

INDEX



	PAGE.
Editorial	13
College Officers	17
Inter-University College Tournament	19
Examination Results	29
Football	32
Hockey (Men)	36
Maori in the University	38
Hockey (Women)	40
Alan MacDougall	42
Tennis	44
Christian Union	46
A Tragedy of Spring	48
Cricket	50
Officers' Training Corps	52
Socials	54
Sox	56
Debating	58
Glee Club	61
Egmont	62
Athletics	63
College Notes	64

POETRY :—

A Nation Armed	66
Antipodean Horace	66
White Hyacinths	67
Notes from other Colleges	68
Answers to Correspondents	71

ILLUSTRATIONS :—

Victoria College Representatives at Easter Tournament	35
Alan MacDougall	43

THE SPIKE

- - OR - -

Victoria College Review.

(PUBLISHED TWICE IN THE SESSION)

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

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

Vol. VIII.

No. 1.



"Enfants des hommes . . .
De vos soins quel est le fruit ?
Par quelle erreur . . .
Achetez-vous si souvent
Non un pain qui vous repaisse
Mais une ombre qui vous laisse
Plus affamés que devant ?"

Racine

IN this country there seems to be a most careless neglect of literary talent; the public are not slow to recognise the merits of writings which have been appraised in other lands, but they seem to lack that discrimination which would enable them to recognise for themselves works of merit. There is no encouragement for the establishment of a literary school amongst us; and why? The encouragement of literature is in the hands of our educational institutions and of our newspapers. And these bodies fail.

In our primary schools there is still a regard for the rules of grammar that allows of little time for the reading of classics. The children spend their time at spelling or at learning rules of syntax which are incomprehensible to those who read so little; there is too much theory and far too little practice. The secondary schools fail in much the same respect. The pupils at most of those schools are limited to one or two good works each

year; they read those books because they are compelled to do so; they have not read enough to have learnt to appreciate. Of course the examination fetish is responsible for some of this; a pupil who has to pass an examination by a certain time is crammed with all the information possible, and has little opportunity to read by the way. But even so more could be done.

Then when a matriculated student comes to the University, his knowledge of the literature of his own language is a most hopelessly inadequate foundation for a thorough literary training; which is perhaps the reason for the literature course being allowed to remain in its present unsatisfactory condition. At present the student is not encouraged to read widely or well—in fact, his best course is to read little, and to have no opinions of his own. If he spends too much time in wide reading or in original thought, he is wasting time as far as his examinations are concerned. In the prescribed course in English language and literature, for instance, it is possible, and an annual occurrence, for students to pass examinations in set books without seeing within these books' covers. It is feasible, and a most usual practice, for students to pass an examination on a certain period of literature without a first-hand acquaintance with the works of any of the authors of that period. And the amount of essay writing that the average student does in a year is not even sufficient to show him some of the limitations of his own style and vocabulary. But the University Senate is obstinately persistent in resisting all proposed improvements.

Apart altogether from our educational institutions, however, it is in the power of our newspapers to do much to encourage literary talent. They certainly do not do so at present. A man of literary ability who joins the staff of a newspaper, can find little congenial work under the present conditions of newspaper management. And a degree of journalism which was suggested a short while back, was scoffed at by the papers. One paper went so far as to assert that a University training was a handicap to a man entering the profession of journalism. Certainly the average New Zealand newspaper does nothing to educate the public taste. The papers do not welcome to their columns work of literary ability; even their criticisms, which should give some scope for talent, are governed by the advertising columns. The whole standard of writing in the papers is not a high one, and to raise that standard would be to develop the literary taste of all those who peruse the papers.

Some day, of course, all this may be improved. There certainly is room for improvement in every direction. In our schools the pupils can be taught to appreciate good literature;

they should gain first-hand acquaintance with most of our best classical authors, and should be taught to express their own thoughts in their own language. Let every lesson be a lesson in English; if a student is taught correctly, he will fall naturally into a correct style of expression; the rules of grammar will come naturally to the pupil who reads widely and with ordinary intelligence. At present pupils are not encouraged to read widely, and are not taught to criticise or appreciate for themselves, but are taught rather to become copyists, and feeble copyists at that.

In the University the room for improvement is even greater. The present pass degree in literature abounds in absurdities. It is absurd, to take an instance, that a student who goes no further than his B.A. should waste time in cramming up the translations of certain set pieces of Anglo-Saxon when he is not required to learn anything more of the language. And, as we pointed out, the student need not read the books of the year. We are afraid that until the work done during the year is the chief consideration in granting a degree, there can be little improvement. Under the existing system, after passing terms, which in some cases is painfully simple, the student is examined by a man who knows nothing of what that student has done during the year. The examiners' idiosyncrasies are studied beforehand, and his opinions are eagerly devoured, so that when the examination arrives the student can repeat in parrot-like fashion the criticisms that he has so carefully read. It is scandalous that the present anomalies should be allowed to exist. The only way to remedy the greatest defects is to devise a course which will absolutely necessitate that the student reads for himself during the year, and that he reads with sufficient care to enable him to appreciate or criticise. So long as the examinations are conducted from England, the student will cram his subjects because it is profitable. As soon, however, as a recommendation by the student's Professor is made the chief requisite for a degree, so soon will the student find it necessary to do really profitable literary work. The student will then find—if our Professors are capable to any degree, and they are—that he must study the language and literature for himself. A student who is liable to be questioned at any time on his work will do much better work than a student who sits for an examination at the end of the year only. The Professor can and will see, from the work he is setting his students, that they are really profiting by what they read; that their talents are really being developed, and that their originality is being encouraged. Such a change would benefit the student, and give some satisfaction to the Professor.

Our newspapers at present seem hopeless. And they reach a vast public which is beyond the influence of our secondary schools and Universities. Let the newspapers see that their writings are something more than a fleeting criticism or recital of the events of the day. We cannot complain of them as newspapers pure and simple; but is it a true reflection of the spirit of the age that they should remain at their present low standard? We venture to think not; we venture to assert that the papers would be held in far greater esteem if they were to publish daily articles of literary value or short stories of real merit—not mere “pot-boilers.” The criticisms—dramatic, musical, and literary—of the newsysyers would, if they were written by really qualified men, command respect. Nowadays, however, it would seem that, provided that a man can write at all intelligibly, it matters not what education he has received, he is fit to become a journalist.

We know that there are difficulties in the way of every reform. We have very definite views on what the magazine of a University College should be. In our opinion, such a magazine should most certainly not be devoted for the most part to reports of the doings of clubs. The chief features of such magazines should be writings of a really literary character—it matters not whether they take the form of short stories, essays, verse, or ought else. Unfortunately, however, it is wondrously difficult to induce students to write anything at all—and the editors of a University College magazine are not all chosen for any marked literary ability. But we can at least signify our ideals in the hope that in the future at least, *THE SPIKE* will be able to rise above the level of mere report, and will be such as to command the respect which should be given to the official organ of a body of nearly five hundred University students.

* * * * *

We have to welcome to our midst Mr. F. P. Wilson, M.A., and Mr. C. A. Cotton, M.Sc., who have been appointed lecturers in Economics and Geology respectively. These gentlemen are doubly welcome by reason of the fact that they are both New Zealand graduates—Mr. Wilson of ours, and Mr. Cotton of Otago.

College Officers.

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Patron : Professor H. B. Kirk. *President* : F. A. Wilson. *Vice-Presidents* : Miss L. McIntosh and J. F. Thompson. *Hon. Treasurers* : Miss B. I. L. Reeve and J. L. Short. *Hon. Secretary* : T. N. Holmden. *Committee* : Misses E. R. Fell, E. M. Sampson, and M. R. Barkas, and Messrs J. McL. Hogben, E. Lyon, A. H. Bogle and A. T. Duncan. *Hon. Auditor* : G. W. Reid. *Delegates to University Tournament Committee* : J. McL. Hogben and D. S. Smith.

GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

President : A. MacDougall. *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer* : Miss M. E. Hales. *Committee* : Misses M. E. Gibbs and E. Watson, and Messrs F. A. de la Mare and S. Eichelbaum.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

Patron : His Excellency the Governor. *President* : Professor James Adamson, M.A. *Vice-Presidents* : John Mason and G. H. Gibb. *Hon. Secretary* : R. Kennedy. *Hon. Treasurer* : A. D. Brodie. *Committee* : Misses E. R. Fell and E. M. Sampson, Messrs V. B. Willis and E. S. Rutherford. *Hon. Auditor* : H. D. Skinner.

WOMEN'S BRANCH.—*President* : Mrs. Adamson. *Chairwoman* : Miss M. R. Barkas. *Vice-Chairwoman* : Miss E. M. Sampson. *Hon. Secretary* : Miss A. E. Currie. *Committee* : Misses E. R. Fell, F. Neilsen and C. Rockel.

TENNIS CLUB.

President : *Vice-President* : F. A. Wilson. *Hon. Secretary* : A. Fair. *Hon. Treasurer* : J. D. Smith. *Committee* : Messrs. R. St. J. Beere, A. T. Duncan, Misses J. Scott and C. M. Taylor.

MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB.

Patron : His Excellency the Governor. *President* : Sir Robert Stout, K.C.M.G. *Vice-Presidents* : The members of the Professorial Board. *Club Captain* : M. H. Oram. *Hon. Secretary* : A. Brodie. *Hon. Treasurer* : G. M. Cleghorn. *Committee* : P. W. Burbidge, H. W. Monaghan, R. St. J. Beere. *Hon. Auditor* : J. M. Tudhope.

LADIES' HOCKEY CLUB.

President : Mrs. Adamson. *Vice-Presidents* : Mesdames Brown, Kirk, Mackenzie, von Zedlitz, Easterfield, Hunter, Richmond, Gray and Wilson. *Club Captain* : Miss E. Johnston. *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer* : Miss K. McIntosh. *Committee* : Misses B. Bisset, M. Cox and M. McRae. *Hon. Auditor* : Miss L. McIntosh. *Delegates to Wellington Ladies Hockey Association* : Misses K. McIntosh and M. Cox.

FOOTBALL CLUB.

Patron: Professor Kirk. *President:* Professor Hunter. *Vice-Presidents:* Members of the Professorial Board, R. McCallum, Esq., and Dr. I. Hunter. *Club Captain:* H. F. O'Leary. *Deputy Club Captain:* F. A. Wilson. *Hon. Secretary:* E. Lyon. *Hon. Treasurer:* L. Short. *Committee:* J. D. Brosnan, A. Curtayne, and R. Kennedy. *Hon. Auditor:* H. B. Randrup. *Délegates to W.R.U.:* Professor Hunter, W. Perry, and H. F. O'Leary.

CRICKET CLUB.

Patron: Sir Robert Stout, K.C.M.G. *President:* Professor Kirk. *Vice-Presidents:* Members of the Professorial Board and Messrs. A. R. Meek, H. F. von Haast, R. McCallum, A. C. Gifford, H. D. Bell, and J. P. Firth. *Club Captain:* D. R. Niven. *Hon. Secretary:* A. MacDougall. *Hon. Treasurer:* V. B. Willis. *Committee:* F. A. de la Mare, P. B. Broad. *Auditor:* G. McL. Hogben.

AMATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB.

President: Professor Richmond. *Vice-Presidents:* Members of the Professorial Board, and J. P. Firth, Esq. *Club Captain:* J. McL. Hogben. *Hon. Secretary:* J. L. Short. *Hon. Treasurer:* A. E. Dobbie. *Committee:* A. H. Bogle and F. A. Wilson. *Hon. Auditor:* M. H. Oram. *Delegate to Wellington Centre N.Z.A.A.A.:* J. L. Short.

GLEE CLUB.

Conductor: E. Waters. *Deputy Conductor:* S. J. Anderson. *Hon. Secretary:* G. H. Gibb. *Librarian:* Miss J. Butler. *Committee:* Misses E. R. Fell and J. Frühauf, and L. Short.

GYMNASIUM COMMITTEE.

H. F. O'Leary, W. Perry, F. A. de la Mare, R. St. J. Beeze, D. S. Smith, T. N. Holmden, J. McL. Hogben.

MEN'S COMMON ROOM CLUB.

Patron: Professor Hunter. *President:* W. Perry. *Vice-Presidents:* J. F. Thompson and J. McL. Hogben. *Hon. Secretary:* T. N. Holmden. *Hon. Treasurer:* E. Wright. *Committee:* L. Short, J. W. Heenan, A. T. Duncan, E. C. Prendeville. *Hon. Auditor:* A. E. Dobbie.

