PLANNING FOR CLINICAL TEACHING

Professor David Maddison writes about the University’s plans for the construction of an on-campus building and the joint schemes of the university and local hospitals to construct clinical buildings so that students of the proposed Newcastle Medical School can be trained. Professor Maddison is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the university.

The Medical Sciences Building, to be erected on the University campus, is primarily designed to accommodate the basic science aspects of medical education. During the first two years of their five year undergraduate programme the students will spend the greatest part of their time within this building, although the principle of vertical integration which governs our curriculum development will ensure that during this period they make frequent visits to hospitals and community clinics, and that they are frequently taught by clinicians.

During the final three years of their course teaching in the clinical subjects becomes predominant, although there will continue to be frequent, vitally important interchanges with the basic sciences. We therefore require to construct buildings to accommodate the headquarters for the various clinical disciplines, including teaching and research areas, but which must also provide appropriate library and educational space. During certain segments of their clinical education students gain a great deal from “living in” at a busy hospital, and thus a small amount of residential accommodation is also necessary.

By the very nature of the instruction to be encompassed, it is essential that Clinical Science Blocks (as they are usually called) should be sited close to the most abundant supply of patients suitable for teaching. Our major development must therefore be in association with the Royal Newcastle Hospital, with its 500 beds, rather than with either of these units, which major development in their vicinity.

We have made this decision recognising that in so doing we will be responsible for generating a greatly increased flow of traffic in an already congested quarter of the city, but we have no real choice in the matter. We will be undertaking much smaller, subsidiary developments, in the grounds of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, and at the Newcastle Psychiatric Centre; a certain amount of hospital teaching will also be provided at Wallsend Hospital and Newcastle Western Suburbs Hospital. None of these units, however, are of sufficient size or complexity to make it feasible for us to undertake our major development in their vicinity.

Our major building will be a substantial one, and at the present time it is envisaged that it will rise to a height of approximately six floors on the Watt Street (western) end of the Royal Newcastle Hospital site. The first steps are currently being taken towards the design of this building, and it is hoped that construction will commence at the beginning of 1978, in order for it to be ready for occupation by the first batch of clinical students in 1980.

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Christina Stead, the celebrated novelist who has returned to Australia after an absence overseas of 40 years, is the second Writer-in-Residence in the University.

Christina Stead, a former Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University, addressed Convocation’s annual general meeting at Newcastle Rugby Club on June 3.

She took up her appointment early in June and will fulfil a period of residency lasting 9 weeks, during which she will be free to talk to students, members of staff and local writers.

She will be provided with a room on the campus to serve as an office.

Christina Stead, 74, is called “the most gifted of living Australian novelists” by Colin Roderick in “An Introduction to Australian Fiction” (Angus and Robertson, 1950).

She was born in Sydney, daughter of the distinguished naturalist David Stead, a Fabian socialist and a conservationist before the word became fashionable. She went to the University of Sydney, graduating from the Teachers’ College and working as a Demonstrator in Psychology. She wanted to travel and, when the opportunity came in 1928, left Sydney for London and became private Secretary to a banking company. She and the owner of the firm, William Blake, were married and lived variously in London, New York, Brussels and Paris for 45 years before Mr. Blake died.

In 1935 they left Europe for the United States of America and the following year saw them in Spain. After the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, they went to Belgium and thence to England, returning in 1937 to the United States. For a while she worked for MGM in Hollywood as a resident writer and during the war instructed in the art and craft of the novelist at the University of New York.

Christina Stead has published all her books outside Australia. Her first novel “Seven Poor Men of Sydney” (1934) and “For Love Alone” (1944) are closely associated with the Australian scene. In “Seven Poor Men of Sydney” actual incidents connected with social ferment in Sydney about 1926 are portrayed, and the scene of “For Love Alone” shifts in the course of the book from Australia to England.

