

# CRACCUM

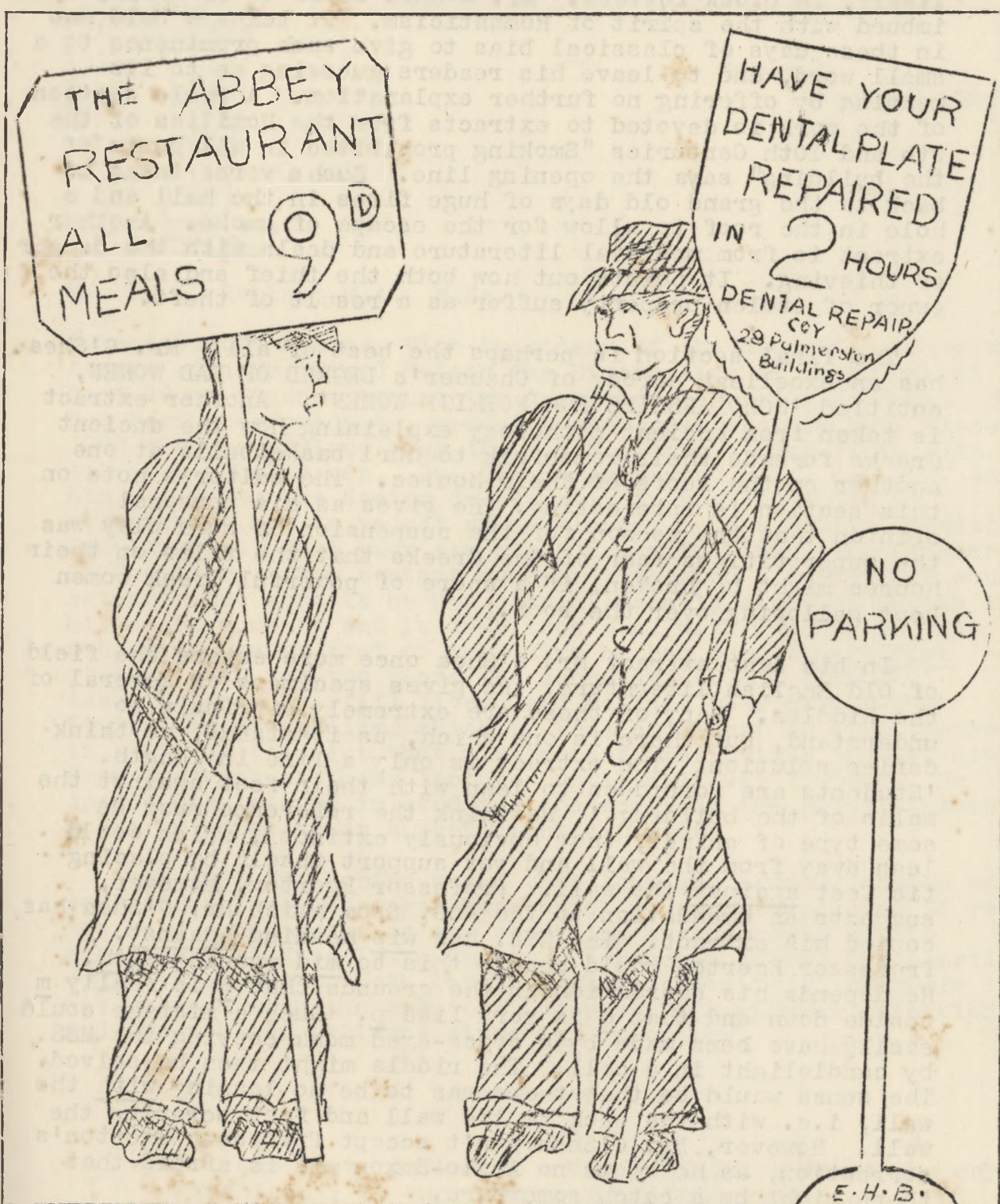
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## SUPPLEMENT



Auckland University College, Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1931.



CO-OPERATION



BOOK REVIEW

## LITERATURE ANCIENT AND MODERN:

Edited by M. R. O'Shea, B.Com.

An excellent little volume and one which we recommend our readers to peruse, because if we don't no one else will. In scattered form over the main notice board, these delightfully vague little warnings and homilies so seldom catch the eye, that often their effect is completely lost. The editor himself has written several articles and these he has signed. Some of the remainder, which he has not signed, bear the impress of his style and we can only conjecture that in regard to these he prefers to remain anonymous. The work is outstanding for the number of sententious sayings which it contains. The word URGENT occurs on the front page all by itself, in block letters. Mr. O'Shea seems to be deeply imbued with the spirit of Romanticism. It takes a bold man in these days of classical bias to give such prominence to a small word, and to leave his readers guessing as to its meaning by offering no further explanation. A whole section of the work is devoted to extracts from the Homilies of the 9th and 10th Centuries "Smoking prohibited in all parts of the building" says the opening line. Such a verse takes us back to the grand old days of huge fires in the hall and a hole in the roof to allow for the escape of smoke. Another extract is from medieval literature and deals with the danger of thieving. It points out how both the thief and also the owner of stolen property suffer as a result of theft.