CHRISTIAN UNION.

President: D. S. Smith. *Vice-Presidents:* Miss B. I. L. Reeve and C. H. Taylor. *Recording Secretary:* Miss J. Butler. *Corresponding Secretaries:* Miss E. Johnston and A. D. Brodie. *Hon. Treasurers:* Miss A. E. Currie and P. W. Burbidge. *Hon. Auditor:* H. D. Skinner.

V.C. BRANCH M.S.U.W.—*President:* Miss M. E. Hales. *Vice-President:* Miss E. Watson. *Secretary:* Miss J. Butler. *Assistant Secretary:* Miss E. Gibbs. *Treasurer:* Miss Rockel. *Committee:* Misses H. Jenkins, A. Currie and E. Davies.

MAGAZINE.

Editor: Julius McL. Hogben. *Sub-Editors:* Miss E. R. Fell, J. F. Thompson and C. H. Taylor. *Financial Secretary:* E. E. Rutherford. *Assistant Secretary:* G. M. Cleghorn.



The Eighth New Zealand University Tournament.

HELD AT WELLINGTON, EASTER, 1909.

"When the morning of a Tournament
Brake with a wet wind blowing."

—Idylls of the King.

TO those who were awakened in the small hours of Easter Saturday morning by an insistent patter of raindrops, the foreboding was ominous. By daybreak the fates seemed to have completely conquered and a persistent northerly had installed itself, shaking steady rain out of the moisture-laden clouds that enveloped the City, and flouting the prophecy of the weather-wise that "Fair weather cometh from the north." Such were the weather conditions that greeted those who had spent weeks of insistent toil in preparing for the successful management of the Eighth New Zealand University Tournament and welcomed to Wellington the Auckland representatives, who had arrived by the Main Trunk Express on Thursday, and the Southerners who journeyed thither by the "Maori," on Friday morning. Undeterred by an outlook so disheartening and a prospect gloomy in the extreme, a numerous and optimistic assembly of students wended its way to the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall to receive the official welcome of the Mayor and Citizens of Wellington and hear explained away such untoward behaviour of the weather.

THE MAYORAL RECEPTION.

"As a broad brook o'er a shingly bed
Brawling."

—Idylls of the King.

Shortly after 9 o'clock Mr J. P. Luke, M.P., (Senior City Councillor) from a platform on which were assembled many local notabilities, extended the welcome of the City to the visiting

representatives and apologised for the absence of the Mayor, the Hon. T. W. Hislop. He reviewed the history and work of the New Zealand University and mentioned the services rendered to it by the late Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon and Sir Robert Stout. He added that had the late Premier lived a Chair of Naval Architecture would certainly be founded in view of the present naval crisis. In concluding he wished the Tournament success and to assist in the entertainment of the visitors in the unforeseen-weather conditions, kindly arranged for an Organ Recital by the City Organist, Mr Maughan Barnett. Professor Kirk extended welcome on behalf of the Professorial Board and offered the use of the College for any entertainment in the afternoon. He also made a weather prophecy.

Professor Gabbatt of Canterbury College briefly returned thanks. His hopes were two only, that the best College would win and that the best would be Canterbury.

G. F. Dixon thanked Mr Luke for attending, told the effect of Opie on Mercury and stated that he had already found two purses.

Before dispersing, it was announced that through the courtesy of Mr F. M. B. Fisher, M.P., who was present, arrangements had been made to open the General Assembly Library to visitors and this privilege was largely taken advantage of. A large number availed themselves of the opportunity of hearing the Town Hall Organ—a unique form of Tournament entertainment—and after a pleasant hour had been spent, appreciation of Mr Maughan Barnett's performance was expressed in ringing cheers. At noon there was no sign of a break in the weather and it was then decided to entertain the visitors at the College in the afternoon. This impromptu arrangement was not without its advantages and in an all-too-short three hours many new friendships were made and old ones renewed. A concert programme was carried out, each College in its turn providing the talent; afternoon tea was dispensed and the entertainment terminated with a set of Lancers and the indispensable "Merry Widow."

VICTORIA COLLEGE TEAMS.

"Flash brand and lance, fall battleaxe upon helm,
Fall battleaxe, and flash brand."

—*Idylls of the King.*

It has hitherto been the SPIKE's pleasure to tell of training operations that interested all, of unbounded enthusiasm as Tournament loomed near and of many that sought to represent

Victoria College and to do or die in the cause. Next year it hopes to tell again of such desirable happenings; it cannot do so this year. To a faithful few who strove to uphold our honour and who, despite lack of encouragement almost crowned their efforts with victory, grateful appreciation is nevertheless expressed.

The following are the names of the representatives in the different events.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

100 yards	..	A. T. Duncan	G. S. Strack
220 "	..	A. T. Duncan	G. S. Strack
440 "	..	A. T. Duncan	J. Ryan
880 "	..	E. C. Prendeville	J. D. Brosnan
Mile Flat..	..	T. Rigg	D. S. Smith
Three Mile Flat	..	T. Rigg	D. S. Smith
120 Hurdles	..	A. H. Bogle	C. H. E. Strack
440 "	..	A. H. Bogle	C. H. E. Strack
Mile Walk	..	Not Represented	—
High Jump	..	A. H. Bogle	—
Long Jump	..	A. H. Bogle	A. T. Duncan
Putting Shot	..	F. A. Wilson	—
Throwing Hammer	..	Not Represented	—

TENNIS.

Ladies' Singles	..	Misses B. Reeve, K. McIntosh & V. Saxon
Ladies' Singles	..	Misses B. Reeve and K. McIntosh
		Misses V. and G. Saxon
		Misses K. Lawry and A. Atkinson
Mens' Singles	..	D. S. Smith and G. M. Cleghorn
Mens' Doubles	..	D. S. Smith and G. M. Cleghorn
		S. Eichelbaum and E. Rutherford
Combination Doubles		G. M. Cleghorn and Miss K. McIntosh
		D. S. Smith and Miss B. Reeve

DEBATING.

D. S. Smith and G. H. Gibb.

ATHLETICS.

"The knotted column of his throat,
The massive square of his heroic breast,
And arms on which the standing muscle sloped
As slopes a wild brook o'er a little stone."

—*Idylls of the King.*

Easter Monday proved to be a day of perfect atmospheric conditions; a cloudless sky with a bracing fine southerly. As was only to be expected the track was somewhat dead after the heavy rains and this fact serves to enhance further the several

fine performances subsequently achieved. A large assembly of over 1,500 people watched the "games." Public opinion favoured the chances of Canterbury College, and mainly by the aid of R. Opie—their crack sprinter—and L. A. Dougall, they duly captured the shield.

Collins secured the opening event, Putting the Weight, for Canterbury College and Dougall placed a second win to their credit by winning the mile championship in record time, 4 min. 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs.—a fine performance. Dougall made his own pace and had no difficulty in winning easily from Rigg, (V.C.); Dougall also won the half mile without being extended. The 220 yards went to R. Opie, (C.C.), in the fast time of 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.— $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. outside record time. The performances in the high and long jumps were only moderate, but A. H. Bogle (V.C.) showed excellent form in annexing the 120 yards hurdles in 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs., equalling both in heat and in final—with slight assistance from the wind—the previous best performance. He also successfully defended his title in the 440 yards hurdles, C. Strack (V.C.) being a creditable second. The 100 yards Championship was won by R. Opie in 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.— $\frac{1}{2}$ sec inside record time, but as the race was run before a slight breeze the record was not recognised. It was nevertheless an excellent performance, and under perfect conditions Opie should be capable of at least equalling the record. Duncan was close up second. These runners were again placed first and second in the 440 yards Championship, in which a considerable amount of jostling took place. Although the result was not affected, such tactics are to be deprecated in University sports. Otago secured first and second places in the Hammer Throwing through the agency of Hamilton and Wilson, the distance 99ft. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. being a distinct improvement on the previous year's performance. Otago's representative, A. Hamilton, succeeded in wresting the Mile Walk Championship from R. Twyneham (C.C.) in 7 min. 21 $\frac{2}{3}$ secs., the best performance to date. The finish of the Three Miles Flat was left to Victoria College, T. Rigg finishing first and D. S. Smith second. L. A. Dougall (C.C.) made the pace for the first mile (run in 4 min. 56 sec.) and then retired. Two miles were covered in 10 min. 33 secs., and the full distance in 15 min. 56 secs., which is considerably below the previous best time. Rigg was unpaced for the last mile and won sprinting. A large field of gallant knights and fair ladies assembled to contest the ancient game of Threading the Needle. Many fingers were pricked, but no records were broken. Last year's Pick-a-Back champions successfully defended their title.

The official records are given on page 28.

TENNIS.

"Forbear; there is a worthier." — *Idylls of the King.*

With the weather in its angriest mood throughout Saturday and the consequent loss of a day's play, the prospect of completing the Tennis Championships before the close of the Tournament looked extremely doubtful. By decree of the Committee, however, the ladies were required to play on Easter Monday morning, and on Tuesday, by dint of careful arrangement, the championships were so far completed that only two finals remained to be played on Wednesday. The quality of play, though equal to that of the previous year, was not up to the University standard. Canterbury College successfully defended their title to the Tennis Cup, which looks to be in their safe keeping for some time.

In the Men's Championship Singles a fine contest was witnessed between Wilding (C.C.) and Moody (O.U.), the latter eventually winning (6-3, 6-4). In the final, Jennings (C.C.), last year's champion, had no difficulty in defeating the Otago representative (6-0, 7-5). The result of the Men's Championship Doubles was never in doubt, Jennings and Wilding (C.C.) easily disposing of Bundle and Gower (O.U.), and the Combined Championship Doubles was also a foregone conclusion, Jennings and Miss Grace successfully defending their title. Canterbury College players continued their victorious career in the Ladies' Championship Doubles, two Canterbury pairs reaching the final, which was played in Christchurch, and ended in favour of Misses Grace and Paterson. Victoria College players showed to advantage in the Ladies' Championship Singles, three of them reaching the semi-final. In the final, Miss Reeve (V.C.) was opposed to the redoubtable Miss Grace (C.C.), and an exciting contest ended in favour of Miss Reeve (12-10) amidst enthusiasm. THE SPIKE extends to the champion its congratulations. An outstanding feature of the Tournament was the safe and consistent play of the Canterbury players, Jennings and Miss Grace.

DEBATING CONTEST.

"Confusion, and illusion, and relation,
Elusion, and occasion, and evasion."

— *Idylls of the King.*

JUDGES: His Excellency Lord Plunket, K.C.V.O.; His Honour Mr. Justice Denniston; and J. W. Joynt, Esq., M.A.

SUBJECT: "That the creation of small navies for defence purposes should be encouraged in the self-governing States of the Empire."

For the fourth time in succession Victoria College has won the Joynt Debating Scroll, and for the fourth time her successful representatives have been men hitherto untried in these contests. Professor von Zeidlitz occupied the chair, and briefly explained the method of conducting the debate to a packed audience. The notes of the judges, which speak for themselves, are as follows :—

“In accordance with the usual practice, the Judges at the recent debate beg to submit a few observations and impressions. Instead of going through the speeches in detail, they will throw their remarks into a general form, occasionally alluding to a speech by way of illustration.

“The subject had the advantage of a direct and specific bearing on contemporary problems, to an extent which was not foreseen at the time of its selection. The effect of this was to remove the discussion from the region of an academic rhetorical exercise, and to give it the character of an attempted solution of a definite practical question. This character, however, was not maintained throughout. There were occasional flights of artificial rhetoric, *purpurei penni*, which could never have appeared in a debate on which a practical policy was really to follow. Some of the speeches did not rise to the occasion; others rose too high, and acquired a touch of unreality in consequence. Others, again, grappled with the question with an air that meant business. There were marked differences, too, in the evidences of previous preparation and study. Some speakers had obviously tried to get at the bottom of the question; others had been satisfied with superficial generalisation, which sounded well enough but ignored the vital elements of the problem. There was one good peroration—that form of ornament which was supposed to have received its death blow from Lord Beaconsfield—viz., that of the first Otago speaker.

