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**EASTER TOURNAMENT
AT WELLINGTON**

April, 1928

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Vol. 2, No. 2

AUCKLAND, March 22, 1928

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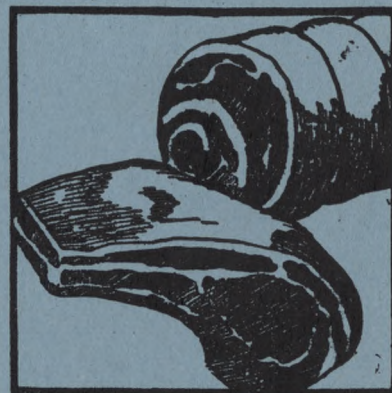
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VOL. II.—NO. 2

MARCH 22, 1928

PRICE : 3d.

COPY FOR NEXT
ISSUE SHOULD
BE IN BY
MARCH 29th.
PUBLISHED
APRIL 5th.

"THE GROUSER"

The word "grouser" is not dignified English, but it is expressive and worthy the task it has to fill in this article. It is unworthy of a University College, but very apt when used in describing certain people who attend lectures at our College without ever really belonging to it in any real sense. We refer to those people who take all the scholastic benefits they can enjoy, all the arrangements that are made by others—the Executive and the various committees of clubs and societies—and give in return nothing but destructive criticism. They have not the courage of their convictions. They would rather betray one side of the question to a newspaper, and thus hide their own identity, than carry their complaints to the proper quarter. This hitting from behind newspapers or shouting under concealment of a crowd would be wrong even if the provocation were great; but when it amounts to deliberate misrepresentation, it is merely cowardly and dishonest, unworthy of a primary school.

The immediate cause of this article is the receipt, from the Tennis Club Captain, of a letter in which he answers some few of the irresponsible "growls" that are the small talk of the Common Room loungers. There is no Club in College which has achieved so much in so short a time, as the Tennis Club. When the new buildings were opened in 1926 the area occupied by the tennis courts was a wilderness. Largely owing to the efforts of such enthusiasts as Mr. R. B. Hardy, and the financial assistance of the College Council, by September of the same year, six courts were ready for play. In 1927 Auckland won the Tennis Shield at the Easter Tournament, a fact which was largely responsible for Auckland also winning the Tournament for the first time. The few who did the work in having the courts formed were responsible for the arrangements which made it possible for Auckland to win such distinction last year. They are still the few who do all the work, both manual and executive. Yet there are people in College who can think of nothing better to do than maliciously criticise them.

This is only a particular case of "grousing." The practice is only too general. *Craccum* suffers under the same disabilities. For the first issue, two contributions were received. For this issue the position is little better. In spite of this, your fortnightly is criticised in College, by those who make no effort to improve the standard. Those who sell *Craccum* are told that it is not worth the price. The price is the minimum that can be charged to avoid financial loss. The paper can serve a very useful purpose if it circulates freely among the students and reflects the opinions of College people. It cannot do this if it is mainly written by one man. Here is the place where you can air your grievances. It must be understood, however, that before

NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The following resignations from the Executive were accepted with regret : Mr. E. F. Thompson (vice president), Miss D. Neely and Mr. N. S. Alexander (hon. secretary). The vacancies were filled by Mr. A. K. Turner, Miss L. O. Lloyd and Mr. E. D. Robins.

An application for permission to use the tennis courts at times when students were not requiring them was declined. While the Association was in sympathy with the difficulties of the applicant, a school, it was felt that as a matter of policy refusal was imperative.

A committee has been set up to investigate the possibility of entering into negotiations with a local bookseller for the supply of text books at a more reasonable price than at present prevails.

It has been decided to hold a special general meeting to revise the present constitution, which contains many anomalies and is lacking in provision for such matters as the conducting of such institutions as the Dining Hall.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28th, 1928
TRIAL DEBATE *SELECT
YOUR
TEAM!*
FOR THE EASTER TOURNAMENT

*Remember that all the "Nobs" at Varsity join
the Debating Society.*

a letter is published in *Craccum* the contents are referred to any person directly criticised, although the name of the writer will be kept as confidential.

