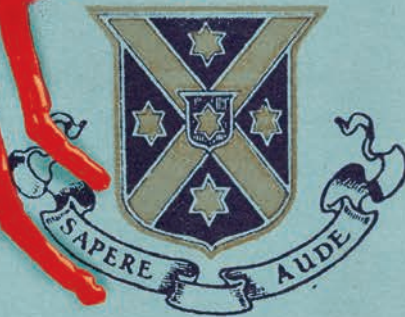


The Critic.



Vol. 1.

No. 1.

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THE CRITIC

Vol. I. No. 1.

APRIL 2nd, 1925.

Price: Two Pence.

Editorial.

In this, the first issue of *The Critic*, it has been considered necessary to put before the students of the University the aims of the publication and the reasons which should give it the whole-hearted support of every student. As the name suggests, the province of the paper is to be criticism. Criticism is acknowledged to be a most useful and a most necessary instrument in maintaining a high standard of efficiency, integrity, and progress in national life, and this is just as true of University life as of national life. If the infant *Critic* does not belie its name and lose its birthright, it will suffer no word or deed to go unquestioned within the four walls of Otago University. Criticism is ever evident among students, but in the past it has been largely confined to Students' Common Rooms and other similar places. It is the aim of this paper to offer a medium whereby this criticism may be brought into the open.

Besides acting in a critical capacity, this student paper is to be the organ of official news. All sporting and literary societies are strongly appealed to to send all notices and reports to be published in *The Critic*. Any society neglecting to do so will naturally lay itself open to criticism in the columns of this paper. No University society can progress unless its aims and activities are kept before the students, and this can be done effectively only by giving full reports to *The Critic*. In addition to this, attempts are being made to have the Professors of the University make *The Critic* a medium in which to publish any notices dealing with student affairs.

An appeal is made to every member of the Students' Association to give support to this new publication. If this venture does not make a success, it will be the fault of each individual student, not only of those actually concerned with the management. Those who have literary gifts should consider it a duty to forward as soon as possible an article of interest to students. Even those who consider they have not the faculty of putting thoughts in writing should make an attempt, and send the attempt to the Editor.

The management of *The Critic* trusts that this new University literary venture will appeal to the loyalty of all true students. If this trust is not misplaced, there can be no doubt that the paper will fulfil its office in our student life.

An extract from the *Smyth-Wylie Journal* (New Zealand Perpetual Forests, Ltd. :— " . . . the ability of our Manager (B. H. Goudie, M.Sc., 1923), who is a graduate from the Otago University, and is, in this country, one of the few young men who combine within themselves the advantages of University culture together with practical experience, and who can therefore blend the resources of natural science with the hard exactions of practical industry . . . "

STUDENTS' EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.

The following are the members of the Students' Executive for 1925. These members will willingly help any student in matters that come within the scope of their official positions.

President: Mr P. S. de Q. Cabot, Otago Boys' High School Rectory ('Phone No. 9423). Vice-presidents: Miss V. Grater, Mr C. B. Barrowclough, Dowling Street. Secretary: Mr J. A. Macdonald. Assistant Secretary: Mr A. G. Simmers, Knox College ('Phone No. 3397). Finance: Mr R. G. Pensler, B.Sc., Dundas Street. Sports: Miss R. Blaikie, Studholme House ('Phone No. 3606); Mr J. B. McMiken, Knox College ('Phone No. 3397). Intellectual Affairs: Mr F. O. Bennett, Knox College ('Phone No. 3397). Social: Mr J. Murray.

WELCOME TO PROFESSORS.

We students of the Otago University have great pleasure in welcoming our two new professors. We sincerely hope that their stay with us will be a long and happy one. Of their success we have no doubt, considering the high attainments they possess, as shown in the following short sketches.

Doctor Fisher was born in Christchurch, but he left there for Melbourne at the tender age of 18 months. He graduated in the Melbourne University, and in addition spent two years at the London School of Economics, from which latter institution he gained his Doctorate of Philosophy.

Doctor Bell is also a New Zealander by birth. He received his early education at Marlborough College. He graduated M.B., Ch.B., at Edinburgh University in 1910, gaining at the same time the Ettles Scholarship. In 1913 he gained his M.D., and was awarded the Goodsir Memorial Fellowship. Since this, Dr Bell has done several years' research on the Continent, and has held many responsible positions. Besides a distinguished medical career, Dr Bell holds a distinguished military career. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1917, and was mentioned in dispatches in 1919.

GUY'S HOSPITAL BICENTENARY.

In celebration of the bicentenary of the Hospital and centenary of the Medical School, there has been published a special number of *Guy's Hospital Gazette* containing illustrated articles dealing with different sections of the Hospital and School, as well as an historical account of nursing at "Guy's" and the progress of the *Gazette*.

This number, with a special cover, is issued at a charge of 2s 6d. Application, with remittance, should be addressed to the Manager, the *Gazette* Office (Counting House), Guy's Hospital, London Bridge, S.E.1.