“There were curious diversities in the modes of using notes. The first Wellington speaker seemed to be reading almost all the time, though the judges were informed he was not really reading at all. The first Auckland speaker, whose volubility was almost bewildering, occasionally drew a blank on his memory; and there follow that awkward, chilling pause, which gives a frosty air to even excellent speeches. The first Canterbury speaker discarded notes altogether, but the effect thus gained was discounted by a certain air of unreality and want of conviction, which pervaded the speaker's manner generally. So, too, with attitude and gesture. Let it be said once for all that movements of the arms should never be resorted to unless they are in

absolute harmony with the sentiment, and adopted to import additional force and effect to what is being said. As for attitude a mean must be struck between the stiffness of the parade ground and the meaningless ramble about the platform. There was a good deal of unnatural stooping and swaying of the body. When Gladstone stooped, the audience almost held its breath; and when he shot himself into an erect posture again, the effect was electric. It might not be out of place to suggest that aspiring orators should cultivate physical exercises, in order to obtain the freedom and grace of bodily movement, which count for so much in the general effect produced.

"It is somewhat painful to discern that solecisms, born of diction and of pronunciation, are still rampant and flourishing. It is needless to give examples; some were so glaring as to be reproduced in the newspapers. This is a very serious matter; and so long as such abuses are allowed to prevail, our University speakers are simply disqualifying themselves from ever addressing a cultivated assembly. If we cannot look to our University Colleges for a pure style of speaking the English language, where are we to look? Students should study more seriously the best models of oratorical diction. If they cannot read Demosthenes or Cicero with ease, they can at least read Burke, Bright, Chamberlain and Balfour. Again, in the matter of pronunciation the young speaker might do much for himself. Let him read aloud every day three or four pages of a great speech. He should do it slowly and deliberately, giving every vowel its full value, and cutting the final consonants clear from entanglement with secondary words. He is not to speak like this when the time comes; but musicians know that the piece which is to be played rapidly must be practised slowly.

"The debate was won by superior training. It was manifest that the Victoria College speakers were "fitter" in a debating sense, than the others. And this superiority was the result not merely of a few weeks preparation, but of a more steady and systematic attention to the business of debating. This annual competition is not effecting its object unless systematic study and preparation become the rule instead of the exception."

THE HARBOUR EXCURSION.

"The hush'd night, as if the world were one
Of utter peace, and love, and gentleness."

—*Idylls of the King.*

At 6.45 p.m. on Monday the "Duchess," crowded with the cream of University student life of New Zealand, cast off from

the Ferry Wharf and headed for Day's Bay. The trip across was marked by much din and a speech from the ship's captain, and on arrival at the Bay a rush was immediately made for the water chute. The construction of the approach rendered the adoption of the queue system a necessity, and twenty minutes of patient and expectant waiting were rewarded in each case with a flight of $10\frac{2}{5}$ secs. through space and muddy water. A concert in the Pavilion followed, but a set programme which was in the hands of two officials who could not escape from the embraces of the queue system of riding on the chute had to be abandoned in favour of an impromptu one. Supper was devoured with avidity, and the return journey commenced at 9.45 p.m. A bright moon lit the placid waters of the harbour, throwing the surrounding hills into dark background, and the run across round Somes Island seemed as a journey through Elysia. Ten-thirty p.m. and the Ferry Wharf saw the end of a happy evening.

THE DANCE.

"That seems not made to fade away."

—*Idylls of the King.*

This function, the *pièce de résistance* of any Tournament, was held in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall on Tuesday night. Many months before, efforts were made to secure the large Town Hall, but a picture show with an eye to business had engaged it a year ahead. The invitation list had, therefore to, be restricted to students and visitors, but this damped the spirits of none. The Committee calculated to a nicety the dancing capacity of a floor that was in its kindest mood, and a *récherché* supper bore eloquent testimony to the good taste of the management in these matters. Gaily the happy moments sped to the accompaniment of haunting melodies, till the last strains of Tosti's "Good-bye" slowly died away and linked the Tournament of 1909 with the memories of the past. Many dancers reached their homes before daybreak and the milkman.

THE PARTING.

"You may part your hair in the middle but never part with sixpence."

—*MacDougall.*

Wednesday was a day of parting and in the morning a pleasant little function took place at Kirkcaldie and Stains' Tea rooms, when the teams from the four Colleges were entertained by Mr. G. F. Dixon, the Chairman of the Tournament Committee. Mr. Dixon feelingly expressed regret that he was severing

his long connection with the Tournament, but was pleased once more to meet the visitors. Cheers for the retiring delegate and the singing of Auld Lang Syne closed a pleasant function. Immediately afterwards the Aucklanders were farewelled as they left by the Main Trunk Express, and in the evening Dr. S. J. Simpson took his departure for the South, accompanied by the visiting Otago and Canterbury representatives.

"Pleasures, alas! how fleeting; but, Oh! the memory."

—Anon.

VALE.

"And eight years past eight jousts have been, and still
Had Lancelot won the diamond of the year."

—*Idylls of the King.*

With extreme regret we record the severance of the last but the strongest link that officially binds G. F. Dixon to Victoria College. Eight years back he was elected one of the first two Victoria College delegates on the New Zealand University Tournament Committee, and now after eight years of faithful service we sorrowfully see his passing. But there remains a monument to his ceaseless labours, one that will endure. The Tournament existed merely in the imagination at his first connection, but Dixon foresaw possibilities. Who shall not say that his fondest hopes and ambitions were long ago realised. It is often laid at our doors that we are forgetful of the fact that there is a New Zealand University and that we are but members of different Colleges; but such could not be said of the retiring delegate. He nominally represented Victoria College on the Tournament Committee, but while carefully watching our interests, his energies have ever been towards the permanent establishment of the great Easter function. To him each of the sister Colleges is in turn indebted. His services have always been at their disposal in the arrangement of travelling concessions, and none shall miss him and his thorough business methods more than the officials of the Railway Department and the Union S.S. Company. As manager of Victoria College teams every Tournament representative knows his value, but the immense amount of work accomplished by him can only be known to those who have had the pleasure of working with him. Victoria College will truly miss him.

OFFICIAL RESULTS

ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Event.	First (two points)	Second (one point)	Time (or distance)	Record.
100 Yards	..	R. Opie, C.C.	10 1-5 sec.	10 2-5 sec.
220 "	..	R. Opie, C.C.	23 4-5 sec.	23 3-5 sec.
440 "	..	R. Opie, C.C.	53 sec.	51 2-5 sec.
880 "	..	L. A. Dougall, C.C.	2 min. 6 sec.	2 min. 3 1-5 sec.
Mile Flat	..	L. A. Dougall, C.C.	4 min. 36 sec.	4 min. 36 sec.
3-mile Flat	..	T. Rigg, V.C.	18 min. 56 sec.	15 min. 30 sec.
120 Yards Hurdles	..	D. S. Smith, V.C.	17 1-5 sec.	17 sec.
440 "	..	R. Lonsdale, C.C.	1 min. 5 1-5 sec.	62 2-5 sec.
Long Jump	..	C. H. E. Strack, V.C.	19 ft. 3 in.	21 ft. 11 in.
High Jump	..	A. H. Bogle, V.C.	5ft. 4 in.	5 ft. 6 1-4 in.
Mile Walk	..	A. G. Marshall, A.U.C.	7 min 21 sec.	7 min. 15 sec.
Putting 16lb. Weight	..	R. Twyneham, C.C.	32 ft. 9 in.	35 ft. 7 1-2 in.
Throwing 16lb. Hammer	..	H. Hamilton, O.U.	99 ft. 1 1-2 in.	103ft. 3 in.
	..	J. Wilson, O.U.		

The following is the order for the

CHAMPIONSHIP SHIELD :

Canterbury College	..	..	15 points
Victoria College	..	..	13 points
Otago University	..	..	10 points
Auckland University College	..	..	1 point

The LADIES CUP was won by R. Opie, who obtained 6 points.

The RELAY Cup was won by OTAGO UNIVERSITY. (Time, 3 min 44 4-5 secs.)

The TREVOR HULL MEMORIAL SHIELD was won by A. W. P. BROOKFIELD, O.U.

The DE LA MARE CHALLENGE CUP was won by L. A. DOUTGAAL, O.C.

LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Men's Singles	..	L. S. Jennings, C.C.
Men's Doubles	..	L. S. Jennings and F. S. Wilding, C.C.
Ladies' Singles	..	Miss B. L. Reeve, V.C.
Ladies Doubles	..	Misses B. W. Grace and Patterson, C.C.
Combined Doubles	..	Miss B. W. Grace and L. S. Jennings, C.C.
Canterbury College thus won the Tennis Cup with four wins.		

DEBATING CONTEST.

The Joynt Debating Challenge Scroll was won by Victoria College (D. S. Smith and G. H. Gibb).

University Examination Results.



"Happy they, the happiest of their kind."

—Thomson.

The following Victoria College students were successful in the University Examinations held during the past year :—

HONORS IN ARTS.

Bartley, F. W. S.	Third-class	Mental Science
Currie, Amy E.	Third-class	Languages and Literature
Fitt, A. B.	Second-class	Mental Science
Foster, W. H. L.	Third-class	Mental Science
Gibbs, Margaret E.	Third-class	Mental Science
Graham, C. T.	Third-class	Mental Science
Hewetson, Kathleen M.	Third-class	Languages and Literature
Hind, Edith M.	Second-class	Languages and Literature
Hutton, J.	Third-class	Political Science
Morrison, Elizabeth S.	Third-class	Languages and Literature
Neilson, Florence	Third-class	Languages and Literature
Oram, M. H.	Second-class	Mathematics and Physics
Redgrave, F. B.	Second-class	Political Science
Ross, J. W.	First-class	Languages and Literature
Stuckey, F. G. A.	Third-class	Natural Science

MASTER OF ARTS.

All those who obtained Honors in Arts and :—A. B. Charters, L. F. de Berry, and H. T. Revell.

BACHELOR OF ARTS.

Asheroft, B. D.	Jamieson, Catherine	Monaghan, H. W.
Gilbert, T. A.	Johnston, Elsie M.	Neilson, Isabella
Gordon, W. P. P.	Kennedy, Robert	Rockel, Clara C. H.
Hilton, Ina G.	Law, Euphemia E.	Taylor, C. H.

FIRST SECTION B.A.

Atkinson, T. S.	Fell, Erica R.	Ogg, James
Bates, F. A.	Gatenby, Elizabeth	Papps, A. J.
Biggar, R. H.	Gondringer, B. J.	Park, Piata H.
Boyce, T.	Gruar, Olive J.	Pickering, Eva M.
Butler, Jessie M.	Haddrell, Olive V.	Russell, J.
Chaplin, W. T.	Hall, Ethel M. B.	Ryan, Beatrice S.
Coad, Nellie	Hudson, E. V.	Sprott, S. T. C.
Cook, Olivia M.	Lynskey, J. H.	Tavendale, Julia S.
Cooke, Florence W.	Martin, F. W.	Teychenne, Annie
Crabbe, N. J.	Morice, G. W.	Thompson, Ethel
Eddie, J. K.	McHardie, Winifred	Thompson, F. G.
Fathers, H. T. M.	O'Brien, Grace E.	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.

Barkas, Mary R.	Low, Benjamin H.
-----------------	------------------

FIRST SECTION B.Sc.

Rigg, Theodore

LL.B.

Arthur, Clarence A.	Evans, H. E.	Tudhope, A.
---------------------	--------------	-------------

SECTION LL.B.

Acheson, F. O. V.	Hill, R. W.	Murphy, B. E.
Amodeo, P. P. J.	Hogg, A. F.	Nicholls, G. H.
Billing, H. R.	Jacobs, B. J.	Nicholson, W.
Blenerhassett, T. W.	Jones, F.	O'Regan, P. J. B.
Brosnan, J. D.	Kelly, F. E.	Paterson, A.
Brodie, A. D.	Kennedy, R.	Phillips, F. O. R.
Brown, K. N. H.	King, T.	Prouse, G. S.
Christensen, F. J.	Linklater, H.	Rutherford, E. S.
Christie, H.	Luke, A. J.	Rapley, S. W.
Christie, J.	Lyon, E.	Scott, B. P.
Cook, H. L.	Macalister, H. J.	Short, J. L.
Cox, N. J. D.	Macalister, S. M.	Skinner, H. D.
Dale, J. M.	MacDougall, A.	Slipper, T. B.
Duncan, A. T.	Mackay, D. E. C.	Smith, D. S.
Gamble, C.	Mackersey, L. J.	Thompson, J. F.
Gilfedder, M.	Mitchel, M. H.	Waldegrave, W. E.
Hay, E. P.	Mason, H. G. R.	Wild, H. A.
Heenan, J. W. A.	McEldowney, W. J.	

