

"CRACCUM"

A.U.C's. FORTNIGHTLY SCRAP-BOOK

VOL. I; NO. III.]

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1927.

[PRICE, 3D.

OFFICIAL EFFICIENCY.

By AMANUENSIS.

One of the most striking facts that meet a College statistician is the monopoly of the post of secretary held by Freshers and first-year students. At least 90 per cent. of the College clubs and societies conform to the general rule, while the Students' Association is itself rarely an exception.

The reason is that older students know the amount of work involved. The club secretary's job includes calling committee meetings at which a quorum will be present, taking and subsequently writing up minutes, receiving and dealing with correspondence, calling and organising club meetings, preparing a syllabus and supervising the publication thereof and generally acting as a drudge.

The position of the Secretary of the Student's Association is still more onerous even under the portfolio system, which has cut his work in half. In addition to the routine work above mentioned, which, of course, is proportionately heavier in his case, because of the vastly greater amount and scope of the business transacted, he must keep all Association records and a complete roll of members. The keeping of a petty cash account is also always a nightmare to the unfortunate secretary. It is stated that this position entails two to three hours' work every day.

Without elaborating any further upon the drudgery of a secretary's position, it is desired to point out the inefficiency with which the majority of such positions have recently been filled. This is intended to cast no reflection upon any person or persons, but merely to

point out that the secretarial office imposes unfair burdens on the students who are so public-spirited as to undertake more than their powers warrant. The cold fact, therefore, remains that inefficiency, however involuntary, is and has been rampant. This is evidenced chiefly in the keeping of Students' Association records. This duty is imposed on the executive by the constitution but for several years past has been scrupulously neglected. A minor example of inefficiency is the traditional failure of the secretary to be in attendance for the benefit of students at definitely-fixed (and advertised) periods.

The importance of an efficient secretary can hardly be overstressed. He is the keystone of the committee, the man who makes or mars the club or association. If he is keen and efficient (and not merely well meaning), it thrives. If he be otherwise, it perishes. Here lies the explanation of many moribund societies in College to-day.

Last year the realisation of these facts induced several members of the Association to attempt a remedy. This culminated in a motion at the annual general meeting advocating the establishment of a permanent paid secretary-treasurer. Fortunately, we think, the idea proved repugnant to the meeting and the matter was dropped.

The time now seems ripe for a determined effort to place the routine work of the secretary (both association and club) on a systematic basis, and to emancipate that honorary slave, Mr. Secretary. The following scheme is not claimed as exclusive to "Amanuensis," but, as it is undoubtedly the soundest and most practicable he has no hesi-

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tation in propounding it.

Briefly put, the scheme is this:—The Association should employ a stenographer who would perform the following routine, not only for the Association, but, also, as far as is practicable, for the affiliated societies. (a) Under the secretary's direction type minutes, correspondence, notices, etc.; (b) Be responsible for the sale of Association property and act as general informant for Students on matters relating to student activities, etc.; (c) Keep petty cash accounts of the association; (d) Preserve and bring up to date all Association records.

The employment of such an Amanuensis need not involve a large expenditure on the part of the association, while the greater efficiency and the consequent saving of money would more than compensate for such expenditure as would be necessary. It would not be necessary to employ such stenographer for more than four hours a day. The best times would be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Possibly arrangements could be made for one of the College stenographers to do this work for from 10/- to 15/- per week.

The question of an office for this official might be very easily and cheaply solved by partitioning off that area on the ground floor outside the reading room, and directly below the Matron's room. The furniture should consist of a table, chairs, typewriter, filing appliances, facilities for keeping records, safe, lockers for property, and a cupboard for stationery.

Speaker at trial debate (pausing dramatically before concluding peroration): . . . And what is more

A Voice, wearily: All right. I'll be the mug. What is more?

Prof. Pat: A country which I dare not name

(Why this excessive timidity? —Ed.)

