

ever the load becomes too great for the local plant to handle.

The social activities of the Club this year have been limited to the monthly meetings, as it was felt that in the initial year it would be wiser to go a bit slowly. It has been felt, however, that there is room for some expansion of activity in this direction for the future, and it is likely that one or two social fixtures will become established next year. First will no doubt be an annual dinner. Such a function was not deemed necessary this year, as all the students in attendance in 1925 will return and continue their scholastic work in 1926; but in future such a gathering at the close of the scholastic year as a valedictory to the men who leave the school to take up their work in their chosen profession will be a ceremony of real import to the Club.

STUDENTS—1925.

By way of placing on record the names of those students who were regularly enrolled for the 1925 session of the Canterbury College School of Forestry—the first session of a recognised School of Forestry to be held in New Zealand—the following brief notes as collected by the Secretary of the Forestry Club are of interest in showing the personnel of the school during its initial year, and their reasons for pursuing the forestry course.

C. S. Barker, of Woodbury, South Canterbury, went to the Mackenzie Country to sheep-station work upon leaving Christ's College in 1919. Here he became interested in forestry from experience in tree planting in that bare and wind-swept district. He was one of the pioneers, therefore, in 1924, when lectures in forestry were first begun at Canterbury College, and has now completed his second year of forestry work. Although not matriculated, he plans on a three-year course similar in scope to that of the associateship. Barker spent part of last summer at Hanmer gaining practical experience in nursery work.

A. F. Clark was born in England, and prior to the war was on the staff of the National Provincial Bank of England in London. Joining the colours on the outbreak of hostilities he saw four years' service with the Imperial forces, being gassed and invalided out in 1918. Emigrating in 1921, he came first to Tasmania, and then to New Zealand, locating in Taranaki, where he tried farming and station work. During a short visit to Hanmer he became acquainted with the work of the State Forest Service, and learning that facilities for education in forestry were available at Canterbury College, enrolled at the beginning of the 1925 session for a three-year course.

S. C. Hamilton, another Christ's College old boy, also saw four years' active service—with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Upon demobilisation he took up farming in Canterbury, but later was employed on survey work, and in 1924 secured a post at Hanmer Plantation with the State Forest Service. Convinced of the desirability of taking a technical course in forestry, he availed himself of the opportunity offered by the opening of the School of Forestry in 1925 to enrol for a two-year Ranger course, with the possibility of a third year of study.

C. W. Kingan left school early and followed farming and station work in Canterbury for some years, finally becoming interested in gardening, and especially horticulture. He attended some of the lectures given in 1924 by Mr. Foweraker, and in 1925 turned up at the school to enrol for a three-year course in forestry.

H. Roche was born on the West Coast diggings, and after leaving school went into survey work with the well-known firm of Learmont and Maclean, remaining with them some years, and having a share in the opening up of the bush consequent on the building of the Midland Railway. Incapacitated for war service by an old injury, Roche was on the Otira tunnel construction from end to end, with the Public Works Department, being shifted to the Mangahao project upon the completion of the tunnel, in the capacity of foreman. Upon the creation of the State Forest Service in 1921, Roche received an appointment as Forest Ranger, first in the Westland Region, and then in the Canterbury-Otago region, a position he now occupies. When the School of Forestry was opened in 1925 Roche took advantage of his location in Christchurch to attend such lectures in forestry as were possible without interference with his official duties. He was granted a provisional matriculation, which was confirmed upon the satisfactory completion of his first year's work. He is taking the Associate course.

Mr. Skipworth came to the school direct from the Christchurch Boys' High School, gaining his Matriculation last year. He is taking the Degree Course, becoming interested in forestry through a seed-extraction job which he performed for the State Forest Service during the past summer.

SUMMER WORK—1925.

