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# CRACCUM

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## International Monetary Proposals

These proposals have arisen out of the endeavour by intelligent people to avoid the mistakes of the Peace following the first World War. They form part of the attempt by the United Nations towards building a sane peace. Economic Reconstruction must play a large part in the total effort, since economic relations are, more than any other, the basis of international relations. International monetary proposals, though only part of the complete plan assume great importance in the primary stage of economic reconstruction, as they are the proposed mechanism of international trade. Lord Keynes in his "Proposals for an International Clearing Union" has given us the main lines of approach to Post-war Reconstruction as follows:—

- (1) The mechanism of currency and exchange.
- (2) The framework of commercial policy.
- (3) The orderly conduct of production and distribution.
- (4) Investment aid for countries whose economic development needs outside assistance.

There have been several plans for some such body as the International Clearing Union (I.C.U.), of which the British and the American are the most important. These plans agree in fundamental principles, but differ on certain less important administrative details. Perhaps the importance of these two plans is due to the fact that Great Britain and U.S.A. have been outstandingly the most important international economic units; certainly the points of difference between the two reflect the bias of the originating country.

The principles upon which the I.C.U. will operate are those of banking within a unit country. Just as individuals operate a current account at a bank, individual countries, in the purchase of imports and the sale of exports, will operate on their international account at the I.C.U. The important difference between this proposed plan and the pre-war arrangement is that, whereas international transactions were previously settled privately between the countries concerned, it is now proposed that individual countries pay into and are paid out of an international fund. If an individual borrows from a person, he is under obligation to that person, but if he draws cheques on overdraft, he is indebted to the bank and not to any particular customer of the bank. This is precisely the new situation between countries. The I.C.U. will have a birds' eye view of the relationship of each country to itself, and thus will be in a position to correct or advise when any single nation by its action or policy tends to endanger the stability of the world. The I.C.U. because of its independence from any particular country enables credit facilities analogous to bank overdrafts to be made debtor countries without placing those countries under obligation to any particular country.

The tendency of certain countries

to export far more than they import and vice versa has in the past caused restrictive measures to be applied because of the inability of the one to pay the other except by goods, and the refusal of the other to accept this payment. It is in such situations as these that the proposed system comes into its own. The new system allows greater latitude in credit transactions and for a somewhat longer period, during which time long-term corrective measures may be applied. The scheme allows more freedom to individual nations to pursue domestic economic policies, but it also attempts to ensure that any policy which may be prejudicial to the general advantage is modified. The technical methods by which policy is administered, and the actual symptoms of detrimental activity which indicate to the economist what is wrong and what should be done, are beyond the scope of this article, but it is interesting to note that, under Lord Keynes' plan, both possessors of excessive credits and debits are penalised whereas the White Plan of U.S.A. merely deplores excessive credits while penalising excessive debits. The Keynes' Plan recognises that creditor nations are as much to blame as debtor nations in disrupting the economic equilibrium, and although the White Plan probably does, it places less emphasis on the fact. Is this due to the likelihood of the U.S.A. becoming the world's great creditor nation during the post-war period?

Although it would be in the best interests to have the governing body of the I.C.U. consist of an impartial body of expert economists, both the British and American proposals seem to place emphasis on their method of appointment and their voting power. Under the British Proposal, Great Britain and the Combined British Dominions each have greater voting power than the U.S.A. Under the American Proposal, America itself has enough voting power to have the right to veto. It seems that although an impartial governing body would be best, neither Great Britain nor U.S.A. intend to be outvoted if national interests are at stake. It is possible that in an attempt to reconcile the two plans this insignificant matter of voting power may assume significance out of all proportion to its importance to the plan as a whole.

Perhaps on the whole the British Plan is more impartial than the American, but in itself that is doubtful commendation when it is seen that Great Britain has less to lose. Whatever may be the criticism of these International Monetary Proposals, they are very definite and courageous attempts to solve part of the problem of reconstruction, and if Great Britain and the U.S.A. manage to reconcile their respective plans and have a scheme in working order for the immediate post-war period, then there is most emphatically a large ray of hope for the future world.

## No Repairs In Sixteen Years

### FREEMAN'S BAY SLUMS INIQUITOUS CONDITIONS REVEALED

The majority of Aucklanders must surely be ignorant of the conditions which exist in some of the residential areas of the city; if they were not, it is hardly conceivable that they should have permitted them to continue for so many years without some effort to improve them.

Many houses in Freeman's Bay, probably the worst slum quarter in Auckland, are still standing solely because leaning walls give each other support (if of course the roofs are firm enough to steady them). Many tenements (it would be ludicrous to describe them as anything else), although condemned long ago, are still occupied, and families are forced to endure utterly inadequate lighting by day and night, rotten walls and floors, and appalling sanitary conditions. If the other houses are not condemned they richly deserve to be.

