Society in 1918 that “wars and everything else are due to economic facts.”

In 1934, the Free Discussion Club received the honour of condemnation by the Professorial Board and disaffiliation by the Students’ Association Executive. Its publication, hounded from the grounds, continued to be sold outside the gates of the College.

There has always been a section of the students which has never been very happy about soldiering. In 1911 The Spike editorially questioned the super-patriotism of the Senate in recommending that £800 be spent on the teaching of military science when other faculties were starved. And again in 1919 it was opposed to “being taught by Sir James Allen’s sergeant-majors.” In that year also, Messrs Morice and Miller moved at a Special General Meeting of the Association that the proposed extension of military training in N.Z. involving a period of four months in a military training camp will prove detrimental to the highest interests of the country,” a motion which was, however, lost. About the same time, the Debating Society resolved that “it regarded with grave apprehension the activities of the Navy League in State Schools.” In 1930 the same body affirmed that the celebration of Anzac Day should be discontinued. The formation of an active Anti-War Movement followed four years later, while in 1939 there was a marked lack of enthusiasm for the formation of a Territorial Unit. A Society for the Discussion of Peace, War, and Civil Liberties in 1941 marked the disquiet some of the students felt in the period of the “phony war.” On 3rd August last the Special General Meeting of the Association carried by more than a two to one majority a resolution, moved by two returned servicemen, of strong disapproval of any proposal for the conscription of youth for military purposes, a resolution which was fortified by the subsequent procession of the Socialist Club.

During the years of sycophancy and national humiliation from 1936 onwards, when all around was dark the light was at least kept burning in Salamanca Road. The student mind (in so far as it was represented by the conscious elements who found expression in the Debating Society and in Salient) refused to condone the murder of the Spanish Republic as it refused to swallow Chamberlain. Nor was Herr Ramm to find Victoria College a particularly happy atmosphere for the propagation of the political theory of the Master Race. It should never be forgotten that, with the exception of the Communist Press, Salient alone among N.Z. journals came out against Munich. Even in the Extravaganzas reaction found no comfort. I remember the ’39 show where Nev. is represented as a travelling salesman. First he draws from his bag for Hit a large checkered cloth. He then offers a rarer and much more valuable material, the Union Jack. At this point a trampling in the Dress Circle marked the exit from the Opera House of a well-known Conservative member of the staff, frothing.
Ron Meek's point was made forcibly as it had to be—yet Meek was right.

Later too, as the Manifesto of the Victoria College Students adopted by the Association in 1941 says:

"There were voices raised at this college to denounce the Reynaud Government when its savage and anti-liberal campaign was paving the way for the triumph of the men of Vichy and the surrender to the Nazis. Some of us expressed doubts as to the democratic principles of Baron von Mannerheim 'the champion of Finnish liberty,' in Hitler's phrase, who now marches with the Nazis. Some refused to join in abuse of the great nation whose armies are now, as Mr Churchill put it, 'holding the bridgeheads of civilisation.' For all of these things we were attacked and for none of them we apologise. For on these matters the 'University Reds' were right and their enemies wrong.'"

It will have been noticed that most of the radical groupings of the students over the years were hardly more than discussion circles. Though many of their members were to play prominent parts in progressive movements outside the College—such as the late Gordon Watson (who was to become Secretary of the Communist Party of N.Z.)—it was not till 1946, with the formation of the Socialist Club, that it can be said that the student progressive movement achieved any maturity and came, at last, to the conclusion that its task was not merely to interpret the world but to change it.

The preamble to the Socialist Club Constitution says that: "We, the members of the Socialist Club of Victoria University College, recognising the need for unified action on the part of the progressive elements in this student body, hereby constitute ourselves as an organisation for the purpose of uniting all politically conscious students in their advance to Socialism." As its objects make plain, its keynote is organisation and action. It aims to further political activity of a Socialist character among students, to bring students into contact with the Labour Movement and the working class, and to promote solidarity among all progressive youth organisations in New Zealand and abroad.

The Socialist Club has protested publicly against the militarisation of science in the Universities, against Red baiting, against the refusal to allow Maoris to go with the All Blacks, against attempts to crush civil liberties. It takes the credit for drawing up the bursary scheme which has now been endorsed by N.Z.U.S.A. It pioneered the N.Z. Student Labour Federation which links Labour and Radical Clubs in all the Colleges. It is affiliated with the Australian Student Labour Federation.

The Socialist Club has the distinction of being one of the first organisations in the world to protest, by its procession in 1947, against the attempt of the Dutch junkers to crush the Indonesian Republic and, for the first time in the history of the N.Z. University, an action by students rang round the world. I have seen accounts of the demonstration in journals circulating from Kamkatchka to the Straits of Magellan. In the face of opposition by sixty police and by the press, and in spite of the prosecution of eight of the participants, the students, in defending the right of citizens to move in procession through the streets—a cherished right of the British nation, in the words of the Magistrate—won the respect of the leading trade unions in the country who bore, together with individuals from North Cape to the Bluff, the expenses of the defence. And, for the first time, Victoria College received a fan mail from the people who really matter.

Henry Ford once said that you could have one of his cars in any colour as long as it was black. There are those who are willing to allow the students to hold any kind of political view so long as it is conservative. In the Socialist Club they have met their match. And there can be no doubt that, despite whatever training in the ideological principles of "Western Civilisation" (as though indeed civilisation was bounded by latitudes and longitudes), the Chancellor may persuade the Senate to initiate in the University, Socialism will grow and capture the imagination of the students. It will do so because it is true.

JAMES WINCHESTER
G. W. von Zedlitz
Emeritus Professor of Modern Languages

"A far-seeing and skilled architect of university education, an administrator of tact and discretion, a humanist of broad and tolerant sympathies."

— E. Beaglehole, *The University and the Community.*

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G. F. Dixon  
F. A. de la Mare

Both have contributed loyally to College activities 1899-1949
Professor Hugh MacKenzie
First Professor of English

Professor J. Rankine Brown
First Professor of Classics
Collegio Victorianno Wellingtoniensi
Universitas Andreana Scotiae
S. P. D.

DUM uobis ob quinquaginta a collegio condito
anni feliciter actos gratulamur, hoc uel prae-
dipue nos iuuat quod alumnis olim nostris IOHANNI
RANKIN BROWN et HVGONI MACKENZIE,
contigisse scimus ut academiæ uestrae et nascenti et
adolescenti adessent, quo effectum est ut insitus anti-
quitus Scotis litterarum humaniorum et philosophiae
amor apud homines toto a nobis diuisos orbe denuo
floreret.

Iam quod illos colendo alnarn hanc eorum matrem
colatis ita nobis lucundum est ut non quasi ad ignotos
vel fama tantum cognitos has litteras mittere uideamur
sed fraterna prope caritate affecti familiares ac propinquis
salutare. usaete.

[Signature]
Vice cancellarius

[Stamp]

Greetings from St Andrews University, Scotland. See page 67.
The Spike

POEM

In the tangled wood you are the solitary tree,
Steadfast as oak, yet supple as an elm;
Graceful as willows, to which woodsmen turn,
Holding their axes lightly by the trail.

You are the kowhai, and your gleaming hair
Lures like a beacon; and your lips are red
Like rata blossoms when the summer comes
In sudden radiance through the forest gloom.

You are the tree to which the trampers turn,
Tired and hungry, as the day draws in;
You are the marker, blazing trails for home,
Luring the laggard to the friendly fire.

You are the tree: but I am axe and saw,
Laying siege to your splendour, marking you out for my own,
Skilful and patient and cunning,
Stripping your timber, taking your heart for my home.

ANTON VOGT

THREE POEMS

I

1948 : THE COMING OF SPRING

Beginning of spring
When birds do sing
And the winter cold
Is a little less bold

Near Albi they found
An old woman downed
By hunger and cold

The cupboards were clean
And the rats grown lean
Had become more bold

Their daring was told
By the old woman's hands
And the old woman's face
In the winterspring cold

When streams do race
And the heavy lands
Break asunder the hold
Of the winter cold.
The Spike

II

SONG FOR THE NEW MACHIAVELLIS

Sweep the snow from your door
With a brush quick and wild
For if you should find there
A frozen child
Your eyes must not soften
Your hands itch to hold
It's forbidden to rescue
The frozen by cold

When sheep call for pasture
And break down your fences
Cry Wolf from the grasslands
Till panic commences
If miners' hands whiten
Stretch out for more bread
Use grenades to light fires
And feed them with lead

The battle for living
Is harsh but complete
The place for your servant
Is under your feet
Sweep the dead from the door
If others should shirk
Have them judged for a slight
On your freedom to work.

III

AUTUMN

Season of mists
And the bitter crop of summer
Shedding its leaves to light up fires.

Branches spring bare
Black; skies deaden
To flatness or deepen to hollow swirls.

Rivers of silver
Run leaden: fog
Shields the signal of the balding hills.

The earth fuddles;
But men awake to warmth:
The leaves of hunger light up fires.

K. J. HOLLYMAN

Paris, 1948
LORD MELBOURNE once startled a dinner party by displaying an intimate knowledge of the early Christian fathers. The incident throws a curious light on the mind of one of England’s lesser statesmen, a man best known for his witty and cynical sexual immorality. It has also a nostalgic flavour, a recherche du temps perdu, when the dominant figures of the European hierarchy were steeped in classicism, and humanist education was within sight of its nemesis in the form of universal literacy. If the Melbournes of earlier centuries were socially conservative, they upheld also a tradition of intellectual tolerance and of a wide culture which was the mark of a gentleman.

The significance of the anecdote becomes more clearly apparent when we contrast the position of the humanist scholar of the 18th and 19th centuries with his position in the present year.

Among the marks of the humanist are a love of learning for its own sake, intellectual tolerance, and a strict regard for intellectual honesty. Contrast them with the qualities of that form of enlightenment which is dominant among the literate classes of the new nations, such as Russia, India, Japan and the United States of America. There, popular education is utilitarian; it is fiercely intolerant of ideas opposed to the national myths; its criterion of intellectual truth is too often conformity with the economic and political aims of the dominant classes. Those who believe in such crude historical fictions as “national self-determination” and “the class-war,” are ever alert to suppress the independent scholar who dares to expose their fallacies.

It would be stupid to assert that there was ever a time in Europe when complete intellectual tolerance existed. But neither was there a time when Europe was anti-intellectual. Conflicts of opinion were between scholar and scholar, lawyer and lawyer, theologian and theologian. The man of education was an intellectual aristocrat, and even as a persecutor, he was an idealist. Humanism survived into the 19th century, partly because its bitterest opponents were scholars themselves. The combination of intellectual competence and cynicism which marked Nazi biology and jurisprudence, and which still marks the Russian approach to the arts, is a product of the mass age.

It is not the case that the “new” educations are the legitimate children of the old European classical culture, nor that there will develop out of them a more tolerant culture. The two growths have different historical origins and are directed towards different ends. The older education was that of a relatively leisured elite, a learned semi-aristocratic body of knowledge and opinion which ultimately benefited mankind through the actions of individual humanists. The new education is that of mass man, whose policy is to use the knowledge of quantitative science for the purposes of a barbarian. Its factual content may be enormous, but it is not illuminated by a spirit of intellectual honesty. In the hands of a moral barbarian, it is a threat to civilization.

Modern propaganda techniques have conveyed this literacy to enormous masses of people, and in its crudest form, to precisely those masses who have been previously untouched by European thought. By reason of their number, their economic constriction and their primitive vitality, they threaten to hold the balance of power in the modern world. The global community is now so closely knit, that unless international harmony is established in a very short time, the newly-literate races must inherit the mastery of the earth, an event which will mean the extinction of European humanism, since humanism and the modern literate barbarism cannot co-exist in a warring world.

It is characteristic of tyranny that it cannot tolerate any flaw in its supremacy. Having obtained power in face of opposition it bends all its forces to the task of retaining that power. Its other objects are secondary, and are ultimately directed towards the prime object, survival. The humanist tolerates peaceful differences of opinion; indeed he encourages them if his humanism is mature, in the hope of attaining to a more advanced synthesis. The tyrant resents them, and must destroy them because intellectual independence threatens his peace of mind, his self-esteem, and above all his security. He must “make windows into men’s souls.” He will tolerate only those forms of education which cry “Hosannah” to him and his policies.

There is no tyrant more arbitrary than he who governs mass man by force, and it is by force that the masses must seize control of the world and be themselves governed. If, then, as seems likely, the intellectual traditions of Europe go down before the vast, rawly-educated, extra-European communities, the members of the free universities of the world can look forward to the snuffing-out of their culture, and to being themselves proscribed as enemies of the People. Nor will the victors escape destruction. The wreckage will be complete,
for the abstruseness of much vital modern knowledge on which civilization depends, is concentrated in the heads of comparatively few men. Ortega y Gasset, in *The Revolt of the Masses*, quotes with his own approval, an opinion that the simultaneous execution of a handful of selected men would result in the destruction of modern society. It is not unlikely that such an event will occur, and that, with the great minds of the world, will perish also the Melbournes of this age, the undistinguished men who love learning for its own sake.

D. N. Y. OLESEN

Dannewirke

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS

When the appearance of Somervell’s Pocket Toynbee raised a crop of reviews, most critics (from Professor Geyl to the gentleman who complained that Toynbee’s technical terms did not mean what he defined them to mean) agreed in pointing out Toynbee’s ambiguous position towards the most important question raised by works like his: that of law versus free will, of regularity versus individuality in history. Now at last, in the 1948 Chichele Lectures delivered at Oxford on the subject of “Uniqueness and Recurrence in History,” Toynbee has defined his attitude, and told us what he thinks of the prospects of our own civilization. As these lectures have not yet appeared in print, it will be best to give a summary of their argument before dealing with one or two points arising out of them.

The first lecture distinguishes two forms which the idea of uniformity has taken: the Judeo-Christian idea of the “Law of God” and the Greek idea of “Laws of Nature.” The latter are mechanical and purposeless, the former was personal and led to a definite aim. But when it was applied too rigorously, it eliminated the possibility of human choice and that was one reason why it was abandoned. Ever since, thought has tended to assume a dichotomy between the non-human part of the universe, governed by the laws of Nature, and the human part, not subject to any laws. But during the last two hundred years, many fields of human affairs have been captured by science, and anthropology, psychology and economics have applied the methods of science to the greater part of the human world, and brought it under the laws of Nature. This is in keeping with the trend of human thought which can only move in terms of order. Again, the field of history has been extended from political history to include the lives of ordinary people and thus overlaps with many of the new “human sciences.”

Yet most historians, though in their work they necessarily impose a pattern, still in theory deny its existence. This is because the Law of God has been abandoned and the laws of nature cannot be applied successfully, as (a) no detail of historical knowledge is ever finally settled; (b) “civilizations” are the smallest units of historical study, and there have been very few specimens of them. The second and third lecture discuss in greater detail the problem of uniformity in the human world. Such uniformities undoubtedly exist. Insurance (especially insurance against burglary, which is a conscious act of will) has proved that predictions can be made even about conscious human behaviour. Economic laws, like those of “trade cycles,” are generally accepted; yet only fifteen to twenty instances of the “standard cycle” have been observed—about the same as the number of civilizations which the historian can study. When these are compared, certain laws do seem to emerge. (There follows a summary of the familiar Toynbeean laws of the development and decline of civilizations, and some illustrations of less general laws.) What are the causes of such uniformities? To some extent, no doubt, the admitted uniformities in the physical environment. But they are insufficient, and Toynbee finds a more likely cause in the sub-rational part of human nature. It is now recognized that the unconscious is subject to natural laws, and perhaps the regularities of history are due to it. This would explain why they are most easily observable in “decline and fall” periods, as in those periods the unconscious gets out of control. And perhaps the cyclic rhythms of history mark the stages by which the conscious intellect gains control over the unconscious; thus the result of the long and disastrous experience of the Greek decline was that reason overcame the unconscious city-state loyalty which had caused that decline. Now this holds out some hope for our civilization. For it is obvious that recognition of such unconscious influences, and education to overcome them, can remove us from the sphere of operation of natural laws. And it appears from past examples that, at any rate before the establishment of the “universal state” (which we are only approaching), the life of a civilization can still be saved. Thus our best hope lies in preventing the establishment of that state through “knock-out” wars and reaching peaceful agreement, before the “universal state” marks the exhaustion of the spiritual forces of our civilization.

The last lecture deals with uniqueness in history. It is obvious that the rate of social change is not constant. Thus the ship evolved rapidly between
The Spike

1440 and 1490, then remained almost unchanged till 1840, and evolved more quickly than ever in the next fifty years. We know how much faster technological change has been in the last two generations. This cannot be put down to "chance," as "chance" is a negative term expressing our ignorance of causes. The true explanation is the interaction of human wills and a genuine possibility of choice. This, in personal as in social relations, leads to unpredictability, and (through "challenge and response," Toynbee's most famous generalization) to creative acts. Thus the development of the ship was the response to the challenge of the Ottoman Empire in the fifteenth and the impact of the Industrial Revolution in the nineteenth century. Each problem solved leads to a new problem, but there is a tendency to stop after each success, and the challenge may find no response.

Finally, how is this element of choice related to the element of law? Perhaps the personal Law of God and the mechanical laws of Nature must be combined to give us the whole truth. Thus the wheel, if looked at by itself, may seem to be turning in senseless repetition (as history seemed to, e.g., Marcus Aurelius); but the wheel may belong to a cart driven in a definite direction. Similarly, repetitive cycles of events may be the foundation of directed progress. Thus the cycle of day and night is the basis for non-recurrent human experience; that of human life and death for the cumulative heritage of civilization; and the rise and fall of civilizations perhaps for progress in religious life. If God's Law is direction and not compulsion, we have the power of choice and may freely progress in the accessibility of means of grace in life.

Toynbee's argument falls into distinct parts, and not all of them seem to be of equal soundness or value. He is maintaining, first, that there are historical "laws" which are the result of the sub-rational element in man (and, as a corollary, that our civilization can still be saved by realisation of these laws so that they may be overthrown by conscious action); and secondly, that the life-and-death cycle of civilizations is the foundation of man's spiritual progress under divine guidance. The first point seems firmly established and important because of its very obviousness. With characteristic insight and clarity of exposition, Toynbee has sketched a solution to one of the most difficult problems of historiography. The two extreme schools may still be unsatisfied and maintain their strangely paradoxical positions: either (like the followers of Marx or Huntington) reducing history to the workings of man's acquisitive instinct or the influence of his environment and thus eliminating reason as an independent factor in human development while introducing it (as some form of scientific method) in the study of that development; or (like Collingwood) making human reason in its individual manifestations the chief object of historical study while denying the historian the right to use his own in classifying the actions he studies. The reason why the "human sciences" have shown themselves so successful up to a point and helpless beyond it is just that autonomy of the rational faculty which these sciences are beginning to recognize. It appears that at some stage of "evolution" (whatever precisely that may be) something is evolved which is superior to and independent of the process which evolved it, and this is perhaps the idea expressed in Sartrian existentialism by the responsible man's rejection of the gods (cf. Orestes in The Flies). Moreover, it is the evolution of this faculty which marks the rise of "civilisation." Thus anthropology (as the study of non-civilised man) gives a complete explanation of the societies it studies because the rational faculty is not significantly developed in them, i.e., not sufficiently developed to influence their corporate actions. But its "civilised" equivalent, sociology, cannot give a complete (indeed, in some cases appears to give hardly a significant) account of the societies it studies because the development of reason has withdrawn them from the laws of nature to the extent of that development. This solves the problem of historical prediction: such prediction can only be conditional, but within its limits is certainly valid. The historian can only say: 'This will happen unless ...'; but, if he is a good historian, it will happen unless ... The next slump will come at its due time, unless we realise the workings of the unconscious human mechanism that produces slumps; if we do, it will not come. And so on.

The corollary that follows for our civilisation is perhaps a more hopeful one than Toynbee thinks. There is no need to despair of our future, even if the 'universal state' is established by force, provided the state thus established does not enforce a mechanistic interpretation of human reason and history, which would leave us exposed to the natural law prescribing the decay of civilisations.

Toynbee's second conclusion is of such vast scope that we cannot discuss it in detail. But it does not seem so soundly based. For one thing, while his first conclusion is supported by the difference between the simplicity and uniformity of primitive behaviour as compared with the complexity and variety of civilised societies (a point recognised by all historians), as well as by the "human sciences" and statistics he quotes, which are all based on sub-rational influences on human behaviour, this second argument has hardly any support in fact. Of the fifteen or so civilisations Toynbee recognises, nearly all are extinct without spiritual issue. The only definite spiritual progress he can point to is that from Greek and "Syriac" civilization to Christianity. The barrenness of the others he could, no doubt legitimately,
explain by insisting on the freedom of human choice: there is no need for lessons to be learnt. But, leaving aside the question of bias in the assessment of his only example of progress, and also the fact that the Jewish (i.e., according to him, Syriac) influence is so much more important than the Greek in this spiritual matter that his scheme of affiliation must be seriously confused, we must ask whether a theory of divine guidance can be built up at all on such slender evidence. Is it not the most economical hypothesis to assume at best some blundering spiritual evolution comparable to

the blundering and wasteful process of natural evolution? And can it be truly said that God, in His omnipotence, is like the driver of a cart needing wheels to fulfil his purpose? Even if we accept Toynbee’s interpretation and valuation, though there is of course no reason to prevent us from believing in such divine guidance (if we can escape the difficulty stressed, rather than solved, by Toynbee’s simile), he has given us no proof of it, and it is doubtful if such proof is possible.

University College, Oxford

E. Badian

BRANDYGALLISM
AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPT

A FRIEND OF MINE recently told me of his amazing experiences in an American City.

"When I was a young man," he said, "much excitement was caused at the Senior High School I attended by the announcement of a summer school for the public, which fell due during the school vacation.

The school was to be held in a large old Georgian House just out of Bournell City. For a certain charge advertised, anybody could stay at the house and take a week's course in a wide variety of subjects specified. "Pupils are not forced to work," ran the prospectus, "the classes are purely optional, but it is hoped that sufficient interest will be displayed in the cultural as well as the social aspects of this course."

The boys at my school were very excited over the classes in photography and aeronautics, which included flights over the surrounding country, while everyone else was very interested in the University Extension Lectures, the debates, dances and moonlight picnics. This evidently was the "social aspect" of the course.

I was attracted very much by all this, and in the summer holidays a week before the school I had decided to take a general course including an introduction to psychology.

The opening day was very exciting with much noise and high spirits. Everybody was being introduced to everyone else, everyone was discussing classes and everyone was trying to impress everyone else. It was in the midst of all this excitement that I first became aware of Edmund Brandygall.

He was standing away from the crowd with his vacant eyes cast towards the ground.

I moved by him to see his face, noticing as I did his unusual clothes. His face was a thin one, with a nose that gave the impression it had been badly squashed in his mother's womb. As a result his nostrils existed in a state of continual antipathy, both facing in opposite directions. In his hand was an orange umbrella which, I later observed, he carried even when he was walking about indoors. His worst feature was his trousers, which contracted in the legs when he moved, displaying by this action several inches of long bony calf.

The only person I saw him speak to during the first day was the organiser, who questioned him as to his course.

You can imagine this person created a great deal of interest among the students. Nobody knew where he came from, but everybody had a theory. Most of us (being young) thought he was a foreign duke leading a Bohemian existence, while the more unimaginative said he was "somebody from the nuthouse."

It was useless speaking to Brandygall himself as he refused to speak. Well, the week went on and I entered into the social life and enjoyed myself a great deal. I did not think much about Brandygall, except in the psychology class where I would be disconcerted to see him sitting up there in the back row staring fixedly at the lecturer.

He never spoke in the class during the whole week. Even the lecturer gave up making advances and began to look upon him as merely a piece of furniture.

The rest of the day Brandygall could be seen lolling about in the sun, or standing under a tree muttering with his orange umbrella held high above his head.

People stopped talking about him, and by the end of the week nobody knew any more of him than they had at the beginning. The School broke up and that was the last I ever saw of Brandygall.

The holidays soon went past and it was well into the next school term that I was approached by a girl who had been at the Summer School with me.
"You remember that strange man who was at the School last summer?"
"What man?" I said.
"The one who had a horrible nose and always carried an umbrella."
"Oh, Brandygall! yes—what about him—what's happened?"
"Nothing's wrong, only I wondered if you had seen the book that's all over town."
"What book?"
"Well," she said, "all the kids reckon he's the one who wrote it, but I couldn't remember his name, so I thought I'd ask you."

This interested me very much, so the girl took me to a bookshop after school, and on one of the display counters was a thin booklet entitled "New Ideas on the Formation of Belief" by E. H. Brandygall.

I immediately bought a copy. It was by him all right, for right on the frontpiece was a photograph of a smirking person with antagonistic nostrils. Underneath was written, "The Author." That night at home I began to read the book.

It began in this manner:

"Recently, while attending a class in psychology, I was struck by the thought which I now record..." and was signed E. H. Brandygall.

I went to bed early that night and in a few hours had read the book.

It began with a long irrelevant account of how psychology had grown in America, of the influence of William James and McDougall, then, without any explanation at all, it began to talk of how coffee tasted much better if you added salt.

"He must be crazy," I said. From here the text continued, jumping on to Freud's theory of the libidinal Unconscious. He did not add to it or comment upon it in any way but merely quoted from Freud's books. As before, it was quite irrelevant.

The book became more and more steeped in the jargon of psychologists, and many of the sentences did not make sense.

"The work of Pavlov on Conditioned Reflexes," he said, "resembles that of the early Behaviorists in that mind does depend upon neither the attributed of wish fulfilment, nor the newly noted conditioned reflexes."

I puzzled over this sentence for a long time, then I shrugged my shoulders and read on.

"In this way," he continued, "and from these premises, supplemented by my own experience, I can assure the reader that coffee tastes much better if salt has been added."

Late that night I finished the book and discovered that in none of it had any ideas on belief been mentioned. To me the book was a meandering collection of long sentences. I threw it aside and went to sleep muttering about lunatics. In the morning I looked to see who had published the book.

"Printed at the Revolutionary Press (Inc.), publishers of Astrological, Occult, Mystical, Psychical and other books."

A few days later there was a book review in the local press.

"NEW IDEAS ON BELIEF FORMATION"—E. H. Brandygall.

It ran as follows:

"A book which should be of interest to the layman as well as the student. The author, with an expressionistic style and a wit suggestive of irony, reviews some of the problems of modern psychology. Far be it from us to wish to come to grips with the author, but it is felt some of his implied thoughts may not work in harmony with the American Way of Life. Be that as it may, we would recommend his book on beliefs to anyone who is interested in seeing their true perspective some of the problems which beset the modern world."

The review caused me to feel bewildered, and I wondered if perhaps he wasn't mad after all.

During the next week a letter appeared in the correspondence columns criticising Brandygall's work and echoing my own early sentiments by calling it "prattle and rubbish."

Six people immediately answered and one letter was from a sociologist at the State University who suggested that the critic be more tolerant of new ideas. A Methodist minister mentioned Brandygall in his sermon as a "contemporary Christian mystic." In a New York magazine was printed an article describing a Rationalist lecture at which belief formation had been dealt with. The speaker had never mentioned or even heard of Brandygall's book but most people connected the lecture with the book.

When questioned, a lecturer in psychology said that, although he had difficulty in interpreting the thoughts of this writer, he found he agreed with the bulk of his inferences, even though they were couched in obscure language. A fellow lecturer wrote an article on the book ridiculing it and the people who were taken in by it.

Students held a demonstration accusing this lecturer of conservatism toward new ideas; and a cartoon appeared in their magazine of the critical lecturer as an ostrich with his head in the sand. Later in the month an art magazine published a leading article on surrealist expression as a literary and aesthetic thought vehicle. In this article the sentences of Brandygall were compared to those of Gertrude Stein.

For a while there was a lull, but the book continued to be sold at all the bookshops in my town. The next development seemed to be a retraction against Brandygall and much hot correspondence took place in the newspapers. People called one another ignoramuses and some even talked of the "Principles of Psychology."

The correspondence went on for so long that a woman who was well known for her spiritualistic inclinations published a pamphlet called
"Brandygallism Explained." This was answered by several letters stating that the "Main Principles of his theory" had been omitted and gave the "correct interpretation." All this time nothing was heard of Brandygall himself.

An open letter was published by the same Occult Society and circulated all over the country. A lecturer challenged the women writer of "Brandygallism Explained" to a public debate on the subject "that Brandygall has made a new contribution to psychological knowledge." She accepted, and the debate took place in the Town Hall. It was well advertised and aroused quite a lot of interest, so that when I arrived at the Hall I noticed a large crowd outside waiting to enter.

The lecturer in his opening speech read many passages from the book and ridiculed them. He pointed out all the irrelevant remarks about salted coffee, as the ravings of a demented intellect. The woman replied by informing the lecturer that the remarks about coffee were just a few little jokes in the surrealist fashion upon sense perception, and that the mind was not demented but Great. It was only the conservatism of the age that prevented the ideas from taking immediate hold. She concluded by comparing the situation to that existing when the "Origin of Species" was first published. The judge gave the decision to the lecturer, but the audience, which consisted mostly of men, voted for the woman.

