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AN ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION
AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
Wellington, N.Z.

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EDITORIAL

"The sooner we realise that our fates lie
not in the stars but in ourselves, the better."
—Axel Munthe.

We are happy to congratulate the members of the new Executive on their success and to express our cordial good wishes for a successful conclusion to what promises to be a most arduous year, including the additional work entailed by the tournament.

We also hasten to congratulate Mr. Plank at what was otherwise one of the most hilarious annual meetings in history, on the passing of a motion directing the new Executive to set up a committee having as its object the erection of a new Students' Union Building.

The details of the scheme may safely be left to the committee, but a consideration of the part to be played by students will not be out of place. It may be argued that the time is not opportune for launching such a project, but we are sure all students will agree that difficulties, like examination questions, arise only to be surmounted; and both are disposed of only by hard work.

Admittedly times are hard, and the Executive has to face a serious fall in revenue occasioned by the reduction in the number of students paying the annual levy. However, students, whether in executive positions or not, can hasten the erection of the building, if they adopt the attitude that every neglected source of revenue and every penny of needless expenditure entailed by avoidable breakages and slipshod methods must inevitably result in postponing still further the erection of a building long overdue.

If students will realise that every club grant either foregone or reduced will result in the balance saved being devoted towards the attainment of their cherished ideal, it will ease the task of the new Executive in accumulating money out of revenue.

Everyone of the 800 students attending College must fritter away at least five shillings per month in ephemeral luxuries or amusements. Five shillings per month is a conservative estimate of the average

expenditure, but it will suffice as an illustration. If every student were to devote one of those five shillings per month to the Building Fund, the committee would be able to increase the balance in hand from £600 in May, 1931, to £1000 in May, 1932—even if we neglect the stoppage of contributions occasioned by the summer vacation. The idea is not impossible. A school not 120 miles from Wellington has raised a substantial fund for its new chapel by the sale of paper "bricks" at one shilling each. During vacations students could arrange private functions such as bridge evenings—the proceeds of which could go towards the fund. The important thing to realise is that every little helps and that many hands make light work.

More people around us than we realise take an interest in students and their welfare. We are sure that this interest can be quickened into helpful activity if we talk Students' Union Building incessantly wherever we go. Furthermore, if we let every one know that we have united in a determined attempt to have a worthy Students' Union Building as soon as humanly possible we can point out what we have so far achieved when launching an appeal for funds.

The committee when set up can safely be relied on to go thoroughly into the whole question, but without co-operation from every person connected with the College their efforts will be seriously hampered.

It would be superfluous to traverse the manifold arguments in favour of a new building as long as the present dismal erection constitutes so useless a drain on student revenue. If we set ourselves to raise a definite sum and to have a new building not later than 1936, we are confident that on the completion of the project all our sacrifices entailed by such a "five-year plan" will have been well worth while.

Crambe Repetita

DEGREE COURSES

We are informed by our daily contemporaries that the Council of Legal Education has at last had its first sitting. We hope for much from a body composed of such experienced men, but we could have wished that the Legislature had provided for some representation of the students who are those directly concerned. The Professors on the Council will be of material assistance in this connection, but the Professors themselves will be the first to admit that conditions have greatly changed since their student days.

Misunderstandings could be avoided if students representative of the four Colleges and of the external students were to be heard, and we are sure that the work of the Council would be rendered easier. In particular some sufferers under the present regulations governing law courses could offer some illuminating and constructive suggestions. The question of examinations and fees could profitably be examined from the student viewpoint. Recently examination fees were raised and the date of entry was changed to a month earlier in the year. Nevertheless time-tables' results and diplomas are as late as ever in making their appearance.

Again we see no reason why the Supplementary March Examinations should have been abolished—they were of material assistance to students and we hope they will be reinstated.

Professor Adamson is reported in the New Zealand Law Journal as telling a conference of the legal profession that he regretted the divorce between the Arts and Law Courses occasioned by the change in the B.A. regulations. We hope that it will not be considered presumption for us to concur heartily in this opinion. Law students should be encouraged and not hindered in their attempts to gain a more balanced education than the LL.B. course alone can give them. We feel that in addition to these defects in our legal education, there are many anomalies in the course prescribed for B.A. For instance, the regulation that at least one language unit, other than English, shall be included in the course has produced one curious result. Students who have forgotten what little Latin or French they ever managed to absorb, turn in desperation to Greek, where no preliminary knowledge of the language is required. We have then the peculiar spectacle of a Greek class, the greatest proportion of which has no intention of pursuing the subject any further than one year's study of the elementary grammar. Surely the time devoted to mugging up the equivalent of "mensa, mensam, mensae, mensa," could be devoted to psychology or economics or something that might be of permanent value to those concerned. Many students also are prevented from pursuing their English course past Stage I by the fact that the taking of the literary option at Stage I virtually bars a student from any further study of English.

Many students who are genuinely interested in the study of English literature have no philological interests at all and find the study of Anglo-

Saxon and of Middle English an insuperable bar to their advancing the subject of English. The subjects of English language and English literature are as far apart as economics and zoology and appeal to totally different types of minds. There is certainly ample in either subject to form material for a year's work at the various stages. Possibly the best reform that could be made in the B.A. would be to return to the old system, whereby the student did a year's preliminary work before proceeding to sit outside exams. This scheme had two advantages; it enabled the student to find out in his first year what subjects he really wished to advance, and secondly, it reduced the sitting of outside exams., the bugbear of all true study, to two years instead of the present three. We feel that this long discussion of degree courses expresses the ideas of a very large number of students who are increasingly dissatisfied with the muddled and discordant units which compose their courses.

RELATIONS WITH THE STAFF

The Haeremai Club dance, referred to at greater length elsewhere in this issue, was noteworthy for the support given it by members of the staff. At present a large number of students have very little opportunity for meeting their own preceptors except in the class-room, and not unnaturally a feeling of constraint is bound to arise if this state of affairs continues. One of the back numbers of "Spike" contains the following passage—[we quote from memory]—"Education consists not in attending a course of lectures, but in sitting up till two in the morning with a friend with whom you can talk things over."

We do not suggest that dances should be held in this manner, but we do suggest that until there is a fuller and freer inter-change of ideas between the staff and students outside the class-room, V.U.C. will not be a true University.

OREGON DEBATERS

Perhaps it was because we are all somewhat tired of our own local giants that the two debates in which we heard Messrs. Pfaff, Miller and Wilson, of Oregon University, seemed to us so exceedingly good. In their first debate, that on the "rising generation," they adopted a flippant, bantering manner, somewhat reminiscent of the Oxford debaters and our earnest young Colonial speakers failed to respond in like manner. However, when Prohibition was discussed, both sides came down to serious argument and a first-rate debate ensued. These visits of debating teams from one country to another play a great part in broadening student life and we hope it will not be long before a tour of New Zealand student debaters can again be financed.