The threepence you pay is not as much as the editor's tram fares which come out of his own pocket, when he goes to collect proofs from the printer. Besides that, he has the work of editing, and, as a reward, he, like other responsible people about College, gets censure only and little or no help.

If you don't like anything about a Club or Society, or the way the Executive does its work, it is your job to effect improvements. If you don't like doing things yourself, let your criticism be frank and honest—and lodge it in the right quarter. Most of the responsible officials at College would be glad of your ideas first hand. They would all welcome your assistance in such matters as pulling rollers and writing articles. Finally, *Craccum* is convinced that we are oversupplied with destructive critics. Don't make the glut worse; do something yourself.

A.U.C. Sporting Notes

FOOTBALL CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following officers were elected at the meeting held in the Law Lecture Room on March 14th: President, Prof. R. M. Algie; Club Capt., Mr. M. R. O'Shea; Selector, Mr. F. Lucas; Junior Selector, Mr. T. Keegan; Delegates to Rugby Union: Messrs. Lucas, Keegan, and Harding; Delegate to Junior Advisory Board, Mr. A. Craig; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Boddely; Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. O'Halloran; Committee, Messrs. N. Jenkin, Dodd, McKay, Anderson, Harrop, McLaren, Bark.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Report disclosed all-round progress in every grade. For the first time in its history, College has had two Senior teams. Two teams were entered in the Second Grade and three in the Third Grade. A pleasing feature of the Club's present policy is the practice of having Colts' teams in both Second and Third Grade. These cater for young members who have recently left Secondary Schools, and have been distinguished by unusual keenness, resulting in fine playing records. The Third Grade Colts deserve special mention as the winners of the Rugby Union's Championship.

The social side of the game has not been neglected. Teams, during the year, visited Dargaville, Waihi, Hamilton and Te Awamutu and put up very creditable performances. Players in all grades look forward to these trips, and they make for a good deal of club loyalty, apart from the enjoyment of a jaunt into the country.

This year a visit will probably be made to Fiji, and it is hoped that our best players will make an effort to do the trip. Two years ago when a visit was paid, our team came back with wonderful stories of Fijian hospitality, and those who make this trip are assured of a very warm welcome.

At a special meeting of delegates to the Auckland Rugby Union in November, our delegates were successful in having the following alteration made in Rule 35 (b), Sub-Section (g) passed. The clause now reads: "In the event of any club entering a team in each Senior Section, any player shall be allowed to play for either section provided that a player having played three matches in Section A shall not be allowed to play for the B Section without the consent of the Management Committee." The effect of this will be to allow our Senior B players to have the chance of promotion at any time during the season. Previously the two teams were treated as separate clubs and formal transfers only could be made, and then not after June 30th.

Owing to wet weather last year, the innovation of using the College lighted area was not a success. The incoming committee is recommended to take steps to procure the use of a training shed.

The meeting, as far as attendance is concerned, was a record. All bodes well for a very successful year. Our old players seem keen to turn out again, and our new-comers contain such formidable people as a Scottish international and an Otago representative, to say nothing of the large influx of schoolboy champions.

TENNIS NOTES

The sole selector announces the following team to represent A.U.C. at Wellington next Easter. The team is a particularly fine one and should have very good prospects of retaining the shield. It is interesting to note that A. Steadman is in the finals of the Remuera Club and K. A. North the finals of Eden and Epsom. This should be very satisfactory to the selector.

TOURNAMENT TEAM (Tennis)

Men's Singles : A Steadman, K. North.

Men's Doubles : North and Hardy, Steadman and Steadman.

Women's Singles : Miss P. Miller, Miss E. Miller.

Women's Doubles : Misses P. and D. Miller, Misses Whitelaw and Mueller.

Combines : Steadman and Miss Whitelaw, Hardy and Miss P. Miller.

The Annual Club Championships were commenced on Saturday last. The following are the progress results :

MEN'S A GRADE SINGLES

First Round : McDonald beat Aubin, 6—0, 6—4; G. Bowden beat Hardy, 8—6, 6—4; A. K. Turner beat Craig, 6—3, 6—1; Hubble beat E. Turner, 6—1, 6—3; Robins beat J. Steadman, by default; Nicholson beat W. Bowden, 6—0, 6—1.

