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THE SPIKE

- - OR - -

Victoria College Review.

(PUBLISHED TWICE IN THE SESSION)

The Editorial Committee invites contributions, either in prose or verse, on any subject of general interest, from students or officials connected with the College. All literary communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, Victoria College, Wellington.

Subscriptions are now due, and are payable to Mr. E. S. Rutherford, Financial Secretary, Victoria College.

Vol. VIII.

No. 2.



"The pity of it is that statements written of the great Universities thirty years ago, apply so nearly to them to-day."

—Professor Percy Gardner
in "Oxford at the Cross-Roads."

THE point most emphasised by the students' representative at the Capping Ceremony was the need for a closer relationship between the people and the University. It is an ideal to be aimed at that the University should be regarded more as a civic institution and not as a stranger within our gates. An increase in the interest shown by the public, means greater encouragement for all connected with the University and University work. The influence of the University trained man is undoubtedly in the right direction, and the aim of the University should more and more be in the direction of producing men fitted to take their place in, and if needs be, to lead public life. At the present time however, the University is not designed for this end. It is difficult indeed to pass through the University without a broadening of thought and outlook; but the system by which this is achieved savours too much of compulsion; the average student is not

inspired with a tremendous love of learning by the fact that an examination is the key to his success.

Even with its drawbacks, however, the present system does and must do good work. But this should not be sufficient: the Senate must see to it that the University, which is daily being opened to a great number of students, provides an education which will be at the same time liberal and utilitarian. The public wish to learn the shortest way to wealth, and the University Senate offers them Greek and Latin. We do not suggest that the Senate should adopt the public ideal, but we do suggest that there is a middle course between the two extremes. The University system needs popularising. If the public do not flock to the University, the University must be prepared to come down from its eminence and meet them, and attract them to itself. The University house needs putting in order, before the people will regard it as a suitable permanent habitation.

But when setting out on any reform of our present system, there must be borne in mind the fact that a raising of the present standard must always be aimed at. It should, we think, be the aim of the University system to give to every man an education that will help him in his professional career, in whatever direction that may lie; an education that will place his profession above the level of mere rule of thumb; that even though it does not, as indeed no education could, give him a complete knowledge of his profession, will at least show him the broad principles on which it is founded, and teach him to apply to the practical uses of every-day life the theories of the scientist and the philosopher.

A recent newspaper agitation advocating University extension lectures, although it very soon sought and found the oblivion that awaits all newspaper agitations, served some purpose in calling attention to the lack of the utilitarian in our present system. The would-be journalist, to take a typical example, sees in our University system of to-day, no defined course upon which he would readily enter. It is true that he could well pick and choose subjects which would benefit him, but there is not in his and many other cases, any course designed for him, and he is therefore satisfied to toil on and learn from a ten years' experience, what a University education should teach him in three. It is the same with many other professions; even some which are provided for, are but ill provided for. There is a degree of Agriculture which no one

as yet has attempted to gain; it is commonly said that the course is too difficult when judged by the value of the end achieved. There is also a Bachelor of Commerce degree which in Wellington itself attracts not half a dozen students and which is held in profound contempt by almost every accountant. As to whether this is justified we are not qualified to speak, but we feel sure that the time will come when a merchant will value the clerk with a University training higher than one who has not taken advantage of the commercial course which the University offers. In America this is so to-day; if a man has natural ability, then his ability will be improved and directed along a right channel by a University training; if he is lacking in outstanding ability, then the systematic training which a University course gives, will stand him in good stead. This is the point of view of the modern American; if our Senate is alive to its responsibilities, it may soon be the view-point of the New Zealander.

But so much depends on our University Senate. It is remarkable that the educational governing bodies should so often be composed of gentlemen whose views were fashionable yesterday and for the most part lost their utility long since. If it is impossible for the University Senate to move before, or even with the times—and so it seems—that body should at least sufficiently arouse itself from its state of coma, to follow at a respectably close interval upon the heels of modern thought. It is a standing tribute to the strength of human character, but reflects little credit on the educational system, that such a radical thinker as John Ruskin should have been the product of a University training of fifty years ago, or that an educationalist holding the advanced views of A. C. Benson should have outlived the downward levelling influence of a classical training of to-day.

* * * * *

But in the meantime, the University is undoubtedly doing much good in our midst. While our present system is far removed from perfection, yet it does for the time being fill a want in the community. It is handicapped in more ways than one. Here in Victoria College we are sadly cramped. It is hard for the idealist, the dreamer, to realise that his University education depends for its being on pounds, shillings and pence. But such is the case. The growth of Victoria College as an institution has been abnormal; so much so that the building has long since ceased to provide accommodation sufficient for our needs. Some few months ago it was determined to attempt to raise funds to provide the College's most pressing need. The

Government very generously promised a subsidy of two pounds for every pound collected up to a thousand, so that a thousand pounds given by the public means three times that amount for the intended purpose. The first statement published is indeed promising. A sum of over four hundred pounds has already been subscribed. It is to be hoped that the public of the Middle University District will show beyond all doubt that, despite its frequency, it is an unjust accusation to assert that we have no pride in our public institutions and no interest in our educational advancement.

* * * * *

It gives us much pleasure to welcome to our midst Professor T. H. Laby who arrived at the commencement of this term to undertake the duties appurtenant to the Chair of Physics. His path at present is a difficult one—the aforementioned lack of funds is a serious obstacle to the provision of the apparatus necessary for the proper teaching of his branch of study—but other Professors have met with the same difficulty and it has been overcome. We feel sure that his difficulty will disappear likewise.

Our Social Life.



A Plea for Better Understanding.

"The Social life of the University is most essential. It gives a sort of unity, a unity of impression to University life which I think nothing else does or scarcely anything else, and I certainly would say of my University of Oxford and with all respect to my pastors and masters and tutors and governors—most of them long since gone—far more, in one way, more valuable influence in that life than the lectures and verse-making and prose-making, were the walks and talks which we had with one another, about the same age with the same ambitions, the same hopes, and the same common ends. In it all there was a stimulation in that communion yes, almost more valuable—than the direct stimulation of the actual teaching."

—Lord Morley at Manchester University.

The cultivation of the Social side of University life in New Zealand is a subject of vital importance to students. In cold criticism it has been said, that as there is practically no residential life in connection with our Colleges, there is almost an entire absense of any definite form of social life; from the point of view of what social life in its ideal form should be, this broad statement seems justified. The supporters of the present system claim in reply that social life in our Colleges is sufficiently encouraged by student functions; but the reply serves only to justify the statement. Such functions are subsidiary means that reach but half way to the desired end. The majority of students at Victoria College live the greater part of their lives beyond the precincts of the College and the benefit derived from their stay there is in the main scholastic

It is possible to pass through a College course and be acquainted with but few of those who take lectures with you and to know none. At intervals the Students' Association and various College Clubs attempt to bring students together, but the result, notwithstanding contrary popular opinion, does not achieve its purpose. One fourth of those on the College roll attend these functions and it is ever the same fourth. The majority of students are not reached at all. The Professorial Board views with misgiving the increase in the number of these functions and threatens to limit the number; should such a threat be carried out, no wrong will be done. At the risk of being unorthodox, it is submitted that we will never cultivate social life by student functions alone. The number of College students is large—nearly five hundred—and it seems inevitable

that the time will come when the students will be split into groups according to their sympathies and faculties. This is to be deprecated and the remedy lies with students themselves.

We as students are not given the opportunity, though we desire it, of meeting our fellow-students in a companionable way, on a common basis of friendly converse and intercourse. We are for the most part strangers to one another and know those only with whom we are thrown in direct contact. The remainder we know not—those whom we are prone to judge and too often to misjudge. To many who have been fortunate enough to attend University tournaments, firmer friendships have been made in a few days on those journeys where there is complete social unity, and where all have the same end in view—the welfare of Victoria College—than have been made in a College career.

The advantages and benefits accruing from such mutual contact are obvious. The talks and discussions on matters of common interest, the comparison of ambitions of hopes and aspirations, and the unfolding of ideals from different viewpoints must inevitably help a student to a broader understanding of his fellow men. There can be no doubt as to the value of the influence.

The field for the encouragement of greater unity amongst students is at Victoria College a large one. The Students' Association cannot be expected to undertake the work; it has its hands full already. The opportunity lies with the Common Room Clubs (there is no Women's Common Room Club but surely there is room for one). We have a social room in the gymnasium which if the Common Room Club does its work faithfully, should be a Common Room in the truest sense—a place where students may repair between and after lectures, and give of their best to one another. It is a Club that not a few students but every student at Victoria College—if he is to gain all that a University College ought to give—should join. The advantages are manifold; they cannot be written in a few words.

The happiest and most cherished recollections of three years sojourn at a sister College where there existed a Common Room life, are linked with the hours spent with many others in mutual korero. The College roll was small but amongst the students were two South Sea Islanders, a Maori and a Queenslander, and there were our own New Zealanders of varied types. It was good to talk with the Maori and hear his

expression of hope for the amelioration of the condition of his native race; the misunderstood man 'raise some great truth' and tell of practical charity; the legal man in earnest discussion with the scientific; and the blind student contented with his lot, who "taught us how to live." In three short years how great the change—one on the Cape to Cairo Railway, two at Oxford—one who went to Cambridge but is now bush-felling on a back country station in New Zealand—a good fellow withal and who will yet redeem himself—and one of the happiest of them all and the greatest sufferer alas! has passed beyond our ken. To have known them, companions who were truly such, was in itself an education. It was something to be grateful for.

May the opportunity be given at Victoria College.



"Weed your better judgments
Of all opinions that grow rank in them."

— *As You Like It.*

THE Capping Ceremony of 1909 was held in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, on Thursday, 24th June.

The hall was filled, students in the gallery and the friends of the College on the floor of the Hall.

On the whole the proceedings were far from orderly, some of the students behaving in such a way as to completely alienate public sympathy. No one, we think, can object to witty interjections during speeches or even to undergraduate expressions of hilarity when they do not in any way interfere with the proceedings. But noisy, pointless interjections, which prevent any of the speeches being heard, exhibit, to say the least of it, extremely bad taste.

The Hon. C. C. Bowen was the first to attempt to speak. It was at least expected that he would receive a patient hearing; but even less respect was shown for him than was shown by his interrupters for themselves. Even though he were not given credit for what he has done to further the interest of University education in New Zealand, it would have at least been good manners to have shown him the respect due to a gentleman of his years. To Professor Picken too, as representative of the Professorial Board, there was due some respect. And his speech so well worth the hearing, was wasted, not only on the students, but unfortunately upon the public as well. The treatment of these speakers was not consistent with that meted out to the students' representative, J. F. Thompson, who received an attentive hearing. His plea for greater public interest in Victoria College seemed in no way justified by the afternoon's proceedings.

But a feature of the proceedings even more regrettable was the fact that the Graduates of the year were hardly even recognised. The ceremony is essentially in their honour, but this year we failed signally to give them the reception to which their years of successful work had so fully entitled them. They had earned honour, not only for themselves, but for Victoria College.

The whole ceremony is the one occasion when the University in its official capacity, comes into contact with the public. It is unfortunate that the teachings of the University should on this occasion be prejudiced in the eyes of the public by the actions of a small band of irresponsible students.

During the proceedings the students' representative, on behalf of the students, presented Mr Allan McDougall, Rhodes Scholar for 1909, with a purse of sovereigns. The recipient who was given a rousing reception when coming forward to respond, spoke feelingly of his happy years spent at Victoria College.

THE CARNIVAL.

The Capping Carnival which was held in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, on the evening of the 24th of June, was from some points of view, one of the most successful that has yet been held.

The Glee Club did not sing about "Sylvia," but "Full Fathom Five" and "The Watchword" were much appreciated. Solos were given by Miss Newman and J. D. Smith. The Sobbing Quartette (Misses Duigan and Fell and Messrs Bogle and Anderson) made a very melancholy and pitiful appearance which did not however, detract from the pleasure with which they were received. The Capping Songs were well conducted by S. J. Anderson, whilst Miss Clachan played the accompaniments. Both deserve much praise for the manner in which they performed their thankless tasks.

The second part of the programme consisted of a "Classic Sketch" entitled "Shackelton Out-Shacked." The work was the result of a collaboration among A. H. Bogle, D. N. Isaacs, G. M. Hogben and J. M. Hogben.

From the point of view of the audience the performance was much more successful than any that had been previously presented at a Victoria College Capping Carnival. The jokes and the plot were of such a nature as to be "understood of the people." Professor H. K. Birk, having heard of Lieutenant Shackelton, determines to emulate the exploits of that celebrated explorer. He sets out for the South Pole, taking with him such well-known characters as J. S. Krook, Nry Bodley, Rat O'Pegan, Captain Jones and Joe Carter. Much of the interest of the drama centred round the mishaps of the marvellous motor car, appropriately called "The Yellow Peril."

L. P. Leary had made a special study of Professor H. K. Birk and acted his part well. G. M. Hogben as J. S. Krook and D. N. Isaacs as Captain Jones, were very successful in the performance of their parts. The star of the evening was, however, C. Gamble. Many thought that Gamble was safely at home in bed and that Joe Carter was himself actually on the stage.

During the performance of the last act Misses Fell, D. Isaacs and Newman, in the characters of spirits of the ice and snow, sang a very charming song and performed some very graceful actions. The whole scene, though just inclined to seem drawn out, was a pleasing relief to the boisterousness of the farce.

THE SUPPER.