In Adelaide Street, for example, there is a family of four living in an extremely small rented house, whose landlord has omitted to repair it for a space of sixteen years.

### ALL INCONVENIENCES

It has no front garden, because it is flush with the street; on one side it is practically joined to the neighbouring house; on the other it has a path which cannot be used, because, as the owner cannot or will not concrete it, in rainy seasons it is a quagmire. So the only entrance is the front door, or the front space, since the door is never closed. If it is, the house, which has about two windows, becomes so stuffy that it almost suffocates the family; and if the prevailing wind is blowing it prevails through the house. As the housewife said, at night it was a question of suffocating or being frozen, blown or washed out of bed.

Of the four rooms there is only one which does not leak badly. For the greater part of the winter three-quarters of the family are compelled to sleep in one room. The spouting above the rooms is so rusty and worn that all the water from the roof comes down behind the wall-paper. In the kitchen large discoloured water-stains are almost obscured by the soot which escapes from the utterly inadequate stove. The pantry, without cupboards or shelves, has loose floorboards and a wall which has to be periodically patched with cardboard. To make matters worse, the piece of tin that serves as a roof is riddled with holes. Consequently the housewife suffers from chronic bronchitis.

Six or seven yards up the back wilderness is the washhouse—cum-bath-room-cum lavatory. The inconvenience of this arrangement can be left to the imagination (especially on cold nights.)

### NO CUPBOARDS OR WARDROBES

To complete this depressing picture, some years ago there was an epidemic of rats, so bad that cakes of Lifebuoy soap were spirited away. There are no wardrobes and clothes have to be spread over the backs of chairs. For the privilege of living in this house the family pays the landlord 10/- per week. In sixteen years he has painted the roof once; for two years they have been trying to rent a State house, but without success. (Paradoxically enough there is a furniture factory next door.)

This house is not as bad as many in the vicinity, but for a normal home-loving family the conditions they

have to endure make social relationships impossible. Can you imagine returning every night to such a home?

### 12/6 A WEEK

A few streets away in a house owned by the same landlord; bachelors occupy a house little better than a shack. They have paid 12/6 a week for 10 years; the house cost the landlord, the proprietor of a local hotel, £200; he has spent nothing on renovations, and so far they have paid over £300 in rent. The stove is permanently useless, and one gas ring has to provide for all cooking; the roof leaks everywhere, and no sunlight dries the dark rooms except where it seeps through the holes in the walls. Ventilation is practically non-existent.

Here, as in the other house (which was selected at random) there is an alfresco lavatory, which makes a judicious use of an umbrella absolutely imperative in wet weather. There are no other conveniences.

The landlord, who apparently owns many houses of this kind, never visits them, never repairs them, and never listens to complaints which are made through an agent.

That this man has been allowed to collect rent from such hovels for so many years is disgraceful; that decent working-class families should be forced to exist in conditions which cannot but lower their self-respect is unthinkable; and that this area for so long an unsightly blot on Auckland's suburbs has received so little attention, is a criminal offence to be laid at the door of the citizens of Auckland. For surely the responsibility is a civic and not a national one.

### STUDENT RELIEF WORK DAY, MAY 20

Preparations are now well under way for work day. Those who wish to work, should volunteer immediately. Enrolment of workers closes May 13. Bureaux have been set up for enrolment purposes. Here you will be provided with a form to fill in, and please see that all your information is accurate. We do not want to see this year any of those misguided humorists who did their best to invalidate last year's effort.

Enrolled workers should call at the Bureaux from noon onwards on Wednesday, May 17, to receive notification of work to which they have been assigned.

The money when earned should be handed in to the College Office.

Every student of this college is asked to give, during the year, at least ten shillings to Student Relief.

One of the easiest ways is to work for a few hours on May 20.

The committee has also organised a collecting system, whereby students can give 3d a week for the rest of the year. Give your name to a collector.

Attend all functions whose proceeds are to go to Student Relief.

### REMEMBER—

One milk shake less,  
One section walked,  
One afternoon tea less,  
One packet of cigarettes less,  
will all help to give a healthy meal to a starving European or Chinese fellow student.

Last year, we raised ten times as much as we did in 1942.

Our goal this year is £500—let us see by how much we can exceed it!

Primitive humans obtained their supply of Vitamin D by nibbling at themselves and one another, and the last evidence of this forgotten instinct may lie in the practice of kissing.

—C. Ferguson.

### WORKERS OF WESTFIELD WORMS OF WOOLSTORES MUDLARCS OF MANGERE PICKERS OF PATUMAHOE

Once again the call goes forth! You worked once, you can do it again!