The Writer-in-Residence Scheme has been made possible by the Literature Board of the Australian Council giving the University financial support. Xavier Herbert was the first Writer-in-Residence. He spent a period at the University in Term III last year.
NOMINATIONS CLOSE FOR NEWTON-JOHNSON AWARD

The Nomination Panel is inviting all those who know Mr. N. M. Million, Senior Lecturer in French at Newcastle University, and were his students, to prepare nominations for the Newton-Johnson Award. This Award is made in memory of the late Dr. Newton-John, Lecturer in French at Newcastle University, and was established by the Newcastle University Student Union in 1957.

The Award is made annually to a student (or group of students) who are likely to be nominated for the Robert Miller Prize in French. The Award is made to the student (or group of students) who, in the opinion of the Nomination Panel, shows the greatest promise to make a valuable contribution to the University, either by outstanding academic achievement or by service to the University community. The Award is made in memory of the late Dr. Robert Miller, Lecturer in French at Newcastle University, and was established by the Newcastle University Student Union in 1957.

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sociology over the sale of six years has been stifled rather than re-focused by concern about what Sociology is, and whether it can be dissolved of energy will be neutralised by the exploration of real social processes and issues, rather than extinguished by the dazing of drizzle of meta-

It does not, in this context, much matter whether the student of Sociology studies "quaint" or "quark" particle sub-
jects (if this distinction is meaningful) — an education in Sociology can be too become necessarily positioned in an unchanging society, which is a valid position to be in, since the course will be interpreted as the study of social processes in terms meaningful for the tasks, the problems, the contexts and the world.

Professor Michael Carter.

Sociology as in other subjects — who are prepared to readily accepted by some of its practitioners. It is perhaps less cause for worry about misconceptions and the phenomena of the new emergent that Sociology will tend to wearied academic forms and scholastic values. So that Sociology will not be there to draw upon in the earlier days; amongst non-sociologists in the universities and schools in matters of sub-
jects to which they are not taught in academic disciplines. There is problems which confront Social Workers, of course, issues relating to poor housing, poverty and general social deprivation; and they are concerned with the ways in which these issues are dealt with — and, especially, with the frequency with which new students and new staff. Teachers found themselves to get onto the sociological band-

THE GAZETTE

JUNE, 1976

700 GRADUATE IN CEREMONY

At three conferring of degrees ceremonies were held in the Great Hall. Of these, last week, some 700 degrees were awarded. Yvonne Stichert, who was Writer-In-

THE GAZETTE

JUNE, 1976

In the words of the Vizcaino-Chelon, who gave the University the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws: "The Judge also had a word of warning

Mr. Justice Kirby addressing new graduates.

Mr. Rees saw savagery to a wonderful characteristic of mankind. It was, a tragedy, he said, that our intelligence had been built on the idea that people shouldn't have been removed. We should never adopt the attitude that we couldn't have been.

He took the decisions of the Municipality of Paris not to allow a replica of the Eiffel Tower to be built as examples of the trend. Mr. Rees decided that of developing the intellects and the potential wisdom of the society, the time may be — but the potential is tremendous.

THE GAZETTE

JUNE, 1976

"A law which did this would undoubtedly stimulate social changes," he said.

The Judge also had a word of warning

Mr. L10yd Rees, placing his elbow on the table, said: "I am proposing to deal with certain questions relevant to the future of Australia. He quoted the late Professor J. Brown's ideas that the way to "get rid of the jails" and the question of prison reform. The Judge also had a word of warning

"One is entitled to suggest that the number of intrusions into our lives by Government and business, corporations, is increasing and unless something is done, will continue to increase.

The Judge said that it was precisely to "make sure that we have a decent end? that the Government had now in mind. Mr. Rees had no hesitation in providing such a statement.

The Judge stressed that it was not feasible to be able to consult the evidence that "the law at the moment does not solve a problem, and that a compulsion to continue to remain virtuous. The fertile minds of scientists, daily and weekly, are directed towards.