While the greater part of the tuition in the School of Forestry is given at Canterbury College during the regular scholastic terms, it is evident that in such a practical profession as forestry theoretical and laboratory training must be reinforced by actual field experience in practical forestry before the forestry student can be considered competent to take

charge of any position of executive responsibility. This was clearly recognised by the founders of the course in Forestry for the University of New Zealand. Regulation XV. provides, *inter alia*, that "the student must, after matriculation and before obtaining his degree, furnish a certificate signed by the Teacher of Forestry in a Recognised School that he has spent at least twelve months in the actual practice of forestry operations in the field"—a provision which ensures that all graduates in forestry from the University of New Zealand shall have had some experience in actual work which will enable them to more readily apply their technical training to the problems which will confront them upon leaving the College and taking up their positions in forestry work.

This experience is gained mainly during the long vacation, from November until March, when the student is expected to enter the employ of the State Forest Service, sawmilling firm, local afforestation body, or other forestry organisation, to gain a knowledge of methods of procedure from actual experience.

Such work is of great benefit to the student in preparing him for his professional career, and also (a consideration of some moment to most students of forestry in New Zealand), it is a source of income which will play no small part in defraying the expenses of the College course.

It is to be expected that most of the foresters produced by the School will enter the State Forest Service, and as that body is fully aware of the value of thorough practical grounding for its future personnel, an understanding has been reached with the Department that it will provide avenues of employment for the majority of students during the summer months. The Forest Service, of course, does not promise employment to every student—but it will attempt, as far as possible, to give all students at least a trial, after which re-engagement for subsequent field seasons will, of course, depend upon the aptitude and ability of the individual student, and his attitude toward the work.

For the summer of 1925-26 all of the students will be working either with the State Forest Service, or on work done for that organisation.

Roche, of course, continues his official duties as a Ranger of the Canterbury-Otago Conservation Region, with headquarters at Christchurch.

Kingan has left for the Westland Region, where he has joined a field party under Ranger E. V. Stewart, engaged on exploratory reconnaissance of the country at the head of the Ahaura River.

Clark is engaged by Mr. Hutchinson as field and draughting assistant on the Canter-

bury Economic Survey project being done by the School of Forestry for the State Forest Service.

Skipworth and Hamilton both leave shortly for Hanmer, where they will be engaged on nursery and plantation work.

Barker will be employed on the preparation of microscopic slides of New Zealand woods for the Engineer in Forest Products, State Forest Service, working at Canterbury College under the supervision of Mr. Foweraker.

SPRING CAMP—1925.

The first field camp of the School of Forestry was held during the three weeks' vacation following the end of the second term, from 22nd August until 12th September, at Moana, Westland. Through the courtesy of A. R. Thompson, Esq., manager at Moana for William Goss, Ltd., sawmillers, a three-roomed whare in the Company's bush camp at Irishman's Landing, Lake Brunner, was placed at the disposal of the party, providing us with a sure roof over our heads, and a large fireplace at which to warm and dry ourselves, two matters of intense importance on "the coast" when spring is at hand.

There were nine of us altogether—five students, two staff, the Cook, and Mr. Stringer, Registrar of the College, who accompanied the party in a purely unofficial capacity to secure a brief respite from the cares of office. Mr. Hutchinson had preceded us by a couple of days to look over the ground, and lay out the programme of work, and was waiting us at Moana when we arrived by the Westland express on Saturday afternoon. We detrained, and loaded our swags of bedding and personal gear, together with a small mountain of stores and equipment, into the launch for the trip to Irishman's, where our camp was duly established. The following day, Sunday, was spent in cutting firewood and making our whare habitable. With nine men in one building space was at a premium, and scientific storage of gear was necessary. It was the first bush experience for some of us, and the evolution of beds, straps, bootlaces, and a thousand other things from the common flax, was an eye-opener indeed. Even Mr. Archbold, with all his factory, could not evolve furniture like ours.

Serious work began on Monday morning, when Mr. Foweraker led us out to study the ways of the bush, and learn to know at sight the various trees of the Westland forest which heretofore had been simply names to some of us. Mr. Foweraker had talked many times in the lecture room of the "taxad rain-forest." We were now to be introduced to it in person. Under a gentle drizzle we started up the tram