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EDITORIAL: HISTORY IN YOUR HANDS

Happy 100th, y'all. The official birthday of Critic Te Ārohi is this week, April 2nd, the date of the debut issue's publication - the very same you now hold in your hands. This relic was dug up from the Hocken Library archives. Don't worry, the spray paint is Photoshopped, the original is safe and sound in a glass display case in the Special Collections Critic 100th exhibition that opened last Friday.

Given its age, I combed through the twelve pages prior to print, pen poised to circle anything problematic and a product of its time. I was pleasantly surprised to find this editorial wouldn't need to serve as a disclaimer for offensive content, and wound up circling fun vocabulary that painted a picture of students of the '20s: Sporting chaps and chums dressed in suits who stroked their labial encumbrances (moustaches) in contemplation of what the "proper" student should be (not an "impoverished bookworm" or "athlete who worships the cult of athleticism", apparently).

What I find to be most interesting is identifying the trends. In a narrative of the return of students to campus, there's an interaction between Bill and Bert where they bond over their shared distaste for Dunedin's "rotteness", exaggerate their summers, and realise they'll both be "freshers" for another year after failing papers. Swap the consolatory cigarette for vapes, suits for jorts and a Butter hoodie, nickname them Ben and Sam, and the scene could have happened just last month.

The difference is that it's written in the prose of someone who understood Macbeth without the help of an English teacher, and with an air of prestige that's not yet met the self-effacing humbleness of the South or seen students wear slippers to campus. Enjoy flicking through the origin of Critic Te Ārohi, which, without getting too uppity about ourselves, is a key piece of your history as an Otago student. It's a bit different to what we print today, but still worthwhile. And I promise that the birthday issue crossword next week will be worth the wait.

NINA BROWN

Intimate Glimpses of Varsity Life.

(1) THE RETURN.

The scene is the Men's Common Room, and the time 9 a.m. It is the first morning of the term. No one is working, and no one intends to work on this, the 9th of March, 1925. Reverence towards his teachers is so inherent in the under-graduate that nothing would induce him to be so forward as to start work before the inaugural addresses. And the inaugural address might influence his future considerably. There is always the hope (and always the disappointment) that the dean of his faculty might announce that the examination system is done away with, or that attendance at lectures is optional, or that the Council had decided to remit all fees. Any such dramatic announcement would affect the nature and duration of the undergrad's work considerably. But at present he is bubbling with enthusiasm and energy.

Bill is such a type. Bill enters the Common Room looking as if the University had been left him as a bequest. He is sporting a new suit and the stick that the other chap forgot to take away from the digs last year. He bestows one second of his attention on the notice-board, two seconds on the letter-rack, and an infinitesimal period of time on an obvious group of freshers. Then he sees Bert. Last year Bert and he did their practical work together—or rather Bert did the work, because Bill owned the book from which they each copied their results.

Bill and Bert meet. Clamorous greetings. Handshakes. Simultaneous inquiries from each as to the other's enjoyment of his holiday, and simultaneous neglect to give replies. Cordial agreement as to the "rotteness" of Dunedin (details not specified) and the distastefulness of "starting again" (rather illogical statements, since each has, for no obvious reason, already been in Dunedin for a week).

"What have you been doing?" asks Bert.

Bill has been "knocking round" the North Island (which means that he went home and waited with some trepidation for exam. results); he was out camping for a bit (to make room for Christmas visitors at home); he did "a good bit of motoring" (actually 50 miles, the pleasure of which was tempered by the fact that the paternal eye might notice unexplained activity on the part of the speedometer); he "didn't do any work" (which is true enough).

Bert holds the floor. He has been "in the backblocks," where an uncle of his has a station (200 acres, five miles from a large town); he was giving his uncle "a hand" (particularly in the orchard); the fishing was good, but the shooting was rotten (meaning that an eel on the bank is preferable to numerous unscathed rabbits in the river-bed); he was pretty busy during the shearing (carrying lunch to the sheds).

"When do you start work?" says Bill.

"In the morning, at nine."

"No you don't; I start then. You start in the afternoon."

"You start in the afternoon; I'm in the morning," announces Bert positively.

Pause.

"The second year—" begins Bill.

"But I'm not second year! I—I crashed last year."

Sympathetic consternation on the part of Bill. Then: "So did I," he announces.

Ensues a respectful interval of silence in memory of unrecognised genius.

"Rotten, isn't it?"

Apparently it is. Cigarettes are exchanged.

"Anyway, we won't need to buy new books." Bert is noted for his optimism. They leave together, Bill treating the freshers to a much more leisurely survey. The tall one in glasses

looks a "brain-wave." Bill hopes, for the "brain-wave's" sake (though really for his own), that the lofty, bespectacled youth is not one of that abhorrent species known as the "standard-raisers."

It is only a matter of a decade when Bill and Bert will be busier than they have ever been before—ushering people into the world, protecting them while there, and easing them out of it. In the meanwhile the old photos smile down on the Common Room; the balls are clicking on the billiard table; the Registrar is getting out bundles of enrolment cards; professors are arranging time-tables; in classroom, Common Room, and quadrangle, acquaintances are being renewed; and throughout New Zealand newly-appointed teachers, ministers, doctors, miners, dentists, and lawyers are recollecting, with a shade of regret for themselves (we hope), that the 1925 session is commencing at the Varsity.

