



SMAD

AN ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION

AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, WELLINGTON, N.Z.

SAME DAY SERVICE.
Wellington Dry Cleaning Co.
 9 LEEDS STREET, C2.
 SUITS AND COSTUMES
 Dry-cleaned and Pressed 4/6
 CREAM TROUSERS — 2/6
 BLAZERS — 2/6
 Vans Collect and Deliver.
 Phone 53-070

PLEASE NOTE!
 Address all communications to
 The Editor, "SMAD," V.U.C.
Subscriptions:
 Price, per copy — 2d.
 Yearly subscription
 (18 copies) — 1/6
Advertising:
 Rates on application to
 Mercantile Newspapers Ltd.,
 Hamilton Chambers, Lambton
 Quay, Wellington. Tel. 41-140

Vol. VI.—No. 2. Wellington, March 20, 1935. Price. Twopence

The S.C.M. Putsch.

Lex Miller Leads Campaign.

The S.C.M. campaign opened on Wednesday last to a quite fair audience (both in number and sex) with Jack Froude as Chairman, anxious to get rid of the choir. Eventually the principal speaker, Lex Miller, agreed to accept it, though without the profusion of thanks that the gift seemed to merit.

The Church, said Lex Miller, was only a company of the whole community just as sinful as the mass, but it had come to see that it had crucified Christ; and this realisation was like a commission laid on it to testify as to God—to point to facts that will help to interpret the real meaning of life.

Facing these facts, we saw, first, that our knowledge was inadequate to explain life. Misfortune, sadness fell on good and bad alike, and there did not seem to be any intellectual solution.

We saw that there was a gap between what man wanted to be and what he was that could not be disclosed by human will.

We saw further that our environment did not minister to our needs.

There were two alternative suggestions: first, the stoic suggestion that we should cut down our desires to the level the world would satisfy. This was the logic of the materialist school.

Secondly, there was the suggestion that we should take this world that did not satisfy us and build a new world. The struggle for a new social order was one aspect of this. But even supposing economic conditions perfect, the world would still be dead because of the perpetual thwarting of our self-expression.

And so we saw that man could not live unto himself. Christ's reign on earth was testimony of this. We knew we were helpless. Christ came to prove it.

The claim that "service" and "brotherhood" ideals were substitutes for religion was refuted by the fact that man was not by nature brotherly, but selfish; and man could not alter this by his own will. With the intervention of Christian man could be seen—not as he was, boorish, dull, but in a new light as the object of God's love.

Mr. Katz suggested that the gap between what man was and what he ought to be could be closed by greater social co-operation. The speaker had said that a world, perfect materially, would be meaningless without a further fact, and he asked us to believe this without one hint of what it was or how it affected us.

Lex Miller replied that Christianity was essentially a supernatural religion and that the new world that came from the knowledge of Christ would always be the most important fact.

Christianity Defined.

On Thursday, Mr. Froude and Miss Feltham spoke on "The Real Problem." Mr. Froude explained that the Christian faith is not a method of running our lives or the world. It is God's Message to us, obedience to which creates a definite

nite community with definite rules. Miss Feltham said the greatest difficulty in the Christian faith was how to live it. A Christian would find help in the intelligent reading of his Bible and in prayer.

Seeking the "Logos."

The attractions of "Chinese White" were not all-absorbing, for on Friday night a few ardent spirits gathered to listen to addresses on the tragedy of being a student.

Miss Hoby, speaking briefly and pleasantly, said that we were here to gain fullness of life. We could not do this without entering into the social life of the college; but above all we must seek with sincerity and courage for the meaning of existence—for the logos.

Mr. Nash described the problems—social, political and intellectual—that confront us. Our solutions to these problems are dependent on our attitude to God, Christ taught the love of God and of our neighbour. In the light of this teaching, the student will use his specialised knowledge to the benefit of the community.

A brisk discussion followed. The chairman (Mr. Miller) dealt ably with many questions. There was a real effort to arrive at the basic proofs of Christianity. Mr. Miller would have it that the vital things in life could not be proved after the manner of a geometrical theorem, but that a man's faith in God was comparable to the certainty felt by lovers.

