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INSIDE A UNIVERSITY



UP to its Jubilee number *Spike* was always the liveliest, the most controversially-minded of the university student annuals. It was an exercise, often highly successful, in student thinking and writing. It displayed a hard approach to broad political and social issues that took it beyond the immediacies of intramural affairs with an ebullience carried over into *Rostrum* (published for some years by the New Zealand University Students' Association). Victoria College seemed animated with a spirit of restless and energetic inquiry.

Some of this necessarily vanished with the ambitious Jubilee number in 1949, impressive in the way it dealt with the history of the College in a detailed, well-edited, thoroughly prepared publication. And for better or for worse the old student characteristics are lacking in the 1954 *Spike**, which breaks a silence of five years.

The new *Spike* sets out to show what has been achieved in this lustrum, and besides surveying the immediate past leads to considerations of the future of the College. These considerations are of serious public concern, and it is not surprising that the editorial committee has drawn heavily on the staff for its contributions. *Spike* has become more official, and speaks with the voice of authority. Of 12 articles closely concerned with the development of the College no fewer than seven are by heads of departments or lecturers.

It will come as a surprise to some that the science department at Victoria is the biggest in New Zealand. Professor Richardson sums up, with less heat than the congestion of his surroundings might well generate, the development of the department from 191 enrolments in 1930 to over 500 today—all carried out in buildings which, it would appear, have

**Spike*, 1954, published by the Victoria University College Students' Association, 5/-.

not been added to, except for a biology block, and a couple of huts, since the original building of 1910. Science is no longer a matter of a blackboard and a few bunsen burners—today it calls for extensive laboratory space, room for graduate students, museums, stores, preparation, staff accommodation, technicians' quarters, reading rooms and libraries and (for Wellington weather) cloakrooms. In the years 1940-52 there were 560 University M.Sc. graduates in the laboratory sciences, of which number 184 were from Victoria, as against 152 from Auckland, 127 from Canterbury and 97 from Otago.

More than this, graduate studies, and development of work for Ph.D., are becoming increasingly important: "It is now as important and urgent to provide for graduate instruction and research at Victoria, as before it was important to provide for undergraduates." Those who doubt this may refresh their memories (and their spelling) in the fact that our science graduates are employed in administration and liaison, in general agriculture, in animal husbandry, bacteriology, wool genetics, soil chemistry and microbiology, general botany, inorganic and organic chemistry, biochemistry, entomological researches, forestry, geology, palaeontology, physics, meteorology, veterinary science, and other activities. "The demand for scientists exceeds the present production from the University and the demand is increasing faster than this production." In 1927, we learn, the country employed 162 scientists. In 1947, there were 1040; and the estimates, proven low, were for 2207 in 1952-3. If we cannot train our graduates adequately, more and more of them will become a non-return export.

Among the special schools of the University of New Zealand, the Schools of Social Science and Political Science and Public Administration are centred on Victoria. Mr. J. R. McCreary, modestly, makes no claim for *lebenstraum* in