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WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE

LONDON 1945

The World Youth Conference was held in London from 31st October to 10th November. Most of the main sessions took place in the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, and were conducted in five official languages, English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese. The Conference, which was called by the World Youth Council, was attended by 445 delegates and 160 observers. Delegations came from 64 different countries; over 85% of the delegates came directly from their countries for the Conference, the others being nominated by their organisations at home because of the very great difficulties involved in sending delegates. The original invitation to the Conference was issued in January, 1945, and was addressed to all youth organisations in every country, the only exceptions being known fascist organisations. In all cases the organisations concerned in the different countries decided upon who should represent them. Every delegate or observer was credentialled by a youth organisation, and the credentials were carefully examined by a sub-committee of the Preparatory Committee. This Preparatory Committee met in London for six weeks before the Conference and was composed of advance delegates who came to London specially for this purpose from countries sending the largest delegations, together with the Executive Committee of the World Youth Council. This Committee increased considerably in membership as more delegates arrived—initially there were 30 members, finally, over 60. The Credentials Sub-Committee comprised representatives from nine delegations.

Delegations

The method of forming the delegations varied from one country to another, according to the type of youth movements existing. Where national co-ordinating youth organisations existed, as in France and Yugoslavia, for example, the responsibility was theirs; where there were no such bodies, as in Britain, it was urged that every effort be made to secure the participation of all types of organisation in the delegations. Thus in Britain every national and local organisation was invited to submit nominations; over sixty of these were received, and these nominees met at a week-end conference in London in September—after a two-day discussion of the Conference programme 25 delegates were elected by secret ballot from among those nominated.

Preliminary Rally

Before the Conference began, the delegates were officially welcomed at a Rally at the Albert Hall on Monday, 29th October, and the Rally was recorded by the B.B.C. Delegates came together there for the first time, amid pageantry and music, before an audience of 5000, consisting mainly of young people from organisations in the London area. The Rally heard messages from His Majesty the King, Mr. Attlee, President Truman, Mr. Bevin, Mr. Stettinius and Mr. Kaganov. The main address was given by Sir Stafford Cripps. At this meeting over £520 was collected in response to an appeal for funds to help meet the expenses of the Conference. (These expenses were largely covered by the fee of £4 which every delegate and observer paid on registration.)

Agenda

The agenda of the Conference fell into three main parts called: "Youth's Fight for Freedom and a Better World," "The Post-War Needs of Youth" and "The Organisation of International Youth Co-operation." Each of parts I and II was introduced by a Plenary session at which the opening speeches were delivered by members of the main delegations or groups of delegations. After the discussion the subject of each part was examined in its various aspects by Commissions—four in the first part, nine in the second, and three in the third—which all delegates attended according to their special interests. The work of these commissions was summarised in the form of three composite resolutions which were presented to Plenary sessions of the Conference, debated upon and finally accepted as amended. Part III was introduced by a report on the previous work of the World Youth Council, which was endorsed. Throughout the Conference a Special Commission, on which every delegation was represented, met to consider the various proposals regarding a new world organisation of youth which had been submitted by the national delegations. This Special Commission was able to present to the Conference in Part III of the Agenda the results of its work in the form of a draft constitution of the new organisation. This draft was discussed at length in national delegation meetings, in Plenary session and at further meetings of the Special Commission; many amendments were submitted, the major ones being debated at full sessions, and in its revised form the Constitution of the World Federation of Democratic Youth was unanimously approved in principle on Wednesday, 7th November. This Constitution is considered to hold until the next World Congress, which it is intended shall be held before January, 1948. It was specifically laid down by the Conference that all those organisations which had not accepted the invitation to participate in the Conference should be encouraged to join the Federation, and provision is made for any amendment to the Constitution which they may wish to propose to come before the next Congress.