In future, no copy for "CRACCUM" will be considered unless written on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY. Club write-ups are not to exceed 250 WORDS.

### GRAD. BALL

FRIDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1944.

Single 10/-. Double 12/6.

Dancing 10 p.m.—3 a.m.

IN HALL AND LIBRARY.

Two Bands and Sit Down Supper.  
Dress Formal.



# OPEN FORUM

We should like to state that any opinions stated in articles, write-ups, etc., in CRACCUM are not necessarily those of the editorial staff.

We are glad to see students stir sufficiently from their traditional apathy to disagree with R.A.S.'s criticism of Professor Sewell's play.

We can only deplore the fact that they were not sufficiently moved at the time to write a "better" criticism themselves. That from R.A.S. was the only one received.

We publish in entirety the best letters we have received on the subject, and quote from others.

Madam,  
R.A.S.'s knowledge of amateur theatricals throughout the world is apparently great enough to enable him to pronounce airily and authoritatively the standard of local productions—"very high." This same knowledge, real or imagined, permits him to class an intelligent audience as "rabbits," except for "some of us who appreciate good drama."

Though awe-inspiring, his review of Professor Sewell's play, "No Man Stands Apart," moves me to abandon the policy of Brother Brer ("lyin' low and sayin' nuthin'") to object a little.

R.A.S. finds fault with some of the comic relief because it has "got whiskers on it." He fails completely to realise that in similar circumstances, exactly this type of humour is forthcoming from exactly those types of characters to whom it was given in the play. The jokes are funny, not so much in their wording, but in the fact that they were made under such conditions. What "cheapness" is there in the irrepressible Cockney's hackneyed wisecrack in the air raid shelter?

In missing this point the critic overlooks the chief merit of the play—the superb character-painting and dialogue management, especially in the first act. Without the aid of much action, the dialogue held enthralled a large and, in many cases, uncomfortable-seated audience for over two hours. Some achievement, R.A.S., even with rabbits!

"The whole play was bristling with emotive devices," declares our critic disapprovingly. I agree. But these, in my opinion, were skilfully used without once descending, even in the air raid shelter, to what our American friends call "tear-jerking."

R.A.S.'s objection to the allegorical quotations in the second act was that they, too, "only tended to play on emotions." My own criticism is that, with the closest attention, I was unable to grasp the emotional significance of some of them in the context. The extract from the Sermon on the Mount and the quotations from Blake and Donne were effective, but I fail to see why a housewife, asked to give up her dead son's bedroom to a little refugee, should be confronted with the merits of "Government by the people for the people of the people."

With much of the rest of R.A.S.'s criticism I must agree. I, too, felt the "insert humour here," the influence (good) of Shakespeare and the Russian theatre, and the too great weight of the material for concentrated play form.

Even admitting these defects, however, I must protest against R.A.S.'s last sentence. If the process described produces the fine dialogue and characterisation, which impressed me most in the play, I sincerely hope that Professor Sewell takes another dose of mental emetic in the near future.

—Thumper.

Madam,  
I am not a dramatic critic, but I am interested in facts. As C. P. Scott of the "Manchester Guardian" said: "Comment is free; facts are sacred."

Your dramatic critic accuses Professor Sewell of sacrificing fact for dramatic effect, because one of the characters dashes out to join the Air Force on Sunday, 3rd September, 1939.

"There were no recruiting offices open on that Sunday morning," pontificates your critic. His facts are wrong. I cannot speak for the whole of Britain, but I can say that in that part of Britain in which I found myself on that Sunday, all the recruiting offices were open and, what is more, were doing good business.

—A. G. Davis.

Madam,  
I suggest you get a balanced dramatic critic.

—P.K.J.

"... criticism of this kind is undoubtedly stimulating and refreshing, at a time when so many of us show such apathy. ... R.A.S. has dared to make a stand against this apathy, but a somewhat misguided one." T.L.  
"Fortunately, Steinbeck's is not the only reflection of American life, and his mood would be totally out of place in frivolous, urbane comedy."

—J.E.M.

"... the views of one person may be taken as the opinion of students in general. The caste of CLAUDIA were very disappointed at the effect their play had made on the University. Actually, there were many different opinions among Varsity students, and many enjoyed the play thoroughly."

—G.G.

"Both CRACCUM and R.A.S. should have it pointed out to them that a critique is more than the striking of an attitude: it is a considered opinion, intelligently expressed, and supported by reasons. Last issue had two absurd critiques by R.A.S."

—Disgusted Reader.

