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UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
CHRONICLE

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Building Progress at Ilam Satisfactory

Building progress at Ilam was described as satisfactory by the Vice-Chancellor in a report to Council.

He said two blocks of the student flats would be completed by the end of November and the third in December. Landscaping around the flats would begin in November.

The Music building had been behind schedule and the School of Music would not occupy it until the start of the 1974 academic year. Progress was expected to pick up considerably in November and December as material shortages appeared to be solved. The building was 80 per cent completed.

The Library-Arts building, to be known as the James Hight Library, was almost completed. Carpet was being laid and steel shelving would be erected this month so that books could be moved in.

The Arts lecture theatres, North and South, were about 85 per cent completed. It was, as yet, a little too early to report progress in detail on the other buildings now under construction for the Arts Faculty.

Satisfactory progress had been made on the warehouse building. It was expected that an estimate of the cost of the associated gymnasium would be ready soon so that a contract for this work could be negotiated.

Verbal authority had been received to proceed with working drawings and firm estimates for the extension of the Computer Centre.

Professor Phillips also outlined a landscaping plan for the Library-Registry area at Ilam, which Council adopted in principle. It envisages the closing of the road round the lawn in front of the Science lecture theatre block, additional planting in the area and construction of a wall to deflect pedestrian traffic from the lawn towards the entrance to the Library.

"The main pedestrian traffic flow will be between the Registry and the Library and I am anxious to see this concourse well paved," Professor Phillips said. "Not only will it be walked on by thousands of people, but it will be seen from buildings above and some imagination will need to be exercised to make this an attractive area."

Sunken gardens, with seating, would be provided on either side of the Library

steps. The existing gums would be retained and considerable planting would be undertaken nearby. The path to University Drive would come out immediately opposite the bridge to the Students' Union. Perhaps in the future another bridge nearer Ilam Road might be required, while another would be required near Clyde Road to give access to the warehouse and gymnasium.

The main entrance to the Registry would be to the west and some parking would be provided for there and to the south.

In answer to questions Professor Phillips said the exact species of trees to be planted had not yet been determined, but some would be limes, the "University tree".

Students from Bangladesh

The University has offered two scholarships to students from Bangladesh and they are expected to be taken up next year.

The scholarships were made possible by Christchurch College, which offered free accommodation, the New Zealand branch of World University Service, which contributed funds for the students' travel, and the University, which decided to waive fees.

The two students will stay at the University until they have completed their degrees.

\$10 MILLION BUDGET

The University's estimates for next year show a projected income of \$10,088,772 and an expenditure of \$10,195,394 if all staffing positions were filled.

The Registrar (Mr G.G. Turbott), in presenting these figures to Council, said the sum likely to be spent on salaries might not reach the amount provided in the estimates (\$6,858,567) because of established positions remaining unfilled. The projected deficit of \$106,622 would be reduced by

the sum not so spent, but falling staff turnover and fewer positions remaining unfilled — features of staff employment remarked on in previous years, — might lessen the effect.

The budget, for the fifth and final year of the present quinquennium, records significant increases under such headings as cleaning and caretaking, heating and lighting and telephones, tolls and postages.

The following figures taken from the estimates show the more significant items, with the 1973 figures for comparison:

	1973	1974
INCOME (Main Items)	8,464,532	9,005,072
Government Grant	778,000	787,000
Tuition Fees	23,000	36,000
Extension Studies Fees	40,000	40,000
Rentals from endowment lands		
EXPENDITURE (Main Items)	6,068,519	6,858,567
Salaries	75,000	90,000
Research Fund	65,000	70,000
Re-equipment Fund	422,700	477,210
Working Equipment	90,309	104,778
Extension Studies — Salaries	41,881	41,937
— other	113,477	135,339
Computer Centre — salaries	99,188	97,757
— other	250,000	320,000
Cleaning and Caretaking	100,000	100,000
Expenses of staff appointment	75,000	90,000
Upkeep of grounds	230,000	275,000
Heating and Lighting	305,000	350,000
Library	310,000	320,000
Maintenance	86,000	95,000
Study Leave	87,500	95,000
Telephones tolls postages	35,000	42,000
Travelling, staff conferences		

ABOUT STAFF

Mr R.J. Manthei, who has been employed in the Department of Social Welfare since migrating to New Zealand from the United States two years ago, has been appointed a lecturer in the Education Department. Mr Manthei graduated B.S. in psychology from Michigan State University in 1968 and M.S. in rehabilitation counselling from the University of Southern Illinois in 1970. He was appointed a counsellor at the Centre for the Study of Crime and Corrections in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1969, the Illinois State Training School for Girls in 1970 and as a student counsellor at the University of Illinois before taking a position as psychiatric social worker at the Children's Unit of Traverse City State Hospital, Michigan. He and his wife came to New Zealand in 1971 and Mr Manthei has been undertaking social and family work in Christchurch since then.

