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Editorial

It may ask too much from Victoria's cloistered intelligences if we request them to consider the Students' Association as an "association of workers"—nevertheless, students are workers and we do have our union, one which corresponds to the Public Service Association or the N.Z. Educational Institute. This novel view requires an orientation in the student's outlook, and particularly in that of the Executive in policy and in demands. Given that V.U.C.S.A. is a union, it is logical that the nature of our work affects the nature of our union's activities. Special characteristics of a student's job are irregular workday; the morning and evening peak periods, with which facilities must cope; the absence of employer-employee friction, resulting in the lack of a direct outlet for "industrial frustration"; and a lack of co-operation with the Association of University Teachers, caused by the peculiar industrial position of the staff.

The view that the Students Association is a union is demonstrated by the activities it carries out which are common to all industrial unions. A normal union functions socially—this is the sphere in which the last two Executives have had greatest success. Dances, processions, extravaganzas, capping celebrations, filled the Executive with a glow of satisfaction which blinded them to the untouched field of betterment of studying conditions. Normally, too, a union issues statements of policy: this the Students' Association effects through the Public Relations Officer, a progressive step inadequately developed; Congress, whose announcements usually receive an unsympathetic hearing from official organizations because they issue from a section only of the students; the Executive whose reluctance to express opinion aborts most policy motions on external affairs; and most importantly, from Annual General Meetings. These are the most fruitful source of policy statements, but still the Association has not profited from similar announcements by kindred bodies such as the P.S.A. and the N.Z.E.I. The horrible example of 1948 still looms high on the political horizon, sterilizing at inception most policy statements on external matters and many on matters directly connected with the College.

A union endeavours to obtain concessions for its members. This aspect of union activities has slowly come into belated prominence since 1952 with the stationery scheme and the now-aborted text-book service. The Executive still does not provide concessions for Association members at Association-controlled functions, and in many respects has become a financial parasite upon students as the University of New Zealand became. A union provides services for its members. The cafeteria and the information services (such as Spike, Salient, Cappicade, and the S.C.M. Handbook) are basic utilities. Organization of clubs is centralized under Executive control. The major aspect of union activities is the one in which V.U.C.S.A. is failing: it is the improvement of working conditions. (We are workers, remember.) N.Z.U.S.A. conducts a limited campaign on the national level. The Association itself is unable to do much because of the fluid nature of its membership and the unusual conditions under which it works. It is therefore the Executive's task to endeavour to improve our working conditions.
To view the Students' Association as a union requires the setting aside of certain prejudices. Such a view is unpopular for such reasons as the socialistic overtones of the whole idea; the very word "union"; the Student Labour Federation's idealistic and largely (with certain reservations) futile attempts at student betterment; and, importantly, the passive sloth of student apathy, perhaps because an effort to do something is always an effort, or perhaps the attitudes of "it's none of our business" and "what can we do?" conspire to reduce all activity stimulated by original thinking.

The implications of this view involve certain obvious constructive steps—though they are not obvious to those who simply refuse to agree with our basic premise that V.U.C.S.A. is an association of workers. The major implication is that it requires a constructive and therefore planned policy, itself requiring direct policy announcements by each incoming Executive—these would be virtually "working plans". Subjects which deserve consideration would be accommodation, the library, teaching and lecturing, prerequisites, lectures and lecture hours. Who will deny that the Association should have a hand in improving the standard of these aspects of our working conditions. Such a policy would of necessity have to be sustained and vigorous, and to ensure this (however much each Executive depreciates decentralization) a permanent committee should be formed. A closer liaison with the Association of University Teachers would help both it and the Students' Association very much.

Now, this editorial, judging by four years' connection with student affairs, will be very unpopular—that is, presuming it is read. We may attempt to itemize the various conditions which will contribute to its unpopularity and then leave this whole problem to the every-day student who is not afraid to call himself a "unionist" and strive for better working conditions. This editorial, categorically speaking, will be unpopular because of indolence, prejudice, apathy, lack of imagination, lack of intelligence, and finally, lack of guts.

T. H. Hill

Thomas Alexander Hunter

Thomas Alexander Hunter came to Victoria College in 1904 as lecturer in and head of the Department of Mental Science and Economics. He was appointed Professor of these subjects in 1907. Subsequently other provision was made for the teaching of economics and from 1909 to 1948 he was Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in the College. In 1938 he was appointed the College's first Principal, an office which he held in conjunction with his Chair until 1947, when he was appointed to the Principalship as a full-time office. He retired from the Principalship at the beginning of 1951. From 1929 to 1947 he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of New Zealand. He died on the 20th April, 1953.

The bare recital of the substantive offices held by Sir Thomas Hunter is impressive enough; but it discloses only a part of his long lifetime of dedicated
enthusiasm, wise practical energy and unselfish labour for every good educational cause. For many years he personified the College, both to those in the University and to the public at large. In the University he was a great reformer and if our University Colleges are now in a fair way to achieving the status of independent universities that is largely due to him. In his time he was one of the main forces behind adult education in New Zealand; behind research in education; behind every attempt to bring education and research to bear on the muddled problems of our social life.

He was a great teacher. One who knew him well has said: “If you had a mind Hunter led you to use it; you could use it against him if you liked, that didn’t matter. But you mattered, you were life, you were young, your mind was an individual thing with its individual rights, and he believed in its freedom. He didn’t patronise. He really believed in freedom, and a third thing he hated and fought, besides inefficiency and ignorance, was mean and petty inroads on freedom, however and by whosoever exercised. He hated injustice, and he fought it. I like to reflect that he never lost the faculty of indignation at such things. I saw it in his last days. ‘The nobler a man is, the more objects of compassion he hath,’ said Lord Bacon. Let’s give compassion a wide interpretation, let’s make it mean a never-ceasing interest in and care for human beings, and we have a measure of Hunter’s spirit. And he had enormous courage.”

In recognition of his many public services he was in 1939 created a Knight of the British Empire, and some years later the University showed its appreciation of his eminent work in its sphere by conferring on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature. It was pleasing to his friends that he should be thus publicly recognized, for he was a great man and a great and devoted servant of his country.

“By their fruits ye shall now them.” By the fruits of his labours Thomas Alexander Hunter became known to men of goodwill and discernment as one of the noble spirits of his generation. His monument is in the hearts of those whom he taught and influenced and inspired and who in their turn may pass on to others the light they received from him.

J. Williams

Robert Orr McGechan

Some of the warmest tributes paid to the late Professor McGechan came from his former students overseas. They wrote of his unlimited enthusiasm for legal education, his unfailing helpfulness, and the high standards he set for himself and for all who would follow the profession of the law. Those closely associated with him soon came to know him as a man of unswerving fidelity to his ideals, resolute of purpose, completely devoted to the causes of university education, the law, and international co-operation.

His personal interest in his students and his eagerness to help them were revealed in a hundred ways. As is well known, he and Mrs. McGechan were hosts to students at their home year after year. No project of the Law Faculty
Club ever failed to receive his warmest support. He did all he could do to maintain a placement service, through which he not merely brought solicitors and potential clerks together, but gave wise guidance to many a student planning the first steps of his career. The policy he adopted in developing his class library was chosen expressly in the hope that it would incidentally afford some financial relief to students. He conceived and carried through to completion the project for a special Law Reading Room—now the most attractive room in the College. Anxious that former students should not get out of touch, he instituted the Law Faculty Newsletter. It was mainly through his initiative that valued gifts of law reports for the library were received from practitioners and from graduating classes of students. He grasped every opportunity of assisting the best students to advance their studies abroad, and encouraged visits to New Zealand from law teachers overseas who might help to raise the standards of our own teaching.

When Professor McGeachan first lectured here in 1940 he used the methods to which he had been accustomed as a student in New South Wales. This involved no break with local tradition. But as the years went by he became increasingly dissatisfied with this technique, and turned his attention to a critical examination of aims and methods. Changes came quickly after his return in 1951 from a visit to American universities and law schools—not because this experience had fundamentally altered his outlook, but because it confirmed and crystallised the views he had already tentatively formed. He proceeded apace with preparation of case materials, launched the first issue of the Victoria University College Law Review, introduced a greatly expanded programme of moot courts, and was on the threshold of a major piece of research in administrative law, which would have proved immensely valuable in itself and would also have been an inestimable aid in teaching.

On broad issues of legal education he became the most vital and most controversial figure in New Zealand. Deeply convinced that existing arrangements impeded the improvement of legal education he sought unceasingly to change them. At a Dominion Legal Conference, at meetings of the Law Faculty or the Professorial Board and the Senate, he was constantly appealing for the reforms he felt to be needed. He succeeded in introducing a combined B.A.-LL.B. degree and in improving the requirements for LL.M., and advocated many other reforms. His one aim was to raise the standard achieved by graduates in law. When he felt that a rule did not produce sufficient advantages to justify it, he was always ready to remove it. As the records show, he was the moving spirit in eliminating the rule that no credit be given for a pass in a single subject and the rule making Latin compulsory. But his major objectives were greater autonomy for the Colleges and increased responsibility for the Law Faculties of the University in all matters affecting legal education.

His special field of interest was administrative law. It was in this field that he made most of his contributions to legal literature. He had met, and was corresponding with, leading experts on administrative law in America; and it was on the practical problems of administrative law in New Zealand that he had embarked on the research project already referred to. At the same time he was keenly aware of the unanswered and the unanswerable problems of legal philosophy, and especially the ethical problems that are confronted in jurisprudence.
This combination of interests evinced his exceptional capacity for a "multi-dimensional perspective" that embraced both legal realities and legal ideals. He would always underline the ethical considerations that may be the unexpressed determinants of judicial decision, while still retaining in the forefront of attention the realities of human controversy and social disorder. His favourite quotation in recent years was from an article on jurisprudence. The writer, criticising certain attitudes, said that they resulted in a view of jurisprudence as a maze of inert ideas, a museum of intellectual curiosities far removed from logic or practice. "What follows," he said, "is that analytical, historical, metaphysical, and sociological jurisprudences and their various hybrids and offshoots are exhibited before innocent students like a series of butterflies, all neatly labelled, pinned to their proper cards, and thoroughly dead." For McGechan the tasks of law, and of law teachers, were never antiquarian. The essence, in both cases, was to achieve in practice and not on paper the better integration or reconciliation of human ideals.

This philosophy, combined with his professional interest in international law, led him directly to international affairs. He was active as a member and an office-bearer in organisations engaged in the objective study of international problems. He sought to promote understanding and co-operation between peoples and the elimination of causes of friction, beginning with our own attitudes and prejudices.

His death was the more tragic because he was reaching the peak of his powers. But during the fourteen years of his tenure of the Chair of Jurisprudence his vision, his tireless activity, and his passionate interest in law teaching, have profoundly influenced the university and a generation of law students. To the roll of great and devoted teachers of this College we proudly add his name.

I. D. CAMPBELL

Winston Monk

Winston Monk served this College for a bare four years, yet I doubt whether any of us who have known him closely—whether staff or students—will ever quite lose the results of the impact he made on us.

This is a bold claim, and I make it only to a small extent on strictly academic grounds. It is true, of course, that he made himself responsible for energetic teaching at a high level on two of the subjects most important for the modern world, namely the history of the United States and the emergence from tutelage of subject peoples in Africa and South East Asia. His students, I suspect, will remember a little ruefully his high standards of accuracy, his unbounded energy in pursuit of material, and his expectation that those who worked with him should to some extent keep pace with his own efforts. He has also left some fragments of published work which are pointers to what he would have done. There is, for example, a tightly-packed little work, Britain in the Mediterranean, and a series of articles in serious journals. The first was a characteristic sally into a little explored field where many peoples met in con-
flict as well as in friendship and where national prejudice obscured accurate thinking. This little book brought to light new facts but inadequately represented the research that had been done and the clear thinking about tangled problems that was in prospect. His published articles bore mainly on the relations between New Zealand and less favoured countries. They strove not only to record new facts, but to arouse in his fellow New Zealanders a sense of their duty towards world problems and suffering humanity. It was this sense of mission which gave fire to his teaching and which stimulated all those with whom he came into contact.

Yet one can read his book and his articles without understanding why his influence will live so long. When it came to print, the very exactness of his standards prevented him from setting forth the full impulse of his thinking. None but experts—or those who worked through the proofs with him—can assess the depth of scholarship in his book, the human sympathy and the infinite care which lay behind each complex phrase. Sentences wherein each word, each delicate nuance, must do justice to every aspect of a complex situation are apt to read stodgily, and to prolong themselves with adjectives and qualifications. Moreover, in Monk’s mind it was not merely the demands of factual research that must be met. The range of his sympathy was universal, and it embraced more particularly the views of those whom the world, and even he himself, were inclined to condemn. Seeing so clearly and sympathetically the merits of any argument which could find a human being to defend it, his own writing tended to one extreme or the other. When scientific history, it was austere and tough, an irrepressible humanity lurking in the corner, but severely disciplined; when polemics, it was a slashing and provocative as his talk. He was a passionate believer yet withal humble, always open to argument and ready when cornered to admit to mistakes with a charm that silenced complaint.

The man’s personality, in short, bursts through any attempt to discuss him calmly and rationally. He lives in one’s mind not because of what he wrote, but because of what he was: tough, courageous with unbounded human sympathy. I doubt that his standards met any particular religious formula, but they were as high and as uncompromising as any that I know. One could disagree violently with his view on any particular issue, and become involved in arguments which exercised to the full one’s knowledge and mental agility. Yet one did not question his standards or ideals. He was a passionate seeker after truth, but of a truth which is as complex and elusive as humanity itself.

F. L. Wood

George F. Dixon

Outside the library is a brass plate recently unveiled. It is there to commemorate the services of George Dixon to Victoria University College. Perhaps already to many students he is no more than a brass plate, perhaps before long he will be no more than that to the crowds jostling on the stairs and in the corridors. Why then a memorial in cold bronze?
IN MEMORIAM

It is there as a mark of the appreciation that those who knew him at Victoria University College over fifty years felt for him. At Victoria, as doubtless elsewhere, there is a tradition of unselfish service in the fabric of college life. Many will tell you that Victoria is a night school with no corporate life of any significance. Those who really know its ugly architecture and poor facilities understand it has a strong spirit of its own—a twilit one perhaps—but there.

Its very existence and particularly its element of service result from the efforts of many—but no man gave so much to achieve it as George Dixon. As a student he led, after those days for fifty years he did all he could to help and advise. It would seem a proper judgment to say that he was the College’s leading servant for its first fifty years. He never took a degree, he held no paid position to stimulate his interest, but he stayed true to the College for all that time.

To students of different periods he meant different specific things perhaps. To his contemporaries he was a capable student administrator, an active sportsman and a Founder of Tournament. Later he was the one who gave so much drive to the Jubilees, to various memorials and to the Student Union ideal. All this time he was a constant support to the sports clubs of his interest, and, in recent years he went out to collect money for the Building Public Appeal.

As students passed through the College he remained a constant help and adviser, and perhaps an inspiration. He was the very personification of the Victoria spirit I have mentioned. His of course was no superhuman perfection. His long service had brought him to many firm opinions. About them he could be as stubborn as Wellington in the face of a southerly. We, later and younger, might be irritated by this at times, but we could not deny his right to speak in strong terms on subjects which had been important to him when some of us were learning the alphabet.

His best memorial will be the infusion of his spirit into the students of the future so that Victoria will always have the most precious element of student life and graduate loyalty—service to the College which develops them to the maturity of their powers.

K. B. O’BRIEN
Science at Victoria

In fifty-five years, science at Victoria has come a long way. Viewing the present development, it is hard to believe that so short a time ago were the simple beginnings when the first science professor met his small group of students in a rented room, equipment was less than modest, and research little more than a dream for the future. Now, there are over 500 students enrolled for undergraduate tuition in science. Victoria is producing more graduates at M.Sc. than any other institution in this country. There is a richness and variety of research such that it is difficult to describe. The degree of Ph.D. is being actively pursued. Staff research is becoming more the rule than the exception. Still did Easterbrook, Laby, Kirk return to this the scene of their labours, they would find a common ground for discussion with their followers, for in the growth which the Departments have made, there has never been relief from the traditional problems of science at Victoria: meagre equipment, inadequate staffing and overcrowded accommodation.

The story of what happened up to recent years has been well told by Beaglehole and others from the general aspect of the history of the College as a whole. It differs in major features from the development of science in other universities in one respect. It has all happened in a relatively short period, and in a period the shorter for nine years of war and five of financial depression, years in which normal development was largely impossible. A university is started when there is a demand for higher education. This provides an instructor and a group of students, the need for a library; but when this is all, there is created only a unit which may differ little from the unit in secondary schools or at lower levels where a tutorial element may be even the stronger.

Victoria was fortunate that in the formative years, the professors selected for science were men who were able to place their units not just at the top of a secondary school scale, but to start them within the university scale. They were men possessed of the research outlook. In their early research papers, in their participation in the activities of the scientific community, and in other ways, these men were far removed from those who can impart only the knowledge they have gained from books. These men inspired research. From the start, science at Victoria had all the elements of the university standard. The founding of the Sir George Grey Scholarship in 1900, of the Jacob Joseph Scholarships in 1903 for post-graduate work, researches published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand from 1901 on, these and much else yield ample evidence that science was soundly established here at the start.

During the early years there was a slow but steady increase in the enrolment of undergraduates in the laboratory sciences, an increase which in the last years of the twenties had begun to accelerate so that in 1930 the roll in science stood nearly at 200. The depression led to a drop but only of the most temporary nature, for in 1932 the roll commenced to rise again, and significantly it resumed its previous accelerated rate of increase which continued with reasonable conformity to a curve in the vicinity of a 9 per cent. compounding increase per annum until 1941, when the enrolment stood at 275. Then in the middle of
the war, the boom started which carried the enrolment in science to a peak of 660 students in 1949. These were years in which courses were rationed for first year students, laboratories were triplicated, and problems of staffing, accommodation, materials and equipment became insoluble.

The first relief from this intolerable overload came with the fall in numbers in 1950 to 570; next year to 512; and in 1952 to 486. These two latter figures come within the vicinity of the line projected from the rising enrolment in the thirties, and it is again of major importance to recognise that we find the enrolment in 1953 rising again to 512 and conforming to the projected curve.

![Graph showing enrolment in science from 1928 to 1953](image)

**Fig. 1: Undergraduate enrolments in science at Victoria from 1928 to 1953.**

It is reasonable to regard this curve based on enrolments over 26 years as giving a fair guide to future estimates. Projecting the curve conservatively, we can anticipate an enrolment in science in the vicinity of 575 in 1956, and to reach 650, which is of the order of the peak of the war-time boom, before 1960 if a normal rate of development is permitted by a peace uncomplicated with economic slumps. The latter, from the evidence of the previous slump, cannot depress the increase sufficiently to postpone or solve the difficulties from overcrowding such as we have so recently experienced and from which we suffer to a considerable extent still in the duplication and even triplication, of classwork which places heavy demands on the time and energies of students, diminishes the
opportunities for staff research, and hinders proper attention to the work of students at higher levels.

Overcrowding is adverse to reasonable and proper instruction in science. The consequences are many. Students working Chemistry are in the greatest physical danger when in the overcrowded laboratory there is little opportunity to supervise the work of the individual and to safeguard against accidents which can happen so easily if one student bumps another holding dangerous chemicals. Even the commonest acid can be a major danger under such circumstances. In Physics, there is overcrowding when equipment cannot be adequately arranged without interference with other set-ups. I always marvel that our laboratories have been able to give instruction on experiments of an elementary nature such as those involving the detection and measurement of magnetic fields in relation to the flow of electricity when set-ups are crowded so that one compass can hardly be free from the magnetic fields in the next set-up. Other experiments present similar problems. In Zoology, four students depend on one light for illumination of their dissections, and for their microscopes. They are crowded together as in the old days when at home the family huddled to read from the one oil lamp.

Overcrowding is well indicated in the following figures. In 1930, the Physics wing housed Physics and Geology. Chemistry and Biology were in the original Science wing built in 1910. This space provided “accommodation” for staff, store and other service rooms, lecture rooms and laboratories. It could not be termed adequate. Many facilities were absent. Kirk’s major storage was a loft above the Chemistry laboratory, dissection material was housed in wooden boxes, and I imagine much of his excellent teaching collection was even then on the stairway. Biology had nearly 90 students enrolled in its courses, Chemistry 130 (over twice the number for which its space originally had been intended), Physics 65, Geology 19. From the figures available, there was 181 square feet for each student of the 191 enrolled in science for that year.

In 1939, the total roll had risen to 252 and there was then 137 square feet per student. The addition in 1940 of the Biology Block to the accommodation raised the figure to 190 square feet but of course without benefit to work in Chemistry where the class roll was now 200. The onset of the war boom saw the space per student drop to 89 square feet in 1945 and to the low of 77 square feet in 1949 in spite of the removal of Geology to two huts.

The space available per student in 1954 was 99 square feet, one half that of the space per student in 1930. To give this some of its true weight, it can be pointed out that about 8 square feet is the allocation of space for a student in a lecture room. We are left then with an area per student of about 9 feet by 10 feet which is to be divided to provide laboratory space, quarters for graduate students, museums, stores, preparation, staff accommodation, technicians’ quarters, class library, the usual conveniences and other amenities. It is not surprising that the latter are absent, that there are no reading-rooms, common-rooms, cloakrooms and other customary provisions for the work, the comfort and the convenience of students. We can recognise that the situation was not good in 1930 when there was an overall of 181 square feet per student. It was bad enough in the thirties, that when the figure dropped to 140 square feet the situation was recognised
and a new building, the Biology Block, was commenced. Then we can understand how dramatic is the situation in Chemistry today when there is only 48 square feet per student attending classes in Chemistry, and even in the Biology Block for the combined Departments of Botany and Zoology, which together in 1953 had only 30 students less than Chemistry. In the Biology Block there was only 67 square feet per student in the classes for Botany and Zoology. This figure is lower than the minimum of the overall figure of 77 for the science departments during the boom and to all practical purposes no better than during the peak, when the figure for the two Departments in Biology dropped to 57 square feet per student.

Some will immediately say that the criterion employed here is unreliable since if we use a lecture seat and a laboratory place once in a day, these same places are available at least three more times during that day, and so the load in a building can be tripled or quadrupled. Such an argument is valid in circumstances other than those known at Victoria in the past fifteen years. At the present time, there are few laboratories which are not under almost continual use. This is only too well known from attempts to rearrange the time-table to redistribute the load for students. If those who are canny of broad figures such as used above will recognize that the case is not made out on minor differences, but that even for Botany and Zoology which appear lavishly housed the space per student today is about one third of the space per student in 1930, then even the harshest critic will find that this evidence of overcrowding in science at Victoria is not to be casually dismissed.

Even if gross overcrowding in undergraduate work can be inadequately met with by dividing classes into sections, duplicating and triplicating instruction, and loading the staff so that research becomes, as it is, a matter of great personal sacrifice and strain, the handling of advanced students and graduate work cannot be coped with in the same way. The graduate must have his own research space and facilities available to him for the full day and for each day in the week throughout the year.

Victoria in the past fourteen years has achieved an objective clearly in the minds of the original professors. Victoria has become an active centre of research. Although the younger members of the University of New Zealand, Victoria is now the leading training centre of young scientists in this country. This may result from some accident of location or some other factor external to Victoria itself; it certainly does not result from reasonable accommodation, equipment and other facilities. But the facts are that from 1940 to 1952 inclusive there were 560 graduates in the laboratory sciences at the level of M.Sc. from the University of New Zealand. Of these, Victoria graduated 184 (32.8 per cent.); Auckland, 152 (27.1 per cent.); Canterbury, 127 (22.6 per cent.); and Otago, 97 (17.3 per cent.). Victoria’s status in this respect is quite clear. If we take the total figure of 560, the average production of M.Sc. in the laboratory sciences from the University as a whole over 13 years has been 43 per annum, which can be taken for the present purpose as 11 per annum per college. When we set out the production each year above this average for the different Colleges we find that the high production at Victoria is not a passing event, not a part of the post-war boom, but one which is continuing and will continue.
Production of M.Sc. in the Laboratory Sciences above the Average of 11 p.a. per College

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The above table presents a picture of the development of graduate work at Victoria which differs markedly from ordinary ideas. The period is selected because the onset of war broke the old practice where graduates went overseas. In 1940, Victoria graduated 10 at M.Sc., but manpower direction removed our students as they graduated at the B.Sc. and in 1941 and 1942 few were available for higher studies. It was actually in 1943 and 1944 that the numbers enrolled for this degree began to return to normal, so that in 1945, and before the war boom enrolment could affect this level, the production of M.Sc. graduates was resumed.

It is important to recognise this fact. The production of M.Sc. graduates at Victoria as the war ended was not related to the war-time boom, and it has continued with little evidence of a peak related to that peak in undergraduate enrolment. Graduate work must now be accepted as an important and continuing activity at Victoria.

In those 13 years, there have been 80 graduates in the University of New Zealand at this level in Botany. Victoria has graduated 35.7 per cent. of these. There were 267 graduated at M.Sc. in Chemistry, and 28.7 per cent of these were from Victoria. Victoria graduated 29 per cent. of the 112 M.Sc. granted in Physics, and 34 per cent. of the 38 graduated in Geology. There were 63 graduated in Zoology, and of these 55.5 per cent. were graduated from Victoria. These figures show that Victoria is well-balanced in the production of graduates from her departments of science.

Since graduate work in the laboratory sciences is now a permanent feature of Victoria, it is worth examining other aspects of the situation. Such a development in work at this level was never allowed for in planning the space for these departments. Today graduate work is a major embarrassment now that Victoria is carrying a proper load in this respect instead of shipping the majority of her graduates overseas and letting other institutions shoulder this burden.

Certainly, there is no reason to believe that adequate accommodation and facilities are attracting students to Victoria. M.Sc. students are working in the
space under the wooden floor of a lecture theatre; twelve are crowded into a room originally intended for four. Service rooms have been taken over to provide space. Nowhere is there anything in the nature of adequate or suitable accommodation.

Augmenting this situation is the development of work for the Ph.D. If plans to provide for the burden of M.Sc. students were deficient, when we judge from present evidence plans for Ph.D. work were totally omitted from all calculations. In the early years with few M.Sc. students, and many departing to universities in other countries, departments here were required to provide space for a student proceeding beyond the B.Sc. for a matter of one or two years. Then the space became available again. Now with the Ph.D., the department must provide space for from two to four years beyond the M.Sc. One postgraduate will occupy a research place for from two to six years. With the high numbers of M.Sc. candidates to be catered for each year, with the occupation of research places for long periods by candidates for the higher degree, places for graduate research are becoming dangerously full. In the Biology Block, all research places are now full and there is no accommodation in sight for all of those from the present senior classes who seek to advance to the M.Sc. next year. If we look back to the figures of the numbers graduated in Botany and Zoology from the University as a whole, we see that of a total of 145, Victoria graduated 63, which is 44 per cent. of that total. It might appear that Victoria is adequately contributing to the national requirement for trained zoologists and botanists, and yet there has never been a year in our experience in which the demand for graduates in these fields has been satisfied. If we are unable to continue the expansion of graduate training through inadequate accommodation, it is not Victoria which suffers, other than in the thwarting of a natural and proper development. It is the impedence of research development such as agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, wild-life control, forestry, soil microbiology, wool research, and as many other and more fields of some national importance. It is the supply of qualified and reasonably mature biologists as teachers for the secondary schools which is limited. These have all accepted our graduates, and seek more. The case is equally strong in the other science departments. Those who fail to see that the critical situation at Victoria is not a matter of importance far beyond the walls of the College, should read their excuses now for the charges which the historian in the future will surely lay against them.

