

LETTER FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

I welcome the opportunity of introducing the first issue of "Parabola".

As a result of the spectacular advances in the scientific and technical fields since World War II, there are far more mathematicians and scientists in the world than ever before. Even so, there is a world-wide shortage of both, particularly of mathematicians, which, if it is not met by the present generation of students, will continue to retard the rate of technological advance for many years to come.

You may wonder why the University of New South Wales should go to the trouble and expense of providing a mathematics magazine, rather than one devoted to physics, chemistry, or one of the other sciences. Part of the reason lies in the fact that mathematics is not only an important study in its own right, but is essential for a full understanding of almost all other sciences, physical and social, and a valuable tool for theoretical research in each of them. Those who cherish ambitions of making a career in some science, will certainly not be wasting their time acquiring or developing the technique of problem solving that this magazine seeks to encourage. If it should succeed in introducing gifted students to the delights of mathematics

and in inducing some to embark upon a mathematical career, it will have been a source of benefit, not only to the individuals thus affected, but ultimately to the community as a whole.

This University is anxious to assist the Department of Education in providing a varied body of educational material to secondary school pupils. Even in the limited field of mathematics, both radio and television lessons, and the annual School Mathematics Competition have previously been contributed. I am happy indeed to have some part in launching this, our latest venture, "Parabola".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Baxter', written over a horizontal line.

J. P. BAXTER.
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of New South Wales.