LEAVEN IN THE MOULD.

This article is written for Freshers especially, and for all other students by the President of the O.U.S.A.

What is this University responsible for? While exposing one's self to the charge of viewing student life in a too mechanical fashion, it might be suggested that, in common with other colleges, Otago University is responsible for the *product*, the *material* for which is supplied in the person of the Freshman. Though inexperienced, his status is an enviable one, for here he joins our numbers with vague fluid enthusiasms, to be modified later for good or for evil. This is his sowing period, and this, our University, the garner house of golden opportunity, wherein the potent life forces of youth have scope for full and ever fuller realisation.

In this age of specialisation, let not the Freshman be forgetful of his *life purpose* and *life service*. Too often we desire only immediate success in our special callings as soon as we leave this university. Just when we, as Freshers, arrive at a new freedom of untold possibilities by escaping from the thralldom of our schools, so, as graduates, we look to the future with similar immaturity of vision—a picture revealed only in the warm colours of glistening glen and gold-tipped clouds without the neutral tone of valley and the abysmal darkness of rough-hewn depths. Sooner or later, the call is made, not on what was abstracted from the world of books, but from *that experience of participation in a world of affairs during our apprenticeship here*.

This is an experience which, because of its very microcosmic nature, contributes still further to its value. It is exactly because here within your University you have social relations, akin both in structure and in organisation to those of the outside world, that here lies the opportunity to forge your hitherto unwrought life purpose into something of definite shape. To realise one's self is a worthy aim, and great is its import. A possible conception of such an aim may be taken to mean *impressing your personality upon your fellow-students*. Personalities there are of types, each itself a kingdom—the personality in thought, in social life, and in sport. The glowing, radiating personality is the arch-enemy of indifference, and indifference the destroyer of full life. Indifference towards the wishes and thoughts of those who supply the driving power is humiliating and depressing—in its train follow the evils of every poison. Might it not be suggested that the *critical attitude* is much to be desired in our institution. But criticism is of two types—that which destroys and that which builds. Let not the mower o'erstep his sweep, lest his bared blade cut all and sundry without his allotted pale.

Yet in taking your share in assisting your clubs and societies, *care and judgment* must play their part. Just as our institutional life shows signs of being unable to cope with a super-loaded structure, so let the individual be wary lest in attempting much he fails and falls. With each acting according to his own power, little should go amiss.

While we hope the Fresher will render *real personal help*, let him not forget the fact that moments there are when, amidst our whirl, he must pause and think and debate whether he is acquiring that *contemplative attitude* wherein he teaches himself the value of *quietness of mind*. In such a mood do we find the real student. And here may it be said that, while optimism is just as cheap as pessimism, it is infinitely more profitable. There is much more room for the idealist, even in our University life, than for the impoverished bookworm or for the athlete who worships the cult of athleticism untempered by reason or discipline. These extremes we must avoid.

Rather would you Freshmen serve your faculty societies and clubs in accordance with your energy, realising that in *giving you receive*. We all of us should strive to rise to such a level of thought or action that when our Alma Mater passes us on from her kindly care and we leave the help of her traditions we will be better fitted to withstand life's realities and to serve with distinction in public life and thought as worthy offspring of this the fairest and best of New Zealand's university colleges.

C.U. Activities.

In keeping with the usual practice of the C.U. at the beginning of Varsity year, a welcome social to "Freshers" was held in the Allen Hall on Friday, March 13. Members of the staff and friends and 350 students were present.

A short programme of games and vocal and instrumental items was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Speeches, by members of the O.U.S.A., exhorting students to feel their responsibility to Varsity activities—not to be too diffuse, yet to be liberal—and by the President of the C.U., who stressed the need for an all-round development, pointing out that the C.U. was the place to develop the spiritual life, were favourably received.

A tasty supper helped to restore much of the energy that had been lost in mental gymnastics and in the exhausting work of talking and being merry.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11.

At a well-attended meeting, it was decided to hold a series of meetings about the end of the first term, when "The Claims of Christianity will be Presented to Students by Students."

The C.U. should be the centre of activity in University life. Read the aims and objects of the Student Christian Movement as stated in the handbook (page 62). Are they sound? Are you, as a student, facing the challenge they lay down?

HALF-DAY CONFERENCE REUNION AND RALLY, SATURDAY, MARCH 21.

About 60 adventurous spirits braved the comforts of a New Zealand Government suburban train journey to Mosgiel for the purpose of enjoying a half-day rally organised by the C.U. Executive.

A varied programme of short addresses, games, singing, refreshments, and further excellent talks and discussions were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The journey home was enlivened by an impromptu programme of song, haka, and ditties.

Freshers! Other such rallies will be organised. Watch for notification. Let us see you at the next. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof."

Study Circles in the residential colleges and in the University have begun work for the year. The book to be studied this year is "Jesus in the Records," by Sharman.

Those who have ideas, come and air them in these circles. Those who are devoid of ideas, come and have some developed in the bracing atmosphere of these discussion groups. You will

meet other students trying to find their feet and to keep their faith. Perhaps you can both help and be helped.

Any wishing to join the Study Circles please communicate with Miss Bell, Mr Scott, or any member of the C.U. Executive.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1.