Second Round : Hubble beat Robins, 6—0, 6—1.

MEN'S DOUBLES

First Round : Nicholson and E. Turner beat Schnackenberg and McKillop, 6—1, 6—3; Neill and Harrison beat Kaa and Averill, 6—3, 9—7; Hardy and North beat Scott and McDonald, 6—3, 6—2.

Second Round : Nicholson and E. Turner beat Neil and Harrison, 6—0, 6—4; Hubble and A. K. Turner beat Black and Simmers, 6—0, 6—0; Bowden and Bowden beat Houchen and Jenkin, 6—1, 6—2.

MEN'S B GRADE SINGLES

First Round : Hume beat Smith, by default; Houchen beat Collins, 6—1, 6—4; E. Smith beat Schischka, 6—2, 6—1; Schnackenberg beat Wilkinson, 6—1, 6—1; Black beat G. Adams, 6—8, 6—3, 6—3; Syme beat L. Smith, 3—6, 6—3, 6—0; Gilmore beat Freeman, 6—2, 6—3; G. R. Turner beat Herbert, 4—6, 6—3, 6—3; Bullen beat A. Miller, 6—8, 6—0, 11—9; T. Wilson beat Kaa, 2—6, 7—5, 7—5.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

First Round : Miss Batty beat Miss Garry, 6—1, 6—4; Miss Clevely beat Miss Gallagher, 6—4, 6—4.

Second Round : Miss Whitelaw beat Miss Howell, 6—2, 5—7, 10—8.

COMBINED DOUBLES

First Round : Nicholson and Miss Whitelaw beat G. Turner and Miss Webster, 6—0, 6—0.

Second Round : Miss Mueller and Turner beat McDonald and Miss Howell, 6—3, 6—2; Hardy and Miss P. Miller beat Averill and Miss Anderson, 6—2, 6—1.

ATHLETICS

The Annual General Meeting of the Athletic Club was held last week. A very successful gathering was attended by some thirty members, which is a record gathering for this club.

Officers were elected as follows: Patron, Prof. J. P. Rossemann; President, W. R. L. Vallance, Esq.; Chairman, Mr. P. C. Minns; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. G. G. L. McLeod; Committee: Messrs. F. Vallance, R. Tizard, J. S. Watt, G. King.

It was decided to hold the inter-faculty meeting on Wednesday, March 21st. Until that time all students were to be given an opportunity of benefiting by the trainer. This has resulted in a large number of the Club's members being seen each evening in the Domain.

The Tournament team will be selected immediately after the inter-faculty meeting and will enter immediately into very serious training for the Easter Tournament. The committee has appointed Messrs. W. R. L. Vallance, M. M. Flynn, F. J. Cox and G. G. L. McLeod selectors of the team and has expressed the wish that no representative should go to Wellington unless his time is below the New Zealand 'Varsity standard time for his distance.

T. E. Henry, the Auckland middle distance runner, is in fine fettle. It is a great pity he isn't eligible to run for A.U.C. this year. The fact that he is this year taking further subjects for L.L.M. will render him eligible to represent next year, and with his help we should then offer strong opposition to the Southern Colleges at the 1929 Tournament. P. C. Minns, J. S. Watt, C. Whitten, F. Vallance, R. Tizard and G. McLeod have been consistently at work lately and the training they are doing should reveal itself in some good times being put up at Inter-faculty.

A pair of good freshers Munroe and Garlick, have been training consistently, and we should hear of them at Inter-faculty.

The Staff Cup will not be left in doubt this year, and it seems almost certain that T. E. Henry will annex this much coveted trophy, while J. S. Watt will probably be a close second.

The enthusiasm which characterises the younger runners in the College is most encouraging and augurs well for the success of the Club in the early future.

