



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

No. 10



THE SPIKE

OR

Victoria College Review

OCTOBER, 1906.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE VICTORIA COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



WELLINGTON:
JOHNSON & SONS, PRINTERS, FARISH STREET.

1906.

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THE SPIKE

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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 H. Oram, Financial Secretary, Victoria College.

Vol. V.

No. 2.



“ Thank you for your kindly proffer ;
Good your heart, and full your coffer,
Yet we must decline your offer.”

A MATTER of great importance to students, and one to which we referred in our last issue—that of providing a College House—was brought up at the last meeting of the Council. A letter was received from Mrs Wallis, stating that she proposed to start a College Hostel for girls attending the College and Training College, and asking that the Council signify its approval of the proposal. This members felt unable to do, apparently not because they under-estimated the benefits likely to accrue from the existence of such an institution, but owing to the fact that the letter stated that the lady who was to be in charge was an Anglican, and they did not wish to appear to favour, in the slightest degree, any form of denominationalism. Although we realise the extreme desirability, and have already urged the necessity for some boarding institution established in

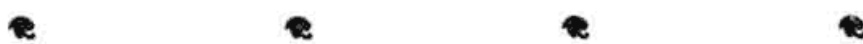
connection with the College, with the approval of the Council, we consider the objection was a sound one. Any such scheme, if it is to promote the best interests of College life, must, in our opinion, be on an entirely unsectarian basis. Already we have heard that prominent Presbyterians are talking of another College House—presumably to be conducted by a Presbyterian. Carry this a step further, and we shall have Roman Catholic and Unitarian institutions on similar lines and with similar reservations. The inevitable result of making these divisions would, in our view, be the speedy erection between sections of our students of those barriers which are at present scarcely perceptible, and which the College life has, happily, a tendency to break down. We strongly hold, however, that with the growth of the College the time must come when a College House will have to be established, and if the proposal does no more than direct the attention of the Council and the public to the need for College Hostels, both for women and for men, it will have achieved something, for which we owe to Mrs Wallis our hearty thanks.

• • • •

At this year's Capping Ceremony, for the first time one of the students was invited to address the meeting, with the object, presumably, of getting an expression of their views on any matters which they considered worthy of being brought before the notice of the Senate and the public. It cannot be said that this object was attained in any marked degree. This was not owing to any lack of matters of importance to students, nor to the fault of the student called on to express our views, but was due entirely to the short notice given. A single student cannot be expected to express the views of the general body, unless an opportunity is given of ascertaining them. There is no doubt that the privilege will be valued by the College, but in order to obtain any advantage from it we would suggest that, if the practice is to be continued, some means be adopted by which the students' representative may obtain an expression of opinion from the students as a whole. It would be an easy matter for the Students' Association Committee to put matters, which it considers ought to be discussed, before a general meeting, and the speaker chosen might then bring such matters before the public.

Among such questions may be mentioned the amount of degree and examination fees, the necessity for a College Hall, an authoritative statement from the Senate as to the text-books which should be used by all law students, etc.

Another question which might profitably be brought before the authorities is that of providing means whereby students desirous of obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Commerce might take the course here. It is surely apparent that this course of study, more than any other, will meet the wants of this, the most commercial city in New Zealand. The success of the short series of lectures in Commercial Law and the interest taken by the exceptionally large number who attended, go to show that if such a course were started its success would be assured. Some of the other colleges have already commenced to teach and examine in the subjects required. These colleges cannot be said to be so well equipped as we are, seeing that we already boast of two professors of law and a lecturer in economics. These subjects form a most important part of the work required for the degree of Bachelor of Commerce, and to a certain extent also the lectures delivered in the Arts and the Law faculties would meet the requirements of the new degree. The question of expense ought not to raise any serious difficulty, as the fees would probably more than cover the amount required for a lecturer in accountancy, etc. Though we specialise in Law and Science there appears to be no serious obstacle in the way of adding this to the other studies carried on here, and it surely ought not to be said that the youngest of the colleges is the last to take up new branches of work.



There has lately been much discussion concerning our University system, and one question to which attention has been directed is that of raising the standard of the University entrance examination. We do not think that anyone will contend that the present Matriculation is in any sense an adequate test of ability to commence the College course. The College Calendar informs us that the first year student is expected to have done mathematics, for instance, up to Matriculation standard, and anyone who has managed to pass, naturally thinks he will be able to keep up pretty well with the work of the class. This pleasing delusion will perhaps not have been completely dissipated by the end of the first term; but with the first few weeks of the second term comes the awakening, and the student, who is lightly told that the work is merely elementary, is not greatly cheered thereby. Much the same may be seen on the classical side, and students, who would have been able with a year's extra work to attend lectures with some profit, waste their own time and that of the professors in trying to do work which is manifestly beyond them and finally drop the subject in despair. The truth is the Matriculation has been looked on

as a kind of certificate for secondary schools rather than as an entrance examination to the University. It is not difficult to see that this is so when we consider that it can be passed in two years from the primary school. One remedy is clearly to raise the present standard but another, which is not so obvious, is to fix the age at which candidates are allowed to sit. If this age limit were increased, say to sixteen, the result would probably be an extra year spent at a secondary school. As it is, boys sit at the earliest opportunity—the work is often crammed, and by the time they can attend College a great part has been forgotten. In the case of those who sit after two years at a High School the work has never been known at all. Probably such a step would raise opposition from those who have made of the Matric. a leaving examination, but, looking to the purpose for which it is intended, their views may very well be disregarded.



Notes on University Degrees.

I. DOCTORS AND MASTERS—

In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, when the earliest of the universities appeared in Paris and Bologna, the terms doctor, master, and professor were synonymous. They all meant what the word professor means now, namely a teacher in a university. In Bologna the usual title was doctor, though professor and magister were also used. In Paris, on the other hand, magister and professor were the common designations, doctor being employed chiefly in the faculty of law, in imitation of the usage of Bologna, the great school of law. In the course of time, however, these three terms became differentiated in meaning. Doctor and master came to be applied to those who were qualified and licensed to teach in a university, whether they actually taught or not; that is to say, to those who had received what we now call a university degree. A distinction thus grew up between the *doctores* or *magistri legentes* (the reading, i.e. teaching doctors) and those who were *non-legentes* (namely graduates, qualified to teach, but not engaged in practice). The term professor, on the other hand, has remained exclusively applicable to the *doctores* or *magistri legentes*, save that in modern and more civilised times the title is also claimed by dancing masters and other persons of the baser sort.

A further distinction has grown up between the terms doctor and master themselves. Doctor came to be reserved in England for the higher faculties, namely theology, law, and medicine; while master was used as the corresponding title in the lower faculty of arts. This distinction, however, is not universal; for in Germany the graduate in arts is called doctor of philosophy, instead of, as in England, master of arts. In recent years we have seen introduced into the universities both of England and the colonies the historical absurdity of a master's and a doctor's degree granted as two different orders of merit in the same faculty. Thus we have the degree of LL.M. as well as that of LL.D., a distinction based on the historical error that the degree of doctor is superior to that of master. It is true that in old days, as well as now, the degree of LL.D. was superior to that of M.A.; but this was due to the superiority of the faculty of law over that of arts, and not to any difference between a doctor as such and a master as such.

2. BACHELORS—

Bachelor, as the title of a graduate, is of later origin than doctor or master. Originally it had nothing to do with Universities, but is said to be derived from the Low Latin *baccalarius*, a cow-herd or farm servant. However this may be, the term came to mean (1) generically, a young man (whence the popular meaning of the word), (2) specifically, an apprentice or probationer (e.g. a monk or a knight in the probationary stage—knight bachelor) (3) a probationer in the profession of a university teacher, i.e. a student who is not yet a doctor or master, but who has received a limited and provisional license to teach by way of apprenticeship, preliminary to his complete reception into the teaching profession. The practice of granting such licenses to bachelors seems to have begun in Paris in the thirteenth century, and to have spread thence to the English Universities. It is to be regretted that so many students forget that a bachelor's degree is merely a preliminary step towards complete academic status, and act as if it were the genuine crown and garland of the race that is set before them.

3. GRADUATION—

Taking a university degree—graduation—meant originally the act of being received as a member of the university, i.e. of the incorporated body, guild, or union of academic teachers (*doctores, professores, magistri*). The term university is derived from *universitas*, which meant in Roman law any kind of corporation. In the original sense, therefore, a joint-stock company, or the city of Wellington, or the Bank of New Zealand is as much entitled to be called a university as the University of Oxford is. For many a day, however, the term has been limited to one particular kind of corporation, namely the corporate union of the academic teachers and graduates of a certain place. When, in the Middle Ages, professors, graduates, or students spoke of *the* university, they naturally meant the university (i.e. corporation) to which they themselves belonged. So in modern times when the citizens of a town speak of *the* corporation, they mean the corporation of which they themselves are members, namely the municipal corporation of their own town. Just as the term corporation is tending to become limited to municipal corporations, so the term university has become limited to academic corporations. A similar process of specification, though not so complete, has affected the related term college. *Collegium* in Latin is any body corporate; college in English means commonly a teaching

institution, though not necessarily or commonly of university rank. So naturally, indeed, does the word college now suggest a boys' or girls' school, that it is a matter of regret that Victoria College suffered at its birth or baptism the misfortune of so misleading and unworthy a title. Even Victoria University College would have been a great improvement, while the University of Wellington would have been a choice justified by the example of the University of Otago and also as a premonition of the future.

A University, then, was originally a voluntary union or guild of masters, doctors, or professors engaged in academic teaching in some city such as Paris, Bologna, or Oxford. It was a self-governing body with the power of admitting new members and authorising them to take part in its academic work. This admission into the *universitas*—into the teacher's guild—of a new master or doctor was graduation, the taking of a degree. Afterwards, however, when the distinction arose between *doctores legentes* and *doctores non-legentes*—between professors and graduates—graduation necessarily assumed a new meaning. It became what it is now, namely the public and authoritative recognition of expert qualification in some branch of knowledge.

4. MATRICULATION—

In addition to this guild or union of doctors and masters into which graduates were received, there was also a guild or union of *students*, a voluntary association established by the students themselves for their protection, assistance, and government. The reception of a new member into this students' union was called matriculation, and corresponded to the reception of a graduate into the doctors' union. These two bodies—the professorial board and the students' association—working together sometimes in concord and often without it—constitute the primitive elements of the University. Governing bodies superior to them both, such as councils and senates, are a later innovation, by reason of which we have fallen away from the glorious liberty which our forefathers achieved and handed down to us.

5. THE CAPPING CEREMONY.

The ceremony of graduation is still called in New Zealand, in imitation of Scottish usage, and in remembrance of medieval practice, the capping ceremony; although there is no longer any capping and often very little ceremony. It consisted originally

in the public initiation of a new doctor, master, or professor—his formal entrance upon the duties of his new office. It may be said to have consisted of four parts, the first of which was the formal granting of a license to teach in some particular faculty, i.e. formal admission as a master of the University. The form of admission of graduates in Oxford is worded to this day as a license to teach. Secondly, the new graduate is publicly presented or invested with the *insignia* of his office, namely a ring, a book, a chair, and a cap. The ring and the book have disappeared. The chair is still remembered in the customary mode of speech by which we term the professorship of law or of Latin the chair of law or Latin; but in standing up to lecture the modern professor has grievously departed from the more luxurious and dignified habit of his predecessors. The cap was the square *biretta*, which in a more or less modified form is still a familiar feature of academic costume. It was the recognised badge of an academic teacher. The third part of the capping ceremony was an inaugural lecture delivered by the new candidate—this being the public commencement of his duties. To this day in Scotland when a new judge is appointed, the ceremony of his elevation to the bench includes the trial of a case and a judgment delivered by him in the presence of his colleagues. The fourth and last part of the capping ceremony was a banquet, at which the new member of the University entertained his colleagues. In New Zealand the banquet still exists, but by some strange transformation the new graduates are the guests instead of the hosts.

6. ARTS—

The term arts in the phrases master of arts, faculty of arts, etc., is an abbreviation of liberal arts. Arts in the generic sense meant sciences, departments of knowledge, the Latin *ars* being the equivalent of *scientia*. The *artes liberales* (originally so called as being those which were worthy of *free* men) were those sciences which were the appropriate subject-matter of a general education, as opposed to those which pertained to particular learned professions, namely law, medicine, and theology. These liberal arts were seven in number, viz. grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. Grammar meant in reality the study of the Latin language; we can hear a reminder of this usage in the grammar schools of England. Logic included philosophy, it being through logic that the mediæval mind found its way into the mysteries of metaphysics. This second of the liberal arts, therefore, may be said to correspond to what we in New Zealand unfortunately choose to call mental

science—a term which suggests either the study of lunacy in general, or of that particular branch of it known as faith-healing. Just as the term art thus came to be limited to the liberal as opposed to the technical arts, so the term science tends in modern times to be appropriated for the exclusive use of the physical sciences.