LL.M. AND HONORS IN LAW.

W. H. Wilson, First-class Honors in International Law,
Contract and Tort and Company Law.

FIRST EXAMINATION B.Com.

Reid, George W.

ENGINEERING ENTRANCE.

Hogben, Geo. McL.

SENIOR SCHOLARS.

Barkas, Mary M. R. (German).	Gilbert, T. A. (Latin).
Johnston, Elsie M. (French).	Kennedy, R. (Economics).



We understand that several more engagements are to be
announced in the second term.

"In Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns."—

W. PERRY to Miss EVA HURLEY

Miss C. T. STRACK to G. W. REID

Miss E. MORRISON to J. C. POPE

—Ruskin.

"It is useless to put your heads together if you cannot
put your hearts together."

Engagements.



"These gentlemen combine
Politeness with timidity."

—*Bab Ballads.*

THE Football Club is pursuing a high ideal. Nothing so trivial as the playing of football; their aim is far higher than that. They are endeavouring to fulfil social functions that are usually usurped by other institutions; so far they have been remarkably successful. We understand that, at the time of writing, all the backs of the first fifteen have made each other's acquaintance, and that the forwards have also rubbed shoulders with one another; it is rumoured that the forwards are to be introduced to the backs before the season is out. But their football is on a different footing. The football team has it in its power, as no other team has, to raise Victoria College, as an institution, in the eyes of the general public. Hockey teams may win Championships, and nobody cares; but if the football

team were to win the Championship—and the hypothesis is not so extravagantly impossible, for no one can doubt the fact that our first fifteen has most excellent material: forwards capable of the best, and backs not so good, but nevertheless sound—if, then, our football team were successful, the public estimate of Victoria College would be favourably increased as little else could increase it. This is remarkable—and it is true.

But the first XV's football has not been encouraging. The game between Victoria College and Southern was the most disgraceful burlesque of a football match that could possibly have been witnessed; it was not even a clever farce. But since then Victoria College has won a match. (Kindly keep this in small type, Mr. Printer; we mustn't appear too conceited). Yes, Victoria College beat Old Boys, and they played good football. The secret of this success is training. The team played five matches as training only (it would never do to over-train), and then they proved the efficiency of their training. If only the visit of the Sydney University team could be postponed till the end of next season, our men might have struck form when they arrive—provided that football were played continuously from now till then. But they are coming this year, and Victoria College can at least extend its best hospitality to make some slight return for the glorious holiday of the 1908 N.Z.U. team in Sydney.

The second fifteen, which is playing Third Class, plays with that same careless insouciance that marks the exploits of all our junior teams. The students who comprise the team are quite nice fellows off the field; but put them with a ball at their feet, and their intelligence seems to disappear. Note, if you please, that the team has won matches; but we are too hasty: we said the team—let us rather say that fifteen players, classified as the Victoria College Third Class Fifteen, have, by their individual efforts, hewed the way to glory. But next season we shall have a gymnasium, and with that gymnasium—[cannot publish any Victoria College football prophecy; they are several stages beyond unreliability.—Ed. SPIKE.]

Then we have a third fifteen, which is playing Fourth Class; it is! This year, the success which was last year prophesied for the Hockey Club has proved so enticing a bait, that the Football Club is able to put in the field three teams only. As usual, the lowest team is the longest suffering, as far as the ravages of selection committees are concerned. But we can at least give it credit for enthusiasm; a game lost now and then counts for nought with your true sportsman; even a succession of losses counts for little with our third fifteen. Several

of the team train with irregular regularity ; some do not. But with the prevailing slump of men, it is something for a full third team to be the rule and not the exception. THE SPIKE wishes the third fifteen well.

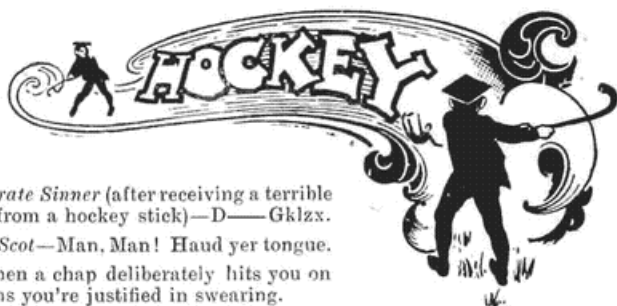
RESULTS OF MATCHES (TO SATURDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1909.)

	Matches				Points	
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against
Seniors ..	8	1	6	1	19	135
Third Class	7	3	4	—	40	92
Fourth Class	8	1	4	3	39	49



Our Illustrations.

The Illustrations in this number are photographs of the team which represented Victoria College at the recent University Tournament, and a photograph of Alan MacDougall, the Rhodes Scholar of the year. For the latter photograph we have to thank the *Free Lance*, to whom we are indebted for the use of the block.



Unregenerate Sinner (after receiving a terrible smack from a hockey stick)—D—Gklzx.

Cautious Scot—Man, Man! Haud yer tongue.

U.S.—When a chap deliberately hits you on the shins you're justified in swearing.

C.S.—Na, na! It's clean contrary to a' releegious preenceples, and if the referee heard ye he might pit ye off the field forbye. Just ye wait, and when the man wha hit ye comes by again, miss the ba'—and miss it awfu' hard.

THE Hockey Club is to be congratulated on the numerically successful opening of the season. Five teams—one senior, two junior, and two third-class—have been entered for the various competitions. The senior team, however, cannot justifiably be overwhelmed with congratulations. Before the matches began, there was much talk as to whether it would not be advisable to enter two senior teams. All last year's men (a noble band) were available, and in addition many new men were pressing forward, eager to take their places in senior ranks. It was decided, however, to allow some outside club to have the honour of securing second place in the competition, and only one senior team was entered. The decision of the committee has been fully justified. Four matches have been played, and three have been lost. After the first game it was complained that the backs were weak. After the second, it was complained that the forwards were altogether a poor lot. After the third, the complaint was that the whole team was a pallid apology. And some members of the team complain that the responsibility for the losses lies with the Selection Committee. THE SPIKE has much pleasure in endorsing each and every of these complaints. They all contain a strong element of truthfulness.

The II. A Team contains some very good individual players. It generally does. The combination of the team is, however, by no means satisfactory. This is also in accord with tradition. In watching the game against Wellington, one could not help feeling, although victory fell to the College men, that the team, as a team, was not doing itself justice. But it should, from present appearances, have a successful season.

This is the first year in which the Club has put in the field a second junior eleven, and the II. B team seems to be composed of the rejects from II. A, and those who are not considered worthy of a place in III. A. This seems to be the opinion of the Captain of II. B, who advances it on the theory that half an excuse is better than a short team. The team has managed to score goals, despite its misfortunes and the worries of its captain. We would not predict that a championship is likely to come its way, but it should not lose every match.

The III. A team is one of which the College may well be proud—at present. It is making a worthy attempt to regain those honours that fell to its lot in 1907, what time Mason Rex held sway. Visions of a championship float before its eyes. The hopes of the members of the team are high. The eyes of their fellow-students are upon them. Let them do their duty, and let them remember that our trophy-case is woefully empty.

III. B have won a match. They have scored six goals. They have once this season had ten men playing for them. And they are waiting—waiting patiently till the day comes when III. A meet them, and then—. We understand that III. B have chosen a motto worthy of their prowess:—"To-morrow!"

RESULTS OF MATCHES. (To 5th JUNE).

	Matches			Goals	
	Played	Won	Lost	For	Against
Senior	4	1	3	16	14
II A	3	2	1	12	7
II B	2	1	1	5	7
III A	3	3	—	38	0
III B	2	1	1	6	6

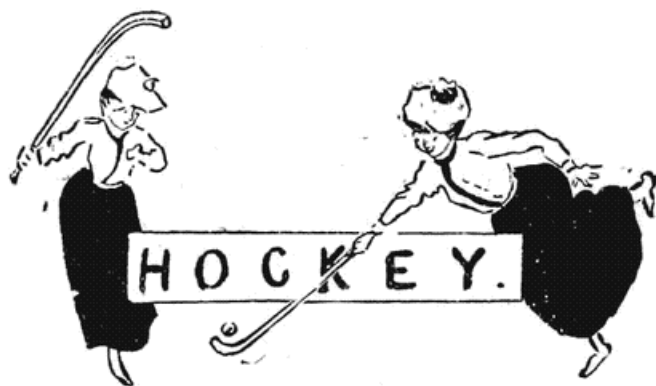
Maori in the University.



TO the teaching of New Zealand history there seems to be no beginning. In our early childhood we were impressed with the bravery of Boadicia and the numerical strength of Henry VIII.'s wives, but of our own country's history, we hardly receive even the vaguest notions. The history of the early Maoris, their customs and their folk-lore, would comprise a subject in which the dullest pupil would take an interest. But whilst we are forced to commit to memory every date that has a possible bearing on any part of English history, we are not encouraged to discover the veriest detail of the coming and the story of our fellow-countrymen, the Maoris. We wish to suggest that Maori could with the best of results be added to the University syllabus—the Maori language, the Maori folk-lore, the customs and the history of the Maori people. It would hardly be possible, of course, to include the subject as a pass subject for the B.A. degree, but for an honours subject or for any special research work, such as is required for the Litt.D. it provides a wide field of knowledge, as yet practically untrod. The arrangement of a suitable course would be a simple matter. Those who intended to take up the subject would take Maori as one of their subjects for matriculation, the subject to include some general outlines of the history of the people. The student would then take up an ordinary literature course for the B.A. degree, which would include at least three languages. He would be specially trained in the etymological and historical side of his subjects in order to gain a thorough insight into the methods employed by etymologists, and so be fitted to take up original research work in regard to Maori and its kindred languages. The student would, unless the present regulations are altered, have to take his M.A. degree in a language other than Maori, but such a course would not be without its advantages. The drudgery of the pass degree and the Honours work behind him, the student would take up the real work of research with enthusiasm plus the necessary expert knowledge.

That there would be sufficient to interest a student cannot be doubted, since at the outset the question of the origin of the Maori people of New Zealand involves that of the whole Polynesian race. The scope for the exercise of special knowledge would satisfy the cravings of the veriest literary gourmand, and

the results which must follow any such diligent research could not fail to be of value to the literary world. There is a danger, of course, that if such work is not begun within the next few years trustworthy records will have disappeared, and it is most probable that if the matter is left to the University Senate these years will pass unheeded. But there is hope that even a University Senate might be aroused from its apathy. It is certainly a most deplorable case of neglect that such a vast field of knowledge as lies at our very doors, should for so long have been left unheeded, where there is so much work for the capable labourer and so much pure metal to reward the industrious prospector.



"They meet, they dart away, they wheel askance
To right, to left."

—Beattie.

Again this season the Ladies' Hockey Club bids fair to be the most successful of College Institutions: a membership of forty enthusiasts, who are also for the most part skilled players of the game, and the Club can reasonably expect to repeat their last year's successes. But their path is no easy one, as one team has already made plain to them. The Club is to be congratulated on having among its members players who are both capable and enthusiastic, so that the painful task of persuading reluctant "stars" to take the field, is done away with, and the combination of the team, to which so much success is due, is more fully ensured. It is only a matter for regret that the standard of Ladies' Hockey is not higher in Wellington; the easy victory of the College First Eleven in their first match this year, and their decisive defeat by the Craven team last year, seems to emphasise this fact. Regular visits from teams such as the Cravens, if there are others equal to them, would be an invaluable stimulus to hockey, and would no doubt have its educative advantages for players and onlookers.

We rejoice to see that the Hockey Association intends to enforce the regulation which orders that skirts should be at least six inches off the ground. THE SPIKE would like to suggest, since the spirit of reform is abroad, that they should reach no further than the knees—at least, for forwards; and where reform is even more urgently needed, from a spectator's point of view—that is to say, in the matter of hair-dressing—dare we

mention pig-tails? Think of the comfort, ye greens, and remember the feelings of those on the bank!

RESULTS OF MATCHES.

(To 5th June.)

	Matches				Points	
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against
Seniors	2	1	0	1	15	3
Junior A	2	2	0	0	6	0
Junior B	2	0	1	1	2	3

Alan MacDougall.



"Such a carriage, such ease and such grace!
Such solemnity too! One could see he was wise,
The moment one looked in his face!"