"The Bible." Mr R. G. McDowall, M.A. What are your views on the Bible? If they do not coincide with the speaker's, you can ask him questions.

Training College Notes.

As usual, College opened a fortnight before Varsity, the extra time being spent in renewing old friendships, making fresh ones, and the more serious (?) business of musketry courses and "physical jerks."

From the first the Seniors were very interested in the Juniors. First impressions are that College has a very successful year before it. The Junior men are a "hefty" lot, and are likely to be very useful in the football field. Besides brawn, they are evidently not lacking in brain. Two of our Juniors are so far advanced in their experience and knowledge of the world in general and themselves in particular that they sport upon their upper lips a peculiar growth, a small (very small) cluster of most exquisite down—down of which the Eider duckling in its frozen Arctic nest might well be envious. And this cluster goes by the name of a moustache—a sign that they have, in their opinion, reached man's mature estate. They would find some interesting reading on the subject in "The Merchant of Venice" (Act iii, Scene ii, lines 81-88). What applies to beards in this passage surely applies to moustaches equally as well, for is not a moustache only one cut above a beard?

These two are the exceptions, however. The others evidently devote their leisure hours to better pursuits than the cultivation of labial encumbrances and nose-warmers. One proof of this was forthcoming when the Juniors defeated the Seniors at football by 11 points (one converted try and two penalties) to 3 points (one try). The game was played at Montecillo, and was one of the best yet fought between the old-timers and the new chums. The Senior team was practically the same as that which defeated last year's Seniors by 21 points to 5. The Juniors' win, therefore, is a good promise for the coming season.

During the first week in College both the Boxing Club and the Tennis Club held meetings to elect officers for the coming year. The Boxing Club is quite a new body. It has come into being as a result of the decision to include boxing in the list of issues to be decided at the inter-collegiate tournament with Christchurch Training College towards the end of the year. May the new club have a successful year and many of them!

Both meetings were well attended, and consequently fairly lively. Self-appointed jesters (there are some half dozen in College) would do well to remember, however, that "empty vessels make most sound." Students' meetings are all the better for humour—in fact, it is expected—but noisy and laboured interjections do not make humour. Rather, they belong to that class of humour associated with circus clowns, vaudeville artists, and lunatics. What is wanted is witty interjection, and plenty of it. "They that have ears, let them hear."

It is being rumoured that the old Dental School, when deserted by its present occupants, will be converted into a set of University offices.

Dr A. M. Drennan, Professor of Pathology, was successful during his recent visit to England in obtaining his M.D. degree, and was also awarded a gold medal for his thesis.

Debating Notes.

The students of Otago University and the public of Dunedin are shortly to have the opportunity of hearing the famous Oxford debaters. The three Oxford representatives are Mr M. C. Hollis, Mr Malcolm J. MacDonald, and Mr J. D. Woodruff.

Mr Hollis is a member of Balliol College (Scholar). He graduated in 1924, and was President of the Union, Michaelmas, 1923. He is 22 years of age.

Mr Malcolm J. MacDonald is a member of Queen's College (Scholar). He graduated in history and economics in 1924. He is a son of Mr Ramsay MacDonald, has himself stood for Parliament in 1923, and, in absence, in 1924, when he was defeated by 1500 votes. He is 23 years of age.

Mr J. D. Woodruff is a member of New College (Exhibitioner). He graduated in history in 1923. He was President of the Union in Easter term, 1923. He is 27 years of age.

The debaters represent the Oxford Union Society, which celebrated its centenary last March. They have taken part in six debates in Canada, forty in the United States, and one in Hawaii. This is the fourth time debaters have been sent out from Oxford, but it is the first time New Zealand has been included in the tour.

The subjects to be debated and dates of debate are:

- (1) That this House Condemns the Principle of Prohibition. April 3.
- (2) That it is Desirable that the Singapore Base Scheme be Proceeded With. April 4.

Boxing Notes.

TRY-OUT TOURNAMENT.

The Try-out Tournament was held in the Marama Hall, the preliminaries being held on Tuesday, March 17, and the finals on Thursday, March 19. There was a good attendance on both nights. Entries were good, and it was specially gratifying to note the number of first-year students who were seen in action. Mr Kilmartin acted as referee, and Messrs Gawn and Paterson acted as judges.

BANTAM.

Rangi (Dental) beat Blyth (Mi. and Sc.). Blyth showed good footwork, but Rangi was stronger and more aggressive.

L. Jones (Dental) beat T. Jones (Dental). This bout was characterised by vigorous fighting.

Goodwin (Med.) and Willett (Arts) fought a no-decision bout.

SECOND ROUND.

Rangi beat Goodwin. Rangi proved too strong for his smaller opponent, and won in the second round.

FINAL.

L. Jones beat Rangi. Jones used a straight left to good advantage, and won on points.

FEATHER.

Stevens (Mi. and Sc.) beat Connor (Arts). Both men hit clean, but Stevens showed more speed and better timing.

Sligo and Ferguson, both first-year students, gave a very good exhibition. Both should take a lot of stopping next year.

LIGHT.