Prof.'s Perfect Precedent.

Professor Williams shows the proper attitude towards the Professorial Board. He forgot to attend his first meeting.

Prof. Adamson Dons the Gloves.

Professor Adamson's speech at the Law dinner was the most valuable contribution of the evening. Apart from pointing out that the Law Faculty was the most active and influential of all Faculties at V.U.C., he made important points in connection with legal education.

When he arrived in New Zealand he had advocated the establishment of a central law school, the nucleus of which would be provided by giving bursaries to ten students from each province. With such a beginning the school would have grown rapidly and the appointment of teachers who were specialists in their subjects would have been made possible. No man could be such an ubiquitous expert as was required at present. But he was told it would cost too much; "not as much as we are now spending on teaching of law in the four centres," said the Professor. The failure to accept these improvements was due to the parochialism and self-assurance of New Zealanders.

"Chinese White."

AUDIENCE A LITTLE GREEN.

Othello: Sweet soul, take heed, Thou'rt on thy death-bed.
 Desdemona: I never did offend you in my life . . . never loved another man.
 Othello: He hath confessed . . . it is too late. [Smothering her.]
 "Othello," Shaks., v. 2

Sheila (furiously): For heaven's sake, stop. I've told you, it's no good, Gerald. It's over . . . What do you know about my relations with Leslie, anyway? How do you know he wasn't my lover?
 Gerald (losing all control): You — (He shook her by the throat.)

The second passage is from "Chinese White," a melodrama by Val Gielgud, wisely selected by the Dramatic Club as their initial production for the year. Mr. Gielgud, good man of the theatre, has recognised that what was good enough for Shakespeare is good enough for him. I think it would have been better melodrama and less pretentious stuff if he had gone the whole hog and strangled Sheila. He would thereby have gained the sympathy and interest of his audience.

Perhaps the person who contributed most to the success of the piece was the producer. Once again Mr. Edwards created atmosphere and vivid stage-pictures on a confined platform that could not offer the amenities of a padded cell.

The play itself was a simple exercise in melodrama, replete with triangle, wronged wife (?), refined brigandage, virtue far above rime, epigrams, and two magnificent Chinese soldiers, presented with solemn stolidity by Messrs. Katz and Kelly.

One must admit that the Chinese came off with the honours, and in the earlier scene dominated by Nesbitt Sellers' excellent villain, General Wu. We had the strops at and most satisfying scene in the play—grouping, movement and tempo—had an almost professional execution.

Miss Gallagher, confident and unobtrusive, gave a little gem of characterisation as the loyal wife of the resident missionary, the Reverend James. Mr. Sandford was an extremely coy divine.

The burden of the work fell to Miss Nan Welch and Mr. Jack Aimers, as the ill-assorted Havelocks; an unpleasant work it was. The lady is a shallow creature, and her husband a pretty blackguard. Mr. Aimers rather over-blackguard-ed, and perhaps Miss Welch founded a little in the shallows. But such errors they made were due to inexperience and self-consciousness. Changes of mood were taken too violently, movements and gestures lacked spontaneity and the emotional passages did not always have the ring of sincerity. Both young players deserve special mention for the conscientious and intelligent interpretations they offered.

Mr. Jack Coyle played with the part of Leslie Dale. Who could forget his performance in "White Parents Sleep"? The audience couldn't.

In conclusion, one may say that the cast did only as well as a raucous and ill-mannered audience permitted them.

R.B.P.

The Law and the Duke.

We come to Professor Williams.

"Shall I refer to him as J'rof, as Dr., as Jimmy or Bill, or can I, in view of his past achievements, relying on the doctrine of estoppel, just refer to him as 'the fraud,' he being an expert on this branch of the Law?"

So opened Mr. A. T. S. McGhie, when proposing the toast of "Our Guest" at the dinner of welcome accorded by the Law Faculty Club to Professor Williams, our new Professor of English and New Zealand Law. The opening is typical of the friendly spirit which pervaded the gathering of Professors, members of the Bar, and students who met "in informal dress" to dine and drink beer at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel.

