

OTAGO UNIVERSITY
"The boarding of students is a main industry"

Natural Philosophy, Philosophy (and Political Economy) and Chemistry, under the guidance of four professors. To-day there are nine faculties—Arts and Music, Science, Mining (1871), Law (1872), Medicine (1872), Dentistry (1907), Home Science (1909), Commerce (1911) and Theology (1946). The four professors have increased to 23, reinforced with more than 200 lecturers and part-time teachers. And as an essential part of this growth the 81 students of the opening year had mounted to 2,400 in the year 1947—and this does not include external students. To show that development is still proceeding it may be mentioned that the University has just established a course in Physical Education leading to a Diploma.

It has to be remembered that in the first three years of its existence the University was autonomous; and in that time conferred one degree. All degrees are now conferred as from the University of New Zealand under a federal scheme. Whether there will be a resumption of autonomy remains to be seen—there is certainly some talk of it. Restoration of autonomy could hardly increase local patriotism and generosity—these began in the founding of the University and have continued without abatement. The latest gift is that of Sir Thomas Hunter to foster research in the Dental School. Other fine gifts have been given for special purposes, or money has been raised by public subscription to found chairs and to support research in Medicine, Science, and Economics. The total benefactions received by the University amount to well over half a million pounds.

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SPECIAL mention must be made of the Presbyterian Church, which, until quite recently, maintained four chairs. The total

contribution from this source has been £134,450. Otago of course was a Scotch settlement and naturally offered a home to religion and education. Names frequently heard still are those of some of the members of the first University Council, the Rev. Thomas Burns, D.D. (the first Chancellor), the Rev. O. M. Stuart, E. B. Cargill, and the Hon. Major Richardson, M.L.C. (Vice-Chancellor). The names of the first four professors too are frequently heard—John Shand (Natural Philosophy), G. S. Sole (Classics), O. MacGregor (Philosophy and Political Economy), and J. G. Black (Chemistry).

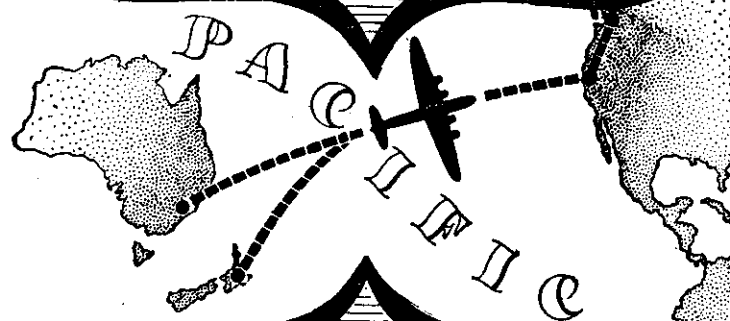
It is claimed for Otago that in its autonomous period it was first among Empire universities in admitting women to all its classes. It is also claimed that the first student to enrol was Mr. (Sir) Robert Stout; though I have been assured by a Dunedin lady that her father was the first. The records, I believe, are missing.

Naturally in a young University the emphasis has been, where Cardinal Newman asserted it should be—on teaching and advancing higher learning. But a new era is at hand—that of research. This will mean that extra staff must be employed—especially in Science and in the four special schools—Mining, Dentistry, Medicine, and Home Science. Interest in the University is as great as ever; hence the flow of benefactions is not likely to cease, especially as Otago graduates have contributed so much to the welfare of the Province and indeed the whole Dominion. At the same time no effort must be spared to support and advance the old humanities—for these are the essentials for the culture of the human spirit. There seems no reason why both should not exist in mutual

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