Objects and Activities

According to the Constitution the Federation "shall regard its work as a contribution to the work of the United Nations and as the most certain way of ensuring the protection of the rights and interests of youth, and the happiness and well-being of future generations." It is "an organisation of youth united in their determination to work for peace, liberty, democracy, independence and equality everywhere in the world." Among its aims are—to strive for close international understanding and co-operation amongst the youth in all fields, respecting diversity of ideals and national conditions; to contribute to the elimination of all forms of fascism and assist governments in ensuring peace and security and the bringing up the new generation in a democratic spirit; to encourage young people to participate in public affairs and secure the removal of all forms of discrimination; to work for good conditions of education, labour and leisure for youth, to educate youth in the ideas and responsibilities of world citizen-

ship; to encourage and assist the formation of voluntary associations of youth organisations on a national level; to represent the interests of youth in international affairs.

Membership

Organisations may join the Federation which have at least two-thirds of their membership under the age of thirty years, which accept this Constitution, are sincere and consistent supporters of democratic principles and promote the application of these principles. Subscriptions are payable, according to a sliding scale, on the basis of membership.

Constitutional Form

The highest governing body of the Federation is the World Congress, which must meet at least once in three years. This Congress elects the Council, which governs until the next Congress, and the Council elects the officers and Executive Committee, which carry on the affairs of the Federation in between the annual meetings of the Council. Every country represented at the Congress has at least one representative on the Council, the maximum for one country being eight; on the scale of representation agreed on at the Conference, the present Council has 126 members. This Council met three times before the delegates left London and the Officers and Executive Committee members were elected and ratified by the Conference. There is one Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, three Secretaries and one Treasurer; the Executive Committee will eventually consist of the officers and ten members at large—at present there are eight members at large. The Conference unanimously agreed that the headquarters of the Federation should be in Paris.

At the final session of the Conference the Chairman of the World Youth Council, Dr. Palacek, formerly handed over the effects of the Council to the Chairman of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, M. Guy de Boysson, who then introduced the new Officers and Executive. Finally representatives of each of the 64 delegations present signed a Message from the Conference addressed to the Youth of the World.

RE DEFAULTER

A.U.C. EX-SERVICEMEN

Members of the College will be interested to learn that the attitude of the Ex-Servicemen's Society to the motion by the R.S.A. has been to condemn the motion and its implications; also to refute the allegation that the agitation originated in the A.U.C. Ex-Servicemen's Society.

* * *

GEOGRAPHY LECTURER

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

On April 2, in the College Hall, Dr. Cumberland gave his inaugural address entitled "The Geographer's Point of View," on the establishment of a lectureship in Geography at A.U.C.

This inauguration, said Dr. Cumberland, marked not only the institution of a new University department, but also demarcates the termination of the period of apprenticeship of geography as a University study in this country. Dr. Cumberland went on to speak about the Logical and Historical Concepts of Geography, its relations with the Systematic Sciences, its Environmentalism and the lack of objectivity in Crude Environment, Geography's Pragmatic Sanction and its relation with the Government.

Unfortunately the address seemed to be for the geographically minded, and to the lay mind was uninteresting. For an inaugural address it would probably have the effect of frightening away intending geography students of whom there seemed to be very few present. The audience, as usual, was almost completely composed of members of the outside public, with about five students and two members of the staff.

Dr. Cumberland's voice was very pleasing, but the fact that he read his notes did not aid his expression. The lighting of the hall was very poor and certainly did not aid insomnia.

* * *

"A popular lecture suitable for delivery to the Auckland Businessmen's Association, the Chamber of Commerce or the University Senate."—Professor Forder.



Scene from a past procession. This year procession has been cancelled because the Professorial Board will not allow collecting. No charitable cause (help for Britain), no petrol, no trucks, no procession.

GEORGE CROSS ISLAND POOR ATTENDANCE

In the College Hall on Friday 29 Lieut.-General Sir William Dobbie gave an address on "Malta."