A LONG-LOST PROCESSION.

PROF. BOARD'S SYMPATHY.

" After sympathetic discussion the Board decided to take no action in the matter."

Such was the reply from the Professorial Board received by the executive of Stud. Ass. in answer to its request for permission to hold "a collection in fancy dress for charitable purposes." Obviously the executive by its request hoped to secure the restoration of our long-lost procession. The thin disguise was intended to give the Prof. Board an opportunity of withdrawing gracefully from its uncompromising attitude on the subject if it cared to do so. It had, however, much to recommend it on other grounds.

The Prof. Board, however, after a "sympathetic" discussion, puts its foot down. The Board's sympathy will doubtless be welcome to students, but might perhaps have been even more so had it taken a slightly more practical form. Because of some alleged indiscretions committed years ago, the students of the College are to have no more processions so long as the present Prof. Board holds the reins of power. The students who committed the indiscretions are past and gone so far as the College is concerned, but the students for the time being are apparently to be punished through all generations.

A "sympathetic" Prof. Board decrees that not even once a year shall the students unite in even a few hours of real care-free jollity. For us the procession takes the place held by a national festival in a larger community. It is the only festival of the year in which all students can join in and work together with a will. It is the only event which enables a considerable body of students to throw off the shackles of toil for a brief period of perfect relaxation. It is the only festival which allows a considerable body of present students to come be-

fore the public eye at one time.

We thank the Prof. Board for its "sympathy."

THREE PRESIDENTS.

A weighty man with beard of gold,
Professor of a language old,
With eyes of blue and collar too
(His coat and shoe of russet hue)
With golden hair and gentle air,
Fill maidens fair with deep despair,
When coming late they hear their fate
In language mournful and sedate:
"Too late, too late, you're far too late,
You cannot enter now."

* * *

The Honourable's a gentleman of credit and renown;
He's quite the nicest gentleman of all in Auckland town.
He's loved the students all his days,
And treats them with affection.
When in the library they gaze,
With awe at his collection.

* * *

As a member for Stud Ass. he's been with us long,
Wee Davie from over the border;
But how he persistently harps on this song:
"Sit down, sir, you're quite out of order."

MEN'S TELEPHONE.

In consequence of the frequent abuse of their privileges by men students the Executive of Stud. Ass. has decided not to permit bureau calls on the men's telephone in future. At a recent meeting of the Executive the treasurer, who had been asked to suggest possible ways of preventing abuses, stated that the present position was most unsatisfactory and that the best remedy would be to cut out bureau calls altogether. A resolution to this effect was carried, and instructions will be given to the Postal Department accordingly.

"CRACCUM."

It is with pleasure that we record the increasing success and prosperity of "Craccum." Aided by a vigorous selling campaign, the second number was almost sold out on the day after publication. But for certain expenditure of a non-recurring nature this number would have produced a profit. Actually it resulted in a loss of a few shillings. The first number, which contained fewer advertisements, and did not sell so freely, resulted in a loss of approximately £2 10s. It is confidently anticipated that future issues will produce profits, and with good fortune the deficit on the first two issues should be wiped off by the end of the term. After that "Craccum" may be expected to become a source of revenue.

On the literary side "Craccum" is equally prosperous, but contributions show a determined tendency to arrive too late. All matter should reach the Editor not later than the Wednesday of the week prior to publication. Anything received later than this can receive only the scantest consideration. "Craccum's" most urgent need is for brief jottings of a humorous type. If every reader would note down every amusing incident connected with College life coming under his or her notice and drop the note in the box provided, the problem would solve itself.

COLLEGE DANCES.

Three Stud. Ass. dances, excluding Freshers' Welcome and the Tournament Ball, will be held in the College during the first term. The dates are: Next Saturday, April 9 (when 'Varsity blues will be given out); April 30 (after the Easter vac.), and May 14 (the last Saturday of the term). During the second term dances will be held fortnightly, commencing on the first Saturday. The orchestra is Mr. Ron. Muston's, and admission 2/6.