The debate acted only as a stimulus for the supporters of Brandygall. All over America in most of the large towns a Brandygallian Society of Ultimate Reality sprang up, and held weekly meetings. Business men were canvassed for financial support and they, on hearing of its semi-religious significance, paid up like frightened rabbits. And shortly after the publication of the second edition of the book, many psychologists labelled themselves Anti-Brandygallians. Even before the third edition came out, certain people believed that the gospel was being misinterpreted, and so the Neo-Brandygallian Guild was formed."

Here I interrupted my friend to ask him how it had all ended.

"It hasn't ended," he replied, "probably in America it's still going on."

"Well," I said, "how did it end for you?"

He smiled. "For me," he said, grinning broadly, "it ended when I left America—or rather when I saw this."

He handed me a faded yellow cutting from a newspaper. I began to read:

"A man whose identity is unknown was arrested this morning for causing a disturbance in a City thoroughfare. When searched, all that was found was a watch bearing the initials E.H.B. He has been certified insane."

BRIAN BELL

FIVE POEMS

I

THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS

The model railway, big as a garden,
Running by paths, streams, leafy trees,
And electric smoke that offends no-one,
So that the journeys and movements and tickets
And whistles and signals—red above green—
Are real, so real (more real than the dull,
Gritty, inhibited railways we know),
And the Dance of the Flutes always there in the background!

All the same, I think I can remember
The downhill stretch from Avene
When I'd stand outside on the end carriage
Watching the rails shoot out behind
And the sides of the cutting go higher and higher;
And I think I would say to myself just then,
"All railways are good, if you treat them right,"
And I think I still agree.
The Spike

II

TIME TO GO HOME

The willow waves;
The white sand is cold now;
The day is over.
No weeping willow—
These the wistful willows are
That wave as
The sea-breeze dies away.

The children cry out;
Their voices have that long echo
As the sun goes.
The green weed lies
And the boats are coming back home,
Up-harbour on the tide,
With the soft-dying sea-breeze.

If you wait long enough
Some day will be
Like summer by the beach—
The summer sun,
The gay children watching, playing,
Under their mother’s eye.

III

MYTH-COUNTRY

The wicked witch of Northcote
Has flowers and trees to hide her gate—
Small, climbing roses
And the mad geranium.

She only knows one human tongue,
And used it till a while ago
In speaking to an aged man
Who lived across the road.

Now he’s dead and there’s no-one worthy.
She lives with her dog Woofy and the cats,
Geraniums growing wild,
Nasturtiums in the field,

Willows are poking up out of the gutters,
The chimney black and tall and crooked,
The paint fallen from the roof,
The glass from all the windows:

I wouldn’t walk up that crooked path
With roses hanging from the trees
For all the wild and sweet geraniums
Ever witches grew!
THE SPIKE

IV

MORNING

When the painter takes his brush,
When the heart its colours knows
And then the sounds begin to weave
The harmonies of their intent,
The man puts by his sorry work,
The woman lays her cares aside;
In the dance of sexual harmony
They speak the contented words:

"Oh whispering-grass beneath the orange trees,
You shiver there in the shrill, hot wind;
It shakes you into green shivering-grass,
Whispering of the white flecks on your stems.

You rise into the golden glowing orange;
You pet the crimson poppy with your growth;
The black-brown twigs of the orange tree
Crumble away as the sap is turned to juice.

Oh whispering shivering-grass in the clover bed,
You comfort the creeping, little columbine:
All the life beneath the tree watches you!"

V

FOR THOSE ESPECIALLY BEWILDERED

BY THE SPRING

Those painted poppies on the wall
And wilting tulips in theatre tubs,
The 'Hands off!' of the society troll
And the intimate sweetness of her smile,
The foolish compassion of the theatre dame
Who wished compassion for any girl
Who had come to grief, the packed flowers
Stacked high in the coloured shops for sale
And the careful vandalism of a child
Who, like my friend, cried 'Cissy!' for gazing
at the flowers;

The fingering-over of the books in the stall
And their ever-smoother, brighter, jackets,
The ruthlessness behind the smile
Of the prize-winner taking her toll
Of human love and human greed
And of herself, and even the small
Bewildered grief of those bereaved,
In the forest, where the wild flowers grow tall
In the fallow grass, and the animals gay
And hidden run and cry and call
And the stately river flows by supplejack and
pale clematis:

Is this just the city? or are even all
The corners of the earth affected too?
Do our country cousins smile?
Smile at the sunset? laugh at the storm?
I would not expect an answer, for you tell
That the best would never hear the question
And the worst have never known the fall,
And the rest of us make up this majority,
Who thus cannot ask of ourselves and still expect
an answer.

P. S. WILSON
The Spike

THREE POEMS

I

NIGHTWALKERS ON THE BEACH

Sealift and hoodover of slate sky
On the sands the scramble of surf
On the upthrust, weevilled rocks, waves lurch.

Wayover sky the wind ravels clouds,
Our bodies in fathoms of air reach
Offshore to seafringe beyond the beach.

Seasurge and cloudsurf and we between,
Waiting for the big one, the seventh,
The arbiter of tidal strength.

And there is certain, tidal turn
Knowing always where it’s going,
And we on the beach, what are we doing?

II

AFTER

That long and upward saunter through the pines,
Heart in heart we walked back over the dam
And stumbled over the roots that lined.
The track like veins, the spurs ahead
Fitted like fingers and bled slow streams.

All that was gold of the day was mined,
The wind’s cadenza through the trees
Was our signature in air;
But evening put a stop to singing
Though bloods’s song echoes now
And still is mine.

III

RAIN AT NIGHT

A FRAGMENT

Like a dull ache the weather wakes
The old nocturnal spell;
The boy lying in bed
The wind knocking the wall
And the rain on the roof of the shed.

Calls back the dead who calendar my grief
Each with his sheaf of memories;
The man who was always grumpy,
Walked with a stick, kept a dog,
Died of a stroke on a dull day.

LYSTER PAUL
The Spike

TWO POEMS

I

COLD SKY

There can be no birth under this sky,
The clear blue sky whose cold air
Cuts the remote hill from the harbour,
Defines the cabbage-tree
Portrays the willow as a simple silhouette.

It is not in this sky's power
To make the sap rise—
The sky knows nothing;
The sterile sky cannot create one leaf,
The sky cannot create one flower.

It is not here
That the trees and hills are linked
Beneath the drifting smoke of summer,
Or where the cold hard sand upon the endless beaches
Is warmed and sifted
And a thousand worlds run into one;
Not here does the mirage appear
Upon the scrubby plain,
Nor the quivering air take form above the land.

There can be no birth
Under the breath of the dismissing sun,
There can be no birth beneath this sky.

II

MEETING IN AUTUMN

I have been waiting long
In this place,
As still myself as the buildings
And the bare tree opposite
Grey in the falling rain.

Only my mind
Moves out among the lifeless,
Crosses the street—
I hear the splashing of my footsteps
Sounding by the distant walls.

And still the rain drips,
Drips from the walls and from the trees,
Streams down the gutters
And down the far off mountain side.

Here where all is washed by rain
The memories of yesterday
One with tomorrow's images,
Flow past my feet,
Flow past my ebbing self.

And so why is it when you come
I return again into my narrow doorway,
And shaking off the drops of rain,
Inquire why you are late?

Lorna Clendon
THREE POEMS

I

CALM EVENING

This night alone the pines are still
And the wind will not stir
One bird’s light plumage where
It sleeps. And hardly even fall.

From the hedges garbled night-time
Murmurs of song. Clouds
Stand over trees like crowds
Of mourners. Over the near hill climb.

The shattered towers of trees
Beneath the sultry sky
Life, breath and movement die.
The sleeping bird is utterly at peace.

II

TAUPO

At evening this metallic lake will yield
Reluctant beauty to the determined tourist
Gazing from the bank in shorts and sandals,

Or fish to fishermen, to those who stand
Eight in a row within the slanting sunlight,
Knee-deep in water, taking on her nature,

Or, on its long and wandering shore will lease
Enchanted bays to caravanning couples,
Parcelled in campsments, tree’s remove from neighbours,

And finally, for those in car and bus,
Parched by the dusty roads and tired by travel
She’ll give the last hotel for ninety miles.

III

INTERIOR

Two candles lit a gleaming autumn room.
Remnants of coffee-cups, and a tall bright jug,
The silver candlesticks, lent to the gloom
The light of resting apples, the finely spun
Glimmer of cool stored wine. Out in the day
Rain fell, and branches, while the low sky pressed
These and the room to the near anonymous clay
Where all is quietness and told in hushed
Bright whispers. There as the smoke disturbed
The glossy ceiling, we were like gnomes who drank
A wine of silence, underneath a hill. To speak
The lovely words, the weighty ponderous words
Echoed but the timely earth, and stepped
Past sorrow to the delicate ways of death.

W. H. OLIVER
THE FIRST YEARS OF THE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

The Victoria College Students' Society is the students' representative body, which acts in all negotiations between the students and the professors, College Councils, etc. To the Society all the athletic and social clubs are affiliated. The business is carried on by an Executive Committee appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

The following is a short history of the Society:

On Saturday, 6th May, 1899, a meeting of the students of Victoria College was held at the Girls' High School, Professor Macraurin in the chair. At this meeting it was decided to form a Students' Society in connection with the College, and a Committee was set up to draft a set of rules, and report to a general meeting of the students, to be held within the next fortnight. This meeting was held on the 16th May, and at it the first Committee of the Students' Society was elected as follows:—

President: Mr. J. Prenderville
Vice-Presidents: Miss M. A. Blair
                Mr. S. W. Fitzherbert
Secretary: Mr. J. E. Patrick
Treasurer: Miss M. Fleming
           Mr. K. Kirkaldie
Committee: Misses Ross, Greenfield, and Reid, Messrs Hutchinson, Stout, Logan, and Charters.

It was decided that the Patron of the Society each year should be the Chairman of the Professorial Board, and for 1899 Professor Macraurin was elected to that position.

It was decided at the same meeting that the newly elected Committee should frame rules for a Debating Society. On the 3rd June, 1899, the maiden debate was held, and the first Debating Society Committee was elected the same evening.

On the 24th May the Society entertained the students at a concert and dance, which was such a success that a ball was held in the Sydney Street Schoolroom on the 18th July.

At a meeting held soon after, a resolution was passed to the effect that the students strongly protest against the Ministerial residence in Takanori Road as a site for the College, and a copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Victoria College Council.

At a Committee meeting held on the 14th September it was decided that a Sub-Committee should wait on Mr. Hogg, M.H.R., to obtain through him an introduction to the Government, from whom it might ask permission to use the Parliamentary tennis courts. Permission was obtained, and the Committee elected the first College Tennis Committee. On April 24th, 1900, at the second annual meeting, a motion was carried that the Tennis Club be constituted a separate body.

In this second year the students were entertained by the Society at several social functions.

The College colours were fixed as brown and yellow, but they have since been changed to the present maroon and pale blue.

Last year, 1901, a great deal of work was done. Undoubtedly the most important undertaking was the successful carrying out of the arrangements for the Inter-College Tournament, an account of which appears on another page.

The students were entertained at the usual dance at the beginning of the year, at a dance on Diploma Day and later on in the year at a euchre party and dance.

On the day of the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, the students marched to the stand given them by the Reception Committee, wearing cap and gown, and carrying a banner on which, in bold letters, was inscribed, "We have eyes, but no site."

This year, for the first time, the Committee was photographed. It is a matter for regret that this was not done in the two previous years, as the array of photographs of each year's Committee would be of the greatest interest to the students of future generations.

For the first time, too, an effort was made to suitably celebrate Diploma Day of 1902; the Committee offering a prize of half a guinea for the best poem suitable for the occasion.

In March, 1902, "Horace at Athens" was acted at the College to raise funds for the Easter Tournament, and a substantial credit balance was one of its results.

This year we have commenced to publish a College magazine, which we expect to meet with the support it deserves.

Various minor matters have also been undertaken successfully for the benefit of the students by the Society during the three and a half years of its infancy.

IN RETROSPECT

I

The invitation to write a message for the Jubilee number of The Spike gives me the opportunity to express a thing that has for years been present in my mind. It is the realisation of the great help that I have always received from students whether they were taking my subject or not. The friendliness and confidence they have always shown, the freedom with which many of them have discussed their problems have constituted much of the pleasure of life and to the students of those many years I express my gratitude.

Mutual understanding between teachers and students marked the College from its earliest days. The four foundation professors on their arrival from overseas were awaited by a body of men and women eager to enter upon a university career. A considerable proportion of them were somewhat older than first year students usually are and not a few had high ideals and the purpose to carry them into effect. Professors and students founded a College in which academic aim and lofty purposes were to go hand-in-hand. So successful were they that it can be truly said that there has not been a year from the foundation of the College until now in which many men and women of cultured intellect and noble purpose have not gone forth from the doors of the College to take their fitting place in the world.

In its first half-century the College has made healthy and vigorous growth and it can offer many advantages to the student of today. Its buildings, although already outgrown, are such as men can work in: its library is well-ordered, and is growing rapidly: there is a keen and devoted staff: there are many scholarships and other benefactions founded by men of wealth and goodwill: and, above and beyond, there is a tradition of earnest purpose. In the world’s fight for freedom its men and women have played a very gallant part. Let the students of today and of the days that follow be true to this tradition and the College will become as great and noble as any seat of learning ever has been.

H. B. KIRK,
Professor of Biology,
1903-1944.

Tauranga, 2 April, 1948

II

Some things stand out very clearly in my memory of seven years at Victoria College: years which were of quite exceptional interest in the history of the College, and of great importance in my own life.

I came to the College in its tenth year (1908), which was rather more significantly, I think—the third year of its occupancy of its own home on the Kelburn "Old Clay Patch." I was the first of the second generation of professors; and certainly the first who could look quite objectively at the College-in-being, and yet know it, in a very real sense, from its earliest years.

I had come from experience—in Scotland and England—of two of the ancient British Universities, to what was then one of the youngest and smallest of such institutions; and my most vivid impression is of pristine freshness and loveliness in the corporate personal life of the College ("lovely and pleasant in their lives")—which is comparable, in my memory, only to the glory of the virgin bush, as I first saw it at Ohakune (when the Main Trunk Line went through, in 1908), and in South Island "hikes" of sorts, with Easterfield, down the Buller and as far as the Franz Josef Glacier and the Waiho River on the wonderland West Coast of the South Island.

If that reads like hyperbole of exaggeration, my answer is that it describes something that has remained part of my own life: a unique experience in half-a-century of university life in four different countries, and an oft-told tale of my later years.

If an explanation of the phenomenon is sought, it is to be found in quite exceptional leadership of the student bodies and the happy relationship of the student leaders with their professorial seniors. The men were round about my own age: part-time students, with stretched-out courses—or recent graduates, employed in the city, who were fired by intense enthusiasm about having a college of their own and keen to make of it all they wanted it to be. They had with them women of the same calibre (if not of quite the same age!) and of immense capacity for unselfish service of the
common good; and they were bringing on a younger generation in the tradition they had shaped. (One of the quondam "colts" is now the honoured and distinguished Chancellor of the University.) They took me into their "charmed circle," and—often with great glee—taught me much about the College I could not otherwise have known.

The quality of it all was conspicuous in the tone and spirit of the College social functions—as of a happy and well-bred family: in particular, the College "Carnivals"—something of which has been captured and preserved in the verse of The Old Clay Patch (of which I have subscribers' copies, but also one—specially bound—presented to me by V.U.C.S.A. in 1914. The two Editors were—and I hope still are—my very dear friends.) Very vivid in my memory is the last (I think) of these I saw: of which the framework was South Polar exploration. In one scene, a well-known Wellington dental graduate, operating in primitive fashion on the hair of a humble member of the "crew," was challenged by him with the agonized cry—"Are you cuttin' my hair or drorin' my teeth?"—quite up to London Punch standard!

I remained long enough in Wellington to see this "morning glory" begin to "fade into the light of common day" (inevitably, I suppose). But its influence on myself—in my subsequent task of steering the course of a college, within a great University in a sister Dominion—could hardly be exaggerated; and something of that same influence remains, I gather, as an inner glow in the continuing life of Victoria College.

The other main feature of my memories of Victoria University College is less happy, but no less significant. It began with the shock of realizing all that was involved in the examination system of the University of New Zealand, at that time. (If I had looked into this carefully before applying for the Chair of Mathematics, I would probably not have proceeded with my application.) My experience had been of examinations utterly subordinate in university education; and it was quite impossible for me to take any other view; so I was a rebel against that system right from the start—and almost at once in the firing line of the conflict (provoked into self-defence).

Professor Laby joined up in 1909—firing his first shots at the system, quite characteristically, in a Press interview in Sydney on his way out. (He was Australian, and knew the situation.) Soon after his arrival he and Professors von Zedlitz and Hunter were planning the campaign of concerted action. We launched out University Reform Association in 1910, with strong public support, and with seven members of the Professorial Board (including its Chairman, that year Professor Kirk) on the working committee (about half its number); Professor Hunter was Hon. Secretary; Professor Easterfield, Hon. Treasurer. It was all-important that Professor Hunter—himself a product of the system—was the most active member of the Association. I became identified with the originating three in a kind of "spearhead" stormtroops, having developed (rather to my own surprise) some capacity for the art of Press controversy.

The eventual triumphant success of the Reform movement stands out clearly in Beaglehole's Historical Study of the University of New Zealand, and in the subsequent leading role of Professor Hunter in both the College and the University. What is not there on record, is the intensive education it meant for ourselves in the true "idea of a university" and in the working out of that idea. That, and the experience of being Chairman of the Professorial Board in my last two and a half years (I "acted" for Professor Hunter in the second half of 1912, and handled the "reformers" end of the business for the unique Professorial Conference in November of that year), proved to be quite ideal training, for what I did not know then was to be my main life's work—of University education and administration. (Some years later, it was an immense satisfaction to write, at Professor Hunter's request, a review of the Report of the 1925 Royal Commission on the University, which recommended most of the reforms we had battled for.)

In the work of my own Chair: our supply, at that time, of students adequately grounded in Mathematics was far too meagre; but the experience of having to teach (unaided in the actual teaching) over a very wide range of pure and applied mathematics (fortunately not all required in the same year!) was invaluable to me in the investigations of ground-work, in which I am specially interested. I am at present writing up work which was begun in those days—so that Victoria University College is an integral part of my life, in that very real sense also.

But there was not then, in Wellington, sufficient opportunity for either Professor Laby or myself to do the work for which we were, respectively, specially suited; and we were fortunate that such opportunity did, in fact, open up for us elsewhere. It is perhaps significant that the friendship and collaboration we began in Wellington deepened and strengthened till he died in 1946, and that this meant more to each of us than our several relationships of the kind with many other men. The closeness of our partnership came to be taken as a matter of course in Melbourne; and it was fully shared in by our wives, who came both from Wellington families. One competent academic observer made the comment that we had rounded off our service to the Reform movement by our departure from the scene of action at just the right moment!

One of my last duties, as Chairman of the Professorial Board, was to make arrangements (on Reform lines) for the appointment of my successor in the Chair of Mathematics; and the event proved that that, at least, had been well
The Spike

To the College, and all old friends and colleagues, we send cordial greetings, and warmest felicitations, on this auspicious occasion.

D. K. PICKEN
Professor of Mathematics in Victoria University College, 1908-14; Master of Ormond College, University of Melbourne, 1915-43.

I have to thank the Principal of Victoria College for this opportunity of communicating (per medium of The Spike) with old students and to assure them of my continued interest in them and their work. May they all go forward to enlighten the minds, strengthen the bodies, and cheer the spirits of a clientele well worthy of their best efforts.

The period ending in the Jubilee of Victoria College has been a vitally important one for the teaching profession. At the beginning of the century the University had little to offer the teacher beyond the cultural subjects of the ordinary degree Course. While the doctor and the lawyer had special professional schools the teacher had to be content with Mental and Moral Philosophy, the only subject that directly touched the fundamentals of his Trade.

It is true that one of the accepted text books was Sully’s “Outlines of Psychology with special reference to Education” (1884). In his preface the author says “If the teacher approaches the subject of Mental Science with the supposition that it is going to open up to him a short and easy road to his professional qualifications he will be disappointed.” He was disappointed because the course was too narrow and the treatment too academic. A great improvement was ensured by the later addition “Experimental Psychology,” which was introduced first in Victoria College.

The move to have Education made a definite University subject was naturally opposed on the grounds that the already strained finances of the Colleges could not reasonably bear the added cost. Mr George Hogben, who was then Inspector General of Schools, arranged for the Education Department to finance the scheme—the Principals of the four Training Colleges were appointed lecturers in Education, a syllabus arranged, and the new subject started in 1910. Later provision was made for a “Diploma of Education” on lines somewhat more technical than those of the Pass course. This arrangement, however, proved quite unsatisfactory owing to the double work entailed and the large number of students. (Victoria College had 300 in the Educational class). In 1924 the Education Department again generously provided the funds and four Professors of Education were appointed and the Principals of the Training Colleges relieved of the University work.

So far “Education” had been confined to the “Pass” stage, but, having now attained full recognition for M.A. and Honours, much discussion arose as to the scope and limits of such a course entailing, as it did, alleged overlapping with old established subjects. Professor Sully had contended that an elementary knowledge of Psychology was the only pre-requisite to his course. If Education is a preparation for life it must touch on all its aspects and in turn be itself modified by them. Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Ethics, Art and History should therefore all play their part—the emphasis placed on such being determined largely by the outlook of the teacher. Critics did, and still may, dub this Education syllabus a Farrago. Such it might be, were it not dominated by the silver thread of its purpose—the understanding of the development of a human life through its environment, heredity, needs, aspirations and possibilities. The teaching profession in New Zealand is indeed fortunate in having the opportunities offered by such a syllabus, supplemented as it is by the assistance provided by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research and its local Institutes. It is to be hoped that our teachers will avail themselves more of the help of this Council. Are we merely preaching a counsel of perfection? Many contend that the University has little to do with the training of the teacher, but surely of all professions, this is the one that should not be confined to the narrow limits of a purely technical institution! University life provides one in which the student rubs shoulders with the keenest minds in all professions. Both church and school may suffer grievously from a narrow outlook. This fact, I presume, accounts for the recent appointment of a barrister as head of Rugby school. University training is a means, not an end, and when the graduate goes out to his life’s work, the school should naturally become his laboratory and his pupils material for intimate study and understanding. How many lives have
been wasted through lack of that understanding on the part of parents, teachers and employers! We rightly place much of this responsibility on the teacher because he has been trained for the purpose of preventing this wastage. "Democratic Government postulates citizens, enlightened, free, honest and patriotic" (Amiel)—if that postulate fails in any respect such Government becomes a dangerous farce. Our country rightly looks to the teaching professions to prepare such citizens—the most effective bulwark in a torn and bewildered world.

J. S. TENNANT
Professor of Education, 1920-1926

IV

FROM THE RUSTIC QUIET of a country town I look back on the bustling earnest life of my Alma Mater with considerable nostalgia, but realise that such an institution is essentially one for youth.

The thousands of students who have passed through Victoria University College in the past fifty years have amply justified the establishment of what was considered in the late nineteenth century to be a luxury scarcely justified at the time, but the Cinderella of the University Colleges has produced scholars, scientists, lawyers, and administrators who have more than held their own in the promotion of culture in the British Commonwealth.

To me the most vivid memory of the College is that of the opening days of the session for the year—with hundreds of eager young students ready to take large helpings of what an American writer many years ago described as the one thing in the world which you can take without anyone else being the poorer—education. In that phrase he struck the keynote of what appears to me to be the essential of life—no one can receive education without radiating that education to his fellows. We must put more into life than we take out of it, otherwise the nation will be bankrupt. Service to the community must go hand in hand with individual ambition—the highest ambition must be the community welfare.

This seems to be contrary to the ideas that are very widespread at the present time; the dominant idea of a large section of the community which makes the New Zealand nation, seems to be to take as much out of the pool and give as little back as possible.

If in a football team there are some who do not give of their best, the team must lose unless the remainder do more than their share. So it is in the nation. Unless we can develop the idea of doing our best, not for ourselves alone, but for the nation, the next generation will be poorer than the present; we shall be living on capital. This must be one of the most important missions of the University—to preach and practise the doctrine, "Give your best; don't be afraid that someone may make a little extra profit out of your extra effort."

A good farmer loves his land, and his aim is to see his farm constantly improving as a result of his work; at the end of his life his pride is that his farm is better as a result of what he had put into it. So it should be with the nation; we are all farmers, and our farm is our country. At the end of life—and life is short—let us ask ourselves the question: is New Zealand any better off for our having lived? If the answer is positive, we can close our eyes in peace.

F. P. WILSON
Professor of History 1921-1934

Levin
GREETINGS

I

TO VICTORIA COLLEGE, WELLINGTON
THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT ANDREWS IN SCOTLAND
sends hearty greeting

IN CONGRATULATING YOU on a successful career
of fifty years since the foundation of the college,
we take special pleasure in the fact that we know
that it was the lot of our former alumni, John
Rankin Brown and Hugh MacKenzie, to be present
in your college at its birth and at its maturity:
thus it has happened that the love of liberal studies
and philosophy implanted in Scotsmen from old
flourished anew among men separated from us by
the whole earth.

Now, because in cherishing them you cherish
this their alma mater, we find such pleasure that
we feel not that we are sending this letter as it
were to men unknown, or known only by hear-say,
but that in a spirit of almost brotherly affection
we are greeting friends and relations. Farewell.

(Signed) JAMES IRVINE,
Vice-Chancellor

Given at Saint Andrews
18th February, 1948

II

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Office of the President
October 21, 1947

Dear Professor Hunter,

It is indeed a privilege to send most
cordial greetings and felicitations from the Massa-
chusetts Institute of Technology to Victoria
University College in recognition of the occasion
of its semi-centennial. Your own institution and
this Institute are bound together not merely by
a common purpose in the education of young
people for service of a distinctive character, but
also in a more intimate personal way because of
our joint appreciation of the great service and our
cherished memories of Richard Cockburn Ma-
laurin, whose name is an honoured one in each
institution.

During his relatively brief but extremely brilliant
career as an educational leader, Dr Maclaurin
first served your college in New Zealand ably and
nobly by helping to establish its principles and its
ideals of operation, and later on the other side of
the globe he had a distinguished and extra-
ordinary career as the President and one of the
great builders of the Massachusetts Institute of
Technology.

Dr Maclaurin, ably assisted by his charming
wife, brought to America a breadth of view and
freshness of outlook that were notable and in-
vigorating, reflecting the energy and hopefulness
of your splendid land. His soundness of learning,
his judgment, his capacity for friendship, and his
ability to influence and to command the service
of other great men of character in his new endeav-
ours stamped him as a man of great personality,
extraordinary vision, and high executive ability.
In yielding him to us in America your institution
performed an international service for which we
shall ever be grateful. Under his presidency the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology not only
greatly increased its physical plant and its financial
and spiritual resources, but also broadened its
influence in the scientific world and the respect in
which it was held in lands beyond the sea.

In the dark days of the first World War when
perplexing problems arose as to how college
students should be trained to render the best service
to their country, Dr Maclaurin’s patriotism, know-
ledge of world needs, and capacity for leader-
ship were again exhibited in his work in the
establishment of the Student Army Training Corps
in American colleges.

It is therefore with a deep and affectionate
regard that the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-
ology sends across the Pacific its greetings, its
felicitations, and its best wishes that your College
may have a long, happy, and ever expanding
success in its service to human welfare, and in its
many fields of educational endeavour.

In writing as one of the successors of Dr
Maclaurin as the head of this great school for
which he gave so much of his splendid energy and
devotion, let me add my personal tribute to your
great college, and my personal wish that it will
enter upon its second half century with constantly
growing success and increasing influence in
education and human relationships.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) KARL T. COMPTON,
President.
**The Spike**

**III**

*Master's Lodge,*  
*St John's College,*  
*Cambridge,*  
*8 October, 1947*

Dear Principal,

It is a great pleasure to my College to send a message to the Victoria University College on the happy occasion of its Jubilee. We take much pride in remembering that a Fellow of St John's, Richard Cockburn Maclaurin, was one of the four foundation Professors of the Victoria University College, linking us with your earliest days. He came to us after graduating at the University of New Zealand and had in Cambridge a career of high academical merit, both as mathematician and lawyer, becoming successively a Scholar, a MacMahon Law Student and a Fellow of the College, and winning distinction in the University as a Wrangler, a Smith's Prizeman, and a Yorke Prizeman.

The work of the foundation Professors was well done and we most cordially congratulate the Victoria University College on the achievements of its first fifty years, on the distinguished scholars whom it has educated and the high position to which it has attained. And with our congratulations we send out best wishes that the College may ever prosper and increase as a place of education, learning and research and continue as in the past to render high service to New Zealand and the Commonwealth.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. A. BENJANS, Master

**IV**

*Worcester College,*  
*Oxford,*  
*31st January, 1948*

The Provost and Fellows of Worcester College, Oxford, at their stated general meeting on 3rd December, 1947, unanimously passed a resolution to send a message of congratulation and goodwill to Victoria University College, Wellington, New Zealand, on the occasion of its Jubilee Celebrations.