OUR FINANCES

Mr. Rollings took "the professional grumblers" somewhat severely to task at the recent annual meeting for their remarks anent the balance sheet.

V.U.C. Dramatic Club production, "Rope," August 14th and 15th.

CLUB NOTES

Hockey Club

The remarks of the "grumblers" may or may not have been helpful in expediting the passage of the balance sheet, but we are not sure that the "grumblers" did not have right on their side. We are sure, however, that Mr. Jessep and his auditor, Mr. A. R. F. Mackay, are deserving of every praise for their efforts in hacking their way through the jungle of figures occasioned by the Executive's books being allowed to become three months behind. In any case the unfortunate "grumblers" were merely girding at what must be patent to all students—the slipshod methods of the past. Executives cannot afford to waste a penny if we are to have a new Union Building before the end of the present century; and the results of the bad old systems of previous years have imbued students with an uneasy feeling that haphazard management of student revenue is a luxury that cannot be afforded even in those times of affluence Victoria College has often heard of but has yet to experience.

A step in the right direction was taken by the last Executive when it directed that club balance sheets should be audited by some person competent to do so. It now behoves the Executive to put its own house in order by placing its activities on a more business-like footing. We understand that the Executive intends to re-organise its accounting methods. The time is long overdue and we hope that the Executive will put the matter in hand immediately. The Executive might advantageously consider the abandonment of such activities as tie-selling.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Editor: R. J. Larkin. Phone Nos. 43-087 and 22-079.

Sub-Editors: C. G. Watson, Phone 20-030; R. B. Phillips, Phone Nos. 40-197 and 42-448.

Business Manager: K. Kirkcaldie, Phone No. 43-147.

The next issue will be published on August 12. Advertisements and material must be in before August 3. Please type on paper one-third foolscap size (horizontal). Unsigned and illegible contributions cannot be considered. If the identity of contributors is not to be divulged, a pseudonym must be enclosed beneath the signature.

Are the perpendicular stripes in Mr. Munro's new suit a form of camouflage?

: : :

"French names of towns don't have an article unless they do—do they? I mean you leave it out unless it's put in—d'ont you?—well—um—it's obvious."

: : :

We wish to deny the rumour that Mr. A. F. T. Chorlton intends giving his Plunket Medal address in costume. It is to be on Te Rauparaha.

: : :

The S.C.M. wishes us to deny a rumour that there is a movement on foot amongst their ranks to change the title of vice-president to virtue-president.

The second round of the Inter-Club Competitions has now been commenced. At the end of the first round our Senior B (A) team was in the comfortable position of being one point behind the leading team in the competition with one match to play. The team was drawn to meet its Waterloo in the first match of the second round, and after a fine display of hockey, fought its way to the top of the competition, beating the leading team, Karori, by five goals to four. The splendid play of the forwards was a feature of the game.

An improvement in play and better results are looked for from the third grade teams during this round. Now that the beginners have gained a little experience they will be able to face their opponents with more confidence.

A regrettable feature of this year's hockey is the number of casualties sustained by the club, especially in the Senior teams. This results in the weakening of all the teams in the club.

The results of the Senior A team's matches to date are as follows:

First Round:

- v. Wesley—won, 2—1. Goals scored by Paul and Simpson.
- v. Y.M.C.A.—won, 4—1.
- v. Karori—lost, 1—3. The goal was scored by Lewis.
- v. Wellington—drew, 2—2.
- v. Hutt—lost, 2—3.

Second Round:

- v. Wesley—lost, 2—4.
- v. Y.M.C.A.—won, 3—1. Simpson 2, Lewis 1.
- v. Karori—drew, 2 all.
- v. Wellington—lost, 0—4.
- v. Hutt—lost, 2—3.

E. O. SHEILD,

Hon. Sec., V.U.C. Hockey Club.

: : :

The Gun Club

By "ALWAYS A MAGPIE"

We are asked to deny a persistent rumour among gun-men that sundry detonations heard in the city on the 22nd of last month were caused by Mr. L. G. W—ll—ms enjoying a little preliminary practice. Interviewed, Mr. W—ll—ms said, "No, I wasn't shooting on that day. The rumour is not only false but slanderous. Surely everyone is aware that I shoot only at proper targets." We withdrew ashamed. (Join the Rifle Club and see the point.)

Bring the girl friend to "Rope."

We met C. D. B—nks in the gym. the other evening looking rather glum. Despite applications of emery-powder, stove polish, chewing gum, aqua vitae, aqua fortis and elbow grease he complains that his barrel still shows three blemishes. With the season so close at hand, we can but extend our sincerest sympathies to you, Mr. B—nks in your sad predicament. Have you tried sand-blasting.

A. A. B. M—u—t is most enthusiastic. He is looking forward to a highly successful season. After much research he has succeeded in discovering a number of rounds guaranteed pre-Crimean. Mr. M—u—t is emphatic in his opinion that the club should revert to muzzle-loaders, but admits that possibly some difficulty might be experienced in securing them.

His friend Ethie agrees with him on the ground that muzzle-loaders are old, therefore more romantic, and would have greater appeal to the women students who, he fondly hopes, are going to join the club.

On being acquainted with Mr. M—u—t's suggestion, Mr. P. H. M—k—n told us that personally he finds the modern rifle good enough and deprecates any such move. But Mr. M—k—n must of course remember that a N.Z. Blue is expected to be able to shoot with anything. We think that possibly, applications, in quadruplicate signed by the Governor-General's wife, to the Dominion Museum might secure to suitable applicants a choice of weapons in that establishment.

In this connection, however, we hasten to advise members not to make rash changes. We feel that, seriously, it would be for the good of the club if as many as possible could get hold of aperture sights. They might not necessarily increase our enjoyment of shooting but would certainly enable us to enter more competitions. It is obvious that the ordinary matches (including the Imperial Universities' Match) are a little beyond open-sight shooting, however good it may be. I am informed that there are heaps of perfectly sound sights to be had from the more experienced shots in other clubs. Beg, borrow or steal them, or lure, lucre is our advice.

It is strongly rumoured that there will be at least one trophy for club competition next season. This will necessarily be confined to open sights. Reports to hand indicate considerable impatience and an extreme urge among members to take pot shots at the more prominent features of the city. Possess thy souls in patience and ye shall be rewarded—perhaps. Roll up new members!