LITERARY CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Literary Club, held on Friday evening, the 16th March, resulted in the election of the following officers for the present year: President, Prof. Egerton; Deputy-President, Mr. P. S. Ardern; Vice Presidents, Prof. Anderson, Miss Brierly; Student Chairman, Mr. T. Hudson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. L. McLeod; Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. H. Sagar; Committee: Misses Phillips, Jiffery, Walker; Messrs. Straubel and Bowden.

The members expressed their satisfaction in the report and balance sheet as read, and proposed votes of thanks to the retiring officers for the very generous help the Club has received from their hands.

The Bull Ring

SOME LEGAL STORIES

(By TOREADOR)

Perhaps the most apposite legal story is of an Irishman who was going through a churchyard and came across an inscription which read: "Here lies a lawyer and an honest man," and who was heard to exclaim: "How the devil did they get the two of them into the one grave?"

An equally "good one" is related of Sir Edward Carson, K.C., who, in cross-examining a witness who had every appearance of having over-indulged, asked him: "Have you been drinking?"

"That's my business," replied the indignant witness.

"Any other business?" drawled out the famous counsel.

* * *

O'Connell told a story of a court crier's calling out: "All ye blackguards that isn't lawyers must quit the court."

* * *

It is not strange that there should have grown up in the mind of the average man the idea that a lawyer is a quibbler, a person not to be trusted, for his very concern is to convince his hearers, with astute argument, that his point of view is the one correct way of viewing a case. In spite of this reputation which lawyers have built up for themselves, there is a story told of at least one lawyer who was "let down" heavily—and by a Scot. The story runs:

A Scotsman went to a solicitor, laid before him a question, and asked him if he could undertake the case.

"Certainly," replied the Solicitor. "I will readily undertake the case. We're sure to win."

"So you really think it a good case?"

"Most decidedly, my dear sir. I am prepared to guarantee that you will secure a favourable verdict."

"Ah, weel, I'm much obliged tae ye, but I dinna think I'll go tae law this time, for, you see, the case I've laid before ye is that of my opponent."

The present committee is convinced that a prosperous year is before them, and has no doubt that all freshers will realise the intimate part a Club such as ours must play in College life. This should assure a large membership. The Club is particularly anxious to receive recruits who are interested in the dramatic side of our activities, and any such are requested to get in touch with the secretary.

It is intended to hold a committee meeting immediately, to arrange for an early start in the year's programme, which, it is thought, will take the form either of a play or a discussion. Further developments will be advertised in the columns of *Craccum*, in which notices will appear from time to time describing our activities.

F. H. SAGAR, Hon. Sec.

IRRESPONSIBLE CRITICISM

The closing stages of the tennis season bring cause for comment. In running the annual championship tournament, the committee is faced with many difficulties. The first tennis tournament was held in 1923. Then, we had neither club nor courts. Entries were asked for and a small entrance fee was charged. The fee just paid for the balls used, and no trophies could be provided. So many entries were received that it was found impossible to complete the tournament in the three Saturdays set apart. The courts were loaned by the Mt. Albert Club.

The following year a further effort was made to bring the tournament to a satisfactory conclusion, and high entrance fees were charged, with a view to limiting entries. Again competitors proved too numerous, and difficulties were encountered in finishing. In 1926-27 the committee decided to try to run a tournament by playing weekly through the first and second terms. Bad weather, lack of enthusiasm and interruption from winter games, made the completion of this arrangement difficult. The Freshers' championship had to be abandoned, and the remaining games were only finished in the 1927-28 season.

With the knowledge of the previous season's difficulties, the committee has attempted to choose a middle course. It has been found advisable to divide the men's singles into "A" and "B" Grade, owing to the large entries (about fifty). I regret if there are players put in the "B" grade who think they might have chances of winning the "A" grade championship. As sole Selector of the Club, I take full responsibility for the division. It is further my opinion that, at the outside, only ten players have a chance of winning the championship. I regret that certain members of our Club have seen fit to criticise this division of the singles. If there are critics who feel they could win the event, the Committee is sorry that it must differ from them, and their only course is to take steps to elect a sole Selector who will please everybody. It is to be deplored that the destructive criticism was given to a certain evening paper, which took it in good faith.

I have no hesitation in saying :

(1) Our critic was not loyal to his Club or his College.