Under the keen eye of Professors Adamson and Rankine Brown, Mr. J. C. White, in the chair, managed to propose the loyal toast and, being the first toast of the evening, it was drunk with evident satisfaction.

Toast of the Faculty.

Mr. Cornish, K.C., ex-Professor, etc., of V.U.C., while having to admit that "they still teach Law passably at Otago," acclaimed the Law Faculty as the leading Faculty at V.U.C. and V.U.C. as the leading law school of the Dominion; and proposed the toast accordingly.

Mr. O'Leary recalled the time when he attended the V.U.C., when there was no V.U.C. and when the common-room had been the bar of the Hotel Cecil—"a legal refresher, indeed!"

The Dean of the Faculty

Professor Adamson was cheered by his students when he rose to reply to the Solicitor General's toast on behalf of the Law Faculty and to welcome the youth, vigour and learning of Professor Williams. We trust that his suggestions for reforming the law courses in this country will not go unheeded. In remembering what we owe to Professor Adamson, it is interesting to note that it was energy which led to the establishment of travelling scholarships in law, one of which Professor Williams held.

Our Guest.

Mr. McGhie dispelled disillusion in disclosing that the students were "vital and apprehensively" interested in the present trials of the legal profession. "These times are times of change . . . may the twin reforming stars of Adamson and Williams shine in the legal firmament with a brilliance that knows no setting." Thus he went on in stressing the significance of the appointment of Professor Williams.

"And now time, which in this case is of the essence, is running against me. Let us become engrossed in the articles of our association, remembering that our liability in this respect is unlimited, be the same a little more or less. In order to put no further restraint on your anticipation, I ask you to rise and drink to the retainer in perpetuity of the health of Professor Williams."

We can assure readers that the toast was honoured with a respect and heartiness seldom accorded to any who come amongst us in the role of masters.

The Prof. Replies.

Our anticipation of an interesting reply from Professor Williams was not disappointed; two stories evidencing the parochialism of New Zealanders being part of our fare. He recounted that he had been met by the following remark from an Auckland: "I am glad you were appointed to that position. When are you taking ship to Melbourne?" And also, "In five to seven years you may learn something of the elements of the law, but I can't picture you ever teaching English."

His listeners recognised the earnestness of the Professor's hope to be able to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, and we assure him that his students will loyally extend to him the support, help and co-operation he requested for the full success of his efforts.

Library Expands To Meet Growing Demands.

Let Otago boast its beer and its Medical School, Canterbury its mellow buildings, Auckland its modernity. The pride of Victoria is her library. During the summer months Mr. Brooks and his assistants worked hard and well to provide adequate accommodation for its growing riches. They have fitted up two new rooms, one of which is at present filled with science books. Mr. Miller is, however, anxious that it should not be known as the science room, since he does not intend to use it permanently to the science faculty—a vain wish if another name is not forthcoming. Will the readers of "SMAD" provide the new room with an appropriate name?

The Fine Arts.

The other room is especially pleasant to look at, as befits the home of the fine arts. The Carnegie collection consists of 2200 prints and photographs and 150 books on art. It is the student whose senses have been dulled by laborious days will find it a most refreshing treat.

A great variety of good things are here. He will rejoice in the sober loveliness of the Italian primitives, the graceful beauty of Gothic cathedrals or the perfect perfection of the graceful height of a Gothic us can be indifferent?

The 250 books on the History of Art are varied. We hear that the editors of Cappelrahs have gleaned much from a study of some of the books on the art of advertising. There are books on dress-design. It is pleasant to think that our eyes may be gladdened by dresses with stately and graceful lines. There is a fascinating book on Chinese painting and a daring one, called "Art Now," which is already very popular. But it is useless to mention single books among such an abundance of good things. This room should be the happy hunting-ground of every student.

Unfortunately many students cannot now enjoy this room, since it closes at 5. We hope that in the future it will be open at least some nights in every week.

PLAZA NOW SHOWING;
"MUSIC IN THE AIR"
 (Approved for Universal Exhibition).
 JOHN BOLES AND GLORIA SWANSON
 Direction Amalgamated Theatres, Ltd.