The evening commenced with the showing of two films. The first illustrated the trying times the Maltese went through during three thousand raids by dive-bombers; and the second, the terrific hammering that the merchant fleet suffered when conveying supplies from Gibraltar to Malta during August, 1942. The convoy film followed the experiences of fourteen merchantmen until the arrival at Malta of the survivors—three only.

In his address Sir William outlined the characteristics of the Maltese and gave numerical examples to illustrate how poorly manned Malta was in the early stages of the war. The audience was ably shown what an important task the Maltese performed in keeping the sea lanes open and Malta British.

As for the audience, we have to thank the outside public for making up a number which did not completely disgrace the College. Apart from Professor Davis, who was in the chair, and one other member of the staff, it appears that the staff's duties are so tiring that after 8 o'clock on Friday nights they must dash home to their Tattersfields. This naturally gives the student an excellent lead, with the result that the present student appears to be much more conscious of the effects of enjoying Coffee Evenings, rather than enjoying an educational report of such a world-renowned subject as Malta. An outsider would justifiably surmise that the students of A.U.C. are forcing themselves to be interested in an academic life rather than having a natural desire to receive a higher education.

PETE'S PARADISE

A few days ago, by some strange mischance, I was led into doing a few hours' work at the C.P.O. At lunch-time, in search of food, I found myself in their cafeteria. The idea didn't appeal to me very much—after all, it seemed a bit of a come-down from Mrs. Odd's kindly attentions, but as I have no love to live on I thought I'd better eat somewhere. Joining the orderly queue, I found myself at the slide, and was there confronted by an amazing selection of food—ham and salad at 8d, pie and potatoes at 5d, egg salad 6d, sweets 3d per helping, to mention a few. Trays were provided to carry the whole meal to your table in one sweep, whilst the selection of cutlery, even in these times of shortages, was truly amazing. I selected a meal which would have made three 'Varsity caf. meals look small, paid my 9d, then, as an after-thought, suggested a cup of tea. A pot sufficient for three cups, plus a large jug of milk, were made mine for 2d.

Whilst eating, I began to think; the Post Office caf. is run strictly on a no-profit basis; if any should inadvertently be made, the prices are reduced till the profit is expended. The premises are bright, clean, and are run efficiently, whilst the food is excellent. If they can do it, why can't Mrs. Odd? If she won't do it, she may suggest some one who can?

The Students' and Returned Services' executives seem to be having fun and games at present with Yes men at a premium on Exec. But I don't think Mr. Morton would always answer in the affirmative—he might say no if the question were rhetorical.

"Was this the fact that launched a thousand lips" aptly describes at least one Fresher woman—but perhaps that's a bit unkind. Still Judy tells me she wants to take maths—she's interested in sex potential curves.

My thanks are extended to the woman who lent me the pen with which to write this article. Eric and I had to hock ours to buy some lunch. Creditors please note.

Craccum

Editor: J. A. NATHAN

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TIME FOR DECISION

It has been reported in the press that the executive of the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association has taken exception to the employment of a defaulter as a lecturer in philosophy. This is a matter on which the whole College should take a firm stand. The contentions of the R.S.A. are emotive in the extreme, and may appeal to those who do not examine the matter carefully. But there can be no doubt that their attitude deserves unreserved condemnation. If a defaulter is not to be a lecturer, may he be a grocer? Or a railway porter? Where must a line be drawn? What is fit employment for a defaulter? Obviously any such distinction is impossible of demarcation, not to say pernicious. The war was fought for equality of opportunity and no discrimination; many who died must have believed they were dying for this. Clearly, to eject Mr. Laird is inconsistent with such ideals. The war is over. Surely the defaulters have been submitted to enough discredit. Is social pressure against those with the courage not to conform to continue all their lives, till they slink at last into a dishonoured grave? We should preserve a sense of proportion, and not set ourselves up as judges of our fellows. All that this man has failed to do is to satisfy a tribunal that his conscientious objections were genuine; he served a term of imprisonment rather than renounce his views. He has acted consistently; let us do so too.