This year an innovation was made with regard to the supper in honor of the graduates. The Graduates' Association joined with the Students' Association and invited the graduates to a supper, from which undergraduates were excluded. The result was most successful. The proceedings were marked by a dignity which did not characterise them in previous years. It is to be hoped that a like course will be pursued on similar occasions in the future.

THE DANCE.

After the second night of the Carnival there was a dance.

The Sorrows of "Worker."



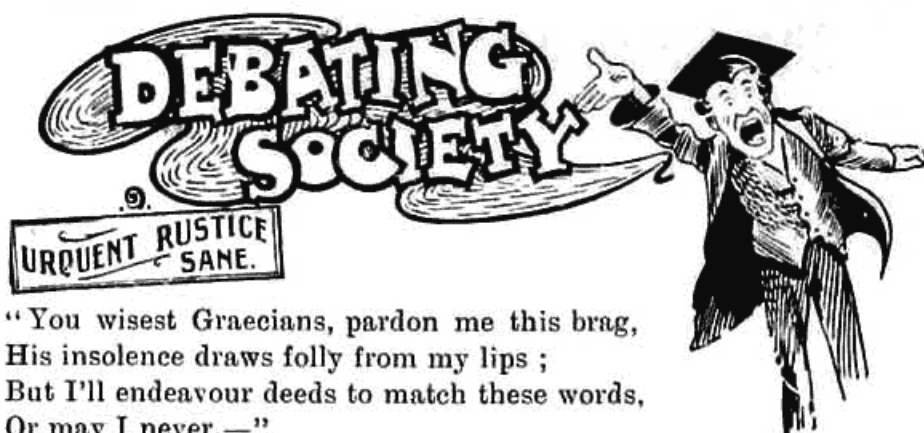
On being faced with an examination in "Elementary Mathematics."



To try or not to try, or beg the question?
 Ah, is it nobler in the mind to struggle
 With sines and cosines of outrageous fancy,
 Or to take arms against a sleeping Senate
 And sternly strive to wake them? Oh to sleep
 At last, and by a sleep to say we end
 Infinite heartache, geometric shocks,
 All ills the surd is heir to. Nay for them
 Nodding at last over an ill-done sum,
 Our fatal fancy hurries us to dream
 Of undiscovered countries, at whose bourn
 Meet parallels, and end infinities;
 Where twenty-three dimensions complicate
 And bid us wake t' endure the ills we have
 As long as may be. Who is there can bear
 The toilsome angles varying endlessly
 That make geometry of so long life?
 And who would waste his priceless hours of youth
 To feel at last th' examiner's contempt,
 The pang of wasted leisure, and the spurn
 That sad incompetence must ever gain,
 When that same Senate might quietus make
 With a bare pen-stroke? Ah for still to fail
 Time and again, makes cowards of us all,
 And years thus wasted in the quest of pelf
 Will leave us soon, as Shakspeare somewhere mentions,
 Sans brains, sans bread, sans butter, and sans hope.

—WORKER.

NOTE:—We understand that "sand soap" is a gritty substance developed in place of brains by would-be mathematicians after the third failure.—[ED. SPIKE].



"You wisest Graecians, pardon me this brag,
His insolence draws folly from my lips ;
But I'll endeavour deeds to match these words,
Or may I never.—"

—*Troilus and Cressida.*

THE work of the Society still continues to be attended with success, though the speaker of the second term has not addressed audiences quite so large as those who waited on him in the first, but he has been able easier to catch the wandering eye of the Chairman. The walls of Victoria College will now no more dam back a flood of rhetoric, but it has been left with all the windy draughts that were wont to congregate there, for the Social Hall of the new Gymnasium. Here many new voices have heard their echoes for the first time, but its fire baptism is not yet completed; for we are not able to place on record that any lady member has spoken in the new hall.

The Society began with the success of last year in the Union Tournament. In the first round Victoria College was represented by A. Fair, W. J. McEldowney and J. Mason, and proved victorious. In the second round the Society drew a bye. In the third round J. W. Ross replaced J. Mason, but the College team met defeat in this semi-final. The Committee, in selecting the representatives of the Society, had regard to the desirability not only of winning the Union Tournament, but also of giving promising speakers a wider experience; the ultimate aim of such tournaments and competitions it is considered, is to keep a certain Joynt Challenge Scroll within Victoria College, until not another inscription can be engraved upon it.

The first debate in the vacation took place on July 3rd, when Allan Macdougall, supported by J. W. Ross moved, "That the Celtic element in our poetical literature is of greater value than the Teutonic." The opposers were C. H. Taylor and H. D. Skinner. Several new speakers were in evidence in this debate; H. Wild in particular, made a good initial effort, while

J. Ogg showed his versatility by taking pride of place with a vigorous speech—which was not humorous. The subject evidently had charms for the lady members, two speaking to the motion; Miss N. Coad well deserving her position in the Judge's award. According to the Judge there was but one who really understood his subject, and that might account for the hesitation of the meeting, when by only one vote—14 to 13—it decided that the Celtic element was not the greater value. Mr J. W. Joynt, M.A., placed the first five speakers as follows:—J. Ogg, C. H. Taylor, J. W. Ross, Miss Coad and H. D. Skinner. A. Macdougall did not compete, which was a consideration of importance to those accumulating points for the Union Prize.

Considerations of time and space, or to be more precise, "Shackleton Out-Shacked" crowded out the "irregular" debate, and the opportunity given the humorous later, served but to prove, that humour, like art, cannot be forced—at least not at short notice.

On July 31st the Society met for the first time in the Social Hall of the new Gymnasium building. This was the occasion of the Presidential address, and Prof. Adamson chose for his subject "Some Hints on Public Speaking." "The purpose of a college training," he said, "was to teach men to think; that of a Debating Society, to teach them to think on their feet."

Great importance was to be placed upon style in the delivery of a speech. This should be cultivated by studying the rhetoric devices of such men as Demosthenes, Cicero, Curran, Pitt, or Gladstone, parts of whose orations might well be committed to memory.

The Professor illustrated the various points brought forward, by reference to his own experience as a barrister, as well as to the speeches of several noted orators, and concluded with a quotation from Mark Antony:—

"I tell you that which you yourselves do know,
Show you sweet Caesar's wounds,—poor, poor, dumb mouths,
And bid them speak for me."

The hour being still early compared to that at which debaters—and others—usually exhaust their founts of eloquence, the Chairman called on several members to deliver impromptu speeches on subjects set up by the audience. The proceedings were lively and amusing, but were not marked by quite the usual eagerness to catch the Chairman's eye.

On August 14th the motion for debate was "That New Zealand should adopt a system of compulsory military training."

The movers were L. Short and J. Hogben, and the opposers J. Mason and C. H. Taylor. The debate was more than usually keen and opinion was very evenly divided among the speakers, nine being in favour of the motion while nine opposed it. The arguments brought forward were, on the whole, to the point, though there seemed to be considerable difference of opinion amongst the supporters as to the exact utility of the course of training suggested. Mr A. L. Herdman, M.P., who acted as judge, placed the five best speakers in the following order:—R. Girling-Butcher, J. Hogben, L. Short, M. H. Oram and C. H. Taylor. He afterwards gave some very sound advice on speaking in public, and paid the Society the somewhat doubtful compliment of saying that some of its members are as good speakers as some of the country representatives in Parliament.

The eighth debate of the session—the 116th meeting of the Society, to use the language of the minute book—was held on September 4th. A. D. Brodie, seconded by H. A. Wild, moved “That Washington was greater as a patriot than Garibaldi.” J. M. Hogben and M. H. Oram opposed. Both patriots were duly praised, and when that gave little promise the movers and opposers fell back on some interesting technical defences. The movers endeavoured to prove an alibi—Cavour was the man. This the opposers denied, but held that Washington was not a patriot at all, within the meaning of the term. Oram endeavoured to prove his case *more geometrico* with his own truthfulness as his major premise—which, surely required separate proof. However the audience was inclined to look with favour on this argument and to accept the sophistries of one who dealt only with “patriotism in the abstract,” when it decided in favour of Garibaldi by ten votes to four. Mr C. Wilson judged the debate and placed the five best speakers in the following order:—R. Girling-Butcher, A. D. Brodie, J. M. Hogben, R. Kennedy and E. S. Rutherford.

The last debate of the season was held on September 25th, the motion being, “That the state is not justified in entering into competition with legitimate private enterprise.” Mr. E. S. Rutherford seconded by Mr. A. J. Luke led on the supporters; Mr. R. Girling-Butcher seconded by Mr. C. A. L. Treadwell appeared to oppose. Incidentally the Government was attacked, Mill quoted and the Crown Suits Act, fully explained with decided cases and judicial dicta. The debate was a good one, with just a little levity to relieve solidity. Mr. Webb, who acted as judge arranged the five best speakers in the following order:—M. H. Oram, R. Girling-Butcher, E. S. Rutherford, G. W. Morice and A. J. Luke.

The recipients of the Society's honours were : J. M. Hogben, who won the Union Prize with $17\frac{1}{2}$ points in six debates, and J. Ogg who was awarded the New Speakers' Prize. M. H. Oram was *proxime accessit* in the Union Prize Competition with 15 points in 6 debates.

PLUNKET MEDAL COMPETITION.

"What is Hecuba to him or he to Hecuba,
That he should weep for her?"

For the fifth successive year a delighted audience listened, spell-bound to the brilliant rhetorical outbursts of our orators and to a recital of the deeds of such a catalogue of heroes as would have gladdened the heart of old Homer himself. The speeches, though some, as Dr. Newman remarked, were reminiscent of the midnight oil, were all of a high order of excellence. The standard of previous years was creditably maintained and altogether the performance reflects great credit upon the work which is being done by the College Debating Society.

R. Girling-Butcher led off, taking as his subject Horatio Nelson. His manner and diction are graceful, but his voice wants volume, and there was a lack of enthusiasm in his speech which prevented him from carrying his audience with him and left a sense of vagueness and incompleteness behind.

W. J. McEldowney followed on Oliver Cromwell. After an introductory tirade, aimed apparently at the House of Lords and "that mighty, but less venerable oppressor Capitalism," McEldowney warmed to his subject and delivered a splendid speech. In enthusiasm for his hero he was second to none. He had taken a great subject and treated it in an adequate manner, showing a wide and comprehensive knowledge of the circumstances of the time and a capacity for transcending the mere facts themselves and grasping their essential significance. This was undoubtedly one of the finest speeches of the evening and well worthy of the distinction it won.

J. M. Hogben enlightened the ignorance of the audience as to the merits of a somewhat unknown individual—Toussaint L'Ouverture, the liberator of Hayti—and remonstrated in good set terms with those misguided persons who refuse to credit the negro with genius. Hogben presented perhaps the best example of enunciation—he has a fine delivery and an excellent command of language—but his effect is somewhat marred by a tone of expostulation, as though he were expecting every statement he made to be contradicted.

Once again our old friend Napoleon was dissected for our edification, this time by J. Ogg, who excelled himself in the

subtle distinction that Napoleon "was not bloodthirsty, but did not spare blood." He took the somewhat incomprehensible course of dwelling at much greater length on the weakness than on the greatness of his subject and left a feeling of doubt as to whether he really regarded Napoleon as a hero at all, and not merely as a more than ordinarily great sinner. His speech was undoubtedly well thought out and diligently prepared, but the reputation he has acquired as a humourist stood him in bad stead and his most sublime flights of rhetoric, his most magnificent array of polysyllables, were inclined to be received with unbecoming hilarity.

M. H. Oram in his well-known dramatic style brought his hearers to the verge of tears as he described the messengers of death bearing the news of Lincoln's assassination north, south and west, over the continent of America; while J. W. Ross, in slow and measured tones and carefully chosen language, recounted the doughty deeds of the House of Gordon and the glorious martyr—hero of Khartoum. One could not help regretting that Ross was not allowed more time to give a fuller exposition of his subject.

In following Drake through the trackless forests of the New World and over the pathless waves of the Pacific, R. Kennedy gave full rein to his imagination and displayed a vein of poetic fancy that his friends had not given him credit for.

With his speech on David Livingstone, G. W. Morice carried off first honours of the evening. His dramatic narration of the death of the great explorer in the lonely wilds of Central Africa, was the finest effort of the competition and was listened to in absolutely breathless silence, while his appreciation of the effect of Livingstone's work in the development of Africa was a fitting conclusion to a great speech. We congratulate Morice heartily on a well-deserved success and give expression to a hope that he may appear more frequently at the ordinary debates and no longer hide his light under a bushel.

The voting resulted as follows:—

(1).	G. W. Morice	...	82
(2).	W. J. McEldowney	...	80
(3).	M. H. Oram	...	52

The medal was presented to the successful contestant by the Hon. Mr Buddo in the absence of His Excellency the Governor. The Mayor, Dr. Newman, presented some pertinent remarks in humorous guise, and Professor Adamson drew attention to the cold treatment which the brick walls of Salamanca Hill received from an apathetic public.

A successful feature of the evening was the songs and glees rendered by the Glee Club during the interval.

ROBERT KENNEDY,

HON. SEC. V.C. DEBATING SOCIETY.

WOMEN STUDENTS' DEBATING SOCIETY.

On August 14th the Women Students' Debating Society brought its second session to an early close as owing to the stress of examination work, speakers threatened to become a minus quantity. Though the standard of debating is certainly as yet not of the highest, yet we may boast a marked improvement on last year's performances and hope that as speakers gain in confidence and learn to discard the props of manuscripts and many notes, we may yet send a goodly number of full-fledged debaters to the common platform and perhaps, even, representatives to the Plunket Medal Competition. At present however, our most pressing need is a more suitable time of meeting. Our average attendance is about twenty, but as long as the hour of meeting is 6.45 on Saturday evenings, so long will it be impossible for many women students to join our ranks. Then too with a time limit of seven minutes for each speaker, it is impossible for leaders of debates to do more than give a string of unelaborated and unconfirmed facts, and thus good debating speeches are of necessity somewhat rare. Moreover, for a speech of seven minutes, it seems to most, hardly worth while to spend in search for matter the time required to gain a real mastery of the subject under discussion.

