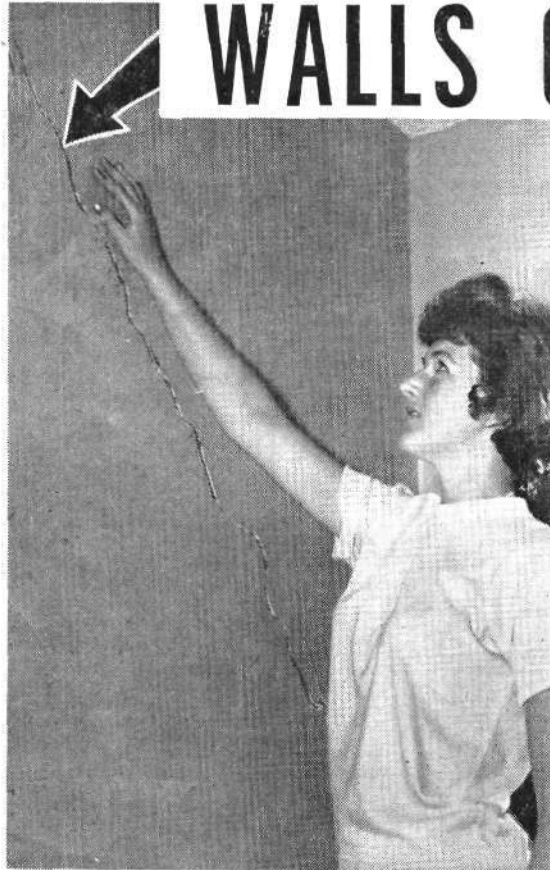


# WALLS CRACK...



The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Lovegrove made a statement in the Legislative Assembly to the effect that cracks had occurred in the bio-chemistry wing at Monash University and that there were serious structural defects in the central administration block.

The Premier, Mr. Bolte, promised to have the claims investigated immediately.

Mr. Lovegrove alleged that certain contractors had been using incorrect concrete mixes. He said that there were examples of 1½-inch sags in twenty feet.

The Premier said that the Government had very little to do with the construction at Monash, and that supervision would be mainly by Monash University itself.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J. A. L. Matheson, said in reply that the cracks were not serious.

Technical investigations had shown that the cracks were caused by deflection of the reinforced concrete floor slabs.

The cracks could be repaired easily and cheaply, he said. Repair work would begin soon.

The cracks in the buildings have already been investigated by the C.S.I.R.O., Monash and Melbourne University

engineers, and the architects, Bates, Smart and McCutcheon. The investigations had shown that the cracks did not reflect on the contractors or the designers of the buildings.

The Chancellor of Monash University, Sir Robert Blackwood, in a recent letter to the Premier, Mr. Bolte, said that there was no likelihood of structural failure in the Monash buildings.

We interviewed some prominent personalities for their opinions of our structural collapse. Here are their comments:

**Tennyson:** "But one piece of earthenware and that cracked."

**Amory:** "Crack! All is gone and vanished on a sudden."

**Tom Brown:** "Then don't object to my cracking up the old School House."

**Diekens:** "The crib's barred up at night like a jail, but there's one part we can crack."

**Maudesley:** "They were cracked, but as it has been remarked, the crack let in the light."

**Boyle:** "By misfortune it cracked in the cooling."

**Emerson:** "The whole of creation is made of hooks and eyes, of bitumen; of sticking plaster... it coheres in a perfect ball."

**Shakespeare:** "Indeed, la! tis a noble child; a crack, madame."

## The Situation in New Guinea

From our Special Correspondent

"New Guinea is considered one of the most primitive areas of the world", Dr. P. W. Van der Veur told students in a talk last week. Dr. Van der Veur is the Professor of Politics at the University of Hawaii. At the present time he is doing research work at the Australian National University.

Dr. Van der Veur told the students that 90% of the inhabitants of New Guinea live in villages which have less than 300 inhabitants.

"The Papuans are developing more political awareness," he said, "they are truly moved by the latest developments. A small nucleus of nationalists has been created amongst the Papuans. The question is 'Will the Indonesians recognise this group?'"

The Australians would encounter international pressure on their side of New Guinea as the result of the increased importance of this area in world politics.

Dr. Van der Veur said that the Dutch had encouraged a national spirit, it had had great success in this field, as was shown by participation in elections and increased interest generally.

If they are given the chance for self-government, they will fare much better than most people would expect. Al-

### Official Opening of Alf's

The three daughters of Alfred Deakin were present at Monash University on Saturday 9th September, for the official opening of the students' residence hall named after this famous Australian statesman.

They were Mrs. Herbert Brooks (who unveiled the plaque commemorating the opening), Lady Rivett and Lady White.

Sir Robert Blackwood, the Chancellor of Monash, said that the hall, which cost about £214,000, would accommodate 76 students and seven staff members. Other units would be started in 1964 and 1965.

It was the eventual aim of the University to erect similar residential halls to accommodate all country students—about 30 per cent. of the total expected intake.

"It will be a long time, though, before we can provide for this percentage of students," he said. "The total number of students (at the University) is expected to rise to 10,000 by 1970."

## GIFTS, GIFTS AND MORE GIFTS TO OUR UNIVERSITY

Monash University has received a gift of £20,000 in memory of Sir Alexander Stewart, outstanding businessman and engineer.

Announcing the gift, Stewart, for their most the Vice-Chancellor, generous and thoughtful, Dr. J. A. L. Matheson, gift. The money will be used to establish a fund, known as the Sir Alexander Stewart Memorial Fund, to assist gradu-

ates of the Faculty of Engineering to further their study of the practice or principles of engineering, either at home or abroad.

Sir Alexander Stewart came to Australia from Scotland as a young man and established himself in business as a partner in the consulting engineering firm of Fyvie and Stewart, later Alex. Stewart & Co. He was a Director of many

large Companies and Chairman of a number of them including A.C.I., Broken Hill South, Cum-ling Smith, Dunlop Rubber and Trustees Executors.

Sir Alexander Stewart was also a member of the Board of the Alfred Hospital for 34 years and twice served as President for a total term of 12 years. During his lifetime he was closely associated with the construction and development of many of

Australia's largest and most important industries. The Nicholas Institute donated to the Department of Zoology and Comparative and encephalogram for veterinary and zoological research which together with accessories is worth £3000. Also given to this department was a collection of shells from the Great Barrier Reef and Victorian shores by Mrs. F. Pilsen.

An American company has donated \$9000 to the Department of Biochemistry for research work in 1963. This same company has given a 2000 dol. grant to enable Professor Bornstein to give lectures and attend discussions in American universities during January and February, 1963.

Countless books and journals have been donated to the library both by companies and private individuals. Among these were His Excellency M. Philippe Monod, the French Ambassador; The librarians of the State Electricity Commission, the Gas and Fuel Corporation, and the Eye and Ear Hospital; Professor R. M. A. Lauffer, Department of Modern Languages, Monash.

Finally, the Department of Physics received £500 from B.H.P. for the construction of an argon arc furnace in its departmental workshop. There have been a number of other gifts which cannot be revealed as the donors wish to remain anonymous. —K.M.O.

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— Ed.

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