Cotter (Dental) beat Smith (Medical). Cotter proved too quick and strong, and won in the first round.

Aitken (Mi. and Sc.) beat Bernie (Medical). A fairly even bout, but Aitken's left gave him the advantage.

Cotter beat Matheson (Law). Matheson showed good footwork and ducking, but Cotter kept on the aggressive and won on points.

FINAL.

Cotter beat Aitken. Cotter kept on the aggressive, and scored well with a straight right.

WELTER.

Twigg (Commerce) beat Hodgkiss (Medical). A fairly even bout, but Twigg's style was better.

MIDDLE.

Fyfe (Mi. and Sc) was the only competitor, Crawshaw being over weight.

Crawshaw and Batchelor gave an exhibition. Batchelor has a nice style, and shows promise.

HEAVY.

Leckie (Arts) was the only competitor. Fyfe and Leckie gave an exhibition.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

You must admit that the kind of knowledge which is really useful in building personality is the kind obtained by an effort not of memory, but of judgment. The true joy of scholastic attainment is found in the comprehension of a difficult point, in the solution for one's self of a problem, in the personal formation of opinions on men and things—not in the dry memorising of facts, not in the unquestioning acceptance of somebody else's results, not in the passive absorption of another's views. The cultural value of merely listening to a lecture is very small, whereas that of taking part in common discussion—an activity by which each person is stimulated to original thought by each other person—is incalculable. One is often bored at a lecture; one need never be bored in a discussion.

Bearing all this in mind, the Literary Society has decided on a little reorganisation. In the past it has attempted without success to create some discussion after the formal lecture, which has been only too prominent on its syllabus. But few love to rise from hard lecture-room benches to question the opinions of a lecturer who is an acknowledged authority on his subject. Yet there are surely people at our University who would enjoy exchanging ideas on literary matters with fellow-enthusiasts, and surely it is these who should be the active members of the Literary Society.

The changes have been devised with this end in view. In the future the Society will restrict its lecture meetings to four or five each year, and will hold, once or twice monthly, meetings whose keynote will be *informality*. (Know by this that we have no intention of poaching on the preserves of the Debating Society.)

They will be held in the luxury of the Women's Common Room. They will take various forms, but all the subjects will be literary, and all meetings will be conducted by student activity alone. Later in the year, when the members have lost all shyness, it is hoped that some evenings be held to criticise periods and schools of literature, and even attack such questions as literary style.

At the first meeting on Wednesday, April 8, all interested are asked to prepare themselves with "Obscure Favourites," the idea being that many people have favourite authors, of whom, perhaps, they have learnt by chance, but who are, anyway, not well known. At this meeting, then, everybody will unselfishly produce his dark horse or horses, read selections, perhaps deliver a panegyric—at least give everyone else the opportunity of enjoying his author.

Be warned that the next meeting will be of the kind known as "Farrago"; everybody will hand to the Secretary some composition—poetry, prose; humorous, serious, satirical, or witty; everything, anything. All will be treated as anonymous, of course, and will be read to the assembled company in any order. So be prepared, please.

A meeting of the Literary Society was held in the Anatomy Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, March 25. Dr Thompson took the chair. About 60 were present, among whom were quite 40 students.

The speaker for the evening was Mr E. Miller, A.R.I.B.A., who took as his subject "Nature's Colour Scheme." He opened his remarks by pointing out that the great pleasure which man derives from the contemplation of things in Nature is greatly enhanced by the cultivation of his colour sense. Nature's beauties are almost entirely formed from colour symphonies, comparable to those of music. Indeed, the training of the faculty for the appreciation of colour should be an important part of a child's education. The lecturer then explained, with frequent references to Rood's chart of the colours of the spectrum, the various laws underlying the harmony and the clash of colours.

A vote of thanks, proposed by the Chairman, was carried by acclamation.

At the annual general meeting of the Literary Society, held after Mr Miller's address, the following officers were elected:—President, Dr G. E. Thompson; Vice-presidents—Dr Elder, Professor Ramsay, and Mr G. A. Naylor; Secretary, Mr K. E. Grinling; Committee—Mr Nimmo, Miss Webster, Mr Sharpe, Miss Brickell, Miss Morrell.

A motion was carried by which the number of lecture meetings was restricted to one monthly, and by which a circle was formed for the informal discussion of literary subjects. (Particulars of this scheme are to be found elsewhere in this issue.)

CRICKET.

KNOX v. SELWYN.

The annual match between Selwyn College and Knox College was started on Wednesday, March 18, on the North Ground, and finished the following week, a keenly-contested game resulting.

Searle (Knox) won the toss from Cook (Selwyn), and Selwyn batted on a good wicket, scoring 195. The chief contributors were Hunter (36) and Cook (101). Cook, despite several chances, played a fine, attractive innings. The Knox fielding was very poor, as is evidenced by the fact that nine of the Selwyn team were clean bowled.

Smyth and Searle opened for Knox, both playing free cricket. With 39 to his credit, the former was bowled. Searle made 58, including crisp shots all round the wicket, before being well caught behind the wicket by Stewart, who also disposed of McClymont (23) later.