(2) That neither the critic nor the newspaper reporter knew the difficulties which came before the championship committee and did not take into consideration the facts of the case.

(a) During the central portion of our tennis season, from December to March, the College is in vacation.

(b) During the early part of the season no one is in form for championship tennis, and a tournament at that stage would not be a fair test.

(c) During the latter part of the season many of our players are engaged in inter-club fixtures.

The chip courts and their present condition have

also been criticised very severely. No one likes playing on chip where grass is available. The committee realises this. Players must also realise that for one guinea they are allowed free membership to every College institution, including the Tennis Club. The only other charge is a small affiliation fee, which is paid to the Lawn Tennis Association. As a matter of fact, 150 students paid the fee last year and 400 were on the courts.

The Tennis Club receives about £50 from the consolidated fee. With this small sum it is impossible to do much to the courts or lay grass courts. The average fee charged by town tennis clubs is about £4/10/- plus an entrance fee. Balls are provided by these clubs on Saturdays only. In the face of these facts, is it reasonable to expect good conditions, when the Tennis Club gets from the consolidated fee, about one shilling per student ?

There is, of course, one easy solution to the difficulty. That is, every member of the Club give a little voluntary labour. In the past this has been tried, but volunteers were not forthcoming. At one time it was suggested that an extra levy of two shillings be made to cover the cost of this work, but there was such a howl of indignation that the idea had to be abandoned. The committee has endeavoured to do this manual work with their own hands. This has meant considerable time and hard work. I am sure that if some of our critics would spend three or four hours in watering and rolling, they would appreciate the position about which they complain so bitterly and irresponsibly.

An effort will be made very shortly to give student players a chance to pay a voluntary contribution towards rolling and watering. If sufficient money is available an attempt will be made to put two more courts in grass.

In conclusion, I wish to say that every help is given the Tennis Club by the Students' Association.

R. B. HARDY.

COLLEGE DINING HALL

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1/-	MEAL IN TOWN	1/-

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DRAMAS FROM FRESHERS' WELCOME

No. 1

Scene : Back entrance to University College, through which pass assorted males and females in semi-wedding attire. Inside the door is a table behind which sits a Shylock collecting bawbees, in exchange for which he issues small strips of cardboard.

SHYLOCK : Show all tickets, please.

ANTONIO : I'm sorry, I have left my invitation at home.

SHYLOCK (severely) : Are you a Fresher ? (More severely) : What is your name ?

ANTONIO : Professor B-l---w.

(Collapse of Shylock among ducats. Fall of curtain and very soft music.)

No. 2

Scene : The same.

SHYLOCK (as "sweet young thing" enters) : Show all tickets, please.

S.Y.T. : I am sorry, I can't.

SHYLOCK : You must.

S.Y.T. : I have left it in the dressing room.

SHYLOCK (mercilessly) : Then you will have to get it.

(S.Y.T. makes no attempt to move, but makes peculiar movements with her hands and gurgles with embarrassment.)

SHYLOCK : I must see it.

(S.Y.T. repeats peculiar movements.)

SHYLOCK : You may go. After all, I don't think I want to see it.

(Loud music and curtain. If possible, explosions without.)

Correspondence

CARNIVAL PROCESSION—WHY NOT ?

Sir,—I think it is time that the question of the re-establishment of the Carnival Procession was re-opened. Surely the recent mock Capping Ceremony has demonstrated the fact that students of this College are, like their southern friends, capable of conducting such functions. Our Mayor, at the welcome to Tournament delegates last year, heartily supported the idea. It is now our duty to carry the matter further.

If the College Council are in doubt as to what disciplinary action to take, I would humbly refer them to page ninety-five of Lord Frederic Hamilton's book, "The Days Before Yesterday" : "He had every single button, brace buttons and all, cut off the prisoners' trousers. Then the men had, perforce, for decency's sake to hold their trousers together with their hands, and I defy anyone similarly situated to run more than a yard or two."