Professor John W. Buckley, Director of the Centre for Information Studies at the Graduate School of Business Administration, University of California, Los Angeles, will be an academic visitor in the Department of Accountancy during the first term of 1974. Professor Buckley, who was born in Angola, graduated M.B.A. from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1962 and gained his Ph.D. from the same university in 1964. He has had a varied career — as an accountant and auditor in Kenya for seven years, as fiscal officer for the U.S. Commission at the Seattle World Fair, as a consultant in the U.S. Department of Commerce, as a fiscal consultant at the New York World Fair and as manager of finance and operations of the Pacific Science Center, Seattle. He was appointed an assistant professor at UCLA in 1964, associate professor in 1968 and professor in 1972.

Mr G.N. MacRaid, who is completing a Ph.D. on the life histories and cytology of south-eastern Australian species of Bryopsis and Derbesia, has been appointed a lecturer in the Department of Botany. An Australian, Mr MacRaid graduated B.Sc. with first-class honours from the University of Melbourne in 1970 and expects to complete his Ph.D. next March.

Mr D.C. Hughes, a research officer with the New Zealand Council of Educational Research, has been appointed a lecturer in the Education Department. Born in Christchurch in 1943, Mr Hughes graduated M.A. with equivalent first class honours from the University in 1971. He was a teaching fellow and a junior lecturer in the Education Department while completing his degree. Mr Hughes has taken a special interest in educational psychology,

especially evaluation, learning and teacher behaviour. Since 1971 he has been working on the preparation and standardisation of a mathematics achievement test which is to be used in New Zealand schools.

The resignation of Dr M.J. Mitchell, a senior lecturer in psychology, from next February, was accepted with regret by Council. Dr Mitchell has been appointed Director of the Outward Bound School at Anakiwa. Council also received with regret the resignation of Mr A.R. Hornblow, student counsellor, from mid-January.

Dr J.J. Small has been elected a representative of the lecturers on the Professorial Board.

Professor W.K. Jackson, head of the Department of Political Science, will take the main course, "New Zealand Politics in the 1970s" at the W.E.A. summer school to be held at the Nelson College for Girls 27 December - 4 January. Dr I.F. Owens, a geographer with a first-hand knowledge of the Nelson district, will discuss the geography, geology, economics and climatology of the area and lead related field studies, Mr Charles Martin, president of the Canterbury W.E.A., will take a course on music and Mrs Mollie Atkins will take a course on art.

Remote Terminal for Computer Users

A small but significant step in the development of computing facilities in the University took place at noon on 30 October, when the first of the remote, low-speed interactive terminals to the B6718 computer went 'live' and were made available to computer users. These were the pair of typewriter-type terminals installed on the eighth floor of the Chemistry Department as a facility which is generally available but more particularly designed to meet the needs of the Science Faculty.

The establishment of a satisfactory interactive terminal system has a high priority in the University, accentuated by the big increase in the use of the computer by many departments in undergraduate teaching (a total of 104,175 jobs had been run under the Cantran system on the 360/44 up till 30 October, nearly 40,000 of

them this year). Pairs of character display screen terminals are now being prepared for similar installation in the School of Engineering and on the city site.

The interactive terminals will be available on a limited basis initially, while the general level of performance of the data communications software is brought up to a satisfactory level and any 'bugs' are removed from the software for the PDP11/20 computer, which acts as a concentrator through which they are connected.

It is hoped that this early stage is a short one and that we shall move rapidly to a state where sufficient skill and knowledge have been gained to enable us to move forward to another phase of terminal development.

—B.A.M.

Professor R.A.M. Gregson's forthcoming book, *Aspects of the Psychometrics of Similarity*, is to be published in New York by Academic Press.

Demand for Halls

There are more applicants for halls of residence conducted by the University than places available next year.

At 26 October 633 applications had been received for 412 places available in halls. There were 456 applications for 256 places available for men and 187 applications for 156 places available for women, the Vice-Chancellor told Council. There was a much greater demand for halls at Ilam than those in the city and some students might have to take places at Rolleston House or Helen Connon Hall.

Professor Phillips said the applications for the University flats now nearing completion at Ilam had been lower than expected. The flats had accommodation for 144 students, but at present applications totalled only 60. However, he was hopeful that all places would be taken up.

There seemed to be some resistance to the flats, which were designed to cater for groups of six with a shared common room for two groups. This had been carefully considered when plans were drawn, but if it was an objection it might prove possible to divide the common rooms in two so that each group had its own, Professor Phillips said. He thought the rental of \$7.50 was moderate.

Medical Research in University

Medically-oriented research is continuing in the University. The annual report of the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation shows that some 20 different research projects related to medical research are being undertaken in the Departments of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Psychology and Sociology.

A joint study being undertaken by the Chemistry and Electrical Engineering Departments is concerned with calcium metabolism in humans. The ion exchange behaviour of radioactive calcium may distort conclusions from tracer experiments in live patients. A simple analogue computer simulation has shown that more information on ion exchange kinetics is required and results are being collected.

Dr W.S. Metcalf and Mr J.A. Walker are investigating the form that calcium takes in the gut because this has a bearing on the rate at which it is absorbed. The computer program describing the movement of calcium in man is continually being improved as new and more accurate measurements come to hand.

Dr J.W. Blunt has found that some synthetic approaches for the preparation of substances related to Vitamin D have not measured up to their earlier promise, either here or overseas, but some interesting and useful chemical knowledge discovered in the investigation has made the project worthwhile.