The issue was put beyond doubt by a good partnership between Caughey (39) and Ashcroft (42, including a beautiful six), Knox winning by 44 runs. Selwyn fielding was fairly good, Bibby being particularly smart.

The brunt of the bowling was borne by Mercer, Morris, and Ashcroft for Knox, and by Cook, Dickson, and Leonard for Selwyn.

On December 24, 1924, the headquarters of the European Student Relief in Geneva received £550 from students in New Zealand.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

The subject for debate at the Easter Tournament—namely, "That the Influence of the Euro-American Civilisation Upon Native Cultures is to be Regretted," was also the subject for the final qualifying debate for the selection of Otago's representatives at that tournament. This debate was held in the Allen Hall on Thursday, March 26, and the speakers were: Affirmative, A. H. McLintock and A. J. Campbell; negative, A. J. Dowling and J. Smith.

The Rev. Tulloch Yuille, who adjudicated, placed the speakers as follows:—McLintock 1, Smith 2, Campbell 3, Dowling 4. He specially commended McLintock's effort, and gave helpful advice to all speakers. He was accorded a vote of thanks for his services.

The result of this debate makes Miss E. N. Todhunter and Mr A. H. McLintock our tournament debaters for 1925. The Debating Society extends them its heartiest congratulations and best wishes for success.

The attendance was very poor—a most disappointing feature, considering the purpose of the debate. The trials for the selection of representatives in athletics and sport are always attended by an enthusiastic crowd; why, then, this apathy towards the selection of our debating representatives? All students should remember that the true measure of a University's vitality is the interest taken in its intellectual societies, and we hope that they will prove that Otago University is very much alive by thronging to the annual meeting of the Debating Society on Monday, March 30.

STUDHOLME HOUSE.

On returning to Studholme we were delighted to find that there had been kind fairies—in the form of the staff—at work during our absence making the Common Rooms, by a judicious placing of furnishings and harmonious colourings, very much more comfortable and pleasing to the eye. We wonder if the changes will prove more conducive to sweating, and we are all agreed that, on those happy but rare occasions when the cares of swot may safely be cast aside, we shall have some pleasant social gatherings.

There have been several changes in the staff this year, and, while regretting the departure of Miss Little from our midst, we congratulate Miss Finlayson on her courage in taking over the charge of us, and hope she will not find her task overpowering. Dr Storms also has left the House, but frequently visits us, so that we do not feel we have really lost her.

Among the students, many of the once-familiar faces are missing, but as we are the proud possessors of 17 new inmates this year, and our accommodation is taxed to the utmost, we do not complain of an empty or a quiet house—quite the reverse!

On March 20 a Freshers' Welcome was held by the Faculty at Studholme House, there being present the staff and senior students, and, as guests of honour, the Home Science Freshers and the members of the new course in Nursing. Miss Blaikie, as President of the Faculty Association, welcomed the visitors, expressing our pleasure at having the budding nurses amongst us, and, for the benefit of us all, explained the purposes of the Association. Miss Todhunter then extended a welcome to the girls living in the House, and, while apologising for her lack of humour, entertained her audience with a few witty remarks on the things that Freshers have to learn. Songs and stunts were staged by some of the girls, and games and dancing followed. A typical Home Science supper was much appreciated, and the party concluded with the singing of the University Anthems and cheers for the visitors and senior students.

The success of the gathering promises well, and is surely a good omen for other functions during the coming year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Knox Church, Dunedin,
March 18, 1925.

Dear Mr Editor,—Will you graciously extend to me the hospitality of your columns to make widely known among all students a little gathering held on Sunday evening, at which students are made very welcome, and where for several years now many students have had some very happy companionships?

After the evening service in Knox Church, there is held in Stuart Hall, in Frederick Street, opposite the Hospital, what we call a social hour, where all strangers to the city—all of the more or less respectable "vagrant" class!—gather together and have music and supper, and then for a few short moments "family" worship. It is a very informal little gathering, and I would like every student to feel that he or she will always be welcome any time they care to come.

During the present session I intend to interrupt the social hour once in every four weeks or so and hold a free and frank discussion, with students particularly, about some of the difficult problems of the religion of Jesus Christ which perplex all thinking minds. The exact dates and the subjects to be discussed I shall announce by means of a handbill, which I hope to have distributed at the University and Training College. I hope many students will take advantage of this hour of free-and-easy discussion, and come and unburden their minds of all their intellectual difficulties.—I am, etc.,

TULLOCH YUILLE,
Minister of Knox Church.

THE LAST OF THE TWENTY-EIGHT.

Read by the author at a gathering of New Zealanders at Hotel Victoria, London, on the occasion of the presentation of a silver cup to the All Blacks by some four hundred New Zealanders at present in England, on January 3, 1925.

Thirty-five years on the march have swung,
Since I could try to play;
Yet one old fellow to-day grew young:
I was a boy to-day,
Shouting at scrimmages stark and stern,
Cheering the triumph great
Of the sinewy sons of the Silver Fern
In the last of the Twenty-eight.

Seven and twenty victories won!
Week upon week came tales,
Of Ireland beaten, the North o'errun,
Victories four in Wales.
Braving the music of Swansea's song,
They had settled the ancient debt;
And stars thrice nine in a shining throng
Wanted but one star yet.