In the path which Victoria now follows, the steps are clear from our own history of institutions in older centres. First there is the establishment of undergraduate teaching, the young graduates for the first part going to other older-established and highly developed institutions. Then, just as the development of undergraduate teaching is slow, there is the long period in which graduate instruction quietly but steadily develops, and a new atmosphere appears as small groups of developing maturity form in the different departments. The increase in undergraduate teaching leads to an increase in staff. It is this formation of a group of maturing and mature individuals with a research outlook which is essential to the completeness of a university department. There is no way in which there can be an atmosphere of enquiry, if the work of a department is entirely the teaching of undergraduates. The true atmosphere comes when
graduate training and staff researches are fully developed, and fruitful. It is then that a new spirit appears in a department, a morale which reflects in the work of the department at all levels. Undoubtedly, one of the great contributions to this morale is in the presence and activities of graduates working to the Ph.D.

Consider a department at its inception. Maturity and research are limited and little more than the prerogative of the senior staff. In a fully developed department, there are the students at all levels of maturity, there is a breadth of research activities which not only extends the atmosphere of enquiry but exposes all to new problems, new ideas, new techniques, and is a constant and refreshing stimulus for all.

This is what has happened at Victoria. The rate of transition from the early stages to the latter situation was tremendously accelerated during the war years not because this led to a boom in student numbers, but because for a time the tradition of exporting our maturing graduates was interrupted. Overseas institutions were overcrowded for some years. Our graduates found that they could continue their training here, and they could train here on New Zealand material and problems.

In 1949, there were four students registered in the laboratory sciences as candidates for the Ph.D. at Victoria. In 1950, the number was 8; 1951, 9; 1952, 7. In 1953, the number was 11. In the course of time, their researches will be completed and each will have made his contribution to the body of knowledge which is science in New Zealand. It is easy to see the benefit we gain in this development. There is the definite contribution to knowledge obtained in the study of a problem. There is the production of scientists trained in the study of New Zealand problems, in New Zealand. There is the augmentation of the research atmosphere. There is the widening of research activities and interests. There is the stimulation of students at all levels. Such returns are worthwhile and only to be found in the development of a fully formed university department. One department at Victoria has 16 enrolled for higher degrees, 6 for the Ph.D., 10 for M.Sc. Another department has 15 graduate students. The scale of this work at Victoria has not been appreciated in recent years. Few have realised that Victoria as a university has become mature in her science and from now on can grow in stature only as she is provided with means for the further development of this full range of her activities. It is now as important and urgent to provide for graduate instruction and research at Victoria, as before it was important to provide for undergraduates. It can only be hoped that the provision for graduate work will be on a scale more generous than was known for the undergraduates in the past twenty years.

This new phase has great potential value. New Zealand has had little experience of a large, fully functioning university centre. Elsewhere, it has been found that when a university develops to the stage which Victoria has now reached, the research potential of the institution becomes a major asset. In the fully formed university atmosphere, there is room to include enquiry into problems of national significance. Commonly the research interest of a staff member will encourage one or two students to research on such lines for a doctoral degree. This work paves the way for others who join with the group until a unit is functional and the whole subject flourishes under intensive investigation. Having
the freedom for research which is such an important feature of science within
the university, the problem can be freely followed even on the most seemingly
futile but sometimes ultimately fruitful lines. Such a unit can remain inside the
university, or be hived off as a fully formed and active specialised research unit and
so continue its development under other auspices. The mature university has
great advantages as the home for the inception and development of research.
It has freedom to research. It has a qualified staff experienced in research, and,
of major importance, staff trained to instruct and encourage others in research.
It has the steady flow of young candidates for the higher degrees and the
opportunity to match these candidates with research problems. It has a flexibility
in research which is an exceptional asset. Of equal importance with all of these,
it is charged with and accepts the duty of these requirements. No other institution
has the range of these qualifications.

This phase in the history of science at Victoria is now in the process of
development. It commenced quietly and in a manner which was not generally
recognised, a few years ago when the University of New Zealand set up and
financed a University Research Grants Committee which was to make grants to
encourage the development of research in the constituent institutions. The work
of this committee has assisted staff in their researches in the most diverse ways.
It has encouraged graduates to carry on their researches for higher degrees. In
brief, at present it makes possible this next phase in which will emerge small
specialised research units in a wide variety of fields, and there will be growth in
stature of the university. Fortunately the Grants scheme came in time, but the
demands on the resources of that Committee will grow now in a geometric and
not in a simple arithmetic proportion.

The view of science at Victoria given above will raise questions in the mind
of many, and without doubt, a primary question will be that concerning the future
for all these graduates. Few will have had any conception of the number of
graduates in science from this one College. The number seems almost unemploy-
able in a community which we so apologetically describe as “small”. The New
Zealand community is expanding, but of more significance is the fact that the
utilisation of scientists in this country is expanding even more rapidly. In 1948,
there was published a Report of the Consultative Committee on the Scientific
Manpower Resources of New Zealand. This report shows that in 1927, there
were 162 scientists employed here. Ten years later, this had risen to 443, and
more than doubled to reach a figure of 1,040 by 1947. From these figures and
the figures of the intermediate years, it was estimated that the requirement in
1952-53 would be 2,207, a doubling of the employed scientists in five years. The
estimate has proven low. In spite of the heavy production of graduates at B.Sc.
and at M.Sc. from Victoria, not one science department has yet met the demands
from other organisations for graduates in its field, nor does the total output from
the University meet the demand. The export of graduates has recommenced and
if the previous situation as recorded in the Scientific Manpower report is resumed,
a third of our graduates will go overseas and about half will not return. With
the present number of graduates, these proportions will now probably be lower,
but still significant, and should there be no relief from overcrowding, then as the
numbers increase relatively more graduates will be compelled by lack to accom-
modation here to seek further training outside this country. So in the near
future as we are forced to refuse graduates for higher training because there is
literally no accommodation for them, then the export will resume its former level
and have its former consequences.

There has been some fear that the increasing number of graduates concen-
trating in the University is in no small measure responsible for the inability of
the University to meet the demands for trained scientists. In brief, that our
graduates are largely concerned with seeking a career within the walls of the
University. Such an impression is readily gained during a period when the
number of graduates continuing to higher degrees is steadily increasing. The real
situation is that the advantages to be gained from higher qualification are now
fully appreciated by the young graduate. The opportunity exists to obtain such
qualification as well here as overseas, and an increasing number of young
graduates is prepared to accept a further low income period and to make the
sacrifice necessary in proceeding to the higher degree; but obviously, only the
merest and an insignificant fraction of the 192 graduates in the laboratory sciences
at M.Sc. from Victoria in the past fourteen years have joined the academic staff
and the great majority have taken their part in the doubling of the scientific labour
force in recent years. Evidence even here to quell any fear that Victoria is a
parent fattening on her own young, for the staff of the science departments is now
only about 33, of whom over one third originated elsewhere or in earlier years.
The number of staff is essentially unchanged in recent years. As our graduates
reach the level of qualification which they seek, they depart from Victoria.

Our graduates in science are to be found in nearly every field of research in
this country and many are employed in other countries. They are active in
administration and liaison, in general agriculture, in animal husbandry,
bacteriology, wool genetics, soil chemistry and microbiology, general botany, in
inorganic, organic and agricultural chemistry, biochemistry, entomological re-
searches, forestry, general geology, palaeontology, physics, meteorology, veterinary
science, wild-life research, primary and secondary school teaching, and in many
other scientific activities. It is impossible here to convey a detailed account of
the utilisation of our graduates in science. Let it be recognised from the above
that there is no narrowness or restrictions in their utilisation such that our
graduates are only available for a limited field in the scientific effort of this
country. Let is be equally recognised that the demand for scientists exceeds the
present production from the University and that the demand is increasing faster
than this production. There is no need to argue here the need for this increased
scientific effort in New Zealand. It is adequately recognised in the growth of the
Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and in the research activities of
other departments such as Agriculture, Forestry, etc. Place against even these
few facts, the progress that Victoria has made to become the major producer of
trained scientists.

Now consider the present situation at Victoria. If adequate accommodation,
staff and equipment are provided then Victoria will make still further progress,
not simply as a producer of graduates but as an active participant and contributor
to the researches which are essential to the development of this country, as has
been the case with so many large and important universities elsewhere. At
Victoria, our graduates will train and train adequately on researches into New Zealand problems. They will enter employment with the background of that experience and with an enthusiasm strengthened in the knowledge that the need for such work has been recognized not just in the setting up of a tiny research unit outside the university but by the full recognition of the need for trained scientists for such work. Such recognition must include the provision of reasonable accommodation, equipment, and adequate staff. The latter should not be omitted from consideration since it is an active staff interested in and encouraged to research who lead the student through the years of preparation to the fruitful fields of research.

Without such recognition of the place of Victoria in New Zealand science, of the level to which Victoria has now advanced, and of the full potentiality which Victoria can achieve, the production of graduates is threatened, and is limited to a level far beneath this country’s requirement.

There has been some measure of abuse directed at the University in its failure to produce the numbers of scientists required for New Zealand’s scientific effort. In this article I have shown that at Victoria there has been an extremely short period for the development of the science departments from undergraduate instruction to the final phase of a fully developed university. Such growth was initially slow, but has now come to the abruptly growing phase, and graduate training and research are flourishing. Victoria has even reached the stage where students from overseas seek to come here for higher degrees, and unhappily some have had to be refused because there is literally no accommodation for them. In this and other ways we are delayed in reaching our proper development as a university of equal standing with many other institutions. Victoria has all the potentiality for meeting a great part of the demand for research workers in New Zealand. There is no question of inadequate quality. Those of our graduates who seek training or employment overseas have no difficulty in finding such and at a proper level. It is fair to state that Victoria has done its part, seeks only to perform its proper function in the future, and is now limited only so far as there is failure to provide proper facilities here for the sons and daughters of New Zealand who seek to serve this country in the fields of science.

L. R. RICHARDSON

Religion in the University

If we are going to get any profit out of a consideration of the place of religion in the University, it is necessary to take a long view of the matter. Religion is concerned with the permanent interests of mankind and it ill becomes its friends to be looking for short cuts or to be snatching at temporary gains. More than others they are bound to endeavour “to see life steadily away to see it whole” and act accordingly. So I propose to offer to readers of Spike a few general ideas about the place of religion in our economy.

If I begin by saying that Victoria College has always been a very religious place, I don’t want to be misunderstood. I am not thinking so much of the fact
that the Student Christian Movement has always been very active here as of the fact that the prevailing spirit of the place has always been rationalistic, and I think that Rationalism is really a kind of religion. It rests on a positive and bold and very far-reaching assertion about the nature of things that is in fact held as an article of faith. It believes in Reason and seeks converts. To this belief the College has been very faithful in a world where the opposite religion, the cult of the irrational, has been making immense and steady progress.

I would like to make my point more definite by referring to my old teacher and friend, Sir Thomas Hunter. Once upon a time Tommy Hunter was a kind of bogeyman in many an orthodox household of the Province, and he was in fact a vigorous denier of the truth of the Christian Religion. But no one who knew him well could fail to be impressed by his kindness and his courage and his fidelity to the truth as he saw it. I was a student under him for five years; at more than one point in my private fortunes I sought and followed his advice; for many years I used to talk with him almost daily about the affairs of the College and the world; and I count my association with him one of the blessings of my life. He certainly had enemies, for he had a sharp tongue; and he was feared, for he had an intense belief in freedom of thought, which is nowhere popular in governmental and commercial circles; but he was, certainly in his later years, very respectful of convictions that were sincerely held. He certainly had a deep dislike, which he did not conceal, of dishonesty and insincerity and pride and self-seeking; but in moral questions he never left his students in doubt that there was a right and wrong side; and one usually came away from a lecture or from an argument feeling that life was a big thing and that great issues were at stake. Those are but small things.

Now Sir Thomas more than anyone else has embodied the spirit of the College; and what I am asserting is that the general temper of his mind, as distinguished from his opinions, was religious. No doubt it was a very special kind of religion; but religion it was, and, so far as it went, it was a good religion. A well-instructed Christian no doubt believes much more, but at any rate he believes that the universe is rational, the creation of a rational Being.

Since I first came to the College, nearly forty years ago, there has been a change in the state of opinion and a notable increase in the number of those who accept and practice the Christian Faith. When I came to the College in 1916 it was not easy to find a single member of the teaching body who went to church but I have lived to see quite a big proportion of them doing so. This, of course, I regard as a good thing; but I hope that we shall always remember to be grateful to those who stood up for the rights of reason in days when far too many of the friends of the Faith were only concerned with the cultivation of devout emotions.

When we discuss the place of the Christian Religion in the University we do well to remember that the universities of the western world came into existence during the Ages of Faith and the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge were endowed by Christian men for the promotion of learning and the propagation of the Christian Faith. This combination of religion and learning survived the Reformation and was never more fruitful than during the Seventeenth
Century, when it could be said "Clerus Anglicanus stupor mundi," and when
the clergy of the established church were so active in the founding of the Royal
Society for the Advancement of Science. It was, on the other hand, in the
Eighteenth Century, when the Christian Religion had lost its hold on the minds
of educated man, that the universities went to pieces.

We do well to remember something else. Our forefathers founded and
endowed universities because they believed that God was a rational Being and
hence that the world that he had created was rational too and ran according
to law. In order to see how deep this idea went and how far it led men we
have only to dip into the works of the Thirteenth Century St. Thomas or the
Sixteenth Century Hooker. Indeed a very distinguished mathematician and
philosopher of recent times, A. N. Whitehead, of Cambridge and Harvard, has
gone so far as to say that it was the mediaeval theologians who implanted
deep in men's minds the idea of the rationality of the physical universe that
led them to assume the principle of the uniformity of nature, upon which all
the triumphs of modern scientific induction depend. Modern science, he tells us
in his remarkable little book "Science and the Modern World," is "an uncon-
scious derivative of mediaeval theology."

If there is any truth at all in this it is worth reflecting upon whenever we
approach the subject of the place of the Christian Religion in the universities
of New Zealand.

I haven't any proposals to make. What I would chiefly like to see is
simply a greater awareness within the university of the immense debt that is
owed to the church by all who care for learning and a somewhat greater
willingness on the part of the university to assist the churches in their purely
academic aims. I think it is true to say that in both these matters there has
been an advance; but I venture to hope that it may go further.

HAROLD MILLER

Extravaganza

What might be called the "modern phase" of Extravaganza began in 1932
with the introduction of Redmond Phillip's scripts, some of which are still pre-
served in the records. The dialogue now seems somewhat stilted and formal, but
the songs are beginning to evolve into the type used today. Songs such as
"Kaitatane Blues" from "Medea and Soda" (1934) show this trend.

Although the early Phillip's shows gave a fillip to Extravaganza prestige, a
real collapse occurred in 1935 with the production of "Peccadillo". This was
presented in the main Town Hall, which made things difficult enough, but on
top of this the script was not finished until practically the opening night. As
would be expected, the show was not a success and the outlook for next year
looked gloomy, to say the least.

However, as sometimes happens, the miracle occurred, and next year (1936)
two first class scripts were submitted, one by P. J. Smith, a veteran script writer,
etitled "Hell's Bells", a thirty minute show, and one by a student who as
yet had not been heard of in Extravaganza circles—Ron Meek. The two scripts were both short productions linked by one of John Carrad's inimitable fifteen minute reviews, "Intermission in Eternity". Ron Meek's contribution was "Brave New Zealand", a remarkably witty satire of Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World". It was an audacious theme to select but was eminently successful and much of the credit here is due to the excellent production by the late W. J. Mountjoy, jr.

Nineteen thirty-six marked the beginning of a definite period in Extravaganza history which lasted some years. The satire, the musical interlude, and the Extravaganza appeared to be well established as the years went on. The satire was generally produced by the Drama Club during this period and remained so until replaced by the full length show we know today. After 1936 another combination, "the Seven Pillars of Wisdom," replaced Mr. Smith as writers of satire and produced some excellent efforts, culminating with the extremely successful "Book of Bob" in 1937. After the success of the 1936 production, the Executive of the time decided to lay down a scheme for posterity. The show was to consist of:

(a) Opening chorus and spectacle ........ 5 min.
(b) Men's ballet ......................... 5 min.
(c) Interlude ................................ 12 min.
(d) Main show ................................ 50 min.

1 hr. 12 min.

Strong objection was taken to this rather dictatorial attitude and produced a long letter by Ron Meek to the now defunct Smad (predecessor of Salient) who strongly criticised this unusual programme arrangement. His idea was:

(a) Satire ........................................ 45 min.
(b) Interlude and men's ballet .................. 15 min.
(c) Extravaganza ................................ 70 min.

2 hr. 10 min.

Apparently people did not mind coming out late in 1937. Perhaps the transport service was better.

The final paragraph of Ron Meek's letter is worth quoting: "In conclusion I would recommend that the Executive consider the abolition of prize money awarded to the successful authors. The incentive given is very small and Extrav. writers should need no recompense for their months of labour other than the knowledge that the whole show has been appreciated by the public and has done a little at least to cement relations between the 'Varsity and the outside world.' This is good advice for any Executive.

Until the beginning of World War II, Extravaganza retained the general form indicated above. This period was remarkable for the fact that both the main scripts were of very high standard, supported by first class popular original music from John Carrad—such catchy tunes as "Rollo the Ravaging Roman" for instance.

Nineteen forty brought the first changes in form. "Centennial Scandals" was a much longer show than any of the previous Meek productions—the satire
EXTRAVAGANZA

H. WILLIAMSON

fades from the stage leaving an introductory review followed by the main show. During this year Ron Meek left Wellington and the nineteen forty-one show reverted to two sections, the main show being "The Sky's the Limit", which was written by a team composed largely of Tramping Club members. It turned out quite a surprisingly good show, containing as it did quite a few "traditional" airs. It was not easy to put on a show in those days of shortages, and credit is due to the efforts of the wardrobe mistress, Doris Williamson, who made practically all the costumes single-handed without the aid of an electric sewing machine or a wardrobe room.

The following year marked the Year of the Great Extravaganza Crisis. The Executive was very sharply divided as to whether a show should be put on or not. After probably one of the bitterest Executive meetings on record, when tempers were more than frayed and many hard words said, it was decided not to proceed with a full-scale production. However, in spite of opposition, a compromise was reached and a small-scale Extravaganza staged in the Lower Gymnasium. After this effort, Extravaganza definitely went into recess.

In 1944 Ron Meek was back again in collaboration with W. S. Bland of Hamilton with the "Zealous Zombies" based on an inspiration from Boris Karloff and Universal-International. Ron Meek appeared to have a flair for picking out unusual themes which apparently has not occurred again in later Extravaganzas. Here again is the full-length Extravaganza, this time to stay. "Zealous Zombies" consisted of a prologue and three acts. Also, scenery and costuming were becoming more elaborate and a new form of Extravaganza was being evolved. In 1945 Meek produced what is considered by many to be his best effort—"Peter in Blunderland"—with apologies to Lewis Carroll. The lead was taken by Dennis Hartley, a born comedian with a stage sense unusual in Extravaganza casts, who contributed greatly to the success of this production. The "House Full" sign had considerable use during the season. Later in the year the complete production was taken to Palmerston North in aid of the Patriotic Funds. This was a great success and the difficult task of transporting about 150 people together with properties and wardrobe was achieved successfully thanks to the ready co-operation of the City Council and the then Mayor, Mr. T. Mansford.

It is interesting to note that "Peter in Blunderland" was completed long before rehearsals were due to commence. Staging and lighting were worked out well beforehand and the whole show went together with an ease and smoothness which has never again been repeated.

This was the last of the Meek shows but his influence lingered on for many years and is noticeable in "Peter Pansy" and, to some extent, in "Vot-thu-Halla" in 1948 which even included a photograph of Ron Meek as he appeared as the Devil in "The Plutocrats" of 1937. During this period great credit should be given to Dave Cohen, who was a pillar of strength on the production and script. "Vot-thu-Halla" also introduced Jeff Stewart as a song and script writer with Jean Melling who had been actively associated with Extravaganza for some years. This was another successful show and shares the honours with "Peter in Blunderland" as being the only other show to go on tour, this time to Napier. This needed even greater organization as the whole cast was transported by trucks. At the present moment it seems very unlikely that further tours will be contemplated.
The single show now incorporated, or attempts to incorporate, all parts of
the three-show system. Later shows have not reached the high standard that
characterized the efforts of the "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" or Ron Meek, but it
should be recognized that the public taste has also changed. Burlesque appears
to be preferred to satire, which was shown to be the case in the successful 1954
production of "The Pirates of Finance".
In this brief review it has been impossible to mention all the shows or all
the people who have given so much of their time and effort. Some say, "Is
it worth while?" The only answer is to try your self and you will find it to be
one of the most satisfying events of the student year.

H. Williamson

Scholarship

Quid enim est aetas hominis, nisi memoria rerum ueterum
Cum superiorum aetate contextur?

Cicero.

University records of publications are often entitled "Scholarship and Re-
search". Perhaps it would not be overbold to say that nearly all such publi-
cations in a very broad sense display the scholarly attitude, but at the same time
there are probably also sufficient reasons for the dichotomy of the title. A
discussion of this point may therefore be a reasonable way of prefacing an
account, or rather a survey, of the records of scholarship at Victoria University
College.

In the dialogue entitled "De Re Publica" Cicero purports to deal with
political philosophy. He makes one of the characters, an eminent Roman
statesman of a generation dead and gone, talk of fame and mention in this
connexion the insignificance of even the greatest of mortal men when the vast-
ness is considered of the terrestrial globe on which mankind lives. As an
illustration of this popular commonplace the character surmises that the in-
habitants of the province of Wellington in New Zealand will never hear of
him for all his fame and statesmanship. Here, of course, Cicero makes the
character speak in a geographical sense because his thoughts are governed by
the spacial limitations of the civilisation in which he lived. But there does seem
to be a sense of wistfulness, of a desire to find a link with others who may
live differently but have much in common with the speaker. Again, the
quotation which appears at the head of this survey, and which has been put
there because I think it has some relationship to the accepted connotation of
the word "scholarship", reveals that Cicero believed in the continuity of human
thought and human affairs. "What pray does a man's day and generation
amount to if it is not part of the texture of the generation of those before him
because of the recollection of things past?" This at any rate he thought valid
for Graeco-Roman civilisation, and indeed of the utmost value, and the gist of
the part of the dialogue which I have just described makes plain that he had
considered at least the possibility of continuity in a more extended sphere of

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time, perhaps, but certainly of space. It is this belief in continuity which makes the work of the scholar possible, if, as I hope to show, continuity is perhaps the ultimate motive of scholarship in the best sense of the word.

But this conclusion is perhaps too general to be very helpful. Scholarship has been defined in many ways, through most of which runs this feeling of continuity, and with it a notion of the meticulous observance of method. It can be the accurate use of dot and comma, the accurate knowledge of a traditional spelling of a word, a strictly methodical investigation of something that is "old", or in a negative sense, the loading of the mind with a more than usual amount of information on some subject, and for choice, a subject usually described as "humane"—the more restricted the subject, the more scholarly the attainment. But this definition is not usually applied to the sciences, apart from works on the history of science and kindred aspects, and if it is so applied, the reason given is that the researcher and writer show a "scholarly attitude of mind."

In the early stages of what is known as the Renaissance in Europe there are the beginnings of what may be called modern scholarship in the strict sense of the term. The field of the scholar was then the greater part of knowledge, and for his sources he went to the Greek and Latin authors who supplied the information which was needed but had to a large extent to be re-discovered. The scholar was knitting together the threads that linked his time with the spirit of the Graeco-Roman past: he is trying to repair the broken unity, and his field is the writings of Greece and Rome; hence the narrow definition of "scholarship," which was then the fountain of knowledge. But the position was too simple and homogeneous to last. The eager search for continuity, all too often spoiled, but pardonably so, perhaps, by reading too much of the present into the past uncritically tended to branch out into "specialisms". Thus Poggio Bracciolini was concerned with the discovery and usability of sources for the most part, finding manuscripts and emending them, for which a closer and more critical study of language was later to become an aid. Politian devoted himself mainly to the aesthetic side of scholarship; in him Ciceronian oratory almost lived again; he strove to restore a continuity of style and expression in accordance with the criticism and standards of the ancients. Lorenzo Valla pursued a more thorny path in search of truth. He showed respect neither for persons or parties, and applied a remarkably powerful intellect to the criticism of the subject-matter of the re-discovered texts. This stage of modern scholarship and of the new learning has been fascinatingly described by H. W. Garrod in his Gray Lectures for 1946 entitled "Scholarship, Its Meaning and Value." Mainly because of the nature of these beginnings in the modern world scholarship is an intellectual activity which has been traditionally linked with the field of letters, although the techniques often used are not exclusive to the scholar.

If, then, the chief aim of the scholar be granted to be the establishment of continuity in some appropriate field of study, the scholar needs learning as a means to his end; he is attempting to "perpetuate the past for the benefit of the present and the future"; he is trying also to make clear what has been dimmed by the passage of time. But the acquisition of learning is not so exacting a task as the application of it. And so the best scholars have
approached the task of applying the tools of learning with an acute sense of responsibility. One extreme form of this is seen in the work Eduard Meyer whose desire for objectivity affected his style. It has been stated that his style is sober and impersonal, a language fit for exact research into particular and narrow problems, but inadequate for the creative writing of universal history. His style has been attributed to his age and its positivist naturalistic character. Scholarship cannot last without something that is beyond scholarship. Another extreme is that of reticence. There is something awe-inspiring about immense learning in a special field—the fact that it has been acquired in evidence of an attitude of mind which prompts extreme caution in the examination of facts and ideas, and a most exactly high standard and vast extent of preliminary work to deal with them. The austerity of the scholarly attitude in this respect is well illustrated by the anecdote told of the late A. E. Housman, former Regius Professor of Latin in the University of Cambridge, who disappointed his tutors by his performance in his final schools: he attempted to answer only those questions for which he felt he had a really competent fund of learning, and the others he left alone. In any case the difference between true scholarship, the critical examination of learning with the ultimate aim of continuity in mind is not the same thing as mere learning or mere erudition, despite the definitions given in some dictionaries of repute. Learning for its own sake may often be just a manifestation of the acquisitive instinct, or be the result of vanity for the purpose of display. “I maintain that not all learned men are accomplished scholars, though any accomplished scholar may, if he chooses to devote the time to the necessary studies, become a learned man,” wrote Professor Donaldson of Cambridge (“Classical Scholarship and Classical Learning,” 1856); and the same thought is tersely expressed in Mark Pattison’s “Essays”: “It is not a knowledge but a discipline, that is required; not science, but the scientific habit; not erudition but scholarship.” The greatest scholars from the time of the Scaligers onwards have, however, usually been men of great erudition. No doubt they have an inexhaustible desire for finality and completeness in the field of erudition which provides base and framework for their scholarship. This attitude of mind is suitably illustrated by a paragraph from R. W. Chapman’s essay on Ingram Bywater, entitled “The Portrait of a Scholar.” “The loftiness of his own standard was more surely betrayed by the alarm he evinced at the rare discovery of a gap in his knowledge. At a meeting of a learned Society over which he presided, a member, while reading a commentator’s note, boggled at a word, and applied to the president for its meaning. ‘Sicilicus—sicilicus!’ There was a silence as he made his way to the dictionary. ‘Sicilicus.’ It means the forty-eighth part of an as, and , by metonymy, it means a comma’. Then, replacing the book, and turning to his audience, in accents of unfeigned dismay—“I didn’t know that!” But one may fairly concede that Bywater knew how to forget about details after use or until they were needed. At the least the scholar and the student, if worthy of the name, would readily know how to find most expeditiously the information he requires.