STATE NOW SHOWING;
Grace Moore in "One Night of Love."
 (Approved for Universal Exhibition).
 The Greatest Musical Romance of All Time.
 Direction Amalgamated Theatres, Ltd.

THE STAFF:

General Editor: J. C. White.
Literary Editor: C. M. P. Brown. Literary Associate: E. F. Hubbard.

News Sub-editors:
J. B. Aimers, Miss M. Hursthouse, J. N. Sellers.

Sports Sub-editors:
H. E. Grover, H. R. C. Wild.

Business Manager: Circulation Manager:
H. M. McIntosh, T. Thomas.

Reporting Staff:
A. G. Bagnall, D. R. Currie, D. S. Dean, D. Freeman, Miss G. Gallagher, A. G. Holmes, R. L. Hutchens, A. G. Horsley, D. W. McElwain, N. A. Morrison, Miss P. Ryan, K. J. Scott, K. Tahiri, Miss D. Tossman, Miss N. Webber, D. A. Wilson, B. D. Zohrab.

COMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, 20th—Swimming Carnival, followed by Dance at Miss Webber's Studio.

Friday, 22nd—Debate.

Saturday, 23rd—Boxing Championships at Wellington College.

Monday, 25th—Fencing Club Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, 26th—Free Discussions Club Annual Meeting.

E. MORRIS Jnr. Ltd.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

60 Taranaki Street :: Wellington

Phone 52.159
DAY OR NIGHT

University Tutorial School

Individual Tuition and Small Coaching Classes

Morning, Afternoon and Evening

Degree Subjects:

(Pass and Advanced.)

LANGUAGES:—English, Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian, Spanish.
B.A. and LL.B. LATIN:—Special Arrangements.

SCIENCES:—Pure and Applied Mathematics (including Eng. Calculus),
Physics (including Medical Intermediate), Chemistry.

ENGINEERING:—Complete Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations.
Individual Subjects, or Mechanical, Electrical, Civil and Mining Degrees.

ENGLISH ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS.

Associate Membership and Preliminary Examinations (Civil, Electrical,
Mechanical, Structural).

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND OTHER COURSES.

PARTICULARS ON REQUEST

G. W. VON ZEDLITZ, M.A.

Principal:

MASONIC CHAMBERS, THE TERRACE. Telephone 44-651.

Freedom and Progress.

The recent publication of Mr. de la Mare's excellent pamphlet enables us to view the problem of Academic freedom in an atmosphere uncharged with the explosives of violent controversy, and to see more clearly the hypocrisy that claims to support it while enacting repressive legislation.

And in reviewing this question we must first admit that there can be no natural or innate right to freedom of speech, just as there can be no natural or absolute right to private property or to anything else. The whole matter is one of expediency. The time is undoubtedly coming when these "rights" that block every turn in the present social organisation will recede into the background. In the social arena to-day are opposed two forces, one of which affirms the absolute rights of property, and the other—almost as dogmatic and tolerant though no less inhuman—champions the absolute marks each as a transitory phenomenon that will pass with rights of labour. The prominence of the conception of rights the passing of our economic era.

There is no innate right to Academic freedom, but the cause can be easily defended on grounds of expediency. And the position is very similar to that created by the recent British extension of armaments. For the first few months during which Britain's armaments are extended more rapidly there may be greater relative security, but the further we look into the future the greater the insecurity caused by this move. We see the insidious race started that will not only wipe out the advantage of a relatively greater force but will also increase insecurity through the added temptation to use this carefully extended weapon. So, too, with Dictatorship. If we consider but the day or the month in which we are living, then it is probable that government by a dictator will be more efficient, but if we look to future development then the iron bands of dictatorial repression are seen as a brutal curb.

So our support of Academic freedom will depend on the extent by which we can raise our ideal from the humdrum stability of the moment to the future progress of Society and the development of more just forms of organisation. It depends, too, on whether we can raise our patriotism from a narrow adherence to national interests, to the wider sympathy of world co-operation. The more we believe in the advance of a dynamic Society, the firmer and more vigorous will be our support of Academic freedom.