"R.A.S. reveals his complete lack of understanding of Professor Sewell's use of the upper stage. It is used as a symbolic representation of the movements of men towards brotherhood. R.A.S. recognises that Shakespeare and Blake are accepted as poets and immediately concludes that a Professor of Literature is gathering the poets together—but why Jack? The answer is simple. Shakespeare and Blake are not there because they have written poetry; they are there because they are men who remind us of the brotherhood of man. Lincoln Vanzetti and the Russian peasant, like Jack, have no place in "Poet's Corner," but they have a place among those who appealed to men "to become members one of another." Jack belongs with them, not with great generals and admirals.

"The method was a strange reversal of Shakespeare's technique. Professor Sewell interpreted twentieth century historical facts in Elizabethan terms": These two sentences contain the startling information that Shakespeare interpreted Elizabethan historical facts in twentieth century terms!

"A brilliant piece of reportage from an outsider ... who has obtained his material from a careful study of BBC news," etc.: Reportage cannot be brilliant if it contains the faults that R.A.S. charges this play with. Professor Sewell is 12,000 miles away at present, but he was in England during Great War I. It is probable that memories of those years are reinforced, even at this distance, more by personal letters from those on the present scenes than by BBC news, etc. Whatever his source, it is certain that it is made up of more immediate experience than was, say, Aeschylus' when he wrote "Agamemnon." I suppose R.A.S. would condemn "Paradise Lost," because it is written by an outsider—who knows how many miles and years away from the action of his poem? Moreover he was not the first to write it up.

"CRACCUM is to be congratulated for adopting a courageous policy of printing unorthodox material. It is, however, to be reprimanded for devoting a tenth of its space to vulgarity, conceit and dolt-headedness. As a University paper, it should have a sense of responsibility to its readers and those whom it represents. I consider that it should apologise to Professor Sewell for the lack of taste displayed in the critique and to its

readers for its insult to their intelligence. It is better to be dull than silly. R.A.S. has a right to his opinion, but he throws that opinion into ludicrous disrepute by the arguments he uses. His critique is actuated by the desire to show off. It consists of irrelevant observations and undigested critical phrases, a fair proportion of which are taken, without acknowledgment from the subject of his attack. In view of these many instances, seven at least, it would be fitting to quote these lines from Lear:

"The hedgesparrow fed its cuckoo so long,  
That it had its head bit off by its young."

—D.R.

Madam,  
A.U.C. apathy is well-known, and this failing was only too clearly illustrated by the football match at Eden Park on April 29th. It was a game that meant much, not only to the players, but to University prestige, and yet only a small number of students took enough interest to appear at the match and help their side to win—and any footballer will tell you how much a little support from the sideline means.

Where was the traditional haka at the beginning of the game? The few who tried to organise a haka at half-time lacked a leader. Where were the Hongis on this occasion? Surely this was a first-class opportunity to carry out the promises so plausibly stated in the last issue of CRACCUM. Better a haka by seven than none at all.

Later in the game a small band did have the guts to perform, despite their leader having to read most of the words from a slip of paper. As hakas go it was not very brilliant, but the pluck of the participants showed up the complete lack of spirit on the part of the rest of the men present. Surely it is about time students took some interest in Varsity affairs and proved it by actively supporting our Saturday afternoon matches. Hongis! What are you waiting for?

—T.M.S.

—P.H.P.

Madam,  
I read with horror the article by the Hongi Club, published in your last issue. It made me agree with a criticism I heard about their recent effort to entertain at a coffee evening. "—one or two weren't bad but most of 'em looked like a bunch of pathetic little boys." When I read their statement "it is the only club in 'Varsity that brings men of each faculty together on an equal social footing," it made me wonder whether they were so lost in the fervour of Hongi worship that they forgot football clubs, rowing, harriers, hockey and the rest in the write-up. Non-drinkers must have been glad to hear that they could at last lift their lowly heads and gaze with moist-eyed affection at the Hongis who alone in a troubled world "do not think less of a chap because he prefers not to drink." The rousing of public interest is a high ideal, but do the Hongis think that puerile demonstrations such as last years' will achieve this end?

A couple of days after reading the article, I talked with a couple of Hongi members. They impressed me with their fair, straight-forward and sincere defence of their club. If only the whole Varsity could talk to them as I did, they would realise that the Hongis are trying to live down their helluva reputation, to make something of their club and their college. My views changed quite a bit.

But, Hongis, although I know now that your theory is good, boy, how your practice (particularly your article) stinks! With work day ahead, let's see you do your stuff and good luck to you.

Budz. VI.

If you begin by believing in everything, you end by believing in nothing.

—Beverly Nichols.

Taste, unlike digestion, temper and hair, almost invariably improves with age.

—William Rothenstein.

## EXEC MEETING

It was decided at the last executive meeting that in future a resume of the minutes should be published henceforth in the CRACCUM immediately following the meeting. Students who wish to find out further particulars of the doings of their representatives should consult the typed copies of the minutes which will in future be placed on the notice-boards in both common rooms. The report in CRACCUM will merely list the most important subjects under discussion.