In taking stock at this point, before turning to a survey of scholarship at Victoria University College, I think it could fairly be said that scholarship
studies the thoughts of men in different ages and different countries, as a means of surveying the social, moral, intellectual, religious and related trends of mankind, of finding their place in the scheme of things and assessing their value for the present and of examining the possibilities of their future. The main keys for the scholar are the writings and the monuments of men, and in the highest sense the great thoughts of great men. But in doing all this, and need I add, informing his work with life and spirit so far as his powers will permit, in his observations and enquiries and his use of scientific techniques, the scholar has a sense of remoteness between himself and the object of his study, which essentially involves him in a consideration of the past or something distant in space and different. He must reveal the gap and attempt to bridge it by an effort of imagination. To summarise the point I should like to quote from Garrod some sentences in which the situation has been vividly described: “The end . . . may be said, perhaps, in language not too grandiloquent, to be a restoration of the broken unity of the human spirit. To learning it presents itself as an intellectual trouble. There are gaps and fissures in the culture of nations; accidents of time, language, place and race hinder sympathy and understanding; after all effort, there remains a pitiful discontinuity in the movement of the human mind. We hear the cry of the past; but we reach out hands in vain to our spiritual kindred. They cannot come to us, nor our weak faculties fly to them. . . . The slow and cautious movement of the learning has little in it to fascinate eye or heart, and will rarely command from the crowd more than the cool approval which salutes mediocrity. We pit imagination against knowledge, Letters against Science, the Poet against the Scholar; and in the very act of doing so we are fighting against the cause for which these contrasted causes exist—the unity of the human spirit.”

In view of the terms of reference laid down for me, however, I propose to take scholarship in its widest sense, to include grammatical, literary and antiquarian study and such works as illustrate and discuss social, moral, intellectual, religious and moral trends of mankind with some sense for the past. Creative art, the poetry composed and the music published and performed must pass by here with grateful acknowledgement.

The survey of published works of scholarship which follows must naturally be brief. It has been based on the records printed in the Calendars of Victoria University College, and those who wish for a complete and detailed record of titles, dates, publishers and periodicals will find it in these volumes.

The first impression produced by a study of these records in comparison with those of former years is one of contrast. There is a greater bulk of work done, more books, very many more articles short and long, discursive and learned, and the number of fields in which work is being done seems also to be increasing. To some extent this increase may be the result of settling down after the years of war, but the increase does coincide to a marked extent with the increase of staff which has brought with it more varied interests and better conditions for pursuing independent investigations. Then, too, there has been the creation of special schools with fruitful fields for investigation in New Zealand conditions. There has also been the stimulus of closer contact with similar work being done overseas, of travel, and of authorities who visit as lecturers.
As I have said, the range of subjects is wide. Using the definition of scholarship in the wide sense that I have indicated, the following fields of investigation are represented: Political Science and Public Administration, aspects of the Law, Psychology, Economics and Accountancy, and the welfare of the citizen, in all of which the development of peoples, government, the economy of nations and political thought are traced and often relate the conditions in New Zealand of the present day to those prevailing elsewhere in time and space. History, International Relations and Letters in the strictest sense of the term are also represented. The total is some one hundred and twenty published works, no inconsiderable figure in a grand total of twenty-three pages of lists of publications. Ten of the works are books, two of which are new editions, three are published texts of lectures, and the rest are articles published in periodicals in New Zealand and overseas.

The actual number of publications in the various fields is also of interest. New Zealand has sometimes been called a laboratory for social experiment. This is perhaps reflected in the strength and importance of the Social Sciences in a University College situated in the capital city of the country. It is not therefore surprising to find that the most numerous list of works comes from the Social Sciences, and among them the majority is work on Political Science, Public Administration and International Affairs, the emphasis being on New Zealand conditions and New Zealand problems of government. The work includes constitutional development in New Zealand and Australia, the development of the Public Service, various aspects of the detailed work of government, and the impact of the electorate upon parties and policies.

In the other Social Sciences the published work covers mainly race relationships, discussions and surveys of post-war conditions and trends in various countries, international attitudes, education for professions, the significance of methods of public economy, the growth of the Welfare State, and Immigration. Once again the greatest part of the work deals with New Zealand conditions and New Zealand problems.

In History the work done shows a slight preponderance in favour of New Zealand topics. There have been three books of considerable importance, and the third edition of a well-known book on New Zealand has now been printed. The field ranges from the discussion of the use of History to a brief study of kingship and includes an essay on the history of Victoria University College, a study of an English historian at work in the Australian scene, New Zealand's way of life, and Mediterranean history. Some of the work is not only scholarly, it might well be ranked high as literature.

There is one important book on a period in the history of thought, and work ranging from Proust to dialectic.

In the field of pure letters the work done has all been scholarly in the strictest sense. Books on prose technique—one of which is a second edition—show the new approach to the subject inspired by new requirements and changing tastes in a modern world. The rest of the work is either specifically for New Zealand, or has a New Zealand origin or setting. There is a discussion of certain literary types for younger students, a short historical introduction to an early piece of New Zealand literature and work based on the resources of
the Turnbull Library—bibliography and the editing of a unique manuscript of English poems with a concise history of its origin and changes of ownership.

Unpublished work in the form of theses tends to follow the same pattern as the published work. The number of works appears to be on the increase. Although the range of subjects is wider than that of the published work, the bulk of it deals with New Zealand problems, and is predominantly sociological, the favourite choice being a concise history of some New Zealand institution or organisation or trend. But art, letters, scholarly literary criticism and philosophy, ancient and modern, have not been neglected.

Thus summarized, scholarly work pursued in Victoria University College is not unimpressive in its range or quantity, all the more so when it is considered that much of it is done in conditions that can hardly be described as ideal. It seems very likely that the good progress which has been made will be maintained, and that the next quinquennium will be better than this one if improvement of conditions of teaching and research is continued.

It may be said, "To what end?" Our way of life and values have been examined and compared with others. Obviously the college is in close and observant touch with the multifarious aspects of the life of the community in which it has been placed. The community has the right to present certain questions and problems on its life to the University, and the University is obviously discussing and examining constructively those questions and problems and frequently very cautiously suggesting answers.

H. A. Murray

The University of N.Z. as Publisher

The publications of the New Zealand University Press since 1949 fall fairly readily into three groups—text books, works of scholarship, and more general work.

The two text books, Professor P. S. Arden’s *First Readings in Old English* and Professor I. A. Gordon’s *English Prose Technique*, were not new issues, but went into their second edition in 1952 and 1953 respectively. These are the most successful books that the Press has issued: sound reliable texts which have gained acceptance both here and overseas. Professor Arden’s book is a set text in at least one English University.

In July 1952 the Press issued *T. S. Eliot and Walt Whitman* by Professor S. Musgrove of A.U.C., a 90-page booklet bound in boards. A passing infatuation with the works of one writer is a well-known introduction to the powers of literature and Eliot himself speaks of going through “the usual adolescent course of Byron, Shelley, Keats, Rossetti, Swinburne.” The thesis of Professor Musgrove’s essay is “that a rejection of Whitman is an important and unrecognised stage in Eliot’s progress to poetical and philosophical maturity.”
Professor E. M. Blaiklock, professor of Classics at A.U.C., also had a work of scholarship published during 1952. *The Male Characters of Euripides* is an important book which brings credit both to its author and to the New Zealand University Press and which has had sales in a satisfying number of countries, despite its high price of thirty-five shillings. Of nearly 270 pages, it is bound in terracotta cloth. There is little doubt that this is a book which would have found a ready publisher in England or America, and Professor Blaiklock’s decision to appear under the N.Z.U.P. imprint, despite a certain reduction in sales, is both loyal and generous.

The latest book to appear from University House is also the largest; a two-volume work by Dr. F. H. McDowall of the Dairy Research Institute entitled *The Buttermaker’s Manual*. Unique in its field, it contains much material never before collected in book form. It is encyclopaedic in scope and likely to remain for many years the standard reference for butter factory managers and operators, and all concerned with dairy plant in any way. The two fat volumes total over 1800 pages and cost ten guineas. The publication of this book by the N.Z.U.P. is another example of intelligent liaison between the University and New Zealand’s foremost industry, and is a part answer at least to a charge of ivory tower-ism.

It is in the category of more general works that success has been hardest to achieve. *Mental Health in New Zealand*, a pamphlet by Professor Ernest Beaglehole on an important subject, has had disappointingly small sales. Mr. E. C. Simpson’s *Signpost to Art* is an excellent book which has gained too little response from the public. It seems that the heightened interest in art during and immediately after the war had dwindled too much by the time this book was published in 1950. Mr. Simpson was a part-time lecturer in art to the A.E.W.S., where his material was well received. A book of poems by Mr. A. R. D. Fairburn, Lecturer in the History of Art at A.U.C. was published in 1952, and sold well at first, although there is only a spasmodic current demand. Called *Three Poems*, it contains “Dominion,” “The Voyage” and “To a Friend in the Wilderness,” of which the last two have been successfully broadcast.

As the New Zealand University Press is working with limited capital the failure of any of its books must curtail its ability to accept further manuscripts for publication. But by publishing at all the University takes a lead in establishing a tradition of scholastic publishing in New Zealand. Dr. J. C. Beaglehole is chairman of the Press Board which arranges the publication of N.Z.U.P. books and their good design and uncluttered typography is largely due to his sure sense of what is right, his enthusiasm and knowledge. In title-pages and tables of contents, the two chief places where a book designer has scope for individuality and experiment, N.Z.U.P. books are formal without being stuffy and imaginative without being over-exuberant. Although the press-work has not always been of this quality the N.Z.U.P. has not issued a really badly printed book, and authors and publisher are to be congratulated for the high standard generally maintained.

I. Free

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Capping

The year 1949 is important for two things. First because Spike was last published in that year, and secondly because that year saw a change of Government in this country. The latter point is neither vital or significant in itself—indeed, it is an event which has gone unnoticed except by politicians and Extrav. authors: and therein of course is, so to speak, the rub. Nineteen fifty saw a change of major characters in the year’s capping show.

“Hollandaze”—Extravaganza ’50—suffered from a lack of political “meat”—possibly because the current legislators had had the good sense not to legislate before May—possibly because typical student fairness demanded that criticism should not be voiced until there was something to criticise—or possibly it was just because the authors were all Tories anyway. Written by a team including Jeff Stewart, Bill Sheat, Paul Cotton, Richard Rainey and Frank Curtin, and produced by Dave Cohen. It was notable only for the excellent acting of Maureen Ross-Smith and Bill Sheat and the original music of Jeff Stewart; it was the first full length show to contain only original tunes and while this was an achievement and the music outstanding, it really only served to show that the public prefers tunes that it knows.

“Sidarella” in 1951 was a little better. Containing more political satire than its predecessor it struck a note (or something) in the year of the strike. Written by Con Bollinger, Hec MacNeill and many others, it was again produced by Dave Cohen.

After a gap the following year in which there was no show owing to the Opera House not being available, the Extrav. of 1953 showed that at last things were on the up and up. “Marsqueraid,” written by Pat Burns, Gill Lescher and Frank Curtin and extensively re-written by both producer and cast, seemed generally to have been conceded as the best show since 1948 (1948 in turn having been the best since 1945). Despite its relative success artistically (if one may be pardoned an euphemism) it was a failure financially. Due in part to the fact that it was staged in June during Coronation week when it had serious competition and in part, too, to the fact that there had been no show the year before to maintain interest. With Jeff Stewart producing and an excellent cast headed by Bill Sheat, Dave Crowe and Jim Hutchison it deserved better things from the Wellington public.

More recently, this year’s “Pirates of Finance” was an outstanding success—probably the best show since 1945. Written by a team of authors inspired (?) by Jim Hutchison, it was produced by Gavin Yates and Bill Sheat. It was blessed with a cast of universally high quality, with stars too numerous to mention. It played to packed houses and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

One whose efforts over the years cannot be overlooked is Huddy Williamson—the inveterate stage manager, whose unyielding struggles in the wings have guided more shows to success than this writer cares to remember.

Note for the Historian: 1953 was the first year in which the show was run for six nights: a laudable practice which was continued this year.
Quite honestly I can't remember anything much about capping days in 1950 and 1952. In 1951 the local authorities banned the procession because of the current strike. Nineteen fifty-one featured the arrival of Sir Lozenge and Lady Oblivion at the Railway Station where they were met by tumultuous cheering crowds and Paul Cotton. Brightly-clothed lackies milled around rolling and unrolling strips of red carpet (two strips each about 2 feet long) in front of the visitors as they made their triumphal passage through the concourse to Al Johnson's waiting Ford T.

Processh 1952 might have been notable for something but ah 1953! That was a year if ever there was one. Picture if you can the smoking ersatz hole in Lambton Quay carefully fenced off to keep out straying sheep and traffic officers and with a large pipe exuding a rather greasy black smoke: hear the raucous cries of the students playing marbles in the Railway Station concourse and the equally raucous cries of those who tripped over them: see the mysterious footprints that appear all over town: follow the inextricable traffic directions painted on various one-way streets: walk across the new pedestrian crossing between the "Duke" and the "George". When you've done all this glance casually at the bank robbery in progress then come and join the crowd at the top of Courtenay Place where, from the top of the Taj Mahal the faithful are being called to prayer and the police brought to despair.

Even Processh was a little less lewd than usual. All good clean fun, even at the Hospital morgue, where two "attendants" carefully deposited a "corpse" (there were two or three real ones there already).

But for 1954—oh how are the mighty fallen! Not only was the University responsible for a revolution in the City Council [Historians please note: S. Hardy resigned from transport committee when Council refused to uphold his ban on processh] but indirectly, it appears, for the scrapping of (you supply the word) annual traffic control scheme. These events are too recent in the memory of everyone to require more than a passing mention. If it were not for the possible degenerate or two of 1984 reading this, Cr. Hardy's name would not be mentioned at all. Incidentally if all the 'phone calls abusing Mr. Hardy came from students then not only are students incredibly dense but even the Registrar cannot add. As I understand it the students did not make the mistake of abusing the Councillor. Not they! They rang him up and congratulated him.

I regret that I have not been able to linger over some of the incidents of past years which to me leave a nostalgic memory of days gone forever, but I have sought to set out the major points of note concerning extras and processions over the last five years.

F. L. CURTIN

Law at Victoria

Elsewhere in this number of *Spike* appears a tribute to the late Professor R. O. McGechan by his and my colleague, Professor I. D. Campbell. He has written of Professor McGechan's personality, his attributes as a teacher, his devotion to the Law Faculty, and his plans for the future development of
Law Teaching at V.U.C. When I come to write a brief account of the Law Faculty at V.U.C. during the last five years I find that every development and every success I record is a memorial to our late colleague and to his work and inspiration.

When I returned from the United States in 1949, after a visit made possible only by Professor McGechan’s vision and organising ability, I brought with me glowing accounts of the “case method” of teaching law as I had seen it in operation in the great American law schools, especially in Columbia Law School. Professor McGechan had long been dissatisfied with the purely expository method of teaching by lecture and text-book, and he quickly saw the possibilities of the new method as I imperfectly described my first-hand experiences. He encouraged me to the full to try out this method in two subjects in which case-books were already available, and began to make preparations for his own visit to the United States in 1950 and 1951, a visit which was to prove so fruitful in new developments. In the meantime Mr. (now Professor) J. D. Campbell spent the summer and autumn of 1949-1950 on refresher leave in Great Britain and the U.S.A. He was able to compare at first-hand legal education in the two countries, and he, too, returned full of enthusiasm for the lively experimentaen in American teaching methods. He began to introduce new methods into his classes. Then came Professor McGechan’s own visit to the United States and Canada. He returned more firmly convinced than ever of the essential soundness and value of the “case method” and greatly impressed with the teaching potential of a number of subsidiary methods of work, both intra- and extra-curricular, which had grown up in the great American law schools. He immediately set about adapting the best of these to our peculiar New Zealand conditions. He began the novel and difficult task of collecting cases for the teaching of Administrative Law, in which there is still no one completely satisfactory book for the use of New Zealand students, and at his death the preliminary work for this was two-thirds completed. In addition, he had begun to assemble case materials for the use of students in certain parts of the course in Constitutional Law and the course in Jurisprudence. The valuable pioneer work which he has done in these fields at Victoria College marks a great step forward in teaching method in the Law Faculty, and remains to his successor as a sound basis on which to build further.

This change in teaching method is the first major development of the last five years to record. Not less important for the students, however, is the transformation of Room B 3, with its painful memories of bare floors, imperfect lighting and “austerity” seating, into a comfortable—almost one might say a luxurious—Law Reading Room and lecture room combined, with shelving to accommodate all the Reports and law-books in current use, seating for 50, indirect fluorescent lighting, and a dais suitable for library staff, lecturer and moot court bench.

Towards the end of last year a slim green covered volume made its appearance on the shelves of the Law Library and some half-dozen other libraries in the country. The Victoria University College Law Review, Vol. No. 1, had achieved publication. In 1952 the first steps were taken, by the appointment of five final-year students, chosen on their records as the best students in the
Faculty, as senior editors, and five students in their last year but one, similarly chosen, as junior editors, to become senior editors the next year. Work was begun on the writing and editing of analytical notes on recent and important decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. A good deal of experimentation was needed, and a good many unexpected difficulties had to be overcome, but in the end the first number of the Review appeared with a leading article by Professor McGechan on the Case Method and eight case-notes by first and second-year editors. It is hoped that two more numbers will appear during this year. The Review has received a good deal of favourable comment and encouragement, and a number of United States (and one Canadian) law schools have offered to exchange their publications with it.

For a number of years the Victoria University College Law Faculty Club has arranged moots during the year, more or less sporadically, in order to give students who wished it an opportunity of practice in legal argument; participation in these was purely voluntary. Last year the experiment was tried of arranging compulsory moots for all students in their last year, and the innovation was so much appreciated that this year, with the assistance of two part-time teachers appointed specially for the purpose and two voluntary student assistants, a moot programme has been organized so that every student taking subjects in Division II must argue at least one moot a year. Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd. has very kindly offered a prize to the student adjudged the best speaker in the year's moots.

In 1951 Dr. J. Williams, the Professor of English and New Zealand Law, was appointed Principal. Mr. I. D. Campbell succeeded him in the Chair, and after a lapse of two years (during which Professor Campbell was assisted by part-time lecturers and by Mr. J. A. Oldfield, LL.B.), Dr. G. P. Barton, B.A., LL.M. (N.Z.), Ph.D. (Cantab.), a former student of the Faculty who had been awarded a Humanitarian Trust Fund Studentship in International Law at Cambridge, and later had spent two years on the legal staff of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations, was appointed to the vacant Senior Lectureship.

Graduates from the Faculty have gained their share of academic honours during the past few years. Mr. R. B. Cooke was awarded the Law Travelling Scholarship in 1949, and after two years at Clare College, Cambridge was appointed to a Research Fellowship at Gonville and Caius College for a further two years. Mr. W. S. Shires was awarded the Orford Studentship, tenable at King's College, Cambridge, for 1951. Mr. D. B. Horsley was elected a Rhodes Scholar for 1953, and is now in residence at Brasenose College, Oxford. Mr. J. F. Hogg was awarded a Rotary Fellowship in 1953 and elected to study at the Harvard Law School; word has just reached the Faculty that he has graduated LL.M. at the top of his graduating class.

It would not be fitting to end this brief conspectus without some reference to the overseas visitors the Faculty has enjoyed during the past five years. Chief among them in importance to the Faculty's work was Professor Allison Dunham of the Law School of the University of Chicago, who spent some months in New Zealand during 1952 as a visiting professor under the Fulbright scheme, the bulk of it at Victoria. He gave Faculty and students alike valuable experience in the use of the case method as a teaching tool, charmed everybody
with whom he came into contact, and left behind him a most useful collection of case materials on the law of landlord and tenant. Dean Erwin N. Griswold of Harvard Law School, and Professor Leroy S. Merrifield of the George Washington Law School, honoured us with shorter visits. We were also privileged to entertain Lord Wright, sometime a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, during his brief stay in Wellington, and to hear him address students and staff; and more recently had a brief visit from Dr. Frances Moran, Regius Professor of Law at Trinity College, Dublin.

The students and staff of the Faculty find a common extra-curricular meeting place in the activities of the Law Faculty Club. In addition to its regular functions, the Law Ball and the Law Dinner, long since become traditional, the club has since 1952 abandoned its infrequent meetings on serious topics in favour of a series of club luncheons during the year, at which indifferent food and excellent speakers balance one another and make the principal attraction the ready camaraderie not always possible in lecture rooms and classes, and the evening functions have been confined to infrequent, but uniformly enjoyable Stein evenings.

E. K. Braybrooke

The Progress of Sport

In the five-year period since Spike was last published the standard of sport at Victoria has fluctuated almost as much as the Capital City's climate. We have scaled our Everests in some fields and closely examined our Mindanao deeps in others. Immediately post-war, with an influx of ex-servicemen and the consequent general raising of the average age level of the student body, there was a brief boom in University sport. This boom was shortlived, however, and when the Jubilee year of the College came in 1948 the slump was really setting in. Nineteen forty-nine and 1950 witnessed a slow but scarcely exhilarating improvement and not until 1951 did a few signs of better days ahead become at all apparent. But in 1951 even the most ardent supporters of Victoria in the field of sport could scarcely have been prepared for the success that was to greet their gladiators within the next two years. Rugby, with an invaluable transfusion of new blood, gave birth to the renaissance and the Athletics, Harrier, Cricket, Defence Rifle, Soccer, Women's Hockey, Miniature Rifle and Swords Clubs, to mention but a few, all responded to the lead and reached heights to which they had not aspired for some years.

The success our clubs have met with in open competition—if not in inter-Varsity to the same extent—over the past two or three years has been most gratifying and has done much to stimulate greater public interest in and appreciation of the College. It seems that after the instability of the post-war years the sports clubs have now reached a stage where a much greater consistency of performance can be expected. It can be expected, but whether or not it will actually be received will depend to a large extent on the competitors' mental approach to their respective sports. The mental and physical lethargy which intermittently besets even the most successful Victoria teams, no matter what
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the sport, must be the bogey of every man and woman who have undertaken coaching a Vic. club. From observation Victoria is not the only University thus afflicted, but we are not concerned with our fellow colleges here. On rare occasions a combination of brilliant natural talent happens along, for example the senior Rugby XV of the past two or three seasons or the current harrier team. But these occasions are widely dispersed and in the intervening periods something other than outstanding natural talent must provide the basis on which to build match-winning teams. Success is vital to the existence of any club. It is vital to the University itself, for sport is one of the few grounds on which the public of Wellington and the University can meet in common. No one can doubt the tremendous public relations value of Victoria Rugby over recent years, while on the other hand many brilliant scholars, some of them world recognised, have regrettably passed unheeded, or at most regarded only as something distant and intangible, by the body of the public. Most University sportsmen and their followers tend to pride themselves on their approach to sport, maintaining that so long as they play attractively and in the “true spirit” of the game—whatever that may be—everything is as it should be. Whether they win or lose, succeed or fail, is merely secondary, and consequently in the general run of things they frequently do not come up to expectations. Regrettably perhaps this “the game is the thing” concept of competitive sport went out with the Edwardian era, whether we like to admit or not. Why do New Zealanders revere the 1924 All Black team? Because they were successful, not because of their style of football, about which very few of us know anything. If the bright open methods of playing a sport beget the results then let us adhere to them by all means. But let us show that we are made of stern enough stuff to be able to knuckle down and fight out a pitched battle when the need arises, and let us give of our best all the game and all the season. No one wishes to advocate success at any price, nor envisage eight green-jerseyed forwards cutting a swathe through the opposition with fists pumping like pistons, or benzedrine stimulated athletes burning up the tracks. But it is possible to play hard and yet to play fairly, decently and attractively. Our clubs, more specifically their senior teams and outstanding athletes in open competition, must appreciate that Victoria expects them to be successes firstly, crowd-pleasers secondly, and both whenever circumstances permit. We have built up a good record in the past two years and gained much ground in many sports. Let us not slip back now due to half-heartedness and let us not remain satisfied with our performances to date but always strive to improve.

In the Jubilee issue of Spike, J. B. Trapp wrote of a decline in Rugby at V.U.C. following on the championship success of 1946. This trend continued through to 1950 without much improvement in the standard of performance other than an occasional display of the quality of football everyone hoped to see the senior XV play regularly. Once again in 1951 the club finished in a lowly position on the championship table but although it was a disappointing year from the club’s point of view there was considerable satisfaction to be gained from the outstanding exploits of R. A. Jarden, Victoria’s first All Black since E. T. Leys (1929). Firstly with the New Zealand Universities team in Australia and later that season with the All Blacks in the same country he built
up a record of performances which has made his name legion throughout the
country ever since. Nineteen fifty-one was the season in which he rose from
relative obscurity to become headline news and although he has been a tower
of strength to Victoria, Wellington and New Zealand football ever since and
has become sounder in defence and more of a craftsman on attack, it is doubt-
ful whether he has ever surpassed the football he produced that year for sheer
vitality and effervescence. These days, when Ron Jarden is taken much too
much for granted, players and public alike tend to regard his talents as some-
thing totally inherent—as something that only required the environment provided
by a paddock and two sets of goalposts to produce one of the finest All Black
wingers—completely overlooking the years of intensive training and practice
which this player put in to develop his abilities to the fullest before he gained
representative honours. His is an example which any athlete who wishes to
succeed would do well to remember. Even to the most gifted success comes
only after regular and diligent training with much sacrifice of leisure time.

Apart from Jarden, two other V.U.C. men toured Australia with the N.Z.
team that year, W. H. Clark and J. B. S. Hutchinson, a very capable all-round
athlete. Clark was to make a name for himself in later years as a flank forward,
firstly with the Wellington Ranfurly Shield team of 1953 and later with the New
Zealand team which toured the British Isles and France in 1953-54. However,
as far as forwards were concerned, the success of the 1951 season was J. G.
Smith, who represented the North Island in the North v. South match that year
and who must have narrowly missed higher honours. His omission from the
N.Z.U. team that year caused much bewilderment in the V.U.C. camp as
to the standard required by the selectors for inclusion in the Universities side.
G. P. Nola—a name which during Waikato’s tenure of the Ranfurly Shield in
1952-53 was to become almost as widely known as that of Jarden—was also in
the Victoria pack in 1951. Indeed, the forward strength was the best the club
had had since 1946 but the backs scarcely matched the vanguard in quality.
C. J. Loader was one back who was perhaps a cut above his fellows. He too
earned All Black honours in later years, although by then he was no longer
playing with V.U.C. Nineteen fifty-two produced a windfall of new arrivals,
including the 1949 All Black half, L. T. Savage, the 1951 All Black five-eighth,
This gave the club a back line which numbered four past, present and future
All Blacks amongst its complement. This back combination, coupled with a
forward pack of outstanding merit, presented a formidable line-up on paper
and proved equally formidable on the field. Few who witnessed the opening
match of the 1952 season when the college team trounced Poneke, the playing-
through champions, to the tune of 37-0 will ever forget that day. It marked
the opening of a true golden era in Victoria’s Rugby history which culminated
with the winning of the Jubilee Cup in 1952 and 1953. Much has been written
elsewhere in praise of the teams which represented the college throughout those
two seasons. Once, they were described by a prominent former All Black and
administrator as the greatest club team he had ever seen. It must be a
great strain for a team to play and to live up to praise such as that and to main-
tain over such a prolonged period the crowd-pleasing football—often in un-
favourable conditions—which the public expected of them. Full credit must be handed to the club therefore for the sustained quality of football and the results produced. Perhaps we would have liked to have seen a little more tactical inspiration from a backline which often stood figuratively head and shoulders above the opposition, and perhaps greater readiness to adopt the type of football played to the vicissitudes of Wellington's climate. At times an almost uniform weakness in defence and an occasional lack of "devil" when it was most urgently required detracted from otherwise excellent performances, but all in all when credits and debits are viewed dispassionately there seems no doubt that in 1952 and 1953 we had at Victoria probably the finest XV the college has ever fielded in its 56 years and probably one of the best club sides ever seen in Wellington. In 1953 six members of the back line in L. T. Savage, A. J. Henley, B. B. J. Fitzpatrick, J. T. Fitzgerald, R. A. Jarden, and B. W. Battell found places at one time or another in the Wellington team, which for the latter part of the season held the Ranfurly Shield, while the seventh, P. C. Osborne, was the reserve full back for most of the season. In the forwards H. W. Clark was a regular member of the provincial side, while the captain of the senior XV, I. E. Stuart, was a reserve throughout the period of Wellington's Shield tenure. New Zealand University representation over this period was gained by J. G. Smith, L. T. Savage, W. H. Clark, R. A. Jarden I. E. Stuart, J. T. Fitzgerald, P. C. Osborne, J. B. S. Hutchinson, B. B. J. Fitzpatrick, and A. J. Henley. Indeed, the Rugby Club has done much for V.U.C. in recent years both in the field of public relations and as inspiration to the remainder of Victoria's sporting fraternity.