The Provost and Fellows remember the distinguished academic record of Sir John Rankine Brown, K.B.E., L.L.D., M.A., sometime Scholar of Worcester College and are proud to think that he was the first Professor of Classics at Victoria University College and that he devoted his abilities to the promotion of Classical studies in New Zealand.

The Provost and Fellows therefore send to Victoria University College, Wellington, New Zealand, their congratulations on its Jubilee and their warm good wishes for its future fame and prosperity.

(Signed)  
J. C. MASTERMAN, Provost.  
P. E. ROBERTS, Vice-Provost.  
C. H. WILKINSON, Dean.

**V**

*University of Glasgow*

The University of Glasgow has heard with great pleasure that in March, 1949, the Victoria University College of Wellington will celebrate its Jubilee. The University desires to send to Victoria University College a message of greeting and of most cordial wishes.

The University recalls the intimate association of Scotland with the Dominion of New Zealand, and especially the part taken by graduates of the Scottish Universities in building the Colleges and University of New Zealand. Of that association, one fortunate example is the service of Sir John Rankine Brown, a Foundation Professor of the University College and its first Professor of Classics, who assumed his long duty in Wellington after a period of service in the University of Glasgow. The University rejoices also that the Victoria University College and its sister Colleges have amply paid the dues of their nurture, and that they have notably advanced the education, scholarship and science of the Dominion and of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Sharing in the tradition which inspires Victoria University College and facing in its own land the same high tasks, the University of Glasgow congratulates the College on the achievement of the first fifty years, and wishes for it a long and happy and distinguished future in the promotion of good learning and of a wise and enlightened citizenship.

(Signed)  
HECTOR HETHERINGTON, Principal.  
C. J. FORDYCE, Clerk of Senate.
I send Victoria College, Wellington, my warm congratulations on the attainment of its Jubilee, and wish it a prosperous future in the long years ahead.

This message is not unconnected with the memory of the late Richard MacLaurin, who was one of the foundation professors of the College. We were contemporaries at Cambridge University, where we became close friends and where, from him, I first heard of Victoria College.

Subsequently, when I was in a position of some influence in South Africa, I did my best to entice him to South Africa, but the competing claims of the Massachussetts Institute of Technology carried the day, and he became President of that great Institution. He was a great figure in the scientific and University world, and added lustre to whatever institution he was connected with.

And with his memory I join that of another great New Zealand man with whom I formed a later friendship, Ernest Rutherford, one of the supermen of science. My recollection and friendship of these great men blend with the name of Victoria College, to which I send my respectful and sincere salutations on this milestone in its career.

If I may also speak on behalf of our old University of Cambridge and of the University of Cape Town, of both of which I have the honour to be Chancellor, I would add their congratulations and good wishes as well to Victoria College.

(Signed) SMUTS
Reports on Experience

THE LIBRARY

Neither Queen Victoria, who gave the infant college a name, nor Dick Seddon, who gave it "a local habitation," could fairly be described as bookish; and so it was natural enough that the first students should be left to stagger along without a Library. Something was done by enthusiastic teachers to fill the gap; but it was not until 1906 that the College Council was able to provide an annual grant for the purchase of books and periodicals, and five more years were to slip away before the name of a librarian appeared in the Calendar. But, if the funds were small, they were now regular; and the librarian was a man with a mission: in these respects the royal college was better off than any of its sisters, and gained a lead that it has never lost. Twenty years after the appointment of Horace Ward as librarian, the two distinguished authorities who prepared a survey of New Zealand Libraries for the Carnegie Corporation of New York were able to declare that Victoria had "by far" the best of the university libraries.

The first librarian was a formidable figure. As he sat at his raised desk in the centre of the old reading room, wearing a neat grey suit and a clerical collar and a little black skull-cap and reading a Greek Testament or a copy of the Modern Churchman, he gave the place something of the air of a seminary. Few seminaries indeed can ever have been half so quiet; for movement was discouraged and "communication" of every sort—not simply speech—between reader and reader was strictly forbidden. Offenders against the rules were quietly invited to accompany the Librarian to his little room beside the main entrance and seldom emerged unshaken. By a combination of quiet persistance, and then brutality, the reign of quiet was established and preserved. In those circumstances only a serious student ever dreamt of entering the reading room, to take a book out was an act that required a certain counting of the cost, to fail to return it by the due date required a courage or a carelessness that set a man apart from ordinary peace-loving mortals. Even members of the teaching staff were made to toe the line.

No doubt it was overdone; but quietness is a good thing and hard to come by, and in this, as in other ways, Horace Ward served well the cause of learning. If he was irascible, he was also very conscientious, and worked hard and well for a very small salary. When he resigned, at the end of 1927, he left the library in good running order; the number of readers had risen to over 400 and there were 21,000 books on the shelves.

Four years after the appointment of the present librarian, i.e., in 1932, the library was transformed by the intervention of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which not only enabled the librarian to go abroad for a year to study library methods but provided 25,000 dollars for the purchase of books. As a result the library was reorganized, the staff was increased and books and periodicals began to flow into the college on quite a new scale. When the grants of the Carnegie Corporation were exhausted fresh funds became available from the A. R. Atkinson and the Alexander Crawford bequests, which maintained the new rate of expansion for a number of years; and, when they were nearing exhaustion, an increased Government grant did something to make good the loss. We are now feeling, as a result of both a vast increase in the number of students and also a considerable increase in the number of subjects taught, the need for a much greater income; but, whether we obtain this or not, we now have a library of which our City and Province may well be proud. Between 1927 and 1947 the annual expenditure on books and periodicals grew from £600 to £3,300, the staff grew from two to ten, the number of borrowers grew from 400 to 1,500, the number of books borrowed in a year from 3,000 to 23,000. We have at present a collection of nearly 70,000 carefully selected books.

Up to 1932 the selection of books was confined very strictly to the subjects that were dealt with in the courses of lectures offered in the College, and the funds were divided equally between departments; but the Carnegie grants were given us expressly to enable us to venture into new fields and to allocate our funds according to the needs of each subject. It would be hard to exaggerate the importance of these changes. I think indeed that it may be quite freely said that the Carnegie Corporation and its advisers gave us a new conception of the library.

But we have had other benefactors, some of them very notable. From the libraries of A. R. Atkinson, D. E. Beaglehole, R. F. Blair, Sir Robert Stout and J. V. Turnbull we were able to select, in each case, between one and two thousand volumes in the fields of literature and history and politics; from W. J. McEldowney we received, in addition to valuable gifts in other fields, a very
extensive collection of pre-Revolution American archives; from Sir Robert Stout we received a superb collection (1,100 items) of pamphlets relating to the early history of New Zealand; from Horace Filides we received a very large and valuable collection of books and pamphlets relating to New Zealand and the Pacific; from Alexander Crawford we received £2,000 and from A. R. Atkinson we have so far received £2,400 for the purchase of books and periodicals. In addition to these we have received gifts from a long line of benefactors, together making a large and valuable addition to our resources.

We have done well; but, it is still only a beginning. We still need generous benefactions to carry us forward to the time when we shall be able to nourish those researches which are the life-blood not merely of any great university but of any great community.

At the end of that brief autobiography in which he describes the founding of the great library at Oxford that bears his name, Sir Thomas Bodley says, "I found myself furnished in a competent proportion of such fewer kinds of aydes as, unless I had them all, there was no hope of good success: for without some kind of knowledge, as well in the learned and moderne tongues as in the sundry other sorts of scholastical literature, with some purse habilitie to go through with the Charge, without very great store of honourable friends to further the designe, and without speciall good leasure to follow such a work, it could but have proved a vayne attempt and inconsiderate." Well, however it may be with the other three, we shall need a "great store of honourable friends," and I take this opportunity to appeal for them.

May I suggest that old students should help—as, for example, our old friend W. J. McEldowney has helped and continues to help us—along the line of their special interests. Some few will be able to help us in a large way, by gifts of special collections; but many a man or woman will be able to help us in a small way, by giving us a single copy of a really good book or by paying a subscription of a single periodical. When I was in the United States, a good many years ago, I spent a morning with Mr Andrew Keogh in that stupendous library of Yale University; and I was particularly impressed with his story of the way in which old students of the university had helped to improve the collections of books. The building no doubt was the gift of a millionaire, but all over the United States there were old students who had made it their business to watch over a small or a large section of the library and to help in its extension. Might it not be so with us? We have begun well; is there any reason why we should not go on to become the Bodleian or the Yale of New Zealand?

H. G. MILLER

MUSIC

A LECTURESHIP in Music was established in 1946. The Music syllabus takes students through to Stage III of the B.A. degree and to the Mus.B. degree. The syllabus is the same as that for the other University Colleges in New Zealand, which seems to be an adaptation of the course set by examiners in London up to about 1930. The course for the Mus.B. degree was set out at Oxford in 1862 by Sir Frederick Ouseley (whose church music can still be heard at the Cathedral in Christchurch), and modified by Sir Hugh Allen in 1918; at Cambridge it was set out by Sir Charles Stanford in 1887. The course that has been taken over is academic; it has been assumed that what suits the English amateur, the English oratorio composer, the English organist seeking a post in one of the cathedrals, is still the course for our students. The odd gifted music-student who has a talent for composition has had to adapt himself to the syllabus, 1862-model. The argument seems to be that if we could only seal him up and prevent him from hearing any music written since the founding of the college in 1899, all might still be well, but music has broken out into territory well-known to students, but still unmapped by theorists.

Brave attempts have been made, notably by Hindemith, to bring the new music in line with academic practise, or rather to search for valid rules for the art of music.

To the question, why do you want to study music at the University? students usually give one of these answers: they want a unit for their B.A., they want to know something about harmony and counterpoint, they want to establish themselves in their jobs at the N.B.S.; and occasionally one nearly says because I like music, and is too reticent to say it.

Something that we can do for him is to give him as good a training in his craft as we can, to show him that technique, as a recent writer has put it, "can be studied only in terms of the period under discussion, that what is 'wrong' for one period may be 'right' for another." This means of course that he had better acquaint himself with as much music as he can; that he had better sound for himself bar 9 of the Andante of Mozart's Piano Concerto K.488 and recognise what Mozart is doing, than lard his work with Neapolitan sixths mugged up out of a textbook.

It is useful, therefore, to have as much music
performed at the College as is possible. The Victoria University College Glee Club flourishes; I am sorry we have no record of its past activities. In recent years performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, of Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, of Vaughan Williams' *Songs to be Sung in Time of War*, of Bach's *Sacred Songs* have been given; weekly mid-day programmes have included works by 20th century composers, Berg, Schoenberg, Hindemith, Stravinsky, Copland, and Bach's *48*

The Chancellor, Sir David Smith, in a recent address, quoted Professor John Macmurray's remark that “The primary function of universities is to act as cultural centres in our civilization.” Students at Cambridge have the services in the College Chapels, they can enjoy string quartets brought down from London, they live in a tradition of performances of music. Perhaps we shall have to learn to be patrons, to be able to call on a string quartet so that our students can hear regularly the quartets of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert, and the finest chamber music.

**FREDERICK PAGE**

**WEIR HOUSE**

The origins of Weir House are shrouded in mystery and financial wrangling. The mystery begins with the founder himself. No-one seems to have known who he was, the nature of his connection with the College, and just why he should have left so much money to found a residential hostel. In 1933 it is laconically recorded that William Weir died in 1926, and that “...it became known to the College authorities that a sum estimated at £60,000 was available to them under his will” to found a hostel for men students. Mr Weir is stated to have been “...a timber merchant who for many years resided in Wellington.” No doubt more explicit information exists beneath the mould and dust of the College records; for the greater number of people, however, William Weir must remain a rather mysterious man of goodwill, and his motives a field for interesting but fruitless speculation. The financial wrangles set in with the Great Slump. These and the hand of God caused much delay. In the first place, plans for a brick building were withdrawn after the pointed lesson of the Napier earthquake; in the second place an economising government avoided the full implications of the law governing subsidies. According to the date of the bequest, the government should have given a pound for pound subsidy; a smart piece of retrospective legislation limited all such subsidies to £20,000. A direct result of this governmental economy (one which is still with us) is a set of expensive and useless foundations, once intended as the base for a separate dining block, but now supporting the quite disproportionate weight of a recreation room and a maids' cottage. Another visible result is the rather sown-off appearance of the Weir building when viewed from the top of the Cable Car; the building was planned in the shape of the letter H, but economy cut it down to a T. What emerged from these upsets and hesitant approaches was the present building, which, with all its faults, provides (it is claimed) the most ample accommodation for students given by any hostel in New Zealand. A visiting expert (it may well have been in 1946) explained the high expenses and the high boarding fees in terms of uneconomically used space. A well-planned hostel, he is reported to have said, would have used the same floor-space to accommodate twice the number of students. That may well be the case. However, Weir would seem to have suffered enough from economising financial experts; let her at least give to each student a reasonably furnished and sizable room. So it came about that the uneconomical hostel opened its doors to its first residents on March 1st, 1933, seven years after the bequest was made, which, considering the convulsions of nature, the anxiety of world capitalism, and the economising government, wasn't a bad feat.

We may well ask, what has happened during the 16 years of its existence? We may ask, but we may not expect an answer. The full history would be at least the subject for a Master's thesis; less complicated records do not exist. Since its foundation, the House has printed (of recent years cyclostyled) an annual house magazine, a rather paltry sheet which struck an uneasy mean between the alternating high endeavour and flat whimsy of a secondary school publication, and the more determined cultural aim of the usual University annual. From the files of these magazines we may (if we choose) reconstruct a picture, not on the nature of Weir House residents, but of their own glorified view of themselves.

In such biased sources as these, the typical Weir House resident appears as a somewhat gargantuan figure—a Paul Bunyan translated from the American backwoods to an antipodean campus. He is predominantly a creature of great appetite—he attacks food, alcohol and women with an equal (perhaps an identical) gusto. The chronicle of complaints about the food reads like the plaint of a strong man deprived of the meat and the bread his muscles demand. The tales of alcoholic orgies
Hockey First Eleven, 1908
Winners Senior Championship. *Probably as expert and seasoned a team as we can ever hope to possess.* (The Spike, October, 1908)

Back Row (from Left): E. C. Casey, B. Bissett (Mrs J. Russell), O. M. Cook, *B. J. L. Reeve (Mrs A. H. Bogler), J. S. Tavendale (Mrs A. Paterson).

From Row: M. E. Cox (Mrs G. N. Morriss), *L. MacKellar (Mrs E. S. Hope), *L. McIntosh (Capt.), E. M. Johnston, K. McIntosh. *Deceased*

Rugby First Fifteen, 1946
Winners Senior Championship. *After the war, experience was blended with youth, dash with experience, in perfect ratio.*

remind one of nothing so much as the rye-soaked saloons of the Western film. The incidents of sexual licence presuppose residents equipped with the insinuating grace of Don Juan, the opportunities of Solomon, and the potency of an Olympian god founding new nations. Against this vision, we must place the disarming reminder of the magazine editor of 1945 that the "view of House life" to be obtained from his magazine was "not altogether balanced." Such is certainly the case. The food has at times been bad and inadequate. (Within the present writer's memory it was necessary to eat large supplementary meals in the city to keep body and soul together.) There has been quite a large amount of liquor consumed on the premises, especially upon such occasions as the end of exams., the House picnic, Extravaganza, and, with more valid excuse (if any is needed), on VE-Day and VJ-Day. Residents too, have customarily been aware of the normal amatory urges, and have satisfied them with perhaps a more doctrinaire thoroughness than is usual in our society. But that is about the extent of the excesses of the appetitive man of Weir. Rarely has he done anything that should alarm his parents, his college authorities, or his society. When such alarm has been shown, it has usually been due to the benighted consciences of the parties named.

That is one aspect of the mental life of Weir revealed by the magazines—a thoroughly understandable tendency to self-glorification. Another may be viewed through the medium of literary style. This seems always to have been characterised by an attempt to find novelty by using cliches as if they were oven-fresh. It is a style which has two advantages— it catches the esoteric (who himself probably used such a style) by revealing to him a method with which he is thoroughly familiar; it draws the philistine by writing to him in phrases which anyone over the age of five would be familiar with. (A great advantage this latter one, for not a few House residents have never got beyond the age of five in their literary appreciation, which is perhaps to be expected in a College which caters so blatantly for the professional classes.) Thus, a 1938 account of a House dance speaks of a participant entering clad "in the garb of flaming youth." Eight years later, the chronicler of the same function tells us that "the young bloods staggered from the House en masse" in search of women. It is a further commentary upon the Weir mentality that the annual football match has always been regarded too sacred for this flippant vein. Instead, the reports could come straight from the uninspired pages of the Sports Post—e.g., "The play was generally hard and keen, but at times scrappy, for a high wind made it difficult to throw the ball about . . ." But the flippant cliche is the characteristic of Weir House prose; the dull reportage of the football match might be written by any near-illiterate inside or outside the University. A style continuously practised for a number of years usually finds an exponent who transforms it into an art. The master of the medium arose in Weir during the glorious years 1945-47. His achievement lay not so much in writing good literature according to the dictates of English Prose style, but in speaking a stilted measure as if it were his native tongue (at times it was his native tongue) and in making it lively and appropriate for his purposes. The man himself would probably desire, and certainly deserves, to remain anonymous; it is enough to say that he is now a respectable, devoted and elevated member of the more bureaucratic side of the Public Service. The use of cliches for conscious effect can go no further than the description of a House picnic: "After a journey spent in virtu quip and bawdy jest, the milling throng arrived at Maidstone Park, where it disgorged itself on the placid sward, dappled now hither, now yon, with stout elms, oaks and daffy-down-dillies . . . where . . . ensued the merry click of leather on willow." Or there is the description of a celebrated House janitor, a man of unexampled capacity for liquor, and seamy stories—preoccupations reflected in his face: "It was the enigmatic janitor on his knees, polishing the corridor floor until, to his horror, he could see his face in it."

These arbitrarily selected examples of the mind of Weir House would show it to be a thing of glass, fitful and rather worthless. There is of course more solid achievement. One could point to the high percentage of exam. passes, the record of graduates, scholarship winners, and first-class honours students. One could count the number of ex-residents at present studying overseas. These figures would show that Weir has in its brief existence been the abode of people who have studied seriously and successfully. A thing which is more important, but which couldn't be proved by statistics, is that the House has contained a large number of people acutely conscious of the broader aspects of their subjects, actively interesting themselves (and in no dilletante way) with religion, philosophy, poetry, and all the questions of society. Within the present writer's memory at least there has been thought and discussion upon these topics carried out at a higher level than he has been acquainted with in the College as a whole. There has at times been a totally adult approach taken by a good number of the residents to matters which are characteristically the butt of adolescent wit. And that on its own is no mean achievement; it prevents Weir from being a mere boarding house with rather better accommodation than is usual.

W. H. OLIVER
SOME TRENDS OF THOUGHT WITHIN THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

The year of Jubilee for Victoria University College is also one of celebration for the V.U.C. Student Christian Movement, for, several months before the College was officially opened, in January of that year, a group of intending students met with W. H. Salmon of Yale University, a travelling secretary of the World’s Student Christian Federation, and decided to form a “Christian Union,” as local branches of the S.C.M. were for many years known. In the life of the Movement over the succeeding half century, there have been several major trends of thought, but none more sharply differing than the change of emphasis over the last twenty-five years. In the twenties the S.C.M. shared the general “Liberal” point of view. Today, Liberalism is no longer regarded as an effective Christian standpoint. At that time, ethical, moral, social and economic problems occupied the foreground of S.C.M. thought and discussion. The “practical application of Christian principles” to these problems was the great concern, and little interest was directed to the nature of Christian belief.

Dogma was shunned, and at all costs the Christian must avoid being intolerant—after all, every man was entitled to his own view. The Bible, interpreted in the light of the current “modernist” view, was regarded as a collection in the Old Testament, of interesting, but not altogether reliable stories of primitive peoples, and in the New Testament as the main source of knowledge of the Jesus of History, the Prophet of the Brotherhood of Man, our Great Moral Example. Man was regarded as essentially good, provided he had grown up in an enlightened environment, and sin was not thought of as a dynamic force. Thus the imminent dawn of a better world was confidently hoped for, its possibility depending upon the enthusiasm of men of good will for the great moral principles of Jesus of Nazareth.

But this genial mood was to change. With the thirties came sobering years of economic depression while in Europe, in Germany itself, the very centre of the Enlightenment, new and disturbing totalitarian forces emerged. From the same continent Karl Barth’s theology of militant orthodoxy in direct opposition to the easy optimism and rationalism of the previous decade began to gain ground among the intellectuals of the Movement. Then came the War, the second World War within a generation, and in Nazi Germany and in the occupied countries of Europe, men and women, went to concentration camps and death because of the role of the S.C.M. in the Resistance.

Today, in the face of the despair of the vanquished and the gloom of the victors, in a world of mass movements in which the significance of the concrete human person steadily decreases, in a world split into two vast opposed camps so that issues riddled with complexities are presented in blacks and whites, the S.C.M. is called to “Christian obedience.” That is its members are called to a thorough understanding of Biblical thought and doctrine, that whatever eventuates they may know where they stand and why they stand both personally and politically in order that they may be able to act deliberately and decisively out of Christian conviction and say “I can no other.”

The S.C.M. member is now no longer shy of dogmatics and systematic theology. The Bible is for him the Word of God to be heard and to be obeyed “existentially.” He has an important role in the Ecumenical Movement. “Social problems” do not occupy a large part of his discussion, while his interest is great in the theological basis of Community. Believing the corporate nature of the Church to be essential to a full Christian life, he must be sharply critical of any political theory which assumes religion to be a private and individual concern, and demands a total conformity to Party directions. He realises the urgent need of responsible student citizenship, and for that reason he is prepared to work for the College, and to stand for its offices. He is prepared to declare beyond the College walls the faith by which he lives, and he desires to see the gap between the University and the community bridged. To this end forty-two members of V.U.C.S.C.M. made time during the recent long vacation to take part in a week’s mission of goodwill to a Wellington provincial town.

He admires the zeal of his Liberal predecessor for a better society, but cannot endorse his cure that it only depends on ourselves. The events of our day have re-taught the Christian a hard lesson: that left to himself man does not naturally follow the good, and that man will be saved from the inevitable chaos of his radical personal and national egocentricity only by singlehearted worship and service of a God, Who is both God of Love and Lord of History, who calls men not to lofty ideals and noble sentiments, but to sober obedience, in whom alone our existence has purpose, and who can turn even the wrath of man to his glory.

Denzil Brown
**THE DRAMATIC CLUB**

Victoria College had been in existence for six years before the foundation stone of the main portion of the present building was laid—to the accompaniment of an Ode which, expecting rather too much of Pallas, bade her 'clear face' to

' Lift to our lips the cup wherein is mixed
The potency of Knowledge, Science, Truth.'

(The more cultural faculties will appreciate the segregation of Science from Knowledge and Truth.)

The foundation stone of the Dramatic Club, however, was then no more than a series of scattered pebbles. True, there had been one or two plays during the second halves of concerts. There was already a habit, swiftly approaching a tradition, of executing bawdy riots known as Annual Capping Carnivals. Yet these activities were by no means integrated within the organisation of a distinct Club. As the need arose—apparently when a harassed social organiser thought that a play would fill out the evening—then a play would be presented.

It must not be inferred that the plays were no more than elevated charades. One of the first recorded presentations was *Horace at Athens* (Trevelyan) produced in 1902 by Mr H. E. Nicholls and staged in the old Sydney Street Schoolroom. It seems that long, long ago, 'Varsity women were comparatively modest, for in that play the female parts were taken by men, warmly-rouged and garnished with tow pigtails. Even the men were unduly coy (or perhaps the stage-space was limited), for the number of the cohorts was so small that an ingenious arrangement of mirrors had to be used to multiply them.

In 1903, W. S. Gilbert's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* was played. This was well received by the 'Varsity audience. It was memorable particularly for the dramatic collapse of a rabbit-skin 'arras' (this, of course, drew cries of 'ow arrassing' from the pun-conscious audience), which left the promptress exposed to public view. Just how exposed she was is unrecorded. Hamlet was left standing outside the front curtain when it fell later, but he probably had the presence of mind to commit suicide and clear the stage completely.

In 1904, an 'uproariously mirthy farce' convulsed an audience of antiquity.

Our attention is rudely attracted to a full-page advertisement in the 1905 *The Spike* headed 'Coo-ee!' and artfully drawn in a series of alliterations, among which we are told to attend 'the Sydney Street Schoolroom Students' Studiously Sonorous Side-Splitting Soiree, with a Soul-Satisfying Supper.' Here a work known as 'Sarah's Young Man' was staged. Records disclose that this early milestone on the Great White Way was no more than a bawdy bedlam of back-stage bucolics, incidental to the current Capping Ceremony.

For the first time, however, a criticism of Victoria drama appeared in *The Spike* after the execution of this delicate vignette. The phrases used by the writer: ''convincingly displayed''; ''carried out in a most natural manner their amorous roles''—give us a clue to the origin of the style and analytical approach of a drama critic who appears, to this day, in a Wellington morning paper. It is indeed refreshing, in the mad bustle of 1949, to see the style of twenty-four years ago perpetuated in at least one of our dominion newspapers.

The records of 1906 abound with Latin quotations, reports of social occasions and the ubiquitous pun—but no reference to drama proper. At length, in 1907, we find in *The Spike* a single line devoted to drama, as distinct from the cloyless antics of the Capping Carnival enthusiasts: 'Mr and Mrs Newton gave a clever and amusing sketch'—at a concert in the Sydney Street Schoolroom.

In October, 1907, it was stated that the erection of the gymnasium was 'within measurable distance,' after a Wellington citizen had come forward with a handsome donation of £250. Present critics of the Gym suggest that this was the total sum spent on the building. However, there was the plan for a hall suitable for dramatic activities. Where was the plan for a suitable club? Echo, forsooth, answers, 'Where?'

The nights of the 8th and 9th brought a farce by the name of *Facing the Music* to the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, presented by Victoria students. The plot was said to be 'thicker than molasses' but—as is the way with molasses—was 'rapidly unravelled.'

There was still no organised Drama Club. The lack of a Drama Club was not even bemoaned. 1909 was a momentous year for the future club in two respects. Victoria had a gym. complete with hall and stage. Also, if the Club was not quite embryonic, it was at least a gleam in its father's eye, for a Reading Circle was started. It is worth recording the original members: Misses or Meddames Fell, Thornton, Nicholls, Tennent, Davies and Crawford; and Messrs C. H. Taylor, A. E. Caddick, G. H. Nicholls, P. B. Broad, K. Munro, A. Fair, L. P. Leary, G. M. Cleghorn and W. F. Hogg. Shakespeare, Shaw, Bennett, Pinero, Yeats and Synge were tried—fortnightly—at first in the Chemistry Laboratory, and later in the Gymnasium where plays were sometimes read in public.

A writer in the 1914 issue of *The Spike* described the play-going public of New Zealand as 'not necessarily meritorious in drama'—which does not say much for drama. 'The supply of drama...
is both totally inadequate" (nil?) "and of vastly inferior quality."

Another commentator in 1914 saw the possibilities of University drama as a link with the public.

Still, in that year, the only recorded stage performance given by Victoria students was the Extravagant—Boadicea. In the last act, the audience not only witnessed the queen being flogged by the brutal Roman soldiery, but also saw (with their own eyes, no doubt) the marks. This intriguing touch of realism can be attributed only to the licence of these primitive times—for decollete dresses and short skirts were not in vogue then, we imagine. The acting was apparently of a high order, though the Evening Post was perspicacious enough to point out that "an umbrella in the time of Caesar was a gross anachronism."

"It seems that the Reading Circle had strutted its hour by 1914, for in that year the Debating Club—by now a venerable institution—inaugurated a series of dramatic readings for the Long Vacation. Of the plays read, six were by Shaw, two by Wilde and one each by Galsworthy, Bennett, Ibsen and Goldsmith. After the "reckless massacring of blank verse," it was decided to forego poetic drama for the time being.

By October, 1914, the Debating Club decided, with "the immediate welfare and future destiny of the Empire" in mind, to discontinue its programme of debates. The Club seemed rather harsh in its estimate of its own seditious tendencies. It was not entirely an ill wind, for the cessation of debates seemed to stimulate greater interest in the play readings at the time.

In August, 1915, two comedies were presented in aid of Patriotic Funds. Gentle Gertrude, or Drowned and Drugged in Dibeth was adjudged "the most pleasing thing of its kind ever attempted by Victoria College amateurs." By that time, the play readings of the Debating Club had been temporarily shelved, it seems, although all the activities of other clubs were flourishing—with the possible exception of the Glee Club, which was at last obliged to seek an audience at the Porirua Mental Hospital.

In 1916 there was some departure from the usual Capping Show. Sundry students acted three "straight" plays, apparently well staged and acted. But there was nothing substantial in the plays. The outline of the plots indicated them to be more in the tradition of the high-school drama club—with a hen-pecked husband, a loveable old cook and a "rough but kind-hearted ward-maid." In other words, the plays were probably rather corny, though it is not easy to pass judgment.