Dr G.A. Rodley is collaborating with Dr R.W. Carrell in a study of coboglobin, which is like haemoglobin but with cobalt in place of iron.

In the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Professor D.C. Stevenson reported on the construction of a tilting bed for paraplegics or geriatric patients, which had proved successful in use at the Christchurch Hospital. It contains an automatic control and application for provisional patents has been made. Arrangements were being made for manufacture. Two wheelchairs for quadraplegics had been made in co-operation with the firm of McKellow and Hume of Christchurch and were in use. A suck-blow control unit operated by the paraplegic's mouth enabled control of a powered wheelchair to give forward, reverse and left and right-turning control. A provisional patent had been granted for the wheelchair control apparatus.

Nine separate projects are being undertaken in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Dr V. Kerdelidis is supervising work being undertaken by Mr P.J.

Bones as a M.E. project to investigate electromagnetic and ultrasonic methods aimed at constructing apparatus to measure blood flow in vessels without actually penetrating their walls.

Aids For Blind

Professor L. Kay is supervising three M.E. projects. One, being undertaken by Mr S.T. Bui, is concerned with determining the mechanism of natural perception of space through hearing by the blind. The concept, built into the ultrasonic device, is thought to be similar to the mechanism used by humans in locating the position of objects. If this can be shown to be so, it should then be possible to enhance the natural perception of the blind and thereby produce a highly acceptable sensory aid for the blind.

A second M.E. project being undertaken by Messrs L.R. Parkes and S.D. Sanders, is concerned with the automatic control of sensitivity of a sensory aid for the blind. Before any audible sensory aid can become universally accepted a means for controlling the volume must be found which maintains the intensity of the output at a level which is comparable with that of ambient sounds. The user's attention can then easily be directed at either the device sounds or important ambient sounds, including natural echo-location. Before a control system can be built a study is necessary on the mechanism which determines which type of sounds are most demanding of attention. A solution will mean that sensory aids can be introduced to children.

Professor Kay is also supervising an M.E. project by Mr H.V. Tran to devise an ultrasonic stethoscope for general practitioners. As heart disease become more prevalent the need for diagnosis at G.P. level becomes more important. It is intended to develop an ultrasonic stethoscope by which practitioners will be able to monitor the movement of various parts of the heart to aid in diagnosis. The aim is to provide information from a highly portable unit which is comparable with that provided by ultrasonic cardiographs in specialised clinics.

Mr R.B. Jordan, supervised by Dr R.H.T. Bates is undertaking computer modelling of metabolic systems as a Ph.D. project. Computer models of the glucocorticoid system are being constructed, the models being derived from experimental results and observations made on sheep with autotransplanted adrenal glands. The processes of model construction provide a better understanding of the complex interactions present in endocrine systems. This project is being jointly supervised by Dr Metcalf, who is also supervising with Dr Bates a Ph.D. project by Mr E.A. McKinnon on the modelling of calcium metabolism.

Dr Bates is also supervising Mr P.T. Gough's Ph.D. project on image processing.

Various techniques are being investigated to produce computer-generated holograms suitable for medium-sized computers. Specific holograms are being generated from bio-medical X-ray data to image the interior of opaque bodies. Mr M.J. McDonnell is also undertaking research for a Ph.D. on image processing. A comprehensive study of inverse filtering is to be made, both digitally and optically, supervised by Mr Bates. The initial effort is to be concentrated on restoring motion-blurred images.

In another Ph.D. project, being undertaken by Mr T.M. Peters supervised by Dr Bates, digital and optical image processing techniques have been developed to improve cross section imaging in radiology. The theoretical basis for reconstructing cross sections from a discrete number of projections is also being studied.

Research in Psychology

Five research projects are being directed by Professor R.A.M. Gregson. One, using studies conducted by Miss Marion Hawkins with the collaboration of Professor D.W. Beaven and his department on abnormalities in sensory qualitative and quantitative acuity in obese women, uses a new mathematical model developed by Professor Gregson to measure gustatory psychophysical parameters. The results are being collated with physiological and psychological variables also studied in parallel with taste sensitivity. Some abnormality in sweetness perception in the obese is apparent.

It is known that gustatory acuity can, in some subjects, be greatly modified by the administration of zinc sulphate. Mr A. Suntharao is exploring the relative changes induced by local application of zinc sulphate solutions to the tongue and by pill so that zinc ion level in the blood is increased. This research has clinical relevance to zinc deficiency, to the diagnosis of some syndromes and to zinc medication side effects.

Dr M.B. Simmonds, in collaboration with Professor A.J.W. Taylor of Victoria University, is investigating reported shifts in gustatory sensitivity consequent on wintering over on the polar ice-cap. This phenomenon has been tentatively reported by observers from various nations sending men to Antarctica. Mr G. Scarr is developing a computer simulation on decisions about patient admissions to a mental hospital as a first stage of setting up a model of some diagnostic procedures.

Within the context of a research project directed by Professor Gregson and funded by the War Pensions Medical Research Trust Fund Board, studies have

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Research on Maori Education, Family

The Interdepartmental Committee on Polynesian Research is inviting applications for applied research on problems facing Maori and other Polynesian people within New Zealand. Priority will be given to projects in the education and family fields, but applications relating to other fields will be given consideration.