The athletics world at Victoria has not been such a rosy one, however, over this period with the exception of the 1952-53 season, when the senior inter-club championship was won by V.U.C. Otherwise results have been disappointing from a club which once commanded as much glamour as is now associated with Rugby football at Vic, and which in its time has numbered nearly forty national champions among its members. Athletics has been Victoria's Achilles heel at Easter tournaments for some 25 years now and the average tournament-goer is fully justified in demanding some drastic effort on the part of this club to remedy the situation. It is not solely the fact that we have failed to win the tournament athletics once since 1929 that matters so much as the consummate ease with which V.U.C. has acquired the Athletics Wooden Spoon in the vast majority of the years since that now almost legendary success. Admittedly Tournament is first and foremost a social occasion but perhaps the club could lay a little more attention to the secondary matter of sporting prowess. The Easter Tournament copy of Canta—the C.U.C. student paper—was headed "Nobody loses all the time". Oh no?

These remarks apply with equal force to the Swimming and Women's Basketball Clubs, whose performances at Tournament over the past five years have, with one or two individual exceptions, failed to excite boundless enthusiasm amongst their ever-hopeful Tournament team-mates. However, although Tournament Athletics have not been a strong point with Victoria we have nevertheless produced one or two athletes of quite considerable merit since 1948. It is to be regretted that such men as G. I. Fox, the club captain for most of this period, have not seen greater results for their efforts in raising the
reputation of the club to its present high level in Wellington. In 1949 D. R. Batten took the national 220 and 440 yards titles, establishing new figures of 21.2 secs. in the former event, and went on to the Empire Games where he was placed third in the 440. Miss Helen Burr was placed in the national women’s high jump the same year and also in the two succeeding years, gaining an N.Z.U. Blue in each season as well. Batten was successful in the 220 again in 1950-51, and the following season I. Lissienko took the national discus title. Places were gained in the discus and hammer throw by Lissienko and D. D. Leech respectively in 1952-53, but last season the cupboard was bare except for an N.Z.U. Blue gained by G. R. Stevens for an excellent 3 miles at Tournament. Let us hope for the future and for something more than the occasional outstanding individual performance.

The fortunes of the Cricket Club since the war have closely followed, in pattern anyway, those of the Rugby footballers. Following on the championship success of the 1945-46 season and the subsequent slump, the senior XI battled around in the lower half of the championship table until it met with well-merited success in the 1952-53 season, only to slump again in 1953-54. Throughout the period since Spike last appeared, with the exception of 1949-50, Victoria has possessed quite the most formidable batting strength of any club in Wellington but has sorely lacked attacking strength. Worse still, those few on whose shoulders the attack has rested have frequently failed to receive the support to which they are entitled in the field. In fact, this club is one of the best examples in the College of how disappointingly a team with more than adequate natural talent—on the batting side in particular—may fare through lack of a sufficiently determined and aggressive approach to the game. Such an approach is probably more essential to success and more difficult to achieve in cricket than in any other sport, for here it must be almost entirely mental—it can rarely be expressed physically—and must be sustained for longer periods. Only once has this been achieved in the seasons of the period under review, and that was the year in which the Wellington Cricket Association’s coach, J. R. Reid, was allotted to the club. Although of no outstanding material value with bat and ball, he nevertheless managed to imbue the XI with a certain purposefulness and to sharpen up the bowling and fielding to the extent necessary to gain the outright wins essential for the championship success which eventually came their way. It was very disappointing to see the old lackadaisical attitude creep back into the team’s play last season, when Reid was no longer there, with the consequent lost opportunities of outright victories and subsequent slump to eighth in the championship table. Next season, perhaps, the club will show us the brand of cricket of which it is capable, and which it should be producing consistently. Despite the generally disappointing results in the W.C.A. championship since 1949, V.U.C. has not wanted for representative honours. R. A. Vance, a delightful bat when in form, has represented Wellington continuously since 1950 and was captain of the Plunket Shield side in 1953-54, while D. S. St. John, another stroke-player of rare quality, has been a member of the same XI since 1951-52. In the following season P. M. McCaw and W. R. Perkins, together with Vance and St. John, gained representative honours, while the 1953-54 season saw Vance, Perkins and J. C. Thomson in the Wellington XI. New Zealand University Blues were awarded to D. H.
McLeod (1951), the best wicket-keeper we have had since the war, and to P. M. McCaw in 1952, while N.Z.U. caps were gained by D. H. McLeod, R. G. O'Connor, K. M. Phillips, P. M. McCaw, W. F. Smith, W. R. Willis, D. S. St. John, W. R. Perkins, J. C. Thomson, and J. M. McEwen.

For a club which has never been particularly strong in numbers, Soccer has performed exceptionally well over the last few years. Not only have they played their way into the Senior A grade in Wellington football but through sheer merit and hard work have made their presence in that grade felt in no mean fashion. Their success has been due to hard training and good teamwork, with E. A. Harris, A. Preston, C. Richardson and J. Y. Walls standing out from their contemporaries. Preston and Harris are both N.Z.U. Blues, the latter also captaining the N.Z.U. XI in 1953 and both have represented Wellington, as also did Richardson. Preston seems likely to gain even higher honours.

The Swords Club has recently produced its first international in B. P. Hampton, who has been selected to represent New Zealand at the Empire Games in Vancouver this year. This is a great honour for a club which has always been one of our best performed teams at Winter Tournament, and a fitting reward for one of its most enthusiastic and hard-working members. Several times an N.Z.U. Blue, he has been one of those instrumental in building up the club to its present high standard and strength. Other well-performed fencers in recent years have been W. Stevens, and E. Flaws, both of whom gained N.Z.U. Blues on more than one occasion and who also distinguished themselves in provincial company.

Both the above clubs have served the College well at Tournaments and with them in consistency of performance may be bracketed the Miniature Rifle and Defence Rifle Clubs. Shooting has been one of the stronger sports at V.U.C. for many years now and rare have been the Tournaments when our teams have not acquitted themselves with distinction. The names of B. J. Perry, many times an N.Z.U. Blue, A. T. S. Howarth, D. V. Henderson and I. M. Henderson are particularly well known in University and other shooting circles.

The harriers have lately struck a golden patch in their history and well deserved are the honours which are now coming their way, for few clubs at V.U.C. have a better record of efficient administration and organisation both on the athletic and social sides of their sport. It was not until 1953 that the club won its first trophy in open competition but since then they have progressed from strength to strength. In 1949 and 1950 R. Hunt was quite the most outstanding V.U.C. harrier, winning the N.Z.U. cross country championship that year and gaining an N.Z.U. Blue. J. Mahan was similarly successful in this event in 1953, while much is expected of G. R. Stevens in the coming season, but overall the club's greatest asset at present lies in team work of an encouragingly high standard.

Tennis has travelled from a stage in 1949-50 where the top men and women in the club were players in their later years of competitive tennis who had served Vic long and well—such men as Roly Ferkins, J. Y. Walls and B. O'Connor—to the current position in which the leading players are competitive young people with their best tennis ahead of them. This latter group includes B. R. Boon and D. L. Robinson, who in recent years have both
performed with considerable merit in University and open tournaments. Misses A. Walker and J. O'Brien are the two outstanding ladies of this period, the former being an N.Z.U. Blue and titleholder while the latter had her biggest moments in junior national and provincial tennis. Victoria tennis, with its foundation in the "Old Clay Patch," now the site of the present courts and the product of much labour on the part of some of the most famous of Victoria's early sporting figures, has a fine record behind it. Since 1948, however, the club seems to have earned a certain amount of disfavour both in University and outside circles, apparently due to a certain slackness in administration. It is to be hoped that this condition is not chronic and that the club will speedily remove any doubts in this direction. Some ground seems to have been made up last season.

Other well-performed sportsmen and women since 1949 not mentioned above have been: Men's hockey, R. O'Connor, G. Coates, L. Gatfield, A. Cryer; women's hockey, Misses B. Young and L. Holland; boxing, R. Street, J. Hutchison, J. Donald and B. Brown; rowing, O. Weenink, I. Vodanovich, D. B. Horsley, and L. Smith; swimming, L. B. Piper, D. Dowse and J. B. S. Hutchinson; men's basketball, S. Moral. Some of these clubs have flourished, others languished but these people have all been outstanding in their particular fields.

Something which puzzles most V.U.C. athletes is the very minor role the women play in the sporting life of the College. There can be no denying that in sport they show up in an abysmally poor light—especially at Tournaments—and the reason for this is very hard to deduce. It is not to be found in lack of numbers for there are four to six hundred of the fair sex on the books of the College. Admittedly we have no physical education school to draw from as have Otago, but then neither have Auckland nor Canterbury. Our record has been so uniformly poor since the war that it seems the trouble must lie in a lack of spirit as much as anything. Perhaps we have not had sufficient athletic talent among the ladies to produce match-winning teams with any regularity but at the same time the only women's sport in the past five years which has come through a season with credit in club competition and at Tournament has been the Hockey Club, which was successful at Winter Tournament 1951. That is the only occasion in the last five years on which any V.U.C. women's team has risen much off the bottom of the ladder, and during that year the Hockey Club's XI trained enthusiastically and diligently throughout the winter with Tournament in view, with the consequence that their spirit, determination and fitness were all that was necessary for them to carry off the honours. Other sports besides women's hockey might well take this example to heart.

Several new clubs have sprung up since 1948 and are now thriving. Golf, women's indoor basketball, and badminton are three of these, while skiing has boomed to such an extent in recent years that the club has launched a scheme which, once the funds are raised, will ultimately provide V.U.C. skiers with their own hut on Ruapehu. The club is to be commended on its enterprise, as also is the Rugby Club, who have now almost reached the target for their projected gymnasium.

In conclusion we should pay tribute to those men who have passed on in the last five years and who in their lifetime did more for Victoria sport than
present-day athletes can possibly appreciate. Men such as George Dixon, Sir Thomas Hunter, the Hon. Justice Cornish, Mr. Seigfried Eichelbaum and the Rt. Hon. Sir Humphrey O'Leary have in their passing left a void in our sporting life, quite apart from their other interests in and influence on the College, which it will be difficult for us to fill. Let us hope that on and off the playing fields our efforts and performances will show respect for and appreciation of their work.

K. M. Phillips

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**Literary Periodicals**

The political capital, in New Zealand, has not often been identified with the literary avant-garde; but in the last five years that claim (for what it is worth) might not unfairly be made. I have been asked to write a note on literary publications in and around Victoria College during this period, and to suggest what part the college played in the local renaissance. It is easy to exaggerate in such matters. Literary movements are seldom organised in this country—the accidental grouping of a few young writers in one place may produce a spurt of activity; then the group breaks up, and the impulse ceases. What is left behind—if the impulse has been strong enough—is the published record, and a few new literary reputations.

The beginnings, in this case, can probably be traced to a small group of students at Weir House in the late 'forties. But a convenient starting-point is 1947, when *Landfall* was founded by Charles Brasch as a "national" New Zealand quarterly. The existence of such a periodical provided both encouragement to young writers, and a norm to vary against. In the same year, a Literary Society became active at V.U.C., largely as a projection of the Weir House group, and began to publish occasional broadsheets. The literary quality of *Spike* in 1947 and 1948 was unusually high: it was clear that at least three new poets—Pat Wilson, W. H. Oliver, and Alistair Campbell—had arrived. In December 1947, *Landfall* published Bruce Mason's *The Glass Wig*—certainly its most original and accomplished story by a younger writer; and a year later, along with work of two of the poets named above, a selection of poems by Hubert Witheford. In 1949 James Baxter moved to Wellington from the south.

This was the position, then, at the beginning of the period under review. *Landfall* had been appearing regularly for a couple of years; but it seems to have been felt (probably unjustifiably, as I have tried to indicate) that this was a "South Island" publication, not especially interested in experimental writing. In Wellington were now a number of young writers full of fresh ideas; the V.U.C. Literary Society provided a meeting-ground, and was already meditating an independent periodical of its own. The result was *Hilltop*, later *Arachne*, one of the most interesting experimental journals ever put out at a university college in New Zealand.

The first number of *Hilltop* appeared in April, 1949. Though in format a distinct advance on the typescript broadsheets, it still had something of the look of a parish magazine. But its ambitions were more than parochial: "*Hilltop* . . .
is not a student magazine. It exists for all writers, in New Zealand and outside." A welcome strengthening of the contents was immediately visible; the first number included good short stories by P. J. Wilson and David Ballantyne, as well as poetry by Campbell, Baxter, Oliver, Pat Wilson and—a newcomer in these ranks—Louis Johnson. Critical articles included a comparison between New Zealand and Early American writing by R. T. Robertson, and a slashing attack on M. H. Holcroft by J. W. Winchester (Mr. Holcroft, in this uneasy post-war time of transition, seems to have been regarded in New Zealand as a kind of tribal idol, to be cast down or set up again with equal enthusiasm.) The most promising feature of the new periodical—apart from the fact that it offered payment for contributions—was the definite guarantee of continuity for at least several more issues.

Hilltop 2, in June 1949, had a new cover by John Drawbridge and a much more established air. It had also a more obvious university connexion: Dr. Peter Munz on "An Idea of History" and Professor Miles on the poetry of G. M. Hopkins provided two stimulating intellectual contributions; from Wellington Teachers' College came translations of Ronsard by Arthur Barker. An editorial, obviously provoked by the forthcoming referendum on military training in New Zealand, came out firmly (on the loftiest and most literary grounds) against conscription. This might be regarded as a whiff of the familiar V.U.C. brimstone; but a critical analysis of New Zealand poetry by James Baxter ended surprisingly with a quite serious recommendation of "orthodox Christianity". Verse contributions remained on a high level: in addition to poems by Charles Brasch and Kendrik Smithyman, Hilltop 2 contained some really exciting lyrics by Alistair Campbell, and a group of poems by Hubert Withfield which were firm in texture without darkening into impenetrability of symbol. Pat Wilson had a long loose ballad-poem unpromisingly entitled "World Views of History," but with some moments of vivid perception. Altogether this issue, though not yet fully integrated, showed accomplishment rather than promise, and fully justified the continued existence of the journal.

Hilltop 3 (September, 1949) kept the same larger size and format but with a higher proportion of prose to verse. If there was nothing with the distinction of the best things in the June issue, this was a good solid number: Mary Boyd contributed a valuable "Pacific Review", Barbara Thompson wrote on the Marionette Theatre in New Zealand, establishing continuity with a very good account of the Osaka Puppet Theatre by R. T. Robertson in an early Broadsheet; there was crisp prose fiction from Lorna Clendon, John O'Shea and James Baxter, and rhapsodic prose from Louis Johnson on his chosen theme of The Eternal Female. A rather inconclusive editorial on publishing in New Zealand insisted again on the need "to print as much of the work of each contributor as possible, either in one number, or in successive numbers" (surely the extreme statement of the writer's, as against the editor's, point of view!). The fact was, of course, that several of Hilltop's leading contributors had books on the way, and were perturbed by printing delays. But the length of the Correspondence columns in Hilltop 3 seemed evidence of a lively and widening interest in the magazine.

In 1950 came an abrupt volte-face: the "revolt of the Armadillans". (An early broadsheet of the Literary Society had been entitled "First Placard of the
Armadillan Absolutists": it had proclaimed that language was an absolute, poetry was for the few, and had seemed to advocate a deliberate and self-conscious aestheticism.) So now Hilltop became Arachne; sophistication, cosmopolitanism and the airing of literary theories had set in.

Hilltop—as the slightly naive, outdoor title might suggest—had been a straightforward and unpretentious publication, with a fairly wide public appeal. Arachne, with a smoother, neater cover design and a brand-new myth to support the change of title, had an obvious touch of modishness and literary affectation. An editorial note did rather more than the myth to clarify matters. "A magazine centring around certain specific principles" was now thought possible: the first principle appeared to be a rejection of the literary self-sufficiency of the 'thirties and of the social approach to writing, and an attempt to select certain chosen influences from past cultures in order to find "some sort of international context for Arachne." There were signs here of the common post-war distrust of political solutions and collectivist methods; of a preference for private symbolism and a predilection for philosophical anarchism; more simply, of a return to Art for Art's sake. All this, of course, with a dash of Existentialism and a strange tenderness for the significant figure of The Outsider.

Pride of place in Arachne's first number was given to the fantastic, delicately-contrived but undeniable precious poems of Charles Spear (as yet unpublished in book form). Helen Shaw contributed a subtle and introspective story about motherhood. There were articles on Saëtre, on "Anarchism in New Zealand". on Pound's "Pisan Cantos"; but perhaps most characteristic of the new tone were some Diary Notes by Erik Schwimmer, and a translation (or a re-translation) by the same writer from Camus' "Le Mythe de Sisyphe". New Zealand Criticism was discussed in fairly heated correspondence; and an anthology of "Arachne poets" was promised (prematurely, as it proved). Other material in Arachne was closer to what had gone before: and the appearance meantime of Here and Now, as another independent periodical in Auckland, probably drew off some political and general comment, and helped to leave Arachne in splendid isolation. There was to be no further issue in 1950.

In February 1951 appeared Arachne Number Two; Number Three followed in December of the same year. Now printed at the Pegasus Press, and retaining the same Mervyn Taylor cover design, these were two very handsome and expensive issues: partly on this account, they were to form Arachne's swan-song.

Number Two, in a clear and sensible editorial, accepted the fact that Arachne must be a "little magazine", presenting a combination of traditional and experimental work. And in a valuable (but rather overdue) explanatory article entitled "Background to a Magazine," Hubert Witheford grappled with Arachne's famous "principles". "The condition which Arachne is committed to explore is, from the side of the individual, his isolation—from that of the community, its disintegration." A new ethic was needed which Christianity was considered unlikely to supply; meantime, some fragments of culture might be shored against our ruin. "In action as in art the problem is one of style. . . . Only here and there are there words and actions which give form to an inner life. We cannot be sure that these will be too weak to link the dispensation which is passing with the new one for which we hope." It was all very tentative and a little despairing,
but it was deeply-felt, and it did something to bring *Arachne’s* literary effort into perspective.

The contents of the last two numbers must be here very summarily treated. “The Empty Country,” a note on Wordsworth’s poetry in New Zealand by W. H. Oliver, was probably the most thoughtful and distinguished piece of literary criticism yet to appear. “Verses by Six Poets” brought Basil Dowling and Peter Alcock into this company; Elizabeth Entrican had a very musical little dirge; Erik Schwimmer dealt faithfully in review with the first published verse collections of Hubert Witheford and Alistair Campbell.

In Number Three, Sir Apirana Ngata’s “Introduction to Maori Poetry”—well worth publishing for its own sake—pointed down a road which New Zealand writers and students alike have shamefully neglected. Helen Shaw’s moving story, “The Blind,” was a notable prose contribution: here was “isolation” to oppose to the “disintegration” of Erik Schwimmer’s existentialist treatment of German suicide-volunteers. The outstanding verse contribution was undoubtedly Louis Johnson’s “Six Sonnets, Unpleasant,” which created a new shiver both in poetry-reading groups and in the Education Board. The number closed with final tributes to Blake (the Blake Group of the original Literary Society, whose high priest was Pat Wilson, had continued its fortnightly meetings for a quite unprecedented number of years) and a short prose piece by Lily H. Trowern that suggested that traditional methods of writing might still have an unsuspected power.

So passed *Arachne*; the original group of writers was breaking up, some members went overseas, others found new places for publication. But it had undeniably been something of an achievement for a college literary society to produce, in three years, six continuous issues, no one of which was negligible. Inevitably, perhaps, the sequel was something of an anti-climax.

For by 1952, the literary climate was distinctly less favourable. There had been no issue of *Spike* since 1949, and the cramped columns of the regular student news-sheet *Salient* were always over-taxing with material that might fairly be termed unliterary. That the writing impulse had not entirely ceased was proved by the two Literary Issues of *Salient*, in July 1952 and September 1953: these were both produced with difficulty by devoted editors, and it was noteworthy that both issues relied entirely on local contributions. (*Hilltop* and *Arachne* had tried, as we have seen, to be more than student magazines: their chief literary “discoveries” had been Charles Spear in Christchurch and Helen Shaw in Auckland; Louis Johnson, it might be suggested, had discovered himself.) The *Salient* literary issues were meagre affairs in small print, though two fine engravings by Mervyn Taylor redeemed the nondescript covers. And three now established poets—James K. Baxter, Alistair Campbell and Louis Johnson—were available as contributors.

In his editorial in 1952, Peter Dronke seemed rather sceptical about the “Wellington revival”, and most urgent about the need for intelligent literary criticism. Yet he claimed as “a landmark in New Zealand writing” a sequence of Prose Poems by James Baxter which can only have aroused very mixed feelings in that poet’s firmest admirers. By contrast, the same writer’s “Tantalus”—somewhat unfairly exposed on the back cover—had a rhythmic unity and concentration on a moral theme that gave it real poetic force. For the rest, John
Cody’s well-intentioned crusade on behalf of Modern Art was hardly literature. There was a fresh and lively story by Barry Mitcalfe, some promising verse by A. I. H. Paterson, and a scholarly note on Chaucer’s “Troilus” by P. A. Hutchings.

The 1953 Literary Issue is so near in time that it need not, perhaps, be closely examined here. Edited by John Cody, it assembled a wider range of work than the 1952 issue. It reaffirmed the need for critical standards, and featured a series of V.U.C. comments on the arts in New Zealand (accompanied by a devastating cartoon by R. Brockie). There were two good poems by Baxter and Johnson (“Eleven o’Clock Blues” and “A Poet addresses his Poem”), and verse contributions from a number of new names, Jocelyn Henrici the most promising of these. Inevitably, these Salient issues were rather desultory in character, though the second of them—a real tribute to its editor—did have some coherence, and actually succeeded in making a profit.

May any valid conclusions be drawn from all this? That there was a Wellington literary revival seems beyond doubt: but clearly, it was not all of a piece. One is tempted to suggest that Hilltop, a modestly-produced but really creative literary paper, might have had a better chance of survival if it had continued along the original lines. Arachne, perhaps unwisely, attempted to be both more specialised and more beautiful; it was the printer’s bills, as much as anything else, that delayed later numbers and finally brought about its demise. The Salient issues, progressively more journalistic, could not claim much continuity with the work of the original group; and this was a pity. Yet they earn their place in the story.

The strongest personalities to influence these different publications were probably Erik Schwimmer and Louis Johnson—the one was largely responsible for the “internationalism” of Arachne, the other for the urban outlook of Salient. And James Baxter, of course, is as chameleon-like as a true poet is always supposed to be. But if, as seems not unlikely, the enduring contribution of a brief moment of literary activity is seen to be the lyrical poetry of Alistair Campbell, the intellectual force and compression of Hubert Witford, and the subtlety and mental agility of W. H. Oliver and P. S. Wilson, then this might fairly be described as a distinctive and seminal contribution from Victoria College to New Zealand literature.

JAMES BERTRAM

New Clubs

Many of the Clubs and Societies of Victoria University College have a long and honoured history, extending far back to the earliest days of the College. In both the sporting and the cultural spheres, these clubs have stood the tests of time and of varied enthusiasms to become settled parts of the tradition of Victoria. However, since 1948, when the last issue of Spike was published, we have seen the formation of several new clubs and societies, a fact which shows that students are not necessarily content with what the activities of those in the past have given them but that they are prepared to make the effort and strike out into new fields when their interests so lead them.

The formation of a badminton club had been considered for some time by the many enthusiasts who wanted to play this game in the upper gym. Finally,
in 1953, the club was formed, and was immediately so popular amongst the large amount of students at Winter Tournament of that year that a team went to Auckland to compete with the other colleges, and its strength was apparent when it won the badminton competitions. Following the success of that tourney, which was arranged by the badminton clubs of the various University Colleges, there is now a strong move to introduce badminton as a full Tournament sport, and this will probably happen in a very short time.

The International Club was formed last year by a group of students from overseas countries and some New Zealanders. It began in a small way, but very soon its membership reached large proportions, and it is now one of the most popular clubs at Victoria College. Membership includes students from countries such as America, France, Turkey, Indonesia, Australia, India, Germany and Fiji, as well as from many other parts of the world. The International Club was formed to promote international good will among students of all countries and to provide a meeting ground where such an aim might be carried out. Concerts are given in which the dances and music of foreign lands are presented; discussion evenings are held, and members of the various Embassies have addressed the club on problems peculiar to their own nations. This all adds up to a very healthy spirit of friendship and co-operation between New Zealand students and overseas students. It is not surprising that the membership seems to increase with every function.

The Commerce Faculty has formed a club on lines similar to the Law Faculty Club, and this is concerned mainly with topics of interest to Commerce students. Both these clubs are composed largely of part-timers, who benefit from this association with other members of their own faculties.

In 1952 the Jazz Club made a meteoric appearance, and for a while was a most popular club in this College, as it provided modern music of a high standard. Professional musicians and musically inclined students joined to form jazz and Dixie bands which gave enthusiastic audiences the type of music which would do credit to a New Orleans night-club. Interest in this club continued high in 1953, but this year, owing to the fact that many of the foundation members have left the college—one is now a highly respected junior partner in a law firm in the city—interest has waned.

Returning to the sporting sphere, we find that a Golf Club was formed last year by a band of enthusiasts. The claim of the club to having members who can turn on golf of a high standard was well borne out by the fine showing which Varsity golfers gave at Winter Tournament last year. Again, like badminton, there is a move to have golf introduced as a Tournament sport—it was arranged unofficially last year—and this will probably happen fairly soon.

From these notes it will be apparent that as time passes, the interests of students fluctuate and change. This is not a bad sign, but a healthy one. If there is a band of people who are keenly interested in a certain activity, let them form themselves into a club. The Students' Association provides the facilities for it, and offers financial assistance to those who are willing to take it. If interest wanes after a little, this is not a bad thing, because it merely means that interest has been transferred to other fields. And in the future, once the first steps are taken, there will always be the facilities and the benefits of the energies of a club's founders available for those that are similarly interested.

D. Donovan
The University of New Zealand

The biggest change in the University system as a whole in the last five years or so has been the increase in staff at the Colleges, which have thereby been able to give better educational opportunities to students and also to do more to advance scholarship by research. We must never forget that where student and teacher meet, there the true university function is being carried out; all else serves only that end. Since, however, the Editor requires me to concern myself with administrative advances in the University, I shall restrict this article to that field mainly.

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE. Probably the biggest administrative changes in the time mentioned have been due to the work of the University Grants Committee. This Committee was appointed first in 1948 so its work has been mainly carried out in the five years. It consists at present of four members appointed by the Senate, the Principals of the four Constituent Colleges and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, who is the Chairman. Its duty is “to enquire into the financial needs of University education in New Zealand and to advise the Government on these needs.” Since only about 13.5 per cent. of the University income is derived from fees, the rest of the funds, barring a small amount from endowments, come from Government sources through Grant Education.