Toward the end of 1916, the play readings of the Debating Club were resumed. Under other auspices, apparently, two plays were acted in 1917, in place of the Capping Carnival. These were described as "two merry little farces, well suited to the powers of the talent available"—a dubious compliment. It was also said: "that this should have been done on a tiny stage and, with the few accessories at the command of the players, reflects immense credit on those responsible for it." This comment could well be applied to the achievements of the present Club.

In 1920, a sub-committee of the Women's Club was set up to consider the formation of a Women's Dramatic Club. Much later, during the 1939-45 war, this dream was more or less realized; but nothing came of it in 1920.

A member of the Debating Society, writing in 1921, referred to the need for a Drama Club, but decided that, as there was none, it was incumbent on the debaters to take its place.

Even as he wrote, the College was charged with expectancy—although it was probably unaware of it. Toward the end of 1921, the vague stirrings of the future club culminated in its proud emergence as a distinct institution—no longer the incidental amusement of another club; no more the isolated outcome of a few students' desire to "do a play."

The Dramatic Club was formed with the object of "discovering the considerable amount of histrionic talent that was lying latent in the students." The originators were justified in propounding their purpose so elusively. Until the club was a going concern, it was impossible to formulate definite plans.

The initial activities were just as tentative. Only readings were attempted. Yet, in the first report in The Spike, it was already stated that membership had been limited to fifty and that vacancies were to be filled by application, as they occurred.

Members met once a week (on Tuesday evenings) in the Gym. Unfortunately, there seems to be no record of the officers of the Club at that time.

Some of the readings were held in public, and the proceeds of the box office devoted to the expenses of the Plunket Medal contest; also to the travelling costs of the Easter Tournament delegates.

At the first committee meeting, it was decided to arrange lectures on authors, illustrated by the reading of typical passages.

By September, 1922, the Club had "outgrown its infancy and attained a health adolescence." If that was achieved after one year, it is hoped that the Club is not described as senile after twenty-six more years. Indications are, however, that the Club was still in its pretty limping time in 1922.

It was then clear to the officers that "the Club's work is to provide mind-brightening, rather than mind-furnishing; amusement rather than erudition."

The Younger Generation was performed in 1923. It was described as a family play, where unconventional sons and daughters bussed parlourmaids ("very kissable"); had affairs and carelessly dropped wine bills—generally wrecking havoc with their dear old parents' hearts. Again, a trite sort of play, and very 1920's, but reports were favourable and the members brimmed with optimism as
to the Club's future. In June, Captain Brassbound's Conversion (perhaps he was weaned away from his box) was read.

At the end of the year the Club looked back on "a record of good performance, sound finance and, magis auro desperanda, an enthusiastic personnel." The strange words are Latin, meaning "a little more audibility would be desirable."

In 1924, broader horizons were scanned. Drama was seen in The Spike article as a means of drawing us out of our isolation and "into touch with the spirit of our age"; of stimulating our imagination and intellect; and of giving the actor an escape from the confines of his individuality. In the same work, appreciation was accorded to Mr A. W. Newton, his sister and Mr H. E. Nicholls, who were the original enthusiasts in the early years of drama at Victoria.

What of the next two years? The pages of the Club's past do not seem to have been heavily thumbed during that period. In fact, it was only in June, 1926, that it was disclosed: "At last we are able to make a definite announcement regarding the Drama Club." What had happened in the meantime? In the absence of minute books, we imagine fatal deadlocks in the committee; deadly duels with other Clubs over the allocation of "gym. nights"; or perhaps the stage was being repaired. At any rate, after the hiatus it was decided to recommence readings, so as to improve members' technique and their knowledge of modern plays. The readings proceeded—in violent contest with basketball practices on the floor above. It is inferred that these kept the Club "at least awake, if not wildly enthusiastic and universally popular."

In 1927, Extrav was temporarily abandoned. Again, it was a wind that was not entirely ill. The Drama Club was reformed—due chiefly to Miss Mary Cooley (later Mrs R. H. C. Mackenzie) and Mr A. E. Campbell. The membership increased. There were regular readings and a major production, To Have the Honour (A. A. Milne). By the end of 1930, the Club had built up a fine library; had produced many successful readings and three more major productions of Coward and Milne stamp, and was financially and numerically strong. This period marked the transition from "mind-brightenment rather than mind- enlightenment" (as an earlier writer had put it) to a more serious attitude.

1931 was the Club's best year on record, to that time. There were two productions: The Dark Angel and Rope. Here at last was meat for the teeth of the Club and the College—raw meat, some of it. This year, the Club proved itself capable of a maturity worthy of University activities, with a wide and well-selected group of plays. The Dark Angel (Trevelyan) was "an outstanding success and voted by the dramatic critics as the best 'Varsity production." Rope (Hamilton) had some technical defects—mainly over-modesty in unleashing the emotions—but one critic said of it:

"As an amateur show it was first-class and no amateur has a right to expect more."

After the dizzy successes of this brief Golden Age in the career of the Club, there was a decline in the quality of its performances and in support. The finances ebbed in 1932. Audiences were meagre at the performances—except The Blind Crowder by E. L. Palmer (an ex-Varsity student). St. J. Ervine's The Ship and Ibsen's Hedda Gabler were also presented.

In 1933, there was little that was notable, apart from V.U.C.'s entry in the British Drama League Competition—a play by an indigenous author, Miss Ilma Levy, entitled God Made Two Trees. This was described as successful.

In 1934, the chief concern of the Club's officers was the maintenance of solvency. It was decided to confine the production of plays to the Gym., despite the disadvantages. Fortnightly play-readings were held in the first and second terms—including as many new members as possible. There was apparently no major production, but a Revue in July.

However, it was in 1934 that the Club acquired from Auckland Training College front and side curtains. Forty-five pounds was spent on these and other stage furnishings and there was still a balance in hand of twelve pounds—described as a "creditable profit." This was to make it clear that it was not a debitable profit. Albeit, the policy of retrenchment followed by the committee was financially successful, and posterity must thank the officers of that year for sacrificing wider activities in the interests of acquiring valuable assets. Surplus profits, moreover, were credited to the Building Fund.

1935 was, culturally, a more successful year. Two productions—Laburnum Grove (Prestley) and Cocktail Party (a swift Revue)—were presented at Varsity to enthusiastic audiences; four plays were read; a steel track for the draw curtains was provided, and the Club wound up the year "in an excellent financial position." The Committee debated whether or not to descend on the Wellington public with a play, but decided that it was questionable whether the public (or the student body for that matter) wanted to be improved. "Experience has taught us a bitter lesson. The pill has to be thickly coated before they can be persuaded to so much as look at it."

The Revue that year was a succes fou, it appears. Mr D. G. Edwards was responsible for its efficient management. There have been, in the Club's history, Revues and revues. It seems that, given an organiser assiduous in ensuring swift continuity and mature selection of items, they have been very popular. The present Club could give some thought to Revues as sure box-office successes—compensating, perhaps, for other productions which yield cultural rather than financial profit.

The next year, Mr Leo Du Chateau—not a member of the Club—produced Coward's Hay
Fever. The cast gave a remarkably high standard of performance. Similar praise was accorded the players (almost entirely new members) who presented Journey's End.

Again, the Revue was found to be a profitable source of revenue.

Still, with some exceptions, the main body of students was not supporting the Club to the extent it deserved.

1937 and 1938 were satisfactory years, with plays of good calibre and performance, and crowded houses.

By 1939 the Club has again risen to a place of real prominence in Varsity activities. Judging by reports, minute books and hearsay, the success of that era was largely attributable to such people as Miss Dorothea Tossman, Mr Doug. Edwards, Mr Pat Macaskill, Mr Don Priestley and Mr Huddy Williamson.

At the end of 1939, the Club's finances were in a healthy condition, despite heavy expenditure that year on a new carpet, a set of tools and the re-hanging of the main stage curtains. Even before the revival, the Club had been donating to the Building Fund. In 1939, at the peak of another of its booms, it made a further contribution of fifteen pounds.

The zenith was passed in 1940, when the Club, in common with others, was unsettled by the sudden withdrawal of personnel. All the same, excellent plays were produced—including Harvest in the North by James Hodson (produced by Don. Priestley), which ran three nights. The cast included Beatrice Hutchinson, Dennis Hartley and John McCready.

1941 ushered in bleaker prospects for the Club. Readings were the chief activity, though a juicy melodrama by Dennis Hartley, Her Father's Pride, or Virtue Shines Brighter Than Gold, was staged. Also, Victoria gained third place in the inter-university College Drama Festival which was inaugurated that year. It is not recorded whether more than three Universities competed.

But most of the experienced members had been lost. A sorry picture was painted for 1942. Males were in short supply and plays of a sufficiently high standard, yet played by a majority of females (if that is not a contradiction in terms), were sought in vain. Where's That Bomb? was interrupted by an air-raid warning.

It was reported that the Club was still unbowed by the bludgeonings of chance, but it was feared that it would soon be "torturing to its dismal grave."

The Club dragged into 1943, defying all predictions of its imminent death, and produced one or two one-act plays and a major production in the third term.

The Club at last began to creep up to its former glory in 1944. Anna Christie (O'Neill), with Dick Campion and Edith Hannah (later Mrs Campion) received resounding praise. The staging was excellent, considering the space and materials available. The scenery gave little more than an impression, and for that reason was highly effective. Tragedy was narrowly averted when Huddy Williamson sucked instead of blowing into the bottle of chemicals which produced the eerie fog. The general effect, he reported, was no worse than that of a certain brand of synthetic gin.

In 1945, casting meetings were little more than Committee meetings—each officer furtively appraising his fellows as prospective producers or leads. The Late Christopher Bean was to be read one night, but in the absence of an audience, a seance was held instead, among the members of the cast. A bag of mixed sketches, a one-act evening and a bedraggled revue completed the year's doings.

The presentation of Bridie's Mr Bofrey was a promising start in 1946. It was played first in the Gym., where it received large and satisfied audiences; and later in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, where audiences were small. The play was undoubtedly well done, considering the difficulties of long, sometimes involved dialogues and unavoidable immobilities. Ibsen's Ghosts, the other major production, was adequately performed, though without much controlled emotion or co-ordination. Ghosts was too ambitious for the Club at that stage. It had its moments, but it did not hang together. It was unconvincing. Hallo, Out There (O'Neill) was Victoria's entry in the British Drama League Competition. Absolute simplicity of set and lighting—a single beam from the ceiling creating a stark circle of light in the centre of the darkened stage—contributed much to the power and intensity of the play.

Lack of support, of stage facilities and properties, of storage space and of a proper library were the chief limiting factors in 1946—as they probably are in 1949. There were also too many delays in choosing plays and producers, too many false starts and unproductive casting meetings.

The Constitution of the Club was revised in 1946. We believe the original document had been lost by that time. At any rate, the trend from the "brightenment rather than enlightenment" policy of 1921, was at last authoritatively recorded: "The aim of the Club is to present to University and public audiences, plays which have the power to stimulate their audiences to creative thought. The value of the Club's productions will be primarily intellectual and aesthetic, and secondarily entertainment."

1947 was eventful for the production of Jean Cocteau's The Infernal Machine. The hall and stage were too large; the weather was at times shocking. With one or two exceptions, the cast was not sufficiently experienced to create an outstanding production. In spite of the conditions, however, a good enough job was done. It deserved greater support than it received.

I Have Been Here Before (Priestley), produced in 1948, was adequate, but no more. Audiences
The Spike

were not large. Included in the 1949 programme is the forthcoming production of She Stoops to Conquer (Goldsmith), which, from preliminary reports, promises to be outstanding.

Here we leave the history—at a point where the Club has made good progress since the end of the war. The plays have been mainly well-selected—although perhaps ambitious—but actual performances have seldom been above average.

What can we learn from the history of the Club? The first lesson is simple. It is probably fair to say that—except in the pre-war Golden Age and, in some instances, in the post-war revival—not enough attention has been given to the physical and mental grind necessary for a satisfactory polish. In other words, student-producers have not troubled, in many instances, to analyse the fundamental spirit of the play; to comprehend each character as a developing entity; to discern the conflicts and harmonies between the characters; to take each line and decide on tone, emphasis and accompanying movement; to create an ebb and flow of emotion. Many actors do not go far beyond the learning of their lines and a perfunctory attention to the personality of the individual they are trying to portray. Their study of techniques is inadequate. When lectures on movements, make-up, authors, have been given, few members have bothered to attend. Yet many members seriously consider themselves qualified to seek parts in such difficult plays as Ghosts or Man and Superman.

It is not expecting too much of University students to take an active interest in lectures on the techniques of the stage; to participate in readings for the sake of understanding the plays, getting to know the characters and their interplay, and even learning to speak the parts correctly. Until the elementary period of learning has been undertaken by a member of the Club, he should not attempt to take part in difficult plays.

This first lesson is, we have said, simple and perhaps obvious. Yet it is clear that the basic training of producers and actors is inadequate. The Club is clearly limited as to its scenery, lighting effects, and other stage properties, but there need be no obstacle to greater polish in production and acting.

This leads to a further suggestion. Undoubtedly, it is desirable that plays should be produced by Club members, if possible. At the present time, however, it seems that there are few Victoria students who can do justice to production. Until there are students who have sufficient stage experience to qualify as producers, persons from outside the University should be asked to produce. There are at least half a dozen ex-Varsity men and women in Wellington who could be approached. Let a member of the Club assist in the production by all means. That is the ideal method of training. But the Club should be wary of looking at, say, the committee members (no offence to the present officers intended) and, by a process of elimination—or reductio ad absurdum—finding someone who is willing to produce. It would be better to postpone the play until a suitable producer can be found.

Some students have proved themselves excellent producers in the past; but these have been exceptional, rather than usual.

From time to time, concern has been felt at the lack of support from members. One obvious solution is to encourage new members to step quickly into active participation. Freshers have often been discouraged at an early stage by neglect. They should be drawn into play readings as soon as they join. That should be the first task of the Committee. Classes in elementary technique should be held, and it should not be long before freshers have simple parts in one-act plays.

There is, of course, the dilemma of stimulating the immediate interest of new members, but at the same time confining parts to serious productions to experienced actors. One-act plays are probably best for freshers, provided they are produced by experienced persons. Past evenings of one-act plays have often been badly treated, mainly by reason of insufficient care in production. Many of them have been no more than casual entertainment for the audiences. As serious media for training new members, their worth has been negligible.

The Club should not confine itself to the more weighty productions. Well-organised Revues before the war were, as pointed out earlier, an excellent source of revenue—particularly if followed by dances. Substantial profits from this form of cultural prostitution are not so tainted that they cannot be used in financing plays of high standard, where the costs of production would otherwise bar their presentation by the Club.

These suggestions are based chiefly on the post-war experience of the Club. Only some of the defects may have been present at any one time.

So much for the debit side of the sheet. On the credit side there have been some productions which can be classed as outstanding; many, as above average. Anna Christie; Mr Bolfrey; Hallo, Our There: The Infernal Machine, to select a few recent examples, have demonstrated the potentialities of the Club. Contending against the difficulties of a ridiculously small stage; lack of properties and storage space; inadequate stage equipment and, above all, the necessity of spending a great deal of time on preparation (which most students can ill-afford), the Club has achieved almost incredible results at times.

A University Dramatic Club has the unique opportunity of playing to an apparently intelligent audience. The Club has had the courage to present difficult and stimulating plays, and when these have been carefully studied and produced the enthusiastic response has not been lacking. It is now the
task of the Club to develop its undoubted poten-
tialities and to build a reputation, at first at
University and later in Wellington, for perfection
in the production of plays which are especially
suited to casts and audiences of above-average
intelligence and aesthetic susceptibility. Once the
reputation is established, the support of a large
number of Wellington residents, as well as
University students, should be assured.

G. H. DATSON

STUDENT PRANKS
1903 — 1948

So far, the earnest seekers after a native New Zealand
literature have quite overlooked the Extravaganza. Yet, in its spontaneity and its un-
selfconscious expression of the New Zealander's
interest in politics and all the strong things in life
about him, it is as much an expression of a New
Zealander's view of life as the plays of Aristophanes
were of the Athenian outlook.

Because of its composite origin, Extrav. is a
particularly valuable manifestation of local art.
There are often many writers of a Wellington
Extravaganza, to say nothing of interpolations
made by the cast and the contribution to the total
effect made by the costume designers, "prop"-
men and others. It is directly a social work of art
like the ballads and sagas of a more coherent age.

Unlike most New Zealand literature of today,
Extrav. is distinctly local and regional. The com-
paratively adult revels of Auckland, for example,
are quite different from the uninhibited Saturnalia
of Wellington.

It may be objected that Extrav. has not the
permanence of Aristophanes or W. S. Gilbert.
True, the Extrav. survive mainly by oral tradition,
but survive they do in the Orongorongos and
backstage at subsequent Extravs. When wartime
brought into the open, at least in army camps,
much balladry that had led an underground
existence during peacetime, Rollo the Ravaging
Roman began to be heard in camp-concerts along
with other traditional material.

However, it may be interesting to glance back
over the years, so, with our Time Machine in
reverse, off we go—

Back in 1903 . . . the days of the "New Look"
. . . we find a slim issue marked sedately Students' 
Carnival, the precursor of Cappicades yet un-
born. In this we read that Diploma Day is Wed-
nesday, 24th June, and a Carnival is to be held
in the Sydney Street Schoolroom at which the
whole thirteen graduates will be capped! On the
front cover we are also informed that New Laid
Eggs may be obtained from the Fresh Food and
Ice Company, and that Tonkin's Linseed Emulsion
is useful for your cough. (Sold Everywhere.)

Peeping inside, we find the programme from
which a few selections would not go amiss:

PART I

The Victoria College Song No. 1, and Maori Haka.
Pianoforte Solo, Caprice Espagnole—Mr Grauhauf.
Solo, Bedouin Love Song—Mr H. P. Richmond.
Plantation Song, De Lecture (apparently the singer was
too bashful to give his name).

Now for Part 2, the beginning of Extrav. This
appears to me to be worth reproducing in full.

FARCE
"MY TURN NEXT"

Characters:
Taxicam Twitter (a village apothecary) R. M. Watson
Tim Bolus (his professional assistant) O. N. Gillespie
Tom Trapp (a commercial traveller) A. S. Henderson
Farmer Weetar (from Blenheim) J. L. Stout
Lydia (Twitter's wife) Miss F. G. Roberts
Cecily (her sister) Miss H. M. Batham
Peggy (Twitter's Domestic) Miss N. Heath

Scene: A country chemist's shop parlour.

GOD SAVE THE KING

The Fresh Food and Ice Company is with us
again on this page, this time extolling the virtues
of their Prime Table Poultry! Happy days! People
paying good money to the Capping Book Com-
mitee to advertise eggs for sale!

Then the farce disappears from the scene until
1906, when it again makes its appearance as a two
night stand. There are also, incidentally, thirty-
five graduates! On Part Two of the programme is
Munchums, or The Origin of Genus, written by
Messrs F. A. de la Mare, S. S. McKenzie and
S. Einzelbaum. Unfortunately, no trace of this
noble script has yet been found. In Tableau 3,
the Historic Age, is an item worth noticing:

DUET:
Lady Commissioner Miss Daisy Isaac
Sailor B. J. Jacobs
The Spike

The words have been preserved for posterity, so herewith a selection:

**COMMISSIONER:**
"Prithee, hoary sailor, sitting on the strand,
(Hee but he's salty, billow, bellow baily!)
Were you of the party that first found this land?
(Hee, billow, baily oh!)

**SAILOR:**
Split my bowsprit, ye muh mum, I was of that crew!
(Hee but I'm salty, billow, bellow baily!)
Me and Cook was pals, mum, just as thick as glue;
(Hee billow, baily oh!)
You should see the gals, mum, smiling at us pals, mum,
(Hee billow, baily oh!)
etc., etc.

(Apparently the Fresh Food and Ice Co. have found other methods of bringing their goods before the public as Myrtle Grove Cigarettes appear to have taken their place on the front cover.)

In travelling on to 1911, it appears that the same names are in the programme after year, as now. In 1911 the show is now full length, Part 1 of the programme having died a well deserved death. In Reform or The Metamorphosis of the Evoluters we note:

*Herlock Sholmes*  A. E. Caddick
*Queen Elizabeth*  E. M. Litchfield
*Harem Skirt Girl*  L. P. Leary
*Thomas de la Huntante*  P. B. Broad

In 1911 another change has taken place. The Extravaganza (yes, it really was called an Extrav. that year) has moved to the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall (Heaven help the stage manager). Also the odd types which haunt the back-stage are appearing—the properties manager and the stage manager.

Now, strangely enough, in 1912, Part 1 of the early programmes is resurrected, and again we are entertained with violin solos, glees and the rest. The main show was *Wumply Dumpty* with a distinguished cast featuring Messrs Caddick, Hall-Jones and Sievwright.

**The Modern Era**

By 1914, the persistent Part 1 has been interred forever, and the Capping Book appears with its first act cover, a two-colour cover in fact. Extravaganza seems to be an established word for capping shows.

At the end of World War I, the formalized cover returns. A full-length show is presented in the Town Hall, *Der Tag*, or The Path of Progress, with a distinguished cast including the following:

*Sir Major Cheetah*  P. Martin Smith
*Lord Liverpool*  A. J. Mazengarb
*Japhetrow Wilson*  H. G. Miller

Now we come to the modern era. 1920 marked the first show held in the Opera House, with all the present accessories, orchestra, props, stage manager, business manager and the rest. This was called *The Dogs*, featuring such well-known players as P. Martin-Smith, S. A. Wiren, and many others. This auspicious move was celebrated by another return to the art cover in colour.

Now, on to the thirties. *BB* in 1929, *William the Conk* in 1930. Of the early examples of the "modern" type of script, Redmond Phillips deserves mention. He wrote some excellent shows such as *Coax and Hoax* (1932), *Murder in the Common Room* (1934), and probably his best, *Medea and Sada* (1934). The latter contains the song "Karitane Blues" which is still sometimes heard in Extrav. dressing rooms after the show. The Phillips shows were ably presented by people such as Dorothea Tossman, H. C. Middlebrook, A. H. Scottay and the late Kingi Tahiwi.

The late nineteen thirties produced another set of brilliant and prolific script writers—the Seven Pillars of Wisdom and Ron Meek. Of the Pillars' efforts the best are probably *Hell's Bells* (1936), *The Book of Bob* (1937), and *Adam in Wonderland* (1939), starring *The Voice*, Mr W. S. Austin.

Then come John Carrad's delightful variety shows with their inconsequential nonsense and their catchy songs, *Daze Bay Nights*, *Port Nick Iniquity* and *The Dinkum Oil*.

The last decade of the Extravaganza is dominated by the influence of Ron Meek. Meek admired Aristophanes and W. S. Gilbert and combined something of the talents of these figures in his writing. He brought to his art intellectual brilliance of the highest order and the highly allegorical, satirical and witty plot has tended to become standard. Meek's influence is plainly seen in the 1941 show, which he did not write, and it is with us still. The political figures have become as inevitable as Punch and Judy in another sphere, and even in 1948 when Sid and Peter were treated with a strange new gentleness, the Peter who spent two hilarious hours in Blunderland is still recognisable.

Intellectual brilliance was perhaps the "fatal flaw" in Meek as an Extrav. writer. Sometimes the allegory becomes strained to breaking-point. The Cinderella scene in *Centennial Scandals* (1940) illustrates this. Cinderella in a pink dress (the Labour Party) was required to heap coal (social-democratic reforms) on a fire (progress) while her two ugly sisters, Bobadolf and Razor go to the National Ball. (This represents two noted New Zealand leaders supporting the war effort.)

This was an extreme case, but it may be doubted whether brilliant lyrics are effective on the stage. It is not easy to follow an argument through a catchy tune.

In another mood, however, Meek's wit found outlet in exuberant satire. The "two grey mares" of 1944 were completely successful. Fools who somehow had survived lucid exposures are now hilariously bludgeoned off the stage by irresistible laughter.
In 1945 the intellectual strength was so evenly maintained, so neatly ready with the right dig at each turn, that the show went with the force of a burlesque but on the level of a surely thought-out satire. It is tempting to call it " hilariously witty."
It was written by Meek and Bland. Research suggests in the face of probability that both names are genuine.

Meek has now left New Zealand and memories of his successes are in the minds of present script-writers. This is not altogether good as he was a difficult writer to imitate. His scripts had unity of tone in a subtle but recognisable intellectual clarity rather than in a rich imagination. Missing this, imitations could be lifeless and incoherent.

This is particularly likely where several writers combine to do a script.
There are many possibilities for future development. Extrav. may never be as witty as in 1945 but humour may become more prominent, or imagination, or pantomime fantasy. In 1948 a tendency towards pageantry and spectacle was popular.
Perhaps some (so far) mute, inglorious Meek loll in the common-room as we write, ready any minute to burst into script. There's room for him.

G. W. TURNER
H. WILLIAMSON

NINETEEN YEARS OF STUDENT JOURNALISM

'Bored at 24 is a common complaint of our day. For all such tired young people the cure is editorship. There is a new and different thrill each time one uses the editorial "we" with becoming gravity. So, with a sense of responsibility, we pen the following original effort . . .'

This was the beginning of student journalism at Victoria College—the opening lines of the editorial in the first issue of Smad, August 12, 1930.

In 1938, Smad was replaced by Salient, whose first editorial began:

'Smad is dead. With it has gone the policy that guided it for several years.
The change has been made not because that policy was undesirable, but because it was felt the spirit of the times demanded than any suggestion of Olympian grandeur or academic isolation from the affairs of the world should be dropped and should be replaced by a policy which aims firstly to link the University more closely to the realities of the world: and secondly to comment upon, rather than report in narrative style, the activities of college clubs.
Elsewhere in this issue will be found an expression of the opinion that students are not qualified to hold political opinions. The whole policy of this paper is founded on a diametrically opposite view.'

These two editorials are peculiarly typical of the journals they introduced. Smad was a College paper, and most of its contributors did not concern themselves with anything outside the day to day activities of students in their courses and recreations. It reported and exhorted, but did not criticise. Salient, in its eleven years of publication, has maintained an interest in the wider issues that affect the lives of students. Derek Freeman, 1939 editor, summed up his policy as follows:

'Send out, Salient, the swift satiric point
To smart the sluggard mind awake.
While freedom anywhere in bonds is pent
No compromise with falseness make.
Those freed today tomorrow forth must leap
Some further outpost there to take and keep.'

Up to 1930, The Spike was published twice a year. At the Students' Association Annual General Meeting in that year, it was decided that The Spike should become an annual review, and that magazine, Smad, should be published six times a year. The Spike which appeared in October, 1930, welcomed the appearance in the college of 'a healthy young infant,' and in the subsequent years, the remarkable improvement in The Spike's literary and intellectual standards showed that the change was in the interests of both publications.

Smad took its name from the first letters of the words of the College motto, and its first editor, R. J. Reardon, wrote: 'It will be a University publication, devoted to the everyday life that we all know . . . Three things will be necessary to arouse your interest. First, a loyalty to College, secondly, a paper devoted to College, and lastly, contributions from students.'

The first years of Smad, during the depression, saw frequent attacks on academic freedom, and the editor defined his attitude to that question in the first issue:

'In late years there has been a tendency to curtail and restrict the natural rights of University students.
This is more the outcome of ignorance of student thought and the student mind, than of any feeling of actual hostility. Our aim must be to break down that barrier of misunderstanding, whilst at the same time preserving our right to guard, with all our efforts, those student rights which appear to be slipping into the background.

From 1930 to 1934 Smad was printed in magazine form. Its typographical standard was not high, except in 1933, under the editorship of John Carrad, when a good deal of attention was given to layout and headlines, and most issues contained illustrations.

On July 17, 1931, Smad made its first reference to a question which has not yet been closed:

'It would be superfluous to traverse the manifold arguments in favour of a new building as long as the present dismal erection constitutes a useless drain on the student revenue. If we set ourselves to raise a definite sum and to have a new building not later than 1936, we are confident that on the completion of the plan all our sacrifices entailed by such a five year plan will have been worth while.'

In 1931, when there were 800 students, the circulation of Smad was 500. In 1948, with a college roll of 2400, the circulation of Salient was only 800.

It appears that those students who were able to attend the University in spite of the depression were not unduly concerned about it. The pages of Smad were full of domestic gossip, and argumentative correspondence about the 'shock tactics' of the SCM, but in two years the depression is hardly mentioned. When Signor Fornichella gave a talk at the College on Fascism, the following statement was printed without comment:

'Fascism stands for law and order, peace at home and abroad... Mussolini represents democracy in the highest sense of the word.'

In 1932 Smad began boldly with a plea for serious thought on the issues between Christian and atheist, capitalist and communist, but soon settled down comfortably into the old routine of gossip and introspection. There is even an attempt to justify the sending down for a year of the editor of Critic by the OU Council, for printing seditious material. An unsigned article states that 'as university students we have contracted away part of our powers of self government so far as they relate to academic life.'

In the same year the executive placed a ban on liquor at student dances.