GOWNS FOR MEN.

The decree has gone forth from those in high places in the Women's Common Room that in future gowns shall not be lent to men students en masse. Individuals may, it is understood, still obtain gowns on urgent occasions, in return for a sufficiency of grateful smiles (particularly if they be pleasing of countenance and charming of manner). At the trial debate it was noted that two speakers did not wear gowns, but it is not known whether their grateful smiles, pleasingness of countenance or charm of manner failed to come up to the specifications, or even whether the edict referred to had anything to do with the matter at all. It is not clear what will be the attitude of the authorities if 50 students apply for gowns individually on the same day.

THE TRIAL DEBATE.

The trial debate for the selection of A.U.C.'s two representatives in the Tournament Debate at Easter was held in the College Hall on March 29. The speakers were Messrs. R. W. Towers, R. A. K. Mason, C. R. Straubel, L. G. Usher, S. Black, N. A. Leonard, and E. P. Wills. Professor Anderson, who acted as judge, placed the winning speakers in the following order:—Messrs. Leonard, Black, Straubel and Usher.

TOURNAMENT BILLETING.

One hundred and twenty—that is the number of delegates from southern Colleges who will be arriving in Auckland at Easter. And A.U.C. has undertaken to billet them all. It does not require a very wonderful imagination to see how difficult the problem is. Can you do your part? Think it over—seriously. If you can billet a delegate of either sex send your address at once to the Editor, or to Mr. N. A. Leonard, P.O. Box 1120, City.

"THE MANSIONS."

Mansionites made a commencement of their social activities with an eminently successful picnic and dance last Saturday afternoon and evening. After a little delay (cause unexplained, but believed to be due to the non-arrival to time of essential portions of the outfit), the party left the launch steps at about 2.30 p.m., in Mr. Griffith's launch, bound for Drunken Bay. The picnic proved so enjoyable that it was 9 p.m. or later before the picknickers arrived back at "The Mansions."

The party unfortunately were unable to obtain the opinion of the finny tribe as the quality of the Cafeteria luncheons. The sea was too calm. Dancing in the ballroom brought to a close a function so enjoyable that it will not be surprising if there should be a demand for an encore before long.

TOURNAMENT BOXING.

Students' concession tickets for the finals of the Tournament Boxing Championships to be held in the Town Hall on Easter Saturday evening may be obtained at the Cafeteria. Price, 1s. 6d. A special block will be reserved for students. All who would be willing to assist as door-keepers or ushers are requested to hand in their names to Mr. G. Lennox-King, per letter rack.

It is rumoured that at the half-yearly general meeting of Students' Association the real meeting commenced after the president had vacated the chair.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

STUD. ASS. FINANCE.

Sir,—Your article by "Bankrupt" on College Finance is such an indictment of the Students' Association Executive that I feel constrained to reply to it.

(1) **Building Fund.**—This is to be reduced by (a) the surplus profits, if any, of the Carnival Play, (b) the appropriation of excess of revenue over expenditure in any one year, (c) the allocation of 10 per cent. of the consolidated subscription. This has been a definite policy of the Executive and is the only efficacious way of reducing the debt. I might also point out that it would be rather presumptuous of the Council to demand interest on a promised gift. It is not advisable at present to ask students to emulate the "Spartan" example of their predecessors, especially since the institution of the College fee.

(2) **Maintenance.**—The question of depreciation of the Students' block is a question for its owners, the College Council, who, no doubt, have not overlooked the matter. The furnishings and fittings are not at present under the control of the Students' Association. When such is the case it will be time enough to consider provision for its depreciation. Within a few years the Students' Association will have a guaranteed revenue of over £1000 per annum, when it will be in a position to make such a provision.

(3) **Tournament Fund.**—Hitherto tournament expenses have been satisfactorily defrayed out of current revenue, and the necessity for a separate fund does not yet seem apparent.