At the beginning of the year the Main Society offered a prize of one guinea to be presented to the best speaker of our Society, on condition that she should have spoken in at least one of the ordinary debates of the main society. The prize this year falls to Miss E. Fell.

The subjects set down in the syllabus of the Main Society have as a rule been adhered to in our Society, but in some cases we fear these subjects have proved too technical for inexperienced debaters.

In conclusion our thanks are due to the Main Society for the Prize so generously offered by them, and also to those separate members of that Society who have from time to time acted as our judges.

AMY E. CURRIE,

HON. SEC. W.S.D.S.

Letter to the Editor.

(To the Editor of College Spoke).

DEAREST MR.

When Japan office boy arrive at Willington for studying law and many other articles to become K.C. and disprove his brain all over, he are anxious in knowledge of sundry facts of students life &c., &c., and yearningly want to. Henceforth I write to inform myself from you around everything, thank you.

Firstly what for are the training corpse of Officers, that goes by beere and zedlitz powder for firings. Oh say it ! Are it youthsful or ornymental ? O magnifsent allies of Japan Emperor ! despicable yellow boyhood of peril salutes you and begs not to do so ! What say Hon. Jas. Ogg ? He say, "embrace Christianity," and so I gone to Y.M.C.A. to play basket-ball and lodge with Hon. Jerry Danyell in his den. Surely this penalty are sufficate, speciously after weighty poll-tax ! Not so, cause when I gone to dispense fees, acquired to pay great fine to Hon. Powles after lateness. Are it fair, Sir Editor, to dispose twin taxes on poor Assiatic boy ? Why let not Hon. Eichelbaum set test paper in English and Scottish and give Japanese chance of getting past of 3rd. class of Hon. Mackenzie ? What say antique capping song of latter year ? All are welcome but Celestials ! but thy slave are not heavenly by no mean, he belong to Christian Onion, also to Common Men's Club.

Afterwards, Mr., who do recent Gymnasium prolong to ? For students or otherwise ? Are Hon. Bogle so very naughty gentleman if College Council won't allow abruption of morals by card playing ? I await a response, but Hon. Echo has got it. Do Council imagineate steaks become to high this worm whether ? It are a not just thing in such democratic country that people are not aloud to play Donkey even with Hon. Von. Ass., what is a very meek gentleman. Lucky that custodian have plenty gas, espiciously on Debated Society nights, for if he had places of fire what to do if Poker not premitted ? Thus you seen what great calamity to be enjoyed if all Council had been two haasty.

Yesterday I converse with Hon. Kuku, what deployed for desistent librarian by reading lawful books all day and night-time. "What for do Hon. Gibb like dogs of College ?" I collapse. "Silence please !" he contort with expression of deep glum, "not to abrupt Hon. Cleghorn and other gentlemens

in their Greece." I contend not to have notice, and presume, "Because alway go to Kirk." "Gay dogs," he reciprocate, "but then the dog of College are alway a very spirituous mammal, speciously after defunction at hands of Hon. Kirk's choleraform box." I donate grievous teardrop to memory of late O-Fido, what never return to months ago, and quicken to change of subject.

Once lately spasm of divine insaneness inspire itself to me just like to Hon. Soforth Mackenzie; therefore listen to this dear poem, what will sound very sweet when each line got a rhyme.

O college on top of a clay bank !
 Banzai ! Banzai ! Banzai !
 You might be beautiful if
 Thou looked better.
 But weight till they have finish the new wing at back.

You hast many clubs famous
 Such as footbawl, knocky, cricket,
 Also societies &c.
 Sacred and profane, ancient and modern.
 There are also a club of Common Mens Rooms
 What has give a whole
 Entertainment this term
 For sake of ladies. Price one and threepence.
 Banzai ! Banzai ! Banzai !

Other things full of niceness are sox.
 Hon. Johnston at Hessel
 Have pair with brilliancy.
 Confering design of wicked hoarse race.
 Are they tattered sells ?
 Ask Hon. J. J. North. If so, why not ? Banzai !

After now, Mr. Editor, I confiscate going in for MacMillan brown prize for poem on death Cap. Cook. Prematurely I require to know, are it Hon. Cap. Cook of famous College knocky team that have undergone a shampionchip ? Have this gentleman dyed by shock of doing so, or are it poem only for late Cook of Nancy brig what uncovered N. Zealand ? What he done to reserve such treatment ?

Talk of deadness rises other question. Formally in this Umpire City a medium man come along, and make great reports in the dark. I repare hither in speed to that gost-office for wonderful sea-aunts, price £2 2s 0d or money refunded. Hon.

Bally experience fine frensy in which deliciously aggravated by songing "Bill Baley" and sich-like monodies. First come lecture by Hon. Prof. Denting just like Hon. Morry only more so.

While sleeping I suddenly stopped it; Hon. Abdull in charge and compromise lively report. So Hon. Bally enjoy considerable epilepsy and when lights became again suddenly it are found he got a rat.

"Why not induce shampionchip cup for Victorious College footbawl club?" I decry with force. "Foolish child," rotate Hon. Chairman, "them deseased gentle mans refute to act impossibilities." I get shocky sensation of such news; "but are it absoballylutely unpossible?" I renig. "Indeedly so," he say, "but next weak Hon. Duncan receive repcap."

With this large consolation I gone home and enjoyed nice bright nightmayor; I put tipples of my fingers on table feeling for matches when it rase up and decline on to my tow. For remainder of night I care for lamplight more than sleeping, which I no could, thank you.

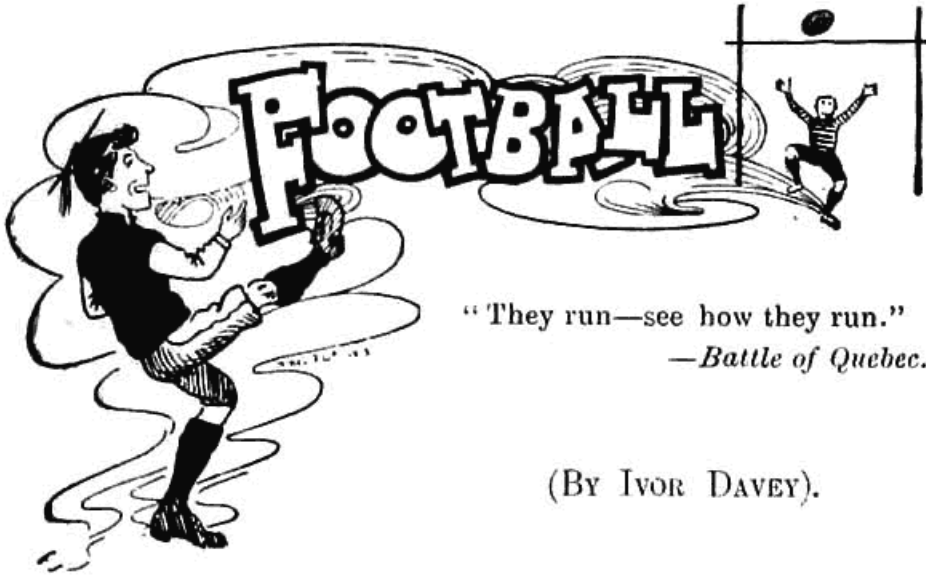
When I are deseased, Mr. Editor, I should like to be premitted to be entirely so; I not crave to join Funiture Movers' Union in after life as I got weak spine.

Hoping you are the same,

HASHIMURA NIKI.



VICTORIA COLLEGE GRADUATES, 1909.



"They run—see how they run."
—*Battle of Quebec.*

(BY IVOR DAVEY).

63 points for and 187 against—such is the newspaper tally of the games played by the first fifteen this season; although it is to be feared that the newspapers have let us down lighter than circumstances warranted. The day, then, has not yet come when Victoria College, the cynosure of all football eyes, shall draw its countless thousands of supporters to watch with tremulous expectation and uproarious enthusiasm its games on the Athletic Park. To those who have watched the progress of Victoria College football it sometimes seems as if that glorious day was as far off as when we first donned our green and gold in the senior ranks. And yet there is evident nowadays a feeling among our opponents which was absent hitherto—a feeling that the College team is not to be despised, and that even the best of them must not take liberties lest, perchance, they might find their Waterloo at the hands of the green and gold.

One match won and two drawn—not a record to be proud of. But the games were clean and hard fought, and often victory hung long in the balance. And moreover the College has, during the past year, won its way into popularity. This fact became glaringly patent in the match against Poneke at the Petone Recreation ground. A large crowd came over to watch the final stages of the game, and the roars from a thousand throats acted on our men like a draught of new wine. Never did the College play a more brilliant game than in this last twenty minutes. Time and again it hurled its forward and back divisions against an ever-receding line of red and black, and it is safe to say that had this volume of applause come to stimulate our men earlier in the game Poneke would not have won the senior championship.

Those who take an interest in College football will, no doubt, have read the weekly accounts of the various matches as they appeared in the papers, and it would be unprofitable to recapitulate them here. The football year is dead, and dead also are our defeats, our draws, and our solitary victory. But there is a new year before us, a year which is fraught with possibilities if we only take to heart the various lessons which experience has endeavoured to teach us. Let us therefore state a few bald facts and make a few deductions, so that "he who runs may read" and profit.

We have already pointed out what effect a number of "barrackers" has on a team, and yet it is a fact that almost all of the College matches this season have been played in the presence of but two or at the most three supporters. Surely the College team, which is drawn from a clearly defined body of students, has a right to expect that a little more interest should be taken in its doings.

But more important still is the question of training. We have a spacious gymnasium now, and there is no reason why College should not start off next year's season as the best-trained team in the competition. It is all-important that the *first* match of the season should be won. In this connection we strongly advise the Club to hold its annual meeting earlier than hitherto and lose no time in getting its men into regular training.

Thirdly is the question of resourcefulness, especially among the back division. One expects *clever* football from a College team, but our football is not particularly interesting to watch. For instance, many of us must have noticed Sydney University's little dodge of throwing the ball out to half-way when penned up on their own goal-line. A year or two ago it was said that backs cannot indulge in tricky play so long as forwards cannot hook the ball; but this objection does not now hold good.—Victoria College has one of the best packs in the city, and certainly the best "*dribblers*."

Lastly, there is the question of place-kicking. Cannot this be practised on Kelburne Park? It is a very weak spot with the green and gold. And we have to complain that a chance was not given to several players who have proved themselves in other matches to be excellent place-kickers. There is, for instance, one College senior who won a medal down South for place-kicking, and he was not given a chance the whole year.

In conclusion we have to point out that the College team this year is a very young one, that it will next year be older and more experienced, and that with the addition of one or two

crack players from other parts of the Dominion it will in the near future prove itself to be more than a match for any other team in Wellington.

VICTORIA COLLEGE VERSUS CANTERBURY COLLEGE.

After a very trying trip down in the "Maori" College took the field feeling rather shaky. There was a very large attendance of the public and the spacious grand-stand boasted few vacant seats. Canterbury attacked strongly from the commencement, and early in the game a fine dodgy run by McKenzie resulted in Hay scoring; Hay also took the kick and landed a beautiful goal. Shortly afterwards de la Mare broke away for College, and, in his usual unselfish way, passed when he was safely beyond pursuit; Tennant took the ball nicely and scored. Shortly afterwards Canterbury kicked high and the green backs fumbled miserably; Wilson (Canterbury) rushed up and carried the ball over without opposition. At half-time Canterbury led by 8 to 3.

Throughout the whole of the second spell the greens played a fine dashing game, completely outclassing their opponents. Goodbehere, Berendsen, Tennant and Ryan scored in quick succession. After the feeble attempts made by the College backs in Club matches to turn to account the hard work of their forwards it was a pleasure to see them making dash after dash for the line. Towards the end of the game the maroons worked hard to turn the tables. The game ended—Victoria College 17, Canterbury College 8.

After the match Canterbury College entertained our men at a supper, and an excellent musical programme was supplied by the students.

The Sydney University team did not meet with the success in New Zealand which was predicted for them. Both the large matches—that played in Dunedin on the 4th September, and that played here on the 11th—were somewhat disappointing from the spectacular point of view. At Dunedin, Victoria College was represented by only two players, Phillips and Brosnan, both of whom acquitted themselves creditably. The game was fought out mostly among the forwards and resulted in a win for Sydney by 15 to 5.

The second test match was played at Wellington on the following Saturday. College was fortunate enough to secure places in the New Zealand team for eight of its men—Duncan, Phillips, O'Leary, Brosnan, Curtayne, de la Mare, Tennant and Robertson. The game was somewhat dull during the first spell, but livened up considerably in its later stages. Eventually, after a close fight, New Zealand won by 17 points to 14.

SECOND FIFTEEN.