7. LAWS—

The laws referred to in the phrases doctor of laws, bachelor of laws, etc., are the *leges*—the rules contained in the compilation of Roman law made by order of the Emperor Justinian in the sixth century, and studied at Bologna and elsewhere throughout the Middle Ages as the living law of Europe. LL.D. is the exact equivalent of D.C.L.; the doctor of laws is the doctor of civil law, the teacher of the laws of Rome. He once had a colleague almost as important as himself, namely the doctor of canon law, for the civil and the canon law were in the Middle Ages the two systems by which the world was governed.

It ought not to be necessary to remind lawyers—yet it may be done for safety's sake—that the doubled consonant in LL.B. is merely the sign of the plural, and that the two first letters are not independent initials. Yet I have known bachelors of laws who wrote themselves down L.L.B., and even a doctor of laws (*honoris causa*) whose serenity was unruffled by L.L.D.

It has been the evil and undeserved fate of the degree of doctor of laws to be used for purely honorary and decorative purposes—as a token of respect rather than as a genuine certificate of learning. Just as the degree of doctor of divinity is sometimes given *honoris causa* to men who know but little theology, so the degree of doctor of laws is often conferred for the same reason on men who know no law at all.

8. DEGREES BY ROYAL CHARTER—

It was the custom in the Middle Ages for a university to apply for a bull, charter, or other act of recognition from the Pope or Emperor. This was reputed to give some sort of international validity to the degrees granted by the university. The master or doctor of a university so recognised by papal or imperial authority had or was reputed to have the *jus ubique docendi*, the right of teaching anywhere throughout Christendom, and not merely within the jurisdiction of his own *alma mater*. This universal recognition was, however, more a name than a reality, and must then, as now, have been a matter lying wholly in the discretion of those from whom it was sought.

We no longer seek bulls from Rome, nor is there any longer any emperor from whom we can seek imperial authority, but it is still the custom to seek and obtain royal charters for the granting of degrees. Whatever possible effect the possession of such a charter may have upon the *prestige* of a university, it is not easy to see that it has any *legal* consequence at all, or is anything more than a form or ceremony inherited from mediæval practice. The only authority which the University of New Zealand requires for the granting of a degree is that of the New Zealand Parliament; nor can a royal charter affect in any way the operation of the degree so given. The recognition of a degree outside the colony in which it is obtained is entirely optional on the part of the recognising bodies; and it does not seem that American degrees, which are given without the sanction of any royal charter, stand in any different legal position in England from that of New Zealand degrees, to which that sanction belongs.

9. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS—

Some idea of the standard of discipline and learning demanded by mediæval universities may perhaps be gathered from the following statistics of the University of Vienna. In a certain year there were 43 candidates, of whom 17 failed. Of these one failed for speaking rudely to a master, one for irregularities in the matter of academic dress, one for gambling, one for going about disguised, one for fighting with knives against certain tailors, one for going out in the middle of the examination to see an execution, but none for failure to show the required amount of scholarship. It does not appear, however, whether this was due to the learning of the candidates or to the leniency of the examiners.





Our courage all untarnished
We display
But to tell the truth unvarnished
We are more inclined to say,
“ Please you do not hurt us.”

A pleasing feature of the visit of the Sydney University footballers was the desire they expressed that a team representative of the New Zealand University should pay them a visit. An inter-University contest would excite much greater interest than one between single Colleges, and the probable presentation of a representative badge or “blue” would make the honour a much-coveted one. The difficulties in the way do not seem insurmountable. That of selection would undoubtedly be the greatest, and mistakes might be made, but in any case it should be satisfactory to know that the team in Sydney was drawn, not from a single College, but from the whole University—even if any particular College was so lacking in talent in any one year as to have no man in the team.

For the first time we have had the pleasure of seeing one of our men playing in inter-provincial matches. G. Bogle was Captain of Wellington “B” against Horowhenua, and also played for the “A” team against Otago. A. McCarthy, whom we were sorry to lose at the beginning of the second half, has been playing for Wanganui reps.

CANTERBURY MATCH.

The second match against Canterbury College was played on the Athletic Park shortly after the beginning of the second term, and resulted in a lucky win for Victoria College.

Lack of training was evident, and the Canterbury forward play, especially in the second half, was much superior to ours, notwithstanding the fact that they had just come off the boat.

Shortly after the beginning of the game V.C. scored a penalty goal.

From a scrum in our own ground a good passing rush was started, the ball passing through several hands, both of forwards and backs. This was checked for a moment, but de la Mare passed back and A. Bogle crossed the line, the try being converted. V.C. 8, Canterbury *nil*. De la Mare dislocated his finger and had to retire, McKenzie taking his place. His loss was very marked. Canterbury forwards played very well in the second spell, but Dobbie went down to their rushes in good style. They heeled the ball, or screwed the scrum as they pleased, and had the backs tested our tackling capabilities more, instead of kicking, the result might have been very different. When they did indulge in passing, two nice tries were scored, one each by Manihera and Adamson, and a third was gained by McLennan, who charged over the line from behind the scrum. One was converted. From a scrum on their line, Dobbie got the ball and dashed for the line. He was held, however, but handed the ball on to G. Bogle, who scored and converted. A free kick from a mark increased our score, and the game ended in our favour by 16 to 11.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY MATCH.

Sydney won the toss and elected to play with a fairly strong breeze blowing against them, but with the sun at their backs. V.C. followed up the kick, spoilt the return, and the ball went out inside the Sydney quarter. From the throw-in a scrambling rush took place, and a free kick gave G. Bogle a chance at goal. The effort was a good one, the ball striking the post. V.C. then attacked strongly, but a free kick to Sydney relieved. Wilson came round the scrum, spoiled the Sydney half, and Bogle intercepting a pass took the ball into Sydney ground, but hard kicking lost us the chance. At this stage Dobbie retired injured, and for the next half-hour V.C. played a man short.

A splendid passing rush by Sydney resulted in a score near the post. The referee gave no charge, and a goal was

registered. Sydney 5, V.C. *nil*. Off-side play by Sydney gave us a shot at goal, but Bogle's kick was unsuccessful. Sydney carried play down the field, but a counter rush was started by de la Mare. A splendid attack was set up by the Sydney backs, who, from their own twenty five, carried the ball down the field and scored. The kick was converted. Sydney 10, V.C. *nil*. Goulding now filled Dobbie's place. Sydney were forced and started a passing rush, which was stopped by Hunter. Play of a give-and-take character followed till the bell went, the spell ending Sydney 10, V.C. *nil*.

On changing ends the superiority of the Sydney backs was quickly made manifest, though at first V.C. had the advantage. Bogle and Wilson following up spoilt the return, and the ball went out at the corner flag. From the throw in, loose play followed till Sydney obtained the ball at half-way, and running through registered the third try, which was converted. In forward play which followed, Thomas, de la Mare, Short and A. Tudhope were prominent. After a smart interchange of kicks Sydney started a passing rush, which ended in a try, but the kick at goal was fruitless. For some time play remained close to the V.C. line, and from a scrum the ball went out to a Sydney back, who dashed over between the posts. The try was converted. Another rush was started by Sydney, Hunter saving by bumping his man into touch in goal. In quick succession Sydney scored two tries, one of which was converted. After a spell of loose work the ball went out to W. Tudhope, who took it down the field. Goulding got possession and made a good run being collared on the line, but A. Tudhope snapped up the ball and fell over. The try was not converted, and the whistle went. Sydney 31, V.C. 3.

FIRST FIFTEEN.

V.C. v. Athletics. Lost, 21—0. Athletics forwards superior all round.

V.C. v. Orientals. Lost, 25—0. College team played a wretched game.

V.C. v. Southern. Won, 13—0. Play very little better. Millier scored as result of a good passing rush. Short and A. Bogle also scored. Two tries were converted.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 10—6. Although defeated V.C. played one of their best games this season. Score made up of a try by Millier and a penalty goal by Bogle.

Games played, 10. Won 2. Lost 7. Drawn 1. Points for 61. Against 163.

III. A.

- V.C. v. Kia Ora. Won, 14—0. Combination of both backs and forwards was good. G. W. Reid secured two tries, Jordan one. One was a forward try, and East converted one try.
- V.C. v. Star Boating. Lost, 9—0. The capping supper and dance accounted for a good deal.
- V.C. v. Oriental. Lost, 3—0. The hardest game of the season.
- V.C. v. Petone. Won, 8—0. A very fast game and score should have been bigger. Jordan made a brilliant run from one end of the field to the other. The score was compiled by G. W. Reid (one try) which Forne converted, and a goal from a penalty kicked by Forne.
- V.C. v. Karori. Won, 12—0. G. W. Reid secured two tries; one was a forward try, and J. B. Reid kicked a goal from a penalty.
- V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 5—6. Wellington turned out with a strong team, and we were only able to score once, the try falling to J. B. Reid, who also converted.
- V.C. v. Epuni. Draw, 0—0. This should have been an easy victory, but forwards were tired and the back play bad.
- V.C. v. Southern. Won, 14—0. In this game we outclassed our opponents, the forwards playing with great dash and the backs showing much better combination than on the previous Saturday. G. W. Reid scored three tries, J. B. Reid one try and one was converted.
- V.C. v. Old Boys. Won, 11—3. Very fast game. The honours this time fell to the hockey members of the team, Beere scoring two and Watson one.

Games played, 14. Won 8. Lost 4. Drawn 2. Points for 134. Against 36.

JUNIORS.

This has been a most unsatisfactory season for this team. During eight weeks no matches were played, and by the time the team was called on it was out of form. Nine matches were set down, of which three were won by default.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 8—0.

V.C. v. Athletics. Lost, 22—0. Forward rushes good. Arnold played one of the best games.

Matches played 6. Lost 6. Points for 0. Against 84.

III. B.

V.C. v. St. James. Lost, 42—0. Team held their own in first spell.

V.C. v. Civil Service. Won, 17—0. Tries obtained by Colquhoun, McDonald and Kennedy.

V.C. v. Kia Ora. Lost, 11—5.

V.C. v. Karcari. Won, 3—0.

V.C. v. Athletics. Lost, 22—8. Played with 11 men.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 32—0.

V.C. v. Stars. Lost, 34—0. Full team for first time.

V.C. v. Epuni. Lost, 26—0.

Matches played 12. Won 2. Lost 10. Points for 36. Against 267.

[NOTE.—The editors do not hold themselves responsible for any errors in the above reports. They have done their best with the very unsatisfactory material forwarded.]

THE WAIL OF THE ATHLETE.

The Council thinks that too much importance is attached to athletics.
“Dulce est desipere in loco.”

Dusted o'er with Uncle's treasures
All my sporting heart held dear,
Let them lie, my quondam pleasures,
Laurels for no athletes here.

All the hopes we fondly cherished
That our trophies might be seen,
'Neath the Council's ukase perished,
As the hues of yestereen.

Flood and field we won them, toiling
For the olive, green and gold,
Now in base Nirvana spoiling
As the leaves in Autumn wold.

This is now our faithful Koran
Read and swat the week end through,
Poppied pages for Maclaurin,
Brown and Hunter, Salmond too.