It would be equally as difficult to throw a persimmon or two.—Yours, etc.,

J. CAESAR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Happy Mother of Nineteen Undergraduates : The editorial thanks are due to you for your surplus affection. "My own dear Sir" would bring tears to the eyes of any occupant of the editorial chair. It is so different from the usual "Go to ———" that we receive from our friends. We are afraid, however, that you are a hoax. Your letter opens by informing us that you are the mother of sixteen, but by the end of your esteemed favour you have become the mother of nineteen. This rate of increase seems unnatural. If it is true, we congratulate you and suggest that you send their names and date or dates of their birth or births, for insertion in our Big Birthday Book. Write again; your name adds an old-time flavour to our columns.

Kitty the Ragtimer : Your paragraphs are too intimate for insertion in *Craccum*. We have sent your unsolicited testimonials to the people concerned. They are delighted. We suggest that you take as your next theme for lyrical treatment the members of the University Union — for particulars of which, see recent official University publication.

A FLAT'S REMINISCENCES

Many women and many men, I have discovered, living in their sheltered homes, have but little knowledge of the trials and tribulations of that poor hunted creature, the lodger. Although my own experiences have been very ordinary, and I can lay no claim to arriving back to find my belongings on the front step and the door shut, nor to having tried thirty-seven different places in three years, as one gentleman did, they may prove interesting to some, and may inculcate a spirit of sympathy among the fortunate for the unfortunate.

On my arrival in this city three years ago, an estimable and well known establishment in the centre of the city, lured me, a raw Provincial, for three long weeks, at the end of which, being unable to play poker, and a band arriving for a tournament for which continual practice was required, I fled to an excellent place in one of the outer suburbs, where had it not been for the fact that the landlady's daughter was a music teacher, all would have indeed been well. However, piano, 'cello, violin and singing are apt to become a trifle wearying, and they finally drove me forth, Next, a "select and refined home." An admirable place and withal amusing, for the landlady, a travelled woman, considered herself an intellectual and conducted a Salon; the vicar, school teacher and small town high-brows assembling in force to discuss weighty subjects with all the fervour of ignorance. The local Dickens Club met every fourth Thursday, when readings were given from various works. The most Dickensian part of the evening, however, was the sight of twenty or thirty oldish men and women sitting round a small room gigglingly trying to be serious.

Tiring of these lusty joys and being turned out of my room, I spent the following year in almost per-

fect place—almost except for overmuch boiled rabbit and mince.

This place yielded to the lure of the "Mansions," of great fame; about which much should be written, of the men, of the outsiders, of Griff, of wireless, of Mavis, of roses, of hockey players and of actresses, of landladies and sons-in-law, of our summary ejection, and of the College's proud showing therein.

A flat, shared with other outcasts, was my next haven, after no less than thirty-five applications had been made for digs. An entertaining flat. In flats, the important details are your neighbours, your own food, comfort and sleep, being dependent on them. Our neighbours were not altogether perfect. Four gramophones going at once are remarkably rowdy, and Saturday night parties of the good old-fashioned kind among the lower orders (those under our floor) became boring when they went on, Saturday night and Sunday morning, for months without a change—except when a woman decided to commit suicide, but unfortunately couldn't find the razor.

I am now an eager champion of the safety razor. The old blade is far too handy an instrument of assault. We heard through the ceiling that those above were desirous of using one with intent to kill. However, the wife—as usual it was a husband and wife—was victorious and left the house safely, locking the husband in the room, from which he escaped down the drain-pipe.

The occasion on which two, I regret to say, drunken "ladies," both in a state of, shall I say, extreme *déshabillé* (or so I judged from their conversation) attempted (I emphasise attempted) to break into my bedroom, will be lightly passed over and consideration given to a call we received one night to quell a riot in a flat across the passage from our own. We took fire stations, and the biggest of us was by unanimous consent allowed to open the door. No sooner had this been done, when a large plate whizzed through the crack and shattered against the opposite wall of the passage, to the demoralisation of the troops, who beat a hasty retreat, but gallantly reformed and charged the room, where they were met with the spectacle of a man crouched in a corner shielding his face with his arm, while from another corner his wife showered crockery, cutlery and curses upon him. This woman, we learnt from the police (who on frequent later occasions were called in), was known as "Lizzie the Leopard," because she had so many spots. Wearying of turmoil in the flat, after a glorious breaking up party, we disbanded. My fate was a 10 x 6 bedroom, where all cooking had to be done on an unsatisfactory penny in the slot ring, on which nothing was allowed to be fried, which considerably cramped one's style and meals. This was joyfully exchanged for the pleasures of a seaside bach at a handy beach, where life was free and ways were easy.