—*Lewis Carroll.*

ALAN MACDOUGALL of ours, M.A., is the New Zealand Rhodes Scholar for 1909; we are proud.

MacDougall received his earlier education at Wellington College, where he went to the top of the school; he twice won the Barnicoat Memorial Literature Prize whilst there. He was also a prominent cricketer and won his cap in the school eleven.

MacDougall entered Victoria College in 1904 and took an Arts course. He graduated B.A. in 1906, and in the following year took his M.A. with first-class honours in Languages and Literature (English and French). He was awarded a Jacob Joseph Scholarship in 1908.

On the athletic field MacDougall has won his way into the Hockey Senior Eleven and has been a member of the First Cricket Team since the earliest days of the Cricket Club. He was elected treasurer of the cricket club on its foundation, and has been secretary since 1907 when it first commenced its active career. MacDougall was a sub-editor of *THE SPIKE* in 1906; served on the Students' Association Committee in 1907, and in 1908 was Vice-President of the Association. He has also taken a prominent part in the management of the Hockey Club.

As a scholar, MacDougall has won the highest encomiums from his Professors. As a man he has always been popular amongst the general body of the students; his work has been done quietly and thoroughly. It is to his enthusiasm that the Cricket Club owes no little of his success.

MacDougall is at present engaged in research work in French pronunciation, and intends continuing this at Home, where he will be breaking practically new ground. He leaves New Zealand about the middle of July.



"Was nought around but images of rest."

—Thomson.

THE Tennis season has long since passed, and the hopes that ran high at the commencement of the season have reached level, now that the gains can be counted. A survey of the teams (six) and the members thereof (forty) at the commencement of the season, seemed to justify most sanguine expectations. But alas! with the long vacation, illnesses and departures, the hopes that were so rosy at the commencement of the season died "into the light of common day."

The Penant A team won with consistent and quite startling regularity until half-way through the season, when the long vacation and departures aforesaid caused the promotion of the members of the gallant Penant A (to their own astonishment and disgust) to another place, and the new team failed to uphold worthily the glorious tradition of its predecessors. *Hinc illae lacrimae*. Disheartened by this and other shocks, such as the incapacitation of its captain, the premier team gradually descended until its final hope was but flat despair; and what had promised to be a leading team for the championship, was only beaten by its own B's for the wooden spoon.

The results, as a whole, are not of such a nature as to throw lustre on the Club, and we quite understand the Secretary's reticence in refraining or refusing to make them public.

But the Tennis Club has distinguished itself financially:—
(i.) By obtaining a grant of £100 from the College Council for excavation! (ii.) By providing a fourth court with a surface which is comparatively level!! (iii.) By paying for the con-

struction of the said court out of the year's revenue!!! (iv.) By making a donation of £50 to the gymnasium fund!!!! (v.) By promising, despite the above facts, to end the year with a credit balance?

During the season Club competitions were played with the following results:—

Handicap, Combineds:—Miss Butler and C. H. Taylor.

Handicap, Men's Doubles:—G. M. Cleghorn and E. E. Rutherford.

Championship, Men's Singles:—G. M. Cleghorn.



Professor Maclaurin.

We have been shown a cutting (a column in length) from a New York newspaper, in eulogy of Professor Maclaurin. The column, which has appropriately striking headlines, is *à propos* his recent appointment to the presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Maclaurin, it would seem, is well appreciated in the States; the acting president of the Massachusetts Institute is reported to have said of him that "he is a man of deliberate judgment, broad cultivation, quiet enthusiasm, and attractive personal qualities, which have made him a favourite with his associates at Columbia." We may be pardoned for adding that he is a new Zealander, and that we are still proud to remember his connection with Victoria College.

Christian Union.



SINCE last session the Christian Union has worked under a reorganised constitution. Provision has been made for the separate working of the women's and men's branches; what before was a matter of practice has now become constitutionally confirmed. The Union has increased to 150 members, 77 of whom are women. As heretofore, meetings are held on alternate Saturday nights. The Mission Study Class, which this year is studying "Indian Missions," has an average attendance of 23. Bible Study circles have been formed. In the women's branch "Isaiah" is studied with the aid of Lenwood's "Bible Study on Isaiah." In the men's branch Seeley's "Ecce Homo" is being used as an aid to the study of the Mission and Life of Christ. Leaders' classes are held each week by the leaders in both branches.

Mr. J. T. Lawton, Travelling Secretary for Men of the Australasian Students' Christian Union, was here at the end of April. He attended Men's Bible Circles and addressed meetings of men. On Tuesday, 4th May, he addressed a general meeting. Mr. Lawton's enthusiasm is contagious and his visit has impressed upon many the need for workers in the Union.

The Union desires to convey to Miss England its appreciation of her kindness in again giving a series of lectures on a Biblical subject. Her Sunday evening lectures on the Book of Job are attended by 20 members.

An opportunity arose at the Easter Tournament of meeting representatives of the Christian Unions of other Colleges. On Easter Sunday, at 10 a.m., a prayer meeting was held in St. John's Classroom, Willis Street. Subsequently at St. John's Church, Dr. Gibb made a special address to students. Both the prayer meeting and the following service were well attended by visiting and local students.

Pre-sessional Work.

During the long vacation a series of weekly addresses was given before the Union by the Rev. T. H. Sprott, M.A., upon "The Letters to the Seven Churches." He dealt with the letters in detail, showing each in the light which modern research has shed upon the history and character of its recipients. The Union is indeed grateful to Mr. Sprott for this one of his many kindnesses.

The summer conference was held between the 17th and 23rd of December at Sheffield. The delegates from Victoria College numbered six. There is every probability that Marton will be the site of the next Conference, and in that case the Union may hope to send a larger delegation.

Sunday February 14th was observed as the universal day of prayer. A meeting was held in St. John's Classroom and was well attended. Professor Picken gave an address on "The World's Need for Christian Students." The Rev. T. H. Sprott spoke on "Consecration." The churches in and around Wellington were invited by circular to observe this day of prayer for the Christian Student movement.

Meetings.

The Union held its opening meeting on Saturday, 3rd April. There were sixty present. Professor Brown delivered an address on "The Religious Ideas of the Ancient Greeks." He dealt with the Greek religion as interpreting (a) Nature, (b) Human Passions, (c) The State. The gods were personifications of the unintelligible forces of nature, or of equally mysterious qualities of man's being. Greek religion was the only expression of Greek unity; for the country was divided into many independent states. Though it had no dogma it was rich in art and ritual. Broadly speaking Greek religion was mechanical and external, unlike Christianity. Life after death meant nothing to the ordinary and little to the educated Greek.

On 24th April the delegates to the Kiama Conference, Miss B. I. L. Reeve and D. S. Smith, made their report to the Union. Forty members were present. Smith sketched the doings of the Conference, and both Miss Reeve and he laid stress upon various plans for advance in C.U. work.

An address was delivered before forty members of the Union on 8th May by the Rev. J. R. Glasson on "Prayer." From the universality of prayer he argued the dependence of man upon a Being higher than himself. Since our physical wants are provided for, it is natural to find that the need of spiritual communication with God is supplied with its means of satisfaction in prayer.

The Rev. J. Gibson Smith addressed the Union on 22nd May. Fifty members were present. He spoke on Agnosticism, stating the arguments of Agnostics, and carefully distinguishing Atheists. He pointed out that only in religion does the Agnostic, because he cannot know all, refuse to believe anything.

A Tragedy of Spring.

(With apologies to Taine).

IT was mid September and the first blush of Spring had thrown its mantle over a landscape scarce bereft of its winter garments. A cool south-easterly breeze stole over the horizon and tempered the hanging air; the sky was unspeakably blue and a smiling sun poured its beneficial rays over hill and dale and laughing water. Below lay the placid harbour whose amethyst blue merged into the emerald green of the Hutt Valley and beyond a silver stream wound its tortuous length from the snow fields of the Rimutakas. On the nearer Tinakoris, along whose eastern crests shadows were already creeping, fields of rolling green were gaily decked with golden gorse. Nor were the environs less gay. The early coming of Spring had already changed the green trees to a mass of tender foliage and induced shy blossoms to give their dainty faces to brighten a tame and prosaic world.

In yonder nodding bay tree a thrush twitted his plaintive song and sped down the mountain side; while overhead a lark—ethereal pilgrim—poured forth his inmost soul in melodious tones of unpremeditated art.

I lay outstretched upon the springy turf of the Kelburne Gardens and in that scene where every prospect pleased I felt the world was glad.

On such a day 'tis good to be a child of nature—to toil not nor to spin. But alas, men delve and sweat the brow and in the end it is as it was in the beginning. Nature grows unheeded in the streets and man's vision is by smoke bedimmed.

“A primrose by the river's brim
A simple primrose is to him
And nothing more.”

Throughout the fleeting years each day he toils, and sleeps, and toils, and eats to live, and this he calls his life. The placid beauty of dawn, the radiant glory of noon, and the starry silence of the night, what are they to him? His course is run and the world rolls on. Life for me is in the hills immemorial, in the land where it is always afternoon and where dreams never come true. To travel hopefully is better than to attain.

But who is this who slowly mounts the slope, halting to examine with botanic eye the umbrageous shrub and with insistent rattan eagerly prodding the unwilling cowslips. Short of stature, careless of dress, with overhanging bushy eyebrow that hides an eagle eye, he walked with the swaying stride of a

man of middle age. At sight of me he quickly changed his course and coming up greeted me effusively. "Good morning, friend! It is pleasing to see at least one other devotee of nature abroad on such a day." I at first resented the intrusion, but as his eye seemed kind and his manner Bohemian, we soon fell to discussing topics of mutual interest and in the end I found myself strolling with him along Salamanca Road. Nearing Victoria College, he volunteered the information that he was a member of the Professorial Staff of that institution and extended to me an invitation to inspect his domain; an invitation gladly accepted. He led the way across the terraced College grounds, through palatial corridors thronged with pale-faced students (who gazed at me with mingled amazement and surprise) to his cosy study in the Science Buildings. Seating himself in a large arm chair he pressed upon me liquid refreshment. We talked for a few moments, and then a strange feeling crept over me. My muscles began to tighten, my head reeled, and the thought flashed through my brain that I had been poisoned.

Enraged, I endeavoured to rouse myself, but to no purpose, and I fell back limply. A languid feeling stole over me and all the pleasant recollections of my life crowded into my brain. Then my eyes grew dim the Professor faded from sight, and then—

* * * * *

It was mid September and the first blush of spring had thrown its mantle over a landscape scarce bereft of its winter garments. In the biological laboratory at Victoria College were to be seen an elderly lady and her two daughters being conducted round by a Professor of Bohemian appearance. Interestedly they gazed upon jar after jar of specimens. Pausing before one somewhat larger than the others, the Professor remarked. "This is a specimen of the species canine Pugi or Puki which students facetiously call Potted Pug." The elderly lady gazed as if entranced and then with a piercing shriek shouted, "Oh my long lost Fido!" and clasping the jar with both arms, fainted into the arms of the Professor.

Cricket

"We would rather be slanged by a warrior brave
Than praised by a wretched poltroon."

—*Bab Ballads.*

THE features of season 1908-1909 were the performances of the First XI. and the match with Canterbury College. The First Eleven emerged as runner-up for the Junior Championship, with but one reverse. The failure of this team in the decisive match for the Championship was a most lamentable affair. We shall not discuss it. The other teams cannot be said to have met with the degree of success which their enthusiasm deserved. Be it recorded, however, that the first century in our history fell to the B. team: A. H. Boyle scored 136 against Y.M.C.A., B. We wish in this connection to discredit a suggestion that residence in the stronghold of his opponents had familiarised this young batsman with their bowling strength. This story is an impudent canard. We note that Professor Hunter (without practice) heads the B. team's batting averages; we have carefully checked the figures, but the above information seems to be quite correct. To the Professor our sincerest congratulations!

On January 21st our team arrived in Christchurch after an uneasy passage. Canterbury won the toss and by careful batting reached a total of 224. Our first innings realised only 106 and the follow-on 152. Canterbury obtained the required runs with the loss of two wickets. The principal scorers were—Chrystall 96, Arnold 31, Blank 27 (for Canterbury), and Broad 35 and 18, Niven 35, de la Mare 22 (for Victoria College. The rest of the time at our disposal was devoted to an exhibition of Canterbury batting and V.C. bowling. The exhibition was an interesting one. Two more perfect playing days could not have been desired, and it was a pleasure to play on such a magnificent outfield. The warmest thanks of the Club are due to our Canterbury friends who combined to make our brief visit so entirely enjoyable. The return trip was devoid of incident.