Letter from President of Training College re a Tournament between A.U.C. and T.C. This was left in the hands of Mr. Dempsey.

Letter from Mt. Albert requesting use of cafeteria for suppers. This was granted.

Letter from Student Relief re profits from Revue. This was discussed.

Cafeteria.—It was decided to instruct Mrs. Odd and Mr. Postlewaite that under the supervision of an executive member, and upon the payment of £2 as an indemnity, that the facilities of the caf. be given to any affiliated club, for the purpose of providing supper and Sunday teas.

Student Association Fee.—Discussion on reduction of Student Association fee for Training College students. It was decided not to reduce them.

Senate Representation.—A sub-committee was set up to go into this matter.

Coffee Evenings.—Decided to provide some form of entertainment for students every Friday evening. Decided to request the Registrar to allow the Arts Building to remain open until 10 o'clock each evening.

Decided to request Professorial Board to allow Students' block to remain open till 11 o'clock on Friday evenings, providing an executive member is there to lock up.

Graduation Ball.—Unless further information comes to hand, Graduation Ball to be run this year by Social Committee.

Wednesday Afternoon Sports.—Mr. Dempsey authorised to make necessary arrangements with regard to playing of Inter-Faculty sports on Wednesday afternoon, the prescribed University half-holiday.

Increased Exam. Fees.—Agreement with new system of charging fees per paper, but dissent to rate of fees.

If any students wish to bring matters under discussion by the executive, a note to that effect should be left in the Executive Room.

## A.U.C. ORIGINAL ODD PAIRS ALMANACK

1944 is most auspicious for  
Jock and Monica  
Cecil and Pat  
Don and Joy  
Tony and Ray  
Daddy and Hoodie  
Willie and Joan

The year promises rapid headway for most of the following, but some may experience a reversal in the spring.

Ian and Kate  
Hutch and Betty  
Beethoven and Susie  
Muir and Lynnette  
Cam and Mary  
Norm and Margaret(s)  
Clive and Audrey  
Len and/or Ken and Lynn  
Graham and Mary  
Alan and Aileen  
Kitty and Blondie  
(Charlie threw her over)

Marin and Judy  
Domestic bliss disturbed only by gales (of laughter, we hope), for Prof. and Mrs. Burbridge.

—Astrul.

## OBITUARY

We deeply regret to announce the death of Miss M. Slake, who passed away in U.S.A. through an excess of foam bath and lack of support (mental). As a mark of respect, the next issue of CRACCUM will be sold at threepence.

"Weep no more, movie-goers,  
For Monica, your sorrow, is not dead. . . ."



## SPORTS CLUBS

### BOXING CLUB

The mystery of the missing constitution was successfully concluded at 8 p.m., 2nd May, when the members of the A.U.C. Boxing Association approved a new and mighty document.

Monday night, 6-7 p.m., has been selected pro tem for training under the able direction of Mr. Donovan, at the Fire Brigade Gymnasium. Enthusiasts may train there any afternoon or evening.

Membership of the Students' Association embraces all that this club has to offer; no fees charged; medical expenses not paid by the club.

The task of general publicity was allotted (unanimously), to the Architectural member, the unwilling "horses."

Immediately prior to closing the meeting the routine election of officers was executed with gusto. The following were unlucky.

**President:** A. P. Postlethwaite—a clever idea.

**Club Captain:** J. Holmes—the only worker.

**Secretary-Treasurer:**—D. Revington, —There are no funds, anyway.

**Committee:** T. Waldegrave—he also dances.

J. Fletcher—generally offside.

J. Salas—generally talking rot.

### HOCKEY CLUB

With a past to be proud of, the club looks forward to yet another successful season. Earlier, due to the loss of a large number of the old hands, prospects were not over optimistic, however, now, with over 50 members we have high hopes. Four teams will be fielded and with such a splendid array of freshers, competition should be keen?

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 4th, and the following officers were elected for the 1944 season:—

**Club Captain:** R. B. Herriott.

**Secretary:** J. A. Beard.

**Treasurer:** A. G. Evans.

**Committee:** D. H. Janes, R. B. Ritchie, K. A. Martin, W. O. Jaine, A. S. Black.

Club matches commence on Saturday, May 6th. Practice runs are being held every Wednesday afternoon at Sarawia Park. Don't forget! 2 p.m. sharp.

### FOOTBALL

For the first time since 1935, the University Senior XV. played in the main game at Eden Park on Saturday, April 29th. The match was against the Navy, and before the game our hopes were only mediocre owing to the fine reputation the sailors had gained on their play last year.