The success of the Second Fifteen was not as great as might have been expected considering the fact that the Club decided at the commencement of the season to enter only three

teams—a senior, a third grade, and a fourth grade—for the Rugby Union's competitions. The first match of the season was played at Miramar on 24th April against the Selwyn Third Fifteen and resulted in a win for College by twelve points to six. The following team donned the green jersey in the first match—Lyon, Inder, Hamilton, Duncan, Edie, Phillips, Enting, Jackson, Leary, Daniell, Lynch, Ramsay, Randrup, Russell and Cash. If this team could have been retained throughout the season there is little doubt that their position in the championship would have been considerable higher, but being the source of supply for the First Fifteen they soon lost the services of several of their best players. Among these were: Lyon, Duncan, Phillips, Ramsay and Russell. The vacancies thus caused were filled by Dobbie, Richmond, Melody, Hall and Jordan. Eleven matches were played during the season, and of these College won four, drew two, and lost five.

The following is the list of matches played and the result of each:—

V.C. v Selwyn. Won, 12—6. Tries were obtained by Duncan (2) and Lyon. Phillips kicked a goal.

V.C. v St. James. Lost, 3—16. Duncan scored a try.

V.C. v Wellington. Won, 11—3. Tries by Enting, Russell and Phillips. Phillips converted Enting's try.

V.C. v Petone. Lost, 6—25. Tries by Daniell and Phillips.

V.C. v Epuni. Lost, 0—19.

V.C. v Kia Ora. Won, 8—5. Tries by Cash and Randrup; Enting converted Cash's try.

V.C. v Upper Hutt. Lost, 0—18.

V.C. v Johnsonville. Drawn, no score.

V.C. v Poneke. Lost, 0—11.

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

V.C. v Exchange. Drawn, no score.

One other match, a match against the Star Boating Club, was to have been played very late in the season when all other games had been finished, but this match was abandoned by mutual consent.

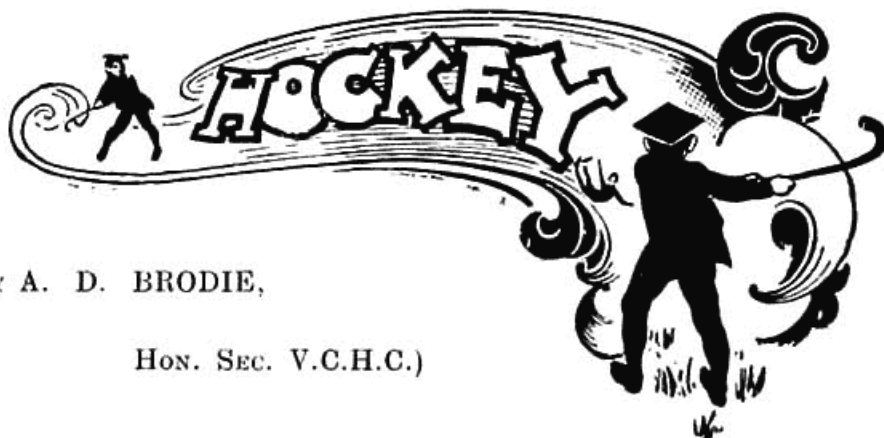
THIRD FIFTEEN.

Matches played 13; won 3; drawn 4; lost 6.

Points for 50; against 72.

V.C. v Melrose. Lost, 6—3. Williams picked up smartly and dashed over. Jordan and Clemance stood out among the forwards.

-
- V.C. v. Old Boys. Lost, 6—3. Mackay kicked a penalty goal. Our opponents showed superior combination.
- V.C. v. Oriental. Drawn, 3 all. A most enjoyable game—no falling away in our score. Jackson scored a neat try. Dowling conspicuous among the forwards.
- V.C. v. St. James. Lost, 16—6. A severe shock to the dreams of conquest consequent on our performance the previous week. Dowling taking advantage of a zephyr out of the south, kicked a penalty goal from our own goal line—more or less. While Mackay held the full-back down, Hall-Jones scored a good try.
- V.C. v. Polhill. Drawn, 3 all. This was an uninteresting game save for occasional flashes by our backs who were now working well together. The stockings of the opposing wing-forward were another feature. McCartney scored.
- V.C. v. Athletic. Won, 13—0. Williams having advised us that Athletic were exceptionally weak, we made a terrific onslaught and hewed our way to a signal victory. Griffiths and Anton, our five-eighths, played splendidly. Griffiths scored two tries which Mackay converted; Mackay also kicked a penalty goal.
- V.C. v. Selwyn. Drawn, 3 all. That elusive cup! We had Jordan back after an absence and he marked his return by scoring from a line-out. McRae fell foul of an opponent, and, resorting to self-help, was required by the referee to see the rest of the game from the bank.
- V.C. v. Petone. Lost, 12—5. Anton, as usual, played hard to the finish. Griffiths scored a clever try which Mackay converted.
- V.C. v. Epuni. Drawn, 5 all. We led right to the last two minutes when our opponents got in. Edie scored and Mackay converted. Bridgman and Grey played strenuously in the forwards, as did Anton in the backs. Williams made an excellent full-back.
- V.C. v. Karori. Won, 3—0—and “we did it with ten men!” Goodness knows where the others were, or what we might have done with a full team. Possibly the vacation accounted for the shortage of men. Johnston scored.
- V.C. v. St. Johns. Lost, 3—0. For the first time our score sheet stood blank. The SPIKE editor played magnificently, demonstrating that the pen is as mighty as the jersey any day.
- V.C. v. Wellington. Won 3—0. We were now getting too accustomed to winning to exhibit jubilation. Gray, after threading his way through a marsh set the ball down in a sea of mud, and sat on it—in short, scored a very good and very dirty try.
- V.C. v. Southern. Lost, 15—0. Southern were leading for the championship and we decided to shake them up. The referee, having a look at the state of the ground, declared the match off, and left. Bridgman, however, was very keen on playing, so finally we got our coy opponents to play, with a referee extemporised. Like a true sport he kept the whistle quiet—a fact which our opponents turned to better account than we. Anton, Bridgman, and McCartney strove hard to stem the tide of red, but without avail.



(By A. D. BRODIE,

HON. SEC. V.C.H.C.)

THE Hockey Club bids good-bye to what has been, on the whole, a satisfactory season. At the beginning of the year it added to its responsibilities by deciding to place five teams in the field instead of four. In spite of the pessimism of some, this step has been justified, and although III B on several Saturdays has been sorely diminished in numbers, no College team has defaulted. Now that the fifth team has survived its first season there should be less difficulty next year in filling its ranks.

The last issue of THE SPIKE related how the bubble reputation was burst for the Seniors. Some excuses even were made for the first month's dismal record. Since then, however, the team has blown a new bubble for itself and has won most of the later matches. It has behaved as in 1908, starting with disaster, but finishing in a way to colour bright prospects for the next year. At last representative honours have fallen to our lot. No fewer than five of the team—H. W. Monaghan, D. S. Smith, B. Kibblewhite, R. St. J. Beere and A. H. Bogle—have represented Wellington during the season: a sixth, Griffiths, was asked to play but could not. Monaghan and Smith were in the team which wrested the New Zealand Championship Shield from Auckland; they were accounted by the calm judgment of certain prominent hockeyites of Wellington, as two of "the brightest and the best."

The Juniors, again under S. Eichelbaum's management, finished bravely, but not first. The captain will tell you the losses, but for which his men would have won the championship. The company he urged to the fray (from his position at full-back) in the opening encounter was very different from that which fought the later battles of the campaign. It has been the old tale of change and experiment which, however, has been unavoidable this year, several members having left

the Club during the season. "It never rains but it pours"—the Juniors also have supplied representative players: M. H. Oram (who captained the Junior representatives) and C. A. L. Treadwell.

IIB during this, the first year of its existence, is a team with a grudge. The captain has been ground between the upper and nether millstones—above him the rapacious Juniors clamouring for men to fill vacancies, below him IIIA's fixed determination not to yield a man. With it all the team has done very creditably. J. D. Smith is captain.

The mention of IIIA calls up the brightest story of the year. IIIA cries no more "*O mihi praeteritos . . . !*" The glories of 1907 have returned; Captain Cook (H.L.) has assumed the mantle of H. G. R. Mason; the honour of the team is redeemed. To be plain, IIIA won the Third-Class Championship without a defeat, scoring ninety goals to four in eleven matches, a twelfth match being won by default. The team owes its success in no small measure to the fact that it has been kept together throughout the season. This should be an object lesson to the Selection Committee. During the dark days of the vacation, when five of the regular members of the team were away, material assistance was lent by two or three footballers.

IIIB has consisted chiefly of new players. Under the guidance of G. M. Hogben, it has come through the season with losses and wins about evenly disposed on its record sheet. IIIB is a team of "sports." The superior numbers of the enemy fail to strike terror through its ranks.

RECORD OF MATCHES.

SENIORS—Captain, H. W. Monaghan; Vice-Captain, R. St. J. Beere.

V.C. v. Wesley. Won, 4—1.

V.C. v. Karori. Lost, 4—6. A great game and fast. Kibblewhite's way of peppering their winger's legs was artistic, but grew monotonous. Beere (3) and Pope scored. Bogle retired hurt, and was made much of by a bevy of fair supporters.

V.C. v. Wellington. Won, 3—2. Our playing one short left Wellington sometimes on-side. Pope shot a goal—before his argument with the referee. Beere added two more goals.

V.C. v. Vivian. Won, 5—0. A field day. Beere (2), Bogle, C. Strack, and Monaghan contributed to our total. Monaghan won his dinner, which we have reason to believe he has not yet realised.

V.C. v. Wellington. Won, 4—1. G. Strack, Pope, Smith and Beere were the scorers. Burbridge maintained a kind of guerilla war at right half. Griffiths played well.

V.C. v. Thorndon. Won, 3—1.

V.C. v. United. Lost, 4—5. A splendid game. The score was 4 - 1 against us early in second spell, but was 4 all just on time. There was excitement among V. C. ladies on the line. Y.M.C.A. wept at our downfall.

II A—Captain S. Eichelbaum.

V.C. v. Petone. Lost, 4—3. Went out expecting to win, came back wondering why we didn't. Petoneites good mountaineers and used to rugged and precipitous nature of the country. Wilson turned up on this occasion. Oram (2) and Castle scored. No one played well.

V.C. v. Greggs. Won, 6—3. Team played well. In first spell forwards, especially Oram, played in jest. In second spell settled down and played really well. Treadwell and Salek best of backs. Rutherford played a good game and scored three goals. H. G. Brodie, Oram, and Paterson one each.

V.C. v. Thorndon. Won in pouring rain by default.

V.C. v. Vivian. Won, 5—0. Played on submarine territory, Miramar. They had only seven men. Features of game were Waldegrave's fine undercuts, and J. D. Smith's refereeing. Goalkeeper Salek felt cold and scored a goal for us. Oram, H. G. Brodie, Paterson, and Treadwell completed our tally.

V.C. A v. V.C. B. Won, 5—1. A family affair. Youngsters hopped off twig early and Fair scored a goal. Paterson, Wild, Oram, and Rutherford scored for us.

V.C. v. Metropolitan. Lost, 3—6. Rutherford (2), and Oram scored. H. G. Brodie best forward; Treadwell best back.

V.C. v. Karori. Won, 3—2. Wild, H. G. Brodie, and Rutherford scored. Wilson again absented himself without notice and left us to play one short.

V.C. v. United. Won by default.

II B—Captain J. D. Smith.

V.C. v. Vivian. Won, 3—0. Report is silent who our champions were.

V.C. v. Government Life. Lost, 1—2. Smith scored.

V.C. v. Petone. Won, 5—4. Played with nine men to Petone's eight. Chapman—from III A—(2), McAlister (2), and Smith scored.

V.C. v. United. Drawn, 1 all. Smith was the scorer for us.

V.C. v. II A. Lost 1—5. Unexpectedly lost. Fair scored.

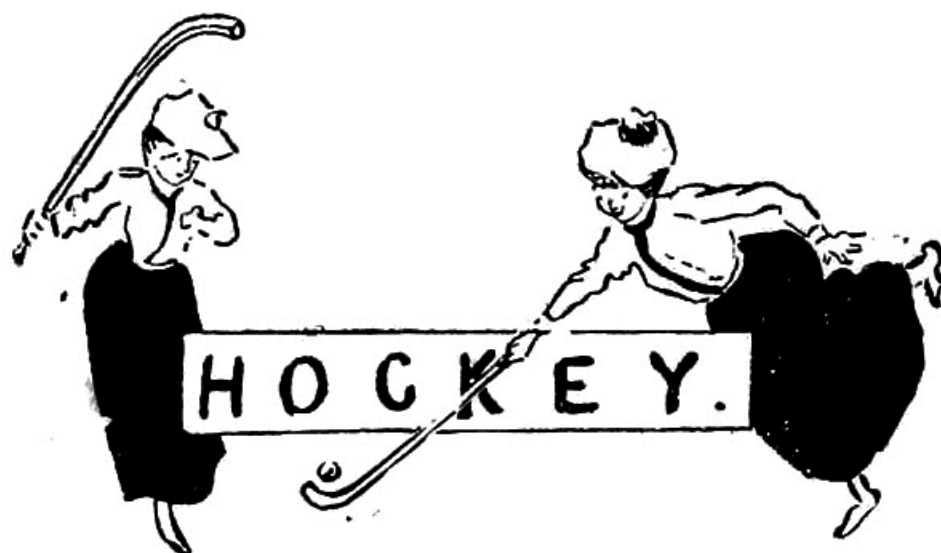
V.C. v. Wellington. Won, 6—2. Smith (3), Wild (2), have acknowledged their guilt, but the sixth remains unknown.

III A—Captain, H. L. Cook ; Vice-Captain, S. Mason.