In the education field, the committee would be interested particularly to receive proposals concerned with the following: the attitudes of Maori and other Polynesian children towards teachers and school; the attitudes of teachers towards Maori and other Polynesian children, including for instance teachers' knowledge of Maori and other Polynesian environments, their expectations and values, application of teaching techniques; the attitudes of Maori and other Polynesian parents towards school, teachers, and the education of their children, and the aspirations parents have for their children; the relevance of the school curriculum to the needs, interests and abilities of Maori and other Polynesian children; causes of school leaving and factors in retention at secondary school in respect to Maori and other Polynesian children; the factors that contribute towards successful performance at school by Maori and other Polynesian children; the transition

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Medical Research

been conducted by Mr G.M. Taylor, with other assistance, to develop a new battery of tests of cognitive impairment and assess its relevance to the rehabilitation potential of the alcoholic. New tests have been devised by Professor Gregson and Mr Taylor and a preliminary computer analysis is being made. Field observations have been made at Sunnyside, Hanmer and other local hospitals and data on control groups have been collected at local military institutions.

Mr P.N. Russell is directing research contrasting process paranoid and non-paranoid schizophrenic patients with control normal subjects on three search and scanning tasks. The principal aim of this research is to investigate current theories on the postulated attentional deficit in schizophrenic disorders. The results of this work, and other studies made in the University and at Sunnyside Hospital by Mr R. Knight, indicate the possible development of reliable measures of cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia and of techniques which may be applicable to the monitoring of the performance of patients receiving phenothiazine medication.

from school to job, including the vocational preferences of Maori and other Polynesian children, the vocational guidance received, the relevance of course of study and attainment, and the vocational opportunities available.

In the family field, proposals concerned with the following are sought; the nature of Maori and other Polynesian parent-child relationships, including causes of their breakdown; effects of urbanisation, cultural dislocation and socio-economic constraints upon the Polynesian family structure and child-rearing practices; the prevalence and effects of informal adoptions, especially in the urban situation; the needs and stresses encountered by Maoris and immigrant Pacific Islanders in coping with the urban environment.

Application forms have been supplied to heads of social science departments. Forms are available also from the local office of the Maori and Island Affairs Department.

The information the committee seeks as a basis for consideration of a proposal includes:

(1) A clear definition of the proposed topic for research, including a detailed statement of aspects and questions to be investigated and the approach to be adopted.

(2) A statement of the research work (if any) known to have been done or to be progressing within the employing organisation or elsewhere in relation to the topic, with special reference to points of similarity and difference in the proposed research to such work.

(3) The qualifications, research experience, and any published works of the applicant, proposed supervisor (if any) and other research workers.

(4) A tentative timetable for the carrying out and completion of the proposed research project.

(5) A detailed budget for the proposed research project, showing itemised estimated for remuneration, non-recurring costs, working expenses, items of capital equipment, and items of \$100 or more.

(6) The amounts, together with the sources, of any grants or other financial assistance which have been applied for elsewhere or are already received.

Where a project is to be carried out by researchers attached to a university or other research organisation, the research contract will normally be entered into with the employing institution.

Butterworths (New Zealand) Ltd, the law publishers, have made a grant of \$500 a year available for graduates in law to undertake postgraduate studies abroad.

Ancient Pots for Classics

The Geology Department may have older material, but the Classics Department now possesses what must be the oldest artifacts in the University. Included in the Logie Collection is pottery from Cyprus dated as far back as the 21st century B.C.

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor N.C. Phillips) told Council that the University had assisted an archaeological expedition to Cyprus by the University of Melbourne. The pottery acquired for the collection represented the University's share of the "finds" made by the Melbourne expedition under the direction of the late Professor J.R. Stewart.

The major part of the pottery consists of a tomb-group excavated in 1960-61 at Lapasta, in northern Cyprus, towards the west end of the Kyrenia range. The tomb group is classified as Late Early Cypriot III (late 21st century B.C.) and it includes in addition to various pitchers and bowls a large pyxis (a toilet box) of outstanding quality. The other important item received was a plank idol found at Palealona, about five miles west of Kyrenia, during the excavation of a looted tomb of slightly later date.

Most of the consignment is now in storage until the Logie Collection is moved to Ilam.

Research on Roads

The National Roads Board has approved three research study awards of \$1000 each for work being undertaken in the Department of Civil Engineering under Professor R. Park and Mr A. Williman.

One of the awards goes to Mr B.P. Pythian to carry out studies on partial prestressing. This is a continuation of a research project begun at the University last year.

Mr P.D. Leslie has been granted an award to carry out research into the plastic hinge behaviour of reinforced concrete piers under seismic loading and Mr J.C. Reynolds's award is to undertake a study on the technical and economic aspects of roundabouts to determine circumstances in which they may be advantageous.

The New Zealand Portland Cement Association advised that from next year the value of its postgraduate scholarship in Engineering would be increased by \$200 to \$1000 a year.

