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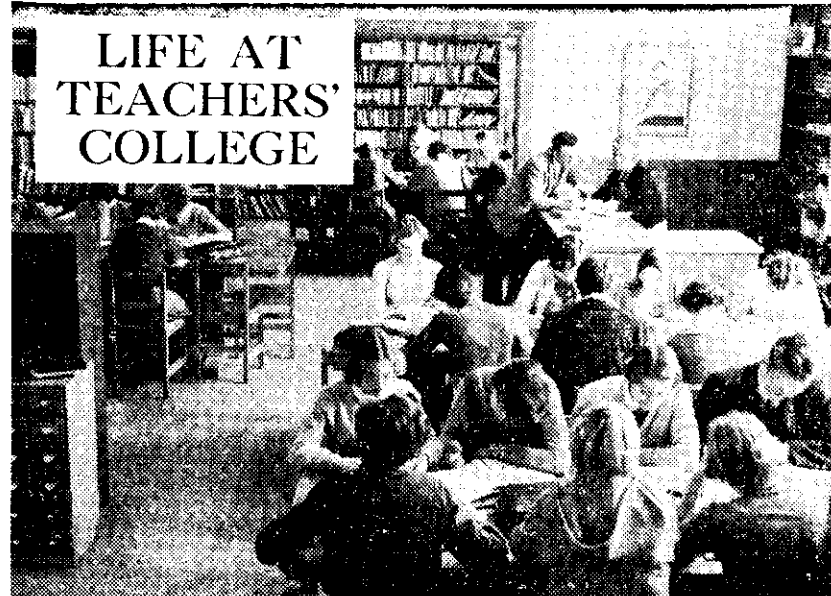


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LIFE AT TEACHERS' COLLEGE



EVERY year some 2000 people set out to be teachers. Many of them have just left school, some come from good positions in business and industry, and some from University. But nearly all of them attend one of the six Teachers' Colleges for training.

What goes on in these Colleges? That was the question that Basil Sands, of the NZBS Talks Section, set out to answer in the documentary programme, *To Be a Teacher*, which will be broadcast in the Sunday National Programme on August 11.

"The first thing I discovered," Mr Sands told *The Listener*, "was that a Teachers' College is not just a place where prospective teachers are taught to teach. As one staff member pointed out, after 10 years in the profession a teacher is still learning. Some students go to a Teachers' College expecting to be given nothing but a set of rules which will enable them to get through the syllabus in a classroom. That *could* be done, but it would not be education. I was told the story of the man who claimed he had had 30 years of teach-

★ The Library is a focal point in a Teachers' College. ★

ing experience; but what he really had was one year's experience repeated 30 times."

How are entrants selected? Surprisingly, the first consideration is not academic ability, but rather that of personality and temperament; though there is necessarily a minimum academic standard. As a member of the selection panel pointed out, "It's much easier to perfect a student's formal academic education than to develop new educational attitudes."

What impressed Mr Sands most at a Teachers' College was the busy atmosphere. Students appeared to be hard at work, whether at a lecture, doing an experiment, taking part in a discussion, or playing basketball.

"The keenness, I found, is largely a result of giving students a great deal of freedom," he said. "They are told what goals they should have reached at the end of two years; but the details are, in part, at least, left to the individual student. Of course, there is a basic core of subjects, covering everything from musical appreciation to the functioning of an earthworm, and from child psy-

★ BELOW: "Shopping" (with a student teacher's help) is a practical way of developing skills. ★



N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 2, 1957.