: : :

Basketball Club

Three 'Varsity teams are playing in the Basketball Association this year, but so far the Senior A team is the only one that has had any success. It has not lost any games yet, but has yet to play Wesley (last year's champions), East College Old Girls (last years' runners-up), and Training College. Most of the games have been rather uneven, our team scoring upwards of 20 goals. The last two matches we have played have been harder, our scores being 20—15, and 19—12, in our favour. Two of our num-

ber were chosen to represent Wellington in a challenge match against Auckland early this month. These were Misses D. Martyn Roberts (defence), and Mary Line (goal). Unfortunately the former was unable to go.

The Senior B team, although having either one or two practices per week, has so far succeeded in winning only one match, and drawing another. Their captain, Miss P. Dennehy, has been coaching the girls well.

The thirds have been hindered by not having a settled team. This is due partly to girls not deciding to play until well on in the season, and thereby upsetting our first selections.

Towards the beginning of the season a team went out to the Borstal Institute, where we played an enjoyable game against a team of girls trained by Miss Nancy Webber. Afterwards about 30 to 40 girls at the Institute gave a fine exhibition of drill under Miss Webber's leadership.

We are fortunate in having secured Mrs. Boyce, late of Napier, as a coach. She gives us good basketball practice, physical jerks, etc. The result of this training should show itself in matches. Weekly practices are held at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, and all players should attend.

Blue awards for 1931: Misses Julia Dunn, Evelyn Hardy, P. Quinlan, Isobel Morice, Kitty Wood.

: : :

Women's Hockey Club

The women's Hockey Club is having a more successful season than it has known for many years. This is due mainly to the good support rendered by the players on the occasions when we have been unable to field full teams, and their zeal in the face of many set-backs.

The Junior B team, which comprises mainly beginners, has won three, drawn one, and lost two games. This is a very creditable effort, since the team has frequently played short or with emergencies, and has also been particularly unfortunate in losing its captain through sickness. The Junior A team registered its first win last Saturday. This team also has had bad luck in losing two half-backs and one forward for part of the season. The seniors have won three, drawn one, and lost four matches. They should do better in the next round, as their combination is improving greatly.

A seven-a-side tournament is being held on Saturday, 25th July, when four teams, two senior and two junior, are being entered.

The main weakness throughout the teams is slowness in getting rid of the ball. Time and practice will, however, remedy this. Even if we are not winning championships, at least the enthusiasm shown, particularly in the Junior B team, promises well for the future of women's hockey at Victoria.

"Rope"—August 14th and 15th in the Gym.

Tramping Club

TAUHERENIKAU-TRARUA TRAMP— EASTER, 1931

The prospects were not very bright for the ten members on this tramp, when the party reached the Chateau Tauherenikau on Thursday night, after travelling two hours in the steady rain. That night the well-built hut was very welcome. Next morning in view of the heavy rain and the flooded Tauherenikau River, the original intention of proceeding to Mt. Holdsworth Mountain House was abandoned. The day was spent indoors gazing with awe as the flooded river gradually rose, and huge logs flashed past on their way to Palliser Bay. The biggest flood in the district for about 25 years is no mean sight. During the afternoon, after discussing religion for several hours, and then spending several more hours watching a stew cook, the time passed very quickly.

On Saturday the party climbed up the Golden Staircase, over Omega, through Hell's Gates, and came to rest in Alpha Hut. After an early tea, the party retired to bed, to be roused about 8.30 p.m. by Denz's bad dream. Then followed a long supper and an entertainment by Riske and others entitled "Communism." Other bed-time stories were

The two main themes next morning were "Shorts Lost" and "Shorts Regained." Finally the party left the Hut, climbed Mt. Alpha, and followed the Main Range round the Dress Circle. At this stage the rest of the party waited and shivered while the leader played hide and seek with the Renata Ridge in the mist. After tagging an uninviting place, he asked the rest to follow. Up to this stage the view had been limited to mist, but a break at the opportune time revealed a good view of Mts. Alpha and Quoin, and the Western Hutt River and numerous tributaries on the south, Renata to the west, and Kapakapanui to the north-west. On the north lay the Walotauru River and branches, bounded by Mt. Hector and the main Tararua Range on the east.

The track then led over Mt. Elder and Mt. Renata and finally joined the Kapakapanui track, where camp was struck.

Next morning when the party had the choice of going to Upper Hutt via Akatarawa, or to Waikanae via Kapakapanui, a hoarse voice strongly advocated (for obvious reasons) the former route. The hoarse voice won.

One consolation of the trip was that as we homeward wound our weary way along the Akatarawa Road, we cheered the heart of many a soul (including Brookie)—and no wonder they laughed.

The trip is noteworthy in that it was the first time an official party had done the Tararua Crossing by that route, and also no woman tramper had been over that route before.

Literary Club

The first step was taken towards filling what has been, for some years, a gap in student life at Victoria College, when, on Wednesday evening, 10th June, a Literary Club was formed at Victoria College. The aims of this club are to encourage the appreciation of literature in this University, by lectures, by discussions, by literary debates, and by competitions for original literary work. The building up of a library of modern literature is one of the suggestions to be considered by the newly-appointed committee. At the second meeting, the club's constitution was approved, and the following club officers elected:—

President: Prof. G. W. von Zedlitz.

Vice-Presidents: Miss E. Duggan, Messrs. S. Eichelbaum, F. de la Mare, J. R. Elliott, and Dr. Sutherland.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. I. D. Campbell.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss K. Birnie.

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Reardon.

Committee: Miss D. Spence-Sales, Messrs. R. J. Larkin, R. Hogg, and C. G. Watson.

The secretary will be very pleased to receive suggestions for the activities of the club. In a new club it is very necessary to find out the ideas of all its members as to how the club should be conducted, and we would welcome suggestions from anyone interested.

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V.U.C. Social Service Club

1931 is proving about the busiest year yet for our club. The Christmas holidays brought, of course, a slight interruption in some of our activities. But they brought also our most welcome functions, the Xmas parties at the various Homes. And by the time 'Varsity was open for the new year our work was in full swing again.

Once a fortnight we visit the Mental Hospital at Porirua, where the patients welcome us so warmly and entertain us so well, that the afternoon passes far too quickly.

Our turn to entertain them comes when a concert party visits the Institution. This happens once a month, and is looked forward to by the inmates as a great treat.

Another fortnightly visit is that made to the Borstal by a party of girls. This sign of friendliness is much appreciated by the inmates, to whom it is a real help.

On the second Saturday in every month one or two of the men of our club take a party of boys from the Austin Street Home to the pictures or to a football match.

The Austin Street Home boys are usually included also in our monthly social evening at the Miramar Girls' Receiving Home.

It is at Miramar too that one of our most popular

In the Gym.—August 14th and 15th. Admission 1/-.

recent innovations has been made—a fortnightly dancing lesson by a special teacher.