(4) **Instability.**—(a) The Students' Association is not a financial organisation, and its prime duty is to foster student interests and not to make "nest eggs." (b) It has been and is the policy of the Executive to meet its promised obligation before setting itself out to create reserves. It is apparent then that executives in the past have not been inaugu-

rating new policies but have been aiming at the same objective. (c) Financial Committee: Your article casts serious aspersions on the ability of the commercial students of the College, from whom are recruited its treasurers. It is moreover not advisable to have Council interference on funds raised by students and for students, an action which would not be favoured by them. (d) Continuity of Executives: It is quite apparent that since most executive members hold office for several years there is in effect sufficient continuity in the personnel of the Executive to ensure the pursuit of a stable policy.

D. H. STEEN.

THE UNIVERSITY UNION.

Sir,—I have read with interest the letters by "One of the Many," and by Mr. C. R. Straubel in your last issue. Mr. Straubel's letter appeals to me as a genuine attempt to throw light on the problem. He says, however, "the end can be attained by existing means." He may be right, but many courageous efforts to attain the end wholly or in part have failed in their entirety. He also says "the students, the only people who count," and "the College exists because of the students and for the students," etc. This is true, but the College exists also for the purpose of increasing the knowledge and completing the education of its students in every possible manner and so improving their status and increasing their usefulness, both as a class and as individuals in a critical world. These objects are not to be attained by shutting out the world or by rejecting the assistance, society, or co-operation of past students. Older and greater universities than ours seek such means of creating a life-long allegiance on the part of their students, and in consequence their dignity is acknowledged and their influence felt wherever their students go. Such universities usually have something in the nature of a union such as that

under discussion. In conclusion I do not wish to support slavishly a scheme not yet fully expounded but I do suggest that a broad and generous outlook which takes heed of the lessons of the past and builds for a glorious future is more to be desired than a narrow exclusiveness or a dispute as to whether Mahomet or the mountain should move.

ANOTHER OF THE MANY.

Dear Sir,—I note that in your last issue several letters have appeared opposing the idea of a Union. So far as I am aware, the scheme has been approved by the Students' Association Executive, but has not yet been declared in detail to students. Surely it would be wiser if Mr. Straubel and your other contributors waited until a practical scheme was placed before them before hurling stones in the face of the idea.—Yours faithfully,

GRADUATE.

Sir,—Yes, the same, and yet not the same. A more mellow something has crept into our College building. To those who remember its painful newness last year, the change is most apparent. A forerunner, we hope, of better things to come. There are those among us who remember with affection the old associations and recall with loathing the weird old building which housed them. Yet a little while and we shall have transplanted securely in their proper home the traditions, the ideals, and the aspirations that go to make up our real University life. Let us encourage the process by retaining with us the interest and influence of those who have in the past unselfishly striven to give as well as take—those who really lived the College life. From these who have "dropped out" of active University life comes the proposal of a University Union. Such a body, linking up all members of the University from Council to undergraduate, cannot fail to bring back to our College life much that it has lost. Our College

turns out men and women as well as Bachelors and Masters. It functions then as our true Alma Mater. Such is the vision. Ours is the opportunity. Let's form a Union.

OLD-TIMER.

"CROOKS, LTD."

Sir,—One or two examples of a misapprehension as to the means adopted in selecting the company of "Crooks, Ltd.", have come to my notice and the producer and others have had a similar experience. This seems to me a matter of extreme regret, and your readers may be interested to know the true position. When the "Book" was finally completed some two or three of the principal parts were almost beyond dispute, the parts having been created to provide scope for those players who were known to be available. There remained some ten or so speaking parts and the remainder of the company to be found. A number of students known to be interested were approached and tried in different parts at the end of the vacation, but only a couple more parts could be regarded as even tentatively allotted at this stage. As soon as term opened a general invitation was issued to attend a meeting, but no applicants for the parts allotted appeared, and after considering all the material available a final selection was made. No members of the chorus or orchestra were enrolled prior to this meeting. No applicant has yet been refused a place in the chorus. No persons or interests were set aside or discouraged and every manifestation of interest or support is welcomed.