- V.C. v. Petone. Won, 12—0. Cook (4), Vernon (3), Bates (2), McDowall, Cleghorn, Chapman scored. Played at Petone ; miserable ground and no referee.
- V.C. v. Wesley. Won, 10—0. Cook (4), Vernon (3), McDowall (2), Bates. Wesley dangerous on one occasion. Captain felt easier after the sixth goal. D. Henderson played well in backs.
- V.C. v. Government Life. Won, 5—3. Our line crossed for the first time. Capping dances spoil averages.
- V.C. v. Metropolitan. Won, 2—0. An anxious time. Metrops. were our closest rivals. McDowall scored and Inder.
- V.C. v. III B. Won, 9—1.
- V.C. v. Government Life. Won, 3—0. In colder weather this had been hockey on the ice. Bates twice and Mason once waded through and steered the floating ball between the posts.
- V.C. v. Wellington. Won by default.
- V.C. v. Metropolitan. Won, 9—0. Vernon (4), Cook (4), and Robinson showed little respect for the dread name Metropolitan. We think we may win the cup.
- V.C. v. Greggs. Won, 2—0. Greggs were not Greggs, but mainly recruits from different junior teams. However, assisted by some III B's we more than held them. Watson and Cook scored.

III B.—Captain, G. M. Hogben ; Vice-Captain, Walton.

- V.C. v. Government Life. Lost, 1—2. Morrison opened our account, but it went no further.
- V.C. v. Wesley. Won, 4—0. The scorers were Castle (2), Tinney and Morison. Our debit equals our credit.
- V.C. v. St. Pats. Won, 5—2. Hancock (2), Castle (2), and again Morison scored. We are certainly a better team, and meet III A in a fortnight.
- V.C. v. Petone. Lost, 1—6. Morison scored.
- V.C. v. III A. Lost, 1—9.
- V.C. v. Metropolitan. Lost, 4—7. We are getting used to it. Mason (3) and Morison scored.



A SUCCESSFUL hockey season is now almost at an end. The first XI has finished the season without suffering defeat, having won the Senior Championship for the second consecutive season. Five of the eleven were chosen for the Wellington representative team which competed in the New Zealand tournament at Napier, but only one was able to attend the tournament.

The Junior A team has not been as successful as last season being at present three points behind the team leading for the championship.

The Junior B team in the face of many adverse circumstances has bravely entered the field for every match.

Results of matches for whole of season :—

FIRST XI MATCHES.

V.C. v. Wellington. Won 12—0. Scorers, Misses Kerslake (4), Casey (2), Bisset (2), K. McIntosh (4).

V.C. v. Hinemoa. Drawn 3—3. Scorer, Miss K. McIntosh (3).

V.C. v. St. John's. Won 6—0. Scorers, Misses Casey (4), McIntosh (2).

V.C. v. Petone. Won 3—0. Scorers, Misses Kerslake (2) and McIntosh.

V.C. v. Wellington. Won 10—nil. Scorers, Misses Casey (3), Kerslake (3), McIntosh (3) and Bisset.

V.C. v. St. John's. Won 5—4. Scorers, Misses Casey (3), Kerslake and Bisset.

V.C. v. Petone. Won 2—0. Scorers, Misses Kerslake and McIntosh.

V.C. v. Hinemoa. Won 5—0. Scorers, Misses Casey (2), Bisset, Kerslake and McKenzie.

II A MATCHES.

- V.C. v. College Old Girls. Won 6 - 0. Scorers, Misses Hayes (3), Willetts (2) and McKenzie.
- V.C. v. St. John's B. Won by default.
- V.C. v. Physical Training School. Won 5 - 0. Scorers, Misses Willetts (4) and Hayes.
- V.C. v. Gregg A. Lost 2 - 1. Miss Willetts scored.
- V.C. v. V.C.B. Won by default.
- V.C. v. Gregg B. Won 3 - 2.
- V.C. v. Hinemoa. Won 17 - 0. Scorers, Misses McKenzie (5), Willets (5), McGonagle (4), McRae (3).
- V.C. v. Haeremai. Won 2 - 1. Scorers, Misses E. Johnson and Willetts.
- V.C. v. St. Mark's. Won 5 - 1. Scorers, Misses McKenzie (2), Willetts (2) and Hayes.
- V.C. v. St. John A. Lost 3 - 2. Miss Willetts scored both goals.

II B MATCHES.

- V.C. v. St. Mark's. Drawn 1 - 1. Miss Gibson scored.
- V.C. v. Physical Training School. Lost 2 - 0.
- V.C. v. Gregg A. Lost 3 - 1. Miss Moxham scored.
- V.C. v. Ramblers. Lost 1 - 0.
- V.C. v. Hinemoa. Lost 4 - 0.
- V.C. v. Gregg B. Won 4 - 0. Scorers, Misses Jamieson (2), Gibson and Lear.
- V.C. v. St. John s B. Drawn 1 - 1. Miss Frain scored.
- V.C. v. Hereawa. Won 2 - 0.

TABLE OF RESULTS.

		Matches.				Goals.	
		Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For.	Against.
Seniors	..	8	7	0	1	46	8
Junior A	..	10	8	2	0	41	9
Junior B	..	9	2	5	2	9	12

K. McINTOSH,

Hon. Secretary.

• Bazaar. •

THE Students' Association is in an unenviable financial position. We have a Gymnasium and Social Hall saddled with debt to the extent of about £70. Neither the Gymnasium nor the Social Hall can fully fulfill its functions until furnished. To do this completely would cost well over £200. The Executive of the Students' Association hopes that, before another year has passed, the building will be furnished sufficiently for most student needs. At present the credit balance stands at something under double figures. Something must be done and the Executive has decided that that something shall take the form of a

✚ BAZAAR ✚

TO BE HELD

AT THE END OF THE LONG VACATION

(About the third week in March)

STUDENTS CAN MAKE THIS A BIG SUCCESS.

The Bazaar is to last three afternoons and evenings. Anything will be sold from a crocheted counterpane to a cabbage. The women students especially can help here, but there will be plenty of work for all.

DO YOUR SHARE.

The preliminary arrangements are in the hands of women members of the Students' Association Executive. They are:—Misses L. McIntosh, Reeve, Burkas, E. Fell and Sampson. Every woman student should see that before the long vacation, she lets one of these know what she will do to help.

The men students will be kept busy when the day of the Bazaar approaches. Those who live out of Wellington should make a point of returning before the end of the vacation and of informing some member of the Executive of their address. Many of them no doubt, can make or procure saleable goods without contravening Section 240 of the Crimes Act. We are sure they will do so; also communicating with some member of the Executive.

There is one other point: one of the most important features of any bazaar is the sideshows. The men will be expected to manage these. Let us be original; or as original as possible; but anything that will make money will be acceptable. Those with ideas as to the form that sideshows should take need have no hesitation in coming forward with their suggestions.

All can do something. In Otago the students held a bazaar and realised **over £1,000.**

We don't expect to do that; but enthusiasm and energetic activity on the part of the students are absolutely necessary for success. There is much work to do and the greater the number who enter into it wholeheartedly, the more successful will the Bazaar be.

REMEMBER: LAST WEEK IN VACATION!

A Day with the Gannets.

"Harken thou craggy ocean pyramid!
Give answer from thy voice, the sea-fowls' screams!
When were thy shoulders mantled in huge streams?
When from the sun was thy broad forehead hid?
How long is it since the mighty power bid
Thee heave to airy sleep from fathom dreams?

—Keats.

Off the western shores of Hauraki Gulf lies a chain of islands—the cone-shaped Rangitoto, Motutapu the sacred, Motuili and Waiheke—stretching snake-like southward. Off Waiheke in the heaving waters of the gulf lie two precipitous islets, mere specks in the distance; the yachtsmen know them, the Shag and the Gannet Rocks.

At daybreak in the calm of a perfect summer morning, we had landed on Shag Rock and had shot several of its inhabitants, for shag flesh is the daintiest morsel known to the finny tribe and we had in view a day's fishing. A few feet from the rock the gulf is fathoms deep and we lowered our game-baited lines to the cool rocky depths below. The Fates that control the luck of fishermen were kindly disposed and we filled the dinghy astern in short space. Schnapper, yellow-tail, butter-fish and the luscious garnet came leaping unwillingly over the counter. Then came the sharks and the day's fishing was at an end. Breakfast on fresh fish, toast and boiling coffee, under an azure sky, brilliantly illuminated in the east by the rising sun, was something to be remembered in joy.

Late in the afternoon a light easterly abeam carried us slowly northward and to the leeward of Gannet Rock we dropped anchor. We left the yacht tugging at her cable and pulled into the rocks which rose sheer from the sea. Alongside a heavy ground swell was breaking and we were put to it to find a landing. Presently we pulled in on top of a roller and in a second were left stranded on a rocky ledge. The roller following close behind broke clean over us, but we held the dinghy fast and scrambled clear none too soon. Above sat the gannets, tier upon tier, eyeing curiously our peculiar method of landing, and towards them we slowly climbed.

This islet is the gannets' castle, where most of the gannets on the Auckland coast find a nesting-place immune from danger. The rock is their own, a place where they are free from any animal intrusion and except for the presence of a few despised shags and screaming gulls, they have undisturbed possession.

Occasionally fishermen and curious yachtsmen pay a short visit, but for the most part these gannets are left to the wildness and isolation of their haunts. There are few gannet rookeries in New Zealand and most of them are inaccessible. We were favoured.

The gannet is a great snowy-white bird, usually seen flying alone, (at least so it is in the Hauraki Gulf) long of wing and strong of flight. His flight is truly graceful, like an aeroplane, and his gliding motion against a heavy breeze is thrilling. He is daring; especially note his method in obtaining his food supply, fish. Descrying his prey from a great height, he drops at a terrific speed, one wing stretched downward and the other folded, strikes the water with enormous force, and emerges with the surprised fish securely fastened in his bill.

There, on clefts and overhanging rocks the birds were seated in thousands, but we clambered past them to the top of the cliffs, into the very centre of their settlement. Here we could study them in fullest detail. The nesting season was over and everywhere empty nests were strewn around. In her domestic life the female gannet is indolent. Her nest is certainly inartistic, and apparently uncomfortable—it is a mere collection of sticks arranged with no particular end in view. Her food is sought and brought by her mate, but the arrangements for disposing of the scraps are crude; the litter about the nests furnishes further proof of her antique method of housekeeping.

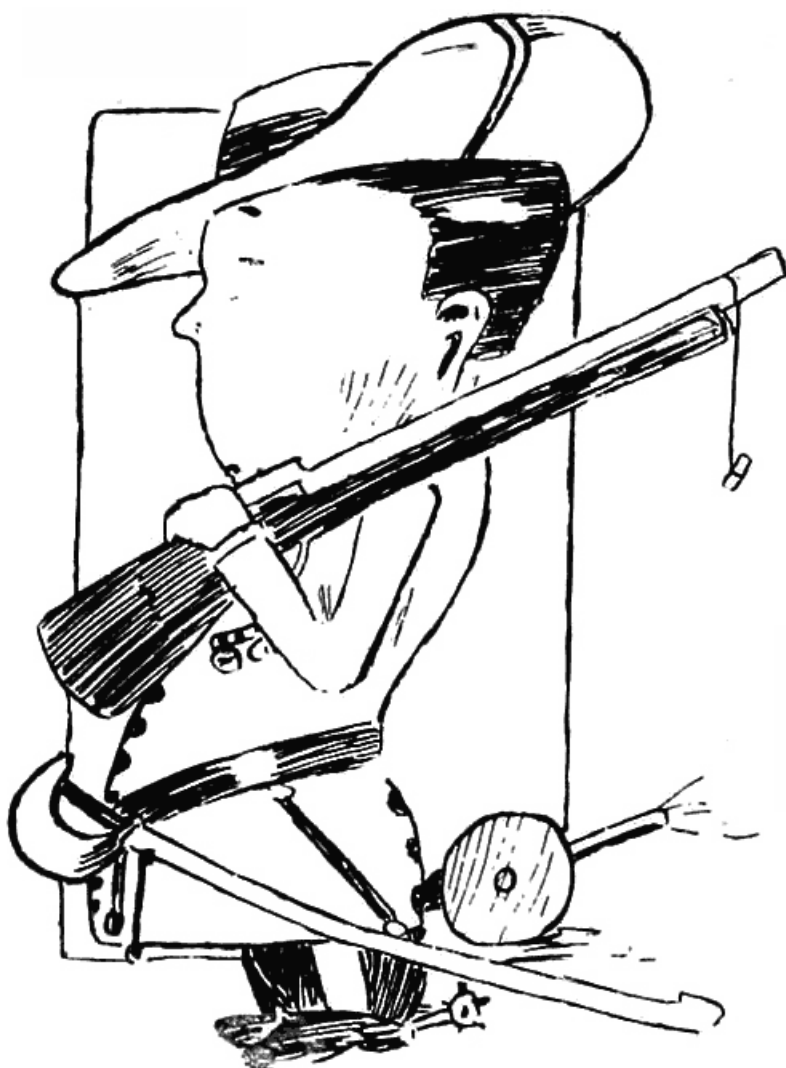
Birds of every stage in life were represented. First the "infant," a fluffy, white, helpless little thing, a ball of flesh, its occupation squealing, and its mode of progression an undignified roll. Should it venture to the cliff edge and roll, it is doomed. Sharks and huge schnapper have acquired a dainty taste for "chicken." Then the half-grown gannet, the youth. He has grown bigger than a duck, his body feathers are arranging themselves and whitening, and his head, which he holds with all the pride of youth, is capped with darkish gray. Perched on an elevated rock he educates himself, learns to fly. Monotonously he flaps his great wings in imitation of his superiors, until at last one day he finds himself skimming down from the cliffs straight into the sea where he falls. This is the critical stage in his existence. He may succeed in rising out of the water, or an unkind shark may determine his end. But the fortune which favours the brave does not desert the majority of these youngsters learning to fly.