Nothing else mattered at all we thought,
Talk of the past grew tame;
Conquered provinces counted naught
In face of that last grim game;
Twenty-seven, with *that* not won,
Left Victory's crown to fate;
And All-but-One! appeared almost none
In the pause before Twenty-eight.

They had known bad moments; the coolest "Black"
Feels a quiver, felt—gone again—
When an Irish pack, with a gate at its back,
Comes rushing in Irish rain;
When Oxford miers, whose feet have wings,
Prove slippery triers bold;
Or Cambridge blues, when the wet mud clings,
Are desperate lads to hold.

'Twas a bath of misery, all allow,
When the hurricane loosed its breath,
And the storm above and the slime below
Were mingled on black Blackheath;
But the tightest corner of corners tight
Came after the word of fate
Left fourteen fighting a fifteen's fight
In the tussle for Twenty-eight.

Kia Toa! young forwards tall,
Now let the Fern-leaf shine!
Fight and fall not—until you fall
Over the English line.
Kia Toa! New Zealand! see
Nepia guards the gate,
A rock and house of defence is he,
A *tino tangata* great.

Swift as a swallow's darting flight
Skimming along in air,
So flew the feet of our runners light,
Scudding and swerving there.
With flash and flicker and flash again,
Shooting a quick, short pass,
They rush, outracing the chasing men,
Over the trampled grass.

"A Fine Machine"—so the scribes repeat—
"Machine"! but when all is said,
The "All Black" plays with his hands and feet,
But the "All Black" wins with his head.
Thews and sinews and brawn to boot
Had in that hour been vain,
Had not dexterous hand and outspeeding foot
Been steered by the ready brain.

The lusty men of the English line:
Were they troubled about the past?
Did they waste a thought on our three times nine,
Or easily yield the last?
No! Goals were registered, lines were crossed,
But still as their race doth use,
They played like men who had never lost
And never would stoop to lose.

So from two ends of an Empire met
Stocks of the selfsame brand.
All Blacks, All Whites, they were twain, but yet
Sons of one brave old land.
She'll laugh—"Good Lads!" when, as seasons turn,
Our sons to their sons relate
How the jersey black and the famous Fern
Won through unto Twenty-eight.

Weave them a crown, for they gained it there,
Winning achievement's aim.
Twine them a wreath of the fern they wear,

Famed since they gave it fame.
For the forest-leaves that our champions earn
Tell best of the glory great
Of the conquering sons of the Silver Fern,
And the Last of the Twenty-eight.

WILLIAM PEMBER REEVES.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

In the inaugural address to the Medical Faculty, the Dean (Sir Henry L. Ferguson) made reference to the manner in which the annual Capping celebrations encroach on the time that students have at their disposal. It is not likely that any student regards lightly the sacrifice of anything from two days to a month for the purpose of apparent frivolity, which in reality is a monstrously serious business for the actual participants. So far the complaint is justified; but the remedy may be a greater evil. The Graduation ceremony is essential; the Ball is a compliment to the graduates; the theatre performance is likewise complimentary, and graced with age-old traditions; the procession is an essential advertisement for the theatre. These all involve a heavy expenditure of money (the ball being run at a loss every year). The only method of putting the business on a paying basis is to repeat the theatre performances for several nights. It is on this that the Students' Association depends to a large extent for its annual funds. This money is necessary, and has to be raised from either the public or the students. There need be no conscience qualms at allowing the public to pay for a good night's entertainment, since the existence of the University means the annual expenditure in the city by students of over £100,000. To raise the money from student circles is impossible; the burden is heavy enough already. As evidence of the fact that the money is urgently needed may be mentioned the fact that recently the students voluntarily doubled the annual Association fee. As things stand at present, Capping is certainly a serious waste of time, but any curtailment of it would involve a more serious waste of money.

The Dean of the Medical Faculty also gave definite and valuable advice to students how they should dispose of the Wednesday half-holiday, which, he stated, had been granted by the professorial staff. Since most of the medical staff were present, we wait with interest to see whether they were as attentive to the Dean's remarks about the universal Wednesday half-holiday as was the audience of two or three hundred under-graduates.

The state of the University's societies has caused considerable comment of late. The President of the Students' Association has stated publicly that the societies are in a condition of "deplorable decadence"; the Member for Intellectual Affairs has described them as being in "a pitifully weak state"; the Master of Knox College has suggested that some of them "are waiting only for a decent burial."

The reasons are numerous. But it would be intellectual dishonesty to refuse to recognise one inevitable conclusion—that the main fault is with the students themselves. Our multiplicity of anaemic societies is our disgrace rather than our credit. The student who finds nothing in any society to interest him is intellectually lazy, and the student who is interested, but not to the extent of favouring a society with his presence, is physically lazy. Lethargy breeds lethargy. If enthusiasm could be aroused in a society, it would engender enthusiasm. This ideal would be much

nearer accomplishment if the new students who enrol every year would guarantee their support to the societies. But this is almost impossible under present conditions. Knox College holds tutorial classes for first-year students on four nights of the week, and professors in the first-year scientific subjects still maintain their system of night examinations. The state of the University societies is mainly the fault of the students, but not entirely.

