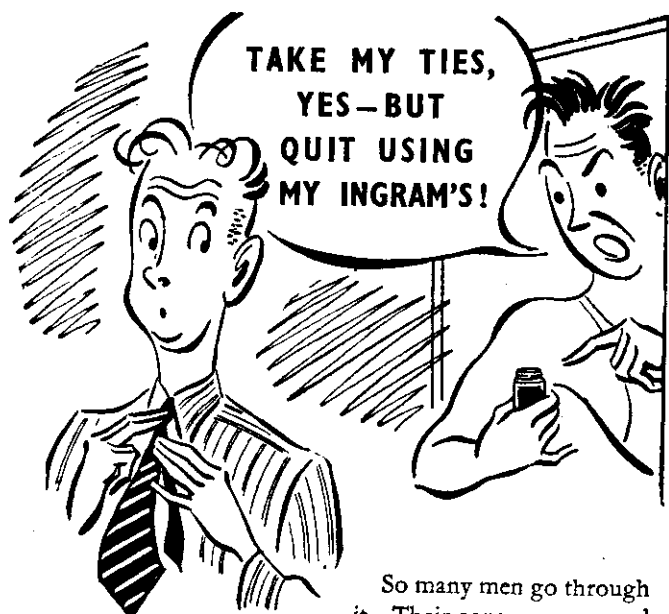




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FIRST FULL-TIME PRINCIPAL

Victoria College Looks to the Future

VICTORIA University College is the first of the constituent Colleges of the University of New Zealand to have a full-time principal, and it is expected that the others will follow suit in course of time, thus simplifying the problems of administration which face them at present. Sir Thomas Hunter, K.B.E., M.A., M.Sc., whose appointment to this position was recently announced, has been acting as principal in a part-time capacity since 1938, in addition to carrying out his professorial duties. He now expects to relinquish the Chair of Philosophy and Psychology and take up his new duties as from January 1, 1948.

"This is one of the most important steps in the process of co-ordinating the work of University education in New Zealand," Sir Thomas explained to *The Listener*. Many factors had contributed to its being taken. The chief of these was the greatly increased number of students (they had increased from 200 to 2,300 during his association with the College), and the consequent expansion of teaching departments, involving a much greater amount of administrative work than ever before. The problem of obtaining funds from the Government and making arrangements for additional buildings, staff, or equipment, required the services of a body of full-time administrators who were not handicapped by teaching duties and who could, if necessary, travel the country in order to decide the relative urgency of requests from the individual Colleges. At present the annual University Conference was held at which such matters were discussed, but it was not a

complete success. Each College considered its own needs the most pressing, and there were no competent independent observers who could arbitrate on such matters. Sir Thomas said there was now a possibility that there might be a higher body appointed to take the place of the Conference, a body which could advise the Senate on administrative problems and on matters of policy—for instance, on the proposal to form a new forestry school. There had not in the past been such administrative officers, and it was expected that the effect of this on university administration would be extensive and beneficial.

"Is the appointment connected with the desire on the part of the constituent colleges for complete autonomy?"

"Yes. Before such a step can be taken we must be able to have some guarantee that the standard of degrees granted by individual colleges will remain at an equally high level. There will be a need for an independent body to give advice on such academic matters." Besides the responsibility of his duties as College Principal and as Chairman of the local Professorial Board, Sir Thomas explained, he would be a member of the Academic Board—the national body—and also a member of the University Senate. Hitherto the principals of constituent colleges have not been members of the Senate.

When asked what his plans were for the future of Victoria University College, Sir Thomas said it was difficult to make a statement on such a matter at present when things were in a state of flux, but he envisaged a time when the present College—as the University of Wellington—would meet all the higher educational needs of the capital.

"A BEAR COUGHED"

The History of Station 12M

ROBERT PAYNE in his recent novel, *A Bear Coughed at the North Pole*, discusses the possible interrelation of unimportant happenings, and though one may doubt the connection between a bear's bronchial trouble in the Arctic and the death of several people in Chungking, history has many times shown that seemingly unimportant and isolated events have had far-reaching consequences.

Even in the record of New Zealand broadcasting—which forms only a very small chapter in world history—there is at least one such example. For the Auckland subsidiary station 12M came into being as a result of a man being separated by his work from his wife and home. The story was told by the man who founded the station, W. W. Rodgers, Snr., to his Auckland broadcasting colleagues recently when they gathered to farewell him on his retirement from the service.

Twenty-one years ago, Mr. Rodgers recounted, after some years of experience in the retail radio field in Britain, he came to New Zealand as the represen-



W. W. RODGERS
Starting life afresh

tative of a number of British radio firms. Later he established his own business of radio construction and repairs, and as the enterprise expanded he found himself having to spend more and more time away from home—sometimes he was away for two or three months on end.

Neither he nor his wife were happy about the long separations Mr. Rodgers' (continued on next page)