The Auckland University Club has expressed a keen desire to meet V.C. on the cricket field, and we trust that next season this wish may be gratified. A University Cricket Tournament is the ideal.

Following are the leading averages for last season :—

“ A.” XI.

BATTING.—D. R. Niven, 21.19; E. H. Ward, 21; A. H. Bogle, 19.67; de la mare, 18.79.

BOWLING.—D. R. Niven, 8.44; Miller, 9.54; Elliott, 9.82.

“ B.” XI.

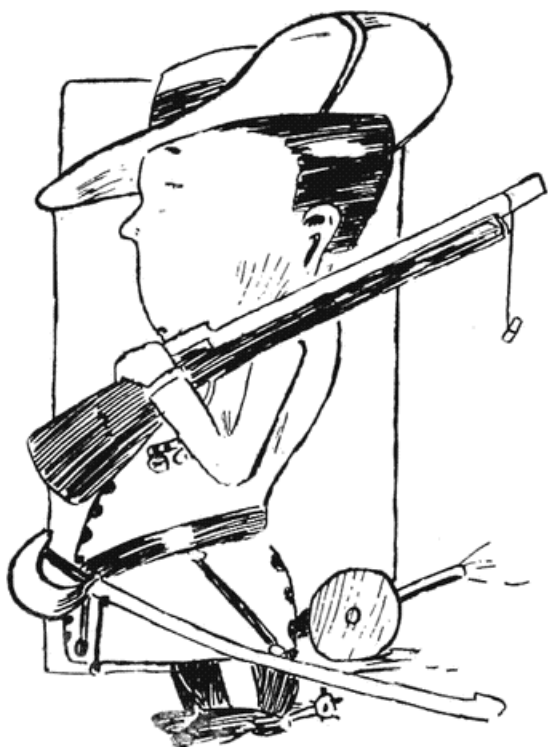
BATTING.—Professor Hunter, 21.5; E. Mackay, 18.4.

BOWLING.—Gray, 16.3; E. Mackay, 21.

THIRD XI.

BATTING.—V. B. Willis, 19.8; E. Inder, 21; R. W. Tate, 19.

BOWLING.—V. B. Willis, 9.2; H. D. Skinner, 10.3; H. Williams, 11.



Officers' Training Corps.



"Nowadays to appeal to the world, it is necessary to do things, it would seem, in rather a strident way: to blow a trumpet or wave a flag."

—A. C. Benson.

THE latest form assumed by the military epidemic at Victoria College is the Officers' Training Corps. This time the infection has spread to the Professors, who have evidently considered the matter very carefully, and who have come to the conclusion that the average student has the time to devote to the art of mimic warfare. If the Officers' Training Corps will have the result of giving students who now have no interests outside their studies some real interest in the University, it will do much good. If the

students who take up the idea are those whose College life is already overcrowded—that is to say, quite half of the students—then the Training Corps will do some good, and will at the same time be somewhat detrimental. THE SPIKE knows, what the average student evidently forgets, that the student who works for his College, already has about twice as much to do as he is capable of doing thoroughly; and the student who does no work for his College is not the type of man who is wanted in an Officers' Training Corps. There seems to be little doubt, however, that the Training Corps will come; the Professors have arranged that students' employers will allow them time off to attend training; so far the employers have not been interviewed, but what of that? Also a week's holiday is to be obtained each year, for encampment purposes—more holidays from employment. Drills and other training will take place during the summer; cricket practices and tennis will go on as usual; athletes will train for the Easter Tournament; studies will receive all the attention they do not at present—probably less; and students will sleep in their spare time. The Training Corps are eminently successful at the Home and Australian Universities, where students are students all day long; and so we at Victoria College, who are University students for a few short hours, and Government employees or law clerks for the rest of the day, can easily spare time to make our Officers' Training Corps successful. "And all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death!"

THE HASLAM SHIELD.

The competition for the shield presented by Professor Haslam, of Canterbury College, as a challenge trophy for rifle shooting, was held during May. Teams of eight men represented each College, and the conditions were seven shots each at 200, 500, and 600 yards. The scores to hand are as follows:—

Canterbury College	...	...	644
Otago University	...	...	615
Victoria College...	...	...	592
Auckland University College	...	...	552

Canterbury College will, therefore, hold the shield for the ensuing year.



"Photographically lined
On the tablets of my mind
While a yesterday has faded from its page."

—*Bah Ballads.*

THE festivities in which we have indulged this term are far too many to be dealt with individually; it is even rumoured that the Professors are becoming restive under the strain of keeping pace with the social life of the College. THE SPIKE certainly thinks that officials would show their wisdom if they limited each ball to five hours, and turned a deaf ear to the female voice which pleads for "Just one more 'Merry Widow,' please."

The Women's Hostel has proved a delightfully frivolous institution, though of late we have noticed that the canker of intellectualism has eaten its way into the heart of its gaiety, undeterred by the most strenuous efforts of the musically inclined. Afternoon teas, however, which take place, for the most part, in the morning, are responsible for the continuance of a certain degree of good spirits; biscuits and jam, as served by a fair hostess, are beyond praise.

It is with some surprise that we now proceed to record the action of certain men—students, more or less, of the College. Scorning the female leading-strings to which we fondly believed them attached, they have had the temerity to form a Men's Common Room Club. We can only hope that the Club will have the effect of giving a certain degree of self-confidence to those modest flowers who, so far, have blushed unseen, and

whose talent and energy are so much needed to carry on the work of the College. Perhaps it is partly the women's fault that such a Club has proved necessary; women at College are too apt to demand perfect equality, and at the same time to expect exemption from criticism, except in that polite form which is nothing more nor less than flattery disguised. Such a state of things can hardly continue without doing harm all round.

It is idle to speak of the individual "functions" held at the College; they are always "successful." We invariably spend most "enjoyable evenings." To criticise is a duty which is more necessary, if less pleasant; but even of criticism there comes an end. THE SPIKE acknowledges the enormous organising capacity of the College Clubs, and can praise unstintedly their strenuous methods, especially on the dancing floor; but when—we sigh as we ask it—when will a College student be content with enough, and scorn those extremes to which he devotes himself too readily, greedy always of too much dancing, too many entertainments, and even of too much study?

SOX

"You see nothing extraordinary in these stockings as stockings, I trust, Sir?"

—*Pickwick Papers.*

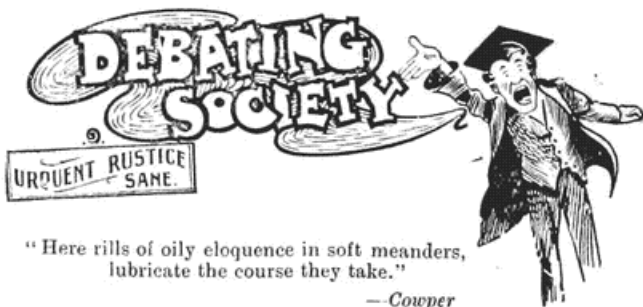
FOR the male man this is a subject of much import. He spends a minute or two each morning and the same time each night in putting his socks on and taking them off; he spends all day wearing them out; he causes much trouble in the mending of them; he uses much (or little) care in selecting them, and spends anything from nine-pence to five shillings and sixpence per pair in the purchase of them. Of course there are socks and socks. There is every difference between the socks of the down-on-his-luck backblocker who wears no socks at all, and the socks of the opulent student which have on them figures of cats or frogs embroidered in fancy silks. Most people wear their feet in their socks; but there are many who wear their characters there also. Let us consider students. The student who wears thick woollen socks is probably a disappointed rheumatic or dyspeptic pessimist who looks on life with doubt and misgiving and takes medicine three times a day. The student who wears socks with holes in them probably lives in a boardinghouse; if his socks are all holes, he is probably a civil servant and consequently impecunious. But be not mistaken; because you can pick holes in a man's socks, you cannot necessarily pick holes in his character. Then there is the student who wears the ordinary plain undistinguished black sock; he is the student who is content to remain in a groove; he probably lacks fire and imagination, although a plodder withal. Then there is the student who wears aesthetic socks of a modest and seemly character; he is the student of artistic temperament, the student whose ready brain saves him much of the time and trouble expended by his black-socked brother. Then there are socks on the border line of aestheticism, socks of a less modest nature, socks with striking stripes or radiant rings. The wearer of such socks is ultra-enthusiastic; he dabbles in everything and leaves study till the last few weeks—and to Fortune. Then there is the student who wears socks with colours discordant among themselves or with their surroundings; socks which would be appropriate for a dog fight, he will wear in a drawing room. He is the student who delights in exhibitions of brute strength,

such as Rugby or the dancing of Laucers ; he smokes horribly (and maybe is not a teetotaller) and lacks the finer feelings of his brother sockers ; he does nothing to-morrow which he can postpone till the day after. Last of all there is the student who wears fireworks ; whose socks returning from a dance cause cocks to crow and fire brigades to turn out. That student has much madness and little method ; much talk and little to say, many grievances and no remedies. He is the centre of the universe ; the world revolves, the moon reflects the solar light and the sun pours forth its dazzling rays, all for one purpose : to gaze on him—and his socks.



EXCHANGES.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Magazines: *The Kivi* (A.U.C.), *The Canterbury College Review*, *The Otago University Review*, *The Brief* (O.U. Law Students' Magazine), *The Waitakian*, *The Scindian*, *The Blue and White*, *The Nelsonian*, *The Marlburian*, *The Wellington Girls' College Reporter*, *The Southland High School Magazine*, and *The Government Insurance Recorder*.



FOR yet another year the Debating Society maintains its position in public popularity at the College; the attendances at the debates this year have averaged over a hundred, and there have been more speakers than enough. In fact, to the bored onlooker, it is at times amusing to observe the frantic endeavours of eager speakers to catch the chairman's eye. But oh! how we long for some of the speakers of yester-year! For those touches of unconscious and conscious humour which enlivened the meetings in bygone days! For those delicate morsels of wit and levity that kept our predecessors bubbling with merriment! 'Tis true that the present standard of speaking is much above that of some of those former days, but the present-day audiences would be so grateful, so undoubtedly thankful, for even one humourist who would cheer them on their way.

The care and attention which are evidently given to the preparation of matter for the debates, reflects great credit on the speakers. But the faults which are so painfully prominent in every debate would make a Baeyertz weep. The faulty pronunciations and terrible enunciation which are heard at every debate, are inexcusable—particularly so in a University Debating Society. As staunch New Zealanders, we should be delighted to deny the existence of any such thing as "twang"; but we have listened to Victoria College debates. If every member of the Debating Society would spend his long vacation studying elocution, his audiences would be better able to listen to the matter which he already knows how to prepare.

One difficulty has faced the society this session: so many speakers have been desirous of speaking that freshmen, unless

they have even more than the usual supply of undergraduate forwardness, find some trouble in obtaining a chance to speak. It is undoubtedly an incentive to nervousness for a young speaker to have to sit for a minute or two balanced on the edge of his chair, and then to spring to his feet in the endeavour to attract the chairman's eye before his neighbour. It has been suggested that a small new speakers' society should be founded. But to us it seems that this is both undesirable and unnecessary. The difficulty would be overcome if the Committee decreed that any member desirous of speaking should notify the Secretary of his intention, before the last of the movers and seconders had begun his speech. The chairman could then draw the names indiscriminately, and decide the order of speaking by the order of drawing. If time remained after those speakers had finished, other members of the Society who had been smitten with ideas during the debate, could express their views.

The first debate this year was disappointing. The standard of speaking was very poor; the speakers placed the blame on the subject; and the audience pitied the subject. Fortunately, however, the subsequent debates have reached a high level, especially with regard to the matter brought forward by the various speakers. One of the debates was particularly pleasing by reason of the fact that the fair fields of eloquence were laid waste by an Amazonian invasion. On the night in question the movers and seconders were all lady-speakers. THE SPIKE wishes that such invasions were more frequent. The ladies certainly failed to a great extent to grip the whole subject, showing a tendency to attach too much weight, and to devote too much time to minor points. But the mere man has much to learn before he attains to the standard set by the ladies as far as diction is concerned. If the ladies would but allow the male student to attend their debates, we feel sure that the latter—despite his innate conceit—would be educated to a better style of diction and delivery.