Greenhorn in Canterbury

(By ARTHUR RUSSELL)

The author studied forestry at Canterbury University College for two years in the 'twenties. During this period he took part in some of Shelley's earliest productions, edited the *Canterbury College Review*, and held a part-time job as librarian for the Christchurch Press.

After five years in New Zealand he freelanced in Fleet Street, then spent 29 years in the BBC's External Services, first as a news editor and later as a drama producer. Since then he has edited the Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society for three years. His son and daughter are both journalists. His publications include two books of verse: *In Idleness of Air* (1960) and *Ice on the Live Rail* (1962), both Scorpion Press. He writes:

In 1950 the approaching Canterbury Centennial made me think of writing a longish poem about my time there. Unluckily, Dorothy Sayers's accomplished translation of Dante suggested the form, *terza rima*, which can be splendidly flexible in English but which makes extreme

demands on the writer's skill. The New Zealand Broadcasting Service broadcast the resulting poem, then called *High Country, Low Country*. Some years later I discarded about half of it. The revised remnant was a much tauter and rather less self-absorbed work; but till now I've published only one fragment, the Hammer sequence.

When the University centennial came along, the original uncut version was kindly sent to Christchurch by my brother-in-law, F.A. Sandall, formerly Auckland University Librarian. The Editor of the *Chronicle* asked my permission to publish, which was a pleasant surprise, but I had to ask him first for a photostat as I no longer knew what version was extant in New Zealand. I found it contained garrulous and rhetorical passages, often clumsy, which I had gladly forgotten. (Both the middle-aged writer and the younger self he resurrects make me squirm at times.) However, some of these bits touched on Canterbury University College; and it was the whole thing that had been broadcast in New Zealand, and that

had interested the Editor. So at 65 it seemed silly to insist that all the scrapped bits must be scrapped again. Instead I've revised the whole, though not nearly so ruthlessly as it needs — some parts, not always the best, remain unchanged.

It appears, then, for its antiquarian and curiosity value: I'm keenly aware of its faults and believe I've since made myself a much more rigorous craftsman.

One of its biggest faults is its lopsidedness — all that hearty sport and labouring and geography, and so little about the arts, or the people who most influenced me. These were: Shelley, of course; Charles Foweraker, Frank Hutchinson, and Dr Chilton, who taught me forestry and biology; two notable editors, J.H.E. Schroder and Oliver Duff; and four or five girls of brains, charm, and vivid personality.

Anyone who dislikes reading verse might find it helpful to read this as prose. With luck the rhythm might then impose itself: five natural speech stresses per line, regardless of the number of syllables.

Happily enough in this all-mastering notion,
Books and high timber easily to intertwine;

And with less rapture in me, more resolution,
And better health, it might have been made to work.
Yet how lucky it was that my brief devotion

Took me to Christchurch, settled me there to embark
On university life with folly and zest!
Lucky even that the course I started to shirk

Bent my mind for a time on things it had missed —
Land, forest, rivers, and all things living;
Lucky I managed to scrape enough to exist,

By work in vacation and evening; lucky in contriving
To pack so many other activities in,
Tasting all that offered and still surviving;

Lucky in the stir and stimulus of wise men
And excellent friends; lucky — for a feckless spark —
That every girl was a pippin who attracted me then.

Our close ceremony of friendship was to walk
Two or three together on the Port Hills,
Floating the day by on a tide of talk:

But whether of books or man or the world's ills,
Callow philosophy or the stars, I cannot remember
So well as the song the lark sprinkles and spills

Over the tussock whispering in the heat of December,
Shrill with crickets filing and sheep bleating,
Twining with the call of cockerels beyond number

Thinly from country and city repeating and repeating,
And the city itself like the murmuring of distant seas.

I

New life, new land, new day. On the deck of a ship
Southward bound from Wellington, an immigrant boy
Is gazing landward, half-awakened from sleep,

Watching the spring dawn, with rapt eye,
As slowly rosily suffusing from brow to breast
The coastal hills flush with a distant joy.

There in my first glimpse of the Canterbury coast
You may guess the colour of these verses of evocation:
They are rose-hued and fugitive. At best

They are middle-age's rhyme of incantation
To call back a couple of rich years
When I loved a life and a province with a boy's passion

And tried at moments to see it with the eyes of the pioneers.

II

"The vast taxad rain-forest of Westland..." My ear
Still echoes to the fine trumpeting phrase
That once beguiled me to the choice of a career.

In my earliest impressible immigrant days
A forester lent me a book of his craft, containing
Those words, and put me in a daft haze

In which I saw a forest officer gaining
Gradual fame as a writer in his spare time,
And presto! I resolved on a forester's training.

Creative and practical seemed then to combine

III

When I remember Christchurch, my thoughts teem
With faces, and personalities through the mind;
But cockney-like, as soon as I start to dream

Of broad Canterbury beyond the city, I find
Trees, rivers, land – and hardly a face.
For I ranged the back-country with my own kind

And student-foresters seem to people the place.
But there are three countrymen who still stick:
Harry with the shepherd's eye of far peace,

Banshee whistle, torso of oiled teak,
Who spent a winter mustering stripped to the waist;
Bantam Nigel of Kent who knew the trick

Of the old massy English axe, and amazed
By swinging seven pounds of hefted steel;
And last, a grazier of the fat plains, who raised

Fat twin sons; in the middle of a meal
He beams at them over the joint, rumbling:
"My word, you two would certainly hang up well!"