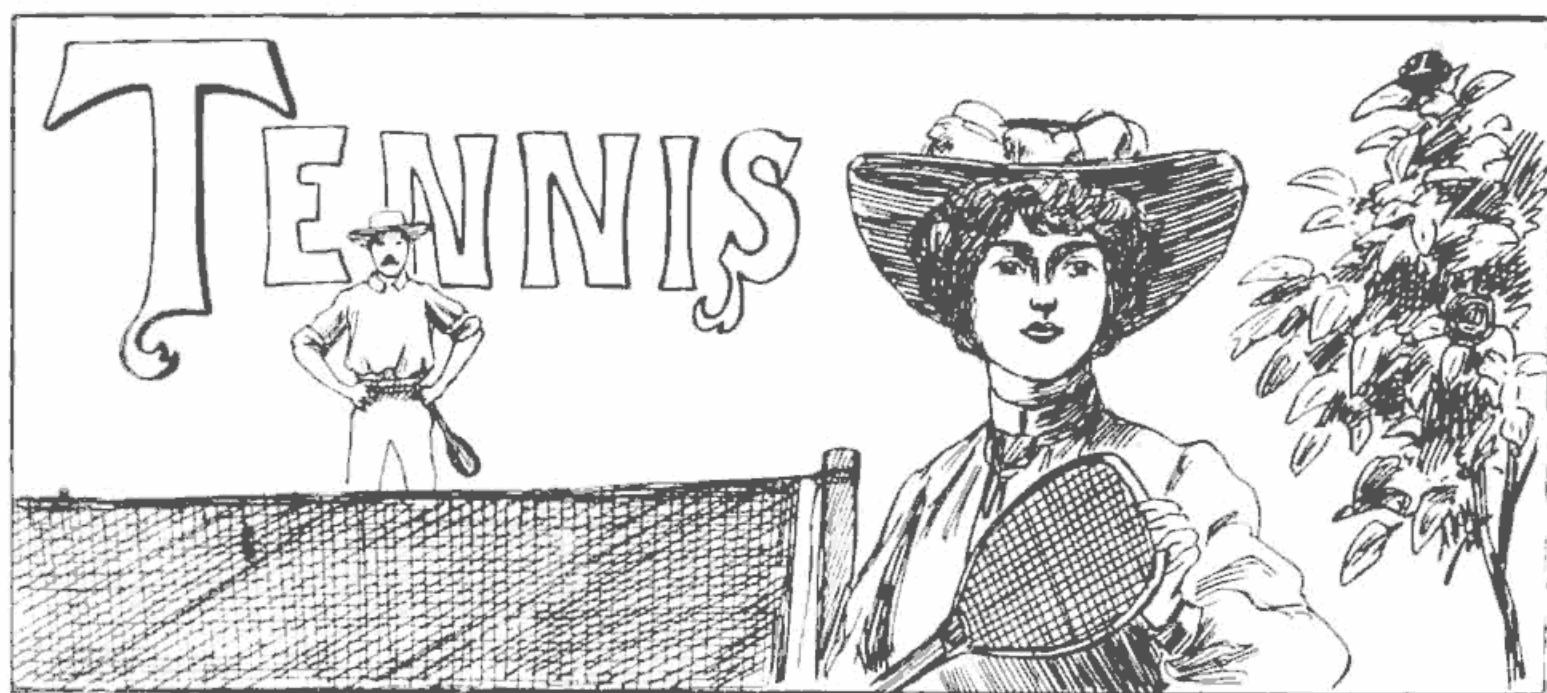
But our high wise-acres, turning
May be to the long ago.
Ere the rime of years and learning
Chilled the glad Olympic yearning
Must with pity on us glow.

Throne the trophies high in glory,
Raise the pæan, loud and keen,
Far into the future hoary
They will tell the childhood's story
Of the old gold and the green.

“NINE-TWO-FIFTHS.”

Aftermath.

Hence we scorned to snatch this season
Aught of hockey, football, fame,
Fear of trophies was the reason
That the III. B. sold the game.



“The old order changeth.”

THE pride of ownership in the new courts has even already shown itself working in the minds of some of our more enthusiastic members. Every day some student on the way to lectures will stop to notice the improvements, whether in levelling or excavation, and to sniff once more around those mysterious drains. It is astonishing the fascination a drain has for some of us; indeed, a rumour came to our ears that a person dressed in a sporting suit with loud golf stockings, had been disturbed the other evening in the act of attaching a trout-line to one of the gratings; the man made off with smothered exclamations of “Pol! Egad! Mehercle!”—this is, however, scarcely conceivable.

We are, of course, now permanently cut adrift from the old courts in the Parliamentary grounds, but if all goes well the new ones should be ready by the end of this session. There are to be three courts, the cost of which will be about two hundred pounds, but the College Council has generously undertaken the levelling and draining, and the Students' Association has donated fifty pounds, so that the financial difficulty, though still serious enough to occasion anxiety, is in a fair way towards solution.

The Annual General Meeting is held in October and the new Committee will doubtless find much to engage its attention. Before play can begin a fence must be erected to keep the balls from the valley, and also to serve as a protection for the courts which are somewhat exposed to the wind.

So far as situation is concerned our courts will be unrivalled, and, if we get only a fair amount of fine weather, they should prove a veritable joy to the students of Victoria College.



VICTORIA COLLEGE GRADUATES, 1906

ASTRÆA REDUX.

BILSON had had a heavy day and the Biology lecture was drawing to a close. The room was darkened and sections of the arm of a starfish were being projected on the screen. Bilson felt that the season invited reflection, and he began to recall his life-long desire to hit on that peculiar mental attitude that should reverse the flight of Time. Vaguely he heard: "This is a single pair of tube-feet: the ampulla of this one shows particularly well. If the whole starfish were magnified to the scale of this section, he would reach to the tramway viaduct on Salamanca Road." Suddenly the section was no longer a section; but the tip of the arm of the starfish was there, filling the room, while the body of the creature covered the greater part of Kelburne. Then Bilson recognised what had happened. The flight of Time had indeed been reversed. The starfish had gone back through re-agents and imbedding oven, through Tertiary and Mesozoic seas, and had become one of its own ancestors, unheard of for magnitude. But Bilson had little leisure to realise the grandeur of his achievement. The gigantic arm was pressing the walls apart and the huge tube-feet were seizing everything with their suckers—chairs, tables, students lifted by twos, threes, dozens and dropped again as a monkey drops an uneatable nut. Bilson darted beneath the lecture table, where for a time he was safe. Accompanying the heavier noises was a rattle of something small and metallic. It was due to a rain of hair-pins caused by the tube-feet clutching at the heads of the lady students. A sound of fizzing arose, and the smell of burning muscle as the arm came in contact with the roof of the lantern that had given the monster its re-incarnation. Suddenly there was an awful crash and the arm withdrew, carrying the window frame and half the wall with it. Bilson ventured to peep round the far end of the table. Where were his fellow-students and the professor? He could see nothing of them and he concluded that in the great reversal they had gone back to a time when their ancestors did not exist.

The arms of the gigantic Asterina were groping along the walls of the College, and Bilson feared lest one of them should again find the opening that had been made. Quickly he darted through the door, which he banged behind him. He ran down the stairs; but he dared not go out, for the doorways were blocked

and the whole building was covered by the monster. Again and again Bilson tried to achieve the courage necessary to rush across to the Arts Building and telephone for help: each time he shrank back at sight of those waving tube-feet. Night; and still no relief. A hideous night it was, full of horrid, crawling noises as the monster moved uneasily; and ever in Bilson's mind was the fear that the huge weight would crush the walls. Morning came and found Bilson as worn as if he had gone forward some æons instead of backward. Still he was hungry, and he went up to the store-room and tried a dogfish; but it had been twelve months in formalin and was clearly impossible. Luckily he found some agar bouillon prepared for Bacteria, and this served for breakfast. Throughout the day he fled from corner to corner in fear, as some movement of the *Asterina* made him think that the part of the building he was in was being attacked. Evening came, and with it hunger, scantily appeased by a little agar agar and a jar of gelatine; but he could find nothing else.

Another night of horror was upon him, with those creeping arms brushing across the windows. A troubled sleep came, but came not alone, for he was visited by the ghosts of all the dead creatures that had, whether whole or in pieces, ever entered the laboratory. An enormous brain came along the corridor, moving uneasily and bringing a sickening odour of neuroglia in corrosive sublimate. It occurred to Bilson that for a brain to be locomotive was not correct, and he remonstrated. The response was a pickled laugh. "Don't do it," said Bilson: "it's not the thing. Why, you've nothing to walk on, you know." "Slush!" said the Brain, "what about the *crura cerebri*?" There came a rabbit without his skin, and with his whole alimentary tract festooned gracefully around the outside of his body. As one freak after another pranced through the sleep of the unhappy Bilson, he decided to address them collectively. "Look here!" said he, "you don't know what has happened. You are not here at all. You are your own ancestors now, and they don't exist." This was satisfactory, for they all withdrew to discuss it, the dogfish, in the Professor's easy-chair, making a great display of his hepatic sinus, gorgeously injected with ultramarine, trying to keep order and to restrain the facetiousness of the rabbit, who was fanning himself with his vermiform appendix.

Morning did but recall Bilson from the horrors of sleep to the almost greater horrors of waking. Still about the building was the relentless *Asterina*; but a window here and there was undarkened. Thus he got glimpses of the harbour and saw that all the ships had left the wharf, lest the monster should plunge

down the hill and sink them at their moorings. Mount Victoria was black with fugitives.

Bilson was at his wits' end to know what to do for food. He went to the chemistry laboratory, determined to synthesise albumen. He had only one great difficulty—the common one of not knowing anything about it. As he was mixing sulphuretted hydrogen and carbon-bisulphide a happy inspiration came to him. He rushed upstairs and opened the incubator. To his unspeakable relief he found several eggs in various stages. He began with one that was only ten days old. As he broke the shell a faint odour was perceptible. Suddenly the Asterina became active and Bilson felt that the smell had reached it. “Look here!” he cried. “You’ve no olfactory organs, you know. You can’t smell. Why don’t you play the game?” It seemed to him that the sound of his agonised voice caused Time to pause and then rush swiftly forward through the aeons it had re-traced. Came a crash as of the roof falling; but it was the noise of the students pushing back their chairs and leaving the room. Asterina was again no more than sections that would go into the waistcoat-pocket. Time had come to 1906 once more, and Bilson went out wondering where his fellow-students had been throughout the ages of horror he had endured. X.

OYEZ!

OYEZ!!

OYEZ!!!

WE HOPE THAT EVERY STUDENT WILL

“Read, Mark, Learn and Inwardly Digest”

THE FOLLOWING:

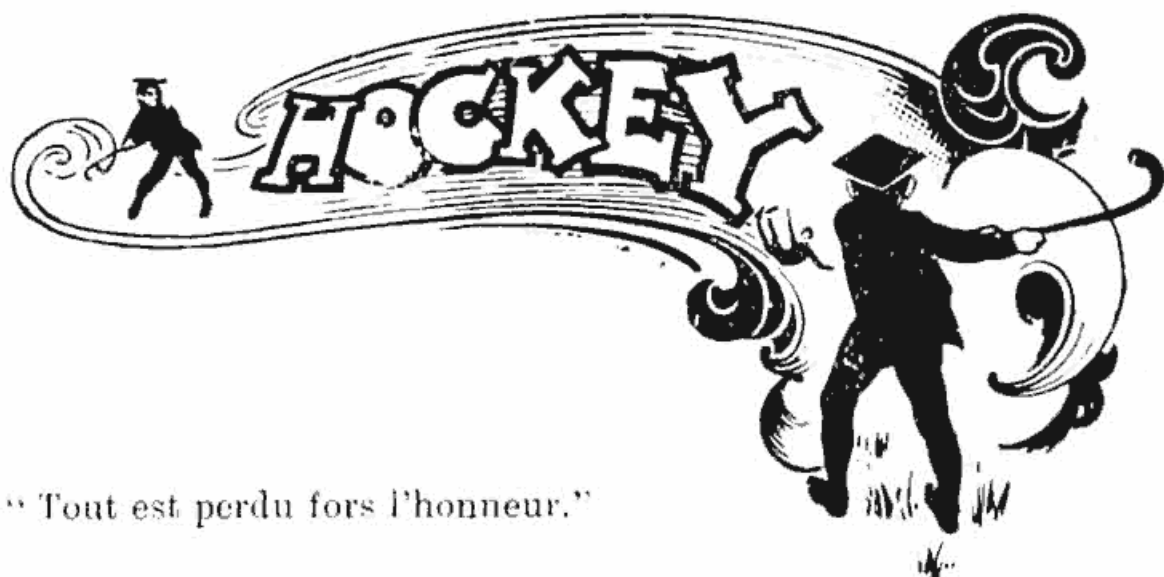
“On 30th November last the Ladies’ Hockey Club carried out most successfully a scheme which has long been talked of—that of holding a College picnic. . . . It is to be hoped that the picnic will be an annual one.”

“TIS A CONSUMMATION DEVOUTLY TO BE WISHED.”

And we hope that every student will keep the **PICNIC** steadily in view. Owing to St. Andrew’s Day being cut out of the list of holidays for the Law Offices there will be some difficulty in finding a suitable date; but be assured of one fact—that there will be a College picnic at some future day which we hope to make even **more** successful than last year’s.



HOCKEY FIRST ELEVEN, 1906.



"Tout est perdu fors l'honneur."

THE various Hockey reports for the past season afford rather painful reading. The club secretary and the respective captains have sent in statements abounding in more or less insidious attempts to divert the course of editorial enquiry. One astute effort dilates in a page of impassioned description upon the really extraordinary success of the Hockey Dance, incidentally discussing the relative merits of some half-dozen belles, and then arriving at a glaringly incorrect decision, merely with the hope of creating a diversion; another showers abuse in several truculent paragraphs upon the weather, the grounds and the hopeless incompetence of the government. We are not, however, going to be led astray by any such palpable subterfuges. What we want is some explanation of the following facts:—1. That the First Eleven lost every match, and always by an increasing margin. 2. That the Second Eleven won only one game, and that against a team several men short. 3. That 3A betrayed our faith and its own good name. 4. That 3B so far ignored its traditions as to defeat the leading team in its grade, and on another occasion to register a draw.