J.M.S., Business Manager.

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

Sir,—I have recently noticed a letter appearing in your first issue over the signature of "Undergraduate." Your correspondent suggests that the women students should have greater representation on the Students' Association and that they should be eligible even for the distinguished office

of president. It is hard to understand how such a proposition can be seriously made. Women, and in particular women students, are notoriously unversed in business affairs, and the object of giving them representation on the Executive should be only to ensure that matters of concern to the women students are brought forward. For this purpose one Vice-President and three members should be sufficient. The need of the executive is for men of business ability.

COMMONSENSE.

CAFETERIA JELLY CUBES.

Sir,—I noticed in your last issue reference to the cubes of jelly supplied to students in the Cafeteria. Consequently I have carried out a series of investigations on this interesting subject. Armed with a six-inch rule, micrometer screw gauge and other necessary impedimenta I have examined the said cubes over a period of a week and have obtained the following figures:—Minimum cubical content, 2.25 cubic ins.; maximum cubical content, 4.50 cubic ins.; mean cubical content, 3.12 cubic ins. The number of cubes investigated was 12. In order to arrive at comparative results I examined the cubes (or rectangles) supplied to the Hon. Secretary of the Students' Association and found that he received an average of about 5 cubic inches. Possibly the President of the Association (whose cubes I have unfortunately not been able to observe) would receive a cubical content sufficient to sustain the average student. As I intend publishing the full details of this research in the Home Science Journal I shall leave the subject at this stage.

SCIENTIST.

A CHAIRMAN'S ACTION.

Sir,—The high-handed action of the Chairman of Students' Association in the general meeting on March 30 is past comprehension. He uses his official position to put forward one point of view concerning the proposed University

College Union and then allows no discussion on the matter. How can students be expected to take an interest in Students' Association activities when all free speech is banned in a general meeting of the Association? Why are students lured to a general meeting by a notice inviting them to come and air their opinions when no opportunity is given for free expression? It is customary for a chairman before closing a meeting to invite discussion on any matter which a member might wish to bring up. Is the Students' Association no longer a democracy?

STUDENT DEMOCRAT.

A FRESHER'S GRATITUDE.

Sir,—I am sure that in attempting to thank, through the columns of "Craccum," the women graduates and past year students of the College for the hearty welcome extended to us, the "Freshers," I will meet with the approval of one and all of the first year undergraduates. Of course it will be understood that, being a girl, I speak only for the girls. We are more than grateful for the manner in which we have been received into an already large community. Everywhere, from our first day of entering A.U.C., we have been met with genuine smiles of encouragement and kindly words of welcome or of warning. The "hail fellow, well met" tone which is so predominant in the social life of the College is nowhere so pronounced as in the Common Room. We have much pleasure in accepting the hospitality of this Common Room, and hope to spend many happy hours there "in goodly company." We thank the students, both men and women, who have arranged the pleasing round of functions which have made our introduction to University life, instead of the terrifying affair it might have been, the pleasant, never-to-be-forgotten event it has proved to be. We wish "Craccum" a long and successful life, which we will each and all attempt to foster.

RETA.

A PICTURESQUE PLEA.

Sir,—I notice that a number of pigeons at times frequent the College buildings, particularly in the neighbourhood of the tower. I hope students will do nothing to discourage them, but will so far as possible encourage them to regard the College buildings as their home and persuade them to grow comparatively tame. The architecture of the tower makes it an admirable home for the birds. A flock of pigeons would add greatly to the picturesqueness of an already picturesque building. Students could encourage the pigeons by scattering tit-bits of food on the grass for them, and perhaps providing them with a special feast of partridge peas.