Change must come, and the more general the understanding of the new philosophy, the less the possibility of violence and the more beneficial the change will be. This is the justification of Academic freedom.

Credo.—1935.

And so you've come. Verve and enthusiasm. The portals of learning—you are through with college—university students now. 'Varsity? Bricks, not storied stones, no dreaming spires, no dim cathedrals, but efficient if eclectic brick. Bricks—a noble pile, dolefully sentimental one crest of this gusty town. 'Varsity—the higher education, well known but alluring. Great minds—England's proudest heritage were university men. Assert yourself now, individual development, culture. Here are scholars—real men—their heritage of the ages. You, too, are men. Go to it!

Wake up, fresher! You start living now. Self-development, chance for original work. Debate the stuff of controversy, tempting reputation for nonconformity. 'Varsity—the quest for truth, eternal, impartial, whithersoever she may... Truth at 'Varsity—well, there are 26,000 books in the library—truth, it is a relative concept—these books are true, if somewhat bloodless. What is truth said jesting? But fresher, attend!

"The words of the book are not true
If they do not act in you..."

There is a credo. Truth? Each age creates its own. Culture? Each age creates its own. Take nothing for granted, fresher. Master your resources. In that only can 'Varsity help you. But the opinions of men are grounded in the past; each philosopher apologises for his own life. Thought, says Bertrand Russell, is a disease, like high blood-pressure. Thought implies breakdown, condemns to Quietism, passivity.

"J. T. Lang was more or less permanently angry with the University because of its 'bourgeois economists,' but he did no damage to it."—Prof. Wood.

Scandal.

"A ring on the finger is worth two in the voice."

Marriages and engagements rained thick and fast during the long Vacation. Zena Henderson and Joey Montjoy, Edna Purdie and Wives, Tim Lambourne and Don Priestley, Zena Jupp and Ken Duff were all among the fallen. The engagements of Enid Cook to Bill Stewart, Marjorie Bell to Phil Webb, Kath McClymont to Harry Bishop were announced. To all "Smad" wishes the best of luck.

Victoria has lost a good friend in Miss Ola Nielsen, who left "to seek her fortune" in England or on the Continent. She hopes to secure a position abroad and remain for some time.

Jack Scholefield, though in distant Timaru, has brought high honours on himself and the College by winning the Bowen Prize for this year.

Torn Tapestry.

Those few noble souls who have gazed with disgust on the piebald dirty, drab hangings in front of the Gym, stage will be delighted to hear that the Dram. Club has succeeded in procuring some first-class draw-curtains. These have been acquired from the trustees of the Teachers Training College, with the assistance of Miss Irvine-Smith, well known as the producer of many fine shows at the T.T.C., Wellington.

The curtains are surmounted by a beautiful pelmet, incorporating the Training College crest, which was designed and painted by Mr. L. T. Watkins, of Wellington. This crest is composed of the lion rampant from the V.U.C. crest, and should the Training College ever be incorporated as a faculty at V.U.C., the crest and colours will be most appropriate.

The Trustees are to be congratulated on finding a suitable home for the curtains.

Short Shift.

By D. BUNKER.

Reviewing the last copy of the new "Smad" (the McGhie issue), we see the McGhie revue in extenso: McGhie the Big Executive, McGhie, the Romantic, McGhie, the Club-consolidator, McGhie the Neck-or-Nothing-Minus Debater (—1051). We hope to read something about V.U.C. in subsequent issues.

In the Cockpit, he vents the wordy homily anticipated from this Flying Scotchman. For A. McG., intellectuals are tinder whereon is struck the spark of genius (these matchless intellectuals!), foundations with towers springing in profusion, and ashes whence phoenixes arise. Every Club and Movement is seared by the liquid fire of his oratory. The McGhie will surely go down to history as the whip that cracked o'er Salamanca. All we need at the moment, however, is that he descend from the chill air of his Olympus before he gets still colder feet.

The raspberry for the most useful information in the last issue goes to the experienced Mr. Morpeth, who in his innocence gives this sifter for the matrimonial stakes.