The reports do not help us materially towards a solution of the first three problems. Something is dragged in about "*nulla palma sine pulvere*," but, so far as one may judge, the dust seems only to have got into the eyes of our hockeyites, thereby impairing their vision. As regards the fourth question, we are given to understand that the Bs resorted to the questionable expedient of engaging for the occasions in question, certain talent that is said to "bung it in" usually on the football field. We do not intend to pursue this very painful subject any further.

There is one point, however, on which remarkable unanimity is displayed in the reports; it is that the club wants more members, and must have them, if it intends to enter four teams next season.

After a conscientious perusal of the aforesaid reports, we have succeeded in extracting the following *general* reasons for the collapse of Victoria College hockey this year: want of pace, agility and resourcefulness; lack of practice, combination, experience and self-confidence; want of condition, training and staying power; lack of eagerness, vim, hitting and kicking capabilities; failure to frustrate the attacks of opposing forwards; failure to pierce the defence of opposing backs; superfluity of talk, general sloth and occasional intemperance.

We are reproducing the picture of the First Eleven just as a curiosity.

J. Ryburn, D. Watson and R. Beere were chosen to represent Wellington. Rather remarkable in view of the position occupied by our First Eleven on the list.

Following are some of the hockey performances of Victoria College this season:—

FIRST ELEVEN.

(Captain—J. RYBURN.)

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 3—2. Smith and Beere scored. The report says that we had hard luck in not winning.

V.C. v. Karori. Lost, 7—0. Our team utterly demoralised.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 6—2. Beere and Bee scored. Team still decidedly "off."

V.C. v. United. Lost, 6—0. Team still more "off."

JUNIOR ELEVEN.

(Captain—D. NIVEN.)

We have been requested out of charity for the Juniors to draw a veil over their doings since our last issue.

III A ELEVEN.

(Captain—F. MARTIN.)

III A has certainly not done so well as we expected, but still it has a respectable number of goals to its credit, which is more than our other teams can boast of. Improvement was very marked towards the close of the season. Following are some of the more important games:—

V.C. v. Y.M.C.A. Lost, 7—3. Johnson (2) and Tait (1) scored.
 V.C. v. Wesley. Lost, 5—1. We had the best of the first spell.
 V.C. v. United. Won, 2—1. A very close game. McAlister scored.
 V.C. v. College B. Won, 10—1. A hollow victory.
 V.C. v. Thorndon. Lost, 3—2. A good hard game, but we ought to have won.
 V.C. v. Vivian. Lost, 4—2. We led until half-way through the second spell.
 V.C. v. Wellington. Drawn, 2—2. By far our best display this season, considering the strength of our opponents. Johnson and Tait scored.
 Goals for : 34. Goals against : 48.

III B ELEVEN.

(Captain—J. TUDHOPE.)

Quite a successful season.

V.C. v. Wellington. Lost, 18—0. Wellington won comfortably.
 V.C. v. Wesley. Lost, 5—1. Mason scored.
 V.C. v. Wellington. WON, 7—2. We smote them hip and thigh. Bogle Bros., de la Mare and W. Tudhope lent us what little assistance they could.
 V.C. v. Wesley. Lost by something.

BALLADE OF HOCKEY.

Where are the men who won us fame
 On former fields when the world was gay—
 Before our woes with Wellington came,
 And United drove our dreams astray—
 Teams of the old years, where are they ?
 Good fellows all, of goodly cheer—
 Gone, bag and baggage, welladay !
 Where are the teams of yesteryear ?

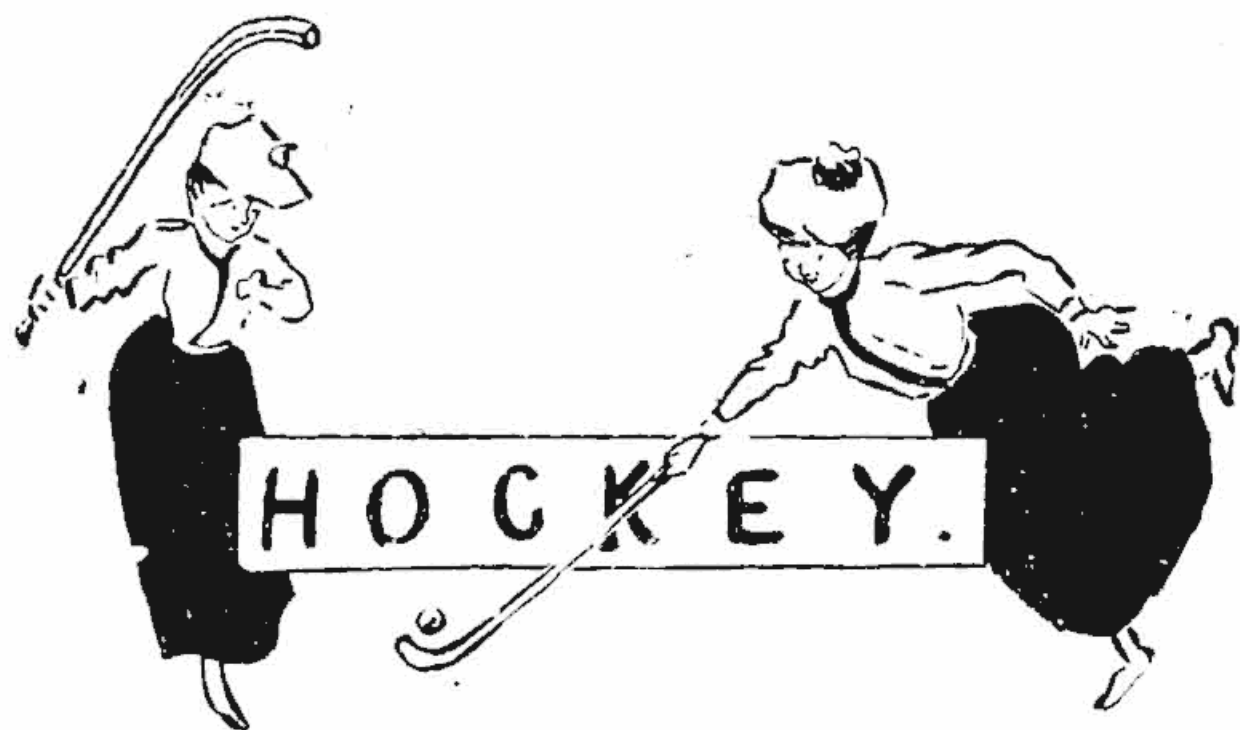
Where's speculator Matheson,
 And skipper Skelley, where is he ?
 And the fighting Prouses, are they gone,
 And Dixon of the damaged knee ?
 Where's Hope, and Bogle, and Kelly,
 And King, and Gower—far or near ?
 Where are the veterans of V.C. ?
 Where are the teams of yesteryear ?

ENVOY.

Here's to the goals they saved and shot !
 Here's a health we will drink with Beere—
 Comrades all—a prosperous lot !
 Here's to the teams of yesteryear !



HOCKEY FIRST ELEVEN, 1906.



"Hasten all ye ladies gay,
 Churn the mud across the bay;
 Let the game be fast and hard,
 Never mind the glove or guard.
 O the joy of refereeing,
 O the joy that lurks in seeing
 Twenty maidens in the fray;
 Hasten, all ye ladies gay!"

Adapted.

AS the third season in the history of our club draws to a close, we are perhaps justified in indulging in what is on the whole a pleasing retrospect. Progress has been solid and gratifying. The placing of three teams on the field each Saturday is at last an accomplished fact, and with a little more enthusiasm we should next season enjoy the felicity of entering even four teams. We humbly trust that ere next March students who have so far held aloof from the field, will have been led through the proselytizing zeal of present active members to realise the enormity of their conduct, and that next season we shall see them don the dark skirt of repentance.

So far as the present season is concerned, our record is rather a creditable one. Only, it is matter for deep regret that our Junior A. team, after promising such great things at first, should have faded away so sadly towards the finish. In the light of this deplorable decline, we would advise members to devote more attention in future to the welfare of their respective teams and willingly to bear even a little personal inconvenience in order to turn out on every possible playing day.

After another Saturday or two, the Senior Championship matches will be over; already the destination of the cup is fixed

beyond a doubt, and we must tender our congratulations to the Kiwi Club on its success. The College team are "runners up." Victoria College now boasts a trophy case with quite an extraordinary notoriety for a thing so young, and next year the Ladies' Hockey Club intends to insert in it—but let us not anticipate.

The third eleven, despite heroic efforts on the part of Miss Barkas to make the game "willin," does not appear to have been rewarded with the success it deserved.

Our lady correspondent suggests that THE SPIKE editors should organise a deputation to lay the merits of Ladies' Hockey before a cantankerous Chairman of Council. We have a better idea: let the ladies challenge the council to an exhibition game on the top floor with Mr. Powles as referee (referee and members of Council to wear no shinguards), Professor von Zedlitz to stand by with splints, bandages, ambulances &c. as expediency may demand, and also to make a note of any language that may escape the vigilance of the referee.

Beyond a few sprained ankles, "bashed" fingers and sundry contusions, there have been no interesting accidents so far. During the season Miss K. Tasker got a cut on the face which threatened to prove serious, but nothing came of it after all, and Miss K. Tasker is now quite well again and attending lectures as usual.

We were all pleased to see Miss I. Robertson (last year's goalkeeper), who came over from Nelson for the term holidays. We are also glad to say that Miss L. McIntosh has again returned to the bosom of our club and the thick of the fray.

On August 11th a Wellington representative team played Craven College (Palmerston North), and suffered defeat (3—0). Three members of the College team, Misses J. Scott (left half), M. Cox, and L. M. MacKellar (full-backs), contributed.

On August 25th three representative matches were played. Misses M. Cox and J. Scott played against Blenheim, while in the Wairarapa game Misses F. Scott, T. Strack, K. McIntosh and B. Reeve gave a good account of themselves.

Results of Cup Matches are as follows:

FIRST ELEVEN.

(Captain—Miss L. M. MacKELLAR)

V.C. v. Ngatiawa. Drawn 1—1. Played at Petone in a soaking drizzle. T. Strack played a splendid game throughout and scored our only goal early in the first spell.

V.C. v. Petone. Another draw—no score. Three of our best players away on vacation. F. Scott still feels sore that the referee awarded no goal to one superb effort.

V.C. v. Kiwi. Lost 3—1. The aforesaid trio still on vacation. J. Scott and M. Cox defended brilliantly, while M. Dale in goal earned her promotion to the First Eleven.

V.C. v. Wellington. Won, 2—0. Rather a poor game compared with that of the previous Saturday. K. McIntosh scored.

V.C. v. Thorndon. Won, 14—0. A field day for M. Antill (6), T. Strack (3), F. Scott (2), K. McIntosh (2), and J. Scott (1).

SECOND ROUND.

V.C. v. Petone. Won, 2—0. Wind. K. McIntosh scored near the beginning of the game. During the second spell Petone caused us many anxious moments. We sadly missed the services of F. Scott and T. Strack, who were suffering from "nerves" and influenza respectively.

V.C. v. Ngatiawa. Won, 5—2. Played in a howling Miramar northerly. T. Strack (2), C. McIntosh (2) and M. Antill (1) scored. T. Strack, who had recovered from her attack of influenza, played a splendid game.

V.C. v. Thorndon. Won by default.

V.C. v. Wellington. Won 9—0. Scorers were K. McIntosh (5), T. Strack and F. Scott, who had presumably recovered from her attack of "nerves."

SECOND ELEVEN.

Captain—J. TAVENDALE

V.C. v. Mt. Cook. Won, 3—0. Newtown Park under water. C. Murray (2) and J. Johnstone scored.

V.C. p. Wellington. Won, 4—0. J. Tavendale (3) and N. Hildreth scored.

V.C. v. Girls' College B. Won 1—0. A keen game. E. Ludwig scored.

V.C. v. Thorndon. Won, 2—0. C. Murray and E. Ludwig scored. R. Ziman "debuted" in goal, wearing green and gold chiffon and her usual sunny smile.

V.C. v. Kiwi. Lost, 5—2. J. Tavendale and E. Ludwig scored the first goals against Kiwi this season.

V.C. v. Huia. Won, 3—0. College three short. C. Murray scored.

V.C. v. St. John's B. Won, 3—0. College one short.