We have always the fullest co-operation from students. But we are sure that still more must wish to help. We are always in need of transport and of concert performers, and everyone can help in our visits to PoTirua and Miramar. You will find our work so enjoyable that you will never regret having joined us. Mr. R. L. Page, or any member will take your name.

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Tramping Club

Throughout the year, either week-end or Sunday tramps have been held regularly, and a brief report of these will appear in the next issue of "Spike." All interested in tramping are asked to note the following syllabus of tramps for the remainder of this term.

July 19th.—Bus to Petone. Climb ridge above Gracefield, and follow it to Eastbourne.

Leader: A. P. Thompson.

July 25th-26th.—Otaki Forks. Tramp to Field's Hut. On Sunday climb Mt. Hector, and return. This is an easy trip and provides an excellent opportunity for visiting the Tararuas under snow conditions, without undertaking a strenuous trip.

Leader: S. J. Lambourne.

August 2nd.—Bus to Nai Nai, then follow ridge to Petone.

Leader: F. J. Eggers.

August 8th-9th.—Boat to Eastbourne. Tramp to Orongorongo, climb Kotumu on Sunday morning and return in the afternoon.

Leader: G. A. Peddie.

August 15th-16th.—Tararua Crossing. Kaitoke-Alpha-Hector-Otaki. As this trip is rather strenuous, participants must be reasonably fit. To facilitate travelling arrangements, they should hand in their names several days before the tramp.

Leader: T. R. Smith.

Further details for each tramp will be put on the notice board each week.

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Debating Club

Since the publication of the last number of "Smad," the Debating Society has held several debates. The first of these was the Inter-faculty Debate on the subject "That Nationalism is a Hindrance to World Welfare." The award for this debate was made to the Arts and Science team, represented by Messrs. Mountjoy and Riske, and Miss Z. Henderson. Shortly after this the annual debate against the Training College on the subject "That the British Empire is in Grave Danger of Dissolution," was held, and the contest was won by Victoria College, represented by Messrs. Mountjoy and Bannister, and Miss Z. Henderson.

The one regular debate held recently was on a subject that attracted a large crowd to the gym-

nasium, "That the Only Man Who Entered Parliament With the Right Idea was Guy Fawkes." Everybody was humorously inclined, even the chairman, who delighted everybody with his rulings.

The visit of the three debaters from Oregon University has been the most interesting event in the activities of the society this year. Training College Hall was crowded with people to hear Messrs. Rollings, Crossley and Hurley disapprove of the rising generation and the three American debaters, Messrs. Pfaff, Miller and Wilson, approve of it.

This was followed on July 10th by a debate in the Town Hall on the subject, "That American Prohibition is a Failure." The movers of this motion were Mr. Miller (Oreg.), Miss Z. Henderson, and Mr. Bannister, and the opposers were Messrs. Pfaff (Oreg.), Wilson (Oreg.), and Mountjoy. The speaking was of a very high standard, and the interjections for the most part appropriate and amusing. We feel that Mr. Bannister's reference to the American Constitution tightening down from President to President should be perpetuated.

We would remind supporters of the society of the Plunket Medal contest, to be held on July 18th.

The Dark Angel

This year's production by the Dramatic Club provided those interested with very good fare. The play is not, by any means, a great play, but still it has a good plot, certain characters of interest and plenty of good lines. The story is the conventional one of the girl who sacrifices all for her soldier lover and is later faced with the problem of choosing between what she considers to be her duty towards him and her affection for a later claimant to her hand. The principal characters show a great deal of altruism and self-sacrifice above the ordinary, but some of us still believe that these virtues still exist. At times especially in the third act the nobleness of the heroine and her two heroes began to pall and we longed for one of the male contestants to snatch up the lady and cry, "She's mine," and consign the other to more torrid regions. But we cannot have everything and after all the moral lesson was good.

The merit of the acting was considerably enhanced by the effective casting of the parts. This factor, indeed, more than individual excellence, contributed towards the success of the performance. The principle character that of Kitty Fahnestock was admirably portrayed by Miss M. Cooley. Her part demanded that she should show many varied traits of character and Miss Cooley succeeded in making a very live person of the young girl, and later as the more mature woman torn between two emotions. The writer, however, is still of the opinion that these more or less "sweet" parts are far below Miss Cooley's capabilities. It would be a great day for Wellington if one of our societies were to put on "St. Joan," with "Our Mary" in the name part.

Mr. Ralph Hogg was hardly at his best in the prologue. For some reason he was inclined to be

Students! You will be sorry if you miss this production.

subdued and failed to give the impression of the man who cried, "Oh, I hadn't any right to stampede you and carry you away." However, Mr. Hogg, made ample amends in the last act when he was called upon to do the most difficult acting of the piece—that of a blind man. Not for one moment did he lose his grip of the audience and I venture the opinion that nothing better has been seen at 'Varsity for many years.

Mr. C. Watson, as a clean living young Englishman, the humble admirer and suitor of Kitty's, looked and played the part well. He was inclined to shyness in his love making, but this is a weakness peculiar to the English so that it fitted in well with the part.

Mr. A. D. Priestley made a great deal out of a very neutral type, Sir Evelyn Fahnstock, Kitty's father. The acting here was finished and especially so in the way he dealt with the "male and female cats."

The most promising acting of the evening was that of Miss D. Tossman as a "bad girl" thrown into the midst of her social, and therefore, moral superiors. Again her scene with her awkward but honest lover, well played by Mr. F. Cormack, she showed that 'Varsity had acquired an actress who should do really good work in the future.

The two society "cats" were effectively dealt with by Miss M. Murray and Miss F. Eccles. They put good work into not very good parts.

Mr. B. Chadwick appeared on the stage as the English gentleman run to seed or rather to whisky. One cannot say any more than that this was superb acting.

Miss T. Lambourne was an adoring secretary and looked wistful enough but it was a poor part. I liked Miss K. McCaul as the old servant. Her work was not as easy as it might have seemed and I enjoyed her and her make up. Finally as the Butler with a knowledge of Mah Jongg. Mr. H. Middlebrook was a model of dignity and decorum.

Congratulations to the Dramatic Club. They have placed the club on a high plane, and I for one should be very loath to miss any performance of theirs on the same standard as "The Dark Angel."

CONVERT.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENS

N.K.C. and M.M.W.—Sorry; too French. Try "Spike."

Chrysanthemum.—Sorry; rather vitriolic in patches.

"Bacon."—Very good, but not quite what we wanted.

Jane.—Too—too—you know what we mean.

K.H.—Would like more lab. notes, but lunch in the company of dog-fish leaves us cold.

De Profundis ad duces vocamus.—Excellent idea; too much space used in developing it.