The full-grown bird is a type of rare beauty. The feathers are snowy white, swan-like, the bill yellow and gracefully curved,

the head crowned with feathers of a most delicate yellow hue. His manner is shy, indeed the whole colony took wing on our approach. The sight of these great sea birds, soaring noiselessly and without a movement of the wing, wheeling in the vault of heaven, was inspiring to a degree. Gradually they settled and we were then able to study them more closely. They sat peering across the waters, craning their necks, gazing as it were into the inscrutable future, eager to solve some mystery. Their lives are strange, weird, and there is a fascination in studying them, a longing to understand them better.

Lifting anchor, we envied the gannets in their island home surrounded by such beauty; in the east the Coromandel Peninsular stretched through the light haze to Colville and was lost in the blue; while to the north the far off Barrier raised its crest from summer seas and stood defiant against the sky. A light breeze tempered the afternoon sun and happy, we ran before it to Hook's Bay on Waiheke Island. Our thoughts that evening, as we were softly lulled to sleep by the gentle rolling of the yacht and the crooning of the waters on the shingly beach were of the gannets, of their life apart, their fascination.





Victoria College Officers' Training Corps

"And the Captain waved a corkscrew in his hand."

—Kipling.

"THE SPIKE knows what the ordinary student evidently forgets, that the student who works for his College, already has about twice as much to do as he can do thoroughly." Such was the comment of the Editor of THE SPIKE when the formation of an Officers' Training Corps was proposed. We bow to his good judgement. We admit without dispute that one who joins the Corps will have to consider well before he pledges his time to the service of other College clubs. We do not, however, consider that this is so wholly bad a thing as the Editor appears to think. In recent years the College roll has

grown till it has become almost impossible for any single student to play a leading part in every College club. The less gifted of us have perforce to specialise and we think that a knowledge of the art of defence is more necessary than a knowledge of tennis or cricket. Some seventy-eight students have, therefore been sworn in as members of the Victoria College Officers' Training Corps.

It should, perhaps, be explained that the end for which the Corps exists is the training of men who shall undertake the duties of officers in the Militia if that branch of the Service is ever called out. The fact that, if such an action becomes necessary, the Militia will be hopelessly under-officered has long been recognised. The Defence Council hopes that the Officers' Training Corps in the four University Colleges will remedy this weakness. It is presumed that those who join them will have already undergone some years of military training at school. All their training in the Officers' Training Corps will be directed towards implanting a knowledge of the duties of officers. It is not, of course, intended that members should limit their services to the Militia. It is hoped that many will become officers in the Volunteer Companies, particularly in the country districts. The discipline and organisation of the Corps are those of an ordinary Volunteer Company, but the work is of a more advanced nature than that usually undertaken by volunteers.

On the 4th August, seventy-four students were sworn in for service for two years as volunteers. Rifles, slings, belts, and bayonets were served out, and measurements were taken for uniforms. A number of parades have since been held—among them a sham-fight on the hills beyond Karori. This last-named served to show how well we hold to the old English tradition of meeting the enemy face to face, despising concealment and all similar trickery. The attacking force advanced in column of fours along a metalled road until the defenders opened fire at four hundred yards range. Thereafter came a series of encounters in the gullies and along the ridges of Johnston's Hill. The attack was pushed home with blare of bugle and clamour of men till on a little terrace half-way to the summit the opposing commander yielded up his sword. Then the Corps seated itself on a tree trunk and Major Lascelles made pungent comment on the conduct of attack and defence.

The uniform chosen for the Corps is one of khaki. The buttons are of leather, putties are worn, and all the adjuncts are of the plainest. The rifles are to be stored in racks at College. It is hoped that the Corps will go into Camp with the Auckland University College O.T.C. somewhere on the Main Trunk line in January or February.

R. ST. S. BEERE. O.C.

Our Illustrations.



In this number we publish three photographs: a group of the graduates of the year, one of the Executive of the Students' Association and a portrait of Mr F. P. Wilson. For the first of these we are indebted to the Editors of the *Free Lance* who have very kindly lent us the block.

Mr F. P. Wilson, M.A., was appointed lecturer on Economics at the commencement of the present year. He is a graduate of the New Zealand University, having taken his B.A. degree in 1904 and his M.A. in the following year. With his M.A. degree he gained Honours in Political Science. He studied for his degree at Victoria College and whilst a student took a prominent part in College life. He represented Victoria College at University Tournaments in both tennis and athletics, and also took a leading part in the many lives of the Glee Club. Prior to entering on his present duties, he was a teacher at the Newtown District High School and elsewhere in Wellington.



• Exchanges. •

We have to acknowledge receipt of the following Exchanges: — *Canterbury College Review*, *Otago University Review*, *The Kiwi* (A.U.C.), *The Scindian*, *The Waitakian*, and *The Lincoln College Magazine*.



MR. F. P. WILSON, M.A.



Christian Union.

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me."

—*Jesus Christ.*

During the months since our last report, the regular work of the Christian Union has gone on without interruption. In spite of approaching examinations, the second term has seen little falling-off in attendance, either at general meetings, or in the Bible-study and the Mission-study classes. We are glad to note this, and take it as a sign that there is growing up among members more of that enthusiasm, upon which the furtherance of the Union's work so much depends.

Towards the end of the first term, we were visited by Miss Holden, travelling Secretary for women of the Australasian Students' Christian Union. She attended Women's Bible-study circles and committee meetings. She spoke at a general meeting of the Union, asking for women graduates to take up work in the Y.W.C.A.'s. of Australia and New Zealand.

Miss England's class has been continued throughout the term. The course of lectures on Job has been finished and a short course on Proverbs begun. We wish again to thank Miss England for so kindly devoting her time to helping the Union.

The Rev. W. Mawson, of Canton Village Mission, who is touring the Colleges on behalf of the Student Volunteer Movement, was with us near the end of August. Besides addressing an ordinary general meeting, he spoke before thirty-three members at a special meeting of the Union, on Tuesday, 31st August, upon the "Student Volunteer Movement." On Sunday morning, the 29th, he preached in St. John's Church, and in the afternoon addressed a crowded meeting of men in the Y.M.C.A. buildings, upon the subject "China's Young Men." Mr. Mawson spoke with earnestness and conviction, and his work will surely bear fruit.

With the approaching end of the session, we wish to remind members of the Union of the forthcoming summer

Conference. The choice of position has fallen on Marton, and the Conference will be held from 29th December to January 4th. The Order-paper contains the names of some eminent speakers. Several visitors are expected from Sydney and we hear that Melbourne 'Varsity is sending four delegates. The camp fee is 22/6. The position of Marton no doubts ensures a large contingent from Victoria College. We would urge members of the Union to think of the Marton Conference, when making arrangements for the New Year's holidays.

MEETINGS.

On Saturday, 5th June, in the College, Professor Mackenzie delivered an address upon "Amateur Theology in English Literature." There were over 40 present. The Professor said, that since a learned class has grown up outside the clergy, Theology is no longer an exclusive domain; the amateur theologian has arisen. Naming Carlyle as the high-priest of this new order, he very interestingly discovered Carlyle's theological views, as far as that writer has shown them. He scathingly condemned the realism of certain modern novelists who forgot that true art is to show "the good, the beautiful, and the true."

A missionary address was given on June 19th, in the College, by Miss Hill, who was home on furlough from India. She told of work in a village of the great plain of India, and of the crying need for more missionaries. Miss Hill has been for several years in India and has her heart in the work. A novel feature of the meeting was the introduction of two young girls, closely veiled in Indian fashion. Miss Holden also spoke at this meeting.

The Christian Union Social was revived this year and was held in the Gymnasium on July 24th, the first Saturday of the second term, and the day of the opening of the Gymnasium. Invitations had been sent to all students, and the Social was very successful indeed. More than 200 students were there. The thanks of the Union are due to many willing helpers other than members of the Union.

Dr. Gibb spoke upon the subject of "The Trinity," on Saturday, 7th August, in the Gymnasium. About thirty-five members were present. The speaker traced the growth of the conception of the Trinity in the early Christian Church, by

showing how it had met the growing idea of God. The doctrine of the Trinity was one of the most inspiring in the Christian faith.

In the Gymnasium on Saturday, 21st August, the Rev. Johnston spoke on "Methods of Textual Criticism." In a very clear and instructive address, he told of the different groups of manuscripts extant of the Bible. He told of the conflict of manuscripts, and of the principles which govern critics in appreciating variant readings.

The Rev. W. Mawson addressed the Union on Saturday, August 28th, in the College, upon "Mission work in China." He spoke simply of his work in the Canton villages, and stirringly of his hopes and fears for China. There were thirty-five members present.

Another Missionary address was given at the next general meeting of the Union, on Saturday, September 18th, in the Gymnasium. The Rev. W. G. Ivens spoke of the Melanesian Mission. Mr. Ivens has spent some years in Mission work in the Solomons. He painted three vivid pictures of his work—the islands, the physical condition of the inhabitants, their mental and spiritual state. Thirty-three members were at the meeting.

A. D. BRODIE,

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

V.C.C.U.



The Ninth Inter-University-College Tournament.

CHRISTCHURCH, EASTER 1910.

WHEN five more months have passed away, the University Tournament of 1910 will be close upon us. Christchurch will be the scene of this, the Ninth Inter-University-College Tournament, and this will be the third Tournament held in Christchurch.

It was in 1906, at the last tournament held in Christchurch, that Victoria College first won the Joynt Debating Scroll, "when Fitz-Kelly took the floor;" let us hope that this year's debaters will be none the less successful; they have a high standard to maintain, but the other Colleges have even greater inducement to brave deeds in the shape of four consecutive defeats. The last Tournament in Christchurch is also remembered for the fact that the Victoria College students who missed the picnic to Wanoni Park, had their own picnic on the trip home; the *Mararoa* first grounded on a mud bank outside the Lyttelton moles and dinner was enjoyed in peace; and then the engines broke down at about five o'clock next morning and some hours were spent in mid-ocean (*ut ita dicam*) awaiting repairs. Fortunately it was smooth as a mill pond; one old dame walked up bravely on to deck with bag and baggage expecting to see Wellington wharf and saw only the Kaikouras; but otherwise the delay caused no annoyance.

At the 1906 Tournament too, our tennis representatives were successful. We did not win the Athletic Shield.

This year our prospects for the latter are better than they were in 1906, but at present there is little fear of our chance becoming a certainty. We are still sadly in need of competitors in the field events. At the 1909 Tournament, Victoria College athletes obtained thirteen out of a possible thirty-nine points;

twelve of our points were obtained in flat and hurdle races, out of a possible total of twenty-four in these events. In the remaining five events—long and high jump, shot, hammer and walk—we obtained one point out of a possible fifteen! And two more points would have made us level with Canterbury College. This state of affairs is not irremediable; among over two hundred and fifty male students, there must be some who can perform creditably in field events. Come out and try—failure is no cause for shame, and success will help to remove a blot from Victoria College's scutcheon.

In tennis as in athletics, the secret of success lies in training, in assiduous and serious practise. During the last few years the standard of University tennis has not been high; there is room for some champions—and it is interesting to note in this connection that at the First Tournament A. F. Wilding carried all before him. At present Jennings, of C.C., is the only particularly shining star in the University tennis firmament; much serious practice may result in an eclipse. Therefore, practise.

For the 1910 Tournament the Victoria College team will leave Wellington on Thursday, 24th March next, arriving in Christchurch on Good Friday morning—it will be seen that Easter is early next year, so that athletes will need to commence training not later than the beginning of February. On Saturday the Tennis Championships will be commenced, on Monday the Athletic Championships will be held, and in the evening the Debate, and on Tuesday the Tennis Championships will be concluded. The Victoria College team will then return by either Tuesday's or Wednesday's boat.

Beyond these legal components of the Tournament—athletics, tennis and debating—there is usually a dance and a picnic. Those who have previously experienced the hospitality of Canterbury College fear no dragging moments at the Tournament of 1910; as for the others they may rest assured that thorough enjoyment is the only possibility at a University Tournament.

A Tournament is an education to the wisest student; broadening of outlook cannot but follow attendance at one. The meeting together of so many students who have so much in common, but whose interests are yet so varying, must be to the benefit of all concerned. Let those who doubt this attend the Tournament of 1910.



"I thank you for your voices, thank you—
Your most sweet voices."

—*Coriolanus*.

This year the hand of fate has been raised against the Glee Club. First of all the conductor, E. Waters, handed in his resignation, and the Club had barely recovered from this blow [when Miss J. Frübauf, Deputy Conductor, severed her connection with us. The outlook seemed dark indeed. But new officers were found, S. J. Anderson, with cheerful spirit, undertook the onerous duties of baton wielder, while George Reid assumed the burden of deputy.

Under these satisfactory arrangements members again took heart, and as evidenced by the creditable manner in which the Club has acquitted itself in public, much has been accomplished.

At the Capping Carnival two Gleees were given: "The Watchword" and "Full Fathom Five." These were sung with a precision and attack which fully justified the hopes the Committee entertained when it restricted the membership.

On August 4th, the Annual Concert was held at the Missions to Seamen. Sopranos and altos were present in ample numbers, but the men, Alas! where were they? No doubt the initiatory meeting of the Officers' Training Corps accounted for most if not all of them. The Concert was however a great success, gleees, solos, capping songs and even the "Jamtinny Goatibus" going off in fine style. The thanks of the Club are due to those "outside" ladies and gentlemen who assisted us on that occasion.