BIRD-LOVER.**FIELD CLUB ACTIVITIES.**

Sir,—We, the two people who studied ecology under an umbrella on Rangitoto last year, resent the frivolous tone of an eminent Professor in describing the excursion at the annual general meeting of the Field Club.

RESENTFUL.

P.S.—We did study ecology.

P.P.S.—We caught some orchids and a cold.

THE CAFETERIA.

The College Cafeteria, one of the chief conveniences offered to students since our occupation of the new building, is not such a wonderfully successful institution financially that it can continue to exist without the full support of every student. At lunch time particularly, it is frequently as deserted as the mathematics lecture room towards the end of a lecture. The average number of students who lunch at the Cafeteria daily is scarcely half a hundred. As the margin of profit on shilling meals cannot be large under any circumstances, it is very apt to disappear when the turnover is so small. If every student lunching away from home

were to wend his or her way to the Cafeteria in preference to lunching at tea-rooms in town, the said student would in after years be able to look back with pride to having done at least something to assist at least one of the most valuable of our College institutions in the days of its infancy.

"KIWI'S" HOUR OF NEED.

The first number of the "Kiwi" will be published on Monday, May 2. The prize competitions have already closed, but the material so far received is far from sufficient to make a "Kiwi" worthy of its predecessors. Further contributions are urgently needed to save the "Kiwi" from sudden death by starvation. Every student is earnestly implored to contribute something to its nourishment before it is too late. Whatever is done must be done quickly, for all contributions should reach the Editor before Easter. Secretaries of clubs and societies should note that if notes of the activities of the organisations which they represent are not received before Easter they cannot be published.

It is reported that the soap has mysteriously disappeared from the washbasins in the men students' quarters. No credence is given to the theory that a student is going to have a bath or to the suggestion that the Professorial Board intends to hold a bubble-blowing contest at the conclusion of its next meeting. It is believed, however, that as a result of the combined action of water and constant attrition, some at least of the soap may have found its way down the drain. It is hoped that Professor Wirly will take up the drain, grind the pipes to a fine powder, boil them for several days, and take the necessary steps to recover any of the soap that may have adhered to the sides of the pipes.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.**LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.**

The annual meeting of the Auckland University Law Students' Society was held at the University College on March 18. Professor R. M. Algie presided.

The election of officers resulted: President, Professor R. M. Algie; vice-presidents, Mr. W. R. L. Vallance and Mr. W. H. G. Kensington; hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. East; treasurer, Mr. H. J. Butler; committee, Mr. S. D. E. Weir, Mr. M. S. Walker and Mr. S. N. von Sturmer.

Professor Algie briefly outlined the proposed activities of the society for the ensuing year, including a series of lectures by prominent barristers of the city, and mock trials and stated cases for argument by the students. The social activities of the society will include the annual law ball, as well as several minor social gatherings to be held in the College.

AUCKLAND FIELD CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Auckland Field Naturalists' Club was held on March 28, over 60 members being present.

The president, Professor H. H. Corbin, urged the formation of a central permanent West Coast camp, which would stimulate interest in the Waitakere Ranges from the Manukau to Te Henga.

Lantern slides of the club's activities, prepared by Miss M. G. Schmidt, were shown during the evening.

The following officers were elected:—President, Professor H. H. Corbin; vice-presidents, Professor J. C. Sperrin-Johnson, Messrs. T. L. Lancaster, G. Archey, L. T. Griffin, R. A. Falla, P. R. Parr, W. A. Macky, S. F. Meiklejohn, K. McKenzie, and W. E. la Roche, and Mrs. R. M. Webber; student chairman, Mr. L. Lidgard; secretary, Miss O. Lloyd; committee, Misses M. G. Schmidt, L. M. Cranwell, and Messrs. L. J. Dumbleton, L. H. Briggs and L. Lucena.

ON DIT.