Miss J—ss—M—art—n.—We agree with inmate 37/746 who thinks you were a coward to send a reply to his question re chewing gum, by your brother.

Haeremai Club Dance

"He who likes glass without the G.
Take away the L and that is he."

—Solomon, after his 1000th wedding.

The gym. was crowded when the Haeremai and Basketball Clubs combined to hold the sole fancy dress dance of the year. The orchestra rose to the occasion by appearing as the Seven Jolly Robbers, or something equally dashing. The Basketballers are to be complimented on their delicious supper, which was a feature of the evening. Various novelty dances were on the programme and we have grave fears that some of the sheiks caused flutterings in the breasts of the many houris during the Disappointment Dance.

The dresses were weird and wonderful, and the committee, after long discussion, awarded the following prizes: Best girl, G. E. Faber (houris); most original girl, M. Wise (—); most original man, R. J. Reardon (10 Per Cent. Cut); best man's dress, Mr. Corcoran (Lord Baden Powell).

P. Brodie, as a Son of the Desert, was evidently taken with Mr. Wu's daughter. The Two Black Crows (Messrs. Mullins and Bell) had obviously spent much care on their get up and looked as if they would need much more care and cold cream to get it off. S. Rees was with the same girl as last year, who looked as graceful as ever. The Uniform Brigade was as well represented as usual, Messrs. Hannah and Sykes being typical examples. Misses Cook and D. Spence-Sales were very Russian, but were not together all the evening. Mr. Fabian as a gentleman of the cloth garnered the Queen of Hearts as one of his flock. Mr. Whitcombe as a Boy Scout should have been with the Girl Guide (C. A. Hight), but evidently preferred a country maid. Miss I. Clark was a charming Pompadour in strange contrast to Miss V. Wilson's up-to-date tennis costume.

Denz, as a squaw, was too well disguised for certain gentlemen. Mr. East's speech reminded us of Mr. Hurley's at the recent S.C.M. hop—perhaps because he was forced to substitute his intended skeleton costume for that of a Salvation Army lassie. Miss C. Drummond was her usual charming self as a Swiss dairy-maid.

Inter-Varsity Debate

Mr. Pfaff: Nowadays people are born with a motor-car in their mouths.

Voice from the Unknown: What a gag!

: : :

There are fellows who'd laugh

At a reference to Pfaff.

There are some who would scoff

If you changed it to Pfaff.

When you dine in the caf'

And your friend mentions Pfaff,

Just remark with a sniff,

"I am told that it's Pfaff."

"Rope"—the latest in thrillers.

N.Z.U. Rugby Tour

The following is a brief account of the New Zealand University football team's recent tour to Sydney.

The first thing that comes to one's mind is the very fine hospitality shown us by our hosts and their friends, who spared no effort to make our tour enjoyable and their efforts were certainly successful.

The sea trip was uneventful except for loss of one of the team's footballs—now probably "somewhere at sea." Of the party, two players and one manager alone answered every call of the bugle for meals. Deck training lapsed on the first two days for want of a quorum.

In Sydney we found that an energetic though not too accurate press agent had vested several of the team with All Black honours while on the water and others with many past feats of athletic prowess.

We first experienced Australian hospitality at the reception accorded on the first morning by the N.S.W. Rugby Union, where the team made the acquaintance of Messrs. Tooth and Pilsener—two characters so well known to Australians.

Most of the team were quartered at a hotel on the boundary of the City and Darlinghurst—the happy hunting-ground of the famous "Lazor-gang." The only members of that organisation seen by the team, however, were encountered in the various hair-dressing saloons of the city.

The first two days were filled with receptions including one by the New Zealand Women's Club (who later organised a "New Zealand Night") and a civic reception by the Lord Mayor, whose cigars were very popular with one member of the team. A luncheon and a dinner were also given by the Sydney 'Varsity Students' Council in the Union dining hall. Memories of one of last year's examination papers came to the writer when informed of the name of a Professor seated in close proximity. We were shown over the University buildings which are very fine, particularly the Medical School. Picturesquely grouped round the 'Varsity are the several residential colleges. The 'Varsity, which has a roll of approximately 3000, was on vacation during the greater part of our visit. They had just celebrated their Commemoration Day ceremonies, of which the procession is at present confined to the 'Varsity grounds.

We spent a most interesting morning when the team was conducted over "Our Bridge," by the Engineer-in-Chief, who gave an interesting account of its construction. We learnt (inter alia) that if all the strands of wire in the cables used in the preliminary construction were placed end-to-end, their length would equal half the circumference of the earth; also that the bridge contains over three million rivets—the "doubting Thomases" were invited to verify this figure by counting if they so desired!

The team were made members of the University and Tattersalls' Clubs—the latter said to be the finest club in Australasia. Several enjoyed a swim in the spacious swimming bath on the top floor of this club.

Perhaps the most educational and enjoyable ex-

ursion of the tour was the visit to Penfold's winery situated about 30 miles from Sydney. Here we gained an insight into the manufacture of champagne and sparkling wines. Perhaps no toasts were drunk more heartily than those drunk in the cellar of the winery. Drinking songs were much in evidence. On the return journey to the city one of the team, found in possession of a "souvenir" was pursued into "the snake country" whence he was enticed only with great difficulty and cunning.

One of our hosts' "stoutest efforts" was the ball given in honour of the team on the night of the second Test. It will be long remembered by New Zealander and "Aussie" alike. The attendance was so large that dancing was in relays. The haka was never given with more gusto and effect than in the centre of the ballroom about the middle of the ball—small coteries endeavoured to imitate it during the concluding stages of the ball.

Space will not allow mention of many excursions enjoyed by the team. Among these was a trip to Mascot and a flight over Sydney; trip to Bulli and return through National Park where several keen rowing races were staged; trip to the Hawkesbury River and Palm Beach.

We saw some of the Australian countryside on the trip over the Blue Mountains to picturesque Orange about 250 miles north-west of Sydney. A feature of this trip was the civic reception at which there were no less than 14 speakers. One Orangeman commenced his speech with, "Mr. Mayor and members of the visiting bowling team." It was at Orange that two members incurred the displeasure of the local constabulary (a staunch League supporter) by their conducting a paper-boat race in one of the town's spacious gutters. On this trip also our Maori member added to his already fine collection of "souvenirs."

With respect to football the tour was also very successful, the team coming through undefeated, winning five games (including one against a N.S.W. team) and drawing the third Test against Sydney 'Varsity. That this game was played on the day following our visit to Penfold's can in no way detract from the fine display given by Sydney! We affected the open style of play which became very popular with the spectators. All the games save that against Western Suburbs at Orange were played on the picturesque University Oval. The games which were usually played to the accompaniment of music, the Conservatorium of Music being in the vicinity, were all played in a keen but friendly spirit and were rather spectacular, perhaps the most spectacular incident being a wonderful field goal by our full-back from our side of the half-way line in the game against N.S.W. Of the four players who played in all six matches of the tour three were V.U.C. representatives.

