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INTRODUCTION

We have extended the scope of this review by using it as a very useful means of enriching the University Library with similar exchange publications of other Commonwealth and Continental Universities. We intend to continue publishing it not only because it provides space for contributions from members of our Teaching Staff, especially those belonging to the Faculty of Arts, but also for contributions by scholars who, though they do not belong to our University and are not Maltese, yet have common interests at heart.

We read with great interest a letter by Professor C. Carrington in *The Times* of April 8, 1959, because it called our attention to an academic and social function that, with the co-operation of our Teaching Staff whose Association (*Alum*) has already raised the matter with the University Commission, could be very adequately carried out by our University, the oldest in the British Commonwealth overseas. As pointed out by Professor Carrington writing *a propos* of a Mediterranean University there is already in the Mediterranean an ancient and respectable, but impoverished, University where the English Language is in use... the Royal University of Malta, which, by comparison with the new Colonial University Colleges, has been starved of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. Malta is in the historic meeting place of several Mediterranean cultures. The Royal University is already associated with the general University organization of the Commonwealth... With British aid the Royal University might thus become an international centre for higher education throughout the Mediterranean, using the English language.

Sometimes history moves forwards and backwards within a context of similar circumstances. Dr. Laferla in his book *British Malta* (p. 101) writing about early Nineteenth Century Malta says: 'At that time England had great dreams about Malta which, she hoped, would become "a place of Eminent Importance as the central point of a Great Commerce and the Seat of the English Influence in the Mediterranean...". It was also planned to make Gozo the seat of a "considerable University which would attract the young men of the most enterprising Greek and Italian families and become at the same time a new source of wealth to Malta and a lasting instrument for the extension of England's moral influence, throughout the Levant and south of Italy".'

Our University so near the Continent and the Middle East can serve both Malta and the Commonwealth if the ideas of men of vision and foresight are given a chance to prove their value in the promotion of Anglo-Maltese influence in the Mediterranean.

THE EDITORS