V.C. v. St. John's A. College one short. No combination. J. Tavendale scored.

V.C. v. Huia B. Won, 8—0. Huia several short. J. Tavendale (5), C. Murray (2) and L. Renner scored for College.

V.C. v. Girls' College A. Won, 2—1. A desperate encounter. J. Tavendale (2) scored.

THIRD ELEVEN.

(Captain—M. R. BARKAS)

V.C. v. St. John's B. No one seems to have troubled about the result.

V.C. v. unknown team. Won 2—0. (Opponents evidently rendered unidentifiable. Editor.)

V.C. v. Wellington College. Lost, 3—1. (Seem to have tried conclusions with the boys this time.)

V.C. v. Thorndon B. Lost, 1—2.

V.C. v. Wellington College A. Lost, 11—0. (Tried conclusions with the boys again, but they had the best of it.)

V.C. v. Huia B. Lost, 6—0.

V.C. v. Huia A. Lost, 1—0

Christian Union.

“ So, take and use thy work :
Amend what flaws my lurk,
What strain o’ the stuff, what warpings past the aim ! ”

AT the beginning of the term we had a visit from Mr E. K. Mules, one of the travelling secretaries of the Australasian Student Christian Union. He presided at the different Bible-study classes during the week he was in Wellington and on August 4th, at the usual fortnightly meeting, gave an address on “The Work of the World’s Student Christian Federation.” He spoke of the great obstacles which faced the federation in the different Universities of the world. In South Africa, for instance, there was the great racial problem, in Germany the barrier of materialism and rationalism, in Russia the upheaval caused by the revolution. In spite of these difficulties, however, most encouraging progress had been made.

On August 18th the Rev. J. K. Elliot addressed the meeting, taking as his subject “The Aim of Life.” He said that many men took as their object in life, pleasure, fame, or money-making, but none of these gave real satisfaction. We must remember that “Man’s chief end is to glorify God,” and that it is only by doing this that we can ever hope to attain to true happiness.

On September 1st the Rev. W. A. Evans spoke on the subject of “Sociological Theory in Relation to the Teaching of St. Paul.” He showed that Paul was never a slave to the letter of the law but used his own judgment : so, in our dealings with our fellows we must not tie ourselves down to conventionalities, but assist them as we best see fit.

On September 15th Mr James Moore gave an exceedingly interesting account of his mission work among seamen. When he landed in Wellington eight years ago, he found no building and no funds for carrying on his work. He had to hold meetings wherever he could get accommodation : in sheds, shops, and attics.

However patience was rewarded, for two years ago Mrs Williams gave the Mission a splendid building close to the wharves. As a proof of the good work done, drunkenness among sailors has gone down 50 per cent., although the tonnage of ships has increased 50 per cent. During the time the Mission has been established as many as 35,000 men have passed through it.

A Mission Study Class has held regular meetings throughout the session. The studies were based upon Prof. H. P. Beach's book "Missions in China" through which the class has been enabled to gain a clear and concise knowledge of the Chinaman's land, and his social, business and religious life; and also of the work carried on by Missionary Societies of the present day.





And Entertainments



THE social side of College life has been by no means neglected this term. There have been two visiting football teams to whom some attention had to be shown, the Christian Union held several social gatherings, and there has been the usual number of dances.

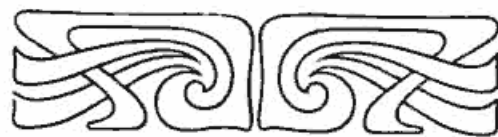
Hockey and Football Dance.

From the delightful freedom of the football field to the gentle amenities of the ballroom is a big step, but it was taken with a light heart by the rival teams on the evening after the V.C. v. Canterbury College match. Nice little speeches were even made by the respective captains, in which they all but admitted that a dance was in most cases more enjoyable than a football match. We wonder if that is because in the latter the ladies are mere spectators. This dance, at any rate, was a great success. The usual games were set out in the Common-Room. The supper arrangements far excelled those of the Carnival, and those who cared neither for dance nor play found solace in the airy cream-puff, the inconsistent jelly and the invalided claret cup. Unfortunately our visitors had to leave before 11 o'clock to catch their boat, and 12 o'clock heard the last chords of the music die away. Cripples in various stages of decrepitude wandered harmlessly about during the evening, and occasionally succeeded in

persuading one or other young lady as to the necessity of "sitting out" when one has a sprained finger. Three well-merited cheers for the chaperones brought the dance to a conclusion.

College Dance.

The Sydney Street Schoolroom was no longer considered large enough to accommodate the crowds that yearly throng to this our dance of the season. At first there had been some wild suggestions made by some of the more enthusiastic members of the Students' Ass. committee, that the large Town Hall should be taken and one guinea charged for admission, but the long-headed business men prevailed, and a credit balance is the result. The Concert Chamber gave every satisfaction, and the Council Chamber was especially well adapted for temporary non-dancers. Thanks are due to the ladies who kindly consented to act as chaperones and to the professors for postponing their lectures so willingly. One flashlight photo was taken during the evening, though to judge by the attendant smoke and smell and general fuss, there might have been a dozen. R. St. J. Beere was secretary, and he and F. A. de la Mare acted as M's. C.



University of New Zealand,
Wellington,
September, 1906.

THE EDITOR OF "THE SPIKE."

DEAR SIR,—

I should like to offer a prize to the students of the University of New Zealand for the best essay on the University System of New Zealand, its merits and defects. The value of the prize would be five guineas (in books), and the competition would be open to all persons who:—

- (a) On May 20th, 1906, were matriculated students of the University;
- (b) Were not matriculated before 1902;
- (c) Had not on April 30th, 1906, passed the examination for any Master's degree;
- (d) Had not, since February 1st, 1902, allowed more than one year to elapse without performing some academic act, *i.e.*, keeping a year's terms or passing a University degree examination.

These conditions are meant to secure that competitors shall be genuine students of the University, not senior to candidate-Master standing, and not having suspended their course for more than one year.

Each Essay must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing on the outside the fictitious signature appended to the Essay, and within the candidate's own name, address, and College, and a declaration that the Essay is the competitor's own unaided work. Two other persons shall be invited to judge the Essays in conjunction with myself. When an Essay is selected as the best, the corresponding envelope will be opened, and, if it is found that the writer is qualified under the above conditions, the prize will be awarded accordingly, and the other envelopes will be destroyed unopened. If the first is disqualified, the next best Essay will be selected, and the corresponding envelope will be opened; and so on. The Judges, in forming an estimate of the Essays, will avoid, as far as possible, being influenced by their own predilections and opinions.

Essays must be in my hands by March 31st, 1907, and the name of the winner will be announced at the following degree-meetings. Essays should be typewritten, with inch margin.

I may add that this offer is altogether personal, and has no official significance whatever.

J. W. JOYNT.



FOOTBALL. FIRST FIFTEEN. 1906.



'Shapes of all Sorts and Sizes, great and small,
That stood along the floor and by the wall;
And some loquacious vessels were; and some
Listened perhaps, but never talked at all.'

—Omar.

THE 1906 session of the Debating Society has, on the whole, been a very successful one. Unfortunately in the first part of the year we were handicapped by reason of our having to hold our meetings in a room far too small for such a purpose. Since the Council has furnished the room on the top floor with 150 *first-class* (?) chairs we have been enabled to hold our meetings there. One difficulty which has always in previous years confronted the Society seems this year to have been obviated. Formerly, owing to the nearness of exams, interest in the later debates has always very noticeably decreased. The presentation of the Union Prize, however, seems to have almost overcome this difficulty.

DEBATES.

At the fourth debate of the session, G. H. Fell, seconded by H. E. Evans, moved "That the jury system should be abolished." The motion was opposed by C. B. Collins, seconded by H. O'Leary. Originality of argument could scarcely be expected on such a subject, but the debate was, nevertheless, a very interesting one. The first five speakers were placed by the judge, Mr A. R. Atkinson, in the following order:—C. B. Collins, F. Kelly, R. Mason, J. Mason, H. E. Evans.

At the next meeting of the Society a debate took place on the motion "That British Rule in India has been beneficial to the native race." The motion was supported by W. Perry and opposed by R. Mason. The respective seconders were S. Grundy and J. Mason. Most members of the Society would probably have to confess that they knew very little of India and its people. To some people this might have occasioned trouble, but in the case of many of our debaters the difficulty was easily overcome by the simple expedient of contradicting the state-

ments of their opponents. Mr A. R. Meek placed the first five speakers in the following order:—J. Mason, H. O'Leary, J. Hogben, F. P. Kelly, J. Ryburn.

A large audience attended in expectation of a debate on the motion "That the ancient ideal of character was higher than the modern." The affirmative was taken by Miss Millar, seconded by Miss F. Scott. The negative was supported by I. Davey, seconded by D. Smith. Many speakers took part, but in most cases the speeches positively reeked of the lamp. Systems of philosophy, Stoic, Epicurean, Platonic were described and dismissed with indecent haste, and the speeches of those who had not spent many laborious hours in the Public Library, for the most part ignored the subject of debate altogether. The shrill denunciation of modern vicious habits, such as smoking, etc., aroused the enthusiastic, though somewhat intemperate, approval of those who occupied the rear of the hall. Mr Gill placed the first five speakers in the following order:—D. Smith, Miss Millar, A. C. Bretherton, I. Davey, J. Mason.

At the seventh debate of the session, G. Bogle, seconded by J. Richards, moved "That science has contributed more than literature to the happiness of mankind." The negative was taken by G. Gibb, seconded by J. Johnson. The judge, Father Keogh, placed the first five speakers in the following order:—F. A. de la Mare, G. Gibb, Miss Smith, D. Smith, and G. Bogle.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The President of the Debating Society, Mr T. A. Hunter, delivered his address to a large and appreciative audience. He had chosen as his subject "Language and Thought," dwelling with particular insistence upon their essential interdependence. The concluding portion of his address was taken up with the practical application of the views he had advanced. He strongly urged upon the Society the desirability of curbing the deplorable tendency towards making set speeches, and of encouraging argument proper in its stead. An enthusiastic vote of thanks was carried on the motion of the Chairman. An extempore debate on the subject "That the City Council is not justified in spending such large sums of money on recreation grounds," wore out the remainder of the evening. Let us hope that in future an earnest endeavour will be made on the part of some members to heal the gaping breach between thought and language, so apparent in many of their deliverances this session.

WELLINGTON LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETIES UNION DEBATE TOURNEY.

In the first round of the Debate Tourney, Victoria College met the Kent Terrace Literary and Debating Society. The Victoria College representatives were H. O'Leary, C. B. Collins, E. J. Fitzgibbon, while Kent Terrace was represented by Messrs Fraser, Hay and Barton. The subject of debate was "That modern journalism is opposed to the interests of good literature." The Victoria College men proved to be the winners, Fitzgibbon, with a total of 90 points out of a possible 100, saving the situation for our side.

At the last debate of the session, H. O'Leary moved and V. Willis seconded "That England was justified in undertaking the Crimean War." The motion was opposed by J. Hogben, seconded by G. Hogben. The judge, Mr Flux, placed the first five speakers in the following order:—Messrs O'Leary, Willis, Evans, J. Mason, de la Mare. At the conclusion of the debate the Chairman announced that the winner of the Union Prize was H. O'Leary, J. Mason being placed second. E. J. Fitzgibbon announced that the prize which he had donated to be given to the new speaker who showed the most improvement during the session, has been awarded to D. Smith.

In the second round of the Wellington Literary and Debating Societies Tourney, the College Debating Society, represented by Messrs J. Mason, O'Leary and Fitzgibbon, was defeated by St. John's Literary and Debating Society, represented by Messrs Armit, Redgrave and Murphy.

E. J. Fitzgibbon and H. O'Leary have been selected to represent Victoria College in the Inter-University Tournament Debate to be held at Auckland next year.

Plunket Medal Competition.

"His foot should stamp and his throat should growl,
His hair should twirl and his face should scowl,
His eyes should flash and his breast protrude
And this should be his customary attitude."

While congratulating the Debating Society upon the success of the second Plunket Medal competition, we should like to draw attention to the necessity for an important amendment of the present rules. In the first place, we would suggest that the number of competitors be reduced from ten to six. Each speaker might then have fifteen minutes for his speech, instead of ten as at present. Besides it must have been very evident to

the audience at this year's competition that out of the ten speakers there were three at least who should not have ventured to offer themselves as candidates for a prize in oratory. These three are all good debaters, but they are not orators. Again, during the current session, the Society has considered and rejected a proposal to dispense with the ballot system of voting and appoint instead a few competent judges, the amendment being made chiefly on the ground that at present personal popularity may exert undue influence over the decision of the voter. Now, though we concede that there is something to be said in support of this contention, still we think that in an oratorical competition the popular vote supplies the better test. A proposal has been made to extend the privilege of voting to the whole audience. It is claimed that such a course would eliminate to a great extent the personal element.