A quiet flat now forms a backwater in which I bask in the glory of running hot water, with neither a penny califont nor bob in the slot meter, gorging on College dining hall meals and self-cooked breakfasts. But one will always tire of any digs.

FLATEE.

Debating Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Debating Society was held on Friday, the 9th inst., in the Philosophy Lecture Room at 8 p.m.

A feature of the meeting was the almost total absence of women students—only one of whom was present—a fact adversely commented upon by several speakers.

The results of the voting were as follow:—

President: Professor Anderson.

Vice-President: Professor Belshaw.

Student President: Mr. F. W. Simpson.

Secretary: Mr. E. P. Wills.

Committee: Messrs. R. A. K. Mason, S. W. Scott, C. R. Straubel.

It seems more fitting to mention briefly on an occasion like this those avenues of the Society's activities in which active interest has been shown with the success attendant thereupon, and also to examine critically those other activities in which mistakes have been made. As to the latter first.

The project put forward at the beginning of the year of abandoning a syllabus of meetings and seizing subjects of importance as they occurred has not met with the success anticipated for it.

Another drag on the society's activities was the delay occasioned in the early part of the year by debates not being commenced from the beginning of the term. This was due in part to the lateness of the Annual General Meeting last year, and in part to the rush of Tournament activities.

The importance of an early start cannot be too greatly emphasised. It must be remembered that debates such as Freshers, Trial and Inter-faculty Debates, although excellent things in themselves, are not the real type of debate which draws the audience and in which all members can participate. There, a selected few harangue the multitude or the empty benches, as the case may be; what we wish to aim at as a society is the debate where everyone will speak for a few minutes and where impromptu criticism and reply will run freely.

Although there is thus room for improvement in some of the society's activities, there are others about which the Society can be justly proud. In the debates with outside societies in Auckland the 'Varsity club was very successful and won all its debates.

During the year just ended there was inaugurated a system of inter-college debates with Victoria University College. We earnestly hope that this scheme will be constantly supported and the return visit of the Wellington team ensured of success.

In closing this report the Committee regret to point out a very disheartening feature of the year's work. The trophy so generously presented by Mr. A. B. Thompson for the best speaker in any four debates could not be awarded because of insufficient interest in the debates to make them practicable. On several occasions so poor was the attendance that the meeting combined with the C.U. meeting across the passage in order to make one real meeting—a truly lamentable state into which to fall!

FRESHERS' DEBATE

With all the usual and time worn accompaniments—hooting, shouting, and very occasionally a humorous interjection or two—a surprisingly large field was paraded for the Freshers' Hurdles on Monday last. By the time the chairman, Mr. Simpson, first tried to make himself heard some two hundred students had gathered in the hall.

Through the storm of interjections one caught passionate references to "Farmers" and "healthy, wealthy and wise." By sheer weight of numbers, one side, the affirmative (or was it negative?) completely routed the other, the negative (or was it affirmative?). It was at times difficult to tell whether the debate was supposed to be taking place on the platform or in the gallery. One lady speaker who had battled womanfully against a deluge of amorous remarks, was almost completely non-plussed when asked if she had ever seen a farmer chewing his cud.

The arguments advanced were never very clearly heard, except perhaps by the judge, but the manner of most of the victims was surprisingly confident, and there was decided talent displayed in three or four. It is no light task for a woman to stand up to a chorus of "Ain't She Sweet?" chanted by fifty or so lusty male voices. Yet there were moments when the fifty male voices were so out-debated that they had perforce to resort to less sporting methods of annoying the speakers.