"For the benefit of freshers, the Cafeteria is situated near the Women's Common Room."

From "Smad's" Super Service: "The students sang the same songs."

Yes, whatever they say about these freshers, the youngsters sure are great singers.

Not academic freedom but literary license was the chief substance of the book review. About the bones of ideas from a well-known thesis, the writer swathes wrapping with all the skill of the reviewer turned undertaker.

The puny child reaches its majority at the end of the first paragraph—a desperate affair of 21 lines—two sentences—221 adjectives—too much!

And what an off-spring! "It is the puny child of cold thought." Readers are agog to see the Product of Hot Thought from this writer's pen next week.

A windy, though well-meant, review, consigned (like all of us) to the timely sarcophagus of Oblivion.

(It is hoped to make the above column a regular feature for critical comment on the preceding week's issue. Any items from readers will be welcome.—Ed.)

"WINNER TAKE NOTHING."

Ernest Hemingway

This book has nothing to do with a local commercial school or the futility of passing exams, but is a volume of short stories of the unconventional type. Hemingway is an American cosmopolitan with a Latin outlook, and consequently there is no trace of moralisation in his stories. To those unfamiliar with his work, his sustained subjectivity may be a little disconcerting and his staccato style condemned as affectation. A further examination will show, however, that his economy of words is most forcible. The fact that his characters in their utterances confine themselves to single sentences and often repeat themselves, may seem unreal; but there is no denying its significance in driving home the author's point. The slightness, or total lack of plot, may be disapproved of on the grounds of obscurity, and in "The Sea Change" the charge would be justifiable, but elsewhere it will have to be conceded that this heightens the effect of realism. This effect is best portrayed in "A Way You'll Never Be"—the revelation of the mind of a shell-shock case. A vein of sly humour runs through nearly all the stories and in some amounting to subtle irony as exemplified in "The Homage to Switzerland."—O.A.E.H.

"The stork is a very valuable bird, inhabiting all sorts of districts. Though it doesn't yield plumes Or sing any tunes, It helps out with the vital statistics."

THE COCKPIT.

RECORDS.

V.U.C.,
8th March, 1935.

To the Editor, "Smad."
Sir,—Steps are at present being taken to obtain a complete series of "Spike," from the first number, with a view to binding and preserving such series as the official record for the Students' Association.

It has been found, however, that certain numbers are missing from the Association's collection, namely:
No. 29 of June, 1916.
No. 34 of September, 1918.
No. 42 of September, 1922.
No. 53 of June, 1922.
No. 54 of September, 1923.

Efforts are being made to obtain these numbers, and I would be very glad if any of your readers who have such numbers and would be prepared to dispose of them to the Students' Association, or who could assist in obtaining such numbers, would communicate with me by means of the letter-rack at College.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.—Yours faithfully,

W. R. GIBBS,
Records Officer.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

A letter has been received from Mr. K. J. Scott objecting to the principle involved in the policy of the Editor in deleting words as "harmless" as "puppet," which was omitted from the Review of Mr. de la Mare's book. This word appeared before the phrase "politicians and bureaucrats," and was omitted by the Editor. The policy of "Smad" in cases where alteration to an article is being considered, is to refer the matter to the author, but on this occasion "time was of the essence," and, as Mr. Scott agrees, the omission of the word did not affect the context.

CAPPICADE.

Last year the frantic efforts of a few individuals, together with the unconscious co-operation of the world's brightest humorists, resulted in a record sale of the 2000 "Cappicades" printed. For the uninitiated, "Cappicade" purports to be a programme associated with the Capping Revue. It is, of course, nothing of the sort; the lists of graduates and performers are merely an excuse to have as much fun with everybody on the printed page as Reddy Phillips has on the stage. Excuse the verse, but we are feeling lyrical at the prospects for this year's "Cappicade." Bigger, brighter and madder than ever is the motto of the "Cappicade" staff.