There is one other feature of this year's debates which we should like to mention. THE SPIKE well remembers the time when no speech seemed to be considered worthy of delivery unless frequently punctuated with artificial ornamentation. We seem now to be pending to the other extreme. At every debate, and particularly at that on Indian self-government, the sarcastic speaker has been much in evidence. The vein of sarcasm seems to be in danger of being worked out. An occasional touch of irony is excellent, but a reiteration of ironical remarks becomes monotonously appalling.

WOMEN'S DEBATING SOCIETY.

Perhaps it was that illogical strain in the nature of women, commented on by a judge at one of the meetings of this society, which induced the women students of Victoria College to pursue their course undaunted after the very slight encouragement received last year. However that may be, in this case their belief in themselves rather than in certain pessimistic but no doubt well-founded prognostications, has been justified; the Women's Debating Society is now firmly established. The standard of debate is not high—perhaps that cannot yet be expected—the speakers being particularly weak in debating power; while a tendency towards feeble generalizations suggests a lack of facts which has been criticised by many of the judges. Nevertheless, we believe that the Society is doing really useful work, and we congratulate the members on its increased prosperity.



"Most progress is most failure."

—*Browning.*

It was under most favourable auspices that the Glee Club began its practices this year. A general meeting, even more intent on reform than the average general meeting, restricted the membership, and proposed a vocal test. Such strong measures resulted well, and the good quality of the voices, added to the high attainments of the conductor, promised better things for the future. But alas! almighty Jove saw fit to hurl the devastating thunderbolt, and the conductor, whose lavish gifts of "bars for nothing" had endeared him to all the members, was forced to leave. The Glee Club received his resignation with profound regret; but we have no doubt that, with their usual capacity for surmounting difficulties, the energetic committee will secure an efficient substitute, so that the Club may even rival the immortal Brook, and "go on for ever." We hope so.

• Egmont •

By HUBERT CHURCH.

Published by T. C. LOTHIAN, Melbourne. (2s. 6d.)

THE name of Hubert Church has long been well known to readers of THE SPIKE, and an opportunity is granted us in this little book of examining some collected products of his muse. The poem on Mount Egmont, which gives the title to the small volume, is by no means the best in the book, but it contains two very beautiful lines, typical of Mr. Church at his best:—

“And there is never heart that does not climb,
With the meek evening, to thine altar peak.”

Mr. Church is essentially the poet of the thinker—the philosopher; his lack of lyrical abandonment is compensated for by the richness of his similes, and the power of communicating a curious intensity of thought in most of his more serious poems. *Vera Figner*, addressed to the beautiful Russian, is full of an imaginative sincerity worthy of its subject. The existence of numerous really admirable phrases and expressions such as that in the poem on *Sandhills*—“the ragged end of the universe”—and the clever use of place names in *Tua Marina* and various other poems, make more regrettable the relapses into such expressions as “a littoral bird,” or “Love’s surd,” which, however intelligible they may be to the highly educated, cannot fail to strike the average, and even the very cultured, reader as pedantic, or as the result of too eager a search after effect. Simplicity, even if it is a studied simplicity, is more effective than the eccentric expressions which a high degree of imaginative fervour is liable to produce. It is on account of this very simplicity that one poem in the volume shines out a bright particular star. It is entitled *Paraclete*, and only lack of space prevents us from quoting it in full. The verse—

“The Gull that frets the foam,
That cannot wet its wing,
Has made a rock a home,
Where love alone could cling.”

by its very directness appeals at once to the imagination. But the poem must be read in its entirety to be fully appreciated, and we advise SPIKE readers to do so without delay.

❧ Athletics ❧

"To secure the worthy and adequate representation of Victoria College at the Annual Easter Tournament."

LAST year it was THE SPIKE's uncommon pleasure to congratulate the Athletic Club on its full and complete attainment of so worthy an object as the above. The presence in our midst for the first time of the New Zealand University Athletic Championship Shield, it was presumed, would surely add zest to future efforts to retain it; and that we should successfully defend our title to it on our own ground seemed at least a reasonable possibility. Alas! for such vainglorious hopes; the Shield has passed, after the manner of the Tennis Cup, to Canterbury College, and about one dozen Victoria College Students are left lamenting. The average College man at once decides on blaming somebody, and, because he knows only of "things visible," blames the Athletic Club. But the person alone at fault, though he knows it not, is the average College man himself. The Club arranged a sports meeting, and sought entries with the following result:—For the Sprints and Distance Races, the average entry was six; for Hurdles and Jumps, two; while none deigned to enter for Hammer Throwing. In passing, it is worthy of note that there are over 250 male students attending Victoria College this year.

The Club Officials found their best efforts of no avail. The great majority of students are apathetic; they say they tried athletics at College, and failed; or with other pointless excuses attempt to justify their appalling apathy. The Annual Sports had, therefore, to be reluctantly abandoned; but to facilitate the selection of the Tournament Representatives, two races (a Quarter-mile and a Half-mile) were, by the courtesy of the Catholic Young Men's Club, inserted on the programme of their meeting.

The task of the selectors, with so small a field of selection, was a light one, and, to our discredit, let it be said, we were not represented at the University Sports, *on our own ground*, in the Mile Walk, High Jump, and Hammer Throwing.

To the small but noble band of athletes who, despite lack of sympathy in the cause from other students, gladly gave their time to rigorous training, and to the few who assisted them in the endeavour to maintain Victoria's pride of place, we express our grateful appreciation, and to our University Champions of the year, A. H. Bogle (120 Yards' and 440 Yards' Hurdles) and T. Rigg (3 Miles Flat) our congratulations.



The Gymnasium.

"Amusement, dance or song he strictly scorns."

—Thomson.

For years our football team has been predicting success for itself when the gymnasium is erected. The football team have always been disappointed, but will soon have to arouse themselves from their state of coma if their prophecy is to prove worthy of the trust which it has not yet received. For the gymnasium is being built. Tenders were called for before the College term began and by Easter building operations were well under way. Now that they have some tangible evidence of the work done by the Gymnasium Committee, students are commencing to take a real interest in it and to find grounds for complaint; by the time that the building is complete the anathemas which seem to be in waiting for the committee should completely overwhelm them. It is to be hoped that students will remember their indebtedness to the Minister for Education and through him to the Government, to Lieutenant Shackleton and Mr Leonard Tripp, to our anonymous donor and to those few generous citizens who gave to the fund. The matter of regulations for the financial and other control of the gymnasium has been disturbing the mind of the Students Association Committee for some time. The gymnasium should be ready by next term.

Wellington College.

From the beginning of the University Tournament Victoria College has been in debt, and this year our indebtedness has again been increased by Mr. J. P. Firth having given further evidence of his interest in us, by allowing us to use, once again, the Wellington College grounds for training purposes. Now that Kelburne Park is completed, it should be available for training purposes, but we can never forget that our past success has been made possible through Mr. Firth's kindness.

M.C.M.C.R.C.

A meeting attended by over fifty male students, with Professor Hunter in the chair, was held shortly after Easter for the purpose of forming a Men's Common Room Club. After some discussion it was decided to form a Club, a constitution was adopted and officers were elected. The Club will be run on somewhat the same lines as the Auckland University College M.C.R.C.; it will take charge of a common room for men (which will be found in the gymnasium) providing light mental recreation therein, and it will also cater for the entertaining talent, latent in so many students, by holding social evenings on odd Saturdays. Some of the evenings have already been held and have been enjoyed by all and have been successful in unearthing genius which has hitherto blushed unseen. Perhaps the greatest benefit to be provided by the Club will be a room where the men students can rub shoulders with one another between lecture hours, an advantage hitherto denied them.

Us.

This year THE SPIKE Committee wishes to bring it about that THE SPIKE will not be a millstone round the financial neck of the Students' Association; students will remember that the loss on last year's working of THE SPIKE amounted to nearly eight pounds; in addition to this, there has been a very substantial increase in the cost of printing. It would be impossible for the magazine to be kept at its present size and price, and for it to be at the same time a financial success; and the Committee does not wish to reduce the size of the magazine. As a result, therefore, of these circumstances, it has been reluctantly compelled to increase the price of the magazine.



Poetry

"To wake the soul by tender strokes of art,
To raise the genius, and to mend the heart."
—Pope.

A NATION ARMED.

It is not for the open purse to make
A satisfaction for our debt as men,
While we lie stupefied within the fen
Of selfishness; unwilling to awake
To Duty. Evermore the soul should break
And free herself from low declining when
Adversity shall ope the sickly den
Of Pleasure, and its guilty beings quake.

With arm that is no longer smooth, uplift
Thy sword, and with thy cannon on the shore
Make answer to thine enemies' array.
God gives the sacrifice, and He will sift
And choose us—but, like Samuel of yore,
With all thy strength pursue the difficult way.

—HUBERT CHURCH.

ANTIPODEAN HORACE.

Liber I. Carmen IV.

"*Solvitur acris hiems grata vice veris . . .*"

Keen winter, with his icy southern blast,
In languor melts before the breath of Spring.
The yachtsman trims his vessel, steps the mast,
Brings forth the canvas like a folded wing,
And into her loved ocean guides the keel
For months athirst in durance of the stocks.
The fisherman now plies his rod and reel,
Or flings the baited line from off the rocks;
And as a swallow in the northern sphere,
Prime herald of the season through the land,
Flies near the gelid waters—not too near—
A bather unadorned flits o'er the sand,

Then Venus leads the chorus of the stars
A measure to love's immemorial tune ;
Fond lovers hear the simple opening bars,
And trip it blithely, neath the vernal moon.
Now is it time to deck the glossy head
With crown of straw in verdant ribbon bound,
And in a posy brightest flowers thread
Whate'er on earth emancipate is found.
Meanwhile, in shady haunts of savage man,
Bay whares where on holidays he stops,
The glowing altars sacrifice to Pan
Burnt offerings of sausages or chops.
Hut of the poor or mansion of the rich,
Death knocks with even hand at either door ;
Brief is the sum of life : Death turns the switch—
Our little light is out to burn no more.
Thee, happy Hendry, will the darkness overwhelm,
Sooner or later, and amid the host
Of phantoms thronging through the cheerless realm
Of night eternal, shalt thou roam a ghost.
In spirit-land, thereto when thou shalt come,
Thou shalt not toss the coin to see who pays
For wine ; nor Flora, tender as a plum,
Adore—Flora, whom all the youth now praise ;
Sans wine, sans women shalt thou pass thy days !

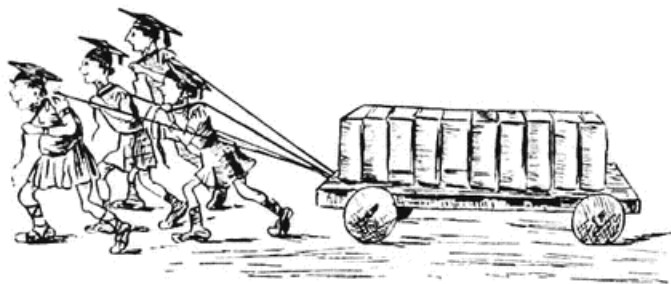
ARTHUR CHORLTON.

WHITE HYACINTHS.

*" If I had but two loaves of bread, I would sell one of them
and buy white hyacinths to feed my soul."*

A flower, through the glimmering even-tide,
Shines shadow-pale, and what the bees have spared
Of all her fragrance, to the night has bared,
Spreading her beauty on the dimness wide.
Down from the circling heavens the night mists slide
To woo the tender violets that have dared
To peer forth from the covert. Forth have fared
The lissom moths ; a lonely owl has cried.

Come down the rustling path with silent feet—
Stoop where the wind has stooped, and what he stole
Snatch from his fading pinions—all the sweet
Of all the spring and summer in one whole.
Here have I planted them, my heart to greet—
All these—white hyacinths to feed my soul.



Notes from Other Colleges.

"Friendship is a sheltering tree."

—Coleridge.