However, our boys were right on top of the game, and justified their appointment to No. 1. 3 p.m. by defeating their opponents 23-6.

The ground was rather heavy and the backs did not get every opportunity for concerted movements. The forwards, however, rose to the occasion in fine manner and with excellent rucking and keen following up completely hustled the opposing pack.

The prospects for the season are first-class, but we can still do with a lot more barracking. The presence of those students who came along was greatly appreciated, but we would like to see their numbers trebled.

An interesting point with regard to the match was the presence of a Waldegrave in each team. Tansey, incidentally, played well up to the standard of his cousin, who is an Auckland representative.

Our 23 points came from "tries" scored by Dave Grace (2), a fine exhibition on the wing—he threw the opposition all over the place just like he does the girls. Dr. Ross Jones played a very solid game at centre, and added another 3 points. Dr. Pae-wai lived up to all expectations and was the outstanding player on the field, scoring a beautiful try himself, and putting Wilkins over for another. The other try came from a good back movement, the ball going right out to Don Stevens on the wing, who went over in the corner. Dr. Smeeton, at fullback, played a very casual game—the size of the opposition gave him no concern. He added the further 5 points with a free kick and a conversion.

Apparently the Second Grade forwards have to run a bit of their fat off or go on a slimming diet like some of our women students. More practice together is required before the team will function as a team and play up to last year's standards. The Third Grade Open are in the same position—no co-ordination in the forwards. Now it is up to you forwards to pull together and give the backs their fair share of the ball. The Third Grade Intermediate shows much promise, and after a few more runs will produce a solid combination. Their win, 12-3 against Orakei United last week was well deserved.

### AKARANA

Last issue of CRACCUM saw the publishing of the words of Akarana! Naturally the words without the rhythm and actions of the haka are useless, so all students, male and female, if interested (by the way, girls, you should be), please take note.

The Men's House Committee have organised lunch time practices of the haka and these will be continued until it is known throughout the college. These practices are being held every week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the Men's Common Room at 1.20 p.m.

The reasons for asking students to learn the haka are many; one of the main being that we want to instil some more college spirit into students and see if we can't arrange for more support being given to college teams. Don't be like that certain young gentleman who attempted to lead the haka in front of the grandstand at Eden Park the other Saturday and found that half-way through he had to refer to his little piece of paper. Never mind, Johnny, we appreciated it, and hope that next week you will be well supported and that you won't forget "Wae Wae Takahia."

Don't let this happen again, students! Learn the haka and follow one of the teams, whether it be football, or hockey, etc., and make as much noise as you can.

### SWIMMING CLUB

Thanks to the efforts of the football and tennis clubs, there were only few spectators at the Swimming Club's carnival held at the Training College baths on the Saturday after Easter. Considering that we only need one Saturday in the year, we thought that we would be treated fairly and have the full support of the students. What happened? Well, apparently the Registrar of Societies, whose job is to prevent clashes of this sort, slipped up somewhat and allowed other functions to be held.

Despite all this moaning we had quite a successful afternoon. An ex-Otagoian, Pat Fox, was successful in both the men's events, winning the 50yds and 100yds free-style. Our New Zealand record holder was not hurried in the 50yds. Ladies' Breast-stroke mainly because she was the only starter. The relay was, of course, won by the Engineers, with St. Cuthberts Girls' College a close second—Science and Arts also started. Thus it will be seen that the Engineers (renowned for their versatility), concentrated this year on swimming, instead of athletics. Who knows? Next year it may be fencing.

### LITERARY CLUB

There was a happy gathering on May 1st at Lit. Club's informal Laughter Evening. All the extracts read were from the works of recent writers, if we may include W. S. Gilbert in that category. Some Bab ballads and light opera verse were read with the appropriate glibness. One member of the committee believes that "you can't keep a good woman down." Having got the floor, she held it, and entertained us for nearly an hour.

The humorous story which consists of a series of letters from various persons to one another, is usually very popular. Judith Childs read an amusing episode of this type, and one of Stephen Leacock's Ideal Interviews was presented.

Then, in spite of all previous attempts at frustration, supper was held, this being something of an innovation for the club.

To wind up the evening, the description of an English village cricket match by A. G. MacDonnell was read. The effect of this largely depends on the atmosphere which is skilfully worked up while the last ball of the match rises and falls over the field.

Two points of criticism should be made. Only one of the readers made any adequate introductory remarks; one of them even left us in ignorance of the author's identity. And were there no suitable stories by New Zealand writers?

Watch for notices about R. A. K. Mason. Try to read some of his poetry, too, before you come to the meeting. There will be supper again, O.V. (odd willing).