That "Craceum" is supplying a long-felt need.

* * *

That the man who can do the alleged two minute walk from the College to "The Mansions" (see Stud. Ass. handbook) in that time is a certainty for the mile walk at tournament.

* * *

That if you send your jokes to the Editor, he will "Craceum," and that he will do the same to aspiring poets who bring manuscripts during the lunch hour.

* * *

That last week's Fashion Notes omitted all reference to that new and tight little coat with two cute rows of buttons down the front—double-yolked we think is the name.

* * *

That at the smoke concert on March 25 "fizz" thinned out a bit toward the end.

* * *

That the ink supplied in the lecture rooms is not to be used for filling fountain pens, making splashes on the walls, or otherwise wastefully.

* * *

That a women's "indignation meeting" to opose the University Union was rather a fizzle.

We note that many youths about the College are bristling with importance—on the upper lip.

* * *

The Cafeteria is now in full swing. If you eat till you are full they swing it in.

* * *

Students will be glad to hear that last year's matinee idol, Mr. A. H. H. F—R—, is taking lectures once again.

* * *

Fresher, hopefully: "I want a badge, please. And can I have one with fern leaves round it. They are much nicer than the others."

A most unusual orderliness and stillness has of late descended on the "tin shed." The reason is not far to seek. For where engineers and such-like wild creatures were formerly wont to frolic undisturbed the rustle of flowing gowns now mingles with the flapping of coarse overalls. The feminine invasion has at last reached even the "tin shed," one of the last exclusive strongholds of man, and two women have dared to take a calculus lecture in company with the uncouth race of engineers.

* * *

Professor Paterson did not, as has been alleged, describe freshers as "cacaphonous." He would not be so rude. He did, however, refer to "that cacaphonous word 'fresher.'" No aspersion was thereby cast on the characters of freshers in general.

* * *

Freshers are warned not to place too much faith in the rumour that at Freshers' Welcome the president of Students' Association was observed by certain freshers playing leap-frog in evening dress in the Men's Common Room. Ice cream does not affect him in that way.

* * *

Freshers are requested to take notice that there is a very clearly-marked distinction between a "reading room" and a "swotting room" (especially at the beginning of the year). The room next the Men's Common Room is a Reading Room.

* * *

Supper at "The Mansions" is at 9.15 p.m. The only time that anything like a full attendance can be secured at a meeting of Mansionites is at 9.15 p.m. Is this mere coincidence, or cause and effect?

* * *

A highly successful smoke concert was held by the Men's House Committee in the Men's Common Room on March 25. There was an attendance of about 50, mostly freshers. There was "fizz" and good cheer in abundance.

It is reported on the best authority that the draw for Deb. Soc's. trial debate for the selection of Tournament representatives was made out of John Stevenson's hat. Objectors wishing to protest against such a reprehensible practice should consult the Registrar immediately.

* * *

Within the sacred cloisters of A.U.C. the wearing of gowns is fast coming to be recognised as a sin, brazen and shameless. A.U.C.'s attitude was neatly expressed by the fresher who said "Excuse my wearing a gown. There's a hole in my trousers."

* * *

Extract from the "New Zealand Herald," March 16, 1926:—"Professor A. B. Fitt, of Auckland University College, who is at present abroad on a year's leave, will spend most of his time in close association with the chief universities. He will make New York his headquarters until about September, and will then go West.

[This information comes as rather a surprise, as the professor was very fit when he left Auckland, and it was not anticipated that he would go West during his year's leave of absence.—Ed.]

* * *

It is rumoured that a "Toothbrush Club" is now being formed in College, membership to depend only on membership of Students' Association and the cultivation of a toothbrush, conforming to certain minimum specifications as to quality and shape. It is understood that rules are now being drawn up which will allow sufficient latitude in regard to size and shape to suit all ages and tastes.

* * *

Yes. Professor Paterson said "the terrors of the College office"—plural, not singular.

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