

Notes and Queries

N.U.C. BEGINNINGS REMEMBERED

Contributed by John Deane

University education began in Natal in 1910 when the Natal University College was founded. For the first few years lectures were given in a small corrugated-iron building in the grounds of Maritzburg College. Until all the newly-appointed professors arrived, some masters at Maritzburg College acted as temporary lecturers. Edgar Brookes in his *History of the University of Natal* (1966) says of these beginnings: “Thus, under every material disadvantage, and bearing every mark of hurried improvisation, the Natal University College began its history.” In 1913 the university moved to its new building on the hill in Scottsville, and its first home was then used as the drying-room for the school laundry until 1958, when it was demolished to make way for a new classroom block. It had stood near one of the entrances to the school grounds, and on 26 July 2005 Maritzburg College named that entrance “N.U.C. Gate” and a plaque explaining the significance of the name was unveiled.