And plump as mutton himself, resumes his grumbling.

IV

The hard structure of Canterbury is more clear
To my mind's eye than that of my own
Small tame county of Hertfordshire.

Dramatic its bold anatomy of visible bone,
Nobly with snow pinnacle and glacier spined;
Ribbed, skulled, knee'd, knuckled in stone;

Fleshed by the long plain; blooded and veined
By many a river; thewed and sinewed hard
By the High Country pasture, the unconfined

Muscular tussock-lands of rough sward.
You may still watch the glaciers at their slow quarrying,
Bold pyramid-plunderers of an older hoard,

Building the plain; and the robber rivers carrying
Fertility down, first by precipitous gorges
Flung headlong in torrent and cataract hurrying,

Till each river from the last of its hills emerges,
Winds and divides and scours over the flat
And peaceably into the Pacific at last discharges.

But when the rivers rise in flood and fret,
Waimakariri running yellow and white,
Then even city dwellers must regret

The early settlers' lack of second sight,
Who burnt the forest and stripped the hills bare
Never foreseeing the land's later plight –

Rich hills eroded beyond repair,
Soil vanished, rivers out of control:
The pioneer's monument everywhere

From Mesopotamia to the American dust bowl.

V

Apart from little Avon – who trots like a lady
Between the weeping willows on her way to tea –
Canterbury rivers are too treacherous and greedy

Ever to be taken lightly, from glacier to sea.
Waimakariri, the river I knew best,
Etched one impression unforgettably on me:

The whole School of Forestry is searching without rest
Below the gorge, where first the torrent slows,
And we all dread to find the object of our quest.

Strange that seasoned climbers in their senses could propose
To navigate the Waimak in less than a stout boat!
You might as well trust a ruffianly morose

Wild boar, at bay with a bullet in his throat.
Yet three university men, with a ramshackle raft
Of kerosene cans, hoped to keep afloat

Right down the river. Murderously it laughed –
"Who dares take such liberties with me?"
Brandished a tusk to rend the silly craft

And claimed two lives as forfeit out of three....
Battered at the cliff's foot sprawls a man.
Hours of agony later, he claws his way

Out of the gorge for help. The search is on.
Everyone knows there's little enough hope
Except of recovering bodies; but once begun

Rescuers quarter the river group by group.
We foresters tackle a reach of the shingle-bed
So much divided and split in channel and loop

That over and over again we're forced to wade
Up to waist-deep in currents cold as snow.
But Carrington and Shannon are squandered and spent and dead

And the slaked river declines to let them go.

VI

All generations of dwellers on the long plain
Cherish a steady workaday vision that fills
Mind and heart with a psalm's words for refrain:

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills
From whence cometh my help. Is there ever a place
Where the vision fails for long or the anthem fades?*

Imperially ermined, radiant in icy grace,
Reigning afar or looming near at hand
Aloofly the great range pledges its peace

To every townsman and countryman who may stand
Idle a moment in wonder at the snowline closing
The end of a street or a half-horizon of land.

And now the Southern Alps have set me musing
(In England, on a hearthbound Sunday afternoon,
Keeping my cold away from the children, and dozing)

How was it that I failed to seize the boon
Of alpine sport but eighty miles away,
So easy then, but now never to be known?

For students there was little enough to pay:
A couple of pounds would take you to Mount Cook
And let you ski for a whole memorable day.

But finding a couple of pounds was no joke
To most of us – it was more than a week's keep.
And yet, how stupid not to have gone broke

Once, when the very Alps were dirt cheap!
In the city, I could even have watched the one swan
Pavlova, poignantly quiver to a white heap –

At the cost of humbling myself to a crown loan.
But I was young, and many a fine thing
Is valued most only when long gone,

When the snow has gone the way of the swan's wing.

VII

A mother slaps her child in Timaru,
A musterer kicks his dog to vent his spleen,
Your waitress tips the coffee in the stew,

Divorce attracts your spouse in Geraldine.
There's not a smile in all Cathedral Square
And half the college wigs are on the green;

Professor Blogg's had more than he can bear
And splits, with one huge paralysing stroke,
The atom? No, his last remaining hair.

Something is certain to happen, just to provoke...
Damn it, I've gone and cut my favourite thumb!
– But what's the use of trying to make a joke

Out of norwester weather? Wearisome
Its long sucking-dry of lungs and veins,
Nagging the temper, striking the brain numb.

The old man norwester, hated by the plains.
It sets a menacing arch, shallow and low
In the mountain sky as long as the wind remains,

No hope-bringer of a showery halcyon bow
But a yellowish crouching thing with slit eye,
A spell in its overlooking: for you may go

To the world's end, hankering to feel its dry
Breath on your face again, again to return
Stare for stare with it before you die.

How many, though, remember what they learn
Of the wind's conception a thousand miles away,
Its sea-begotten burden of rain, borne

More and more heavily across the Tasman Sea
To reach full term on the West Coast
At soaking Hokitika and sodden Grey?