At a recent meeting of the Executive a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr F. R. Smale for his work in connection with the new tennis courts. It is to the untiring energy and industry of Dr Smale more than to anyone else that these courts owe their existence, and for many years they will be a splendid monument to the efforts of one student to help the University to which he belonged.

OVERSEAS LETTER.

Miss Eveline McElrea is a student of Otago University and an ex-student of Dunedin Training College. During the greater part of last year she studied educational matters in Iowa, America. The following article gives after-impressions of the teaching profession in the United States:—

Fellow Students,—I have been asked to give a few of my impressions of the United States of America. It is not quite so easy a matter as was the delivering to groups of Americans on several occasions of an account of the resources and attractions of this fair land of ours. On these rather "suspicious" occasions, had an authority on New Zealand been present he might well have received some shocks to his sense of—I was going to say veracity, but perhaps I should let myself off with the milder term, accuracy. One has a certain amount of confidence in addressing an audience not one of whom can possibly contradict one's most forcible statements. I hold it more of an honour to address those who, as on this occasion, are already in possession of considerable knowledge of my subject. America in these days is constantly under our notice, chiefly owing to its love of advertising, which is a decided national trait. This nationalism, which proclaims American superiority in every line of life, jars somewhat on our feelings, but, nevertheless, we realise that we are gradually coming to recognise its value and to adopt its methods.

Boost skite, and other offensive epithets are often used in describing the Yankee manner, but I would dare to pen my feelings and convictions on the subject in more sober terms. Citizenship, that is what it is—an acute interest and pride in every aspect of the social life of that country, so young in tradition, but yet so near the forefront in the advance of civilisation. In Britain our country is comparatively well known; our forefathers came from there, and our resources and requirements are of the greatest importance in the economic welfare of the Mother Country. But what interest has America in our distant islands? Is there one commodity of which she lacks a sufficient supply for the needs of her great and growing population? Self-contained and self-sufficient she is. There is one exception—let me whisper it—Royalty is wanting. But what use has America for kings and princes? Cannot England supply an occasional visit of a prince in order to gratify those starved sentiments—those remnants of pre-revolutionary days which the true American loyally attempts to deny?

Their watchword is "Onward," and nobly are they following their banners. At several declamatory contests I heard the same selection, an American poem containing the indictment against the European nations:—

*The past is always with them,
They're for ever looking back.*

The American perhaps is fortunate in having no dim and distant past with its shadowy grievances and glories to envelop his imagination, and consequently his thoughts are more exclusively directed towards the possibilities and problems of the future.

In education especially do we see this forward movement. That being the walk of life in which I was most interested, it came more directly under my notice. In America they tell us that this is the age of science, and that everything must be reduced to a scientific basis. Hence, the great psychological laboratories of all the universities are investigating the laws that govern the development of the human mind. The word revolution is hardly too strong a term to use in regard to the state of education. It is not a completed revolution; the end is nowhere in sight. It seemed to me as if no one step was allowed to establish itself before it was overridden. This refers to subject matter, methods of teaching, and underlying aims.

The great aim at present is socialisation—the connecting of the child with the life of the world in which it forms a link. Socialised recitation (class work) is used throughout primary and high schools and in colleges and universities.

During my attendance at the Iowa State Teachers' College I took five subjects, all of which were treated by this method. A chapter in a text-book with many references to be looked up in the library was set for the recitation period. During that period a few leading questions might be dropped by the professor, and the class proceeded to enjoy an hour's enlightening discussion. The student with the fullest store of past experience that could be brought to bear on the subject would stand out as the shining light of the class. The libraries are so well equipped and so extensively used that some details may be instructive and suggestive. The Iowa State Teachers' College library is a building somewhat larger than the Dunedin Public Library. Above the basement are three storeys, the top one of which is really the college museum. The middle floor is occupied by a large study room lined with books and by office rooms. On the ground floor are rooms specially equipped for the study of English, mathematics, history, and education. In the library are six or eight copies of

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any book in use as a text-book, and one or two copies of all reference books; but if a professor had mentioned certain books as set references for his class he intimated the fact to the librarian in charge of that room, and these books might be studied only at the tables and could not be taken from the room. These books, for the time, are said to be "on reserve." Under this system every one has an opportunity of studying the references. Almost any hour of the day the library rooms are well filled, and at night they are often crowded. Rules as to silence are strictly observed.

EVELINE M. McELREA.

(To be continued.)

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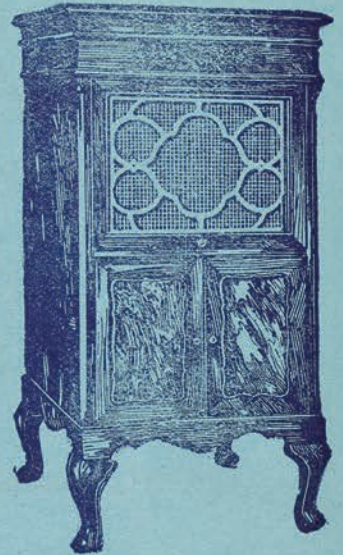
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