In 1933 and 1934, academic freedom became a vital issue. One editorial puts the case as follows:

'Attacks by certain public bodies and private citizens on Victoria College students generally, accusing them of unpatriotism and other equally harsh charges, and of particular admiration for the Soviet State in all its workings, show how far some people lose their sense of proportion in matters.'

In 1934 there was an inquiry into College affairs, both within and without the lecture rooms. Smad states that 'such inquiry disproved the allegations made by correspondents in the daily press. Only last week at a meeting of the Court of Convocation, splendid support was given to present students in their efforts to preserve the right to academic freedom.'

1934 saw the establishment of the Anti-War Campaign, the Free Discussions Club and the Labour Club, whose activities, reported in Smad, made very interesting reading. The year before, the Spike had been withdrawn and reprinted, minus some 'indecent' and 'seditious' articles, and Smad joined in the chorus of protests.

In 1935, Smad became a weekly four-page newspaper to allow the discussion of current topics and recording of university activities to be maintained in a more interesting vein, hitherto quite impossible.

In its new format, the paper diverged considerably from its original policy of 'a University publication, devoted to the everyday life that we all know.' There were articles on 'The Russian Mind and Communism' and 'The Economic Drive to War'; and a start was made on critical reporting of the activities of college clubs. One issue contained a full page of Capping photographs, and another a twelve point questionnaire on 'Would You Fight?'

In the following year the same policy was continued, and there were editorials on 'The Labour Party in Power', 'What is a Degree?', and 'Exporting Brains.' These two volumes, edited by J. C. White and R. C. Connell respectively, were Smad's best. Layout and headlines were of a high standard, and gossip was almost eliminated.

In 1937, however, although the paper remained technically good, there was a return to the old idea of confining the paper to purely student issues. The reports of club activities are mostly dull, the only bright spots being the debating reports and an article on the New Education Fellowship Conference which was held in Wellington that year.

The different policy of Salient, which first appeared in 1938, has already been mentioned. It is not possible in an article like this to mention one tenth of the issues raised by a paper whose declared policy is to raise issues. In 1938 and 1939, Salient was a weekly, and not a week passed without the appearance of several provocative, well-written and well-informed articles. Writers like Bonk Scotchey (editor '38), Derek Freeman (editor '39), and Ron Meek were as prolific as they were stringent. Interviewing celebrities was part of the new policy. Those interviewed in 1938 included Mr Nash, Professor Shelley, Uncle Scrim and Aunt Daisy, a Loyalist Lieutenant back from Spain, and Count von Luckner. Salient's treatment of the comic-opera count caused some dismay at the time, but subsequent events justified
the writer's suspicions. The sports side was different too. Successes and failures were analysed and suggestions were made. The sports editor even went as far as to say that although VUC had won the Easter Tournament, the standard of play was no higher than in previous years.

The same high standard was maintained in 1939. The literary page included dramatic, film and book reviews of a very high standard, and some not too bad original verse. An issue devoted to food, health and malnutrition contained some astounding information, but a similar one on patent medicines was regarded by the printer as too hot, and had to be distributed in cyclostyled form.

At the Annual General Meeting that year, Salient was attacked strongly, mainly on the grounds that the views it was putting forward were not those of the students who should be its readers, and a guest editor, Mr W. S. Mitchell, was appointed for two issues. From reading these two issues, one gets the impression that his policy was similar, but that his views were different.

The war hit Salient early. It was thought likely in 1940 that the Emergency Regulations would prevent free discussion in a printed Salient of just those subjects which were most urgent at the time, so for one year it became a cyclostyled journal. The idea did not succeed. A short story, 'There's a war on . . . .' provoked the fury of the Olympians, and no further issues appeared until some members of the Executive had given an undertaking to the Prime Minister that they would see that no more seditious material was published. Only eight issues appeared that year, and half of them did not contain the unfettered views of the writers.

In 1941, the editor, Shirley Grinling, wisely decided to accept the restrictions on publication in wartime, and Salient became a printed newspaper once more, smaller than before the war, but making a desperate attempt to maintain the standard. Much good work was done this year, and in succeeding years, in keeping students in the forces in touch with what was going on at the College, and to a certain extent with one another, by careful attention to club reporting and by printing news and letters from students overseas.

1942 was even more difficult, as the college roll was lower than it had been since the depression, and the few students who were here had even less spare time than usual. The staff of Salient found it hard to believe that the university system was properly geared for helping the war effort, and were more critical than usual of the syllabus and lecture system. Students were taking life more seriously, and the following extract from Cecil Crompton's editorial on 'University and the War' probably reflected the consensus of opinion:

'Anti-fascist speeches alone will not keep the Japanese away—where trained and spirited defence will. Many students are serving in the armed forces, at home and overseas, but that does not excuse us from taking our part. There are men in the EPS who should be in the Home Guard; there are women who imagine they are too busy to devote one evening a week to the EPS.'

In 1943, Salient, with the co-operation of the Executive, took the lead in organizing student work-days for Patriotic Funds and a Liberty Loan campaign in the College. Editorials exhorted students to swot harder, to 'study for victory.' The standards of typography and reporting were improved once more, and a number of illustrations were used with good effect. A well known ex-student wrote to the editor congratulating her on the good job she was doing.

Audacious innovations in layout, headlining and reporting were a feature of Salient 1944 and 1945, under the editorship of Kemp Fowler. Some of these were not quite successful, like 'Salient met affable, fair-moustached Signalman Cyril, ex-VUC, in the Terminus. Likes a pot, talks easily when drinking.' (interview with an escaped POW); but the general effect was a greatly improved paper. The aim to make the paper brighter by the use of arresting headlines, good illustrations and snappy reporting was achieved, and by the time the war was over and ex-servicemen began to return to the College, Salient had returned to its pre-war brilliance, although it still lacked the sharp irony and ruthless logic of 1938. It was strongly biased towards reporting College events, which it did remarkably well, but it gave little attention to interviews or to the wider social and political issues.

In 1946, this omission was rectified to a certain extent. There were interviews with the New Zealand delegate to Unesco, with a French resistance worker, and with the leaders of the major political parties. A scoop article featured some interesting facts about United States military activity on the Chinese coast.

Salient was in trouble again that year, but the editor cleverly turned the tables on his opponents by moving a vote of no confidence in the Stud. Ass. Secretary at the Annual General Meeting.

Troubled by shortage of space, the 1947 editor decided to cut down College reporting to make room for critical articles. There was more poetry than before, and an attempt was made to include cartoons. In spite of the fact that there was a larger staff than ever before, the literary standard of the articles was generally poor. Two articles which include good material—one on the banning of the radio serial 'How Things Began' and one on Dutch intervention in Indonesia—are not as effective as they should be for this reason.

1948 began with a 10th anniversary number. The first editor wrote an article on how it began, which concluded:

'I am glad Salient is now ten. It has survived difficult times but appears to be a healthy specimen, constitutionally sound, so that it can reasonably look forward to further years of activity. I hope this proves
to be so. It appears to have become a VUC tradition. But should Salient ever fall behind the times, then it is to be hoped the students of the day will have the good sense to make another change and produce Salient’s successor.’

The second ten years began with a fight, in which Salient loyally took the side of a disgraced Executive, even producing an extra issue, cyclostyled at midnight, to support its view. The year was made difficult by two changes in editorship, and a change to a cheaper but less satisfactory printer. As a result, it is hard to decide just what has been the editorial policy, and still harder to guess at what it is likely to be in the future. It seems safe to assume, however, that VUC will continue to have publications which will preserve the ideal of the first editor of Smead, when he said:

‘He serveth not another’s will,’
and
‘Whose armour is his honest thought,
And silly truth his highest skill.’

ALEC McLEOD

CATHOLIC STUDENTS’ GUILD

Though it is but seven years old, and therefore one of the younger societies at Victoria, the Catholic Students’ Guild has associations which go back much further.

In 1922, the then rector of St Patrick’s College, the Rev Father T. A. Gilbert, S.M., formed a discussion group for adult Catholic students in Wellington. University students were always prominent in this group, but not until 1942 was a society formed to deal with their specific needs. Of the first twenty years much could be written: the interesting discussions and lectures which made up the varied life of that group began a tradition which still exists. Its expression can be read among the objects of the Guild as affiliated in 1942—‘to foster the discussion and study of Catholic principles, doctrine, and thought.’

The procedure adopted at the meetings has been for two students to offer papers on a set subject, which is subsequently discussed. While topical questions have provoked many willing exchanges, the Guild has, not surprisingly, returned again and again to an analysis of such fundamental subjects as The Church and Science, Evolution, Dialectical Materialism, The Meaning of Education, and The Social Teaching of the Church. From these discussions has come the realization of the need for an integrating principle of human knowledge, such as is found in the study of scholastic metaphysics.

These meetings have on the whole been well attended, and visitors have been most welcome, bringing, as they do, differing attitudes to many problems. In 1948 a most successful joint meeting with the Student Christian Movement was held, and the address given there by Mr H. C. D. Somerset was stimulating in effect and informative in content.

Social activity has been a feature of Guild life: annual dances and socials to welcome new students have been well attended and have provided variety in the year’s programme. These, like most of the gatherings, have been held at St Patrick’s College on Sunday evenings, the most suitable of the few times at which a group of both full-time and part-time students can meet. In St Patrick’s the Guild has a constant friend, helper and counsellor, and to its rectors and the chaplain, the Rev Father F. Durning, S.M., much is owed.

In 1947 was formed the University Catholic Society, New Zealand, a body of which the Guild is a constituent society. Its foundation was a satisfying reward to certain local members who had worked hard to bring it into being. In the near future, when affiliation is made to the International organization of Catholic students, Pax Romana, another stage in their work will be complete. Already the New Zealand Society has held two conferences and two congresses, from which has come much of value and enjoyment.

The Guild has been well served in its officers. The first president was Mr B. M. O’Connor, and his successors have been Messrs K. B. O’Brien, M. E. Casey, W. L. Hocquard and H. E. Connor. Miss Sheila Moriarty, who had a large part in the early formative work, was the first secretary, and has been succeeded by Messrs F. O’Kane, B. O’Leary, M. F. McIntyre and P. F. Giles. It is noteworthy, too, that Mr K. B. O’Brien is vice-president of the University Catholic Society, New Zealand, while the Guild’s committee has served two terms as its executive.

The dual character of the Guild as a university and religious group is brought out in the activities of members. Some have entered the ranks of the Catholic priesthood, while others have won distinction in academic life and as officials of student organizations. Perhaps the best-known field of activity has been oratory and debate, where the successes of members have included the Plunket and Bledisloe Medals and the Union Prize. The College Debating Society knows many members of the Guild among its most enthusiastic speakers.

During these seven years the aim has been to
bring home to members the fact that university life should mean more than a bread-and-butter approach to examinations and the acquisition of degrees; and to help to produce the balanced student who is tolerant and has the capacity to live in harmony with his fellows, while at the same time appreciating the gravity of the problems around him. How successful the Guild has been can never be assessed: it is certain, however, that it has given to many a deeper appreciation of their religion, of the necessity of sanctity allied with action, and of the worth of a university education. It has done something positive on the lines of the ancient motto of Anselm, *Fides Quaerens Intellec
tum*, while stimulating healthy criticism, and has provided beneficial and informative relaxation.

If the account to be true must mention the lack of interest of many who should both contribute and derive benefit, it must also record a hope for the future. The Guild is young among the clubs at Victoria, just as this College, despite her jubilarian air, is young among universities—both, however, may be said to make up for in vitality what they lack in venerability. The Guild looks forward to the foundation of a chair in scholastic philosophy in the College—and until then it will continue in its own way to serve the needs of those who are aware of the implications and value of Christian thought.

B. M. O’CONNOR

**LITERARY SOCIETY NOTES**

*With a feeling of failure, I commenced writing this record of the activities of the Victoria University College Literary Societies over the last twenty-five years. It appeared that if the College had not failed, then at least we as students had done so, in an important aspect of student cultural life. Dramatic Societies seemed almost always to be flourishing and Debating Societies were even more so. Various political societies came and vanished, as the Anti-War Movement of 1934, The Society for the Discussion of Peace, War and Civil Liberties in 1941, and so on. But only at long intervals did a new Literary Society burst upon the College air, soon to die away in rocket-like diminishment.*

*But upon further reflection I found that I was not so conscious of a paramount feeling of failure. Great apathy has to be overcome in literary matters, it is true. But it is overcome and Literary Societies are formed, again and yet again. It does not matter that all too soon they die again. They arise spontaneously when the need is greatest and in their short span they serve to aid the literary interests and expression of at least those students who most require their aid. When the material is lacking, they refuse to be forced into a continued existence and fade again into the past. I think that this is as it should be. Each Literary Society at Victoria College has been above all a student movement. That is the most important thing about it.*

*Commencing at the Silver Jubilee, we find that it was not until 1931 that there was again constituted a Literary Society as such, although this is not to say that there was not, as always, informal discussion among literary-minded students. Professor G. W. von Zedlitz was President and he, with Miss Eileen Duggan and Mr Pat Lawlor, judged a short-story competition sponsored by the new society. Literary magazines were supplied to the College Library and the future was anticipated so confidently that the Committee proposed building up a library of modern literature. By 1932 ambition had soared to the extent of contemplating the production of a periodical, inspired by Auckland’s success with *Phanix*. At this time emphasis was still upon active participation by members in reading papers, as well as upon visits by speakers from outside the University. Unfortunately, by 1934 the urge to self-expression seemed to have run its full course and the club was once again approaching a recurrent nadir.*

*Typically, in 1937 came the resurgence, expressed now by the *Phanix* Club which, rising from the ashes of the defunct Literary Society, spread wider and more ambitious wings. Not confined to literary ideas alone, cultural interests were encouraged by musical and artistic activities also. Visiting speakers included Professors Gordon, Shelley and von Zedlitz and Dr J. C. Beaglehole, but the Club’s strength once again lay in the very real enthusiasm of its leading foundation members, who read many papers to attentive audiences and who organised a wide range of undertakings. Regular musical recitals were sponsored by the Club and gained a ready hearing, but literature was by no means neglected.*

*Some continuity of officers augured well for the second year of the *Phanix* Club which was now called upon to serve in some part in place of the Free Discussions Club, at that period no longer functioning. However, despite further worthwhile activity by outside speakers, club members seemed to contribute little themselves, relying too much upon a willing committee, as so often has been the case. Nevertheless, competitions for original*
material were held, gramophone recitals continued, and although the activities were primarily the prerogative of a few, those few did cover a wide range of live and diversified interests. By 1939 those enthusiastic spirits could not prevail, however, against a general lethargy that was once more setting in. Up to this time all discussions had with remarkable unanimity hinged upon social and political issues in large part, but this trend was now no longer so noticeable. The newly formed Gramophone Committee had taken over the musical recitals formerly held by the Club.

In 1940 voices were heard crying in the wilderness, a lost cause was proclaimed as a rallying point, but despite the presence of many of the old guard all was in vain and the battle was obviously lost once more, although determined and often successful skirmishes were maintained. As Salient flourished and perhaps absorbed all the attention of the talent available, so the Phoenix Club declined. Politics seemed then necessary to literature and art. It was hoped that the war would not immediately crush all cultural manifestations, but although The Spike and Salient continued to flourish mightily, overcoming censorship and other obstacles to a large degree, the Phoenix Club was doomed. The call of the Armed Services was also already becoming noticeable in the field of the arts. A brief and half-hearted attempt at recrudescence appeared in 1942, only to flicker out once again.

Most hopeful feature of the whole history of V.U.C. Literary Societies has been the irrepressible spontaneous flowering of activity in recurring cycles, however irregular. Four years seems to be the greatest period through which the effort can be sustained, however inadequately, and the interval between respirations is variable. For the rest of the war years and after, the creative fires still burned low, but in 1947 they flared out in greater vigour than ever before. Inspired by a few ardent writers, a powerful society speedily arose to encourage and stimulate literary activity and interests within the College. Three astonishingly successful public meetings were held, when Professor Gordon, Mr James Bertram and Mr Dorian Saker respectively addressed record attendances of some fifty or more. Moreover, almost all members themselves took an active part in one or more of the three discussion groups, concerning themselves with New Zealand Poetry, William Blake and Elizabethan Drama. The periodical projected fifteen years previously became a reality in the first mimeographed numbers of Broadsheet. While it was hoped that in the following year the Society might continue to fill so obvious a need in the cultural life of the College, the danger was foreseen that instead of widening its appeal, the Literary Society might concentrate its activities within the limits of an enthusiastic clique.

Although there was again some continuity of officers, what had been feared did in fact occur and the Literary Society degenerated into an organ serving the needs of the few rather than one carrying any richer influence into Varsity life as a whole. A periodical library had been formed, it is true, but of somewhat esoteric character that apparently was in the nature of caviare to the general reader. Public meetings were joylessly abandoned due to the difficulty of securing outside speakers, but the informal study groups continued with small but really attentive circles of members and did much good work. The New Zealand Poetry Group was improved by being widened to become the N.Z. Literature Group, and the Elizabethan Drama Group, after a late start, was so successful as to be merged with the Dramatic Club in 1949.

Broadsheet, after a flamboyant 1949 debut as The First Placard of the Armadillan Absolutists, settled down to a useful existence, even if its appearance was not as frequent as had been hoped. However, its success was sufficient to warrant the organisation in 1949 of a large-scale printed literary periodical to appear three times in the year. It is fitting that in the Jubilee Year of Victoria University College there should be born a Literary Society journal distinct from the annual review and the College newspaper. It is to be hoped that the interest of the few chiefly responsible will be reflected in 1949 in an increased activity in the affairs of the Society as a whole, playing a larger part in student life. Judging by the past, it is a little soon to expect another phoenix at this stage, but let us hope that in this respect the past will prove to be no accurate guide to the future. The College must always be grateful to the handful of students who so often bring about a revival of the V.U.C. Literary Society.

A. St. C. MURRAY-OLIVER

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

Most readers of this magazine will be aware that the Debating Society is, apart from the S.C.M., the oldest Club at Victoria College. It is not proposed that this article should be devoted to a factual account of the debating activities at Victoria over the past fifty years, nor even over a shorter period. Rather is it hoped that a general treatment, by touching on prominent features of the Society’s development, will give readers a good idea of what the Society aims at achieving.
The first point of interest is the fact that all debates inside the Society are conducted on an Oxford Union basis. As debates are rarely held against outside teams (apart from Joynt Scroll) this means that the general idea is to decide all questions for debate on a division of the House. However, a provision is made for judges to place individual speakers. Points are awarded and the best debater at the end of the year becomes the winner of the Union Prize. This Award has never had the public glamour associated with the Plunket Medal, but in many ways it represents the result of harder and more consistent work.

Of course, the Plunket Medal is commonly regarded as the highest award of the Society, and over the years has become a mark of general University distinction. It is an award for oratory and is given on the decision of a majority of three outside judges at a specially organised public contest. Many criticisms have been made over the years concerning specific results, and probably few contests have resulted in a decision acceptable to all critics. This controversy usually stems from differing ideas of the nature and purpose of Oratory. Notwithstanding this, the contest has survived since its founding. For many years it was honoured by Vice-Regal patronage owing to its origin, while it is interesting to note that the earliest contests were decided by a vote of the audience.

Victoria’s overall record in the contests for the New Zealand University Bledisloe Medal for Oratory, and for the Joynt Scroll for Debating, has been good. It has been suggested that the audience at Victoria is the hardest to please in New Zealand, and that this results in a particularly hard-hitting type of debating which is often very successful.

Of course, all judges do not agree about styles, and some Victoria teams in recent years have not met with the success that had been expected.

Debating at Victoria has undoubtedly been strengthened by the emphasis on law studies here and the consequent attendance of large numbers of students aiming at a career at the Bar. Indeed the lists of our prizewinners include far more of those who have been successful in law than of any other group. This has led to the criticism that the Debating Society is merely a school in sophistry for budding criminal lawyers. Even so, it is fair to say that the general tenor of debating has been sincere throughout.

It would not be a complete study, in fact it would be a distorted one, if no attention was paid to the kinds of topics that have been debated. It is a fact that the interest in political matters at Victoria is, and has been, very high. Consequently members have divided around the political issues that concern the world as a whole and New Zealand in particular.

Naturally, groups are strong from time to time, and it is probable that any reputation Victoria possesses is a result of battles inside the Debating Society. This reputation is the result of the one-sided exaggeration of the activities of the more sensational groups by the press in New Zealand. In ignoring the existence of those groups who hold to moderate and conservative views, and highlighting the existence of extremists, the organs of public opinion have presented a false picture.

Nevertheless, all sections of the Society hold closely to the rights and privileges of free and frank discussion. After all, such discussions are primarily an internal matter; and if outside interference ceased or had never existed, the whole situation would be much happier.

Past members of the Society can be sure that even if the achievements of the present do not always equal those of the past, nevertheless the traditions behind them are just as strong. An examination of records shows previous variations in standards and enthusiasm. This still happens, but the important factor still is the attempt to develop clear thinking and the proper organisation of the ideas and expression of the members. This will go on, and Victoria can probably be sure of continuing to contribute many people to the service of New Zealand and the world. A large number of them will be helped by membership of the Society. Thus will the Debating Society fill the valuable place in University affairs it has always done up to the present.

K. B. O'BRIEN

WINNERS OF PLUNKET MEDAL

<table>
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<td>F. P. Kelly</td>
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<td>O. C. Mazengarb</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
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<td>C. G. Kirk</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>W. E. Leicester</td>
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<td>1921</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>P. J. G. Smith</td>
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The Spike

1923 I. L. Hjorring
1924 J. W. G. Davidson
1925 S. E. Baume
1926 J. F. Platts-Mills
1927 W. P. Rollings
1928 W. J. Mountjoy
1929 A. D. Priestley
1930 A. E. Hurley
1931 Miss Z. R. M. Henderson
1932 Miss C. S. Forde
1933 A. Katz
1934 R. J. Larkin
1935 K. G. T. Tahiwi

1936 J. B. Aimers
1937 A. H. Scotney
1938 W. Wah
1939 B. M. O’Connor
1940 J. B. Bergin
1941 L. Nathan
1942 Miss C. Crompton
1943 H. M. O’Leary
1944 J. C. P. Williams
1945 K. Neuberg
1946 K. B. O’Brien
1947 J. D. Milburn
1948 A. Williams

UNION PRIZEMEN

1905 E. J. Fitzgibbon
1906 H. F. O’Leary
1907 H. E. Evans
1908 E. Armit
1909 J. Mcl. Hogben
1910 M. H. Oram
1911 W. J. McElldowney
1912 G. G. G. Watson
1913 A. B. Siervright
1914 I. M. Moss
1915 No Award
1916 K. G. Archer
1917 E. Evans
1918 W. E. Leicester
1919 P. Martin-Smith
1920 S. A. Wirren
1921 W. A. Sheat
1922 R. M. Campbell
1923 J. W. G. Davidson
1924 S. E. Baume
1925 W. P. Rollings
1926 W. J. Heyting
1927 J. F. Platts-Mills
1928 W. J. Hall
1929 W. J. Mountjoy
1930 G. R. Powles
1931 Miss C. S. Forde
1932 H. R. Bannister
1933 A. F. T. Chorlton
1934 Miss M. Shortall
1935 A. H. Scotney
1936 A. T. S. McGhie
1937 S. G. Andrews
1938 E. K. Braybrooke
1939 J. P. Lewin
1940 No Award
1941 N. G. Foley
1942 No Award
1943 D. S. Campbell
1944 K. B. O’Brien
1945 R. E. Jack
1946 R. G. Collins
1947 B. M. O’Connor
1948 M. J. O’Brien

INTERNATIONALS IN SPORT

The highest honour in sport is to become an International, and although the numbers who gain this honour are relatively few, Victoria University College has had an impressive list of sportsmen who have become Internationals.

In Rugby, several members of the University Club have gained International status. In 1921 G. G. Aitken captained New Zealand in the first two Tests against South Africa, whilst S. K. Siddells represented New Zealand in the third Test played against the same team in the mud at Athletic Park. G. G. Aitken gained further honours when, on being awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, he went to Oxford University; and, whilst in Great Britain, he represented Scotland against England in 1923-24 and 1924-25, against Ireland in 1923-24 and 1924-25, against Wales in 1923-24 and 1924-25 and against France in 1924-25 and 1928-29. It was not until 1928 that another Victoria man represented New Zealand. In that year R. H. C. Mackenzie and J. D. Mackay played for the All Blacks at Christchurch whilst in the following year E. T. Leys was a member of the All Black team which toured Australia. He was
sent over as a replacement when injuries reduced the playing strength of the team.

When the 1926 New Zealand Maori All Blacks toured Great Britain, France and Canada, E. T. W. Love, who later gave his life whilst leading the Maori Battalion in World War II, was chosen to accompany the team. He performed very well on tour and played as half in the International match against France. He had previously represented New Zealand Maoris in New Zealand in 1925. The next Victoria man to gain Maori All Black honours was J. H. Ruru who was already a Maori All Black when he came to University in 1931, having represented New Zealand Maoris against Great Britain and with the New Zealand Maori team in New Zealand in 1927. Whilst a member of the Club he played in the 1931 New Zealand Maori Team which toured in New Zealand, representing the Maoris against Australia in the International match. The third V.U.C. man to represent the Maori race at Rugby was R. Jacob who first gained Maori All Black honours in 1946 in New Zealand and who toured Fiji with the Maori All Blacks in 1948 when he played in all three Tests against Fiji.

In 1928, Great Britain sent a team to the Argentine, and included in the side was J. O. J. Malfroy who had gone to Cambridge University from V. U. C. under a Law Scholarship. This British team did not lose a match.

In 1919, the New Zealand Army Team, with its great performances in England, became one of the most noted groups of players in Rugby history. In Great Britain 38 matches were played, 33 were won, 2 were lost and 3 drawn. G. J. McNaught was a member of the team and played in the matches for the King's Cup won by New Zealand, and also toured South Africa with the team, whilst F. M. H. Hanson played for the team in representative matches in England. Another Victoria man who first started his football at Victoria and then continued his studies at Massey, finally gaining a Rhodes Scholarship and playing for Scotland, was M. McG. Cooper who played for Scotland against Wales and Ireland in 1935-36. J. M. Watt who commenced his Rugby career at V.U.C. later represented New Zealand against Australia in 1936 whilst playing for Otago University.

Two other men who attended Victoria University College and gained New Zealand honours but not whilst playing for the College were J. Wells and E. W. T. Tindill.

At Cricket, the University Club has had three Internationals, E. G. McLeod (who had also represented New Zealand in 1922-23 before coming to Victoria), who gained a place whilst captain of Victoria in the second Test against England in 1929-30, J. A. R. Blandford in the second and third matches against the M.C.C. in 1935-36, and J. A. Ongley who played against Sir Julien Cahn's team in 1938-39. In addition to these men, H. W. Monaghan represented New Zealand prior to joining the University Club and E. W. T. Tindill (who had toured with the University Club on one Christmas Tour of the provinces), K. C. James and H. Foley represented New Zealand whilst playing for other clubs.

At Tennis, Victoria's most famous New Zealand representative is C. E. Malfroy, New Zealand Davis Cup player; whilst R. R. T. Young represented New Zealand in the Davis Cup whilst in residence at 'Varsity in England.

At Athletics, Victoria University College has a large number of Internationals. L. A. Tracy, A. B. Sievwright, W. G. Kalaugher, F. S. Ramson, A. D. Priestley, C. B. Allan, R. W. Lander, C. H. Jenkins, M. Leadbetter and G. J. Scats all represented New Zealand on various occasions. Kalaugher represented New Zealand at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam and is the only Victoria College man to represent New Zealand at the greatest of all International meetings. A. B. Sievwright represented New Zealand in the Australasian Championships at Sydney in 1920. Tracy won the 440 yards title for New Zealand at the Australasian Games at Hobart in 1924, whilst Priestley was a member of the New Zealand team in the Test Match against Australia at the Basin Reserve in 1925. The others mentioned were all members of the New Zealand team which won the Australasian Games Championship for New Zealand on Athletic Park in 1927, F. S. Ramson being first equal in the 440 yards hurdles and R. Lander winning the 120 yards hurdles.

At Hockey, E. G. McLeod captained New Zealand, as also did N. R. Jacobsen, whilst H. F. Bolland also gained national honours at this sport touring Australia. H. B. Lawry represented the 2nd N.Z.E.F. team which performed so well in India following the end of World War II in 1945-46.

It is notable that E. G. McLeod has gained New Zealand honours in two sports, Cricket and Hockey.

At Badminton, E. A. Rousell was a member of the New Zealand team which toured Australia in 1939.

In Golf, W. G. Horne was a member of the New Zealand Golf team which played a Test Match against Australia at Lower Hutt in 1946.

The following is the list of Internationals from Victoria University College who were members of the College Clubs whilst at University. It does not include those who played for other City Clubs and gained the honour but does include those who gained the honour where University did not have a Club in the particular sport or whilst playing for another University or whilst in the Services:

**RUGBY**

**NEW ZEALAND:**

G. G. Aitken
J. D. Mackay
E. T. Leys
S. K. Siddells
R. H. C. Mackenzie
J. M. Watt
HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE MEN’S HOCKEY CLUB

Since its genesis nearly forty-eight years ago, the Men’s Hockey Club has woven a history of more than ordinary interest. The sturdy threads of the Club’s progress can be traced through bright, impressive patterns of good years, and sombre apologetic patches of bad years. But the final impression is one of constant unity—a unity generously endowed with the fine sense of bonne camaraderie and enthusiasm which inspired the beginnings of the Club.