Heavy its precipitation as it climbs to the uttermost
Peak and pass, in rain, sleet and rain,
Till empty as a wrung clout, with the alps crossed,

The norwester descends to desiccate the long plain.

VIII

Here back at home I've boasted many a time
Of Rugby played in Christchurch long ago,
My few keen seasons' flowering and prime

Surviving in a beery heroic glow.
True, I was never good enough to rise
Out of the third fifteen, but even so

Luck sent me for mates four Maoris
Of mood and humour quicksilver and obsidian,
And a stand off-half unusual in more than size –

A smiling hulking powerful Chinaman.
Of all our matches, little enough remains
But the rank pack shoving in unison,

A multiple animal that wheels and strains,
That reeks and grunts and loses in fine weather,
Or sweats and wins and curses when it rains.

It was good to tackle well, or to fall and smother,
Or to get the threes away by cleanly heeling,
Maori and pakeha in full cry together;

Or best of all, from lineout or pack wheeling,
To lead a forward rush of pounding feet,
A berserk foray of furious assailing.

But gusto started with the haka's mimic hate
Of chanting stamping defiance before the game,
The stone-age in me revelling in its beat,

The English in me dwindled to a mere name!
Yet all too long the football winter lasted
And late and short the cricketer's summer came,

And though I count too many a summer wasted
There was one at least when I cricketed my fill
For I helped to found a club where none existed

(Cryptics of Canterbury, are you playing still?)
And all against the common expectation
Ran it, although I ran it remarkably ill,

Throughout the doldrums of a long vacation
Mustering eleven – more or less – to play
By a mixture of blandishment, luck, and inspiration.

Who else, I wonder, still remembers the day
Seven of us, driven by lunatic Peter,
Set off for a fixture ninety miles away

A raucous riotous load in an old four-seater?
We kidnapped a couple more and stuffed them in
And on the ground abducted a spectator

Who made a stand enabling us to win.
Leaving the other side a trifle chilly.
Then, shabby students all and thick of skin,

Without the cash for getting drunk and silly
We spent the night on the pavilion floor
Niggard and sobersided, willy-nilly.

Moments of matches remain, long after the score,
And here is one that I remember well:
We were playing a farmers' team, on a modest tour

Up the Rakaia. A mob of sheep was still
Mowing the outfield, and the pitch was concrete and matting,
And long the late shadows of the bluegums fell

And runs were needed, and the skipper and I were batting
And I drove far over the bowler's head
– My last six, too glorious for forgetting –

And all the mowing sheep panicked and fled.

IX

Hanmer, midwinter; twenty degrees of frost;
And round the small spa with its conical hill
Ranking shoulder to shoulder in a warlock host,

The pine plantations, steep, gloomy, and still.
We labourers in the nursery in the rimy morning
Stamp and beat hands and look for tasks to fill

Two laggard hours until the sun returning
Clears the high skyline and begins to thaw
The locked earth. Then we are soon scorning

Gauntlets and mufflers, and merry in the raw
Mountainous air, we gather the seedling pines.
But first they have to be made easy to draw,

So one of us loosens the roots with a fork's tines,
Going ahead; and following with bent backs
We straddle the toy trees in their orderly lines

And bunch them in twenty-fives with a strip of flax
(For a moment my hands can almost remember the knot).
And next, clod-footed, aproned in sacks,

We stir the puddling-tub until we've got
A thin porridge of mud, and dipping the roots
Bundle by bundle, heel them back in the plot

Ready for the planter-gang. We soft recruits
Tramp home aching in the starry dark,
Light the shack stove, discard our mucky boots,

Stuff our bellies and pipes, and forget the work,
Talking bawdy: till someone suggests a swim
And eagerly we clatter out. In the little park

The pool lies moonlit, sulphurous, a gleam,
Smoking in the icy air. How quick we strip!
Nobody shivers naked on the bath's brim –

Straight into the pungent waters we leap,
Swim lapped in warmth and climb out bellowing;
Then lustily towelling, race back home to sleep,

Quickly and deep for the day's labour following.

X

Mountainous province, province of scouring river,
Of the long plain and the city and the tussocky hill,
Excellent Erewhon for me and manhood-giver,

I stole away from you with no farewell
Twenty-three years ago on a witless day
Leaving a debt my verses seek to fulfil

Gratefully, now that my hair begins to be gray
And I have to cajole words before they will sing,
Now that the dreams of the young are drifted away

And the snow has gone the way of the swan's wing.

Optimism on Prospects of U.S.P.

Dr J.G. Wilson (Philosophy and Religious Studies) has returned from study leave spent in Fiji enthusiastic about the prospects of the University of the South Pacific.

"Palm-fringed beaches and mangoes were not, as friends (?) have suggested, my sole reason for spending study-leave in Fiji," Dr Wilson said in his leave report. "My interests and teaching responsibilities are increasingly centred on Hinduism. India, the home, seemed too far to go with a family for only ten months. Much closer, and hence of special interest and relevance to teaching in New Zealand, is the Hindu community of Fiji. Pandits learned in the sacred texts are not so thick on the ground there as in India. But as a place to learn more about the actual content and context of everyday Hindu belief and practice it seemed ideal.