Economics and Commerce, and Science

Abdicate an interest in science is to walk far the changes

Mr. Rees concluded by making this plea

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The portrait of Dr. Ralph Baden, in honour of Dr. Baden, whose work as a Public Analyst (by Dobie), hangs in the Theatre. The portrait was painted at the time of his retirement and was commissioned by the Faculty of Physical and Optometry.

JUNE, 1976

THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATION AT NEWCASTLE

On November 21, 1975, the University Council established the Faculty of Education at Newcastle University. The Faculty is formed by the amalgamation of the Department of Education and the Department of Psychology, and the Boards of Studies in Education, History of Education, and Psychology. The Faculty will be responsible for the provision of education courses and research leading to postgraduate qualifications. These courses and research will be administered by the Faculty Board, Faculty of Education, which will continue to be chaired by Professor J. Biggs.

The Department of Education was founded in 1968 with the Faculty of Arts, with Professor L. N. Short, now working on the Vice-Chancellor's Board, as Chair. The Department of Psychology was established in 1969, with Professor J. Biggs as Chair. The Board of Studies in Education, under the Chairmanship of Professor J. Biggs, was a committee of the University Senate, and was responsible for the provision of education courses and research leading to postgraduate qualifications. The Board of Studies in Psychology was a committee of the University Senate, and was responsible for the provision of psychology courses and research leading to postgraduate qualifications.

Since 1968, the Department has grown rapidly, from the five full-time staff members in 1968, to a current establishment of 23, with a corresponding increase in non-academic staff. In 1969, the Department expanded to include full-time staff members in the following areas: History of Education, History of Psychology, and Psychology. The Department has been responsible for the provision of education courses and research leading to postgraduate qualifications, and has been involved in the provision of in-service teacher education, with multi-disciplinary resources.

The multi-disciplinary feature can become an important aspect of the Faculty's structure. In this way, it is hoped that the Faculty Board will be able to develop research links with the community, and to continue to be a critical component in the Faculty's development.

The Faculty Board, Faculty of Education, was established in 1974, under the Chairmanship of Professor J. Biggs. The Faculty Board is responsible for the provision of education courses and research leading to postgraduate qualifications. The Board is also responsible for the provision of in-service teacher education, with multi-disciplinary resources.

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Warden of Convocation

Mr. Brian Relf, a B.A graduate who is Business Manager of a Newcastle firm of consultant surveyors, is the new Warden of Convocation.

Mr. Relf.

Elected at Convocation's annual meeting on June 3, Mr. Relf succeeds Professor Ken Dutton, Professor of French, who, following his two-year term as Warden, did not present himself for re-election.

Mr. Relf, who is well-known in Newcastle business, surveying, Boy Scout and Rotary circles, was a member of Standing Committee of Convocation from 1973 to 1976.

Addressing the members of Convocation present, the retiring Warden spoke of the continuing pressure within the university of Convocation, which was an extraordinarily active and successful organisation.

"When I became Warden in 1974, there were a number of new initiatives already in hand, thanks largely to the vision and hard work of my predecessor, Warren Derkenne. The work so well begun in 1974 has since been brought to fruition, in the success of the Auchmuty Library Appeal and in the first presentation of the Newton-John Award last year.

"The traditional Convocation activities of long standing have been continued by the outgoing Committee in a more than satisfactory way. Tickets for the annual Graduation Ball continue to be sold out well before the event — a measure of the enthusiasm of graduands for this fitting culmination of what is a great event in their lives. The Convocation seminars continue to be held, on matters of public concern; those on the future of the University environment in 1974 and on Drama, Education and Society in 1975 were well attended and their proceedings published with the kind assistance of TUNRA Ltd.

"But in addition to this, we have instituted a large number of new ventures, again with a success-rate which has been, in my view, outstandingly encouraging.

"Last year saw the first Newcastle Lecture, in which, as you know, Sir Garfield Barwick was our distinguished speaker.