Coming to the competition itself, it must be confessed that certain of the speakers failed to realise the object of Lord Plunket in establishing the medal. His Excellency did not intend his prize to be awarded for a meritorious historical outline of any man's career, nor yet for a minute description of the invention of a machine, however useful and beneficial to the human race. The speeches of G. V. Bogle, R. Mason and C. B. Collins could hardly be said to come under the definition of oratory. Taylor's speech had considerable literary merit, and if he continues at his present rate of improvement he may yet be an orator—a good orator—even one of the best. Gillanders took as his subject a strong rugged man, with whose character and ideals he was evidently in perfect sympathy. His speech was not only sincere—it was eloquent. One extremely awkward pause in the middle of his speech, however, seemed to disarrange the sequence of his thought.

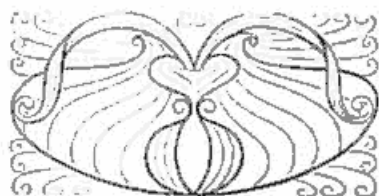
John Mason was the same logical, earnest, clear-toned sage whom we know in debate. None of his qualities are opposed to oratory; yet—perhaps, if he had chosen another hero instead of the wily knight who sacrificed his cloak he would have been more enthusiastic, less matter-of-fact. Kelly, as we know, was ill. Many of us would like to hear him tell the story of Robert Emmet again when he is well. Even as it was, Kelly gave a peroration that was one of the best things of the evening. For a ten minutes' speech, O'Leary's was a masterpiece. His delivery was good, his diction was correct and euphonious. But what distinguished his oration from the others was the impression of completeness it gave. It was a speech-picture of Nelson, the National Hero. Even of the explanatory part of

the speech each sentence added an essential line to the picture. The introduction, comparing Nelson with the great men in other walks of life, grasped the attention of the audience; the descriptive sentences roused their interest; he was able to forget O'Leary and to forget self is the essence of oratory.

After O'Leary came Grundy, on Francis Drake. Everyone appeared to enjoy this speech. The story was not ill-arranged, but Grundy's passionate style would have been far better suited to the touching tale of Robert Emmet than to the roving, rollicking Francis Drake. Banks spoke on Napoleon. He has many of the external qualities of an orator, but his speech lacked the saving grace of sincerity.

The voting gave O'Leary first place and Kelly second. While the votes were being counted there was a dull interval, only made feebly lucid by the murdering of some capping songs.

Lord Plunket presented the medal to O'Leary, and gave a neat speech in response to a vote of thanks.



The University Tournament of 1907.

To "Athletes, Tennisites, Debaters of Renown."

THE pleasant memories of Easter 1906 have carried our buoyant steps so swiftly and imperceptibly along the road to the Tournament of 1907 that the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile post has now been passed. Behind us, the path has been straight and level. In front, there is once more a long steep hill to climb, with obstacles here and there to test our mettle. But we have climbed steeper hills before, aye, even when the goal we sought was farther from us. Courage, therefore, comrades. Let our cry be still "Excelsior!"

In plain language, the second term is all but over; the November trials loom ahead—Christmas is coming! With the new year our athletes and tennis players must settle down to steady and consistent training. With the assistance of our chosen debaters, they must do their utmost not only to retain, but to add to the laurels we at present hold.

The scene of the next tournament will be Auckland, where some of us at least spent such a glorious holiday at Easter 1903.

Good Friday falls on the 29th March next, so that our representatives will need to leave Wellington on the 28th March for Auckland, where they will be the fortunate guests of the A.U.C. students till the following Wednesday afternoon. The return journey should be completed by the 5th April. It is important to note these dates, because they cover a period of eight days, and it will be necessary in some cases to arrange for leave of absence accordingly. It should be noted also that they come at the very beginning of the first term—perhaps even before the term begins—so that as far as lectures are concerned, there will be nothing to prevent students from devoting themselves seriously to the business of the tournament.

In certain respects the trip to Auckland is *par excellence* the most enjoyable of the series. In the first place, three out of the four Colleges meet in Wellington and travel together as one big, happy party for about 400 miles—a day's journey by rail, about twelve hours at sea. What opportunities for friendship here! What scope for chivalry! Secondly, as the teams cannot return earlier than by the boat which leaves on the Wednesday after Easter, some of Auckland's beauty spots can be seen by visiting students on the Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday. Then

again there is the homeward journey—Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington students strangers to each other no longer, all seeking to cement friendships formed in the preceding days.

What a time we had in 1903! Who that was there could ever forget the game of "Follow the leader" on board the "Ngapuhi," when every man had to tie his tie in a bow, &c., or the Maori haka, which the whole company learned from the Otago students in about an hour. Who does not remember the "physical drill" under "Captain" Moyes? The writer does at any rate, for he was condemned to death for talking in the ranks, and but for the rebellious action of his comrades who refused to throw him overboard these lines would probably not have been written! And then the "assault" on Murphy's fruit shop in New Plymouth at 6 a.m. after the trip from Onehunga. Oh, what a time that was!

Victoria College will want recruits to take the places of those members of last year's team who for various reasons will be dropping out this year, and it behoves all students to take an interest—active or passive—in the personnel of our team. Let it be remembered then:—

1. That the tournament is managed by a Committee of delegates, two from each College.
2. That it consists of three distinct parts—tennis, debating and athletics, in each of which there is a championship challenge trophy.
3. The prizes are *bronze* medals, inscribed with the arms of the N.Z. University.
4. Only two representatives are allowed in each event from each College, except that in the Ladies' Singles and Ladies' Doubles Tennis Championships three entries are allowed.
5. The tennis matches are played on Easter Saturday and Tuesday; the debate is held on Saturday evening; and the athletic sports on Easter Monday.
6. A dance and a pic-nic are usually given to the visiting students by the hosts.
7. As regards eligibility, students must have matriculated and must have attended two-thirds of the lectures in any one N.Z. University subject within the twelve months preceding the date of the tournament at which they compete. (Note: For the purposes of the tourna-

ment rules, Matriculation includes Solicitors' General Knowledge and Medical Preliminary exams.)*

8. Concessions are obtained in railway and steamer fares, and it is expected that the Students' Association will again make a contribution towards the expenses of representatives.
9. Representatives are "billeted" when desired.

With such a bill-of-fare, who will not seek a place in our team for 1907?

* It must *not*, however, be assumed that bare compliance with the strict letter of this rule will *ipso facto* render a person eligible to represent his College. The rule is stated in this form to meet the requirements of local conditions in the various courses (arts, medicine, law, mining, &c.) at the different Colleges, and was *not* framed with the view of enabling anyone to enjoy a cheap and pleasant holiday by merely filling in time at a few lectures in some one subject for two-thirds of a year. On the contrary, it is now an unwritten rule that each College through its delegates, shall, as a matter of honour and in fairness to the other Colleges, allow none but genuine University students to find a place in its representative team.

Our Illustrations.

IN this issue we reproduce a picture of Mr. W. Gray, recently appointed Lecturer in Education at Victoria College.

Mr. Gray is a native of Otago. He received his early education at the Wairuna Public School, and was afterwards trained as a teacher in Dunedin at the Arthur Street School and at the Training College. Mr. Gray obtained the B.A. degree in 1895, the M.A. in 1897, and the B.Sc. in 1901. He has occupied successively positions as Assistant Master, Vice-Principal of the Otago Training College, Headmaster Palmerston North D.H. School, and Chief Inspector of Schools for the Wanganui Education Board. At the beginning of the present year he took up the position of Principal of the Wellington Training College for Teachers, with which is combined that of Lecturer in Education at the Victoria College. In 1905 Mr. Gray visited the U.S., with the intention of studying the educational system there in all its branches, and has set forth the results of his investigations in a pamphlet entitled "Some Aspects of Education in America."

We also give pictures of the Graduates of Victoria College for 1906, the Committee of the Students' Association, the Ladies' Hockey Team First Eleven, the Men's Hockey First Eleven, and the Football First Fifteen.



MR. W. GRAY.



“ He,
With an urbanity
Full of satanity,
Vexes humanity
With an inanity
Swollen with vanity,
Driving his hearers to muttered profanity.”

THE Capping Ceremony was held this year in the Concert Room of the Town Hall. As Victoria College is not a purely local institution, the City Fathers felt unable to shower upon us the further benefit of gracing our function with their presence. In spite, however, of this drawback there was a fair attendance of the public, who had come evidently expecting a recurrence of the usual disgraceful exhibitions, as our Chancellor has on so many occasions styled them. The public went away grievously disappointed; and yet the entertainment afforded was in its way somewhat unique. The most irreproachable sentiments evoked no sympathetic response from the students, who maintained throughout a freezing silence, unbroken even by the calculated flattery of the Chairman of the College Council. Prettily worded sentiments were uttered again and again, evidently in the hope of evoking the uproarious approbation of the gallery. When this was not forthcoming, the uneasiness of the orators and the abrupt curtailment of their flowery effusiveness amply repaid the students for their preconcerted self-repression.

Some of the more diminutive lady graduates found the last step in their academic career the hardest to negotiate, and received their diplomas from afar. The embarrassment of the Chairman of the Professorial Board at each successive refusal of his proffered help was a source of joy to the unsympathetic undergrad.

The harrassed and overworked law-student, who may be seen at all hours of the day drowning his worries, came in for what seemed to many an undue amount of commiseration at the hands of the newly appointed law professor. The latter expressed his conviction that it was the bounden duty of the various legal firms to release their clerks during the afternoon from the drudgery of stamp-licking, so as to permit of their advancing a little further upon their weary pilgrimage across the barren and thirsty desert of law.

The Chancellor next invited a student to orate from the gallery. The student in question, being taken quite unawares, had not prepared anything special, but moved by the evident zeal of a previous speaker, expressed the hope that some of the leading legal firms would help along the law library with spare copies of books. The hope was only a little one, and the appeal seems to have fallen on stony ground.

The Chancellor concluded a dismal function by complimenting the students upon their dutiful behaviour.

Capping Carnival.

“ Every moment brings a treasure
Of its own especial pleasure ;
Though the moments quickly die,
Greet them gaily as they fly.”

We may safely affirm that this year's Capping Carnival was the most successful in the annals of our College. The entertainment itself was a refreshing change from the “ humourosities ” of previous years, and the students had, for once, taken up the work of preparation in a serious and enthusiastic spirit. One of the principals in the composition of the “ Extravaganza ” was unfortunately unable to superintend the arduous task of rehearsal, but Miss Smith gallantly came forward and filled the breach with complete success. Our thanks are specially due to her, and to Misses Tooman and Frühauf, for their unsparing efforts to make the Carnival a thorough success.

The first portion of the programme consisted of the usual College songs, rendered for the first time in our history with something approaching that full-throated abandon required in a College song. Solos were contributed by Miss Strack, Miss Martin, F. P. Wilson and B. Jacobs, and a 'cello solo was given by Mr. Levvey. One of the most successful items was that of H. O'Leary and W. Perry, who expatiated in the Hibernian accent of Dooley and Hinnisey upon the "Education of the Young."

The remaining part of the programme was occupied with what was fairly aptly described as "Musical Extravaganza," consisting of four tableaux and bearing the rather mysterious title of "Munchums, or The Origin of Genus." The perpetrators were F. A. de la Mare, S. S. Mackenzie, and S. Eichelbaum.

The first tableau (representing the Stone Age) disclosed a tuneful band of hairy, grimy barbarians, scantily attired in odoriferous sheep skins which, judging from the by-play, were also pestiferous. A chancellor (Mr. A. W. Newton), whose costume would surely have aroused the blood-thirsty envy of many a pre-historic Briton, vainly strove to impress upon these noisome undergrads. a sense of his own importance and of the diguity appertaining to his office. In the second tableau (the Iron Age) W. Lyon, with an excellent solo effort, introduced a stalwart group of navvies promiscuously brandishing picks and shovels, and recounting the story of our exertions "on the old clay patch at Kelburne." The third tableau (the Historic Age) had reference to the commission recently set up to gather information from pioneer colonists. Miss D. Isaacs, as lady-commissioner, noted carefully much amusing and extremely improbable information from a hoary old salt (B. Jacobs), who furnished her with a particularly thrilling account of his adventures on this island when he and his "pal" Cook first landed. Emphasis was given to his graphic description of the "'ungry warriors," by the entrance of a fearsome band of Maoris in their ancestral garb, who, with quivering taiahas and glittering meres, gave several hakas and war-songs in a style which pleased the audience vastly and reflected much credit upon their leader A. H. Bogle. In the final tableau, entitled the Tabloid Age, we have a revelation of the future apotheosis of cram. Here T. N. Holmden, aided by a docile band of students dressed in ghoulishest vestments, which

at once brought to mind pictures of the ancient inquisitors, regaled us, in what was the cleverest topical song of the evening, with an account of the joys awaiting the student of the future age—that happy time when all knowledge shall be dispensed in the form of pillules, when “muscle and thew and bone” shall be to the student entirely negligible assets.