Lack of space forces me to relate only some of the incidents of the tour. Some are better told orally than in print such as that of the brief sojourn of two of the team in one of Sydney's "coolers" through an unfortunate though genuine mistake of a "limb of the law"; of the "shooting-up" of a hotel by the "cowboy" footballer; of the member, who finding himself "dummy" in the course of a respectable

See Max Riske as murderer No. 2.

bridge evening, arose and gave a sustained peroration of the scenic beauties of New Zealand in which the phrase "scintillating peaks" frequently occurred; of a member's encounter with a "snake" at Bulli, and so on.

The team were a happy band throughout, which was in no small measure due to the efforts of their very popular manager, Mr. Frank Petre—himself a New Zealand 'Varsity Blue in boxing and for several years a member of Canterbury College team. He set the team a splendid example "not only on the field" (he played for us at Orange), "but also off the field" (as at the ball!).

R.E.D.

The Plunket Medal

This time-honoured and inspiring contest will be run in the Town Hall on Saturday, July 18, at 8 p.m. The starter will be Mr. W. J. Mountjoy (jun.), and the judges are Judge McGregor, Mr. H. E. Holland, M.P., and Professor G. W. von Zedlitz. For the benefit of punters we give some criticism of the various contestants. Where possible we give their previous performances:

0-2—**R. J. Reardon**.—Training hard and the stable is very confident. Has drawn a bad place at the barrier, but the Irish are always dangerous in races of this description. Not a good bet as he is inclined to be unruly at the starting barrier.

A. F. T. Chorlton.—A maiden performer with plenty of staying capabilities. Has good track work, but hard to say how he will go with the colours up.

2—**Z. Henderson**.—Has done a great number of preliminary canters this year. Is in good hands and has come on marvellously well in last few weeks. Her trainer knows all the tricks of this contest.

H. J. Bishop.—Another maiden. Might go well but a slight swelling in the hocks was noticeable at his last public performance.

0-0—**G. Crossley**.—Neighing with confidence. One for the ladies. Will be a bit unlucky if he fails to salute the judge.

2-0—**C. Forde**.—The most experienced candidate. The ruling favourite and is our best bet for the week. Seems to be home on the bit.

M. Riske.—A brilliant but erratic performer. This is an imported animal with plenty of Cossack strains. Trained on vodka. A determined effort was made to noble this starter and he is now being guarded by detectives armed with hockey sticks.

Summing up this is a difficult contest. Owing to lack of public form of many of the runners, anything might happen. Still we are of the opinion that the following will be the order at the finishing post.

- 1—Forde.
- 2—Riske.
- 3—Crossley.

Biographical Notes on the New Executive

W. P. Rollings, President.—"A stout old Tory, but a gentleman for all that." His sole vices are crumpets dripping with butter and enormous quantities of Mayams.

Miss Helen Dunn, Women's Vice-President.—There is no truth in the rumour that the recent slip behind the gym. was occasioned by Miss Dunn's threatening not to attend an executive meeting. The back seat driver holds no terrors for her—you see when the front seat of the car passes Kirk's the rear portion is just rounding Perrett's corner.

Miss Mildred Briggs, Committee-woman.—Is at present crooning sadly. "Peela Punkan Eela," etc. Skin at present in very reduced state.

Miss Cathie Forde, Committee-woman.—Has a broad outlook on life. is equally at home in the midst of Sunday Band Concerts and Plunket Medal Contests.

Miss Margaret Gibbs, Committee-woman.—Confesses she was much touched by Peter Dawson's rendering of "The Sergeant-Major."

H. J. Bishop, Men's Vice-President.—Follows a pipe round with a merry smile. Once a pillar of the Haeremai Club, has now reformed and is rumoured to be the S.C.M.'s latest convert.

F. Cormack, Committee-man.—Very versatile. Plays as full-back in the afternoon, and in the evening as an amorous poulterer ne pug, with equal distinction.

C. S. Plank, Committee-man.—The human dynamo—was once a veritable Guy Fawkes. Is now repentant and could give all New Zealand and half Australia jobs in opening library doors, hacking the earth around for a new Wimbledon and building a Palace of Pleasure. We are not surprised he thinks highly of Ruskin.

A. C. Jessep, Treasurer.—Holds the hungry grant seekers at bay with one hand and reads all sorts of interesting things from the other.

R. J. Reardon, Secretary.—The person is unknown to us and the only information we have extracted after diligent search is that he is rumoured to trot like a spaniel and is much given to moving speech.

COMING EVENTS IN THE GYMNASIUM

July 24.—Dramatic Club, reading—"Constant Nymph."

July 25.—Dance. Football and Women's Clubs.

July 31.—Debate. See notice boards.

August 3.—Last day for receiving "Smad" material.

August 4.—Dramatic Club reading. "Silver Tassie."

August 12.—"Smad" published.

August 14 and 15.—Production of "ROPE" in Gymnasium. See Dramatic Club notes.

August 29.—Law Club Dance—remember the last one!

N.B.—Don't forget to buy the best "Spike" for years.

See Ralph Bannister as murderer No. 1.

SINFUL STORIES

JUN

Once upon a time there was a little boy who was so young when he was born that he was called junior which is not a really or truly name like plain Bill or just Joe and mightnt be a name at all but just a birthday honours like O.B.E. or L.S.D. only these are first-class honours cailed titles and Junior is not a title but all the same it is stuck on at the end like a puppydogs tail and sometimes a puppydogs tail gets cut off for purposes of evolution which is what professors call their religion. Now Junior was very religious so he had his name pruned and ever afterwards he was called Jun which rhymes with stun or spoon and when Juns friends said oh you poor boy having to go about with a name thats been cut more than ten per cent Jun just smiled with Christian resignation and said my dear brethren I pray you do not lament at the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune for the fragment is not lost but only gone before and has now become a fact of history which I aspire to be myself in the fulness of time wherefore I shall study history and make of it a thing of beauty and a joy for ever and ever yea even a mountain of joy Amen. Jun could talk for hours and hours like this making lovely gestures with his eyebrows which he had been told by his Professor of Elocution was a good exercise for the face and wouldn't hurt that air of spirituality one bit which the girls thought perfectly divine and said he looked like an early Christian who ought to be thrown to the lions. Jun liked talking very much but was always modest about it casting his eyes down shyly at proper intervals and smiling in a sad sort of way just as he had been taught to do for you mustnt burst out laughing at the crowd youre addressing its bad elocution but its quite all right to feel a bit sorry for them theyre such boneheads and can only think up idiotic things called interjections because you cant call them anything else without somebody from the Haeremai Club shouting out the partys getting rough. Jun didnt worry much about these retardates but kept casting pearls before them like Daniel in the Lions Den which is what is called a high conception of duty for Jun was a very earnest little boy and liked things high I dont mean high like poultry when its hung thats only the Haeremai Clubs idea of things and its really very low perhaps the Haeremai Club ought to be hanged but what I mean by high is having your head in the clouds. So Jun always had his head in the clouds and youd be surprised to see how tall it made him grow just like a lily or the Tower of Babel and when people who were not devout elocutionists said to him why the altitude Jun he looked sweetly pensive and said I have hitched my wagon to a star and they said give it the gas Jun and he said nacherally. By and by he got to thinking gas was the most important thing in the universe and he forgot all about the star until one day he got a bright idea and said why shouldnt I be a star myself not a star to guide the footprints of men but something to tickle them to death like

