

SUPPLEMENT

Auckland University

College, April 30th, 1931.THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "CRACCUM"OLD ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY'S DISCUSSIONSome Important Facts Found

A very large crowd of students and graduates were present at the College Hall on Saturday evening last to hear the discussion, convened by the Old English Text Society, on the origin of the term "craccum".

Professor Egerton, who presided, in opening stressed the great importance of this question to the literary and scientific world as a whole. He had, he said, good reason to believe that John Galsworthy, in his next series of the Forsyte Saga, would devote a whole chapter to it and it was common knowledge that Mr. Soljak's free passage had been awarded to him solely in order that he might proceed to Oxford to engage in research work on the word. The professor said there were many theories on the subject, none of them very satisfactory. His own opinion was that "craccum" was an old Norse corruption of the Finnish verb KRIKJAN, "to write badly", through Middle Icelandic. This would take the dative absolute in UM and in the course of centuries Boyles Law had operated (as the temperature in Iceland remained fairly constant) on the tonic vowel and we now had the modern form. He thought the word had been brought to New Zealand during the first Danish invasion of 1875, though he wished his audience to understand that this was only a tentative date. Most of the English I students showed by their applause that they agreed with the professor.

The first speaker was Mr. J. M. Bertram who asked leave to differ from the professor. He had been to Dannevirke where the Danish inroads took place and had searched the library, the post office and the town hall but had found no textual evidence of either the words "craccum" or "krikum". Furthermore he had heard the word "craccum" spoken in Dannevirke but as it was used by a spectator at a football match he did not connect it, at all, with the point at issue. His theory was that the word was a polynesian corruption of the English "crack them" referring no doubt to jokes. A roar of scornful laughter greeted this suggestion and Mr. Bertram, to prove his argument, was saying that he and the Registrar were at a native village in Suva last year, when Mr. O'Shea rose to a point of order and asked that his name be left out. On the chairman's upholding the point Mr. Bertram declined to continue.

The next speaker was Miss Fotheringham who said she thought the word was a scientific combination of the Greek root $2\pi r^2$ with the Latin inflexion "um". Mr. Costello, however, objected to this but as Mr. Blaiklock, the only other person in the College who knew any Greek was absent, the chair ruled Miss Fotheringham's suggestion

Mr. Sullivan then rose and said that he wished to support Professor Egerton's theory but ribald cries of "crawler" and "going for first class terms" caused him to sit down in some confusion.

Miss D'Esterre said she thought "craccum" was an Australian swear word but as she was not an authority on bad language she could bring no further evidence. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Brodie both offered to help Miss D'Esterre and Mr. Monro offered to lend her Mr. Costello's unexpurgated edition of Aristophanes. This provoked considerable irrelevant argument, Mr. Yockney claiming, in the face of fierce opposition from Mr. Costello, that Balzac's Contes Drolatiques were superior to Aristophanes and order was not restored until Mr. Nigel Wilson, who had just arrived to take somebody home, asked leave to speak.

Mr. Wilson said he had once seen the same letters as in the word "craccum" over a door in the old College but he could not for the life of him remember what they represented. The information was at once acted upon and at Miss Conlan's suggestion cafeteria chits were distributed and the audience requested to try and decipher the jumble. Miss Chambers' theory that the letters A.U.C. would certainly come first was at once accepted but the puzzle was what to make of the remaining four. At this stage however Mr. Skyrme switched off the lights and the meeting broke up in disorder.

The Publications Committee has been at work night and day since on this intriguing problem but so far confesses itself baffled. It has therefore decided to offer a prize of three handsomely bound presentation copies of the College Handbook to the first student to send in a satisfactory solution.

Come on now, get to work, solve this important riddle and win the magnificent prize!

Students are reminded that the Orchestral Club meets for practice every Friday evening at 8 p.m. in the Main Hall.

New members are assured a warm welcome.

HOW OUR NEWSPAPERS DECEIVE US
"Star" Headline "Arrival of World Wide Tenor"



Mr. Sullivan then went on to say that
the report of the President's theory that
the "Cuban" and "Cuban" are the same
is a complete misstatement.

He then said that the "Cuban" is a
word which has been used in the past
to describe a person who is not a
native-born American. He said that the
word "Cuban" is a word which has been
used in the past to describe a person
who is not a native-born American. He
said that the word "Cuban" is a word
which has been used in the past to
describe a person who is not a native-
born American. He said that the word
"Cuban" is a word which has been used
in the past to describe a person who
is not a native-born American. He said
that the word "Cuban" is a word which
has been used in the past to describe a
person who is not a native-born American.

Mr. Sullivan said he had been given the
word "Cuban" over a book in the
library of the House of Representatives.
He said that the word "Cuban" was
used in the book to describe a person
who is not a native-born American. He
said that the word "Cuban" is a word
which has been used in the past to
describe a person who is not a native-
born American. He said that the word
"Cuban" is a word which has been used
in the past to describe a person who
is not a native-born American. He said
that the word "Cuban" is a word which
has been used in the past to describe a
person who is not a native-born American.

He then said that the word "Cuban" is
a word which has been used in the past
to describe a person who is not a
native-born American. He said that the
word "Cuban" is a word which has been
used in the past to describe a person
who is not a native-born American. He
said that the word "Cuban" is a word
which has been used in the past to
describe a person who is not a native-
born American. He said that the word
"Cuban" is a word which has been used
in the past to describe a person who
is not a native-born American. He said
that the word "Cuban" is a word which
has been used in the past to describe a
person who is not a native-born American.

He then said that the word "Cuban" is
a word which has been used in the past
to describe a person who is not a
native-born American. He said that the
word "Cuban" is a word which has been
used in the past to describe a person
who is not a native-born American. He
said that the word "Cuban" is a word
which has been used in the past to
describe a person who is not a native-
born American. He said that the word
"Cuban" is a word which has been used
in the past to describe a person who
is not a native-born American. He said
that the word "Cuban" is a word which
has been used in the past to describe a
person who is not a native-born American.

He then said that the word "Cuban" is
a word which has been used in the past
to describe a person who is not a
native-born American. He said that the
word "Cuban" is a word which has been
used in the past to describe a person
who is not a native-born American. He
said that the word "Cuban" is a word
which has been used in the past to
describe a person who is not a native-
born American. He said that the word
"Cuban" is a word which has been used
in the past to describe a person who
is not a native-born American. He said
that the word "Cuban" is a word which
has been used in the past to describe a
person who is not a native-born American.