This programme was repeated on the Saturday evening before a good audience.

The Supper.

“Now to the banquet we press,
Now for the eggs and ham,
Now for the mustard and cress,
Now for the strawberry jam.”

This year a separate hall was engaged for the Graduates’ Supper, but even the additional space thus afforded was taxed to the uttermost. After some had had a hearty supper, the usual toast-list was proceeded with, and the medals won at the Easter Tournament presented. The only novel feature was the presentation to G. F. Dixon by our tournament representatives, of a biscuit barrel suitably inscribed. Owing to the ambiguous nature of E. J. Fitzgibbon’s remarks in making the presentation, certain students and professors expressed considerable surprise that the engagement had not been announced in our last issue.

After the toasts had been honoured, dancing was begun and continued far into the small hours of the morning.





Poetry.

"As I remarked before
Any one convinced would be
That some transcendental lore
Is monopolising me."

ODE ON METAPHYSICAL THOUGHT.

I.

Let the breeze blow about me all the prime
Of the unthreaded years, untold
Upon the rosary of Time ;
Let the gull beat his happy wings that fold
All of the magic of the dateless Morn
When she looked forth with rosy fingers pressed
On silent lips, and with her smile caressed
Island and sea and gulf yet unforlorn
With the unknelled, the castaway, and sails
For ever ruffled by the wind.
Oh bird, that to the dark song of the mind
Bearest a music with thy wheeling, tell
If ever in the sun the morning fails
To whisper to thee, like enchanted shell,
Message that we have never gathered home,
No more than we can treasure up the foam.
Thine hour is happiness,
There never comes duress
To thee, illusion ; never is the cloud
All darkness where at night thy head is bowed,

II.

Something of thy dominion do I gain,
Dreaming within the faint communing land
The soul finds in her slumber ;
Somewhere I feel I touch again
Hours hidden by the ages without number,
And for a blessed moment do I stand
Before the past we know had taken shape,
Before the glow of the young world was dim,
When the uncontaminated mirrored Him,
Floe, sea and islet, continent and cape.
Yes, I would trench upon thy heritage—
To leave at will the tributary earth,
Rolling to greater orbs—and would assuage
Thought that will ask too much of human dearth.
To soothe our elementary pain,
To vex no more the doubting heart,
That were above all sunshine and all rain ;
We cannot do it, but I feel apart,
Above, a mighty wand is given,
That we have never found, though we have ever striven.

III.

Would God my heart could be
Uplifted from the banal load
Inherited with our abode !
Would that my spirit leapt to light as thee,
Not with a stagnant mortmain of old thought,
So little satisfying, on the bowed,
Tired children of humanity.
Thou hast the early path for ever sought
By man and never found,
Oh take me on thy wings from the unholy ground.
Then let me feel (or dream I feel) the cloud
That floats above the droning earth is strewn
An immaterial curtain, from me bowed
Far to the sunken haven of the moon ;
Below me the grey roof
Of the world, and a woof
By the vapour spun
For the laughing sun,
Here we shall fly, oh my soul, till the day be done,

IV.

Below the world shall spin ;
Here let my thought begin
Like the soft birth of Eden reveries,
Before the tribulation,
Or the prophecy ;
When the heart knew its own elation
To be the music of the earth and sky,
When all things were the children of delight,
Nor man abstaining,
Thought was the shining disc of sight,
And moved with her to the heaven's cloudy veining.

V.

Oh, Time irrevocable for all prayer,
All adoration, all supreme desire,
What if my heart would gather anywhere
One cloud-beat of thy fragrance when the fire
Of the first sun illumined the young sea ;
What if I willed to wander back with thee
Before man brooded on his eternal pain ;
Thou couldst not be again
The unrecordable, and free
From all conception men have woven round
Life, death and immortality ;
For ever under thee there is a sound,
It is the moan of men who never Truth have found.
And they have looked for her with eyes
That tired not for their vigil, they outwatch
Soft-footed centuries ;
They breathe with agony to catch
Her beam like palms of Paradise,
But she her pennon frees
To loftier worlds, and we descry afar
Some shadow of her splendour like a falling star.

VI.

Oh wealth of imagery men have weaved,
And held it Truth ! Oh heart that leaps again,
For evermore aspiring, and deceived
For ever with interminable pain !

The rack lies through the tributary past,
Shadow and ruin of philosophy,
Broken as summer cloud—
The beady splendours of young souls to be
Never by sorrow bowed ;
The sombre gloom of weary sages led
Through old despair to pale futility,
Losing themselves in maze
Of windlestraw of phrase,
Until the human heart supremely dowered be dead.

VII.

Yet building ever like the coral reef
For ever to the light, too hard it lies
Upon the heart that its relief
Never doth come until the weaver dies.
Art is all broidery for our despair,
The lance light of the throne we cannot see,
We know not if the anodyne of prayer
Hath aught of sacrament for what shall be ;
We do but build, and scatter everywhere
Flower of our soul in fond hope it is He.

VIII.

Behold the ocean of old Time
Traced with dead beliefs ;
Naught visible sublime,
Only grey forgotten reefs,
Where drowned nations, who believed
The star led thither, moulder deep,
Their alchemy of Hope achieved
In a sea-change of quiet sleep.
Dreams are about us evermore—
Each hath a dream, a slender web
Spun from the lintel of his door
To the grave where life doth ebb ;
Be it a famed phylactery,
The holy of a temple built
By thorn-grieved worshippers who see
In us a precious balsam spilt ;
Be it forgotten in a day,
A chanceless seedling overblown
By ragged, uncurbed winds away
To the charity of a stone.

IX.

All shall perish—from the glow
Of dreaming prophets who have seen
The azure of heaven's inner bow,
To the dusk of thoughts that lean
On spectral mysteries outworn ;
The flameless lamp of sodden mind
Where a Tashi Lama blinks
Before a multitude that thinks
In him heaven smiles or is unkind.
Oh, Father let us be forlorn
No longer in the desert, break
Thy clouds of darkness, oh forsake
Infinity of shade, conceal
No more Thy splendour, oh reveal. !

X.

Some diviner argonaut
Of the drifting soul of thought
Shall discover all the main
We have trembled for in vain.
Under Truth's pavilion cloud
Men shall wander pure and proud,
Ear shall hearken to a word
That no sophistry hath blurred,
Time shall fold his wing behind.
Death be youth and beauty blind ;
Every heart shall burdened be
With more joy than it can see.

HUBERT CHURCH.



CARPITE FLOREM.

(AFTER OVID)

Lest any day should redden in the West
Whose every portion yielded not life's grapes
In purple clusters, for Youth's vintage prest,—
Think, while the pleasant circling sunlight shapes
One shadow on the dial, Time escapes
Your fingers, and the grey years stride apace
On Youth, until it be forgotten grace.

Not always will the world be glad with Spring—
The Spring you squander, recking little how ;
Not always will the Aprils largess bring :
Ah, take your pleasure while the Gods allow !
Already Night has twined this hour's dead brow :
The days are waters of a ceaseless stream,
And not one cupful can your hand redeem !

Oh, cull life's kernel, since the husks be base,—
Full little tide is here wherein to cull—
For we, like Atalanta, run a race,
And at the winning-post there lies a skull.
And think not in the aftertime to lull
Regrets for lost red daysprings—you shall learn
The first full flush can never more return.

Lo, I who sing know where the singers' lips
Are scent of rose and breath of violet :
I know in what brief course our fellowships
Are with worn faces that the wrinkles net.
Needs must we all the bloom forego, forget,—
O days and hours, and cold lips that were red !
Pluto has all whereto our souls were wed.

Who knoweth whither stealthy Charon rows ?
The Gods list not the burden of our prayer,
On far Olympus where the sunlight glows ;
And it were well vain questionings to forbear.
But to the lees life's wine is red and rare !
O drain full measure : pluck the blowing flower
Before blown petals wilter, past your power !

S. S. M.

INEPTIAE.

While I slumbered, swot encumbered, as I tossed
my restless head

Came a vision, fields Elysian, filled with spirits of
the dead ;

Souls immortal, filled the portal, not in human
shape they moved,

It was clearly, but the theory, of the great
Pythag'ras proved.

'Twas a jumble, rough and tumble, but the
animals down there,

Held a meeting, worth repeating, and a Frog was
in the chair.

Frog. " We have met, my fellow creatures, but for what
I do not know ;

Just to air our fine orations, just to croak and
bleat and crow,

And although they're wrong, my rulings, you will
surely let them go."

Parrot. " Hear, hear, let 'er go."

Mole. " I am a mole, come out of my hole, to raise points
of order at will

Say what you may, no chair I'll obey, nor creep
to my home 'neath the hill."

Parrot. " Ha ! ha ! that's the insurmountable Hill.

Monkey. " On the rustling branch, on the green tree-top,
I swing my swing, and I drop my drop,
And so long as I have a growing limb
I'm blowed if I see the need of a gym."

Hobbledehoy. " Give me the game with the leather, tell me of
no other game,

Summer or Winter the weather, raining or
shining, the same,

Be the ball hard or pneumatic, play it with hit or
with kick,

Laud ye with praises emphatic, the game with the
foot or the stick.

Hang the walls round with your blazers, show out
your shields in the hall,

Scorn on the ignorant gazers, who've never chased
leather at all."

Parrot. " Ay, ay, what animal is this ?"

Frog. " Some say he's an eagle, with eyes all a'ogle,

- But take it from me he's a species of bogle."
- Bookworm.* "I waste no time in idle sport,
For art is long and life is short,
And yet 'tis very sad to see,
How few are here that follow me."
- Butterfly.* "Dancing, dancing, eyes a glancing,
Keeping time in rhythmic sway,
Swinging, swinging, gaily flinging,
All but joyous thoughts away.
Wheeling, wheeling, madly reeling,
In the bright tempestuous tide
Yearning, yearning, who'd sit learning,
By his lonely fire-side!"
- Carp.* "This fly is out of order."
- Frog.* "Carp, subside, I must implore thee, he is
arguing *a priori*."
- Carp.* "If you think that you are sharper,
I, a carp, shall prove a carper.
So I move 'tis only fair,
That the Frog should leave the chair."
- Morepork.* "Shame upon you, shame upon you,"
- All.* "Shame! Shame! Shame!"
- Just then Cerb'rus, rather nervous, said he
couldn't brook the row,
Fell to eating, of that meeting, and that meeting
non est now.



The Gymnasium.

“Allow me such exercises as may become a gentleman.”

—*As You Like It.*

The need for a gymnasium at College was very strongly felt during our last year at the Girls' High School, when the Football Club felt constrained to hire a room once a week for training. The distance of the St. Patrick's College gymnasium from the lecture-rooms destroyed, to a large extent, its usefulness to the Club, and it was hoped that some provision might be made in the new building for a training-room. The Students' Association approached the College Council, the Council approached the architects, and the architects reproached the plaster and said it wouldn't stand the strain of burly students jumping.

Early in the year the question of putting up a separate building for the gymnasium was brought before the Students' Association. A scheme was suggested. It was founded on certain presumptions of public support with borrowing in the background as a last resort. The enthusiasts claimed that even a moderate borrowing policy would be a far-sighted proposal when a site was secure, as the interest would not be greater than the Football Club was willing to pay for one night a week for less than six months. But borrowing was almost unanimously rejected and a sub-committee of delegates from the College Clubs was set up by the Students' Association Committee to bring down a practical scheme. As for borrowing the Committee would have none of it—it was not “practical,” and the sub-committee recommended that subscription lists should be opened. The money so collected was to be placed on deposit until such time as it became sufficient for building purposes. The committee referred the recommendations of the sub-committee to a special general meeting of the Students' Association, which was held in the upper room on Saturday, the 15th September, 1906. The meeting was long and enthusiastic. Questions of procedure received the earnest consideration of the members, notwithstanding which the business concluded before 10.30 p.m. The recommendations of the Committee were approved in the following form:—

(1) That a public subscription list be opened in aid of a gymnasium, but that no action be taken in the erection of a building until the actual amount necessary to build a gymnasium be subscribed.

(2) That a subscription list be opened to students of the college.