As to what the debate was about, few in the audience cared and few of the speakers seemed very clear. Mr. Sidey was variously praised or blamed, according as his offspring "Summertime" met with the approval or disapproval of the speakers. We were informed by one speaker that this year's Freshers were far more beautiful, far more intellectual and far more wealthy than those of previous years. It may be so.

The judge, by some abstruse method known only to himself, arrived at a decision and succeeded in placing the speakers in order of merit. The Freshers' Mug goes this year to Mr. Barangwanath. He certainly showed more confidence and a better debating style than the rest, though Mr. Hamilton was not far behind.

One would like to hear more humour and less noise from the audience, but there are bad old traditions gathered round Freshers' Debate. Unfortunately we have still amongst us a few who like nothing better than mere obstruction.

A merry evening, with some very bright moments.

HOB0.

On behalf of the Society, the Committee wish to tender their thanks to Prof. Anderson for the hearty support always rendered by him to the Society in his capacity of President, and hope that he will continue to so interest himself in our affairs during succeeding years.

COLLEGE COMMENTS

(By OBSERVER)

POSITIVELY RIDDLED

The habit of asking riddles is declared by archæologists to be age old. It is one of the few relics of the humour of a bygone civilisation which, like the poor in the parable, we have always with us.

When Adam met Eve, probably the first question he asked was: "Why is an apple tree?" Eve's reply gave him the pip (an 'Ard'un), and they quitted their Eden hurriedly. The modern Adam is typified by our 'Varsity student who now asks: "Why is a College Fee?" and the reply he receives is probably just as fruity.

Judging by a letter from "LL.B." in the last issue of *Craccum*, it will not be surprising if they, too, begin raising Cain.

* * *

RIGHTING A WRONG

It was hoped that the last had been heard of an unfortunate incident at the inter-College debate last year when several people were brutally assaulted with a tomato by some person or persons unknown. Now the Minister of Education, the Hon. R. A. Wright, has brought back the whole sad memory from the limbo of forgotten events to which it had been relegated, by certain remarks before the Council of Colleges at Wellington.

Some University authorities are of the opinion that it was the manner rather than the deed itself that aroused such "public indignation." After all, they say, no one actually got the tomato. Perhaps that is what all the trouble is about. There might have been comment had the disturbers of the peace handed round a basket of fruit.

The Hon. Minister of Education thinks this incident shows the degeneracy of the University student, who is now a mere tough or thug. Mr. Wright has a name for truth and perspicacity, and it is incredible that he could be mistaken on such an important subject. We hate to think so, but—well, perhaps after all he is Wright.

* * *

A MOVING PICTURE

A letter has been received by the Students' Association from the Auckland Amateur Motion Picture Club. University students are being asked to join and take part in the first production, which is to be commenced as soon as the scenario is completed. Their choice is no doubt influenced by the manner in which photos of film stars are being given with each packet of a certain academic brand.

The Club could do worse than come to A.U.C. for inspiration. What could make a finer camera study than Baron Algie standing on the topmost turret of his Takapuna castle as he surveys his domains? A lightning sketch by Mr. Rocky O. Shay entitled "Drawing My Salary" or "The Day's Work" would be sure of an in-

TOMORROW !

FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd, AT 8 p.m.

SUPPER WILL BE FREE

Annual General Meeting of Field Club
in Biology Theatre

Z. O. LLOYD, Hon. Sec.

stant reception. Then the janitor might give a fine "close up" scene (9.30 p.m.).

Other scenes of equal photographic excellence and scientific value could be secured any day by arrangement with the Registrar.

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Have you written that article for next "Craccum" yet.

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Unanswered Riddle : Is a fair cow ever a dark horse, or a dirty dog a white elephant ?

*The Government keeps a student farm,
With Profs. on a poor-house scale—
And the swot they teach is night-school swot.
And the degree they give is fail.*

*But youth won't act as old men would,
Or swot for years in vain.
They must have fun though the Council scowl.
And professors writhe in pain.*

*"So Wright," he says, to his mate, as
He sits him down to dine,
"I don't mind what the students do, if
They don't kick up a shine."*

*What are you doing to help Tournament ? If
you can do anything, do it. Auckland must keep the
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