A successful launching of the Club in 1901 signalled the existence of the first athletic organisation to be set up in the College. The names of Mr G. F. Dixon, C.B.E., and Col. R. St. J. Beere, will always be affectionately linked with the early beginnings, and some measure of the interest and enthusiasm which they must have displayed then can be gauged from recorded evidence (to be disclosed later) of their sustained and intimate association with the Club ever since. To George Dixon belongs the honour of first proposing the formation of the Club, while Rawdon Beere was his very first collaborator, later to be the captain of the College’s First Eleven.

The united efforts of this pair resulted in a gathering of the College’s first sports representatives at Karori Park on 18th May, 1909. Though at first only ten members prepared to meet Karori in the Junior Grade Championship, the full complement was happily realized when an enthusiastic spectator joined the band. This was F. A. de la Mare, who has since always been intimately associated with College interests. The full team consisted of: H. E. Anderson, R. St. J. Beere, F. A. de la Mare, G. F. Dixon, P. S. Foley, F. W. Furby, F. Martin, T. Mitchell, A. G. Quartley, H. P. Richmond, H. Sladden.

This team lost all but one game in the first round, but in the second round improved to such a degree that it was able to defeat a hitherto invincible team in Waikato and draw with Karori, the ultimate champions of their grade. If success did not attend this team’s first season on the field, it was certainly not for lack of enthusiasm. Anecdotes of how the members of the team regularly gathered on a frost-hardened section in Thorndon Quay to practise at six o’clock in the morning testify to the ardour displayed by the players for their sport. And there are stories of the Club’s agitation for a Student Society decision as to the College colours to be adopted, their organization of those concerts and dances which had the salutary effects of consolidating the Club and fostering a healthy College spirit among the students.
In the following season the Club was establishing itself firmly as a live College institution and two teams, a Senior and Junior were entered. Though both teams were outclassed, many of the members were furnishing proof of substantial improvement by being selected for local representative teams. D. Matheson from the seniors and I. M. Batham and B. C. Smith from the juniors represented Wellington in their respective grades. Club spirit flourished as strongly as ever, contributing materially to the social life of the College in the form of the second Hockey Ball held in conjunction with the Tennis Club. Next to the Capping functions, this was the social event of the year.

Notwithstanding the formation of the Football Club in 1903, the Hockey Club maintained two teams. The standard of play inevitably dropped owing to the loss of many accomplished players to the ranks of the footballers, but enthusiasm and effort were sustained in anticipation of renewed strength in the following year. This materialized in the form of three teams, one Senior and two Junior, the Senior team consolidating its status by winning more than half its games and proving redoubtable opponents to all comers.

With the change of the College colours from dark maroon and pale blue to the familiar gorse green and gold in 1905, came further growth in the size of the Club. Four teams were fielded, one Senior, one Junior and two Thirds. The standard by now attained by the players was reflected in the selection of three North Island Representatives from the Senior sides, namely, R. St. J. Beere, J. A. Ryburn and C. H. T. Skelley. Judging from the improvement displayed during this season by all the teams, contemporary reviewers considered that the high-water mark of College hockey had been reached, and predicted that more than one championship would fall to the Club in the following year.

History, however, preferred to record otherwise, and the performances of the four teams of 1906 were lamentable. The Club was obliged to be contented with the furnishing of two provincial representatives in Beere and Ryburn.

In 1907, the earlier hopes were fulfilled to some extent. The 3A team, captained by one H. G. R. Mason (now Attorney-General for New Zealand and Minister of Education), swept all before it and won for itself the distinction of being the first College combination to win a local championship. This, it achieved by winning all except three games which were drawn. The statistics actually record one loss. The truth is that the game had been won by 10 goals to 2 but had to be forfeited on account of having included in the team the Bogle brothers who were unregistered players. 1907 also saw the first inter-collegiate match played against Otago University at Day’s Bay, resulting in a draw one-all. This game laid the foundation to a series of annual fixtures against Otago, Auckland, and later, Canterbury, an arrangement which was to develop into the Annual Inter-University Tournament.

The Senior team was atoning for their previous ignominy and finished third in their grade in the following year, indicating that the coveted championship honours were again within reach. The Juniors, captained by S. A. Eichelbaum (who has since been a constant supporter of the Club), narrowly failed in this quest, being the eventual runners-up of their grade. 1909 saw the gratifying addition of a fifth team—Junior B. The Club rejoiced in its healthy state, but while the famous 3A team again excelled themselves by winning their second Championship, this honour continued to elude the 1st Eleven.

Throughout these years of unfulfilled optimism, a mounting list of Wellington representatives was strengthening the Senior team. R. St. J. Beere, who was still captain of the XI in 1908, A. H. Bogle, G. Castle, B. Kibblewhite, C. Skelley, B. C. Smith, were those who represented the province on several occasions while the 1909 Captain, H. W. Monaghan and D. S. Smith were honoured by inclusion in the 1908 Wellington team which won the New Zealand Challenge Shield for the first time at Auckland. D. S. Smith, known by a later generation as the Hoe, Mr Justice Smith, a President of the Club, and to the present generation as Sir David Smith, Chancellor of the University of New Zealand, was, in his day, one of the Club’s outstanding members.

In 1910, the Club again fielded five teams, a Senior, two Junior and two Thirds, the Senior team providing one A grade and seven B grade representatives. With such a combination, all previous performances were excelled and the Club’s long-standing ambition of winning the Senior Championship was at last realized. This team of 1910 which included the consistent B. Kibblewhite and D. S. Smith, and the brilliant G. S. and C. H. E. Strack brothers thus won the distinction of being the first College team in any sport to win a first-grade premiership. The occasion was fittingly celebrated by a dinner at the Grand at which many of the foundation members, including G. F. Dixon and F. A. de la Mare, were present.

The subsequent years reflected the lustre of this notable triumph and the College XI continued to assert itself in the local championship by being very close runners-up for the next two years. The Club itself has gained added inspiration from the consistently fine achievements of the Senior team and by 1913 was fielding four strong and well-performed teams. The Club again won the Senior Championship, this time in easy fashion by seven points. The Strack brothers had reached the peak of their form and with P. Burbidge and Griffiths were the College’s Wellington representatives.

By now, Club enthusiasm had reached an unprecedented pitch. The College had played Otago University, winning 3—2, and arrangements were in train for a visit to Auckland in the following
year. The Club began negotiations for the purchase of a shipment of hockey sticks adorned with green and gold bindings especially for Club members and a further successful season was anticipated. The opening of the 1914 season was a gala occasion graced by the presence of the College Professors and their wives. The men, sporting skirts, did battle with the women in a match to signal the transition of the Clubs from College to University status. The Club fielded four teams this season, but the extraordinary inclemency of the weather in this season left nothing for history to record.

Then came the years in which the First World War made inevitable inroads on the Club’s playing strength. It will not be possible to list the names of those members who served and died on those other battlefields, but due recognition of their services and sacrifices are more appropriately and faithfully recorded elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the continual drain of manpower resulted in only one team’s being fielded by 1916. The incipient feeling of inertia finally gave way to complete paralysis, and in October, 1916, the Club’s activities were suspended.

Resurrection was delayed until June, 1919, when B. W. B. Hunt, W. A. Sheat (at present Member of Parliament for Patea), A. B. Croker, L. W. Britton and A. M. Cousins were elected to administer the affairs of the two teams formed. The arduous process of re-establishing the Club extended into 1920 when it became possible to field three teams. In this year something of the Club’s former traditions was recalled by the revival of the annual fixture with Auckland University College and by a match against an Old Students’ team. The presence of R. St. J. Beere, S. A. Eichelbaum, D. S. Smith and C. H. Strack in this team served as a happy link with the good years before the War. Apparently R. St. J. Beere derived considerable stimulation from this match for he rejoined the Club as a most valuable member of the Senior team and proved that age had not affected the skill and speed for which he had been noted twenty years before.

By 1921, the Club was reconsolidating with four teams in the field. It was a tribute to the Committees of these post-war years that the Club was able to exhibit such a rapid resurgence of strength. A. M. Cousins, in particular, is one to whom the Club is greatly indebted, and much of the success which was to attend the Club’s subsequent years was due to his tireless and enthusiastic efforts in these early Twenties. The performances of the teams were not outstanding but the activities which marked the continuance of a healthy Club spirit were notable. The match against Auckland had become a keenly awaited event, resulting in a win for Auckland 4–0. It was the enthusiasm displayed for these inter-Collegiate matches which led to the presentation by G. H. Seddon, who captained the Seniors in 1920, of the Seddon Stick which has become the prized trophy award to the winners of the New Zealand University Tournament. The Club had found a distinguished Patron in the late Professor J. Adamson. A more respected and better-loved figure could not have been found anywhere, and members of the Club of those years will long remember dinners and social functions at which Professor Adamson endeared himself to the hearts of all by his inimitable anecdotes of hockey played in Scotland and elsewhere.

In 1925, the Club had resumed its contact with Otago University, and marked the occasion graciously by losing the Seddon Stick to Otago’s XI. Moves were finalized in this year for an annual match against Canterbury College and, in 1926, the stage was set for the organization of the first New Zealand University Hockey Tournament. This was held at Wellington in June, 1926, and appropriately marked the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Victoria University College Club. Hopes were held of regaining the Seddon Stick, but, although Victoria reached the final, Otago narrowly retained the Trophy. The standard of play in the Club continued to improve, however, and 1927 again saw Victoria contest the final of the Tournament, this time against Auckland University College. Though again unsuccessful, this team provided three members of the first New Zealand University team, namely, B. Massey, J. McDonald and F. H. Paul.

1928 must be noted as one of the most successful years in the Club’s history. Five strong teams were entered, Senior A and B, Junior A and B, and Third. In the Seniors, the figurehead was Eddie McLeod, ex-Auckland representative, and ex-captain of the New Zealand team who, as centre-half, inspired the team to brilliant heights. The Junior teams sought inspiration in H. F. Bollard, another centre-half, who was to prove one of the greatest Club stalwarts of the subsequent era. Both Senior teams were Champions of their grades, while the Junior A team narrowly failed in their championship. The Senior team yet again contested the final of the Tournament against Otago and again failed by an odd goal. Simpson, Massey and Fraser won their New Zealand Blues, while these with McLeod, Paul and W. Sykes represented Wellington on many occasions.

The boom of 1928 continued into 1929. With six teams, the Club assumed record proportions, and under the fine leadership of Eddie McLeod, H. F. Bollard and C. H. Hain, Jnr., it had seemingly arrived at an ideal state. The Senior team at last won its well-earned Seddon Stick at the Tournament but, as the fates would have it, was obliged to concede its premiership to Karori in a close finish.

The enthusiasm, loyalty and healthy activity of the Club of 1929 attracted a veritable avalanche of new recruits, and in 1930 the College with seven teams boasted the largest Hockey Club in the Dominion. In 1931 and 1932, with eight teams and
a keen band of some dozen reserves, it glowed in the distinction of being the strongest and largest in Australasia. Although only one Championship (Senior B, 1930) fell to the Club during this period, these three seasons proved to be most enjoyable in the Club's career by virtue of its large memberships and the sustained and vigorous activity of its members. There are records of some athletic excellences, however, which served as inspiring forces in the Club during these years. The Senior team contested two finals in the University Tournaments, and "Charlie" Bollard enhanced his enthusiastic service to the Club by becoming the first Victoria College Hockey player to win New Zealand representative honours. In the same year (1932), L. H. Davis, and the brilliant K. N. Struthers were selected, together with Bollard, to represent the New Zealand Universities.

In 1933, a diminishing College roll had the effect of restricting the membership of the Club, but the year was marked by many notable milestones. The death of Mr C. H. Hain, Sen., who had been a most enthusiastic patron of the Club since 1926, came as a sad blow. The Hain Memorial Stick, to be awarded to the most improved beginner, was presented to commemorate his keen association with the Club. Later in the same year, the founder of the Club, Mr G. F. Dixon, was elected as his successor and presented the Dixon Trophy to the Club to be awarded to the best-performed team of any season. Although elected as a Life Member in 1907, this was Mr Dixon’s first election as Patron of the Club, an office which he has never failed to endow with a genuine and active interest in the activities of the Club. As for performances on the field, the Senior team was still successful in producing its share of Wellington representatives (H. F. Bollard, V. A. Stanley and K. N. Struthers), and New Zealand Blues (Bollard, F. L. Newcombe and H. Williamson). It was in this period that the colourful College figure of the late Kingi Tahiti appeared to fill the role of a tireless Secretary of the Club and an irrepressible and spirited player on the field.

Although the growth of the Club had reached its limit, the momentum imparted by the activity of those earlier years kept it in a constant state of mobility. In 1935, there were six teams, but it had become increasingly difficult to maintain these at full strength. The Club had made a valuable acquisition in the evergreen N. R. Jacobson, ex-captain of several New Zealand teams and an Auckland representative as far back as 1906, who turned his experience and ability to good effect in the Senior team. 1935 saw four members of the Senior team, one McEwan, L. Danby, F. H. Stewart and F. L. Newcombe, selected to represent the New Zealand Universities in the team which toured Fiji. In 1936, applying Norm. Jacobson’s sound theoretical knowledge of the game, the Senior team again won the Seddon Stick at the Tournament.

In succeeding years, the membership had found its level at six teams and although a decline in playing standard was experienced, much was done to keep alive the spirit of the Club. There are accounts of field days when matches were played against the “Old Brigade,” of bright smoke concerts and the springing up of Social teams notable for the spiritedness rather than the skill of their play. A new generation of players had sprung to the fore. A. B. Dixon, son of Mr G. F. Dixon, proved a keen and capable Club Captain and a valuable player. F. L. Newcombe, W. F. Johnston and S. Braithwaite, won New Zealand University Blues, while D. Beresford, N. Buchanan, G. Shaw and A. Sharp—a former Blue and Rhodes Scholar—found places in the provincial side. The 1939 team, a powerful combination of such accomplished players, suffered a severe but unjust setback by being relegated to the Senior B grade. It was, however, reinstated to its proper grade in 1940. In this year the Club was having to contend with the demands of the Second World War. But with five teams, the Club clung to its normal a routine as was possible and successfully staged the inter-University Tournament. The Senior team again made a bold bid for the Seddon Stick but lost the final to the Massey team which had entered the Tournament for the first time at Christchurch in 1935. G. Whitham and S. Braithwaite won Blues, while H. Scott, together with Whitham secured representative honours. Of the enthusiasts in the Junior teams of this year, B. B. Hands (who won the Hain Stick), K. W. Kiddle and George Marwick were those who were destined to play prominent roles in the years to come.

1941 saw a sadly reduced Club of three teams. The stalwarts of the Club had begun their exodus and with the departure of its Club Captain, George Shaw, early in 1942, it was left to a new but intensely active committee in B. B. Hands, A. C. Ives (from Canterbury University College), K. W. Kiddle, P. O’Donnell, E. Raine and G. Stacey to administer the affairs of three teams. It would not be an exaggeration to state that it was the tireless enthusiasm of this committee, particularly that of the Secretary, Bruce Hands, which ensured the survival of the Club in these difficult years. The weakened state of the Club produced a happy arrangement in the revival of the co-educational scheme of training which had its first successful experiment in 1904 when R. St. J. Beere, G. V. Bogle and P. W. Robertson (at present Professor of Chemistry at Victoria), were the energetic coaches of the then newly formed Ladies Hockey Club. The Hockey Club played a leading role in the organisation of a Winter Sports Ball and in the undertaking, with the Women’s Hockey and Basketball teams, of an extremely enjoyable tournament visit to Auckland, The Senior team held its own in the competition, mainly due to the return of “Charlie” Bollard to its ranks for several games. His polished perform-
ances at centre-half will long be remembered by the members of that team, and his tragic death in August, 1944, removed a truly outstanding figure in the annals of the Club’s history.

In 1943, the Senior team succeeded in winning the Senior Championship, sharing this honour with Fort Dorset. Besides including outstanding players in K. W. Kiddle (Captain, 1941 New Zealand University Blue and Wellington Representative), G. Speight, M. B. Gunn, G. Jones, and A. C. Ives, who was making a come-back, the team was noted mainly for its intense team spirit. Indeed, such a spirit survived in the Club and a successful inter-University Tournament was organized and held in Wellington during the season. The Senior team provided one New Zealand University representative. The following year saw signs of renewed life when the Hockey Club again became the strongest sports Club with six teams, managed by an able and enthusiastic committee. The Senior team had acquired the brilliant Winiata Smiler from Auckland and though it just failed to retain its premiership, the team produced Wellington representatives in Smiler, M. B. Gunn and J. Nicholls. At the New Zealand University Tournament, the honour of a Blue was won by M. B. Gunn. In this year, the annual fixture against Massey College, begun in 1932, was resumed in Wellington and has since been one of the highlights of the Hockey year.

1945 saw a healthy Club of six strong teams. The Senior team made their characteristic bid for Championship honours but again had to be content with being runners-up. The 2s team, which rejoiced in the title of the “Social Team,” excelled themselves by virtually winning their Grade Championship after a series of most enjoyable games. Actually, the team finished one point behind the official winners but had played two fewer games during the season. The general excellence of the Club was reflected by its gaining second honours in the Club Championship. The Club was represented at the inaugural New Zealand Winter Tournament held at Dunedin, and produced one New Zealand blue in N. W. Towns.

In the post-war period there have been promising signs of another successful era. 1946 saw a Club of seven teams and the return to its teams of many pre-war members. E. Breach, S. Braithwaite, M.

Christie and G. Shaw joined the Senior team, captured by E. Latham and Breach; and Latham, with Smiler, were chosen for the Wellington Shield Challenge team. During the season, H. B. Lawry, who had been an outstanding Massey player before the War, strengthened the Club and later represented Wellington and the North Island. H. Scott resumed playing for the Seniors towards the end of the season and signalled his return by gaining a New Zealand Blue at the Tournament in Auckland.

Apart from Hec. Lawry, many of the older members have ceased to play and the last two years have seen younger members assimilating experience. The Club is in a healthy state and Club activity still contributes to the College life. The Tournament was held in Wellington in 1947 and, in 1948, the Massey match and the Hockey Club Ball were outstanding social successes. The Senior team has figured in stirring duels with Karori for the premiership but again the honours have eluded it. Hec. Lawry has represented Wellington for the last two seasons and in 1948 captained the team which won the New Zealand Challenge Shield from Canterbury. I. Launerson from the Senior XI was also included in this team, and played a notable part in netting the decisive goal.

It is now left to future reviewers to record whether the present era will be a good or a bad one. The years before have been reviewed, and though this history may be satisfactorily complete from the point of view of time, much valuable data may have been overlooked and, certainly, much omitted. How and when many Club enthusiasts of the early years were later elected office-bearers; stories of meetings at Karori Park of G. F. Dixon, R. St. J. Beere, Mr Justice Smith and S. A. Eichelbaum, complete with oranges, to cheer on the team of 1942; of Mr Dixon’s ever-welcome “Come on Green!” at nearly every game for many past seasons—these are some of the interesting notes which might have been elaborated in the general picture.

However, if some of the colour may not have been sufficiently applied, it is hoped that the patterns have remained definable and that the final impression conveyed will be one worthy of Victoria’s pioneer Sports Club.

IVOR TING
1. Foundation and Early Development

1902—1918

In 1902, while the four foundation professors were still delivering their lectures in the old Girls' High School, their students were beginning to feel that the sporting and social life of the College was incomplete without Rugby. In that year the first College team defeated the Old Boys' XV by 19 to 12; Sydney University opened the negotiations which led to the later interchange of visits; and a committee to investigate the question of Rugby at Victoria was appointed by the Students' Association. The result of all this activity appeared in March, 1903, when a meeting, called to discuss this last matter, carried H. H. Ostler's motion "That in the opinion of this meeting the time has arrived when a Football Club should be formed," and thereby constituted the Victoria College Football Club. The seventeen enthusiastic members who attended the meeting elected a committee of nine—G. V. Bogle, W. Gillanders, A. H. Johnstone, F. A. de la Mare, R. Mitchell, H. H. Ostler, A. G. Quartley, R. G. M. Park, and A. Tudhope—who called the first annual general meeting for April 2nd of the same year, and entered, on behalf of the Club, one Junior and one Third-Class team in the Rugby Union's competitions. No great success came at first, as the First XV did not record its first victory until 1904, and then it only won four of the ten matches played. To the Second XV fell the honour of the Club's first win—at the expense of Poneke by 8 to 3 (1903)—but, in the two seasons 1903-4, this team could boast only two more victories, one of them by default.

Nevertheless, on September 8th, 1904, T. A. Hunter, the College's new lecturer in Mental and Moral Philosophy, moved, and H. H. Ostler seconded, that in 1905, the College should enter a Senior team in the competition. For the new season, the Club colours were changed from maroon and blue to green and gold, and T. A. Hunter was elected Captain of the Senior team. Two wins came, over Poneke 9 to 5, and Wellington 3 to 0. A further indication of the growing strength of the Club was the playing, in 1905, of Victoria's first inter-Collegiate matches—against Otago (lost 0—13), and Canterbury (won 8—6). The Otago match lapsed after this encounter, but the Canterbury game has been played almost annually ever since. T. A. Hunter and F. A. de la Mare, though chosen to represent Wellington, forfeited the honour of being the first Club footballers to play for the province, so that they could represent the College against Otago. Our first provincial representa-
of the whole city, almost underground for the next two years. When play was resumed in earnest in 1917, the Club was able to enter two teams, as against 1916's one, and contribute to provincial teams A. D. Jackson, G. G. Aitken, V. W. Russell, F. A. Morton, and D. H. Scott. In 1918, Aitken, R. R. Scott, and P. Martin-Smith represented Wellington. New life had come to Victoria College Rugby.

2. A Period of Strength 1919—1929

In 1919, the College regained at a bound its old status. Four teams were engaged each Saturday, the Senior team was for the first time runner-up in its grade, and eight players represented Wellington—Beard, Jackson, Aitken, Brosnan, Martin-Smith, N. A. J. Barker, D. E. Chrisp and R. R. Scott. It was a good year.

By contrast, in 1920, partly owing to the demands of the New Zealand University team, which took Aitken, J. D. Hutchison, F. M. H. Hanson (the 1919 Army representative), D. H. Scott, R. R. Scott, and S. K. Siddells, the First XV could win only four and draw one of eleven matches, and so the chance of championship honours, which had seemed so good, was lost. Notwithstanding the Club's mediocre record, Siddells, Martin-Smith, Jackson, Barker, Aitken, R. R. Scott, J. D. Hutchison, and M. L. Smith were in representative teams, while Barker became the first Victoria College man to be selected for the North Island team.

His feat was eclipsed in the very next year by G. G. Aitken and S. K. Siddells, who both played for New Zealand against the touring South Africans, Aitken being captain in the first two tests, and Siddells playing in the last, thus becoming the Club's first All Blacks. In Wellington sides were Siddells, Aitken, Jackson, Hanson, D. H. Scott, R. R. Scott, C. B. Thomas, F. C. Hutchison, and G. G. MacKay; and the New Zealand team in Sydney included Hanson, Jackson, Aitken, Siddells, D. H. Scott, and H. N. Burns.

1922 was a fairly successful year, especially from the point of view of representative honours, for Thomas, Siddells, Jackson, Burns, Aitken, R. R. and D. H. Scott, J. O. J. Malfroy, A. Murray, A. D. McRae, H. B. Riggs, M. L. Smith and J. F. Trapski earned the distinction of playing for Wellington, while Siddells was awarded a place in the North Island team, and Jackson, D. H. Scott, Siddells, Thomas and McRae were members of the New Zealand University side against the touring Sydney University team. College football was again in much the same position during the next year, the First XV's place not being a high one, in spite of the fact that from its numbers Jackson, Malfroy, Thomas, McRae, Martin-Smith, M. L. Smith and I. A. Hart represented the province, and were among those who, by their partiality for the fast open game, were making of Victoria College Rugby a spectacle to delight the public. In the same year Thomas, McRae, Malfroy, Riggs and Martin-Smith were members of the New Zealand University XV.

At the beginning of the 1924 season there were many who expected that, since retirements had left such a gap in Senior ranks, the Club's chances were hopeless for many years to come. As it happened, however, the College team was embarking at that time upon a six-year period of uncommon strength, and by the end of the winter could afford to laugh at the woeful prophets. There were seven College men—Malfroy, Martin-Smith, Hart, Riggs, J. J. G. Britland, C. J. O'Regan and E. Walpole—in the Union's sides, and the First XV finished in a creditable place.

By the end of 1925 the Club was able to boast of having been third on the ladder; of having sent to Wellington teams Hart, Walpole, Malfroy, Martin-Smith, O'Regan, E. T. W. Love, S. Joli and R. H. C. Mackenzie; and to New Zealand University XV's Burns, Martin-Smith, Mackenzie, Malfroy, O'Regan, Walpole and G. J. Scoats. In this year also the College defeated Sydney University for the first time, by 16 to 8. Still better things were to follow in the next year, when a very strong side consolidated the successes of 1925 by finishing in second place, and by contributing to Wellington teams E. T. Leys, F. A. Noble-Adams, J. D. Mackay, L. C. South, J. F. Platts-Mills, S. C. Childs, Malfroy, Scoats, Mackenzie, Burns, Martin-Smith, and O'Regan. Love was a member of the Maori All Blacks.

In 1927 Mackenzie, O'Regan, F. S. Ramson and E. E. Blacker were provincial representatives, and Childs, Love, O'Regan and Burns toured Australia with the New Zealand University XV. The Club team was becoming stronger, but it was not until 1928 that the Jubilee Cup was won for the first time. A hard final, evenly contested with Poneke, put the College at the head of the table, and a further major event in the history of Victoria College Rugby had occurred. In that same year, in virtuous emulation, University teams in all the four main centres of New Zealand, and in Sydney, won their Senior championships, University Rugby being at the time exceptionally good. A much-depleted team won the National Mutual Cup for the first and only time in the Club's history; J. D. MacKay and R. H. C. Mackenzie were All Blacks against the New South Wales team, and also Wellington representatives, in which distinction Noble-Adams, Ramson, Leys, O'Regan and Blacker also shared.

Next year witnessed only a slight abatement of the standard of the first championship season, as the Club again carried off the Jubilee Cup, though unable to retain the challenge trophy for another year. The list of Wellington representatives was still further extended by Ramson, Mackay, Mackenzie, Leys, H. W. and F. Cormack, C. E. Dixon, R. E. Diederich, J. M. Edgar and E. K. Eastwood;
that of New Zealand University players by Mackenzie, Leys, Mackay, Blacker and Edgar; and that of All Blacks by Leys, who went to Australia to join the team touring there.

3. The Decline 1930—1945

Two great years were over. Victoria College Rugby, from its vigorous state, declined, as so often before and since, without delay or explanation, and in 1930 the Club tasted the bitterness of occupying last place. Not even the success of Ramson, Blacker, Mackay and Diederich, who all gained places in representative teams was much consolation. Success by the team was the only anodyne, and this looked within grasp in the early part of 1931, when the first four matches in a row were won. But then the demands of the New Zealand University side—Mackay, Diederich, Dixon and J. H. Ruru—and injuries, took too great a toll. Nevertheless Mackay was reserve back for New Zealand, besides being a fellow-member (of provincial teams), with Diederich, Blacker, Ruru and F. Cormack, and Ruru played for New Zealand Maoris.

The slump was a contributing factor. The First XV struggled on, recording an occasional win, and deriving consolation from the seven teams that the large membership had allowed, and the success of the Fourth Grade side which was, for the second time in succession, runner-up in its grade. Diederich and N. Hislop were both Wellington players, maintaining the long and honourable tradition.

1933 found the Club for the first time since 1905 out of the top grade and playing in the Second Division, a relegation which was a severe blow, but which did not prevent C. M. Ongley and J. Wells from appearing in Wellington teams, and Diederich, Wells and W. A. Edwards from being selected in the New Zealand University side. These honours, coupled with the completion of the new practice ground behind the Gymnasium, and the defeat of Australian Universities by 21 to 15 restored a little of the waning confidence, and plans for 1934 were early under way. Plans became reality in the next year, when the First XV, after some hard games, was reinstated in the first grade, the Third Grade "C" team won its competition, and the Fourth Grade team followed suit. The tragic death of Ruru, the Club’s only provincial player of the year, took away much of the sparkle resultant from the success, and Ruru's fellow-players turned their thoughts for a time to the provision of a suitable memorial for their great footballer. The Ruru Shield, purchased with the money raised, was allotted for annual competition to the match between Weir House and the Rest of the College, the latter being the first winners (1936).