The Grants Committee negotiated in 1949 a quinquennial block grant for each of the Colleges and during 1953 and the early part of this year has accumulated detailed estimates from the Colleges for the next quinquennial period 1955-59. These have now been submitted to the relevant Minister. A quinquennial grant allows College Councils (who employ all the staff and manage the Colleges) to plan ahead, and the block grant system allows them freedom to manage their own affairs without undue restriction. This system has been successfully used in British universities for over thirty years. The first grant was calculated on a formula which was intended to allow the University Colleges to achieve a staffing rate similar to the English provincial universities, and although that has not been quite achieved, the genuine improvement in staffing has been very marked indeed.

BUILDINGS. In late 1952 the Grants Committee was recognised by the Colleges as the body through which the building needs of the Colleges and of the Special Schools, and the finances to meet those needs, were to be presented to the Government. In April 1953 voluminous reports prepared by the Colleges on building needs, setting out the priorities and outlining the long-term building plans for all the centres were submitted to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education. This year in May the Minister has been able to announce that the Government has agreed to finance a building at each University centre, the building in each instance having been the one placed first in priority by the University. The buildings agreed to are, of course, the new Engineering buildings at Canterbury and Auckland, the Science Block at Victoria and the Dental School at Otago.
NEW CLUBS

D. DONOVAN

The Agricultural Colleges have special needs which must not be neglected in a country which derives about 95 per cent. of its export income from agriculture, and their needs too are being pressed by the Grants Committee.

The long drought of permanent major building which has lasted from about 1923 in Canterbury and 1939 at Victoria and Auckland, appears now to have been broken. A fast rate of building will be needed to catch up the backlog accumulated in the past and to meet the needs of a growing student population. The Grants Committee's secretariat and its continuous executive functions are carried out by the Central Office of the University of New Zealand.

Special Schools. The special professional schools are all intended to serve the whole Dominion although some have been duplicated already and others will follow as the needs increase. At present there are the following Special Schools in addition to the two Schools of Agriculture at Lincoln and Massey.

Otago School of Medicine
   " Dentistry
   " Mines
   " Domestic Science
   " Physical Education

Canterbury School of Engineering
   " Fine Art

Auckland School of Engineering
   " Architecture
   " Fine Art

Victoria School of Social Science
   " Political Science and
   Public Administration

These schools, which were formerly on an annual basis for finance, have this year been recommended by the Grants Committee to be placed on the same quinquennial footing as the Constituent Colleges.

The University is called upon to advise the Government on the need for establishing other Special Schools and at present the need for Schools of Veterinary Science and Pharmacy are being studied as also is the Chair of Town Planning.

A special report was prepared and received by the Senate last year on Medical Education; especially related to the possible need to establish a second Medical School in New Zealand.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS. The Scholarships and Fellowships of the University itself, which have been, and still are, financed from the examination fees paid by students, have increased sharply in value during this period and, indeed, should be increased further to meet modern costs if the money could be found to do so.

Many additional scholarship opportunities dealt with by the central body have arisen in the period and the overseas free passages, withdrawn during the war, were re-established in 1953, five for New Zealand, to be allocated in collaboration with the Shipping Conference in Sydney.

Imperial Chemical Industries established in 1951 two Research Fellowships (one awarded each year) for scientists to work in a New Zealand University
centre and the Shell Company has established two overseas Fellowships of high value annually since 1952. There are new French scholarships for study in France, some administered through the Department of Education, some through the Department of External Affairs, and there is a new fellowship given by the University of New Zealand from Government funds recommended by the Director of Education for a French scholar to study and teach in a New Zealand university centre each year. The present incumbent is now in Auckland University College by agreement within the system. Two previous Fellows were stationed, one in Victoria and Auckland, the other in Canterbury and Dunedin.

A new German scholarship arranged by the student body and the universities in Germany has this year been awarded to a New Zealand University student for further study in a German university. In addition the von Humboldt scholarships are now available to senior scholars from any part of the world for study in Western Germany. The University has assisted the German Legation in Wellington in collecting applications and selecting the candidates for these scholarships.

The Fulbright programme for American scholars to study in New Zealand and for New Zealanders to travel to the United States for study has been very effective in this period and new Nuffield Fellowships and Rockefeller Fellowships have become available to staff members. Certain new British Fellowships for studies in nuclear fission have been established in the last three years, the University being the body which assists in the secretarial and selective work.

There are other fellowships granted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to graduates in Science and the Vice-Chancellor, being a member of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and a member of the Fellowship Committees mentioned above, is able to promote the interests of our able graduates not only as a member of all University committees but as a liaison with Departments, companies and overseas Foundations concerned in giving the funds.

One new and encouraging development has been the offer by a New Zealand industrial concern to the University of New Zealand for bursaries to enable advanced studies in a branch of Engineering at the Engineering Schools. It is particularly interesting because the initiative which has led to the offer came from a group of engineering students at one of the Schools. The official announcement of this new scholarship will be made when the conditions have been agreed to by the Senate.

COLLEGE EXECUTIVE HEADS. A big advance in University administration came with the appointment of full-time Principals at the four Constituent Colleges. Strangely enough the Colleges of Agriculture had enjoyed this advantage for many years previously. Victoria appointed a full-time Principal in 1947, Otago and Canterbury appointed full-time Executive Heads in 1948 and Auckland followed suit in 1949.

The existing Vice-Chancellorship of the University of New Zealand was filled by invitation in May 1952.

The increase in size and complexity of the Colleges, the big increase in staff and funds made full-time executives essential for efficient functioning. Not only
is the Principal the chief executive officer of the University centre, but he is expected to give a lead in educational policy and to give continuity to all policies both educational and administrative. His appointment brings to an effective focus the whole work of the institution.

CHANGES IN FUNCTION. The whole University population has increased from about 700 students at the turn of the century to about ten thousand at present. The character of the four centres differs considerably since Otago is mainly composed of full-time students in Special Schools, while in the others are students studying mainly Arts, Science, Law and Commerce, the Special Schools in them accounting for only a small fraction of the whole student body.

With the increase in size and the greater coherence due to full-time Principals, there has come a rapid development of self-sufficiency in the Colleges which will eventually lead them to full university status when those who are principally concerned judge that scholarship will be best served that way. Size has little to do with the title "university" since great federal universities like the University of California in its six campuses spread over the state has 40,000 students: Columbia University of New York, consisting of multiple colleges, has about 25,000 students: London, with its many colleges, has about 15,000 students and the universities of India, all federal in type, have up to 80,000 students in a single university system. On the other hand, there are universities in Britain and America with less than a thousand students, which are full unitary universities. I believe that the wide geographical separation of the University Colleges, their provincial origin and their growing size and complexity, will lead to their becoming separate institutions. Central functions, especially in finance, Special Schools, Dominion policy, scholarships, some research function and especially some co-ordinating function in the interest of the students who move from centre to centre, will probably remain and require a central organisation in some form, possibly not very dissimilar from the present University of New Zealand.

While the finances of the University Colleges have risen sharply to meet their growing responsibilities, those of the central body have not risen commensurate with extra activities of Grants Committee and other bodies.

The biggest change in the University of New Zealand has come through the realisation that the old University, whose function was only examining and giving degrees, had changed completely with the 1926 Act which formed the University of four Constituent Colleges together with the Schools of Agriculture.

It is probable that the implications of that Act will not have time to be fully worked out before the body of the University of New Zealand breaks up into its constituent parts to become four full individual universities if the people of New Zealand think that better scholarship would result.

As a step towards such full separation a new Curriculum Committee is being set up by the Senate with power to permit courses of study prepared by Professorial Boards of the Colleges and submitted by College Councils to be legalised even if they differ from courses at other centres. The central body in agreeing to such diversity would be charged with the duty of protecting students changing from one centre to another during their courses from undue hardship, and also to check the equivalence of scholarship between the different centres.
RESEARCH. A great improvement in the amount of research work in the University as a whole has come about during the last five years. The research fund supplied by the Government and administered by the University Research Committee has increased to £15,000, and will probably increase considerably. This fund has permitted many teachers in the Colleges to engage in research in their chosen field by grants for special equipment, technical assistance and travel grants, and some £5,000 a year from the fund has been applied in fellowships to assist graduates with Honours to undertake research and higher studies for their doctorates.

Greatly increased grants have been made from the D.S.I.R. to University staff members doing research, more especially in the Agricultural Colleges, about £20,000 per annum being applied in this way.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH. In 1953 a Vice-President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York visited all the University Colleges and considered suggestions by workers in Social Science for special grants to enable work to be accelerated in that field. On his return to New York, the Corporation offered a grant of $60,000 to be used over five years to finance research work in the Social Sciences on condition that it was administered by the University through a committee of workers in the field with the Vice-Chancellor as Chairman. That committee has now allocated the funds for the first year and research projects in Law, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography and other branches of Social Science are now being promoted vigorously throughout the University.

CONCLUSION. There have been then in the last five years considerable changes in the University in the enhanced activity of the Grants Committee in connection with the financing of the Constituent Colleges, the Special Schools, the Agricultural Colleges and University buildings. There have been very great increases in research activity with funds from many sources. There have been many more opportunities for higher study for graduates in New Zealand and abroad. The appointments of full-time Principals have given extra coherence and direction to the Colleges and there has been a rapid development of academic self-sufficiency in all centres.

There has also, I believe, been a greatly enhanced awareness in the community generally of what the University stands for in professional training and in scholarship. This is now, and will continue to be, reflected, I believe, in the much greater funds available in the University centres than there were six years ago for University education for young people in New Zealand and for advancing knowledge as part of the University's function.

POSTSCRIPT. In the seventies of last century when the infant University was developing, a motto was chosen by the Senate on the motion of Hugh Carl-ton, the first Vice-Chancellor, and the Bishop of Christchurch, both classical scholars. The motto was "Sapere Aude", which by translation is "Dare to be wise". In our day and generation we share the responsibility with our colleagues in all the Colleges of interpreting that motto in the way which will best serve the highest ends of University scholarship for the whole of the Dominion, today and in the foreseeable future.

G. A. CURRIE

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Social Science

There is always some confusion, not unmixed with suspicion, when the term social science is used to define a particular area of study. Some of the physical scientists feel their cherished methodology is debased if applied to a study of human behaviour, while students of the more philosophical disciplines regard with horror any attempt to reduce the complicated entity Man to a unit capable of experimental examination. It must be admitted that both these points of view contain an element of truth. The social scientist is still largely concerned in adapting scientific methods to meet the needs of his material and formulating new concepts to deal with the variety of problems which emerge in his study of man.

Victoria College has been particularly fortunate in developing a tradition of sympathy and support to the social services. The outstanding champion of scientific method in the field of human relations was undoubtedly Sir Thomas Hunter, who set up a psychological laboratory at the College in 1907 and who, for the following forty-three years, was to play an active part as teacher and administrator in the development of the social sciences. It is perhaps symbolic that our period begins after Sir Thomas relinquished his Chair at the beginning of 1948. His death in 1953 left those who study social relations with the feeling that they had lost a man who, because of his breadth of outlook, represented a synthesis of their various disciplines and what remained was a series of specialised studies.

Indeed the period 1949 to 1953 was marked, at Victoria College, by a tendency towards specialisation in the social sciences. Broadly speaking, one can consider the study of Psychology, Economics, Education and Political Science as being within the framework of our topic.

The years 1949 to 1953 brought staff changes to the departments of Economics and Political Science. Although university departments exist within the framework of an established tradition, staff changes do represent changes in emphasis, in interests, and in teaching methods. Professor R. S. Parker was appointed to the School of Political Science and Public Administration in 1948 and left at the end of 1953 to take up a readership at Canberra. Professor B. E. Murphy, famed for his caustic wit and voluminous text books, retired from the Macarthy Chair of Economics to be replaced, in 1951, by Professor H. Belshaw who brought with him a practical approach to economic problems nurtured by his work for the United Nations Organisation in underdeveloped countries.

The year 1949 was of particular importance in the social sciences at Victoria College because two new departments were established, the Department of Psychology and the School of Social Science.

Psychology had been taught before this time as part of the study of philosophy. Students advancing philosophy could, by a judicious choice of options, obtain a degree which was largely psychological but were unable to follow a continuous course of study in psychology. As the course developed from 1949 there was an increasing emphasis in the field of experimental psychology and psychological testing.
As with any new venture, there were problems in the developmental stages. In 1952 experiments in animal learning were introduced, with white rats as the subjects. These rats were affectionately named after famous psychologists and one can imagine the confusion when Freud gave birth to a litter!

The Department of Psychology has been particularly fortunate in having Ernest Beagleshole as its first professor. His background, both as a psychologist and as a cultural anthropologist gave the Department a much wider orientation than might otherwise have been the case. The research which developed within his department represents, to a large extent, his influence. Some indication of the nature of the research activities of the Department of Psychology is given by the titles of the occasional publications in psychology produced by the Department: "Intelligence and High Level Achievement", "The Modification of International Attitudes: A New Zealand Study", "Social Class Consciousness in Adolescents", "A Survey of Public Opinion in Relation to the University".

As can be seen, these titles suggest a major interest in social psychology rather than other branches, and it is probably true to say that research conducted by the Department has tended towards the social anthropological or sociological rather than the field of individual psychology.

This tendency is counterbalanced to some extent by the fact that staff members acted as psychological testers at Arorata Borstal in 1952 and two graduates obtained posts as psychologists in the period under consideration. One ex-staff member, now attached to the School of Social Science, acted as psychologist to the Prison Classification Board in 1953. Dr. C. J. Adcock's research into the use of psychological tests in examining Maori personality and intelligence might also be considered as indicating an emphasis towards individual rather than social psychology.

The growing importance of the Department in the eyes of the community is instanced by the fact that a committee of the Progressive Association in Hawera requested the Department to conduct a social survey of the Hawera district in order to obtain the people's opinions concerning a proposed community centre. A consultative committee was set up at Victoria College, composed of representatives from the Departments of Psychology, Education and Social Science. The survey was conducted under the direction of Mr. A. A. Congalton of the Department of Psychology, and with the collaboration of the School of Social Science.

One gains the impression that, although the Department of Psychology began its independent existence in 1949, it has developed along certain well defined lines, has grown rapidly in stature and has spread its activities beyond the College walls and established a place for itself in the community.

The School of Social Science is a special school of the University of New Zealand, attached to Victoria College. Not only is it a new department of Victoria, but is the first of its kind in New Zealand. The main function of the School is to train social workers, while one of its secondary functions is to examine some of the social problems in our society. One might say that the School aims to clarify social difficulties and supply people better equipped to deal with them.

The training of social workers is a responsibility which has been accepted by universities in many countries of the world, and New Zealand has lagged far behind in this respect. The modern social worker requires a good background in all the social sciences with a special emphasis on psychology. In addition to
this, he requires a special knowledge of the social services in the community, an ability to conduct research, and special training in those skills which he uses in his personal interviews with clients. An essential part of his training is in practical work with the social work agencies in the community. The course at Victoria College is a full time one for two years, the successful students being awarded a diploma.

The organisation of such a course requires not only academic skills but the ability to work with the community and obtain co-operation from bodies as varied as the Society for the Protection of Women and Children and the Department of Justice. In 1949 the organisational task fell to Professor D. C. Marsh, an ebullient Welshman, who with good humour, a little bullying, a lot of energy, and an extensive knowledge of rugby football, obtained the necessary co-operation planned a course of lectures, persuaded colleagues in other university departments to assist him, and accepted his first students in 1950. In 1954 Professor Marsh was appointed to the Chair of Social Science at Nottingham University.

Apart from training social workers, the School has extended its research activities into a number of fields. Special requests have led to various investigations: hostel accommodation for young women in Wellington; a study of alcoholics who have undergone treatment; a follow-up of special class leavers who have entered industry; an examination of foster home placements; to mention only a few. The major research at the School has been into the problems of old people. Surveys of those over 65 have now been conducted in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, and one is planned for Dunedin in 1954. These surveys are conducted at the request of the Departments of Health and Social Security, and the sample covered is probably the most extensive one of its kind in the world. In addition to their teaching duties, staff members have acted in an advisory capacity on a number of boards and committees and conducted refresher courses for social workers already in the field.

In the short space of five years the School of Social Science has become established as yet another unit of our university system, has co-operated with other College departments in research, and established a place for itself in the community.

Of necessity this treatment of two particular aspects of the social sciences at Victoria College has been brief and sketchy. The other departments have been virtually ignored, chiefly because they already have an established tradition while the Department of Psychology and the School of Social Science are new ventures. One can well ask, however, what of the future?

The examination of any social problem quickly reveals the fact that no single discipline answers the questions posed by the problem. In most social phenomena there are economic, psychological, political and educational aspects. Where there are problems there is a need to devise methods of dealing with them in which the various theories can be combined. Does the present state of the social sciences at Victoria College allow for such combination?

Some important considerations limit the extent to which the relationships between the social sciences can be examined: it is now virtually impossible for a single man to combine the various disciplines in his own field of knowledge; departments must continue teaching and research; the social sciences have, to
a large extent, lost their common bond in philosophy; a synthesising approach is lacking. To some extent an attempt is made in the School of Social Science to give the students a nodding acquaintance with the social sciences, but of necessity this must be superficial. In 1951 and 1952 staff members from the social science departments met to consider their common contributions to the problem of social change. Limitations in available time brought their meetings to a close, but the feeling remained that their viewpoints were more divergent than they had at first considered possible. This same divergence is apparent in meetings of the Social Science Section of the Royal Society, which are also attended by staff members.

At the ideal level, the answer probably lies in suspending all teaching and research for a year to allow social scientists on university staffs to work out a common basis, a more practical approach may be to develop team methods of research where the different disciplines are combined.

The social sciences in New Zealand are on the move, during the next few years a Carnegie grant made available to the University of New Zealand for research in the social sciences will be devoted to a number of valuable projects, groups in the community are requesting more research into social problems by the College than ever before. Yet perhaps this is the time to pause and evaluate the directions the social sciences are taking. In this country Victoria College has contributed largely to the development of a scientific approach to human affairs. It might well, therefore, be the responsibility of members of this College to call for a close examination of the future of the social sciences in New Zealand.

J. R. McCreaey

Weir House

We the men of Weir have been attached to numerous epithets; in *Spike* 1946 we were 'Paul Bunyans translated from the American backwoods to an antipodean campus'. We were creatures of great appetite—attacking food, alcohol and women with an equal (perhaps an identical) gusto. First let us confess that we are creatures of excess. In our twenty-one years of corporate existence we have advanced from the vision in the mind of our founder—William Weir—to the reality and across this reality, this blatant reality—we shall allow no shadow to fall.

In a sense we are Paul Bunyans, we are a young offshoot of the collegiate ideal which has reached its perfection in the cloistered quadrangles of Oxford and Cambridge. The question is—are we a worthy offshoot. And twenty-odd years gives only an indication as to the answer. Twenty-one years ago Lord Bledisloe, then Governor-General of New Zealand, planted in honour of what we have always regarded as an auspicious day in the history of this college—the pohutukawa in the middle of our front lawn. To be true the tree is of meagre flower and of fruits nil, yet do not take this as a commentary on the portal it shades.

William Weir provided the money which built the House and maintains it; we know little of his life and character—we cannot doubt his abundant generosity.
An act of generosity has been the mainspring of many educational institutions; it is, as it were, part of their tradition—from those to whom much is given, much is expected. We do well to remind ourselves of this predominant relationship, that of benefactor and receivers of a gift, a trust, which exists in the House, and indeed in the college itself. To be a worthy offshoot of the collegiate ideal, we must show that we have not violated this trust. We must show that in return for what was done for our benefit, we have given back to the community, of which we are a small part, our best and reasonable service.

Already men from the House have entered into the wider life of citizenship and enriched it in sport, in education, in the professions, both overseas and in New Zealand. We are proud of the pattern of our communal life, various in hue but united in line and form and final representation—the deepening of the individual self by contact with the ideals and ideas of others, of different background, of different temper, seeking different goals. This leads to an open and inquiring mind, an appreciation of good fellowship and a feeling of security and oneness. Unity in a common adventure always seems to bring out the best in man. And this has been present in the House from its beginning.

The discussion evenings, the house dances, and house picnics are merely part of it; and in some ways the least significant part of it. In Spike 1946, the writer of the article on Weir House professed to see little of culture in the House. His observations show him to have defined this term narrowly. The residents write in terms of self-glorification and thus proclaim themselves Philistines. Surely culture in any sense must include manner and mode of life—no consideration of this appears. Either it was regarded as too trivial for words or it was overlooked. Yet it is the one thing that cannot be overlooked for it explains the boasting and excess of which Spike 1946 complained. We are not lesser breeds without the law, we are not a law unto ourselves—but we do conform to a distinct and common discipline. The measure that you mete will be measured to you again. This discipline can comprehend both youth with its excesses and increasing maturity with its danger of adopting an over-serious attitude to life.

Weir has never been aloof from the University; however, it can at times, even perhaps at the present, claim it is "Not Understood". Self-righteousness has never been part of Weir—a vigorous interest in all student activities combined with active participation in many of them has always been stressed in the House. From Weir have come many college Blues and many University prizewinners, a fitting return to the benefactor who provided, as it were, the cradle of their endeavour. Again this is insignificant when set beside the record of those from the House who, though they have not won awards, have striven hard and in the end have conquered the hurdles a university education inevitably presents.

Even in twenty-one years there have been backslidings. College and town have complained of the uncouth stamp of the men of Weir, labelling them "unstable" and "immoral". Perhaps this notoriety is attributable to some of that older breed of men admitted in the few years following 1945—who had returned from the war to complete an interrupted education. Were they too old for their surroundings? No—rather did their surroundings lack the sobering element of a liberal tradition which might have helped them to regain a new
canon of judgment and a new moral poise. The fault was not really their own; what had an institution of twenty years standing, more or less, to offer them but a meal and a bed.

Of recent years, the House has regained the spirit which the early records show was abroad in those first few years of its life; Weir is ever gaining a new respect in the University and in the City.

Beneath the flamboyance of Weir, there is then something of merit, not yet perhaps able to be dignified with the name tradition. I believe the House is tending in the right direction—that another twenty-odd years will see it firmly established as an institution of which membership is coveted, and people will say, in the words of a former president of the House,

"That's Weir House up there—great place that" instead of "That's Weir House up there—great view."

The collegiate ideal of education has always been criticised as including much that is non-utilitarian. I have attempted to show that these things despised as non-utilitarian are in effect the only things; they are basic. I say that Weir has them, that Weir will preserve them.

C. G. HUBBARD.

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Nothing

He's dead, I know, for someone told me so,
Quick and casual. Did you love him? Oh.
I'm sorry.
I loved him more than I would care to say,
And now he'll never, never. . .
Nothing more.
How much he wanted that I would not give.
His life was something that I could not live
Alongside,
But now I'm wondering if I could have tried
A little harder,
He'll never, never. . .
Nothing any more.
Tell me again, in case I should forget
Tell me he's dead.

Marilyn Adcock
The Phoenix and the Crow

Lately I was reading the Salient literary issue of 1953; and was troubled by the realisation that most of the prose contributions, including my own, were a kind of verbal sharpshooting at the morals and manners of New Zealand society, without much depth or outgoing sympathy. It seemed to me (old enough to know better) and other admirers of their own words in print, that those thousand upon thousand mysterious lives that suffer and exalt, dread and endure behind the lights on the Wellington hills had inexplicably become a Gorgon's head, a stone mask of Stupidity from which we were almost prepared to run screaming. Perhaps we had meant not the people, but some part of their doing and thinking, an automatic response to events—which we of course would have to acknowledge that we shared; but where in cold print had we in fact acknowledged it? From this disturbing thought an uglier one crawled out like a blowfly out of its chrysalis. Suppose, only suppose, that the intellectual student population for all their ideas about Bach and Beaudelaire, Karl Marx or St. Thomas Aquinas, were fools and worse compared to the ordinary race-going navvy or rose-manuring clerk; that the anxious mammas and the men with dog-collars were in the right of it after all, changing the baby's pants or putting up with talkative parishioners, while the brighter student was feeling his own pulse. It was a bad moment; and even now it stops me from laying an expert hand on the aesthetic tom-tom.

Still, it is not so strange that people aware of having intellects should develop some degree of intellectual arrogance; just as a man who hopes to be a champion middleweight boxer may practice on his friends at parties whether they like it or not. It leaves us, though, with the job of finding what things of value really happen to people at Varsity to offset the apparent danger of a monstrous isolation. For this purpose we will follow the hypothetical history of student YZ.

YZ's childhood was not a happy one. I regret to say that his parents placed great restrictions on his normal libidinal urges. At the age of eight he was attacked by his mother with a broom handle when he enquired for the hundred-and-twentieth time that day whether he could go out and catch crayfish with a friend of the same age. This, as his psychiatrist later assured him, was a traumatic experience; and from it proceeded his later almost pathological aversion for sustained work, the broom being (a) a symbol of maternal domination; (b) a symbol of drudgery; (c) hard, heavy and inflexible.

YZ's school career was on the whole a successful one. He had several verses published in the school magazine; and coasted through examinations with a calculated minimum of effort. Being small in stature he did not excel at organised games; but found his own way out of this dilemma. At the beginning of each school term he would inform the master in charge of each department of games that his name was down on another master's list, and retire to spend the afternoon smoking and playing poker with two boys of similar tastes in a toolshed at the bottom of his father's garden. Excepting an early incident (also traumatic) of mutual inspection with a female cousin his sex life was purely auto-erotic until his eighteenth year. He was then seduced by the wife of a local
W.E.A. lecturer, a woman who approached sex with a desperate rationality. From her he acquired his first training in the field of literary politics, and entered University as a man of the world. However, no bells were rung to announce his arrival.

In his first year at University, YZ became a member of the Literary Club, the Debating Club, and another less formal society known as the Frothblowers’ Association. At any of these gatherings he was prepared to speak at a moment’s notice on any topic. His examination results, however (he was studying for a B.A. in English), were less promising. He regarded the lecturers in the main as fools, and their view of him was no more charitable. He was floored in three subjects in Finals (Philosophy; Education; Greek History, Art and Literature) and passed English I with a mark of 52%. His parents were disappointed. He lost his Bursary.

YZ entered upon his second University year a little chastened. This year he attended most of his lectures and read most of the set books. He developed also a friendship with a red-haired girl who sat beside him on the back bench in Philosophy lectures. Upon her he practised the rational approach which he had learnt in his W.E.A. course; but strangely enough, she was not impressed. About this time a certain light began to dawn on him . . .

All this, of course, is caricature. But if one could in some way trace to its source the light which dawned on student YZ, one could know a little more about the meaning of University education. Apart from all the language of jackdaws and crows, there is some shaping force at work in that sphere which is capable not only of purifying the intellectual sight but also of setting the inward being at rest. It is worthwhile to remember that though our Universities are now in constant danger of becoming training colleges for the Civil Service, the university tradition began in monasteries. The “something else” which we obscurely demand of Universities may be the balance of contemplative and activist living. There is in each man two selves whom I choose to symbolise as crow and phoenix. The crow is analytical, predatory, assertive. Passing over the desert, it sees the bones of Leviathan where the Deluge has left them uncovered. It enters the cavern of the great skull, pecks out a morsel of gristle that still adheres to the bleached nostril, caws twice for the pleasure of hearing the sound of its own voice amplified, and flies on towards Babel which is its spiritual home. The crow is incapable of love or reverence; but it has strong wings, a glittering eye, and an irrepressible flow of language. It loves its lice because they are its own. It is a most efficient scavenger.