The energetic Committee of the Debating Society, determining if possible to brighten the dreary wait which invariably occurs while the votes are being counted at the Plunket Medal Competition, invited the Glee Club to render a short programme during that interval. The Committee consented, and although the items rendered were sung under very disadvantageous circumstances, the result seems generally to have pleased the audience.

In the meantime the Club is practising steadily. The Annual Concert draws near and all the energy of the Club is essential upon making it a success. Thereafter rumour whispers of sundry trips to Porirua and elsewhere (let us hope mostly elsewhere) but this concerns Glee Club members and them alone.

GEO. H. GIBB,

HON. SEC. V.C. GLEE CLUB.



The University Senate.

"If anyone jostles
Those obstinate fossils,
He gets no reward for his pains."

—*Capping Song.*

THE University Senate holds its Annual Meeting at the commencement of next year and the SPIKE would like to emphasise once again the two outstanding reforms which become more necessary every year, the raising of the matriculation standard and the abolition of examinations conducted from England. We fervently hope that the time is not very remote when neither of these will furnish material for capping songs.

There are two points of view from which to view the question of the matriculation standard—the educational viewpoint and the viewpoint of age. As to the first we would again impress upon the members of the Senate a fact which they sometimes overlook, namely that the average boy who has spent not more than two or at most three years at the elementary groundwork of a subject which he intends to study at the University—take Latin or French for example—cannot possibly do justice to the subject as a University subject. He can pass his degree examinations if he can cram successfully, but we do not think that the most conservative of the many Tories who have seats on the University Senate, would care to designate the University as a cramming institution. That, however, is its primary function under the present system. Raise the standard of matriculation and the student will be able to gain some real benefit from his University studies.

The raising of the matriculation standard—and it seems to us that this could best be effected by making compulsory, prior to entering the University, at least four years, secondary school education—would have the effect of raising the age limit. There is no doubt that the present system is unfair to the student; the average boy who has just passed his matriculation, is hardly old enough to realise the comparative independence and responsibility attached to the status of a University student. But the fault lies in the University system, not in the student. The raising of the matriculation standard would have a beneficial result in every way.

But the policy of having the majority of the examinations conducted by English examiners is perhaps the most objection-

able and incomprehensible part of the present syllabus. It is difficult for the student who suffers it all to understand how a system which restricts the year's work to five and a half months can be better than one which would allow eight or nine months for study. The older student has grown accustomed to it and its necessary corollary, cram. Some of them, however, are not content.

What the supporters of the present absurd system put forward as an argument, is that the degree is much more valuable by reason of the fact that distinguished English scholars allow their names to appear at the head of the examination paper. We are open to conviction, but we have a shrewd suspicion that those same distinguished scholars would not refrain from allowing a trustworthy assistant to mark for them just one or two of the candidate's papers. But be that as it may, the argument as to the greater value of the degree is tantamount to saying that a three hours examination is of overwhelming importance, and training is of no importance. Rule one: cram; rule two: cram; and rule three: cram. An examination which should be but one of the means to an end, is made the end itself. Another important point is that the New Zealand professors who perform so creditably the responsible and important task of teaching, are not trusted with what should be the subordinate and is the more mechanical task of examining. The Australian States can provide their own examiners; and the worst that can be said of the Australian University teaching is that its standards are not lower than those of the New Zealand system.

And New Zealand prides itself on being an advanced nation educationally as well as politically.

• Cricket •



WITH an increasing membership roll, including many new students, and prospects all pointing to a season throughout which the spirit of good-fellowship and the keen enjoyment of the game will be as dominant as ever, the Victoria College Cricket Club looks forward to a season that promises even more success than the season 1908-09.

In reviewing the past season, however, one cannot but feel how much we have lost by the departure of Alan MacDougall. He helped, at the first to establish the club firmly, and then for two years discharged the onerous duties of secretary. He left his mark on the club, the mark which a solid hard-working intelligent man always leaves on his surroundings. He, beyond others, established that feeling of confidence and reliance which is the soul of new enterprise.

Last season the club entered three teams—two Juniors and one Third-class. The Junior B team was weak, but the A was second in the championship. It was beaten twice, both times by Wadestown, and though it had to bow to a stronger side, the College team did not seem, on either occasion, to reproduce its true form—a result *not* due to Mr. Murphy's wickets at the Park.

The leading averages for the past season, in the A team, were:—

BATTING.—Niven, 21.71; Ward, 21; Bogle, 19.67; de la Mare, 18.79.

BOWLING.—Niven, 61 at 8.44; Miller, 56 at 9.54; Elliott, 23 at 9.83.

It is reported on good authority that the B team would have won one match had not fate intervened. After Bogle had compiled 136, and victory was assured, an unsympathetic Association declared the season closed.

But what of the Thirds! Can mortal pen describe their tale of weal and woe, of joy and pain? They ventured forth against Karori, against Petone, against Johnsonville, but, though Williams "slogged," and though Willis proved himself a very Hercules, victory—even "moral" victory—was denied by an unkind fate.

During last season many members availed themselves of the opportunity for practice on the Basin Reserve, and it is to be hoped that this year we shall have full practice musters; for the keen man practices, and practice tells. An additional en-

couragement to practice is the fact that the club has received permission to practice on Kelburne Park, which is more convenient for most members besides being nearer College. We shall probably have to do at least some preparation of the wicket ourselves, and in this the committee expects each member to do his share. The committee has decided to enter a team for the senior championship, and for this venture to be successful good practice-wickets and much practice are essential. A little fielding-practice might not be beneath the contempt even of our first eleven. As a mere matter of form and, to encourage the juniors, they might handle the ball a little. Demonstrations of how to miss a catch will not be smiled upon in senior cricket; also, as a matter of pure mathematics, a run saved is a run earned.

Not only did the late secretary save the club much money by his judicious buying, but it is rumoured that, instead of losing material, a steady increase in the number of wickets and balls took place under his able control. It is also said that MacDougall's next thesis will be entitled "The Persistence of Primitive (Border) Instincts in Sport."

A matter that the committee will probably earnestly consider this season is the probability of a cricket tournament between the various Colleges. Such a contest is undoubtedly desirable, and seems on the whole to be feasible; if it is not possible at Easter it might perhaps be held during the vacation, and though the scheme is at present nebulous yet something definite will undoubtedly evolve. Perhaps, also, one good effect would be to bring under the notice of our Students' Association the desirability, even now, of granting "colours" to those who represent their College in other branches than tennis, debating or athletics.

In conclusion, now that the club is on a firm footing, both financially, thanks to the generous donors who have given so freely, and numerically, for perhaps four teams will be entered this year, it but remains for each member to show himself a keen player and a true sportsman, for then only can we hope to uphold all that is best in College tradition.

P. W. BURBIDGE,

Hon. Sec. V.C.C.C.

Five Minutes with the Famous.



"Yes," said von Haast after a College Council Meeting as he sat in the gymnasium discussing a glass of water and a toothpick with Charlie Wilson, "yes, perhaps we are getting too good; but you know Wilson, it's quite imaginable that the students might start a bridge club innocently enough, but before long, because things were not sufficiently exciting, start playing for say five-pence a hundred. These law students are a wild and woolly crowd and they must find some outlet for the huge salaries they all get. And cards are dangerous. Why I knew a young fellow once who played bridge for five-pence a hundred and ruined his prospects in life through it; yes, he lost one and eight-pence in a fortnight."

"Three drinks and a tram fare," interrupted Charlie Wilson, *à propos* of nothing.

"Oh, it's all very well to joke about it, but it's a serious matter."

He drew his chair closer to Mr. Wilson's, took a sip of water and a bite of toothpick and continued.

"Just between you and me Wilson, I'm frightened of the Professors. I didn't like to mention it at the Council meeting because the reporters were there, but I've been hearing all sorts of tales. Now, Professor Mackenzie has just taken up golf lately—"

"Eh? What's that?" said the startled Mr. Wilson.

"Prof. Mac. has taken up golf, and when anybody starts breaking out like that, it's a sure sign that something has happened. Prof. Brown induced him to take it up, I believe, and they've been going out together, and I hear that Brown gave up his prose class and substituted a bridge evening on Wednesdays. Of course Mackenzie wasn't going to be left behind by Brown so he and Mr. Eichelbaum have instituted pak-a-poo for the second year students and fan-tan for freshmen. But the mathematics class is the worst of the lot; it threatens to become a regular gambling hell. Why, Prof. Picken set his honours students to work to devise a scheme for breaking the bank at Monte Carlo!"

"Ah!" said the imperturbable Chas., "something useful at last. Who can I find out the system from and I'll start for Monte Carlo to-morrow?"

"But it's no joke at all," said von Haast. "It doesn't matter what faculty you go to, it's the same everywhere. von Zedlitz of course has been tossing for tram fares for years. Kirk and Easterfield are pretty immune so far but that's because they find an outlet for their animal spirits by manœuvring over the Karori Hills on Saturday afternoons with the Royal Fall-backs; but I believe that Laby and Cotton are organising a professional prize-frighting class. And to cap all Richmond has started to find holes in the Gaming and Lotteries Act; he says that if you bet against a horse, it's not a bet but an insurance. I tell you we've got a serious problem to face and the sooner we take the bull by the horns, the better."

"Oh, it's no use von Haast. We can't do any good. Joynt will undo it all. He's started his annual sweepstake again, two guineas a time; you pay your two guineas, wait six months, then Joynt puts the names in a hat and those that come out first get degrees. The others don't. Good-night."



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION, EXECUTIVE, 1909



An Revoir.

On Capping Day there departed from Wellington W. H. Wilson, B.A., LL.M., of ours (better known as "Spike"). He was one of the older generations of students who have done much for the welfare of the College and whose labour has been its own reward. We are pleased to have the opportunity of putting on record our appreciation of what "Spike" Wilson has done for Victoria College. As Editor of the SPIKE in 1905 and 1906 and Vice-President of the Students' Association in 1906 and 1907, his influence was all for the good; a broad-minded student, a deep thinker and a hard and conscientious worker of the type of which Victoria College needs more to-day. W. H. Wilson is a pleasing example of a type of student unfortunately too rare, the student whose degree course serves but to stimulate his interest in his studies and who rightly regards his studies as little more than begun when his degree is completed. He is at present in Auckland in the office of Mr. F. E. Baume, K.C. May he enjoy his years.

Another of the older body of students—Arch. Tudhope, LL. B., has also left Wellington; Tudhope has commenced practice in Tauranga. His record at College deserves a mead of praise and thanks. For three years he served on the Debating Society Committee; he was one of the members of the first Victoria College Football team, in 1903, and was a member of the Football Club Committee from that year till 1906; he was Treasurer of the Students' Association in 1903 and was also on the Executive of that body in 1904; and he was a member of the Athletic Club Committee for two years. At the Tournaments of 1904, '05 and '06 he was one of our Athletic representatives. He was also an active member of the Tennis Club, playing for College in the inter-Club competitions. He is indeed one of those to whom Victoria College owes much and to him too we extend our thanks. May he too enjoy his years.

The Unemployed.

The slackness of employment in the City during the winter months resulted in substantial benefit to Victoria College. As a result of representations made to the Ministry, and much is due to the good offices of Mr. R. C. Kirk, a number of the unemployed were given work at Victoria College. The unskilled labourers removed the unsightly hillocks on the northern side of the College and cleared the gorse from the face of the cliff; they also did some excavating about the gymnasium thereby decreasing the possibility of the gymnasium being hurled by an avalanche to the tennis courts below; the carpenters were given work fitting up the "hop floor on the top floor" as a class room and also in making several improvements and additions, chiefly in the shape of exits, to the gymnasium. The Students' Association spent the sum of twenty-five pounds as their share of the cost of the work at the gymnasium and also organised a concert given during the short vacation in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall. This Concert resulted in a net profit of £35 for the Mayor's Relief Fund.

The Battle of the Bays.

The usual prizes for Capping Songs were again offered by the Students' Association this year. Not half a dozen songs were entered for the Competition and many of the songs actually sung were not handed in until some time after the announcement of the award. The result of this was that the consideration of the songs and their subsequent printing were left till the last minute—the Committee's only other alternative being to omit them altogether. It is to be hoped that next year the song writers will consider the convenience of others more than their own. Perhaps they wait for inspiration; to judge by the results, their wait this year was in vain.

Athletic Club.

The annual meeting of the Athletic Club attracted the largest attendance on record at that Club's annual meetings; there were over twenty students present and it was apparent that most of these were enthusiasts. It is hoped that this is a sign for better things for the future and an auspicious omen for Easter 1910. The meeting recommended the Committee to institute an inter-faculty contest in connection with the annual sports meeting and this is to be done. It should certainly arouse greater interest than existed last season. We trust

that students will not be afraid of trying; we know not what champions we may not have in our midst. Especially is it to be remembered that competitors in the field events will be welcomed with open arms. Therein lies an easy road to representative honours. The officers of the Athletic Club for the year are: *Club Captain*—A. H. Bogle, *Hon. Sec.*—J. L. Short, *Hon. Treas.*—T. Rigg, *Committee*—A. T. Duncan and C. H. Strack.

The Gymnasium.

Victoria College has a gymnasium and social hall. After years of working and waiting the gymnasium committee has at last seen its efforts completed and has handed over to the Students' Association a building such as the College has long needed: on the top floor a large room for use as a gymnasium or for dancing purposes, a caretaker's room, a locker room, and a men's dressing room; and on the ground floor a large assembly hall with a stage, a "kitchen," a committee room and the women's dressing room.