"My association with the University of the South Pacific was loose and rich. I helped the Professor of Pacific Studies, Ron Crocombe (economist, historian, sociologist) to teach a second semester course (1972) entitled 'Systems of Religious Value and Belief'. The experience of teaching with a sociologist, and finding his views on religious phenomena so similar to mine despite our different disciplines, was quite exhilarating, and has, I hope, permanently improved my approach to the subject. I taught two sessions in a history course and one in a political science course, and again found it fruitful and enjoyable to be outside my own 'subject'. And I presented two seminars on my research, one (early) about my plans and another (later) about some of my results. This was, again, in the inter-disciplinary setting of the School of Social and Economic Development. As a result of this, and of constant informal intermingling, I have become a firm believer in the 'school' system rather than that of separate departments linked only at faculty level. Or, rather, I have become a believer in it for pleasantly small universities such as USP. I am not sure the same benefits would be gained from it in a larger institution.

"I was appointed an honorary lecturer during my stay, with the right, gratefully declined, to attend Board of Studies meetings. And I was a frequent, if irregular, haunter of Indian students' rooms, of the dining-room, and of the tree-shaded lawns of the campus, both in the pursuit of my research and for the pleasures of friendship. I even sang solo, in Hindi, a Hindu hymn, at the USP celebrations of the birth of Lord Ram. I am grateful, yet again, that Indian audiences are so extraordinarily kind to a foreigner's attempts to enter their culture.

"Some of the staff at USP are pessimistic about the standards, prospects and utility of the University. On the basis of my admittedly brief acquaintance, however,

I conceived and retain a great enthusiasm for the institution. Some of the reasons for this enthusiasm are related to size and location. The friendly informality possible in a small university was most enjoyable, and the stimulation of a multi-cultural campus, despite the concomitant possibility of tension, I found exhilarating. Some of the reasons relate to the organisation of the university, e.g., the multi-discipline Schools I have already referred to. And some relate to the general approach of the university, which seems to me very well-suited to its position as an academic centre for a number of small nations. There is a determined attempt to balance the academic pursuit of knowledge with training in the practical application of such knowledge to the actual problems of the university's region.

"This approach is indicated by the names of the schools as well as by details of approach. The sciences, for example, are taught in the School of Natural Resources. I got to know one of the staff of this school, a soil physicist, particularly well, and was very impressed by his attempts to ensure that graduates from the school are aware of the ideal standards and equipment for research in his field, while also being equipped with the ability to improvise and operate with less than ideal equipment and conditions so they can apply their knowledge in the field (in this case — as soil physicists — literally *in* the field).

"Sociology, politics, Pacific studies, geography, economics, history, administration and accountancy are taught in the School of Social and Economic Development, where the attempt is made to ensure that research is mainly in fields relevant to island problems — for example, the problems of shifting from village to urban life. And students in the School of Education combine the study of educational theory with teaching practice in schools.

"I heard fears expressed that this attempt to combine relevance with academic 'purity' was bound to lower academic standards. Personally I doubt this will be so — indeed, the reverse may prove to be the case. And certainly I feel the systematic attempt to achieve this combination is enormously worthwhile," Dr Wilson said.

MUSIC GIFT

The School of Music has received a gift of long-playing records from Belgium. They make up a representative collection of Belgian soloists and composers as well as discs of the famous Queen Elizabeth Concours Musical International.

The records were presented to the head of the School, Professor J.A. Ritchie, by the Belgian Ambassador, Mr H.J. Matsaert, in Wellington.

Views on Study Leave

Leave, Australasian style, is a privilege but not a luxury. It may appear as the latter to less generously treated European and North American academics; its role as the former, and also as a necessity, is evident to its recipients as — and after — they enjoy it. Naturally and inevitably this University is the centre and home of its members' academic life; an understanding that it is also peculiar and exceptional and capable of improvement — 'there are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays and every single one of them is right' — can come only from the experience of visiting and working in other universities. This applies at every level of university activity from government of the whole to running a first year tutorial. The purpose of leave is not to teach old dogs new tricks nor — even at the Edinburgh congress! — to pour new wine into old bottles, the one impossible the other imprudent, but to maintain our openness and open-mindedness, a purpose which I hope my leave, for which I again thank the Council of the University, has achieved.

— Dr P.J. Perry (Geography)

A few tips for future leave-takers. The present house price inflation makes furnished properties to rent for short periods both expensive and rare in London. Bankers and other references seemed necessary before a place could be obtained through an agent, a procedure which takes 10-14 days, during which alternate accommodation is necessary. And south of the river is about £10 a week cheaper than north, because the Southern Region is less reliable than the Underground. In many education authorities the pressure on schools is great. We were able to place our two children in a local primary school in Croydon, but I then had to wait two weeks for their clearance. This involved both language tests and skin tests — and could not be circumvented by visitors from New Zealand for fear of the Race Relations Board. Indeed, Croydon were not accepting temporary pupils from parents who did not carry British (UK) passports. So be warned. And finally, be in England when the New Zealand cricket team is there rather than the All Blacks: the press are much kinder to the former. — Dr R.J. Johnston (Geography)