The final section is perhaps the best of all. Mr. O'Shea has an excellent parody of Chaucer's LEGEND OF BAD WOMEN, entitled 'SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOREIGN WOMEN'. Another extract is taken from ancient mythology explaining how the ancient Greeks forbade their womenfolk to hurl basketballs at one another on the roofs of their houses. The editor's note on this section is interesting. He gives as his personal opinion that the reason for the suspension of such play was the superstitious fear of the Greeks that the tiles on their houses might be broken, if a score of powerful Greek women kept galloping over the roof.

In his last extract Mr. O'Shea once more enters the field of Old English literature. He gives specimens of several of the Riddles. Many of these are extremely difficult to understand, but there is one which, as it stands, we think defies solution. The extract is only a line in length. 'Students are forbidden to lean with their feet against the walls of the building.' We think the reference must be some type of animal, (now obviously extinct), which could lean away from the wall and yet support itself by placing its feet against the wall. Professor Egerton, however, suggests an emendation to the MSS. from which Mr. O'Shea has copied his extract. The MSS. has wip meaning against. Professor Egerton would change this to mid meaning with. He depends his emendation on the grounds that w is really m upside down and that d is very like p. Such a mistake could easily have been made by a cross-eyed monk copying the MSS. by candlelight in a cell. The riddle might then be solved. The sense would be that there was to be no leaning with the wall, i.e. with the back to the wall and feet scraping the wall. However, Mr. O'Shea won't accept Professor Egerton's correction, as he knows no Anglo-Saxon and is afraid that there might be a catch somewhere.

The book closes with two lines of verse - a tribute by the editor to his staff.

'Rocke of ages cleft to me  
If from out the Bourne of place and time  
the tide hath carried me far.'





Coming Events Cast Their  
Shadows Before

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There was a young fellow called  
G----,  
Who got a bad smack on the bean,  
He went for a ride,  
And his bold charger shied;  
But once more he's been seen with  
I-----.

Reprint  
"Craccum" 1928.

Mr. E. D. Robins, M.A., M.Sc.

Eugene Dumont Robins, Vice-President of the Students' Association, shares with Mr. Nigel Wilson the distinction of being one of the best known figures around the Auckland University College. He has been undergraduate, graduate and supergraduate here since 1923 when he arrived from the A.G.S., then a mere youth with an entrance scholarship. In 1926 he graduated B.Sc. and 1927 saw him B.A. with the Senior Scholarship in English which he reluctantly had to reject as he already held a Senior Chemistry Scholarship. Next year saw him M.Sc. with first class honours in Chemistry. Not content however with such a success as would satisfy most mortals he had been diligently studying French in his spare moments and in 1929 took M.A. with honours in that subject. During most of this time he has been a part time student, and for two years was secretary of the Students' Association! He still lives, and is this year taking the Diploma in Journalism, which we feel confident he will secure in spite of the fact that his professional duties prevent him from arriving at these lectures until half way through. He spends his leisure in studying the works of the great masters of music of which he is a proficient exponent.

In 1927 Mr. Robins began that long and arduous course of self-discipline and eager hope which we are now pleased to relate has been consummated in the startling announcement of his engagement to Miss Irene Turner. "Craccum" offers its heartiest congratulations to both parties, whose centripetal progress it has watched with the greatest interest, the warmest affection and the noblest patience since its inception.

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Our poet, defied to write a limerick round the word  
'Michigan', at once produced the following:

Said a harassed young fellow of Michigan  
Who had bought some old pants from his richer kin,  
"I don't so much mind  
That they're pinned up behind,  
But, damn it all, why put a fish-hook in?"

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"At Brixton, England, a 17 months old baby has cut a tooth composed of silver. Scientists and Specialists are baffled." cable Item.



Sir Bernard Spilsbury has been consulted. Our artist predicts further developments



Mr Galsworthy writing a sequel to the "Silver Spoon"



A meeting of unemployed Dentists to discuss the advisability of getting Parliament to pass a law compelling all silver teeth in infants to be STOPPED.



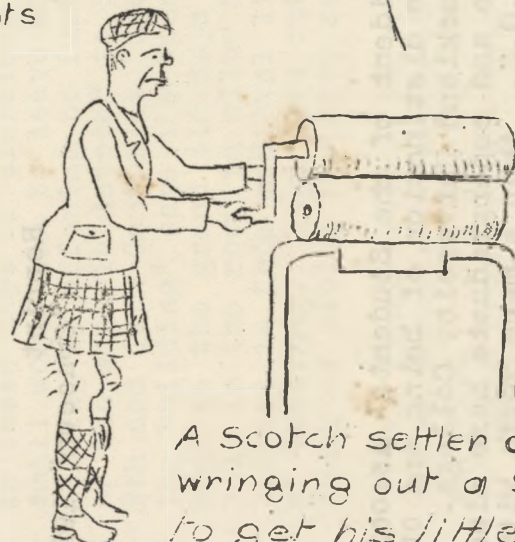
Substantial increase in the Pawnbroking Trade at Brixton!



E.H. Blow.



Newly married jeweller arriving in Brixton for his Honeymoon.



A Scotch settler at Brixton wringing out a Sixpence to get his little Daily Dose of Silver