### MODERN LANGUAGES CLUB

There was a fairly large attendance in the Hall on Monday, 17th April, when the play, "Dans La Jungle," was put on by students of the French Department. A resume in English was given before the performance, but even without this, the play would have been quite intelligible. The parts were taken by Professor Keyes, Dr. West, Travis Wilson and Les Thomson. Students who had not taken French for years found themselves able to follow the dialogue easily.

We hope for a record attendance on Monday, 22nd May, when Moliere's well-known "Malade Imaginaire," will be produced in the Hall in aid of Student Relief.

### MONDAY, 22nd MAY

Keep this date free, and attend the performance of Moliere's famous farce, "Le Malade Imaginaire." You remember "Dr. Knock," of last year? Then you won't need urging to come and see "Le Malade Imaginaire." Non-French students, don't stay away because you don't think you'll understand it. It's easy to appreciate; and besides, a resume in English will be read before each act. Don't forget—Monday, 22nd May, at 8 p.m. in the Hall.

Admission 1/-. Proceeds for Student Relief.

### TRAMPING CLUB REBUILDING A HUT

Thirty-five ardent, if amateur, artisans toddled up to A.U.C.T.C.'s newly-acquired hut in the Waitakeres at Easter, with the object of making it comfortable for parties of about 20. Peter ("Ball o' Muscle") Hutchinson was in charge of operations. The main party, which arrived from Swanson on Saturday afternoon, was billeted some two miles from the scene of operations, but distance was no object in the mornings since breakfast was served at the hut. Valiant work was done by Freshers and other new members, including the locating and trimming of a gargantuan totara log for the mantelpiece.

By the time the crowd departed on Monday afternoon, the hut was transformed. Since then several small working parties have tinkered still more with the trappings and one more large expedition should see the Tramping Club home complete.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Tramping Club was held on Wednesday, April 19th, before a large attendance. The following officers were elected:—

**President:** Mr. C. M. Segedin.

**Vice-Presidents:** Dr. L. H. Briggs, Messrs. C. S. W. Reid, A. P. Bruce, M. G. Segedin and A. L. Odell.

**Club Captain:** P. B. Hutchinson.

**Secretary:** Susie Perl.

**Committee:** Betty Burbidge, R. W. Cawley, D. E. H. Clarke, J. B. Gummer, G. L. Holland.

### FAIRY FALLS TRIP

About a dozen brave souls set out on Sunday, April 30th, a very wet day, to visit the Fairy Falls in the Waitakeres. Everything went well, except the fire under the tea billy. Most of the party sat down in the stream at some stage in proceedings or anyway in some water, of which there was plenty around, but nothing could dampen the high spirits, and the falls in flood were well worth the effort. The return train journey was, as usual, song-filled, sometimes two at a time.

### FIELD CLUB A.G.M.

A large and enthusiastic attendance at Field Club A.G.M. on Thursday, 13th April, betokened a successful year in Field Club activities. The number of Freshers present promises well and we hope to see many more at our camps and evenings.

The following officers were elected for 1944-45:—

**President:** Mr. W. R. McGregor.

**Vice-Presidents:** Miss P. Thomas, Mr. C. Reid.

**Student Chairman:** Mr. N. R. Page.

**Hon. Sec. and Treas.:** Miss M. Stokes.

**Committee:** Miss M. A. Browne, Miss M. L. O'Donnell, Mr. R. N. Brothers, Mr. L. R. Castle.

It was proposed that a special meeting of all financial members be held to discuss the possibility of including members, other than those of Natural Science staff, on the committee.

It is hoped this year to carry out a project scheme at the camps and excursions which will include trips to Hunua, Muriwai and Bethell's, Swanson, Coromandel or Great Barrier Island. Among day excursions, we hope to include visits to Captain Keatley's garden, Kauri Gully, Smith's Bush, and Takapuna Reef. Those who attended the last-named in 1943, will remember how interesting it was and we hope for an equally large attendance this year.

So, Freshers and others, come along and have a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable time with Field Club.

### CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Last Monday night, a good audience was given an opportunity to learn how specialist knowledge in any branch of learning helps a keen appreciation of poetry. Mr. Sibson, an ardent ornithologist, spoke on "Bird Lore of the Romans." He read many passages from Catullus, Horace, Cicero, Lucretius and Vergil in both Latin and English, his own enjoyment of the verse very much stimulating ours. After each passage he commented on the accuracy of the author's observations, from his own knowledge of birds. For instance, we learnt that Lesbia's renowned sparrow was probably a bluerock thrush. Vergil's description of the nightingale singing on a branch of a tree overhanging a stream, was borne out by what Mr. Sibson himself had seen while travelling near Marathon.