The phoenix builds regularly in the Arabian desert her funeral pyre of cedar and balsam on which she is consumed and recreated. The torture of the flames she dreads, yet loves, because it is inflicted by the Sun, the Father of all birds. This, to the crow, is obsessional masochism. It has been promised to the phoenix that after many deaths she will become all fire and rise to live for ever in the heart of the Sun. Her plumage, beautiful to others, seems foul to her because it prevents the Sun’s rays from piercing her heart entirely. She desires the solitude of the desert, not because it is lonely, but because there the Sun’s light is clearest and strongest, so clear and strong that He seems at times to descend to earth and dance among the ruinous caves. Strangely, the
places where this vision occurs are marked afterwards not by disfigurement but by cooling oases.

Undoubtedly without the crow we could have no civilisation; but without the phoenix that civilisation would have no centre of gravity, ultimately no meaning. In a world of secular values the University is an anomaly, a hybrid organism. However regimented its students may become, somewhere in its recesses the monastic phoenix has hidden herself. A student who begins with a sense of obligation to his parents or his boss, ends with a sense of obligation towards the material of his labour, for Truth’s sake. A student who begins with a sense of onerous burdens, ends with the acceptance of a mysterious discipline most fruitful often when most laborious. A student who begins with intellectual arrogance, ends with the sense of the slightness and shoddiness of the best he can do. Perhaps even with a genuine poverty of the spirit. Which is from the Sun, the Father of all birds, even of the spotted crow.

JAMES K. BAXTER

Elsie

Hate, said Charles, can be one of the most debilitating experiences in the universe. I used to think that emotional immaturity could be overcome by a tremendous upsurge of feeling, whether it was motivated by love or hate or fear or anything else. But hate doesn’t assist maturity. It can’t help a personality to develop, but only to deteriorate.

I’m thinking, of course, of Elsie. Elsie was the female gorgon they sent to replace Bryant in the second term. Elsie! Judas priest, she had a soul to match her name. It’s a horrible name. It’s always conjured up a vision to me of spurious gentility—the English housemaid who’s too refined for anything on her afternoons off, a weak-tea-and-toast creature dressed in the wrong pastel shades, with a disapproving sniff. And Elsie’s soul had affinities to match the overtones of her name.

Mind you, I don’t want you to think I’m prejudiced against Elsie. But my dear fellow, you’ve simply no idea of what it can mean to any reasonably sensitive man to be delivered into the hands of a creature with a soul like a dried-up pea.

And when I say delivered, I mean it almost literally. At these places which rate just the one assistant you’re pretty well dependent for any intellectual stimulus on the type they happen to send; and if the assistant isn’t capable of providing it—well my dear fellow, one is forced to reconcile oneself to a mental desert.

I wish you could see the creature. She’s the essence of the commonplace. Her hair is mousy, her eyes are the same shade of indiscriminate brown, and she has no more clothes sense than Timmy Fellows, who had the lowest I.Q. in primer two.

She has no opinions. She’s too busy to keep up with the international situation, she doesn’t greatly care for chamber music, and says so, and she regards the Literary Supplement of the Times as highbrow—her own horrible term.
She knits, she likes Gilbert and Sullivan and Strauss waltzes, and she thought the Saturday hops of the local Young Farmers' Club rather fun—her own term again.

And to cap it all she has no more idea of teaching than you have of ice hockey, my dear fellow. She has no philosophy of education beyond that refuge of weak minds, trying to get the best out of the individual, and absolutely no idea of psychology. She'd taken it for her degree, too, which really is a proof that her philistinism was cultivated.

It was directed partly, I'm convinced, against myself. I'm the mildest of creatures, and as you know I abhor anything which sounds like an aspersion, so I really hate saying that her dislike of me reached such proportions it grew practically into a campaign.

Of course, she was smart—sly would be a better word—and for a long time she didn't attempt anything blatant enough to be turned against herself. She merely tried to undermine all my work at Grey's Bush in a subtle and entirely feminine way. I tried to get an Early Music group going, but she thought no, a school band would be the thing, and she insisted on trying both—and Judas priest is there any farm kid who'd recognise the delicacy of the harpsicord when he could be banging away at something brassy? Practically every kid in the school joined the band, and the noise could be heard at Riverton; but when my landlady complained about the din the local cop came along and merely ended up by getting them to play at some ghastly bazaar or other.

That was typical of her underhand depression of my attempt at Enlightenment with a View to Culture. I won't bore you by quoting other examples, but there were plenty, like the time she said the mothers were right in objecting to the free-expression art because the kids ended up so dirty. And she was just mentally incapable of understanding that a little intellectual stimulus might, possibly, be more valuable than some temporary grubbiness. Anyway, the kids never looked really clean.

I used to ponder on the question, because it worried me considerably. After all, as her immediate superior, I was responsible for the creature; and it's a terrible thing to see a human being deteriorate before one's very eyes. Even physically she was going to the pack—she was putting on weight, and her face was getting round and red just like a mediaeval milkmaid, while mentally, of course, she was growing more inadequate than ever. There were one or two unpleasant little scenes when I tried to intimate gently that she wanted to watch herself, that she and I had tremendous responsibilities in a community where we personified whatever intellectual life there was going to be, and that unless we were prepared to shoulder our burdens any attempt to raise the cultural level was absolutely doomed.

But it was only too obvious that her hatred of me and the type of pedagogic responsibility I represent was stronger than any sound instinct she may have had; and her only response was a more blatant flaunting of reaction against my work. She was as completely and utterly conventional and retrograde to the end, but it was now a bucolic rather than a suburban conventionality.

It reached such proportions that, to use a rounded Biblical phrase, the wretched girl wrought her own destruction, and I was left with no alternative than to point out her inadequacy in the end-of-term report.

The whole incident, as you can imagine, was extremely painful to me. It's not very often that one can watch the damage caused by the corrosion of hate, especially on an immature personality. I can only hope that I'll never have to suffer that horror again.

Pat Burns

60
JAMES K. BAXTER

Lament for Barney Flanagan,
Licencee of the Hesperus Hotel

Flanagan got up on a Saturday morning,
Pulled on his pants while the coffee was warming:
He didn’t remember the doctor’s warning,
   “Your heart’s too big, Mr. Flanagan.”

Barney Flanagan sprung like a frog
From a wet root in an Irish bog,
May his soul escape from the tooth of the dog!
   God have mercy on Flanagan.

Barney Flanagan—R.I.P.
Rode to his grave on Hennessey’s
Like a bottle cork boat in the Irish Sea.
   The bell-boy rings for Flanagan.

Barney Flanagan, ripe for a coffin,
Eighteen stone and brandy rotten,
Patted the housemaid’s velvet bottom—
   “Oh, is it you, Mr. Flanagan?”

The sky was bright as a new milk token.
Bill the Bookie and Shellshock Hogan
Waited outside for the pub to open—
   “Good day, Mr. Flanagan.”

At noon he was drinking in the lounge bar corner
With a sergeant of police and a racehorse owner
When the Angel of Death looked over his shoulder—
   “Could you spare a moment, Flanagan?”

O the deck was cut; the bets were laid;
But the very last card that Barney played
Was the Deadman’s Trump, the bullet of Spades—
   “Would you like more air, Mr. Flanagan?”
The priest came running, but the priest came late,
For Barney was banging on the Pearly Gate.
St. Peter said, "Quiet! You'll have to wait
   For a hundred masses, Flanagan."

O the regular boys and the loud accountants
Left their nips and their seven-ounces
As chickens Fly when the buzzard pounces—
   "Have you heard about old Flanagan?"

Cold in the parlour Flanagan lay
Like a bride at the end of her marriage day.
The Waterside Workers' Band will play
   A brass goodbye to Flanagan.

While the publicans drink their profits still,
While lawyers flock to be in at the kill
While Aussie barmen milk the till
   We will remember Flanagan.

For Barney had a send-off and no mistake.
He died like a man for his country's sake;
And the Governor-General came to his wake.
   Drink again to Flanagan!

_Despise not, O Lord, the work of Thine own hands
And let light perpetual shine upon him._

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The King and the Clown

Upon an April morning
   King James o' Scotland rode
With silver saddle and Spanish bridle
   From Berwick-upon-Tweed.

With clouded eye, with thoughtful brow,
   With idle rein rode he.
A ridin' quirt o' plaited leather
   Hung loose beside his knee.
And fruitless in his heavy mind
   He pondered riddles three.
When under a whinbush green and high
That sprung at his right hand,
Burnt by wind, brown with weather
He saw a bedlam stand.

"Answer me, fool, the riddle I ask!
Fear not, but speak you bold;
And I will give you a shirt for your back
And a purse of the good red gold.

Of what wood was bigg'd the cradle
When our Lord Christ was born?
And what wood was the bloody Cross
Whereon his flesh was torn?

"What are the keenest things alive
In sea, air, or land?
And how within the selfsame house
May king and common stand?"

"O you may keep your good red gold
To be another's dool!
'Tis the first hour, I ken, a king
Coft wisdom o' a fool.

"Of briar wood was bigg'd the cradle
For Him, and finely shaven;
For Mary is the bonny rosetree
That grows from earth to heaven.

"Whence came the wood whose wincing grain
His holy blood did smirch?
Where else but from the aspen tree
That shivers at a touch.

"And what the keenest things alive?
By mine and Adam's curse,
A bairn's greeting, a shrew wife's flying,
And the sair edge 'o remorse.

"A shrew wife's tongue a gag mun hold,
A bairn greets for a day,
But the fell maggot o' remorse
In hellfire grinds for aye."

Full softly answered then the king,
"You have played well the fool;
There is no other in the land
Would put a king to school."
"Yet have you left ae tale untold—
   O learned scholar grand,
Tell how within the selfsame house
   Both common and king may stand."

"There is ae house, there is ae house,
   Its beams they are not wide,
But its earthen wa’s are strong enough
   To hold a’ mortal pride.

"There shall we sleep the lang, lang night
   And find it muckle span
Though you are King o’ Scotland
   And I a naked man."

The king rode on, the king rode on.  
   An angry man was he.  
But ae thought roosted in his mind  
   Like a gled on a winter tree,  
And at his heart it grippit sair  
   And wudna let him be.

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JOHN CODY

Epitaph: Pioneers

Embraced and walling out life’s pain
they peer out on the dripping glade,
unheeding the whispering rain
believing their vision cannot fade.

But over the years the creeper grows more dense
And the long grass slushes the track
The crawling moss reaches the fence
And they wonder now if they can turn back.

Slowly the sepia prints peel
And the trees move closer to the wall.
Then both of them begin to feel
that quiet shadow in the hall.
They moved soon after to the green plot,
The sun struck through to the overgrown hut
catching the vines fighting in a knot
and the door wired shut.

Figures in a Landscape

Everywhere a new mastery meets the eye.
From the underglaze of miniature blue
there flames away the first message strokes
of an achievement still caught in a view.
Here wisps cross-hatch and streak
the cloud seas of stipple islands.
Rubens in his sweetest joy never glided
this grain textured sky of river-sands.

Against the cut-out hills
— that are themselves dramatically back-lit,
the sea, as in a map, completely fills
the closing coast to surpass itself
in reflected roofing for all mankind.
The breeze swathes all around with a finer skin
Is this luminous perfection the child’s find
in the Madonna’s eyes?

From a Book of Hours

So bright May begins in a blaze of trumpet gold,
of days that could never be. The lords and ladies ride
far forward into the woods, for they do hold
Love warmly and as pageantry’s perfect bride.

Beneath the shoots of notes they joy their loud
Alleluias and spread their cloaks to enrich the earth.
Those pouring dresses lie like clouds
or tulips waiting for the sun’s caresses to give birth
to the velvet sighs that lie sweetening on the ground.
Love fills the gold cup of the trumpet hollow
until it flames in the sun and air around
flashing up the valley with the swallow.

And each moment will stay unfallen and gold,
frail at the tips of time's thin reach.
The lovers are gone before the touch of the cold,
gone to the inner fires of their distant castles.

CHARLES' DOYLE

Empirical History

Why should a man think because the heart is vulnerable
that he can beat the drum, make incantation
out of the names of rivers, the green rhythm of love,
birds of flamed plumage in a sky of oil?

why should I be the one whose crucible
yields up the potent meaning of resurrection
or mouths the words of the orator that move
rough hands to the weeping faces, sway the will?

in all dew mornings the scuttling spiders' fingers
net up the wet, high hedges, glacial with diamonds;
and in the darkness hands move with their secret praise,
gentle but still demanding whose is the poem now?

o surely where the uncertain, poised hands linger
there is beauty there and a fire and wonder beyond label; but there is also dread, pain, war, voices, the way
silence swings through that vast and empty house.

again the rose opens an unhealed wound and no sounds
mean, "rose", more than any other; nor is any white thing
that one can speak of as white as the mortal snow
melting in death's cauldron, drowning, flooding the flames.

no, though the heart is vulnerable the wounds
are their own lost voices; only they can sing
what they feel. Whoever made us made it so
we have no more than an eye and a flair for names.
POETRY

C. DOYLE

Seas and Black Houses

My heart sang as the waters when I saw her
And marked all innocences fraught in her face,
Light in a fisher’s seine. All day the cruel,
Casual heart made mimicry of her grace.

And she was my love then, moving through a dream
Whose green hands touch her once, and never again
Quiet as a star to slip into the waiting
Empty room of the heart; but the waters’ songs remain

Always, as simple as a crucifix upon the white
Pure plaster of some most ordinary wall,
A song of her three bones meeting, my ninth hour love,
A wine for the throat of midnight, a madrigal.

For my voice only. It was afterwards other voices
Echoed upon those hills, dream-calling her, and the wet grass,
And the rotted leaves and the dewed webs made the silence
One with her, conspiring in my senses of loss.

So I woke there, still in the night, my heart singing
For what I knew not. The hurt seas and black houses
Met in the darkness. She is lost. Oh touch her gently,
Wind in the trees, wherever she is. My body rouses.

Puppet Theatre

In the black dust the stamp of angry feet
Trampling the deaf hands’ makings, tearing down
All in the dangling world’s slack, indiscreet
Hearing, shaking a cackle from the clown;
And outside, the door is locked to the rabid hordes,
But falling, Nemesis thundering on the boards.

Limp from snapped strings the tinsel men flop down
Bedraggled, bruised, unkempt under the feet
Of this one, ominous, evil-tempered clown
whom no brief, begged aside could make discreet;
And outside, the door is locked to the rabid hordes,
But falling, Nemesis thundering on the boards.
Blood's synthesis, a paint, more indiscreet
Than any stabbed man's shirt, kisses the clown
At laughter-absent eyes, ridiculous feet,
Who pricked his pantaloons and kicked him down;
And outside, the door is locked to the rabid hordes,
But falling, Nemesis thundering on the boards.

A last grim act, in sweated grease, this clown
Turns with his mimic gesture. A discreet
Curtain is poised to swing his doom, ring down
And end it, purpose wilted at his feet;
For outside, the door is locked to the rabid hordes,
But falling, Nemesis thundering on the boards.

For my Father

(Buried at sea off the West African coast, Xmas Day 1947)
From you I reap the harvest of the blood
That beats within me as a wild bird's wing
Will wear away the wind; from you the shell
Carrying inwardly the surging flood
Conched at the ear of life. Like a great bell
From immemorial eaves your echoes ring.

Reverberant upon the muscled will
That moves me. Six long years have parted us
More than the oceans' swell; the incessant tides
Riding the seasons in bear now no ill
To you above whose dreams the long wave slides
With slow compulsion, ceaseless and amorphous.

Yet there is more between us, Sir, than this
Deft separation at the waters' head,
And what remains is no mere silhouette
Shaped from your thigh and spirit. In the press
Time leaves us less than we would well forget
And much we lose is loss to self and pride.

Some few small details stand within the mind
Shaping our judgments. I remember how
We crossed a bridge in rain and you denied,
With bitter vehemence, the poet's kind
A berth to sleep in, water, thought, or bread,
Placing more worth in hammer, spade and plough.
This I could understand from you, whose days
Were ladled out in soup-tins, whose sick soul
Was nurtured on the thin fare of the poor.
Yet what we most despise sometimes betrays
Our outer semblances, for in your role
Was poetry in plenty and to spare.

Your stance upon the cross-roads of the years
Was literal and speculative, but grace
Endowed you with a more enduring gift
Than we who have the words to voice our fears;
Texture more subtle worked among the weft
Deep threads of sorrow in your heart and face.

Now I can understand who have ridden the wave
Heart-high with storm, and who have been the sport
Of the cock-fighting sea, from starving solstice
To flooded equinox, from the trades to the brave
West winds of death, who set my prow towards peace,
But wrung by the waters, limp for any port.

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JOCELYN HENRICI

To J. M. on Her Nineteenth Birthday

You, simpleton,
Watching the world with wonder as it turns,
Exploring with sense fingers new textures,
Admiring the grace of falling fluting petals
Nor thinking of the death to which they fall.

You, stranger,
Living on the surface, accepting facts,
Without understanding the implications,
Seeking no inner meanings.
When will you see and think, when does the mind
Perceive through the picture the pattern?
You, chasing headlong
On to the plank bridging eternity, but looking
With nearsighted eyes into the blankness of your mind,
To find no answer to questions not yet understood;
Only knowing your aloneness, bewilderment
By adult life, ideals and actions;
Clinging to the blinding hopes of childhood,
Who, receiving the fruits desired by others,
Find them to the immature, sour.

You. too young for the age you have,
Older than all your desires,
Bon voyage, child.

Apology

Not here, not yet. Not while the turning wind
Can lift me in its arms, stroke face and hair,
And force my lips. Not when the sun’s white stare
And burning mouth have left my eyes half blind.
Not here, where every scent there is can bind
My body’s caverns to the sensual air,
And water clothes a flesh by wind stripped bare.
Not now, while I can still such lovers find.
But if the wind should go away from me,
Or if I could no longer bear its love;
When no pleasure be offered by the sea
Of if my body unresponsive prove,
Then let someone seek this deserted heart,
Nor will I then refuse a woman’s part.

Evensong

Tonight the air has cooled me to its shadow.
Where the path crosses the marshes, I can stand
And feel the night closing up its hand
Around the valley, hushing the sea sound.
Here on the marshes is no salt nor sand,
But sweetness of fresh water and pasture land.
I will walk here, until the distant stars
Draw me up with a web of frozen light
Beyond humanity to their height,
Where I shall walk as proud as the moon
Across a world silver in my sight.
I will have peace and dark content, tonight.

NIAALL McKENZIE

Song to a lover

It’s with love for a fair-haired cail’n I’m held.
Can no man tell me how I’m to win her?
In her eyes I am seeing a rose-pure soul,
’Tis beauty and joy that doth clothe her.

Ferret Pride, quicken lust, ’tis there you must hunt,
and with flattery go cast about her,
Win the warmth of the flesh and the heat of embrace,
And with guile shalt thou then ensnare her.

It’s with love for a fair-haired cail’n I’m held.
Can no man tell me how I’m to win her?
In her eyes I am seeing a rose-pure soul,
’Tis beauty and joy that doth clothe her.

Make clean thy soul for to speak clear and pure,
For it’s now that thy love shall reach her,
With thy life keep her chaste, secure from all test,
then in rose-pure love shalt thou win her.

It’s with love for a fair-haired cail’n I’m held.
Can no man tell me how I’m to win her?
In her eyes I am seeing a rose-pure soul,
’Tis beauty and joy that doth clothe her.

In softness, whiteness as a bileag bloom
Coomes my love, mo Shiubhan sa!
Know now then how my joy strings my heart,
Good than evil is better in a man.

Note: bileag (bilak): water lily.
Shiubhan sa (Hoo-an sah): my Judith.
E.P.M. DRONKE

The Fifth Elegy of Rainer Maria Rilke

O but who are they, tell me, these acrobats, even a little
more transient than we ourselves, oppressed from their childhood,
being wrung by a never,
ah for whom never satisfied Will? But it wrings them,
bends them, tosses and swings them,
throws them and catches them back; as out of smoother,
oilier air they are coming downward
on to the threadbare carpet, worn thinner
by their perpetual upspring, this carpet abandoned,
lost in the universe,
sticking on like a plaster, as though the suburban
heaven had injured the earth at that place.

upright, shown and at hand: the great
capital letter of Being . . ., the strongest
men are rolled again and again in jest by the
ever oncoming grasp, as Augustus the Strong
rolled a tin platter at table.

Ah and around this
centre, the rose of watching
blossoms and sheds its leaves. Around this
pestle, the pistil, caught by its own blowing
pollen, the dust, to fructify into
the sham-fruit of boredom again, their never-
realised, thinnest surface agleaming,
superficially, falsely smiling boredom.

There, the wrinkled, withering lifter,
the old one, who only drums now,
shrunken in his once powerful skin, as though at some earlier time
two men were contained in it, one now
lay in the churchyard, and he was outliving the other,
deaf and sometimes a little
confused, in the widower skin.
But the young one, the man, who might be the son of an oafish
neck and a nun: so tightly, strappingly filled
with muscles and simpleness.

Oh you,
whom a Suffering, still very
young, received as a plaything once, in one of its
long convalescences . . .

You that with the falling
such as fruits only know, unripe and
day by day drop a hundred times down from the tree of
their movement upbuilt, (in a moment, and swifter than water,
has in it spring, summer and autumn)—
fall and rebound on the grave:
sometimes, in half a pause, a glance of love wants to
rise in your face and steal across to your seldom
lovable mother; yet it goes quite lost on your body’s
surface, that uses up the timid
scarcely attempted face . . . And again the
man is clapping his hands for the spring, and before a
pain ever grows clearer to you, in the nearness of your ever-
galloping heart, the source of pain, in your burning
footsoles, already outdoes it by swiftly
dashing your eyes with a few mere physical tears. And
despite that, blindly,
your smiling. . . .

Angel! oh take, pluck that small-flowering healing-herb.
Fashion a vase to preserve it! Set it among those joys not yet
open to us; in a lovely urn
praise it in floral, sweeping inscription:
“Subrisio Saltat.”

You then, lovely one,
you by all joys most delightful
mutely passed over. Perhaps your
frills are happy for your sake,
or the green and metallic
silk that covers your firm young breasts
feels itself endlessly spoilt and lacks nothing.
You
different again and again on the quivering scale-pans of balance
downset market-fruit of detachment,
open under the shoulders.
Where, ah where is the place I keep in my heart,
where they were still far from practised, where they still fell
from each other like animals mounting,
awkwardly paired; where
weights were still heavy;
hoops still unbalanced,
aimlessly twirling
on sticks. . .

And suddenly, in this wearisome nowhere, suddenly
the unsayable point, where the pure too-little
incomprehensibly changes, and springs
into that empty too-much.
Where the many-figured addition
comes out to nothing.

Paris, o one of the squares, perpetual show-place,
where the modiste, Madame Lamort,
is twisting and winding the restless ways of the earth, those
endless ribbons, inventing creations of
ever-new bows from them, flowers and frills, cockade, imitation fruit—
all artificially dyed—for the
cheap winter-hats of Destiny.

Should there be, Angel, a square which we know nothing about, and
there, on some unimagined carpet, lovers, that never
here arrive at perfection, could then show their
daring high figures of heart-flight,
their towers of pleasure, their
ladders where ground never was, long since leaning
only on each other, quivering—could do it
for the audience around them, the countless un murmuring dead:
would they not toss their last coins, their ever preserved ones,
ever concealed, those unknown to us, ever current
coins of their gladness before the at last
truthfully smiling pair on the quietened
carpet?
The Long Reign of Victoria

Illustrations by Jeanne Benseman

As one leaves the National Art Gallery and Museum of New Zealand, one is hit full in the face by a sight of such utter devastation and confusion, that one queries if one is not in one of those dread photos of Victorian slum buildings. A cubist nightmare, a misted grey jumble of concrete, of red and tarred roofs, of crude signs rises like an ominous sea over Te Aro. “Neibhoulotts for Newtown. The Eblanamanga you behazhield loomening up out of the dumbly-nass.” So James Joyce, but he was looking the other way.

And yet this is the background to our lives, the morass in which we move, eat and work, like lost figures in a Piranesi prison etching. Of course it is not as bad as all that, we are still human, and it can all be reduced to common-sense—to a dumpy, no-nonsense figure that stands in Cambridge Terrace.

Yes, there Queen Victoria stands, plump but resolute. Victoria, Regina et Imperatrix, 1837-1901. She looks towards the city, without a smile. Below her are goings-on of which she would hardly approve, but which her disdain encourages. She is the first Wellingtonian.

Below, the imposing, heavy steps have fallen away at one corner, to expose a wide gap, behind which there is nothing but a black emptiness. The huge, block, stone steps are a fake. Above them are three equally revealing reliefs. The first is a direct, realistic portrayal of the Waitangi Treaty signing. It is straightforward and unadorned—an action had to be completed, intent and form were unconsciously one.

But in the next relief, “COMMERCE” is presented in an allegorical mannequin parade. A number of tall, distant creatures of a female variety, combine posing reminiscent of the late Mr. Burne Jones, with vacuous gaze for the pavement beholder. One clutches a locomotive engine, apparently from a Hornby set; another holds up an electric light bulb like an effete daffodil. Close to her heart she warms a dry coil battery. Surely these are Divine Muses, for they wear Grecian robes. One communicates with Mt. Olympus (Mt. Victoria?) by toy telephone. Jove’s all-seeing eye is taken by a commercial camera, discreetly in the background. Such was colonial Commerce, or was it all just Science, while the businessmen only modestly looked on.

But the arts had their place—in fact on the opposite side. Seven of these delectable, distant creatures stand in mutual admiration showing their favourite genius. Some, more bashful, trail hands, while a sister, wielding a female, nude statuette, like a baseball bat or a small leg of mutton, shows the aesthetes holy defiance of the Philistine. One trails a palette that looks like a floppy summer hat. At last we come to the pensive muse, a model for all girl students. In chaste detachment she touches a wondering finger to her chin and meekly waits for the Dionysiac fire of inspiration.
These astounding and charming women are, after Victoria, first citizens of Wellington, and it has been their guardian spirit, their corporate Genius, that has transformed the area known as Greater Wellington into the city of glory that it is today.

The first permanent settlers had settled at Petone, but had found the area unsuitable—"the land being so level as to need drainage!" A remark of interest to later town planners. In the September of 1840 they moved to a site on the southern side of the harbour.

There the first buildings of Lambton Quay went up to a height, in Dicky Barrett’s hotel, of two storeys at most. This direct, unpretentious building may be seen standing clearly out in a Heaphy painting held by the Alexander Turnbull Library.

The quay itself was the beachfront track, close against the hills, and joining the two major areas of flat land. It had the natural, organic curve of the sea and shore, and the ideal sweep for an unparalleled street, a street to outtrival such fine English elegances as Park or Regent Crescents, or the crescents of Bath. It could have been a nineteenth century realization of those sunset departures of Claud Lorrain. But this was not the place nor time for dreams. One building alone faintly suggests what might have been, and this is the Gresham Hotel, a building about which my illustrator, Miss Jeanne Benseman, and I strongly disagree.

If Lambton Quay, "with its long, majestic curve might have been one of the noblest streets in the world," Oriental Bay, with its parade curving in sweet leisure, could have been its delightful sea-front counterpart. If it had become another Brighton even, there would have been much to rejoice in. Today one block of flats stands out across the harbour, to feed the imagination on vistas of white and blue and to show what might have been—might if it had been a hundred years earlier that the settlers had landed, and not in Victoria’s reign.

For in architecture the Victorian Age was to be the worst in Western civilization’s history. It was the first age that broke tradition’s continual extension. In an age with a psychology of Progress men stopped, to look back in despair, to become antiquarians. Men were rooted in the past, having lost the conviction of their own creation.