Once more, however, in 1935, the First XV was placed in the Second Division of the Senior "A" grade, where it began rather badly. A bad beginning came to a good ending, for the numerical strength was great (seven teams were entered) and the First XV, improving as the season progressed, finally occupied third place on the ladder. Of its members Blacker, E. R. Chesterton and G. G. Rae were selected for provincial teams, while the greatly-coalesced Second of a place in the New Zealand University side which sailed on December 23rd for Japan was gained by Rae, Chesterton, Eade, H. R. C. Wild and W. Tricklebank. Once again the season’s limelight was stolen by the exceptionally strong Third Grade "C" team, which, for the second year in succession carried off the honours in its competition, thereby emulating the feat of the First XV in the great years.

Not content with emulation, they passed next season to eminence, for in 1936 they became the first Victoria College team to win their grade in three successive years. This year too saw a most important innovation. The first (if we except the single trial played in 1908) inter-Island Universities match took place in Wellington, and was won by South by 31 to 14. This important step forward, the result largely of the Japanese tour, was followed two years later by a further advance, namely the practice, now annual, of meeting a major provincial side. 1936, besides witnessing the first effective step towards this end, also saw the College team at least hold its own in the Second Division. It is worthy of note that during this year the Club was represented in the Senior "B" grade by a Training College team playing under the auspices of the College. During the winter R. B. Burke and S. McNicol represented Wellington.

It was natural then, that when preparations for the 1937 season were begun, there should be a good deal of optimism in the air, despite the fact that the First XV was once again placed in the Second Division, and the carefully constructed practice ground had been commandeered as a site for the College Biology Block. And when the winning of four games in the first round gained for the Victoria College team the honour of promotion to the First Division, the optimism, previously of the type which is both natural and common at the beginning of a season, seemed to rest on a solid foundation, instead of the shifting one which, in reality, existed. The Seniors must have welcomed the end of the season with its release from the regular weekly defeat—for not another game in nine was won, and the team finished last in the grade. There was not even a single Club member in the provincial team.

On the heels of calamity came success. Once more in the Second Division, the First XV began brilliantly by winning all its first five matches, and losing the next two by narrow margins. Recovering, they had six more victories, and finally won the competition, five clear points in the lead. Unpredictable as ever, the College had won its third
Senior championship, though this year's success, being in the Second Division, was not comparable with that of 1928, or of 1929. It was a good year for Victoria College football, for J. P. Eastwood, McNicol, Burke, Rae, and Wild were all selected for representative teams. Wild, J. R. Bryers, Burke, and McNicol played for New Zealand University in its first encounter with a major Rugby province—Waikato—while Eastwood and J. Kessel were selected, but were unable, because of injuries, to take part.

In 1939, the Wellington Rugby Union raised to twelve the number of teams in the First Division, and the College once more took its place in the top grade. Our team performed creditably, if unspectacularly. Eastwood, McNicol, Hansen and Burke were the Club contingent to representative sides, and the last three were members of a powerful New Zealand University side which beat Canterbury by 24 to 5. By the end of the season, World War II had begun, and a large number of Club members joined the colours. At first, the Club was not greatly affected, for plenty of new players were available to fill the gaps, and six teams were entered; but enlistments soon made large inroads on personnel, and these inroads were quickly reflected in the indifferent success of the First XV, and the shortness of players in the lower grade sides. The Junior Third Division team alone had any success, and tied for first place with Porirua. McNicol, Burke, H. E. M. Greig, and O. S. Meads were all selected to represent Wellington in various matches. Further honours came the way of Burke, Meads, McNicol and R. D. Patrick, who were selected as members of the New Zealand University team which beat Combined Services at Auckland by 10 to 9.

1941 began badly, which is scarcely surprising when one considers how many of the old players had gone and how few teams were entered. Only four Club teams played, and the Seniors, though at times playing some of the best football seen on Athletic Park for years (especially against a very strong Army team which contained six All Blacks) finished well down the ladder. A fine, late-season run, and the fact that all the College matches played were won, accounts for the large band of Club players in the various representative teams, University and provincial, for which were picked Meads, Greig, W. G. Smith, R. T. Shannon, Patrick and R. G. Stuckey.

The still-dwindling numerical strength of the Club was, in 1942, an immense worry and burden to the little band who were in charge of that body, for only sufficient men for three teams were available. It was apparent too that Club spirit was low. After some early successes came a run of defeats. An inevitable consequence of war enlistments was the constant change in the personnel of teams—indeed, no less than 43 players were called upon during the season for the First XV. Patrick and J. P. Murphy were the Club's sole representatives in the provincial XV, and no New Zealand University match was played. No College matches were contested, but a team sponsored by the Club and containing six of its members travelled to Wanganui and beat the local Colts side by 12 points to 5.

Next year, the College once more lost its First Division status, for, after being defeated in the first two qualifying games, it was placed in the Hardham Cup competition. Once again three teams only represented the Club in the Rugby Union's competitions, none being able to specially distinguish itself, though the First XV, by finishing third, accomplished a creditable performance. Good signs were the resumption of inter-College games, including that against Te Aute College. Patrick and MacLennan added to their provincial record, but no others were able either to do likewise, or to enter representative ranks for the first time. No New Zealand University games could be played this year, but 1944 saw a North-South Universities match at Christchurch (won by South), and the selection of a New Zealand University side which had no chance to prove itself. G. T. Cornick was the only Victoria man to be chosen in this team, and no Victorian represented Wellington. Cornick was selected but was unable to play, and J. R. E. Dobson came on as a replacement in a semi-representative match, but there it ended. Still, for a Club which had been possibly hardest hit of any by the war, Victoria did fairly well. Growing numbers permitted the entry of four teams, the First XV narrowly defeated Massey, and annihilated Canterbury. Injuries and transfers still mutilated the senior team, for which no fewer than 46 players appeared during the season. Two losses in the first two games set the First team struggling, but then came a spell of nine weeks without a loss, during which there were periods of both brilliant, and uncommonly bad, football. Sometimes it seemed that even Senior Second Division was too high for the team, sometimes that no team in Wellington could be their equal.

In 1945 there was a greatly increased membership, including many returned servicemen; and five teams were entered in the Rugby Union's competitions. Again the First XV alternated between brilliance and mediocrity. Still, taking all together, there was at least a little reason for buoyancy. Club spirit was gradually recuperating from its three years' serious illness; the First XV finished fourth; R. T. Shannon, C. W. Loveridge and L. B. Lewis were members of various City sides; and Shannon and Murphy played in the New Zealand University side beaten by Otago 19 to 9. Not much, but hopeful.

4. BRIEF BRILLIANCE—1946

It would be fair to say that this small taste of success had prepared no-one for the wonderful year of 1946, for not even the most partisan of
supporters could have foretold that during that year the First XV would, for the third time in the history of the Club, carry off the Jubilee Cup. Yet that is what happened. With the end of the war there was a wonderful spirit abroad—experience was blended with youth, dash with experience, in perfect ratio. The First XV, after a bad start, lost not a single match in the last eleven, defeating Athletic in the final game with almost ridiculous ease, and finishing three points in the lead. Supported by six other teams within the Club, and with an ever-growing band of followers, the First XV proved itself well worthy of its final position and contributed no fewer than nine players to the province’s teams. These were: Burke, Greig, Meads, Murphy, Shannon, R. Jacob, D. S. Goodwin, M. F. Radich and A. S. Macleod. Burke, Shannon, Goodwin, Greig and Jacob were awarded New Zealand University Blues for their part in defeating Wellington by 20 points to 14, and Jacob played for New Zealand Maoris. Adding more to the already impressive record of the Club during this year were the Colts XV, who tied for first place in their grade with Marist, after a special final match. It was a marvellous year for the Club.

5. A New Decline—1947-8

Perhaps it was over-confidence, perhaps lack of keenness, perhaps lack of quality, that toppled the First XV from its proud place. In 1947, in spite of the presence of some eight representative players—Macleod, Shannon, Meads, Jacob, Radich, Burke, S. S. Kurtovich, and C. B. Burden—and four New Zealand University Blues in Meads, Shannon, Jacob and Macleod, the Senior team finished in an inglorious position in the Hardham Cup competition. After some initial successes, the team suffered a series of reverses. The finish and drive which had distinguished the play in 1946 was missing, and the side, though occasionally brilliant, was more often sluggish and unpolished. Nor did the performance of the lower grade teams do much to dispel the gloom cast over the Club’s activities.

Hope for the future was the only consolation, but reality was coy. The Colts XV were runners-up, but the First XV, notwithstanding a really promising end of season burst, were not able to improve their final grade position, and remained low down in the Hardham Cup table. Only towards the winter’s end did the Senior team begin to play with polish and verve—four wins and one draw in sixteen matches tells its own story. Representative honours were gained by Meads, Jacob, R. T. Shannon and R. G. Wilde, who all played for Wellington teams; by the two first mentioned and C. A. Shannon who represented New Zealand University against Auckland; and by Jacob who toured New Zealand and Fiji with the New Zealand Maoris and was reserve back for the North Island.

That is the record of Victoria College Rugby. Many seasons, for results, have been poor and barren: no winter can seem dull, stale, or unprofitable which has given so many the opportunity of playing Rugby with or against the finest that Wellington or Rugby can produce, the best of friends, companions, and rivals.

J. B. TRAPP

CRICKET AT VICTORIA

It was in the year 1906 that, inspired by Allan MacDougall and D. R. Niven, fifteen enthusiasts convened a meeting which led in that year to the formation of the Cricket Club and the affiliation of the Club with the Wellington Cricket Association. In the following summer the newly affiliated Club entered teams in the Association’s Junior and Third Grade championships.

Even in those days there were difficulties with practice wickets but the players seemed to have overcome them; and, in 1907, the Club met Canterbury University College in the first inter-University match, which resulted in a win for V.U.C. after a stern uphill battle. In 1909, on the introduction of district cricket to Wellington, the University Club was classed as a district, which led to the entry of the Club into Senior ranks, but the new club found wins in the top grade hard to achieve.

In 1911 Auckland University College was played for the first time and, at Easter 1913, the first of such matches was played with Otago University.

In the early years of the Club’s history there were many prominent figures: H. W. Monaghan, the New Zealand representative player who played for the Club for several seasons; F. Joplin who gained Plunket Shield Honours, was a sound and reliable bat, and who afterwards for years was coach of the Wellington College XI; the late Gilbert Howe, for several years a Wellington representative wicket keeper; and C. Berendsen (now Sir Carl Berendsen) another Wellington representative wicket keeper; and the representative players Dr Foster, J. F. W. Dickson and J.
Fanning were prominent members of the Club. J. V. Saunders, the Australian and New Zealand International, who was coach in Wellington for some years, was allotted to Varsity as a playing coach, and his presence in the side led to further improvement. Indeed it was the War alone which halted the Club’s progress. For, with practically all the active members of the Club at the Front, Varsity cricket was very hard hit, but it struggled on manfully. Many ex-members of the Club gave their lives during the four years of war, and the Senior Eleven of the Club, not being able longer to extend the other teams in the Senior grade, lost senior status.

After the War, however, a new start was made with a team in the Junior and Third grades. In 1919-20 the first North-South University cricket match was played and won by the South by an innings and 158 runs. H. E. Moore, J. L. Dighton, L. A. Charles, W. H. Stainton and Randall gained places in the North team from the Club. Prominent members of the Club were the late P. B. Broad who afterwards was the Chairman of the Wellington Cricket Association and who was Club Captain, and C. H. Hain who for years has given a prize for the best fieldsman in the University Club. The rise of the Club following the War was rapid, and, in 1923-24, the first eleven won the Junior A Championship of the Wellington Cricket Association. This was the first occasion the Club had won a championship; and the handsome win by an innings and 267 runs in the Speight Trophy match with Auckland was another good augury for the future. In this match, A. M. Hollings and R. H. C. Mackenzie, both destined to be Club stalwarts in later years, scored brilliant centuries. With a young and keen team, only two members of which were over 20 years of age, the Club had good reason to look ahead with confidence.

That this was justified is seen by the results of the following season 1924-25 when the Club again carried off the Junior A Championship. The cause of the Club was then taken up by some prominent members of the cricketing fraternity and at a specially convened meeting, Varsity was once again given senior status.

The results of the 1925-26 season demonstrated that this promotion was justified. Four teams were maintained in the Association’s grade championships and the Club was third in the Club championships. The first eleven had only two wins in its senior matches but was able to give several of the leading teams severe shocks. R. H. C. Mackenzie, A. M. Hollings and E. T. Leys all represented Wellington that season but none gained places in the Plunket Shield sides. The match with Auckland University College was a draw and the second eleven defeated every team it met and easily won the Junior B Championship.

Fair success attended the Club the following season, the Senior eleven winning two games out of nine. Particularly noteworthy was the performance of A. M. Hollings who scored a century in three consecutive Club matches, and earned a place in the Wellington Plunket Shield team. He thus became the first Varsity man to gain this honour since the end of World War I.

In 1927-28 the Senior Eleven put up a fine performance, being third in the Senior Championship. Mackenzie averaged 69.87 and secured 20 victims behind the stumps, and the high position of the team was largely due to his brilliance. E. G. McLeod, a New Zealand International, joined the Club and proved a tower of strength. C. H. Arndt scored a brilliant 209 not out for the seconds in the junior grade, an outstanding achievement. The match with Auckland was ruined by rain and drawn at stumps. V. U. C. were 29 runs behind and had three wickets in hand.

In 1928-29 University were fourth in the Senior Championship. During this season the first Christmas tour of the Manawatu, Wanganui, and Taranaki districts took place. These tours have become an annual event, and have done an immense amount of good for cricket. R. H. C. Mackenzie was Captain of the Town Representatives against the Country and R. J. Bagge was also in the Town team. The match with A.U.C. was drawn, R. H. C. Mackenzie scoring a fine 70 not out in the second innings.

The 1929-30 season saw the Senior eleven runners-up equal with the Wellington College Old Boys for the Senior championship. E. G. McLeod, the captain, had a remarkably successful season and represented New Zealand against England in the Test at Wellington, thus gaining the distinction of being the first V.U.C. men to gain a place in a New Zealand team whilst playing for Varsity. E. G. McLeod and H. C. Mackenzie played in the Plunket Shield matches for Wellington, E. T. Leys being chosen and unable to play, whilst E. T. Leys represented Wellington Town against Country.

The following season, 1930-31, was a much leaner year and the seniors won only three matches. Mackenzie had retired and his loss was severely felt. E. G. McLeod represented Wellington against the West Indies and in the Plunket Shield matches. C. S. Harrison bowled ably for the senior team, taking 38 wickets at an average of 18.57 and E. J. Aim also bowled well, capturing 31 wickets.

1931-32 saw the departure of still more of the older hands and H. C. Bailey ably led a rather inexperienced team which won two matches. J. A. R. Blandford was in good form with bat and gloves and represented Wellington against Hawkes Bay. A.U.C. were beaten by 10 wickets and the Junior B team were runners-up in their grade.

In the following year 1932-33 the Club was third in the Club Championship and the Senior eleven was fifth equal in the senior grade. L. M. Pacey was an efficient captain. J. A. R. Blandford was in fine form and gained a place in the Wellington Plunket Shield team. The Junior B team thoroughly
deserved their place as winners of the Junior B grade championship. A sensational finish in the match with A.U.C. saw Auckland just fail to snatch victory, the match ending in a draw.

In 1933-34 the senior team was again captained by L. M. Pacey, and, scoring 36 championship points, was at the top of the second section of the senior championship. W. Tricklebank performed very ably, taking 60 wickets at an average of 12.63, an outstanding performance, whilst D. S. Dean also bowled very well, capturing 38 wickets at an average of 16.60.


University were third in the Senior championship in 1934-35, a good side performing very ably under good captaincy by J. R. Stevens. W. Tricklebank who captured 37 wickets at an average of 14.75 gained a place in the Plunket Shield team and his fine performances in representative cricket earned him selection for the North Island against the South at Wellington. P. D. Wilson and J. A. R. Blandford and R. C. Connell were in good form with the bat whilst D. S. Dean again bowled well.

In 1935-36 University were sixth in the Club championship, but the senior team under J. R. Stevens had bad luck with the weather, rain depriving the team of almost certain wins in four matches. One match was won and five lost. The team was handicapped by the absence of J. A. R. Blandford who played in the Town v. Country match, in all Plunket Shield matches, for the Wellington team which defeated the M.C.C. team and for New Zealand in the second and third matches against E. R. T. Holme's side, keeping wickets admirably on each occasion, scoring 40 and 36 and participating in a century partnership in each match. The absence of W. Tricklebank in Japan with the N.Z. University Rugby team was a big loss, but W. F. Vietmeyer, a century scorer, was in good form with the bat and ball, whilst A. G. Wiren batted and fielded well. N. H. McMillan, a fine all-rounder, was very consistent, and W. F. Vietmeyer and W. Tricklebank were awarded New Zealand University Blues for the season.

1936-37 saw Blandford available for most games and Tricklebank back with the side. The senior eleven performed well and was fourth in the championship. W. Tricklebank and J. A. R. Blandford represented Wellington in Plunket Shield matches, and Blandford also represented Wellington-Auckland combined against the M.C.C. team at Auckland. N. H. McMillan ably captained the senior eleven.

In 1937-38 the senior eleven under the captaincy of N. H. McMillan finished second to last in the competition. Time deprived the team of outright wins when behind on the first innings on two occasions, and, on other occasions, after being in a winning position, the eleven failed to drive home its advantage. P. D. Wilson and T. A. Harpur opened well and invariably gave the team a good start whilst A. G. Wiren and W. Tricklebank batted well. W. Tricklebank, J. B. Stephenson, P. A. Ongley and P. Knowsley were leading bowlers. The Auckland University College match was won by 83 runs and, at Christmas, University played Wanganui at Wanganui. W. Tricklebank represented Wellington against Hawkes Bay and Rangitikei, and T. A. Harpur and J. B. Stephenson were awarded New Zealand University Blues for the season.

In 1938-39 the University Club, which had J. R. Sheffield (formerly an Essex County player and the Association coach) allotted to it, gained two wins, one loss and four draws in the senior competition. The side was a good one, but its place in the championship was lowered by the number of drawn games. J. A. Ongley gained a place in the Town representative side against the Country, scoring 36 not out and 57 not out, this gaining him a place in the Wellington Plunket Shield team, where he scored 110 on his first appearance on first class cricket against Otago. He followed this up with good performances against Canterbury and Auckland, and gained his New Zealand cap against Sir Julien Cahn's visiting eleven, scoring 35 when he opened for New Zealand. T. A. Harpur also represented Wellington in the Plunket Shield matches against Otago and Auckland as did the coach, J. R. Sheffield. N. H. McMillan represented Wellington against Marlborough at Blenheim. The captain of the eleven was W. Tricklebank. An outstanding feature of the season was the huge innings of 286 played by F. Betts for the now famous Junior C Social team captained by E. E. Blacker. This innings is a club record. New Zealand University Blues were awarded to W. Tricklebank, T. A. Harpur, J. A. Ongley and P. D. Wilson.

University under J. R. Sheffield as captain were sixth in the senior championships in the first War season of 1939-40, winning three, drawing two and losing five. Top batsman was E. M. Hay with an average of 35.40 who scored a century for the side. J. A. Ongley gained a place in the Wellington Plunket Shield team against Auckland and Otago and also represented Town versus Country. I. T. H. Manley also represented Town in this match. J. A. Ongley and T. A. Harpur were awarded New Zealand University Blues for the season.

During the following season 1940-41 University were seriously hit by loss of players to the Armed Forces and did not win a match in the senior championship. Great difficulty was experienced in keeping together an eleven. P. D. Wilson gained Wellington Representative Honours in first class matches against Auckland and Canterbury, and captained Town against the Country. He also represented Wellington against Wanganui, as did G. Craig.
The next season 1941-42 was again a difficult one, but the senior team gave a better performance, winning three, drawing three, and losing eight. The club was seventh in the Club championship out of twenty clubs.

In 1942-43, with the War making still heavier demands on manpower, the University Club again had a very difficult year, but the team finished eighth equal out of twelve teams in the senior championship. Six wins, six draws and eight losses gained the team 30 championship points. G. H. Stringer scored over 500 runs for the side and, in the only representative match of the year, P. D. Wilson performed well for Wellington against Combined Services.

The Club still managed to maintain a senior eleven the following season of 1943-44 and was sixth out of ten teams in the senior championship. The Club was seventh out of 19 Clubs in the Club championship which was a good performance considering war conditions. In the Second B grade University B were runners-up for the championship and G. H. Stringer represented Wellington against Canterbury and Auckland, performing well in both matches.

In 1944-45 University were second to bottom in the senior championship, further difficulty being experienced in keeping a team together owing to the War. In the Second A grade University were third in the championship and the side was a promising one. This was a good augury for the future.

The next season 1945-46 was the first peacetime season after World War II. Cricket began to normal, and, with men returning from overseas and many promising young players in the Club, University achieved its ambition of winning the Senior Championship. Ably captained by G. H. Stringer, a strong eleven performed well throughout the season and were popular winners. P. D. Wilson headed the averages, scoring 365 runs at an average of 52.1, and also captured 22 wickets for 16.4 with his slows. D. D. Beard averaged 32.7 with the bat and took 33 wickets at an average of 15.0; whilst J. H. Oakley, who also scored a century for the side, averaged 40.9; T. C. Larkin 36.0 and G. H. Stringer, R. A. Vance, S. Wilde also batted well. R. C. Woolley was a good all-rounder, and D. E. Brian and P. G. Mullins, two fast bowlers, added sting to the attack. I. A. Colquhoun, the wicket keeper, took eleven catches and stumped three behind the wicket and kept well, whilst R. G. Wilde was brilliant at cover point, where he ran out eleven opponents. D. D. Beard represented Wellington against Auckland at Wellington in a special first class match and was unable to play in the Plunket Shield team after being selected, owing to an injury. R. C. Woolley, J. H. Oakley and D. D. Beard represented Wellington against Nelson at Wellington and R. A. Vance and T. C. Larkin represented Wellington against Taranki at New Plymouth. It was a great year for University as in the following Football season the fifteen won the senior Rugby Football Championship. After this success, with most of the previous year's eleven again available, it was hoped that the team would repeat its success in the following season, but, although the eleven performed well at times, the 1946-47 season saw University in fourth place, a loss in the last match with Kilbirnie losing the Club its chance of winning the championship. Until the last match four clubs had a chance of winning the senior championship, which was won by Wellington College Old Boys. G. H. Stringer captained the side well, but the team was not as consistent as the previous year. J. H. Oakley represented Wellington in the Centennial Cup match with Auckland and against the visiting M.C.C. team. D. E. Brian also represented Wellington against Auckland in the Centennial Cup match, whilst T. C. Larkin played for Wellington in the Town v. Country match. A North v. South University match was played at Auckland at Easter and was won by the North Island by an innings and forty-six runs. C. A. Macleod, J. B. Trapp, O. J. Creed and J. H. Murray were members of the North Island team. During the season T. C. Larkin scored 205 not out, this being the record individual score in senior cricket for the Club.

In 1947-48 the team, under the captaincy of T. C. Larkin, seemed to be out of form for the early part of the season and finished bottom equal in the Senior championship. In the Knock-out competition which followed, however, the eleven was unbeaten, but a draw deprived the side of its chance of winning this competition. J. H. Oakley was a member of the Town team against the Country. P. D. Wilson captained the Wellington Colts team on tour, whilst R. A. Vance and J. H. Oakley also were members of the Colts Representative team. In the return Town v. Country match R. A. Vance performed well and he and J. H. Oakley played for Wellington Colts v. Canterbury Colts at Easter, both performing well. A. M. Matheson represented Wellington against Manawatu and R. A. Vance played for Wellington against Fiji in a most thrilling match. J. H. Oakley was a member of the first New Zealand University eleven ever to take the field against Canterbury, when he batted splendidly.

This season the eleven has had an average season and G. H. Stringer has captained a moderate eleven with skill. Two wins have been gained up to the time of writing and R. A. Vance and J. H. Oakley have represented Wellington against the Hutt Valley, whilst R. A. Vance played for Town v. Country.

Like all sporting clubs, the University Cricket Club lost some of its finest men in the second World War. Among those who gave their lives were N. H. McMillan, a former captain, A. P. Cobden, a splendid bat and slip field, J. B. Stephenson a New Zealand University Blue,
D. C. H. Cooper, a sound opening bat, and B. G. Phillips, a very keen cricketer.

Any history of the Club must make special reference to the stalwarts of other years who have placed University in the happy position it is in today. The Club is numerically strong and should do even better in the future. Amongst the outstanding figures of University cricket were R. H. C. Mackenzie, a splendid bat and safe wicket-keeper, E. G. McLeod, a true International, E. T. Leys, who said farewell to V.U.C. cricket with a dashing century, E. C. Wiren, a great club worker, A. M. Hollings, a really fine all-rounder, L. M. Pacey and H. C. Bailey, two solid opening batsmen, J. A. R. Blandford, the finest wicket-keeper the club possessed between the two World Wars, P. D. Wilson who for so many years has shown University cricketers how to bat correctly and well, N. H. McMillan, a really splendid captain and true sportsman, J. A. Ongley, a first class stylish bat, B. A. Paetz, a fine field and dashing bat, J. R. Stevens, a splendid all rounder, and W. Tricklebank, the best fast bowler the Club possessed during the period between the two Wars.

The Club also owes a great deal to G. H. Stringer who, both on and off the field, has done much for University cricket; and, as mentioned above, reference has to be made to C. H. Hain and P. B. Broad for their work following the end of the first World War.

It is difficult to mention all who have helped University to maintain its place in Wellington cricket, but reference must be made of the performances of H. E. Moore, both as a player and administrator. He has been an invaluable member of the Club.

It would not be difficult to add name after name, for the men mentioned above have had the support of many others. It is perhaps unfair to single them out but their outstanding performances entitle them to special mention. Their sportsmanship and ability have left behind a host of memories, and University cricketers and supporters will long remember them.

JOHN CARRAD

SPORTS CHORUS

From "The Golden Calf"

AIR—Huntsmen’s Chorus, from Der Freischutz (Weber)

When the air’s like wine in the sunny weather,
And the breeze blows cobwebs from the brains;
When Latin’s folly and Law’s a tether,
And the blood goes dancing through the veins,—
Then hey! for the paths where your fancy races
Away from the city’s stifling grip,
To the playing fields and open places—
And let the world of toilers slip!
Then here’s to the long white road that beckons,
The climb that baffles, the risk that nerves;
And here’s to the merry heart that reckons
The rough with the smooth, and never swerves!
So let the brimming glasses clink
To the best of toasts that a man can drink!

Be it hockey stick, or oval leather,
Or skiff, or racquet, or rod or gun,—
Here’s luck! for the sport we’ve had together,
For chances bungled and battles won;
For the wicket true, and the field in fettle,
And the man who’s safe for a tingling catch;
For the losing team that shows its mettle,
And the man who wins his heat from scratch.
Then here’s to the sportsman’s road that beckons,
The climb that baffles, the risk that nerves;
And here’s to the merry heart that reckons
The rough with the smooth, and never swerves!
So let the brimming glasses clink
To the best of toasts that a man can drink!

SEAFORTH MACKENZIE, 1907
The Victoria University College Athletic Club faces the second half century of the College with as full a record as any College Club can claim. Before its official inception in 1904, an event delayed through the inability of the Tournament Committee to pay the necessary affiliation fees to the Athletic Association, the Club had occupied a prominent place in College activities for some years.

The founder and first 'leader' of the Club was G. F. Dixon, who played a leading role in promoting the Tournament, and who from then right up to the present, has looked after the Club's interests at every opportunity.

In its embryo stages, athletics at Victoria College were fostered by the generosity of the late J. P. Firth of Wellington College, in making the Wellington College grounds available to our athletes, and by Professor T. H. Easterfield, an old Cambridge half-blue, who gave much of his time, coupled with the benefit of his advice and experience, to our early athletes. Prior to World War I, many notable athletes rose from the Club's ranks. Probably the greatest was Athol Hudson who first competed at Tournament in 1913, when he won the three miles event in record time. In 1914 he beat his previous record in establishing the time 15 mins. 24 secs. for the three miles, and he also won the mile in the record time of 4 mins. 32 secs. At the New Zealand Championships, 1913-14, Hudson won the three miles in a sensational fashion, beating by nearly a lap the Australasian Champion, Jimmy Beatson. Had the war not claimed the life of this great athlete, there is little doubt that he would have proved one of the most brilliant distance runners New Zealand has ever produced. Mention should also be made of F. W. B. Goodbehere who, although he did not quite fulfill the promise of his College days, had the following fine Tournament record: three wins in each of the 100 yards and 220 yards, two wins in the 440 yards and one win in the broad jump. Another sprinter, A. T. Duncan, did well at Tournament and also won the New Zealand titles for the 100 yards and 220 yards in the 1912-13 championships. T. Rigg was three miles champion at Tournament for four years in succession. In 1909 he established a record which stood until Hudson bettered it in 1913. The walker, A. B. Siewright, did well, winning the mile walk at Tournament in 1913, 1914, and 1915, and establishing new records in the two former years. Siewright also won the New Zealand title for the mile and three mile walks in 1914-15 and 1919-20.