But we must have help. All those who can assist in any way with sketch drawings or topical articles are invited to leave their names, with an indication of the direction in which they can assist, in the letter rack, by means of a note addressed to Carl Watson, Cappicade-in-Chief. Otago sold 10,000 Capping Programmes last year. Lend your weight, and show them how Victoria does things.

MORE ABOUT SEATS.

Friday, March 1st.

Arising from a letter from the Dramatic Club, the inadequacy of seating accommodation in the gymnasium was considered. The opinion was that the matter should be remedied if finance permitted. Mr Bradshaw pointed out that the continual hiring of chairs meant an unprofitable expenditure of Club money and it was finally decided to ascertain whether extra forms might be obtained from the Training College Hall.

"Here shall the Press the People's right maintain,
Unawed by principle and unbribed by gain.
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,
Pledged to Religion, Liberty and Law."

("New Poems" is obtainable from the Secretary of the Literary Society at 1/- a copy).

Poets Polemics.

"New Poems," selected by Ian Milner and Denis Glover. The Caxton Club Press, Canterbury College, 1934.

It is a greatly heartening thing to know that in New Zealand there are poets whose verse sensitively reflects both the changing scenes in the theatre of our time and the formal currents in the stream of modern poetry. This small volume of verse that the Caxton Club has published is the first attempt to group those New Zealand writers who are uncompromisingly modern in outlook. The book is at once a challenge and a valuable creative venture, represented in the anthology are, by The poets represented in the anthology are by name, Jean Alison, Lawrence Baigent, Charles Brasch, Eric Cook, Allen Curnow, A. R. D. Fairburn, Denis Glover, R. A. K. Mason, Ian Milner, and Carl Straubel. Only two or three of them have made their name and been granted grudging recognition by the pooh-bahs of culture. Yet anyone who is concerned about the prospects of a creative up-surge in this country must look to them. With but a couple of omissions, possibly on grounds of age, the writers of "New Poems" are the most serious poets now writing in New Zealand.

For these are poets who have shaken free from the paralyzing grip of official, bookish "Saturday-supplement" culture. They have broken with the politic literary-column-gossip chit-chat of our miniature "cultural" circles; and with the traditional forms, in whose refurbishing the literary folk expend their time and talent. But this is not the break with tradition for blind revolt's sake. Rather it is the realization that these forms, and the states of mind they express, may continue to exist in the semblance of literature after all life and interest has long ago fled them. As Milner and Glover say in their excellent foreword:

"A predilection for decorative lyricising and emotional embroidery, weakly reminiscent of pre-war Georgian verse, has produced in this country a lifeless growth which, though not necessarily insincere, is in no sense creative."

"The poet," they go on to say, "is the focal-point of awareness in his time, and since we are living in a revolutionary age, some interpretation of its influence is only to be expected. Several of these writers respond more definitely to social stimuli than others. Yet we do not feel they are poetically significant because of their any common interest in social material for itself. What compels our attention is the liberating effect of such material on their verse." That is the key to understanding the poets of this volume. Poets are of the prescient beings; one measures the major issues for their own and immediately successive generations in terms of their sensitive responses. And, emotionally rooted not in fantasy but in life, all these poets agree in seeing the social problem as the pivotal problem, the social locality as the ultimate reality. From their sensitivity to veering social issues, their implied faith in a more creative way of living derives the renowned poetic vigour and pliancy of these poets.

To select only two examples, from the verse of R. A. K. Mason, who extracts the utmost dramatic power from the rhyme, emphasis and regularity of the classical forms, and from the quick and flexible free verse of Ian Milner. In the last stanza of "Youth at the Dance" Mason describes the revolutionary legions of the rising, oppressed multitudes:

"Their faces are more scarred
Than a miner's boot and rough
As a quarry-face and as hard
As a hammer-head, and good tarred
Canvas is not more tough."
And from Milner's impassioned "To the Living":
"Stand together now
And let our anger—measure of our love—
Explode like shrapnel through the stagnant air,
Nerve our fibres
In the acrid savour of renewal,
And hearts recharged with passion,
Let our eyes drink
Here with all men
The clear and equal sunlight of the world." A.K.

Rocks Ahead!

ECONOMICS COURSE.