"Another new activity has been the Ball for Graduates, which has brought together many students from the earlier days of the University and College, and which is to be continued this year in a modified and even more enticing form.

"Our question to all graduates of the University, enquiring as to their career since graduation, has brought a high level of response and provided information not only of interest but of great potential use.

"Convocation is now a very large enterprise indeed, with some 5,000 members; it handles its own financial affairs, having taken over last year an account previously held by the University; and as the Treasurer's report has indicated, the financial position is extremely sound.

"We now have a Graduate Affairs Officer (Mr. John Armstrong) who looks after a great deal of Convocation's liaison with its members and the wider community on a part-time basis. Our active membership is understandably small, as is the case in every University Convocation, since so many members are dispersed throughout Australia and overseas (I might interpolate here that the questionnaire to graduates has surprised me by the number of responses that have come in from Newcastle graduates in all parts of the world). But I think, despite a relatively small active membership, that we can claim a high level of support and interest," Professor Dutton said.

"In terms of level of activity, we need make no apologies for the fact that we are probably the most active Convocation in Australia. In terms of how we are seen by the University, I believe we cannot rely on automatic grace and understanding; we need constantly to show the University that we are an integral and valuable part of its total life.

"When I took on the Warden'ship, I had some misgivings as to the propriety or a member of the academic staff undertaking such an office. The last two years have confirmed that disquiet, and indeed I have become more acutely aware than ever of the disadvantage of being both an employee of the institution and at the same time the spokesman for a body which has as one of its vital roles that of criticising the institution.

"When I look back over these last two years, I believe that this dichotomy has in many ways limited my usefulness to Convocation — for the two hats have not sat easily, particularly at times when I have felt, as Warden, that the University was being hard, or unjust, or unappreciative of Convocation, and yet at the same time have seen Convocation's activities against the background of other pressing priorities within the University. I trust that, in this respect, you will be better served by my successor, and that Convocation will take on its full role in the counsels of this institution.

"Let us not forget that Convocation, which is now the most numerous group of people comprising the University, has the right to discuss and pronounce an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University, and to enter into communication directly with the Council or Senate on any matter affecting the University — powers which it holds under the By-laws. This is an area of very great weight, and an area which, in my experience, we have entered hardly at all. It is not only great privilege, but a great responsibility, it makes Convocation, as a former Vice-Principal once put it, potentially the most powerful body in the University.

"To fulfil this task properly, Convocation must rely on two things: firstly, its credibility with the University authorities. We shall not gain this by rushing in and expressing an opinion to Council or Senate on every matter under the sun; it is a responsibility which must be exercised with restraint, for our credibility relies very largely on precisely the restraint with which that power is exercised. But it is an area in which perhaps we could have done more, and for that I confess to some sense of regret.

"Secondly, we rely on our credibility with graduates themselves. And this type of matter is notoriously difficult to measure. All I can say is that the success of our financial appeals, of our request for contribution membership subscriptions, and the response to the graduate questionnaire leads me to believe that we have the support of our members; and if attendance at business meetings is not always as high as it could be, the success of our special functions is remarkably gratifying.

"The Secretary (Mr. E. J. Buckman) and the Treasurer (Mr. G. Mitchell) presented their respective reports. Convocation's bank balance at the time of the Annual Meeting was in excess of $3000.

21st Birthday

University Rugby Club will hold its 21st Anniversary Dinner in Edwards Hall at the University of Newcastle on the evening of July 17.

All past members of the club and supporters are invited to attend the special celebrations.

The Club is publishing a history which will be released at the Dinner.

A total of 81 foolscap pages have been collected, together with photographs, and the book is currently in the press.

Mr. Brian O'Shea, a veteran forward with the Club, who is President of the University Sports Union, will be guest speaker at the Anniversary Dinner.

Further information about the Dinner can be obtained from Mr. H. Bradfield, at the University, or the Club Secretary (Mr. Roger Zimmerman, Tel. N'cle 57 1327).