(3) That the Students' Association make a grant of £10 to the fund.

(4) That the money so collected be placed on deposit in a separate account in the Post Office Savings Bank, such account to be under the control of the Students' Association.

It now remains for those who are interested in the gymnasium, who believe that it will form one more link of union between the students, that it will increase the chances for all round individual development as well as the efficiency of our organised sport, to show that they are in earnest. Success will depend much on the generosity of our friends, but there is reason to believe that there are friends of the University in Wellington who will be glad to help Victoria College to obtain a very valuable adjunct which would otherwise be denied.



Those Chairs.

I thought I saw a four-legged chair,
A'standing by the door,
But when I'd time to look again,
I found it was the floor.

Last term we thanked the College Council effusively for presenting us with some "very fine" chairs. We still thank them heartily, but beg to withdraw the epithet. Like patent collapsible beds and patent collapsible tents and other patent collapsibles, these chairs have the unfortunate habit of collapsing at anything but the right time. They have not even that respect for professors, which it is the duty of all college property, including students, to have. Later reports, however, have it that they are of the wrong wood, and that they are to be replaced by something "harder." We wonder!

The Battle of the Bays.

The prize for the best "Capping Song" was won by V. B. Willis, whose "Go to Coll" has an excellent swing in it. The clever arrangement of the choruses gained the second place for F. Furby's "Honour where Due." Mr H. F. Von Haast kindly consented to act as judge. The singing was a great improvement on that of last year, and all did their best to make the songs a success. The "Evening Post," with kind condescension, quoted "a few strings from the lyre" and passed the usual uncomplimentary remarks. The reporter's keen sense of humour and vast powers of discrimination, seem to have been little affected by his not having been present at the performance.

Sydney University.

The Sydney University footballers spent a day in Wellington before the match. In the morning, as many of them as so

desired were shown over the Government Printing Offices and Tramway Power House. In the evening they were taken to the theatre to see "Sunday," and received various complimentary remarks about her "Sydney friends" from the lips of the heroine. Of the match nothing unofficial need be said, and the "send-off" was hearty.

The Common Room.

This portion of our somewhat limited students' quarters is at length assuming a civilized appearance. The walls have been plastered, the ceiling painted white, and the photos of the various committees and teams hung. The sum of £42 was voted at a special general meeting of the students for the purpose of furnishing the room, and the ladies have been very energetic in selecting tasteful cork carpet, curtains, etc. Green, we believe, is to be the predominating colour. Some discussion arose as to the necessity of a palm-stand, placed in the estimates, the more utilitarian members objecting to such a luxury. Several citizens have very kindly promised to donate articles of furniture, and it is hoped that their generous example will be followed by many.

Our Rhodes Scholar.

P. W. Robertson spent the long vacation in Germany, partly at the University of Greifswald and partly in travelling. While at Greifswald, he managed to combine work with pleasure, and the following extracts from one of his letters throws some side-lights on German student life:—"Another very interesting performance was the celebration by the University of its 420th Anniversary. This was quite a big thing. The town was gaily decorated; there was a procession of students, professors and guests through the streets to the fine old church. Then the Prince entered with a great blast of trumpets—it was a very impressive scene. In the evening there was a grand *Kneipe*. The next day the city gave the University a huge *Frühschoppen* on the old market place. We drank some 20,000 pints of beer." (*Kneipe* and *Frühschoppen* denote a revel at night and a drink or two in the morning, respectively.)

Suprema a Situ.

From the above liberality of a city to its university, we descend to the frugality of our own "City Fathers." The foot-path up to the College will not be completed unless the College

Council pays half. The amount entailed is under ten pounds, but the City Councillors held that as the path will be of use to students only, therefore we should pay half.

Athletic Club.

The Amateur Athletic Club held its third annual general meeting on the 24th September. The report for the season just ended referred to the successful sports meeting held in March, and recommended the holding of a similar meeting before the Easter tournament next year. The hope was expressed that as many students as possible would take an active interest in training next year, and that those away from Wellington during the long vacation would do some training before the vacation ended. It was suggested that those students living out of Wellington who have any desire for honours in athletics, should let the Secretary have their addresses.

The meeting congratulated the retiring Secretary, T. E. Y. Seddon, on his election to the House of Representatives, and thanked him for his past services, and also thanked H. W. King for his services to the Club prior to his removal to Christchurch. Special mention was made of the indebtedness of the Club to Mr J. P. Firth for the use of the Wellington College grounds for training. One paragraph in the report pointed out with reference to the University Tournament, that "while Victoria College has won both the Tennis Cup and the Debating Scroll, the Athletic Shield has not yet come into our possession;" and expressed the desire that every effort should be made to secure more worthy representation of the College next year.

The following officers were elected:—President, Professor Brown; Vice-Presidents: Professors and lecturers; Captain: G. V. Bogle; Hon. Secretary, J. M. Hogben; Hon. Treasurer, F. W. B. Goodbehere; Committee: F. A. Wilson, T. N. Holmden and other officers of the Club *ex officio*; Hon. Auditor: W. Gillanders; Delegate to Wellington Centre: J. M. Hogben.

A Warning.

We notice that the Canterbury College students are vigorously crusading against the invasion of their learned halls by the "child." They have our heartiest support. Students, when they begin their University career, should have sufficient respect for the dignity of their position to discard the garments of the nursery and the schoolroom. We refer more particularly, in this connection, to the repeated outrages perpetrated upon

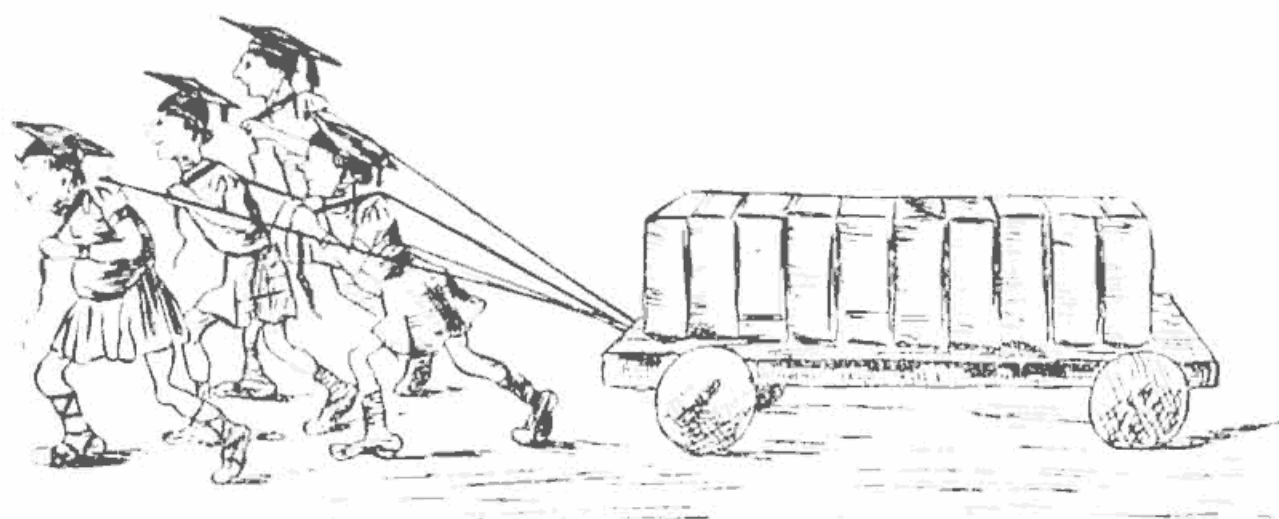
our sense of academic decorum by those abandoned men students who have, of late, been perambulating our corridors in knickerbockers. Now, we do not object to the temporary wearing of this garment in cases of emergency, or to refute a false allegation of crural tenuity, but we do object to protracted and unnecessary wearing of the same. We know, for instance, of one student, who, for the past fortnight has flaunted a pair of peculiarly rakish legs clad in peculiarly roomy knickerbockers, presumably to win the admiration of spectators. This is, surely, very bad form—besides, the girls do not *really* like it. At any-rate, we think that the time for some decisive action in the matter has come, and we have to warn that student, that if he further indulges this evil *penchant*, it will be our sorrowful duty to hold him up to public opprobrium and derision.

Essay Competition.

We wish to draw the attention of students to the fact that in another part of this issue appears a letter from the Registrar of the University, giving particulars of a prize essay competition on "The University system of New Zealand—its merits and defects." On behalf of the students we desire to thank Mr Joynt for thus once more showing his interest in our University welfare. Should any students wish to send copies of this letter to friends who are unable to get copies of THE SPIKE, they may obtain same from Mr Joynt, who has a few spare copies.

The Forlorn Hope.

Our readers may quite possibly remember that there were three prizes offered at the beginning of this half in connection with THE SPIKE; one was for a literary contribution, one for a sketch, and the other for a story. It is sad to think that there has not been a single response. This is all the more remarkable when viewed in the light of the numerous pieces of gratuitous advice, (which we have hitherto borne in all meekness and humility) suggesting better methods of conducting such a magazine as this. Of the other students attending this College, 372 out of 375 have confidentially informed us that THE SPIKE should absolutely bristle with point and coruscate with wit. We need hardly say that the three students who mercifully refrained were the former editor and his two subs. We *did* think our cash offer would elicit something concrete from our critics to illustrate their theories on the conduct of college magazines.



Notes From Other Colleges.

WE offer our congratulations to the Otago Varsity Football team on their success this season; they have won the Senior Championship with only one loss, the last game of the season. It is gratifying to know that there is at least one college team which can more than hold its own in Senior Football.

The following extract culled from the Canterbury College Review will probably awake a sympathetic echo in the hearts of many girls in Mr. Gray's long-suffering flock: "To an outsider the lot of the Normal girl-students appears to be somewhat hard, for, in addition to their ordinary College work and their school-teaching, one hears echoes of criticism lessons, school method and education lectures, a course of cooking lessons, music lectures, twenty minutes kindergarten, physical culture, psychology, school of art, agriculture, tidying-up the children's play-ground, etc. . . . Unless the students have marvellously neat pigeon-holes one wonders how they stow away all the knowledge showered upon them."

A scheme, making the Students' Association the central body, and granting all the College clubs direct representation on its committee, has been approved and adopted by the Canterbury College students. This scheme, which, by the way, has often been brought before the notice of our students, promises to meet with success.

The Canterbury College Students' Lodge, referred to in our last issue, appears to be progressing satisfactorily, though as yet the accommodation is not exactly overtaxed.

The following is the record of the Sydney University Football team, which recently toured New Zealand : v. Otago Varsity—Lost, 21—0 ; second match—Lost, 3—0 ; v. Otago—Lost, 6—3 ; v. Canterbury College—Won, 26—0 ; v. Victoria College—Won, 31—3. The visitors expressed considerable regret that they were unable to visit Auckland.

In the last number of the "Varsity," one of the Oxford magazines, a prize was offered for the best poem dealing from the examinee's point of view with the species examiner, its merits and demerits. We quote a verse from the prize poem :

Examiners, Examiners !
 Why need such monsters be ?
 What faint excuse
 Can they adduce
 For their enormity ?
 What vestige of a reason why
 They should not disappear or die ?

Exchanges.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following magazines :

Otago University Review,
 Canterbury College Review,
 The Wellingtonian,
 The Scindian,
 Napier G.H.S. Magazine,
 Gov. Insurance Recorder.

Weddings.

WILLS-PARSONS.—On 30th June, Frank Fabian Wills, to Miss Winifred Parsons of Lower Hutt.

PRENDEVILLE-SUTHERLAND.—On 25th July, James Prendeville, to Miss Helen Sutherland of Martinborough.





" To all their little weaknesses
I open people's eyes
And little plans to snub
The self-sufficient I devise.

" I sit all day
Giving agreeable girls away."

J. P-pe.—Sorry bashfulness bids fair to wreck your life, but rid yourself of the idea that people neglect their business to contemplate you.

R. St. J. B-re.—Arriving at glee practice ten minutes before knock off time is not really good form. It would be " Maudie "—corous to " lena "—'gainst the fence outside and wait.

P. J. O'R-g-n.—You are certainly anomalous with two " tums."

S. E-ch-lb-m.—We think the song you mention is a humorous one entitled " The Smile That Won't Come Off."

H. Or-m.—After much toil we have at last found a " bit of poetry " suitable for insertion in that autograph book lent to you by a lady friend. It runs as follows :—

I said as I looked in the glass,
" 'Tis one to a million
That any civilian
My figure and form can surpass."

NOTICE.

Any Student who has copies of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 of THE SPIKE, and is willing to part with them for a monetary consideration, is asked to communicate with the Editor or sub-editors as soon as possible.

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