Left to themselves the colonists devised a rational and charming late-Georgian architecture. There is little of it left in Wellington, and being mostly of timber it is fast disappearing. A few scraps may be seen in little houses, such as the one tucked away at the bottom of Church steps. Unlike later domestic architecture, they did not attempt to ape a Greek pediment in a gable, but allowed the roof to run down over an open verandah. The shape of the pitched roof was thus not obtrusive and could be pleasantly contrasted with the squareness of the chimney. For larger examples you must go out in the country—the Williams’ missionary house at Tauranga, or the Treaty House of Waitangi for example. Two notable examples in Wellington are the Albion and Commercial Hotels, both in Molesworth Street.

There can be seen the natural way in which wood has been adapted to the plain, geometric, squared architecture of the "Georgian-Regency" period. There is a proportion in long horizontal lines, of not only building to street,
Flesh and Blood
Mixed Bag—Flemish, Georgian-Regency, Dutch, "Open house"
but, in the squared windows, of details to the building itself. This integrity is harmonious and aesthetically satisfying.

Architects were over self-conscious, their intellects paralysing the creative powers of the body, of the whole man. Thus Sir George Gilbert Scott, the most prolific of major Victorian architects, could write “... if we had a distinctive architecture of our own day worthy of the greatness of the age, I should be content to follow it”, but it is “morally impossible to invent a spick-and-span new style.” How sadly passive, resigned, and yet quietly smug. With such a lack of creative confidence, the way was open for the scholar, giving the knowledge of all ages and the conviction of none.

The multiplying towns, commercial wealth, the rise of the “petit bourgeois” gave the architectural tradition into the hands of new patrons; patrons who had neither the background of education or the instinctive taste that the previous patron, the aristocrat, had.

This new class of patrons brought with it to architecture its own values. There was an intense and overriding desire for acceptance, elevation to respectability, the assurance of being “correct”. This marked their building as pretentious often, in its urgent desire to impress. A bold (and often false) façade was relied on to carry the day. This is the source of so much show-window building, trompe d’oeil, the shameless but spotless front wall, that hides the private lives of tarred tin roofs. Architectural hypocrisy was made permanent in ferro-concrete, and Victorian architecture is largely the architecture of New Zealand.

There were a succession of “periods,” modes, idioms in Victorian architecture and they will serve as convenient divisions to describe the bulk of Wellington’s architecture. The first epoch, the Romantic (1832-45), is really the tail-end of the eighteenth century, and may be termed “The Classic Survival”. It has a long journey behind it to the nineteenth century. First, the temples of the Greeks, then the capitolos of the Romans, then the palaces of the Italian Renaissance; later the work of Palladio at Vicenza, and then via The Grand Tour, to early eighteenth century England. Here rules for the style were fast established, but rules which were adaptable to the problem of alternating plain walls and openings.

It used certain set forms, once functional but now mainly decorative—the column with its different orders—Doric, Ionic, Corinthian; the triangular pediment, the Romanesque rounded arch, rectangular stone construction to give an effect of strength, impressiveness, solidity to Towns Halls, Municipal Chambers, the Head Office of Banks and Railway Stations. All of these were growing in importance in the early Victorian period, the period of Municipality Acts, of cash and railways. Our Houses of Parliament, Art Galleries and Museum and Town Hall are remnants of the Classic Survival. Indeed the Town Hall is an example of the Victorian schizophrenia between exterior appearances and contents. The diffuse Classicism of the façade clashes with (1) the cold deadness of the entry, (2) the solid but pleasant sweep of the stairs, (3) the barn-like engineering of the main hall, undisguised by a few Palladian trimmings. Kinder words may be said of the expansive Parliamentary front, although here again there is the contrast of “front” and “the backs”.

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It is perhaps the most widely misused style in Wellington. Note how the Bank of New South Wales in Lambton Quay uses a Palladian scheme of pillared porches and squared windows to disguise the architects’ lack of invention. Again, the Victorians used Classic at railway stations as railway expresses were a stirring symbol of man’s progress, and to travel was a venture into the Future. So travellers by rail from Wellington pass through eight giant doric concrete columns, under a vaulted and caissoned renaissance mock-stone chamber before daring to approach a train.

In every street or alley the classic tradition drifts on, milked arid in such edifices as the D.I.C. or T. & G. buildings. Sometimes it has been used as a suggestion without being overwhelming and it benefits a building in a quiet way. Straightforward is the plain Palladianism of the Opera House, and Courtenay Chambers, apart from the festering neon sign plastered on its skin, is, because of its classic adaption, the only building worth notice in Courtenay Place.

The Classic Survival can be, as John Betjeman remarks, like a “grand after-dinner speech, full of (elderly) wisdom and elegant oratory.” It can also be conservatism in extremis.

But as always, the young men are not listening. “Let us be ourselves, let us be different; move on to the next generation, the next style.” The Romantics find the solution to the world’s problems in the Gothic North, amid the dark forests, the spires, the fretted and traceried forests of Stone. Thus began the revival of “pointed architecture, The Gothic Revival, with its consequent battle of rivals, Goths v. Hellenes, with Giant Philistine taking all. It was at first an Ecclesiastical movement smacking strongly of “Romanism,” and leading to “St. Mary of the Angels”; but it was made respectable by Ruskin, so respectable as to allow St. John’s Presbyterian Church and St. Peter’s, Anglican the joint assuredness of a divinely approved style. Like monastic lands, it was too much of a good thing to remain exclusively in church hands, so it was appropriated by the “professional” men. It could hint the glory of a distant golden age for “the educated”, it could impress the impressionable by its skilful barbarism. This is the explanation, as I see it, of The Dominion Farmers’ Institute built as late as 1917, a building which contains in the shape of a stuffed moa, its own commentary. Past prestige and bookish monks explain possibly the General Assembly Library. The ideal of an altruistic selfless pursuit of Truth as a scholar’s duty was enshrined not only in its motto but also in the University’s style. Of “late English perpendicular” style, the edifice represented optimism and a young community’s zeal for all things possessed overseas. The façade is more convincing than the weak and convictionless interior. In the seventies, Gothic was popularized as a domestic style, although fussy small window-panes did their best to disguise it under the title of “Queen Anne”. Its most noted English example, mercifully destroyed by the Germans, was aptly enough the first New Zealand Chambers. Its Wellington equivalent is the Alexander Turnbull Library.

It had become all a matter of choosing your style, or sides, for architecture now was merely “that art which impresses on the form (of a building) certain characters venerable or beautiful, but otherwise unnecessary (Ruskin). Thus it could be suggested, humorously fortunately, that domestic architecture
be in: Norman-Feudal, Lancastrian Embattled, Morisco-Spanish, or Pompeian-Suburban. Also humorous is the way in which Wellington has near representatives in St. Mary of the Angels, Victoria University and Swinson Chambers (next to the Kings Theatre). It lacks only the last, although it well deserves it.

The variety obtainable in a small space is well illustrated in Willis Street, where after the stooping wood lowness of Furniture Fashions, there shoots up the apoplexed Dutch design of Wardells, followed by the Georgian of the Caledonia Hotel, and then a few paces, the Flemish of the Siberian Fur Trading Co. Then follows a style of no name and mixed parentage, and the skyline stagers on its way, relieved for a moment by some plain buildings before it has to face the debased Palladianism of the Midland Hotel, with its broken pillars and flashy-tile street-level. And so the Victorian architect plundered the centuries in reaction to not only Classic and Gothic, but to life itself. And although Dutch and Flemish might be regarded as "commercial" styles, commercial life itself was uninspiring, meticulous and grim, with few hints of adventure in its routine. It needed its façades as a compensation. Competition and private enterprise were expressed in the conflicting styles, wall to wall, the largest unit of thought being the personal unit, not the communal street.

In the eighteen-fifties English buildings turned Baroque, and the High Victorian Style was reached. It was implicit in the Classical emphasis and although the essence of true Baroque architecture is movement in space for dramatic effect, Victorian Baroque never really got off the ground. The best examples in Wellington are the Public Trust building and the St. James Theatre. It is a bombastic, deafening style with thick, sagging mouldings swarming over its front. Columns, roundels, pilasters bulge for attention. One of the worst specimens is the Bank of New Zealand, Manners Street. But of course the supreme piece is the State Trust, built in 1908, that "Annum Terribilis" of New Zealand architecture, the year that also saw the Bath House at Rotorua built. It is bold, but corpulent, as imposing as a fat uncle. The most genuinely Baroque spectacle in Wellington is of course the massive, swirling clouds that overawe our skies. The Tower of the Tivoli Theatre might be considered by the fanciful as a timid Victorian variation on Dresden baroque, but only the fanciful.

And through it all the solid values of Georgian architecture lingered on, built by the economically-minded or the occasional colonial aesthete. It is, needless to say, the supreme town architecture and Bowen House demonstrates what quietness and harmony can be achieved even in unsuitable material. Its most widespread adaption seems to be to small pubs, where it is used with varying success. "The Carlton" in Willis Street, the "White Lodge" (spoil only by its roof line) in Courtenay Place, the "Selwyn" and the "Cambridge" in Cambridge Terrace, and numerous others are reserved, dignified and well proportioned. Older wooden ones, such as the "Albion", have been face-lifted by stuccoing, have lost their individuality and now look like discoloured cardboard boxes with windows pressed out.

As hotels grow larger their architecture becomes more inflated—as in "The Grand"; characterless as in the "Royal Oak", or just plain dead as in
"The Midland". Those that attempt to be "modern" end by being "modernistic"; a realization of only the mannerisms and superficialities of a style. They have only "contemporary trimmings". Thus "The Midland" contains both Regency and early Frank Lloyd Wright remnants, grossly enlarged, while both the Hotel St. George and the Waterloo are permanent reminders of New Zealand's timid "jazz-age" in styling, the late thirties.

Now that hotels have been mentioned logical progress can be made to the architecture of entertainment; architecture which is salesmanship. There is a division between the older theatres—the St. James, the Opera House, the Tivoli, the Regent and the more recent ones—the State, the Plaza and the Kings. The older theatres are more expansive, middle-class affairs, with their associations originally of "flesh and blood," boxes, galleries and stage entrances. The latter ones are "cinemas" and aim at mass audiences. The inherent vulgarity of neon-tubing makes their faces like a writhing cream cake. The interior of the St. James is too remarkably music-hall to have been overlooked, but the Edwardian Art-Nouveau of the Opera House boxes may be missed. Art-Nouveau leaves (squashed hearts) are plentiful here and at the St. James.

And lastly, the churches. The traveller entering Wellington through the grimy desolation of Thorndon railway yards sees, as he moves to his tram or trolley bus one quiet spire rising above the semi-abstract of walls. This is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, copied from a Wren Restoration Church. This is a perfectly conceived and balanced church with all lines combining to carry the eye up to the summit of the smooth, octagonal spire. The whole building is harmonious, civilized, graceful. It is friendly and reasonable, combining directness with style, and shows what New Zealand lost in church architecture by not being founded at the same time as North America. Nearby, in pleasant contrast, but one which would have appealed to Wren who believed in spires rising "in good proportion above neighbouring houses" is the Colonial Georgian house, Sunday school for the pompous and heavy building of "The First Church of Christ, Scientist".

Just down the Terrace, the Congregational Church demonstrates the difficulty of applying Gothic principles to a small-scale church. Most noticeable are the sharp corrugations, the stiff curved and the ungainly porch.

Across the valley there is the Basilica of the Sacred Heart that rears an enormous Roman, square-columned and pedimented front. It is impressive in a dilapidated way, and the steep entrance steps aid the effect.

The Wesley Methodist Church, Taranaki Street, demonstrates how, as the century went on, ecclesiastical Gothic had become "traditional" and lost its "Romish" suspicion. It could now be combined with the usual Nonconformist, rounded Italianate. "Enthusiasm" itself had become established and respectable.

The Anglican Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Mulgrave Street, although of early date, is not impressive, as Gothic is not suited to small wooden churches. Even so, it is infinitely preferable to the planned nondescript edifice which is to take its place. Byzantine is the despair of those who wish to be different at all costs. The showpiece of Anglicanism is, of course, the clean-cut beauty of St. James', Lower Hutt. It is a brilliant and beautiful conception, inspiring in its simplicity and integrity. Its lightness and contrast of forms (tower and nave) is an inherent tribute to its intellectual ordering.
Apart from this last church, it is not to the churches I look for architectural inspiration, but to a symbol of the Modern Welfare State. This is the Dixon Street flats, the only building in Wellington which gives me full aesthetic satisfaction. The long vertical lines are emphasised and strengthened by balconies at the back, and echoed by uniform windows at the front. The skyline is neat and the whole bound together by the lift-shaft. Decoration is almost entirely functional, and nothing gestures for attention. The whole makes a twentieth-century equivalent of the crisp and white cathedrals of the High Middle Age.

Yes, Wellington's architecture is a fascinating study. It is possible to speak of its many surprises—Egyptian lotus leaves in Kent Terrace, a public convenience built in the style of Sir Edward Lutyens' Imperial Government buildings at New Delhi, the shock of the Ferry wharf-shed with the silhouette of the Baptistery of San Giovanni, Florence; the perfect abstract for the Unknown Political Prisoner in the tram wires above the unsuspecting policeman on duty at James Smith's Corner. And other things too, such as a Trades Hall with an inner courtyard like a Venetian nobleman's palace.

In the year two thousand, no doubt, a tall, lean Londoner will stand pensive on a pile of masonry in Lambton Quay, to ponder long on the rich justness of that motto under which these strange people lived: "Suprema a Situ".

JOHN CODY
Harrier Club

The 1950 season promised to be a good one on both the athletic and social side: runs were well attended and membership increased. Unfortunately, the athletic side was not quite successful. The club team occupied moderate positions in most inter-club events. Sixth place in the Wellington-Masterton relay was a creditable performance. J. Goodwin led the field during the first lap, but V.U.C. fell away to fourth in the next lap. This placing was maintained until the eighth lap, and finally Vic ended up sixth. The tournament team was expected to do well but mishaps during the race marred any chance of the team winning, but even so they finished only a few points behind Auckland and Massey Colleges. J. Hunt ran splendidly to come in second.

During 1951, membership increased and several new young runners started to make their presence felt. The performance of the club improved: a close fourth in the Wellington-Masterton relay and similar placings in all other events. The club just failed to head off Canterbury at Tournament. Of particular merit was the performance of D. Pringle, who though only a junior, finished a close-up seventh. Good team-work by other members enabled V.U.C. to win the North Island Trophy. A newcomer to the club, R. Rawnsley, performed with much credit throughout the season; in addition to breaking J. C. Hawke's record for the third lap in the Wellington-Masterton relay, he dead-heated for first place in the Dorne Cup, second in the Vosseller Shield, fourth at the Provincial championships, fifth in the Barrett Road Race and Gold Cup event at Trentham, and first man home in the club championship race.

Very much the same pattern was followed in 1952. The club improved to third in the Wellington-Masterton relay, was second in the Vosseller, Rawnsley winning the individual title, second in the Dorne Cup, Rawnsley running a great fourth after having been led off the course, and close up in all other events. J. Holden proved the adage "an old dog for an old road" by winning the B grade provincial championship: the team finished second in the final aggregate of points. Tournament was held in Christchurch and the team gained third place; G. Ward, a newcomer to the club, finished a good seventh, with the others close behind. Many of the younger runners were gaining much experience. Several well-performed runners of earlier years were returning to the club and it appeared that the club was headed for success in the coming season.

The next year, (1953), was the most successful in the club's history. It was most appropriate that V.U.C.'s rise to the top in inter-club events should coincide with the club's twenty-first anniversary celebrations. However, this year also marked the death of Mr. G. F. Dixon, our president, a position which he had held since the club's inception. No man had done more to encourage the sport of harriers in the University, and his death was a bitter loss to the club. The success of the club could be attributed to solid teamwork. R. Rawnsley and J. C. Hawke, two of the finest harriers the club has known, formed the nucleus around which the runners rallied. The club gained second place to the strong Lyndale team in the Wellington-Masterton relay, both teams breaking the record. V.U.C.'s win in the Dorne Cup ten-man team event was only the second inter-club victory since the club had been formed. Gilberd (who ran splendidly in atrociously muddy conditions), Rawnsley, Truebridge, and Candy laid the foundation for success.

R. Rawnsley was first home in the Vosseller Shield event of ten miles, and the club achieved double honours by annexing the teams event as well. Hawke, Candy, Truebridge, and Beaglehole were all in the first ten to finish. The Provincial championships proved an overwhelming success for both our A and B grade teams. Rawnsley was placed second, and with Hawke and Gilberd represented the province at the national championships. Both teams won their events at the provincials, and it was indeed a remarkable performance for the B grade runners to fill the first six places in the race.

Mahan followed his win in the provincials with a notable victory in the N.Z.U.C. at Auckland. Good teaming by Gilberd (5th), Candy (6th), and Gow
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(7th) enabled V.U.C. to win the Dixon Trophy for the first team home, and the twelfth placing of Beaglehole gave us the North Island Challenge Trophy—in other words, a clean sweep of all trophies. A magnificent performance by the B grade team in their section of the Marton-Wanganui relay more than compensated for the third placing of the A team. The Shaw Baton event was won for the second time, and a comfortable win in the Barrett Road Race set the seal on the season’s success. Rawnsley, who had shown himself to be the best all-round harrier in the province, deservedly won the club championship, winning two of the three events on which the title was decided. His transfer to Roxburgh at the latter end of the season was keenly felt by the club.

The present season started on a very high note. The first inter-club event of the year, the Shaw Baton relay, proved notable in that the A and B teams finished first and second respectively, a performance that the club thinks unparalleled in this event. Two weeks later the club realized its greatest ambition: success in the Masterton-Wellington relay. Despite an early setback, the members of the team reached the lead at the end of the seventh lap, Gilberd, Truebridge and Stevens finishing the course to bring victory to V.U.C. Stevens, the N.Z.U. three-mile title holder, recently transferred to V.U.C. and is indeed an acquisition. If the club gets the influx of keen newcomers that it needs, the future will remain very bright for V.U.C. running.

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**Women’s Hockey**

With the exception of 1951, the years since 1949 have not been very successful ones for the V.U.C. Women’s Hockey Club. Yet, despite the lack of success of the teams, each year has seen members of the club awarded V.U.C. Blues and selected for the N.Z.U. team and the Wellington representative teams.

In 1950, with a membership of 63, the club fielded a team in each of the four grades of the local competitions. Mr. Fleet continued his very able coaching of the teams, but none of them distinguished themselves. In July Victoria was host to teams from Massey and Canterbury. The women’s A team beat Massey, the B team lost to Canterbury B team. In the evening Victoria put on a buffet dinner which was followed by a dance in the gym. At Winter Tournament in Dunedin, Victoria came third, beating Auckland and Massey, but losing to Canterbury and Otago. B. Young and G. Francis were selected for the N.Z.U. team, and B. Young, J. Francis and L. Holland were awarded V.U.C. Blues.

Nineteen fifty-one must have been the greatest year in the club’s history. For the first, and so far the only, time Victoria won the Pember Reeves Stick at Winter Tournament, which was again held in Dunedin. The team began by drawing with Auckland, then beat Canterbury, and finally, in a very tense and exciting game, just beat Otago 4-3 to break (temporarily) the latter’s monopoly of the Stick. Victoria’s win was all the greater as both B. Young (the captain) and J. Young played with sprained ankles. It was a personal triumph for B. Young as Victoria’s win was due in no small measure to her inspiring leadership. Her selection as captain of the N.Z.U. team and award of a N.Z.U. Blue were just tribute to her achievement. Also selected for the N.Z.U. team was L. Holland. But it was not only at Winter Tournament that the club was successful, despite the unfortunate fact that Mr. Fleet had to discontinue his coaching of the team about half way through the season because of the unavailability of a practice ground. The A team was third equal in the senior A grade, several members of each team were selected for the representative trials, and the A team reached the final of their section in the King’s Birthday seven-aside tournament. The annual game with Massey, played at Massey, was won by Victoria. A B team visited Canterbury and although they did not win either of their very wet games, they had a most enjoyable time. B. Young, L. Holland, J. Young, A.
Wellwood and J. Francis were awarded V.U.C. Blues.

The club's achievements in 1952 were rather a contrast to the successes of 1951. There was a decrease in membership to fifty-two and only three teams were fielded. None of them were very successful, but several players were chosen for the Wellington representative teams. At Tournament, Victoria failed to retain the Pember Reeves Stick, beating Canterbury, but losing to Auckland and Otago. L. Holland was chosen as vice-captain of the N.Z.U. team and A. Wellwood was an emergency. Unfortunately, neither Massey nor Canterbury were able to send teams to Wellington. L. Holland, R. Baird, P. Simmers and A. Wellwood were awarded V.U.C. Blues.

Nineteen fifty-three saw a further decrease in membership but three teams were again fielded. The club was very fortunate in having Mrs. I. Lamason as coach. At Tournament, in Auckland, Victoria again came third, beating Auckland but losing to Otago and Canterbury. R. Baird and M. Bertrand were selected for the N.Z.U. team. Several players were selected for the Wellington representative teams, and R. Baird, M. Bertrand, P. Simmers and W. Penman were awarded College Blues.

This year the club is again fielding three teams, the membership being the same as last year. So far the A team has been unsuccessful, but the senior B and junior teams are doing very well, both having several wins to their credit.

French Club

During the last three years, the V.U.C. French Club has been very active; an average of three meetings has been held in the Little Theatre each year. These are organised by the different stages in turn; already this year the club has had one evening organized by the Honours class, another by the Stage III class. As a general rule they consist of a play—amusing, witty, and sometimes rather risque, a game, the aim of which is to make those present speak French, and usually some music.

Several artists have performed for the club—Mr. Mason twice in the last few years, and the Misses E. and M. Castle on the violin and piano. The University Madrigal Group has entertained several times, Dick Hereford has played the piano-accordion and members have all joined in French popular songs on different occasions. Last year the club combined with the Music Department in presenting an evening of French songs sung by Miss H. McKellar and Mr. Donald Munro.

Some of the most successful plays which have been presented recently are "Le Farce de Parquin Fils", which was one of the funniest plays the club has ever presented, "Le Thermometre" by Octave Bernard, "Maison à louer," and "Le Philanthrope malgré lui". Twice the club has organized cabaret evenings which have been a bright change from the usual programmes. Last year, too, the club presented the film "Orphee," by Jean Cocteau. A large number of students who do not ordinarily come to the club's activities saw this film; in fact it was necessary to adjourn to C3 in order to fit everyone in.

Members of the Cercle français of Wellington are very good indeed in coming to our evenings, especially Mme. Finlayson and Mme. Logie, and M., Mme. and the Mmes. Vivequin. Professor Boyd-Wilson, Miss Huntington and Mr. Carrad always come and take a keen interest in what we are doing. Sometimes we have had talks given by different French people. When M. Hultz de Lempes was here, he told us all about life in the Latin quarter in Paris, which we found very interesting and instructive. This year Mme. Finlayson talked to us about "The Products of France", especially about the food and wines, a subject which she felt, is always of interest to students.

Once a year, under the direction of Professor Boyd-Wilson and Miss Huntington, we present an evening at the Town French Club. This always consists of one or more plays. In 1952 the play performed was "Le Médecin malgré lui," by Moliere; in 1951 a very amusing play called "L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle," and last year "Altitude 3,200". This year we are doing three short plays—"Le Chauffeur," by Jules Romains, "La Chance Apprivoisée," by Henri Fontenille, and 'Le Philanthrope malgré lui," by Wilson.
Socialist Club

The Victoria University College Socialist Club has developed quite a lot since the last issue of *Spike* in 1949. Not only has the club become a fully accepted part of the College (the bogy of the double-breasted boys of the city), but it has adapted itself as the population of the College has changed. The returned-services members have been replaced over the years by younger students.

Club membership stands at a little over 100. No orthodoxy is expected from members, and indeed the qualifications for membership are an interest in social and political matters and a suspicion of the fallibility of the ideas of the Chambers of Commerce. All kinds and degrees of Socialists meet in the club—Christians, Fabians, Communists. Some of the club’s best-known members, now pensioned off, are: Harry Evison, Denny Garrett, A. H. Scotney, Con Bollinger, Jim Winchester, Hec MacNeill, Pip and Tilly Piper and Doug Foy. Mr. F. L. Combs had been the club’s president for many years.

Over the past eight years club records (“the minutes of the previous meeting were red and confirmed”) show that the club has been busy. The club opposed conscription in 1949, and the conduct of the Korean war a year later. During the 1951 wharf lockout, Jock Barnes addressed a meeting sponsored by the club, and last year the Rosenbergs, and trouble with the Students’ Association executive kept the club busy.

During the last year the club has become stronger. The N.Z. Student Labour Federation has been transferred to Christchurch and this has given committee members a chance to give more time to the College. The club is concerned over the poor state of student bursaries, and has produced questionnaires with which to get accurate information on student budgets. Many hundreds of these N.Z.S.L.F. questionnaires have been distributed with the co-operation of N.Z.U.S.A., and the results have been used to back bursary claims. The club has also pressed the Students’ Association to extract the Government subsidy for the Student Union Building, and start work as soon as possible.

It has tried to come to terms with the changed interests of students by producing, for the S.L.F. a series of Occasional Papers. These are papers of good academic quality on N.Z. topics. Two are at present in print—*New Zealand 1953*, and a paper on *N.Z. Foreign Policy by Professor Airey*. A paper by Ormond Wilson, and another on Guatemala, are now in preparation.

This is, of course, in addition to the “normal” club activities—speakers, films, debates. This year Mr. Bertram has spoken of his recent travels, there have been several films and discussions, and some debates are projected. And, of course, the annual weekend school and buffet tea are still to come.

The club’s chief problem is that it has no home. Its records, and the rudiments of its library, live under the secretary’s bed. After a thorough search of the College, the club conceded that there was no vacant room which it could take over, and so has made every effort to get permission to erect a hut in the College grounds. Negotiations with the College Council are still under way.

Photographic Club

During the last five years the Photographic Club has not been idle. Up to the beginning of 1953, however, the club existed only as a cultural club because of the fact that it had no home, no darkroom. Thus the club’s activities were confined to talks and an occasional competition. A move was initiated to build a darkroom in a Weir House basement but this never came about. In 1953, with the assistance of the Registrar, we obtained permission to erect a hut on College property. We bought an army hut as soon as possible and since then we have worked
Mathematics and Physics Society

The Mathematical and Physical Society, now in its thirty-fourth year, is one of the oldest societies in the College and is older than many similar societies in far older universities. Except for rare occasions, the "Math and Phys" has maintained the staid demeanour of a "learned society", at times a trifle pretentiously. Society activities have taken the form of regular addresses or discussions and an occasional visit. These have always been given wide and enthusiastic support by members of the two faculties.

The purely technical aspects of mathematics would provide a wide field from which to choose subjects for meetings, but an effort is made to cater for the interest which most students have in the more philosophical problems associated with their subjects, and discussions or addresses which have laid the stress on the philosophy rather than the technology in maths and physics have been amongst the most successful of recent meetings.

One of the most notable projects of recent years was a "Symposium on Cybernetics" held in 1951. Cybernetics is the theory of control and communications of a generalized system; it is a very new branch of science but already has been applied with remarkable success to a wide variety of problems. The symposium of four papers presented at two meetings covered an introduction, the application to digital computers, the nervous system and the study of languages, and aroused wide interest throughout the College.

The outside speakers who show much willingness to address the society provide a cross-section of those branches of applied mathematics and physics receiving attention in this country. Astronomer, engineer, meteorologist, mathematician, and physicist have impressed on members the immense diversity and complexity of the uses fundamental knowledge may be put to. They have also provided an introduction to practical uses of mathematics and physics from the practitioners point of view. This is sometimes rather disillusioning.

