

4. CANTERBURY COLLEGE.

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Lecturers, seven.

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

I HAVE now to place before you the fifty-fourth report of the Chairman of the Board. The year 1926 has been one of considerable anxiety to the Board in view of the fact that the country has been faced with falling prices for its primary products, for, as you know, a very large portion of our revenue is derived from rents of rural land. During the year the Board acquired the land known as "Llanmaes," thus completing the College block, and we now have a sufficient area of land for building extensions for some years to come. I think that possibly a portion of the house on this property can be so used as to act as quarters for the Students' Union until funds allow a more suitable building to be erected. It is to be regretted that when the College was first established a very much larger area of land was not acquired, even if it had then been a little farther from the centre of the city.

I do not anticipate any great developments in the near future, as I feel that it is the duty of the Board to consolidate and develop the more recent activities it has undertaken. I would remind members that the debit balance upon the College Buildings and Sites Account is greater than last year, having increased from £13,666 to £19,516, and the policy of the Board should be to extinguish this debit balance as soon as possible, as the interest upon it will remain a continuous drain upon our finances. I would, however, again urge the desirability of the acquisition of suitable playing-fields for the University in the neighbourhood of the city before vacant spaces are subdivided and built upon.

Proposal to establish a "Canterbury College Fund."—Since its foundation in 1873, graduates of Canterbury College have risen to distinction in many parts of the world, and the education imparted by the College has excited a steady and growing influence for the public good of New Zealand. All Canterbury men and women, and Canterbury College graduates in particular, should do their utmost to ensure the distinguished position the College holds in regard to education in the Dominion and not take it for granted that some invisible force, without self-denial or effort on their part, will carry on the splendid University College given to them by the wise pioneers of this province. Leadership is expensive, and if the College is to continue to maintain a position in the forefront of higher education in New Zealand and continue its traditions of teaching, it must be in a position to command in the future, as it has in the past, the right type of men for its teaching staff, and it must have the means to adequately reward their services. Modern university education becomes more and more costly, and I am appalled at the many new calls made upon the College each succeeding year. The State is faced with continuous and increasing demands for all branches of education, and the taxpayer is