Following World War I, the Athletic Club had a lengthy period of success and produced many outstanding athletes. From 1919 the Club won the Athletic Shield at Tournament for three successive years, then for four years Otago held sway, with V.U.C.A.C. usually second, and finally, for a further four years, the Club held the Shield. During this period the Club played a prominent part in both Centre activities and the Provincial Championships. Many Provincial titles were carried off by Club members, but the Provincial Championship Shield was never won, although second place was gained on several occasions.

From 1930 onwards, the success of the Club was not so apparent, a state to be expected since, from the end of World War I, it had more or less led the field, but now the other Colleges were becoming stronger and took their turn at the top. About 1935, the V.U.C.A.C. began to show signs of a new life, although, except in 1939, it retained the wooden spoon; but on the advent of World War II any hope of regaining the lost place was shattered, since, as in the other Colleges, the activities of the Club were severely restricted and at times reduced to nil. However, since World War II, the Club has gradually regained its feet and has built up to almost pre-war standard, with the help of the introduction of some 'new blood' by the inauguration of Women's Athletics at Tournament in 1945-46.

Unfortunately, space does not permit a survey of all the outstanding athletes of the Club since World War I, but their achievements will be found tabulated below. Yet it is impossible to pass on without mentioning some of them in slightly more detail. In the Sprints there have been L. A. Tracy (nine wins and several records at Tournament, three New Zealand Championships and a first and a second in Australasian Championships), M. Leadbetter, who became a champion while at V.U.C. and later transferred to Canterbury (six Tournament titles, seven New Zealand Championships and a New Zealand record of 9.8 seconds for 100 yards) and J. Sutherland (four Tournament titles, including equalling the record of 10 seconds for the 100 yards, and one New Zealand title). Among the Hurdlers, R. W. Lander, who first ran for Wellington, then Otago, and later for Wellington (six New Zealand Championships, an Australasian Championship and a New Zealand record of 15.2 seconds for the 120 yards hurdles). F. S. Ramsom was not only a great hurdler, but the greatest all-rounder the College has produced. His record reads: ten Tournament Championships scored in five different events (a record which has not been equalled), four New Zealand hurdles titles, an Australasian title and a New Zealand record (which has since been beaten) of 56.8 seconds in the 440 yards hurdles. The distance races have seen A. A. Scrymgeour in the three miles (two Tournament titles, including a record
of 14 minutes 55.6 seconds for the three miles) and V. P. Boot (who really belonged to Canterbury College, but ran for a while with our Club) who won Provincial and National titles as well as being an Empire Games representative in the 880 yards.

In 1929 a New Zealand Universities Athletic Team visited Australia on an invitation from the Australian Universities, extended at the instance of Mr E. V. Dunbar, an Olympic Games representative, who had coached the Victoria College team with great success. Three V.U.C.A.C. men were in the touring team, viz., T. S. Ramson, E. K. Eastwood and J. N. Gordon. The team did not meet with a great deal of success against the Australian Universities although when competing with the State Universities the teams were more evenly matched. Plans are well in hand for another visit to Australia in May 1949 when a team of ten, selected at Tournament will cross the Tasman to compete once again with the Australian Universities.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

1924 L. A. Tracy 440 yards flat
1927 W. R. Lander 120 yards hurdles
1927 F. S. Ramson 440 yards hurdles

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

100 yards—
1912-13 A. T. Duncan 1926-27 M. Leadbetter
1924-25 M. Leadbetter 1927-28 M. Leadbetter
1925-26 M. Leadbetter 1939-40 J. Sutherland

220 yards—
1912-13 A. T. Duncan 1926-27 M. Leadbetter
1922-23 L. A. Tracy 1927-28 M. Leadbetter
1923-24 L. A. Tracy 1929-30 C. H. Jenkins
1924-25 L. A. Tracy 1930-31 C. H. Jenkins
1925-26 M. Leadbetter

880 yards—
1922-23 K. M. Griffin 1938-39 V. P. Boot
1927-28 C. B. Allan 1939-40 V. P. Boot

One mile—
1922-23 K. M. Griffin

Three miles—
1913-14 A. Hudson
One mile Walk—
1914-15 A. B. Sievwright 1919-20 A. B. Sievwright
Three miles Walk—
1914-15 A. B. Sievwright 1923-24 S. G. McIntosh
1919-20 A. B. Sievwright

120 yards hurdles—
R. W. Lander, 6 years from 1923-24 to 1928-9
1929-30 F. S. Ramson 1934-35 P. Bowie

440 yards hurdles—
1929-30 F. S. Ramson

Broad Jump—
1929-30 D. W. A. Barker

High Jump—
1927-28 G. J. Scates

Cross Country Championships—
1921 H. E. Moore

NEW ZEALAND RECORDS

F. S. Ramson, 440 yards hurdles, 56.8 secs in 1927 (Ramson's record has since been beaten by a Canterbury College athlete, A. T. Anderson, and J. M. Holland, of Auckland).

In addition, G. J. Scates for some time held the best New Zealander's performance in the High Jump at 6 feet, a height which has since been beaten.

NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY EASTER TOURNAMENT

100 yards—
1905 T. E. Y. Seddon 11.2 secs (dead heat)
1907 F. W. Tracogoodbehere 10.8 secs
1908 F. W. B. Goodbehere 10.8 secs
1911 A. T. Duncan 10.8 secs
1912 F. W. B. Goodbehere 11 secs
1919 N. A. J. Barker 10.9 secs
1920 L. A. Tracy 10.8 secs
1921 L. A. Tracy 10.2 secs
1925 M. Leadbetter 10.4 secs
1926 M. Leadbetter 10.8 secs (equal record)
1930 C. H. Jenkins 10.4 secs
1932 F. H. Stephenson 10 secs (not passed as record)
1933 F. H. Stephenson 10.2 secs
1938 C. V. Adams 10.4 secs
1939 J. P. Eastwood 10.2 secs
1940 J. Sutherland 10.2 secs
1941 J. Sutherland 10 secs (equal record)

220 yards—
1907 F. W. B. Goodbehere 24.4 secs
1908 F. W. B. Goodbehere 25.4 secs
1911 A. T. Duncan 24.4 secs
1912 F. W. B. Goodbehere 24.8 secs
1920 L. A. Tracy 23.6 secs
1921 L. A. Tracy 22.8 secs
1922 L. A. Tracy 23 secs
1924 L. A. Tracy 23 secs
1925 M. Leadbetter 23.6 secs
1926 M. Leadbetter 23.2 secs
1929 E. K. Eastwood 23.4 secs
1930 C. H. Jenkins 22.8 secs
1932 F. H. Stephenson 23.2 secs
1933 F. H. Stephenson 22.6 secs
1939 C. V. Adams 23 secs
1940 J. Sutherland 22.8 secs
1941 J. Sutherland 22.8 secs

440 yards—
1906 H. W. King 54.2 secs
1907 F. W. B. Goodbehere 54.2 secs
1912 F. W. B. Goodbehere 54.4 secs
1921 L. A. Tracy 52 secs
1922 L. A. Tracy 51.6 secs
1924 L. A. Tracy 51.4 secs
1926 E. B. Smith 54 secs
1927 C. B. Allan 53 secs
1928 E. B. Smith 52.6 secs
1929 E. K. Eastwood 52 secs
1932 J. B. Stephenson 50.4 secs
1939 J. P. Eastwood 50.4 secs
1945 J. F. Goldsmitz
(no time given)

880 yards—
1902 A. S. Henderson 2 mins 3.2 secs
1919 G. H. Lusk 2 mins 17.4 secs
1920 J. L. Dighton 2 mins 11.4 secs
1921 M. R. Grierson 2 mins 3 secs
1922 K. M. Griffin 2 mins 1.4 secs
1923 K. M. Griffin 2 mins 5.6 secs
1926 C. B. Allan 2 mins 5.2 secs
1927 C. B. Allan 2 mins 2.8 secs
1928 E. B. Smith 2 mins 3.2 secs (dead heat)
The Spike

Mile—
1905 F. A. de la Mare 4 mins 55 secs
1906 F. A. de la Mare 4 mins 47 secs
1912 P. F. Reid 4 mins 52.2 secs
1913 H. Williams 4 mins 52.8 secs
1914 A. Hudson 4 mins 32 secs
1915 H. Williams 4 mins 44 secs
1919 S. A. Wren 5 mins 20.8 secs
1923 K. M. Griffin 4 mins 42.8 secs
1924 A. D. Priestley 4 mins 31.8 secs
1927 A. D. Priestley 4 mins 36.8 secs
1945 L. C. McDowall 4 mins 39.2 secs

Three Miles—
1908 T. Rigg 16 mins 13.8 secs
1909 T. Rigg 15 mins 56 secs
1910 T. Rigg 16 mins 13 secs
1912 H. Williams 16 mins 8 secs
1913 A. Hudson 16 mins 52 secs
1914 A. Hudson 16 mins 38.6 secs
1915 H. Williams 16 mins 10.6 secs
1919 H. Williams 17 mins 27 secs
1924 A. D. Priestley 15 mins 33 secs
1938 D. R. Scrymgeour 15 mins 22 secs
1939 D. R. Scrymgeour 14 mins 55.6 secs (record)

120 yards hurdles—
1907 T. M. Holmden 17.2 secs
1908 A. H. Bogle 16.2 secs
1909 A. H. Bogle 17.2 secs
1911 G. S. Strack 17.6 secs
1912 G. S. Strack 17.4 secs
1913 G. S. Strack 16.8 secs
1920 A. Jackson 17.2 secs
1921 A. Jackson (no time given)
1927 W. G. Kalaugher 16.4 secs
1928 F. S. Ramson 16.6 secs
1929 F. S. Ramson 16.6 secs
1930 F. S. Ramson 16 secs
1936 F. T. Bowie 15.4 secs
1938 E. M. Irving 16.8 secs
1939 E. M. Irving 16.2 secs
1945 J. E. Drummond 17 secs

440 yards hurdles—
(First run in 1903. Changed to 3ft. hurdles in 1922)
1903 A. S. Henderson 62.4 secs
1908 A. H. Bogle 66.8 secs
1909 A. H. Bogle 66.2 secs
1912 G. S. Strack 66.2 secs
1913 C. H. E. Strack 65 secs
1919 G. G. Aitken 68.2 secs
1920 A. Jackson 63.4 secs
1921 A. Jackson 60.2 secs
1928 F. S. Ramson 61.6 secs
1929 F. S. Ramson 59.4 secs
1930 F. S. Ramson 59.6 secs
1931 F. S. Ramson 59 secs
1941 D. Tossman 59.8 secs
1945 D. Tossman 58.8 secs

Putting the 16 lb. Weight—
1931 F. S. Ramson 32ft. 8.5 ins.
1932 H. M. Dawson 36 ft. 4.5 ins.

Throwing the 16 lb. Hammer—
1910 J. Wilson 98 ft. 3 ins.
1948 A. Marshall 102 ft. 3 ins.

Throwing the Discus—
(First held in 1936)
1948 A. Marshall 123 ft.

Throwing the Javelin—
(First held in 1930)
1939 J. S. Adams 167 ft. 8 ins.

High Jump—
1912 F. G. Hall-Jones 5 ft 3 ins.
1913 F. G. Hall-Jones 5 ft 4 ins.
1926 G. J. Sears 5 ft 7.5 ins.
1927 G. J. Sears 5 ft 11 ins.
1929 F. S. Ramson 5 ft 5.5 ins. (dead heat)
1935 B. M. McIntosh 5 ft 6 ins.

Long Jump—
1908 F. W. B. Goodbehere 20 ft. 9 ins.
1913 B. Egle 21 ft.
1919 P. K. Bryan 18 ft. 9.5 ins.
1927 W. G. Kalaugher 21 ft. 9.25 ins.
1929 F. S. Ramson 22 ft.
1930 D. Barker 21 ft. 6.5 ins.
1931 D. Barker 21 ft. 4.5 ins.
1932 D. Barker 21 ft. 7.5 ins.

Pole Vault—
(First held in 1936)
1947 P. F. M. Giles 9 ft. 0.25 ins.

Mile Walk—
1902 A. Quartley 8 mins. 29.4 secs.
1913 A. B. Sievwright 7 mins. 11 secs.
1914 A. B. Sievwright 7 mins. 6 secs.
1915 A. B. Sievwright 7 mins. 13.4 secs.
1926 D. Jackson 6 mins. 46.4 secs.
1934 S. G. Eade 7 mins. 3.8 secs. (dead heat)
1947 B. J. Pohlen 7 mins. 10.4 secs.
1948 B. J. Pohlen 7 mins. 12.2 secs.

220 yards hurdles—
First event 1935: no winners from V.U.C.

Hop, Step and Jump—
First held 1934: no winners from V.U.C.

Relay Races—

Winners of the Ladies' Cup—
(Held by athlete or athletes scoring the greatest number of points in the Tournament)
1907 F. W. B. Goodbehere
1908 F. W. B. Goodbehere
1912 F. W. B. Goodbehere (equal with another)
1919 A. Jackson (equal with another)
1920 L. A. Tracy (equal with another)
1921 L. A. Tracy
1927 W. G. Kalaugher
1928 F. S. Ramson (equal with two others)
1929 F. S. Ramson
1930 F. S. Ramson and C. H. Jenkins (equal with another)
1931 F. S. Ramson (equal with two others)
1932 F. H. Stephenson
1933 F. H. Stephenson (equal with another)
1939 J. P. Eastwood (equal with three others)
1940 J. Sutherland (equal with three others)

WOMEN'S EVENTS (first held in 1946)

440 yards Relay—
1947 V.U.C.

100 yards—
1947 M. Shoulter 12.2 secs.

80 metres hurdles—
No V.U.C. winners

Javelin Throwing—
1947 J. Flett 75 ft. 6.5 ins.

High Jump—
No V.U.C. winners
The Spike

ATHLETIC WOODEN SPOON—


WINNERS OF ATHLETIC SHIELD—


 Athletic Club Captain


F. W. DUCKWORTH

WOMEN’S OUTDOOR BASKETBALL CLUB

On August 15th, 1917, a meeting of women students was held to consider the formation of a Basketball Club. The Club was formed, and, with its purpose “to provide recreation for students who can spare only a short time from study,” it flourished, with a membership of forty. Practices were held in the gym on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. and Tuesday afternoons at 4 p.m. The fact that practices could be held at 4 p.m. shows the different attitude these pioneers of our Club had towards their basketball. Today there would be less than half a dozen girls willing or able to practise in the afternoon—such is the life of a part-time student. Basketball had first been demonstrated in New Zealand at Auckland in 1907. Some years later associations were formed in Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago. V.U.C., therefore, was not late in taking up basketball, and it must be remembered that in 1917 they were playing a game still in the process of formation, a game in which rules were changing every year until basketball emerged as it is today, a game of skill and not brawn.

At this time also, the Wellington Association was trying to arrange inter-club play. By October, 1919, Victoria had played three outside games against Normal School, Girls’ College and Miss Baber’s girls. In 1920 under the captaincy of Miss Smith the Club took advantage of the Association’s offer and entered into the competitions. Here at Clyde Quay grounds began those Saturday matches which today give basketball its meaning. Practices were still held in the gym, but afternoon play had become impossible.

The first surge of energy in the Club soon began to wane and in 1921 only one team was playing. The bugbear of present day basketball was beginning to appear—difficulty in arranging practices. However, some enthusiasm was aroused by the prospect of playing the Easter Tournament, and finally V.U.C. entered a team in the 17th Tournament. It was defeated. By the end of the season Club spirit had become very low—a coach was lacking and practices impossible to arrange.

The following year the Club was at its lowest ebb and seemed to remain an insignificant part of College life until 1924 when it reappeared with new vigour, determined to be more than a source of amusement to the rest of the Clubs.

That year it entered two teams in local competitions and for the first time these teams featured prominently. In the same year the Club won the Basketball Shield at Tournament. The matches were played at Kelburn Park with three teams only competing. Canterbury, today out-passing all the Colleges in Basketball, was not in a position to field a team in 1924. Further honours fell to Victoria when three players were picked as Wellington representatives—Misses D. Crompton (Captain), O. Sheppard, D. Pillar.

In 1925, things slipped badly in the Club. The teams were unsuccessful in local competitions and there was no entry for tournament. The Club had no coach. The President of the New Zealand Basketball Association now took a hand in affairs and put forward an eloquent plea for the inclusion of basketball permanently in Tournament on the grounds that it would become the national game for girls, and that the Varsity girls had put up a good fight for their Club. We must feel grateful for this Past President and her work in defence of our game; for in 1926 basketball was officially included in Tournament.

In 1927, the supply of coaches seems to have resembled that of 1948-49. With a membership of forty and three teams in the competitions the lack of a coach was a serious problem. For practice the Club was forced to play against the Rugby Club. However, at Tournament, Victoria defeated Canterbury and lost to Auckland.

1928 found a coach for the Club—Miss O. M. Shepperd—but no outstanding success came our way at Tournament. In 1930, Club membership
had increased sufficiently to enter three teams in local games, the teams appearing for the first time in their now well-known 'green and gold.' The Club achieved moderate success in 1931 and 1932. In 1935, the services of Miss P. Quinlan were secured as coach, and Miss J. Grainger, one of the players, received representative honours. The following year the team won distinction in Tournament beating Canterbury and Otago, on the strength of which six V.U.C. Blues were awarded. It must be remembered that over all these years practices were being held in the gym. The inconvenience of playing on a wooden, and often very slippery, surface is quite obvious. The Club was at this time reaching the highest peak of its achievement. In 1937, captained by Miss N. Bullen and coached by Miss Quinlan, Victoria won the Basketball Shield. New Zealand University Blues were awarded to Misses R. Drummond, M. Bell, and S. Phillips, while the whole team received V.U.C. Blues. However, in the local competitions the Senior team was only half way in its grade. Perhaps after Tournaments enthusiasm dies down.

The following year produced success in both fields. With Miss Walker as captain and Miss P. Higgin as Secretary-Treasurer, the Club entered two teams in the competition. Of these, the Senior A team finished third, and produced three Wellington representatives. At Tournament the team performed better than ever. It seemed that at last Auckland's run was broken. Although half the team was new to Tournament, it nevertheless scooped the pool, replacing experience with fitness and combination. Blues were freely awarded including four New Zealand University Blues. The question was, could this success last? It seemed not, for, although the 1939 team won brilliantly at Tournament, its spirit was weakening, and in the competitions the Club played patchy basketball.

In 1940, Miss P. Higgin, a staunch member of the Club, tried to fan the dying interest but met with little success. The second team played fourth grade and here did quite well. This was no doubt due to the efforts of Mr Max Riske and Miss Walker who coached the Club. Tournament brought honours to Auckland by a narrow margin, but Victoria in winning three New Zealand University Blues showed that as yet she had not lost Tournament standard.

The inevitable result of the war years became apparent in all Club functions during 1942 and 1943. No New Zealand University Blues were awarded lest the standard be lowered. In looking back, this decision seems uncalled for since on account of it several worthy players lost their opportunity. Instead of playing in the Annual Tournament a completely inexperienced team visited Auckland in the winter of 1942. They managed to draw with their hosts.

The Basketball Club can have held little interest for the students of 1944, 45, 46. Indeed, in 1946 The Spike reports that the Club was truly in the doldrums. It had returned once more to the lowly position it had held in 1922 and 1923 and every eligible Club member was called on to form a Tournament team.

Miss Gay Nimmo seems to have infused life into the Club once more in 1947. A decision was wisely made to field no Senior A team until we could be sure of winning one game in that grade, and so our top team held its own in the Senior B Grade, and its spasmodic success livened up a declining Club. Victoria featured in Wellington representative teams again when Miss Julie Dean was asked to play Senior A basketball for Wellington, and Miss Scott made the Intermediate team. The same year the Club was very ably coached by Mr Budden at St Joseph's Court.

And so we come to 1948 with Miss Gay Nimmo once more as captain, and three teams entered in the competitions—the top team again playing Senior B. Miss A. Richardson played in the Senior B Wellington team, and Miss J. Scott, though asked to play, was unavailable.

The question is—are we on the upsurge again? Several of our keen members are leaving and feel that it would be unfair to take a place in the 1949 Tournament team. As yet we have no coach and we fear lest this should cause the apathy among Club members that it has in the past. For it seems to follow 'no coach means no practice—no practice no success—no success no enthusiasm.' Let us pray for a coach.

JUNE SCOTT

TENNIS

To the many Students whose interest in tennis helps to make the Victoria College courts possibly the most popular in the whole country, it may be a surprise to learn that twice in the last five years only the timely protest of an influential supporter of the Club has saved the courts from obliteration. Utilitarians, who could not resist the lure of almost half an acre of flat terrain for building sites, were finally persuaded that no real good could come of destroying one amenity to create another.

To tell the story of this amenity, it may be satisfactory to make a geographical, and then a geological, division of the fifty years. The first stage saw an enthusiastic organisation fighting for
its status and having for its headquarters the parliamentary tennis courts. The unflagging efforts of several club supporters who housed the four courts out of solid rock found the Club at its present site in 1906. Again, the boundless energy of certain members enabled a further improvement to be made in 1932, when concrete replaced the asphalt; and, finally, the spring of 1945 ended with asphalt courts once more.

Before discussing the period of the concrete courts, it may be appropriate here to remark that the game was not very seriously affected by the second world war. Only for two seasons was the regular competition suspended and, despite the lack of balls in 1942-43, the Wellington Lawn Tennis Association conducted a doubles competition in which Victoria was narrowly beaten in the final.

There was no general regret in 1945 when a decision was made to replace the concrete courts which, though generally satisfactory, had irregular patches where the original asphalt had seeped up between rather widely-placed concrete slabs. It is only now, with the emphasis set upon the value of concrete courts by Kramer and his fellow Americans, that the merits of the original, often-maligned courts are fully realised. To the ordinary player, however, who is concerned with the game only as a relaxation from study, the new surface has been more popular, despite the fact that the finished job, for a number of reasons, was not as satisfactory as expected. With the unlikelihood of the W.L.T.A.'s ever being able to spare grass courts for Easter tournament as was done in the past, the necessity for first class courts in the Wellington College becomes all the more urgent.

While no startling rise in the standard of play has been noted during the period of the present courts, the team of 1947 was sufficiently strong to win the cup outright. The members were Misses A. Reed, G. Rainbow, E. Chapman, L. Webley, J. Robbins, and Messrs J. Walls, H. Davidson, D. Goodwin, and B. O'Connor. The men's senior team has played soundly over the past two seasons; and a gratifyingly keen competition for places in the Club's four teams has been noted during the past season. The return of R. Ferkins, a mainstay of so many of Victoria's teams in the past and New Zealand doubles champion (with V.U.C. graduate E. A. Roussell) in 1936 and 1937, has been welcomed by all Club members. His experience in administrative matters, and his continued ability as a player, are proving invaluable.

When tournament was held in Wellington in 1945 at two weeks' notice, the old concrete courts brought comments from the visitors, but, nevertheless, they proved satisfactory, besides providing the setting for the most exciting finish in the Tournament Shield history. Everything depended on the mixed doubles tennis final.

The tennis finals in 1941, when J. Cope kept Victoria's colours flying by winning the singles, were played at Paekakariki on the only accessible courts that were not soaked by the heavy rain on Easter Tuesday.

Miss E. McLean was the last Victoria representative to win the ladies singles event when, in 1938, she beat the previous year's champion, Miss Inwood of Canterbury, in a hard-hitting final.

An injury to W. Smith, star Otago player, helped Victoria slightly to win the tennis cup in 1939 at Dunedin, but in 1938 the trophy was won handsonly by a team in which every player recorded a point for the side. The 1938 team was Misses E. McLean, K. Pears, L. Ngata, P. Edwards, and Messrs N. Morrison, J. Hartley, B. O'Connor, and F. Renouf. Renouf was successful in the men's doubles for three years in succession with three different partners. The fate of the Tournament Shield in 1938 depended on the efforts of the Victoria finalists, and there was a note of relief when the men's and ladies' singles were made safe, to end Victoria's long reign as wooden spoon holders. Other prominent players during the period when the concrete courts were in use were N. C. Morrison and J. J. McCarthy, the latter winning the University title in 1936, and Morrison showing brilliant doubles form. The administrative work of E. Budge during the period until 1941 is worthy of special note.

Mr R. A. Wright, M.P., opened the new courts on November 28th, 1932, and again it was mainly because of the outstanding work of certain club members (J. L. MacDuff and C. S. Plank) that the old courts which sloped markedly in towards the net were replaced.

The period which had just closed had witnessed the zenith of New Zealand University tennis. Just how high the standard was can be realised when we note that Roly Ferkins, Wellington Wilding Shield player, could win only one title in five years of competition. C. M. Malfray, who in later years was recognised as the second best doubles player in England, gave Victoria a singles win in 1929, but to do so he had to beat the equally eminent A. C. Stedman in the final. A Barnett of Canterbury also came into the picture at this time to complete an imposing quartet of names. A Victoria player who found the competition difficult at a slightly earlier period was Russell Young, who won his Cambridge tennis blue soon after leaving New Zealand. Another fine player of this period was N. H. Burns, later to become Secretary of the N.Z.L.T.A. He is a nephew of one of the foundation members, and a brother of D. M. Burns who acted as Club Secretary in 1932.

Victoria's first singles win after the first war was registered by Miss Tracy in 1924, five years after Miss Walden and C. F. Atmore had won the combined doubles title for Victoria. Matches were played with Trentham teams during the first World War, and spirited discussion centred round the desirability of Sunday tennis.
Before the war, the Club won the Wellington Senior Championship for two years in succession, though unable to make much impression at the University Tournament.

In 1909 and 1910, Miss Reeve won the ladies' singles, and it is at this time that we make the acquaintance of Mr S. Eichelbaum whose interest in the Club has never waned, and whose cheery words of encouragement on successive opening days in the present decade always give a fitting initiation to each season's activities. Mr Eichelbaum represented the College on several occasions and today still engages in a tactical game of doubles on Sunday morning down at Thorndon.

In 1908, Miss Scott won the ladies' singles and, with Miss K. McIntosh, the doubles. All five events were won in 1907, G. S. Prouse taking the men's singles and Miss J. Scott the women's singles. Prouse won the combined doubles with Miss J. Scott and the men's doubles with G. A. Vogle.

The Club is fifty years old. In 1899, a tennis committee was formed at the instigation of the Students' Society, and soon students interested in tennis were playing on a parliamentary court behind the old library building. The members of the foundation committee were Misses Greenfield, Fleming, and Ross, and Messrs Thomson, Logan, Richmond, and Smyth. When the Students' Society imposed a five shilling levy on members of the new club, the Club, at its next annual meeting, protested that their organisation should be independent of the Society. A debate upon the question took place at the Annual General Meeting of the Students' Society—the battleground of similar boisterous discussion so many time in the years that followed—and the meeting resolved that "the Tennis Club be constituted a separate body from the Students' Society."

The value of this new club as a social centre was soon appreciated as it began to play matches against other Wellington clubs, and then against Canterbury College. Misses Greenfield and Ross, and Messrs H. P. Richmond, J. C. Burns, and F. P. Wilson (later Professor Wilson) played in this match, which was to presage the inter-university tournament two years later. Athletics, debating, and tennis were the only contests in the tournament, and the first contest enhanced the standing of the Tennis Club.

No rule restricting players to two events operated in the first tournament, and, though the men players found Anthony Wilding a stumbling block, Miss C. V. Longton won the ladies' singles, and, with Miss Van Staveren, the doubles. The team on this occasion was Mrs C. V. Longton, Misses Van Staveren, F. G. Roberts, M. C. Ross, E. F. Wedde, and A. W. Griffiths; and Messrs F. P. Wilson, R. C. St. J. Beere, F. P. Richmond, Graham, F. A. de la Mare, and A. J. Will.

Victoria won only one title in the next two seasons. Miss A. F. Batham won this in 1904. But at this time the interest of several professors, who presented the Professorial Challenge Shield for competition in the Club, brought a keenness which assisted Victoria greatly to win the shield for the first time in 1905. Miss Batham and Miss Van Staveren again performed with distinction. The tournament was again won in 1906 and 1907, F. A. de la Mare winning the singles, and Miss F. G. Roberts the ladies singles.

In 1905, the work of excavating the courts on the present site was begun. F. P. Wilson, F. A. de la Mare, and R. St. J. Beere constituted the special committee, and the services of H. Sladden as surveyor were availed of. The Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon turned the first sod, and thirty-two ambitious players and supporters faced the starter's gun on that Saturday, September 9th. Every Saturday for two years this work was continued in spite of the gradual thinning of the ranks. Messrs Beere, Eichelbaum, Dobie, Hewitt, de la Mare, Dixon, and Gillanders completed the three courts, while Dixon and Gillanders (both non-players), and finally Dixon on his own, completed the fourth court. The last-named is the 'influential supporter' of the Club mentioned in the opening sentence of these notes. Perhaps it is well to end by speaking of the same person.

Good players help to bring distinction to a club, but it is to the unostentatious supporters who do the hard work that organisations such as the Victoria College Tennis Club owe most gratitude. With a tradition of selflessness behind it, the Victoria Club and its present enthusiastic committee should carry on a work so auspiciously begun and so splendidly maintained by its supporters.

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