Douglas Pickford or Buster Keaton or Norman Aitken so he went on the stage if you can call the contraction they have in the Town Hall a stage and soon he got a real star part nothing less than Satan who was once a star himself but lost his job and became a teacher and very successful he was too. But when Satan heard that Jun was playing the devil he said this is no good to me it looks too much like competition I'll have to show this young Icarus where he gets off so he got to work and melted the spirit gum on Juns upper lip and made his moustachios fall off in Act Two which worried Jun very much for he couldn't talk like you know where and hold his moustachios on at one and the same time it cramped his style but you should have heard the things he thought about the people who didnt hurry up and bring more spirit gum and it frightened Satan so much that he ran all the way back to Victoria College whimpering like Barneys dog and hid himself in the Executive room where the Profs couldnt find him and they felt lost without him so one Prof went all the way to America to see if he was there which is ridiculous for every knows that the devil winters in Wellington and wouldn't for the world miss anything that goes on in Victoria College and the Molesworth Street Parliament. But I am forgetting all about our Hero who had become a devil of a fellow which is only to be expected if you go and study black arts such as elocution and the result was that one of the College girls had to take Jun in hand to reform him which made the Haeremai Club say another good man gone wrong and the Women's Common Room crossed Juns name off their list of Eligible Possibles including Marcus Riske who is a positive thrill. It was all very sad especially the photo in the "Dominion" and Mr. Cochrane who had just been captured sighed and said ah me its the Way of All Flesh kindly make a note of that quotation from Samuel Butler or maybe it is Prof Mac I forgot for the moment which but it comes in very handy in examinations also the lot of humanity is on us all just look at poor Crow. And theres got to be a moral to this story so the moral is if you hitch your wagon to a star make sure of your star and step on the gas but dont be a bowser and grow your own moustachios like Hannah although he must find them an awful nuisance in kissing parts but there is two sides to every question thats why women students take part in debates and theres nothing more to be told so goodnight everybody goo-ood naight.

—WOG

Heard At Rehearsal of "Dark Angel"

Winnie: Don't come grabbing me. I've got my new frock on, and organdie musses terribly easily.

Tom (Winnie's sweetheart, an ex-pugilist, taken by Mr. F. Cormack, appropriating Winnie's lines): I love organdie. I wish I could wear it always.

Visions of Our Full-back in a dainty gown of green organdie, complete with yellow satin under-slip, as he tackles a fifteen stone forward.

"Rope"—produced by Mr. D. G. Edwards.

V.U.C. Dramatic Club

Prior to the production of the "Dark Angel" in the Blue Triangle Hall, three good readings were held, the plays read being "And so to Bed," "Canaries Sometimes Sing," and "Murder on the Second Floor." Miss Sinclair Breen and Mr. D. G. Edwards in "And so to Bed," and Miss Vera Cooper in "Canaries Sometimes Sing" read excellently.

A word to students re "The Dark Angel." This year the club's production was a wonderful success from the artistic viewpoint, not, however, from the financial one. The excellent work that Miss Mary Cooley put into the production did not go unrewarded, as it was acclaimed on every side as the best play Varsity has ever produced. The support of the students could have made a financial loss into a financial gain, but this year the percentage of students who attended was less than last year, when 10 per cent. of the audiences were students.

As "The Dark Angel" is reviewed elsewhere in this issue, the writer would like to bring before the notice of students that the club is producing another three-act play, "Rope" (Hamilton, on 14th and 15th August.) The story centres around two radical students, who, in search of new sensations, decide to follow Nietzsche's idea of living dangerously. They commit murder, a motiveless murder, the murder of a harmless fellow undergraduate. Not content with that, they hide the corpse in a chest, and invite his relatives and friends to participate in a meal off it. From here the play moves on to a startling denouement. The play is being produced by Mr. D. G. Edwards, and included in the cast are many well known members of the club: Misses Ola Nielsen and Dorothy Martyn-Roberts, and Messrs. R. Bannister, M. Riske, and N. Hannah.

Be sure and give "Rope" your support.

Letters to the Editor

(The Editor, "Smad")

Dear Sir,—Time was when the early Christian would welcome the roaring lion with an encouraging smile, and would regard its jaws as a very easy passport indeed to the Gates of Heaven. In these degenerate times, alas! the Christian adopts extremely different tactics. He reserves his smiles for those in the gallery of the amphitheatre in the hope that if he is sufficiently amusing and well behaved, the authorities will forget to loose the lions. Though I am far from wishing to see a member of the S.C.M. torn limb from limb before the portals of Victoria College, I would express a wish that that august society would not be quite so blatant in its methods of attracting attention to its activity. Those who proselytise for the society have smeared the pill with jam so thickly as to nauseate those it is meant to attract. An example of what I mean may be seen in the inclusion in the S.C.M. syllabus of two addresses, one by Mr.

Mawson on Town Planning, and one by the Italian Consul on Some Aspects of Fascism. It is hard for the lay-mind to believe that these addresses are included for any other purpose than publicity. It would be as appropriate for the Football Club to give play-readings in the gymnasium, or for the Committee of the Free Discussions Club to conduct a basketball match. Similarly when we are told to bring to the week-end camps—what is it?—a mouth-organ, a toothbrush, and a Bible—we feel, or are supposed to, that the Bible won't really spoil the camp, as long as there's the mouth-organ to set it off. The best example of this frantic endeavour to make the best of both worlds, to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, to sit on the fence and to smother the pill with jam, is to be found in a publication called "Open Windows," which is circulated throughout the College and periodically gluts the letter-rack, thus prohibiting other correspondence. In the June number, among the windows opened we find the following: Shaw's Socialism, John Galsworthy and Gentility, Disarmament, the World Depression and the Russian Experiment, all discussed without any reference to Christianity at all, or else with a cursory remark at the end. I suggest for the next number a series of lives of famous chorus girls. Or more appropriately, a demonstration of just why a Mohammedan can be a good Christian at the same time. It seems to me hopeless to pretend that the S.C.M. is anything else than a Church of England experiment, both in its half-baked intellectuality and in its frenzied desire for publicity. To-day we see Church of England clergymen advertising sermons on the "Modern Girl," "Birth Control," and anything else that will swell their fast-dwindling congregations. I fear that similar tactics have invaded the Student Christian Movement.—I am, etc.,

PRO-NERONIAN.