The Australian Universities, where the students have the whole day at their disposal, celebrate their Capping with the greatest enthusiasm and much most excellent fooling. The procession, both in Sydney and in Melbourne, is a recognised institution. In Sydney this year the procession was eminently successful. Amongst the events depicted in tableaux were. "An Australian's Home," a weird misrepresentation of a bush tavern occupied by typical members of the "taihoa" fraternity and bombarded from without; a model of an Aero Dreadnought; the anti-gambling movement, in which were displayed the starting prices in an event called "The Wowser's Cup;" a crematorium; and a South Pole expedition. There were also studies in fashion from the early Australian to the up-to-date Directoire. At the presentation of degrees Lieutenant Shackleton was amongst those present and he was received by the students with overwhelming enthusiasm. The large Sydney Town Hall was filled by the students and the general public for the ceremony; the most remarkable feature of the proceedings, according to the newspapers, was the fact that the students observed strict silence whilst the speeches were being given. "*O tempora! O mores!*"

In Melbourne Shackleton's expedition was again in evidence in the procession; the entire cast of "Miss Hook of Holland" was represented by the students of Ormond College, the ballet girls being particularly charming. The medical students included in their display an enormous skeleton of a most ghoulish

appearance. The graduation ceremony in Melbourne was not attended by students; the students have now absented themselves for some years awaiting an apology which they seem to consider is due to them for objections made to their conduct some time ago. In the evening of the graduation day, however, the students held high carnival at Prince's Court. The students nearly all appeared in fancy dress, a prize being given for the best-supported character—"any character requiring support from more than two policemen to be disqualified." Amongst the items given during the evening was a meeting between Burns and Johnson for the boxing championship of the world. In both Sydney and Melbourne Capping Day is recognised as a festival day by the general public as well as by students. At both places the procession was watched by so great a crowd that traffic was temporarily suspended. In Wellington the majority of the general public are unaware of the existence of a University.

For several years Auckland University College has occupied an unenviable position in University Tournament athletic contests. Our northern friends, however, have always faced the position cheerfully and have found consolation in the prophecy that a kind future would bring happier results. This year the formation of a live Athletic Club marks the first practical attempt to grapple with the question, and the enthusiasm displayed by its members augurs well for ultimate success. The Club evidently intends becoming a factor in the social life of the College also, having already given a concert and dance as proof of its existence.

The annual games of the Sydney University Athletic Club were held in May, in calm weather, on a ground slightly on the soft side—conditions similar to those under which our Easter Tournament sports were carried out. A comparison of results is interesting, the 1909 New Zealand performances being in parentheses:—100 yards: $10\frac{1}{2}$ secs. ($10\frac{1}{2}$ secs. with the wind); High Jump: 5 ft. $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. (5 ft. 4 in.); Mile Championship: 4 min. $45\frac{1}{2}$ secs. (4 min. $36\frac{1}{2}$ secs.); 120 Yards' Hurdles: $17\frac{1}{2}$ secs. ($17\frac{1}{2}$ secs.); and 440 Yards: $53\frac{1}{2}$ secs. (53 secs.) These are the only Championships decided at the games. Amongst those present at the meeting were Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Poore, a number of Professors and members of the Athletic governing bodies, and Mr. Schaeffer (of California University).

The dates of the capping ceremonies at the other New Zealand Colleges are:—A.U.C., 4th June; C.C., 11th June; and O.U., 9th July. We have heard nothing of Auckland's doings. At Canterbury their honorary play-writer wrote a drama or comic opera, or something similar. Capping practices were begun on the same night as at Victoria College, with two weeks less in which to practice. The students intend to hold a procession again this year, and to improve on last year's function. At Otago an innovation has been made this year by the addition to the list of functions of a graduation supper, on the lines of those previously given at Victoria College (and found to have hardly been as successful as they might have been, and to be dropped this year.) Of other preparations at Otago we have heard nothing.

- - - - -

The Officers' Training Corps' movement has spread to Canterbury College, where a special general meeting of the Students' Association was called to consider the question. A list was posted in the hall of the College, asking for names of those willing to join, and before long over sixty signatures had been obtained. It is to be hoped that their enthusiasm will not fade; of course many of the C.C. lectures are in the day-time, and students, therefore, have more time to devote to frivolities.

- - - - -

The A.U.C. Football Club are experiencing another successful season, and as a result the public of Auckland are commencing to take an interest in University affairs. The first XV. won its first three matches, and then lost to City—last year's champions. In Christchurch it is evident that "times are bad for football clubs"; the Canterbury College first XV. has managed to lose all of its early matches, but lives on hope. In Dunedin the 'Varsity team is but a shadow of its former self; its record is no better than Canterbury's. The Victoria College Football Club can have one consolation: it is not the only desolate.

- - - - -

The erection of the new Chemical Laboratory at Canterbury College has now commenced, and as a result C.C. has no more tennis-courts of its own. Most of those students who play during the winter months have joined a Club whose courts are near the College. When the College Club obtains new courts, as it hopes to in the near future, it will have to leave the College grounds, as no room will be available there.



Henry Bodley.—Declined.

G. F. D-x-n.—Your "Impressions of a Novice in the Art of Terpsichore" is most fascinating reading. Wish we were novices with you.

J. W. He-n-n.—i. Regret to find on enquiry that the position of King's Fool is not open to New Zealanders. ii. Yes; we have noticed your resemblance to Tommy Burns, but understand that he is a professional.

J-mmy O-g.—We are informed that "oleaginous flap-doodle" is now quoted at 2s. 11d. per yard.

Editor, "Dominion."—You should teach your reporters to restrain their candour. The following extract from your issue of 8th February is expressed rather neatly, but is really too candidly pointed:—"Professor T. H. Easterfield, Ph.D., of Victoria College, occupied the pulpit at the Missions to Seamen's Church last evening. The congregation was not a large one."

D. R. H-gg-rd.—We think that the tone of your lost overcoat notice was too mild.

F. A. d-l-M-r.—Yes, the overcoat was returned in due course; but what became of the whisky flask that was in the pocket?

H. E. Ev-ns.—Sorry, but your "Impressions of London Music Halls" are hardly fit for publication.

A. M-cD-ug-ll.—Will be delighted to publish any impressions of yours.

Dr. C. P. Kn-ght.—You are certainly outspoken, but there are some who might mistake your sentiments for egotism when you assert that Victoria College is nothing more or less than a "Knight School." If we might say so, there are the Professors to consider.

S. E-ch-lba-m.—THE SPIKE does not exist to explain all the incomprehensibilities of your capping songs; after your verbose explanation, we are still more ignorant as to what a "Bulgar" might be.

T. N. H-lmd-n.—Your article on the Timber Industry is hardly suitable for our columns. We note with pleasure the ingenuity of your careful distinction between rimu and red pine; as you say, it was well that you impressed this point on the Gymnasium Committee—and their architect.

H. L. C-k.—*i.* We understand that the Debating Society has not sufficient funds to give a prize for reading. But don't let that deter you; the true amateur will keep on, prizes or no prizes. *ii.* No; we hardly think that your captaincy of the III. A Hockey team justifies your signing yourself as "Captain Cook"!

C. N. Ba-y-rtz.—We are in accord with your criticism of Madame Melba; we always are. We do not know whether you noticed several frightful mispronunciations of hers; on three distinct occasions she pronounced "too" as "to," and she utterly failed to distinguish between either of those words and the word "two." [N.B.—We paid two shillings to get in; what did you pay?]

J. M. T-dh-pe.—With regard to your proposed Roller Skating Club, what form of life and accident insurance do you propose to adopt?

R. St. J. B-re.—*i.* Do not heed the querulous complaints of those who consider that, because you appointed yourself secretary of the Shooting Practices, you should therefore have attended those practices regularly, and have made all arrangements for ammunition, etc. The mountain must not go to Mahomet. *ii.* As you point out, the fact that a local Volunteer Corps has had to elect you a lieutenant, is an irrefutable argument in favour of an Officers' Training Corps. *iii.* In view of the fact (pointed out by Major Lascelles) that the men from the O.T.C. will sustain the bulk of the casualties, please—oh! please—do not take Inder with you into your first engagement (*i.e.*, military engagement). *iv.* Your didactic poem, entitled "Beere, Beere—Glorious Beere!" is not of sufficient merit for publication. We quote one verse:—

"Your Bogles, Stracks, or Orams
Aren't worthy of compare
With our one and only Rawdon—
Lieutenant Rawdon Beere."

The poem seems to us to lack conviction. *v.* Yes; Capilla.

THE ECONOMIC

SUPPLY

MEN'S and BOYS'

HIGH-GRADE

WEARING APPAREL

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

AT POPULAR PRICES

GEORGE and KERSLEY, Ltd.

WHO IS YOUR DENTIST ?



We give you the highest class of dental work at most moderate fees. The quality of our work is unsurpassed, and the appearance is equal, in many cases better than Nature's own.

GOLD, PORCELAIN AND ALLOY FILLINGS.

GOLD & PORCELAIN CROWNS, the latest form of bridge work, and most up-to-date artificial dentures known.

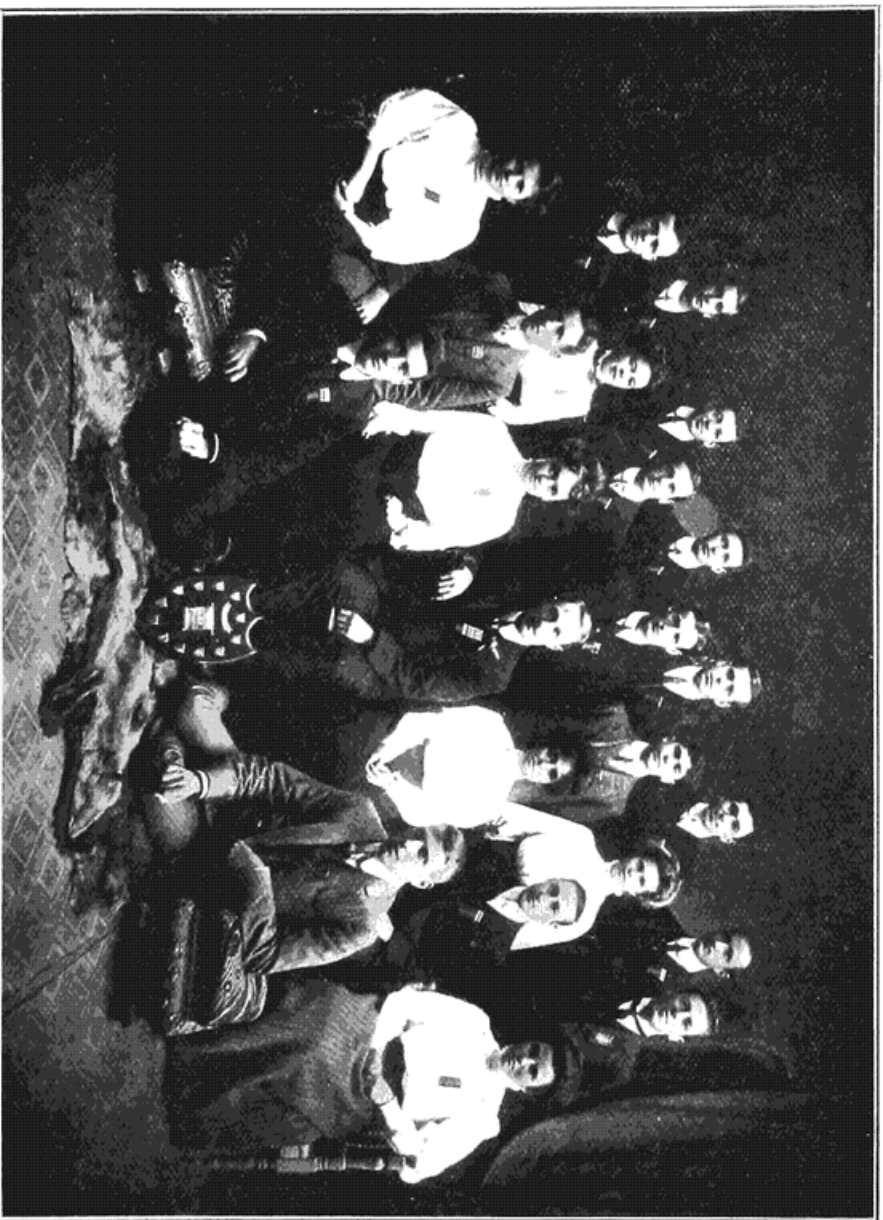
ALL OPERATIONS RENDERED ABSOLUTELY PAINLESS.

ANDREWS & WYETT

DENTAL SURGEONS,

London Dental Institute,

Corner WILLIS & MANNERS STS., WELLINGTON. Telephone 828



VICTORIA COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE EASTER TOURNAMENT, 1909.



ALAN MACDOUGALL, M.A.