The meeting closed with a discussion, which was chiefly concerned with birds in the cooked state. We learnt that Romans preferred them served still looking bird-like with all their feathers. Even the feathers were of some use. The banqueters would tickle their palates to empty their stomachs preparatory to starting again!

It was suggested that Mr. Sibson prepare a paper on Greek Bird Lore. We hope he will do this and read it to us next term.

HE: "May I have this dance with you?"

SHE: "Certainly not. I'm particular with whom I dance."

He: "I'm not."

"Is your baby a boy or girl?"

"Of course. What else could it be."

George Bernard Shaw was in the middle of a speech when he forgot what he was saying and had to ask someone in the front row. The audience roared."

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### ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

The most brilliant comedy since "You Can't Take It With You." The play has what most American comedies lack—a good juicy plot as well as clearly-defined character studies, plenty of thrills, and spicy "every-line-a-laugh" dialogue. Even the stage directions are written in a humorous vein.

I echo the words of Teddy—Bully! Bully! John Tate as Teddy Brewster consciously strained to get the utmost out of a character which does not need to be strained. His movements were a little too precise. His best movements was where he motioned Dr. Einstein to put on his topee. Tap! Tap! your hat, sir. Tap! Tap!—this is where it goes. Tap! Tap!—put it there.

I was not surprised to read that Sam Stern had been in pantomime. As far as I am concerned, he is still in it. All his movements were pantomime: his first entrance, his dusting of the shoes swiped from the "imposter," his reactions to Jonathan's chokings and his drunk scene. He started off quite drunk, messed it up when he wove his way up the staircase, and then became miraculously sober. The coming of the Cops would have sobered him up considerably, but not that much.

Lloyd Lamble as Jonathan, gave one of the best pieces of acting in the

show. He was consistent, his voice was "dead" and chilling, and I liked his distinctive gesture of scratching one palm with the fingers of his other hand.

Lily Moore as Martha was the better of the two aunts, although at times she was quite masculine. That's my criticism of Abby and Martha—they were not fussy enough.

Bettina Welch as Elaine and Allan Christie as Mortimer, did not blend very well. Their voices were too similar and both almost shouted their lines. Shouting in a high voice becomes rather irritating. They were the only pair who did not blend. Abby's and Martha's voices and character interpretation contrasted quite well, as also Dr. Einstein and Jonathan; and the two policemen. Les King as Brophy was good, Stephen Chapman (as Klein), was less successful.

The best piece of acting was Frank Bradley as Lieutenant Rooney. The play began to take life when he entered. He was a typical New York police lieutenant, cursing his inferiors for doing something which he himself then proceeded to do.

The main fault I have to find with the production was the tendency to exaggerate movements to gain additional laughs. The dialogue was funny enough without that. Examples of this: Teddy's exaggerated saluting, Abby's and Martha's trip to the door to wave after the gleefully retreating Dr. Einstein, and the bungling of Mortimer's trussing up. Einstein thrust the gag at Mortimer's face and plonked it over his eyes, while the victim did not even squeak a protest.

Elaine thinks the worst kind of abuse she can hurl at Mortimer is "You—you CRITIC!" He later discovers to his satisfaction that he is a bastard (Kesselring's stage direction: she jumps gleefully into his illegitimate arms). That seems to infer that "All critics are bastards." But there is one consoling feature—all bastards are not critics.

R.A.S.

### "BRUNUS"

exquisite little verse impression of that melody-filled haven of rest, the men's common room, I enjoyed, but nevertheless, I can't resist remarking that he missed out on the fifth dimension which really is the most pervading essential of any character to be attributed to that rectangular repository of old furniture and flotsam in general.

A smell of dank and mildewed rooms long shut: wherein tombs of the putrescence of soul's encumbrances has progressed and still continues. ANON.

### FRESHERS' SPEECH COMPETITION

The seven Freshmen (where were the women, anyway), who walked on to the platform in the Hall on Tuesday, 18th April, made a very creditable showing. Their ability augurs well for the standard of debating in this and future years. There was not one bad speech and two of them were excellent. The subject, "Where Do We Go From Here?" left the speakers a wide choice of treatment, and they certainly took advantage of the scope.

The competition was won by David Rodwell, who showed that he had done a great deal of thinking on his subject which resulted in his presenting a thoughtful analysis of an aspect of the post-war world.

Richard Savage spoiled his chances of victory by lingering far too long on the brink of his subject.

Guenther Unger's speech showed, I

think, less careful preparation than those of the other two. It is essential to good speaking and especially to good debating to have a clear grasp of the subject even outside the actual bounds of your speech.

Of the others all that need be said is that none disgraced himself, while the effort of Sinclair would have made a better impression on the judges if there had been a bigger audience which would have responded to his facetious treatment of the subject. They are all to be congratulated first on entering and, secondly, on the very good performance they made.

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