Conscientious students will by this time have learnt from the best textbooks that Economics is a science. It is essential that, to grasp this idea clearly, as its assists in the cramping of one's ideas on the subject into the circumscribed limits. The economist is very like the man seated beneath the banyan tree studying a book on longevity while a hungry tiger considers him with a pleased look in his eye. Economics consists of erudite commonplaces on a system rapidly becoming effete. It is not within its scope to contemplate any of the philosophical or political developments which every moment threaten to engulf it.

The scientific method of the economist is peculiar to himself. It should be called the "Economic Method." Rather than gather the facts from which to ascertain the truth, he asserts the truth (obtained from some other course) and sets about collecting such facts as will support it. If, as is sometimes the case, he changes his mind, this is due to Progress, which is also responsible when he changes his mind back again.

That a course in economics provides a valuable training in versatility is demonstrated clearly in the diversity of opinion it breeds on any question of importance. As a certain wise man has said, "If all the economists in the world were placed end-to-end they would never reach a conclusion."

I offer a Parliamentary apology if I have suggested that a course in Economics is of very little value.
R.S.O.

PHILOSOPHOMANIA.

The scientist does not sit down to write a thesis on decaying fish or on the contents of garbage-tins, yet the psychologist dotes on the lunatic and his imbecilities. And this prying into putrescent humanity is hidden in a maze of technicalities, complexes, rationalisations and subnormal manifestations, just as the secret opium-smoker hides himself well away from the world before indulging his craving. The psychologist is the first to point out that the constant contact of a teacher with infant minds tends to make his own mind childish. How then does he escape from his own contact with the insane?

Your philosopher is a morbid introspective fellow destroying our hearty humanity and good-fellowship. Remember the wail of Johnson's friend, who "tried to be a philosopher but cheerfulness would keep on coming in."

Condemning civilisation as a mass of repressions, he craves to return to the natural or bestial state. He says I have sex and libido. Well, what of it; I do not ask whether he has corns on his right toe. He criticises the conventions in the present expressions of sex and favours fuller expression. On the same grounds, I suppose, I should murder a man I feel angry with, because it is the natural and primitive thing to do.

Not only would they destroy the beauty of our emotional life, but even thought they destroy. In the olden days one refuted another's argument with logic and reason. Today your long-haired and shaggy psychologist, when outwitted, derides the arguments of his adversary as defence-mechanisms or rationalisations.

The psychologist forms part of the tyranny of modern life. The pacifist won't let us fight, the economic system won't work and won't let us work, the Government won't let us be seditious, and the psychologist own't let us behave decently.

"If an enemy smite thee on the right cheek, let thy subsequent actions be governed largely by his size"

"Every man should know himself, but in doing so he is apt to waste a lot of time that might be spent on making more agreeable acquaintances."

Bob Hall is reliably reported to have said that the present Swimming Club Committee is one of the finest bodies of administrators he has met.

Where to go! How to go!

What are you doing for your Holidays and the summer week-ends? The best idea of all is to go touring or picnicking—in your own car! Get one of the thoroughly dependable Used Cars from Ford Sales and Service Ltd., and enjoy trouble-free motoring wherever you go. Owing to the enormous sales of the new 8-cylinder Ford and the Ford 8-h.p. models, we now have an unsurpassed range of high-grade Used Cars. We have just the car that will suit you, and you can have it on the Easiest of Terms.

Outstanding Values in Used Cars

Call and inspect our big stocks—choose a car that appeals to you—and take it for a Free Trial Spin.

Ford Sales & Service Ltd.

Office and Showroom: Used Car Department: Service Station:
Courtenay Place. Ebor Street. Ebor Street.
'Phone 52-515. 'Phone 51-177. 'Phones 53-270,
54-553.



"This warmth does feel like Sunshine!"

Soft, healthy warmth, with the comfort of sunshine. Warmth ready at a moment's notice. Clean, labour-saving, unflinching.

W.B. HAMM

See the New Colour Finishes

gas fires are recommended by medical men and will solve your heating difficulties in the most economical and satisfying way.

Wellington Gas Company Limited