With the waving of many coloured flags, much speech-making, photographers in plenty and afternoon tea, the building was formally opened on the afternoon of Saturday, 24th July, 1909. The ceremony was performed by the Hon. Geo. Fowlds, Minister for Education and Official Visitor to Victoria College. The hall on the ground floor was filled with a profusion of gay millinery, drab sac suits and irreverent students. Professor von Zedlitz was the representative of the Professorial Board for the occasion, Mr. H. F. von Haast sat to the *Free Lance* artist on behalf of the College Council; Professor T. A. Hunter represented the original gymnasium committee; and F. A. Wilson the Students' Association. All these people made speeches—in addition, of course, to the Hon. Mr. Fowlds. After the speech-making—duly misreported in the daily papers—the visitors partook of afternoon tea, inspected the building and took their leave.

Since its erection, the building has been used by the various College societies for their different meetings and for training and dancing purposes.

£70 is still owing on the building.



POETRY.



SHIP COVE; QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND.

Hush ! Do you think he ever trod this rood ?
 Mayhap his pinnace furrowed wave and sand
 Twin-shadowed by the rata and the pine ;
 And where the fantails flutter on a stair
 Not three feet from the ripple, it may be
 He stooped to pluck a lucid stalk that held
 In sap old memories of the Yorkshire wold.
 His keen grey eye would mark the creek that slid
 Through yonder thicket like a fugue that winds
 Through organ pipes to fall at last, desired,
 Smooth, delicate, a messenger of peace.
 Suppose he carved a name upon a bole,
 A word, a letter only ; if it strayed
 Long after through the moss, and fret of years,
 A tortive hieroglyph—why, we would stoop
 To let it lie entangled in our eyes ;
 Seeing no other, for a moment fused
 Suddenly with the past ; and we should be
 Kindred to the Olympian days when time
 Stole through the fiord like rower who delays
 To watch the sunset ; all forgetting, all
 Inheriting the magic of the place

The father of our waters ! If he be
 One that we share with islands of the foam
 Of prodigal madrepores, how great the star
 That shines within the double hemisphere.

What are we worthy if we gather up
 The richness of our land, and falter not
 When our remembrance lingers in this cove
 Like aureole of his brightness. Let the tide
 Flow ever through impediment of calm,
 To lull the ancient haunt of great design
 And great achievement. Where a full-veined heart
 Hath made a covenant, established it,
 Never should any vexing of espial
 Come near to palter with the memory.
 But troubled gratitude that cannot pour
 Enough in thankfulness should be our veil ;
 And thoughts that are too pure, too deep, for words
 Should wreath a sanctity that is not ours.

—HUBERT CHURCH.

ANTIPODEAN HORACE.

Carmen V.

Quis multa gracilis te, puer, in rosa. . . .

What scented stripling thee doth woo
 In cosy corner at the dance ?
 For whom dost thou thy tresses do
 So artless in thy elegance ?

Laura, how oft will he bewail
 Thy fickle faith and fortune's change
 And wonder at the sullen gale,
 Unused the stormy seas to range ?

Who basks now in thy golden sun
 And fondly dreams thee ever kind
 With heart-room for no other one,
 He little knows the treacherous wind.

Poor wretches, they to whom afar
 An eldorado thou dost loom ;
 For me, I thank my lucky star
 That I have just escaped their doom.

Carmen XXX.

O Venus, regina. . . .

Venus, queen of Orient isle,
Leave thy chosen realm awhile,
Make with Maud thy domicile,
 Sojourn in her shrine ;
Let Love hot-foot come with thee,
Nymphs and Graces girdle-free,
Youth, whom thy society
 Ever doth refine.

Carmen XXXVIII.

Persicos odi, puer, adparatus. . . .

Spare me, boy, the formal state
Of your dinners up-to-date,
Frenchy dishes, silver-plate
 And the swallow-tail ;
Let us rather take our ease
In undress beneath the trees
Washing down our bread and cheese
 With a mug of ale.

ARTHUR CHORLTON.

Slow man, fast man,
 Old man, baby,
 Richmond, Hunter.
 Brown and Laby,
 Never mind how
 Loath you may be,
 Come and join the Corps.

—Willis.

They are still a young Corps, in fact mere infantry.

—*Evening Post.*

INAUGURAL ODE ON THE V.C. OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

I.

Rejoice Imperial Mother! Let the breeze
 Of hope renewed dispel your dread alarms;
 Your bold but youngest babe is now in arms,
 Your weary elder sons may stand at ease.
 The trump of war declares
 The fact in blatant blares
 And drowns those touching things the College Glee.

II.

Spirits of warriors long buried and dead,
 Concentrate, concentrate,
 All of your genius in one little head
 Concentrate, concentrate;
 Gather, you sprites, for the good of the nation,
 Into one glorious centralization,
 Concentrate, concentrate.
 Smile on him, Jupiter, smile on him, Mars,
 Fit him for victories, battles and slaughters,
 Make him the joy of all mothers and pas,
 Make him immune from the smiles of their daughters:
 Give him a book of manœuvres as litany,
 Guns let him shoot at the foe (he won't hit any);
 Make him a paragon general here,
 Wellington Moltke Napoleon Beere.

III.

But soft ! From high Olympus Jove descends,
Deserts the Board of gods and here unbends :
His hands still red with Cerberean gore,
He scents a nobler game,—the dogs of war.
Beside him strides, with features grimly set,
Hung down in front his trusty bayonet,
That foreign god, von Zedlitz. By and by
They'll trust in him and keep their powder dry.
His duty too, when airships come and go,
To analyse their language here below.
And lastly Pluto brings his fiery shield
And once a year that camp on Easter field.
Immortals these, they stand in mortal dread
Of glorious Beere, who's risen to their head.

IV.

And lo, this gallant troop can boast, this martial fierce array,
As many officers as men to honour and obey.
Again behold their Captain Beere, of proud and stately port ;
And yet he'll not be Captain long, for see Lieutenant Short.
And though 'tis true in love and war, that men will all things dare,
Their means will surely not be foul, when led by Sergeant Fair.
The matrons say, "the pretty boy," the girls they all adore him,
And this, of course you'll understand, refers to Corporal Oram.

V.

Here is the flower of our manhood in bud ;
See how their noble eyes blaze as they mobilize,
Eager to wallow to victory through blood,
Like that unholy 'un, bony Napoleon.
Stealthily, creepily, whispering in shouts,
Steadily, sleepily, out go the scouts.
Then comes the main brigade, uniforms tell,
Making a plain brigade look rather well ;
(Even a puny form, wrapped in a uniform,
Looks rather well).
Bravely they thresh along, weary and hot,
Sometimes it's echelon, sometimes it's not.
Guns to the right of them mow them like grass,
Strangely, in spite of them, onwards they pass.
Powder is flying around and each man'll
Soon be applying his oil and his flannel.
Such is the sum of a warriors toil,
Oceans of trouble, and afterwards—oil.

--GENERAL DE BILTY



ENTERTAINMENTS this term have been few and far between, in fact it is mainly of prospective entertainments that it is possible to speak. Nevertheless we have twice made use of the new gymnasium for purely frivolous purposes, and twice enjoyed ourselves exceedingly in spite of the staircase, which we have been assured is a "death-trap," and in spite also of the extremely small dressing room which has certainly proved itself a trap for the unwary damsel eager for a glance in the glass.

The Christian Union excelled themselves in providing good entertainment for their guests and set an admirable example to other College Clubs when they proved conclusively that a man, and, what is more important, a girl, can be happy through not dancing. It was quite a treat to see ardent devotees of Terpsichore employed in an enthusiastic celebrity hunt; or cheering to the echo the soul-stirring music of those budding musicians, who have now at least gained for themselves notoriety if not fame.

The Men's Common Room Club entertainment was, quite unintentionally, another huge success, and the lucky few who went to it, while marvelling at the casual manner of man (taken in the lump) have nothing but praise for the ultimate result.

Of prospective pleasures it is perhaps after all better not to speak. A horrid gulf yawns between, and it is difficult to distinguish objects on the further side, since the fumes of midnight oil tend much to obscure the view and limit the perspective of even the most optimistic of us, who toil in the pursuit of that fetish, the examination. Oh these strange gods ! When will they have enough of sacrifice ? When shall we be free to turn again to our legitimate employment, the pursuit of pleasure ? By the end of November truly, and the new year will see us eager to embark on fresh ventures, or to attempt again the old, quite oblivious of the groans and sighs which are our present portion.



• On Capping Plays. •

IN the making of Capping extravaganzas, plays, sketches, comic operas or pantomimes,—as your fancy pleases—either of two ideals may be aimed at. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that there is one ideal and one apology. So far Victoria College has suffered both and from the popular viewpoint the apology has been the more successful.

The ideal sometimes aimed at in prior years, was that of producing a play, sketch, comic opera, burlesque, musical comedy, comedietta or extravaganza, which aspired to the literary while seeking popularity. There were "Munchums" of happy memory, and "The Golden Calf." Before that we had suffered "Komicalities"—A. G. Quartley in weird disguises, Tustin as Old Necessity or Willis with unmanageable tricycle and whiskers. The very recollections move us to laughter. And since all these there has been "Shackleton Out-Shacked" which seemed more popular than them all.

But to our point. In the SPIKE of a year ago, there appeared an article on "The Literature of Capping Carnivals" by one F.A.M. The most insistent note in that worthy article was the call for "unity" in Capping extravaganzas. In "Munchums" and "The Golden Calf" this unity was, to most, more ideal than apparent. The desire for a more appreciable unity led to the writing of "South Sea Bubbles." It was a desire to have something resembling a plot working its way throughout, a desire to reinstate the idea of burlesqueing notabilities, and with these, a desire to retain the dramatic and to retain the idea of a musical extravaganza sung chiefly by the students *en masse*. "South Sea Bubbles" was a comparative failure. Perhaps it was too ambitious; certainly three rehearsals are hardly sufficient for the most amateur performance, even for a students' carnival; and moreover a student who has previously during the evening led in Maori hakas and glees, can hardly be expected to take the heaviest part in the extravaganza. But he did.

But by this time the students had become wearied of the striving after a literary ideal. There had sprung within their souls a yearning for something more boisterous; a harlequinade, maybe, where the clown always makes his entrance with a "Slap bang here we are again!" and the comic policeman is

knocked down by the harlequins; and the old lady with the orange stall complains vainly of the free distribution of her oranges; and where a call for the fire brigade brings in a troop of elephants; and a butcher's shop always displays a string of sausages for the clown's decoration. Possibly the yearning had not expressed itself in this form, but a change was imperative and it came. Its name was "Shackleton Out-Shacked."

"Shackleton-Out-Shacked" arrived under unusually auspicious circumstances: Lieutenant Shackleton's antarctic expedition was still fresh in the memory, and was a theme whose interest extended far beyond the College world; the play had been well advertised, but secrecy had been preserved; students had obtained an inkling of its contents, but only sufficient to incite their curiosity; also it was sufficiently rehearsed, a most unusual innovation as far as concerns capping plays; and it was well mounted—the motor car was a stroke of genius. The result was that when it did arrive, it could hardly avoid success. The idea underlying the play was that it should be primarily a burlesque, but that it should have a connected plot running through it. It was written with one object—to provide entertainment for the audience. There was no aiming after literary ideals and no straining after "that which is the crowning mark of good work in literature, the 'atmosphere.' " There was nothing more than a desire to amuse, to cause laughter; the authors intended to create situations which would be foolish; clever, also where possible, but always laughable. That they succeeded is undoubted. As embodying the spirit of a students' carnival, "Shackleton Out-Shacked" was excellent. Perhaps it typifies what carnival plays will be in the future. For a year or two at least—provided that in the meantime the sources of wit do not run dry—it seems that a burlesque of this type should be presented. But it is to be hoped that there will be an occasional respite and that there will be sometime a reversion to the "Munchums" type.

An ideal such as a fixed basis on which to rest all capping literature seems impossible and is not altogether desirable. It is of the essence of Carnivals that they should contain novelty, that the unexpected should happen; and, more often than not, it does.



Prof. v-n Z-dl-tz.—Your monody, "Take arms against a sea of trouble," disarms us. We agree that it might be cheaper to stay away and pay the fines for non-attendance. But stick to it; it encourages the boys.

Profs. H-nt-r and M-ck-nz-e.—Your offer to act as mediums in a spiritualistic sideshow at the Bazaar is most acceptable. There should be no difficulty in borrowing mango seeds, dirt, and humming birds. Possibly Bailey's stock will be going cheap by that time.

M. H. Or-m.—The copyright in Moses expired some time ago so that you have no cause for grievance against anyone else using his name.

R. K-nn-dy.—i. See above. ii. "And."

A. H. B-gle.—We have submitted the matter to our legal advisers who inform us that raffles cannot be held in the gymnasium as they come within the definition of "gambling," and are therefore within the scope of the Gaming and Lotteries Act. The telling of fortunes by cards seems to have been overlooked by the Law Draftsman, but you had better consult Mr. von Haast on this point.

D. H-gg-rd.—Yes—we mean, no.

J. W-ls-n.—We have received your explanation, and regret that ton-sorial duties should have interfered with your turning out to hockey on two occasions this season. We agree that a barber who charges sixpence should, according to the law of proportion, take half as long as one who charges a shilling. Still, you might have asked the gaping assistant to ring up and warn your team of your enforced absence.

F. A. d- l- M-re.—Re your Swimming Club; Shackleton tells us he went forty days without a wash; never looked or felt better in his life. Latest scientific opinion, however, is in favour of a bath on the second Tuesday in each month.