The above letter was submitted to the S.C.M., which replied as follows:—

(The Editor, "Smad")

Dear Sir,—"Pro-Neronian" in his letter to you in this number of "Smad" makes a somewhat scornful attack upon the tactics adopted in this College by the Student Christian Movement. I must assume, I think, that underlying the apparent prancing and jabbing of a fencer toying merrily with his opponent, there is in his attitude a certain seriousness of attack. I would say, however, in regard to his letter that, overlooking the rather painfully confused metaphor of his opening paragraph, that were the charges he makes against the S.C.M. strictly true, the S.C.M. themselves could hardly find a defence, for anything in Christian organisation that is ostentatious or loud, vulgar or compromising, misses the whole spirit of Christianity, and I for one would not then attempt to defend the Movement on any charge of insincerity or gallery-play.

"Pro-Neronian," it would appear, has gone out of his way to make a charge against the S.C.M. The S.C.M. does not fear criticism, and I believe that its open policy rather invites than discourages it. But naturally it is hoped that all such criticism will be well-meaning and constructive. So I feel

This is the show you have been waiting for.

that where the charges of "Pro-Neronian" have no foundation in truth, they will fall aside quite inoffensively.

His letter may truly be summed up in this, that he condemns the apparently self-conscious attitude of the movement for self-advertisement and its tone of compromise, between the two worlds, as it were, of the material and the spiritual. Having exhausted himself along this line of discussion, your correspondent finishes up with a slice at the Modern Church as a whole. He has failed to realise that the S.C.M. is not a competitor with the Churches nor yet is it the protege of any religious institution. It is open to all students who are interested in Christ, whatever their creed may be. Our work is rather complementary to that of the Churches than in substitution for it. The S.C.M. notes in the handbook should have informed your correspondent of our attitude.

Furthermore, if he had read more carefully the handbook in which he found the names of the two addresses he singles out for scorn, he would have found that Mr. Mawson's address was not on Town-planning, but on Citizens in the Ideal City—and surely every good Christian should be concerned about the ideal in city, State, or any phase of the community. Then he objects to the discussion on Fascism. Well, I ask him, "Shall we ban the burning questions of the day from our syllabus of discussion? Shall we refuse to acquaint or associate ourselves with the powerful movements among men to-day? Why should not Fascism, Russia, Disarmament, Socialism, Colour Problems, yes, and Birth Control, be of interest to the modern Christian? Why not anything which is exercising a powerful and moulding influence on mankind, anything which is bewildering the human race? Is not that the spirit of Christ? "No," "Pro-Neronian" waves his hands and says, "Back to your monasteries and dim-lit cells, away from the rest of humanity. This is not for you." And were we not conscious of Christ's own life and teaching, we might meekly accept. But no, we will hear of Fascism and all the rest because Christ bids us to go into all the world.

"Pro-Neronian" has probably not even visited a week-end retreat conducted by our Movement, or he would find more than a spirit of hilarity in these gatherings. But we hope to be human in our Christianity, and we hope that laughter and music will never be ignored from our midst—and if we mention a mouth-organ and a Bible, we feel no incongruity in that, though we certainly intend that the Bible should be our foremost consideration. It is apparently impossible for Pro-Neronian to realise that Christians hold for their Bible a very deep affection, and that they value it above all other things.

We welcome your correspondent's dissatisfaction because it shows that he expects great things from the S.C.M., and we sincerely hope that the high demands which he makes upon the S.C.M. will be realised even if in the realisation they do not follow the orthodox tracks which he would have them follow. We surely do pursue these ideals with the utmost sincerity, though in the attainment we will humbly admit we often fall short.—I am, etc.,

"NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR."

[The length of this correspondence calls for some apologies. We feel, however, that the position of

the S.C.M. calls for some discussion, especially in the light of whether some of its activities do or do not interfere with those of other clubs or associations. We would like to hear further opinions on this subject.—Ed.]

A BACHELOR'S COMPLAINT

The Palm Court,

Dear "Smad"—

1st July, 1931.

As occupant of one of those cubicles, soon to be abolished, into which the old Men's Common Room has been divided, may I draw attention to the singular transformation which has recently befallen my particular selection? From being a place of utter desolation, it has suddenly, splendidly taken on the aspect of a perfect Kew Garden or conservatory of ferns and flowers. Pansies swim in saucers upon the table; cinerarias, cosmos, daisies, marigolds, etc., line the shelves and cupboards in fine profusion; while a stately column near the door (if it is not that it is at least a very substantial drain-pipe) is surmounted by an example, only one of many, of New Zealand's "fronded flora."

But that is not all. My room, once the resort of cold officialdom only, has with equal suddenness become the recognised rendezvous of all the eminence and elegance of the community. Professors, lecturers, students, the girls from the office, Brook, Pritchard, Strawbridge, all come, gaze in mingled astonishment and admiration, and depart burning with envy. The number of those wishing to borrow books, or to receive instruction on abstruse points of philology, has reached quite laughable limits. Others again come bearing gifts calculated to add to the attractions of the place—fauna for the flora, fertilisers, visitors' books, etc.; so that my time is almost equally divided between receiving guests and watering the exhibits. At the moment there is a lull (the show-pieces, for instance, have fallen in number from eighteen to eight), but far from relieving my natural feelings of apprehension, this circumstance has, if anything, increased them. The last decorative effects were in holly, and it is impossible not to be reminded that the transition from this to mistletoe is, well—er—embracingly slight. As a last resort then I am appealing to you that you may use what influence you have to check a tender persecution which, I protest, I have done nothing to merit, and which, if continued, will doubtless lead to the speedy expiration (albeit in "flowery-bowery" loveliness) of

Your Confirmed Friend and Admirer,

ITS CUSTODIAN.

"WHAT KATY DID AT SCHOOL"

(By Bettina Birdie)

It was quite obvious what she was trying to do at Varsity, and in this little volume her sister, Miss Bettina Birdie, attempts to explain what she did at school. I must confess I was rather horrified. The scene where she strangles an infant for sucking bulls-eyes in class is frankly revolting. To those who like gore and plenty of it I would recommend this.

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