

*Institutions and General Life of the University.*

In addition to the athletic clubs, the other University institutions for the benefit of students, such as the executive of the Students' Association, the Debating Society, the Christian Union, and the Kahanga Club, have met regularly as usual, and have had very successful sessions.

I have very great pleasure in saying that the executive of the Students' Association is a hard-working body, and has the interests of the students keenly at heart. It co-operates very cordially with the Professorial Board in all measures for the benefit of students. Personally, I feel grateful to the executive for the great interest it has shown in University affairs; and I fear that many students do not realise how much they are indebted to this body for looking so well after their wants.

I have great satisfaction in expressing my appreciation of the general tone and good conduct of the students during the past year. The cordial relations existing between the teaching staff and the students have contributed in a marked degree to the great and increasing success and efficiency of Otago University as an educational institution.

Before passing from direct reference to the students, I wish, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, to express our profound regret that last session two very promising medical students were removed by death—I refer to the late David J. M. Dunbar and Lyell Hector. We tender our sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives of these young men, and also to their fellow-students.

*Chief Needs of the University at the Present Time.*

As the Professorial Board has to report specially to the University Council on our chief needs, I shall say nothing under this head, except to emphasize the fact that our chief need at the present time is two large additional class-rooms. We have now (session 1909) 420 students in attendance. This is an increase of about 100 on last year's attendance; and, as the increase is due mainly to a cause that is likely to be permanent—viz., the desire of the Education Department to connect the Training Colleges as intimately as possible with the University Colleges—the urgent need of additional class-rooms must be apparent to every one. The University of Otago can no longer efficiently discharge its functions with its present altogether inadequate accommodation.

*Outstanding Events in the History of the University during the Year 1908.*

(1.) On the 6th April, 1908, the Dental School, which had been at work for a considerable time before, and the existence of which is due mainly to the untiring effort of Mr. T. K. Sidey, M.P., was formally opened by the Hon. George Fowlds, Minister of Education, the public interest in the event being shown by the fact that the building was packed in every part, and that many citizens were unable to obtain admission. Interesting addresses were delivered by James Allen, Esq., M.P. (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago), the Minister of Education, the Prime Minister, Professor Pickerill, T. K. Sidey, Esq., M.P., and Frank Armstrong, Esq. It is only just to acknowledge the generous support given from the first to the Dental School by the Government.

(2.) As the Dunedin Training College is now intimately connected with the University, it should also be noted that, on the same day on which the Dental School building was formerly opened, the Prime Minister laid the foundation-stone of the College in presence of a large and distinguished assembly. The building has since been completed, and, in view of its splendid equipment on the most approved modern lines, it must be regarded as an invaluable addition to our educational institutions. Under the able direction of Professor White, the Training College is sure to prosper.

(3.) During the year under review, the handsome structure designed for the use of the Mining School, which we owe to a grant from the Government, and which is now approaching completion, was in process of erection. We cordially congratulate the Director of the Mining School and his colleagues and students on the prospect of being housed in a building admirably suited for Mining School work.

(4.) Towards the close of last session, after addressing the executive of the Students' Association on the importance of doing something practical with the view of ultimately securing the erection of a students' building, I asked a number of ladies connected with the University to meet me, and urged them to organize a bazaar in aid of the Building Fund. After some discussion, this was agreed to. A few days later a large and enthusiastic meeting of ladies was held in the University library, which was addressed by Mr. E. K. Lomas, M.A., M.Sc. (President of the Students' Association), Miss Charlotte Harrison, B.A., and myself. The meeting pledged itself to organize a bazaar. Mrs. James Allen was elected president of the bazaar committee, and Mrs. Patrick Marshall was elected secretary. The movement was then formally brought under the notice of the University Council, which had previously considered the general question of the importance of a students' building, and which gave its cordial support to the proposal that active measures should now be taken to collect funds. A preliminary meeting of citizens was held in the University library on the 15th December, under the presidency of James Allen, Esq., M.P. (Vice-Chancellor of Otago University). Speeches warmly supporting the movement were delivered by Mr. Allen, Mr. Solomon, K.C., Dr. Benham, Mr. Whampoa Fraser, Professor Pickerill, and Dr. Barnett, and the meeting appointed the following gentlemen as members of the executive: His Honour Mr. Justice Williams, president; Mr. James Allen, M.P., Mr. John Roberts, C.M.G., Mr. Leslie Harris, and Professor Gilray, vice-presidents; the Rev. W. Hewitson, Mr. George Fenwick, Mr. Mark Cohen, the Rev. Andrew Cameron, and Mr. Solomon K.C.; Mr. E. K. Lomas, M.A., M.Sc., and Mr. Whampoa Fraser, hon. secretaries; and Mr. J. M. E. Garrow, B.A., LL.B., hon. treasurer. The following gentlemen were appointed as an advisory committee, to assist the ladies in arranging for the bazaar: Professor Pickerill (convener), Professor Gilray, Dr. Russell Ritchie, Councilor Barr, Mr. J. M. E. Garrow, Mr. W. Downie Stewart, and Mr. E. K. Lomas. I may say that the