A discussion was held last year entitled "Physics and the Third Million". At this meeting members attempted to decide what the future of New Zealand held for the physicist. In the past this country has not used its scientific man-power effectively, but at the discussion it was agreed that in the future necessity would force more intensive scientific methods on all forms of production. Members of the staff have provided reviews of theoretical advances and each year the honours students attempt to explain the research being done in the physics laboratories.

An important feature of maths and physics meetings has always been the supper provided after the meeting by the patrons. Held in a physics lab, suppers invariably develop into enthusiastic informal discussions of the subject of the meeting or anything else which arises. Supper times are frequently more interesting and stimulating than the meetings themselves. Also, as a letter written in 1927 points out, "they provide a friendly atmosphere which is so often lacking in a society of this kind."
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Swords Club

Victoria University College Swords Club was founded in 1945, the year that Winter Tournament was inaugurated, and club policy has always emphasised that success in this annual event is more important than success in local tournaments. A glance at the list below shows how often fencing has contributed valuable points to V.U.C.'s overall tournament results.

During these ten years, fencing has gradually become an accepted college sport instead of being considered a quaint occupation for the self-selected few. The early successes at tournament pointed to a bright future. They gave the club prestige when training schedules and club policy were still embryonic, and the club's leaders themselves still tyros with the foils.

But the Executive of the Students' Association was proud of its point-producing prodigy and was generous with its support.

To boost club membership, the club offered to coach post-primary school boys and girls. So enthusiastic was the response and so great the number interested, that the club could barely fulfil its offer. Yet the idea was sound and is still a feature of the club's activities. The present leaders of the club are products of the system and learnt the rudiments of fencing at school.

The V.U.C. Swords Club rapidly established a reputation as able and clever fencers and now shares the lead with the Wellington Swords Club in the Wellington Province. In administration, too, the club has shown itself capable and its members have held and hold still positions on the provincial executive. In short, fencing has been a success at Victoria College, and there is every reason to expect it to continue to be successful.

Winter Tournament Fencing Placings
1945: 3rd 1948: 2nd 1951: 1st
1946: 1st 1949: 2nd 1952: 3rd
1947: 1st 1950: 1st 1953: 2nd

N.Z.U. Blues Awarded
1946: B. P. Hampton
1948:
1949:
1950: B. P. Hampton, W. T. Stevens
1951: W. T. Stevens

National Titles
1950: J. Flockton, 2nd Women's Foil

Empire Games Representatives
1950: F. W. F. Flaws
1954: B. P. Hampton

Rugby Football Club

Rugby football at Victoria College in the year 1949 did not show a great deal of improvement on the previous season, when the senior team finished up in the Hardham Cup competition. However, one of the causes was the tour of the Australian Universities team which interrupted the local competitions. Victoria-Massey lost to the visiting Australians 15 to 17 in a close game but promise for good things in the future was given by R. A. Jarden, a brilliant youngster who played for the Wellington representatives, as did J. G. Smith, another very promising youngster. In the New Zealand University Test teams against the Australians were A. S. Macleod, J. G. Smith, R. T. Shannon and C. A. Shannon.

In 1950 the senior team's performances were again mediocre. Jarden (who was injured early in the season and was out of action for the majority of the club games), A. S. Macleod, J. H. McIvor, and W. H. Clark played for Wellington but we gained no representation in the New Zealand University team. W. H. Clark and B. G. Porter were our only representatives in the North Island University team, but R. A. Jarden played for the North Island. G. H. Hipango played for Tai Hauraru when it won the Prince of Wales Cup. The junior grade third division team won its championship, as did the third grade second division team.

In 1951 the team began well, winning its first two games, one against Wellington most sensationally on the call of time, but then the New Zealand University team sailed for
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Australia taking with it Jarden, J. B. Hutchison and W. H. Clark. Jarden remained in Australia to join the All Blacks, where he commenced his record-breaking way by scoring 88 points for New Zealand on the tour—the highest ever on an Australian tour for a New Zealand representative. Captaining an Australian XV in the match against the All Blacks on this tour was an old Victoria College stalwart, Ran. Jacob, and he also captained Australian Universities in the tests against the touring N.Z. University team. J. G. Smith represented the North Island and R. A. Jarden, C. J. Loader, G. A. Murray, I. E. Stuart, W. H. Clark and B. G. Porter played for Wellington representative teams, B. G. Porter playing for North Island Colts against the South Colts. The final result in the senior competition was not impressive, but Jarden’s performance in the final match augured well for the future.

Nineteen fifty-two and the club experienced a season which could only be described as wonderful. As well as the mercurial Jarden, B. B. J. Fitzpatrick and L. T. Savage, two All Blacks, J. T. Fitzgerald, a former New Zealand University and Otago player, and F. C. Muller, a Wellington representative joined the club. The team was of representative strength and set the tone for future proceedings by defeating Poneke, the reigning champions, by 37 to 0. As in 1928 and 1929, the spectacular displays brought large crowds to Athletic Park, which became virtually the team’s home ground. P. C. Osborne, J. T. Fitzpatrick, R. A. Jarden, B. B. J. Fitzpatrick, L. T. Savage, W. H. Clark, J. B. Hutchison, J. G. Smith and L. E. Stuart played for Wellington and the team once again gained two All Blacks in Jarden and Fitzgerald against the visiting Australians, whilst Jarden and Fitzpatrick played for a New Zealand XV against New Zealand Maoris in the Governor-General’s match. Jarden and Fitzpatrick also played for the North Island, Jarden, Fitzgerald, Fitzpatrick, Clark, Hutchinson and Smith played for the New Zealand University team which overwhelmed Canterbury, and Fitzpatrick, Fitzgerald, Hutchinson, Smith, Clark and Stuart played for the North Island University team against the South. It was a grand year and one to be remembered. In all first-class matches Jarden scored 113 points. The Jubilee Cup was won handsomely to the delight of the Wellington rugby public.

The success story continued in 1953, with University again champions. The influence which the team’s dashing and open play had on Wellington Rugby was seen when the province won the Ranfurly Shield for the first time since 1930 in a match in which Jarden scored all 9 of Wellington’s points. R. A. Jarden, B. A. Battell, J. T. Fitzgerald, B. B. J. Fitzpatrick, P. C. Osborne, L. T. Savage, W. H. Clark, B. A. Nepia, D. M. McHaleck and I. E. Stuart played for Wellington, and Jarden, Battell, Savage, Osborne, Stuart and Clark for the New Zealand University. All these and D. M. McHaleck and B. A. Nepia played for the North Island University XV. A. J. Henley, who had been transferred from Wellington prior to the end of the season, played for South Island B. and Jarden, Clark and Fitzgerald for the North Island. In addition to these, Osborne played in the All Black trials, as did B. B. J. Fitzpatrick. The climax of the season was reached when Jarden, Fitzgerald, Fitzpatrick and Clark made the grand tour with the All Blacks to Great Britain, France, Canada and America, on which tour all performed exceedingly well. Jarden topping the points scorers for the All Blacks for the tour with 94 points, including 15 tries. He had previously topped the century in first class matches in New Zealand for the second year in succession. It was a great honour for the club to have such strong representation in an All Black touring team. This year the team, despite losses in personnel, is again performing well and thrilling the Park patrons with dashing football. The team has been slower to settle down but is still a strong and dashing combination. Against the Australian Universities team a grand win was recorded and P. C. Osborne, R. A. Jarden, J. T. Fitzgerald, I. E. Stuart (captain), W. H. Clark, D. O. Oliver and D. M. McHaleck played for New Zealand University in the tests against the touring Australians. Jarden, Clark, and Fitzgerald played for the North Island against the South. The success of the club in the past few years has been brought about by the keenness shown in all grades by the players and coaches.

The club lost a great enthusiast and worker when Mr. H. E. Moore, who coached the senior team for twelve years (including the championship winning side of 1946) and who was club captain for many years, was transferred to Otahuhu.

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The best wishes of the club go with him. Mention must also be made of the work of Messrs. R. B. Burke and K. F. M. Uttley, whose splendid and enthusiastic coaching of the senior fifteen has brought such good results in the last three seasons. The club sustained a great loss in the deaths of Sir Thomas Hunter, a legendary figure in the club in its earliest days and first captain of its senior team, and Sir Humphrey O'Leary, an early N.Z. University representative and captain. Sir Humphrey, with Sir Alexander Johnstone, donated a trophy for competition between V.U.C. and A.U.C., won for the first time last year by Auckland and this year by Victoria.

The Jubilee celebrations of the club held last year to coincide with the North v. South match were attended by many of the club's most famous names. They were remarkably successful and enjoyable and it was very pleasant for the older members of the club to meet friends of yesteryear who, although now somewhat short of wind, are as long on enthusiasm as ever. The fifty years of football at V.U.C. could not have been better celebrated.

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**Table Tennis Club**

Owing to the rapid growth of table tennis as a winter sport in Wellington secondary schools in the last half dozen years the Table Tennis Club has been greatly strengthened, both in numbers and in standard of play. This expansion of the game has only affected the club in the last two or three years but the influence will grow as the game grows in the schools. Up till 1952 the standard of play of the club had been very much the same every season. There were few players who had played table tennis extensively before they came to Victoria, and these few stood out from all the rest. Notable were J. B. Jones, H. Lampen-Smith and O. G. Collins, all of whom have now left the club. Jones, who won the N.Z. University singles and was influential in winning the table tennis section of the 1952 Winter Tournament for Victoria, was top man for Hawke's Bay in 1953.

In 1953 Victoria had her first A grade team for many years. The previous A grade team, which played in one season during the war, was a complete failure and was quickly cast out of A grade. The 1953 team performed creditably though not so well as expected, judging from the past performances of the players. The team consisted of R. A. R. Darroch, a Wellington representative in 1952 and ranked third in Wellington, A. D. Robinson, ranked seventh in Wellington and runner-up in the N.Z. junior singles to M. L. Dunn, D. R. Marple, an outstanding junior in 1952 and runner-up in the Wellington men's doubles with A. D. Robinson, and O. G. Collins, a promising player who had played B grade for several years. The first three have played A grade for Te Tapu, a one-team club, in the previous season. It was easy for them to change over and play for University. These played again in 1954. R. L. Davis, a semi-finalist in the N.Z. Men's Plate, replaced Collins, who was unable to play. So far the team has performed very well. With five matches played at time of writing the team has been unlucky to lose three games 7-5 but has won two convincingly 9-3.

An A grade team seems assured for the next few years in the influx of keen, proficient players from the secondary schools. But it can hardly win the A grade competition without the services of M. L. Dunn, the N.Z. international, who has clearly demonstrated by his overseas performances that he is in world class. At the moment, though he attends lectures, he plays interclub against University. No one can expect him to sever his links with the Trojan Club, which has done so much for him and for which he has played three years in A grade. It is now the club's policy to encourage very promising table tennis players in the secondary schools to have links with the University T.T. Club if they intend later to take lectures. If they have the time they can play interclub for Victoria.

It is very important for the table tennis club to have a strong A team for it is partly through the A grade teams in any sport that the public has any contact with the university. Strong teams are also an
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important factor in winning Winter Tournament. A strong A and B grade team improves the standard of a club, and in table tennis it is well known that the more a player improves the keener he becomes, and vice versa. The club has more opportunities of meeting a cross-section of the public than any other university club. If outside clubs play a team that is not keen on the game they gain a bad impression of students. That has been the case in past years when up to fourteen teams have been entered at the beginning of a season only to have to withdraw one or more teams from the competition and to default a number of matches. That has led to the Victoria College students having a bad name with the Wellington Table Tennis Association and with other clubs generally.

Relations with the public are now showing signs of improvement. There is a solid core of interest in the club which will be increased every year by keen players from the schools. The number of teams is limited by the number of the very keen, but even so there are 13 teams. This number is to some extent accounted for by the amalgamation at the beginning of 1954 with the Weir House Table Tennis Club. A situation full of anomalies has been replaced by a system more advantageous to both clubs.

The Table Tennis Club at Victoria, with 13 teams and well over a hundred members, is now by far the largest table tennis club in Wellington. Only five other clubs have over five teams.

From any point of view the Table Tennis Club seems to have a prosperous future ahead of it.

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**Music Society**

The first properly constituted Musical Society was formed in the College in 1930, and was soon joined by the Glee Club and (after the Carnegie Corporation's gift of a gramophone and record collection in 1936) a Gramophone Group. By 1939, the Glee Club was flourishing and already looked upon as a permanent institution in the College. The war years, however, disintegrated most of the good work, and when a Lectureship in Music was established in 1946, students were found to rely almost entirely on the canned offerings of the Gramophone Group. But under the enterprising guidance of Mr. Frederick Page (the Senior Lecturer in Music and himself an excellent pianist) this state of affairs was soon changed and a new Music Society formed in 1949.

Since that date, the Music Society, working in co-operation with the Music Department, has been able to sponsor a considerable number of "live" performances of no mean quality. It can safely be said that Room C6 has heard more regular performances of 20th century music than most other concert halls in New Zealand (a census of programmes since 1949 has revealed that 19th century works have been least often played).

Two factors have combined to prevent the society from flourishing as it could. These factors are space and finance. In the first place, the Music Room can hold only a very limited audience. The maximum was surely reached last year when 140 people came three wintry nights to hear Maurice Clare and Frederick Page present a series of sonata recitals of Bach, Beethoven and Bartok. But a limited audience means a limited budget. An auditorium to seat up to 500 people is urgently needed on the campus, and it is hoped that the proposed new Students' Union building will remedy this situation.

Until 1953, when a moderate grant was made, the society's finances had suffered from a general indifference displayed by past Students' Association executives to the needs of cultural clubs in the College. Sporting clubs were more vociferous and usually got what they wanted.

The society has had a representative for the past few years on the committee of the International Society for Contemporary Music. The I.S.C.M. has annually sponsored a concert in the Music Room, usually in December. The society has been fortunate in that many of its activities have centered around contemporary music, for in order to understand the music of the past the student should begin by making himself familiar with the music of his own times. In this respect, Victoria appears to be more vital than the other Colleges.
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Drama Club

The true place of drama in the university is a subject which involves much controversy. We are told that a university drama club should endeavour to stage plays which other societies do not attempt—the controversial, the experimental, the non-commercial, the classical. Although, unlike the professional theatre, we will not starve if no one comes to see us, somebody has to pay the bill and that somebody is the public. If nobody comes to see a play no matter how well produced or acted it may just as well stay between the pages of a book for no play can live on a stage without an audience.

To tread the narrow path between the economic bog of treating potential audiences with contempt and the slough of blatant commercialism has been the sincere wish of the Drama Club for the last five years and a review of that period shows that some degree of success was achieved in presenting worthwhile entertainment.

Nineteen forty-nine saw a return to the Concert Chamber to stage that year’s major production, after an absence of several years. The play was Goldsmith’s classic comedy “She Stoops to Conquer.” Ralph Hogg, himself an old club member, produced for us and the audiences enjoyed seeing the show as much as the club did doing it. Long to be remembered are Ray Melford’s expostulating of “Perish the baubles, your person is all I desire” to Margaret Loftus, the night the sound effect of the cow mooing in the garden scene came on treble volume to sound more like a railway train, and in the small part of Diggory, Terry Bayer appearing for the first time in Wellington.

The club was joined that year by Patricia Evison, a former member, on her return from the Old Vic. She produced Chekov’s “The Wedding” and introduced us to Christopher Fay, whose “Phoenix Too Frequent” she had just seen in London. Chris. Pottinger’s production of this delightful play first brought Fry to New Zealand audiences. Pat Evison also produced our winning entry in that year’s Tournament Drama—Thornton Wilder’s competition perennial “The Happy Journey from Trenton to Camden.”

Having worked on the play under Michele St. Denis at the Old Vic, Pat Evison infused us with enthusiasm to try Shakespeare’s “Coriolanus.” There were outstanding performances by Maureen Ross-Smith (Volumnia), John Macdonald (Menenius,) and Paul Treadwell (Coriolanus), but nineteen changes of scene were perhaps too many to attempt with realistic sets. The rehearsals were enlivened somewhat by the variety of interpretation which a certain member of the chorus managed to put into ‘He doth appear’. That he was struck down in the battle during one performance and removed to hospital was probably divine retribution. Later that year Paul Treadwell produced Sartre’s “Respectful Prostitute,” which featured Gerard Monaghan, Gweneth Carr and Tony Keeling. We entered a scene from Coriolanus in the British Drama League but the treatment it received from the judge was disheartening. Maureen Ross-Smith led us to success at Tournament with Thornton Wilder’s “Long Christmas Dinner”.

Maria Dronke, who has always been of great help to the club, produced “Lucrèce” (Obey-Wilder) in March 1950. The cast included Maureen Ross-Smith (as Chorus), Robin King (Lucrèce) and Terry Bayer (Tarquin), all of whom were to receive Government drama bursaries and travel to England to study. Next that year came Paul Treadwell’s production of Jean Cocteau’s “The Typewriter”. Tournament that year was in Dunedin and perhaps they could not overcome their jealousy at the impeccable Scottish accents of we sassenachs in James Bridie’s “Amazed Evangelist”, but it did not go across as it did when we staged it for the British Drama League when we returned.

The minutes of the final meeting for 1951 of the club’s committee contained the following: Moved Stent, seconded Treadwell, “that glancing back over the club’s year so far, ‘The Rivals’ had better be good.” And it was. Once again under Ralph Hogg this was another happy production. Outstunding were Paul Treadwell (Acres), Anne Flannery (Lydia Lanquist), Elizabeth Oliver (Mrs. Malprop), Gavin Yates (Absolute) and Meredith Paterson (Julia) to name only a few. Shaw’s “Poison, Passion and Petrification”
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CLUB NOTES

was our entry in Tournament that year. When the person playing the doctor arrived on stage wearing an Otago scarf the house was brought down but the judge (Ngaio Marsh) was not so impressed.

The Concert Chamber did not house major production in 1953. The first show that year was in the Little Theatre—converted into a West German D.P. camp for Bridget Boland's "Cockpit". This was not only a worthwhile play, it attracted large and appreciative audiences. Brian Brimer stepped in to produce at very short notice.

A second three-act play was staged later in the year in the Little Theatre by Elsie Lloyd. The play was Emlyn Williams' story of Shakespeare's Theatre, "Spring 1600". Notable in her cast were Gavin Yates, Rosemary Lovegrove and Bernadette Canty. We recaptured Tournament Drama with a macabre grand Guignol farce "To Hell With You". Largely responsible for the victory was Bernadette Canty's performance which had the judge raving. One act plays produced that year included John Wright's staging of Tennessee William's "27 Wagon's Full of Cotton".

The 1954 season began with Sam Spewack's "Under The Sycamore Tree," produced by Mrs. Neda Martin. Perhaps the thin texture of the play required a greater display of technique than we were able to offer, but nevertheless audiences were pleased.

Naturally, those whose names appear most often in a survey of our activities are those who were seen most often but behind them were many who never enjoyed the applause of audiences. Backstage Al Wilson, John Wright, Graham Patchett, Gavin Andrews and the ever-present, indispensable Huddy Williamson have been towers of strength. Anthony Treadwell designed many sets for us. Daphne Fletcher juggled the club's books for many years and has now handed over to Bruce Hill. Driving force behind the club has been Paul Treadwell, whose name has been mentioned already, but he performed so much of the spade-work necessary for the running of the club. Successive club secretaries, Tony Keessing, Ian Free and Gavin Yates, have worked willingly. Audrey Cook was always there to take on thankless tasks such as prompt and wardrobe. President of the club for four years was Bill Sheat, whose tenacious occupancy of the office at least provided the club with a certain amount of continuity.

The last five years of the Drama Club have been something of which all those responsible might well be proud. We hope that the next five years will be even better.

BIOLOGICAL

Biological Society

For many years it had been the dream of the late Professor H. B. Kirk to form a Natural History Society in this College, but it was not until 14th April, 1933, when the inaugural general meeting was called, that his dream was turned into a reality. It was decided that the society should be known as the Natural History Branch of the Science Society. Inspired by Professor Kirk's enthusiastic and untiring interest in all the activities of the club the committee successfully arranged lectures and field excursions. Within two years it was considered that the aims and activities of the society were sufficiently distinct from those of other societies and clubs in the College to warrant its recognition by the Students' Association as an affiliated society. At a special general meeting held on the 14th April, 1935, a constitution was adopted. This was approved by the Students' Association and on the 26th May the society was granted affiliation. At this stage the aims of the society were to encourage the interest of students in field work in Botany, Geology and Zoology. In April, 1938, the present name of the society was adopted and activities since then have been mainly concerned with the biological aspects of science.

Each year five or six lectures have been delivered at evening meetings. An endeavour has been made to arrange for lectures which though of a scientific nature are fully comprehensible to the large body of students interested in Zoology and Botany but who have not the specialised knowledge to enable them to follow lectures of narrow
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scope and much learning. The usual attendance of fifty or more students at each lecture has indicated that this object has been fully achieved. Space will not permit of an extensive review of the excellent addresses delivered to the society in past years but it will suffice to say that the subjects chosen are topical and often of a controversial nature thus stimulating lively discussion. Usually about four field trips and visits to research stations are made each year and all manner of treasures in the way of specimens are triumphantly carried home for further study. In 1946 a special committee was set up to promote a trip abroad. In the following year a party led by Miss P. Ralph realised their ambition and departed from New Zealand in January for a tour of Canada and the U.S.A.

In 1942 a fourteen page cyclostyled paper, *Tuatara*, consisting of a summary of the year's activities was compiled. The magazine was printed in this fashion for several years but the end of 1947 the reputation and circulation of *Tuatara* had soared to such heights that its publication as a periodical was warranted. Scientific papers are now published in *Tuatara* and it is considered a very valuable support to the society and a worthwhile contribution to biology. A copy of each volume is presented to the Department of Printed Books of the British Museum.

A recent and most popular addition to the activities of the society is the showing of films during lunch-hours and in the evenings. The midday screenings in particular have proved to be a great success, one hundred or more students attending in many cases.

Two competitions are held each year and prizes are presented for the best entries. There is a dissecting competition for stage one Zoology students and a herbarium competition for stage one Botany students. We are indebted to Professors Richardson and Gordon for the organisation and judging of entries.

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**Debating Society**

This, the oldest established of the College's clubs, has continued to maintain a regular programme of activities and, if the standard of debate has at times been rather uneven, the club has held the support of the more forensically minded student. There can be no doubt that a debating society, if it is to flourish to the maximum degree, requires a climate that nurtures the hot breath of controversy; the immediate post-war years provided such a climate. It is doubtful whether the enthusiasm of the years 1946-1948; that brief flirtation period when it began to be thought, even in high places, that idealism and political expediency might yet be mated; that time of ferment, and of discussion, which crystallized out of the intermingling of wartime experience and the desire to seek intellectual explanations.

So in a sense, the years that followed seemed something of an anti-climax. Where it had been the usual Friday "full house" in the lower gym, the society found itself, in mid-1949, cancelling debates for lack of an audience. But the decline was not for long, and a slow revival has resulted in the society's position today being a very healthy one. This may be attributed to two factors: the consistent loyalty of its committee members and the arrival at the College of a 'new generation' of debaters, who, while perhaps lacking the ruggedness of their immediate predecessors, brought to the society a polished style which had wide appeal.

Perhaps the major feature of the period under review was the Jubilee Dinner of the society which was held at the Midland Hotel in conjunction with the celebrations of the Jubilee of the College in mid-1949. The function was very well attended, and as was to be expected, the company was a distinguished one. The occasion was made the more memorable by the presence at the official table of Mrs. Annie Down, the first president of the society; it is with regret that I have to record here her death in May 1954.

The society competed more successfully in the realms of international debating than it did in the competitions with its fellow constituent colleges. A team from the society comprising Messrs. B. M.
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O'Connor, M. J. O’Brien and J. D. Milburn were successful in defeating a touring Australian Universities team in 1949; and a team comprising Mr. J. D. Milburn and Mr. F. L. Curtin defeated a United States Universities team in 1952. But despite our every effort, the Joynt Scroll has eluded us—it is now eleven years since the emblem of inter-college debating supremacy rested at V.U.C.

Successive committees have sought to add variety to the society’s programme and recent years have seen the revival of some former contests: the Staff-Student Debate was resumed in 1950 and has since proved an annual feature of our programme; the annual Visitors’ Debate which traditionally took the form of a debate on a motion of no-confidence in the government of the day, was revived in 1953. and the Interfaculty Debate has been held for the last two years.

Prizewinners and representatives of the society from 1949-1954:

**Plunket Medal Winners**
1949: H. J. Benda.
1950: M. F. McIntyre.
1951: F. L. Curtin.
1952: C. V. Bollinger.
1953: D. R. Mummary.
1954: ——.

**Union Prize Winners**
1949: J. D. Milburn, B. L. Talboys.
1951: F. L. Curtin.
1952: D. Foy.
1954: ——.

**Joynt Scroll Representatives**

Presidents of the Society, 1949-1954:
1949, B. M. O’Connor; 1950, J. D. Milburn; 1951, J. D. Milburn; 1952, F. L. Curtin; 1953, C. V. Bollinger; 1954, Miss M. O’Reilly.

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**Ski Club**

The Ski Club was formed in 1947 by a group of Tramping Club members headed by the late Malcolm Mace and Jean Priest who were the first president and secretary respectively. It was felt that the Tramping Club was unable to cater for the skiers, as separate trips to Ruapehu and other skiing grounds added too much to an already heavy programme. A constitution of a new club was consequently drawn up and a grant applied for. The Ski Club is now completely independent and has developed vigorously thanks to a series of enthusiastic and hard-working committees.

A year’s programme is always a full one. There are on the average two long trips to Ruapehu, one at least being during the August holidays. There are, in addition, three or four weekend trips to Ruapehu catering for about twenty students at a time. The club supplies its members with skis, while boots, etc., can be obtained at the mountain. Transport is usually in the form of a sleeper truck specially built to allow for all-night travelling. In addition to trips, films on skiing are shown throughout the year and an occasional dance or social evening is held. Periods of ski instruction have also been arranged from time to time.

The huts used for Ski Club trips have belonged to other clubs such as the Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Manawatu Ski Club, and the Auckland Tramping Club. The V.U.C. Ski Club last year felt that it should have a hut of its own. Tentative plans were drawn up by Messrs. Close and O’Shea and the executive was approached for a subsidy which it is hoped will be obtained on the pound for pound basis. With the cost estimated at £1,000 direct donations were asked for and a barometer was put up on the notice board. A dance and other activities were held and the total amount of money raised now is £230. Much money is yet to be raised and this year a raffle is to be run, a film is to be shown and further money-raising plans are to be arranged. And, of course, the club still welcomes direct donations.
The ski hut is essential to the club, because unless a start is made soon the club will find itself unable to run any trip due to lack of accommodation. This state of affairs already exists to some extent, and will be accentuated with the building of the new chair at Ruapehu.

The tentative plan for the new hut provides a comfortable shelter for skiers and any other types for that matter. The structure is rectangular in shape to reduce complications in building and cost. The interior is divided into two parts, a living room and a covered way comprising drying rooms, equipment room and washrooms. It is felt that communal eating and sleeping is preferable to separate bunk rooms, for a common room is warmer and more sociable, especially when the occupants have the same interests and are of the same age that varsity students usually are.

Of course everything cannot be finished at once, but it is essential to have the living-room complete and the main shell of the covered way complete. Numerous partitions, cupboards and so on may be left out for a while and lockers, work-benches, etc., can come later. Six hundred and sixty pounds would build this shell, giving complete shelter from the weather, but such money is not easy to come by. In order to arouse interest in the hut campaign a news bulletin is published periodically giving progress reports, coming events, etc.

Although the club would be the primary user, other clubs, both sporting and cultural, would benefit from the construction of a hut on Ruapehu. Hence it is suggested the hut be a "Victoria University College" hut. Working parties will begin in the Christmas holidays: this is a crucial period in the V.U.C. Ski Club's history.

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