LOOK ABROAD

In this issue we print several articles dealing with international student organisation. As we circulate around this overcrowded College, looking to see if we can find a degree, diploma, or something of that nature, we are tempted to focus our attention exclusively on matters close to us: no room in the library, the charms or otherwise of a lecturer, why one's prose was covered with red ink. . . . The politician's ideal of having us out of contact with the outside world, of keeping us warm in a type of bureaucratic creche, fed, fat and feckless, may have made some impression on us—who are students hardly knowing what it is like not to have Savage on the prow and Fraser at the helm: we are, so to speak, "Children of 1935." So perhaps we forget that by supporting and belonging to world students' organisations we can get some advantages: first, by becoming internationally minded (this is a modern idea); secondly, by getting financial concessions when travelling abroad (this is an ancient idea). It would cost the Students' Association 17/6 annually to affiliate to the World Federation of Democratic Youth: that is to say, about the price of a black market golf ball.

END OF THE SEASON

All the College must have paled when New Zealand made under a hundred runs in two innings. One used to think that some importance was attributed to cricket in this country and that the standard was not so very low. But does the College know that it cannot field even four men's cricket teams throughout the summer? There are over two thousand men enrolled here, and not forty-four can be found to play for the College. The reason probably is that those who would quite like a game of cricket and are not experts cannot be bothered doing anything about it. But the need is there, and so it is to be hoped that the general meeting of the Cricket Club at the beginning of next season will have a large attendance of amateurs and professionals.

ROSTRUM

Copy for "Rostrum 1946" closes on JUNE 10.

Material is wanted as Early as Possible.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Any student or graduate interested in Photography, please get in touch with R. I. F. Pattison per letter-rack.

"ROSTRUM"

See the noticeboards for details of Material Wanted for this year's "Rostrum."

As for borrowing Mr. Whistler's ideas about art, the only thoroughly original ideas I have ever heard him express have had reference to his own superiority as a painter over painters greater than himself.—Wilde.

* * *

The place where optimism flourishes most is the lunatic asylum.—Havelock Ellis.

* * *

There is a certain satisfaction in feeling you are bearing with heroic resignation the irritating folly of others.—Jerome.

THE LIBRARY. NEW BOOKS

Redbrick and These Vital Days, by Bruce Truscott.—"Redbrick University," the personification of the modern college, is discussed constructively, and its developments and functions in the post-war world analysed.

Languages for War and Peace, by Mario A. Pei.—Describes the languages of the world, classifies them as to types and families, tells where, by whom and by how many people they are spoken.

Papua; Its People and Its Promise—Past and Future, by Lewis Lett.—Mr. Lett has been a resident of Papua since 1910.

Arrival and Departure, by Arthur Koestler.—Novel dealing with the psychological study of a European communist, who escapes from capture by the Nazis.

Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers.—Up-to-date sketches, with illustrations.

Seven Sailors, by Kenneth Edwards.—Sketches of famous contemporary naval men, including Sir Bertram Home Ramsay, Sir Bruce Fraser, Robert Sherbrooke, Thomas Hope Troubridge, etc.

Backwash of Empire, by M. Kathleen Woodburn.—An account of the Melanesian plateau, and the life of a white woman and child among its inhabitants.

Vocations for Maori Youth, by H. C. MacQueen.—Latest publication of the New Zealand Council for Educational Research.

Peinture et Dessin en Suisse au Quinzième et au Seizième Siècles.—Beautifully illustrated history of Swiss painting in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Little Book of Modern Verse, chosen by Anne Ridler, with a preface by T. S. Eliot.

Resurgam.—Deals with the past achievements of British architecture, and the scope and character of the reconstruction.

FIELD CLUB A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, March 28. Officers elected were:—

President: Professor V. J. Chapman.

Vice-Presidents Natural History staffs: Dr. L. H. Briggs, Mr. A. A. Corban.

Student Chairman: Mr. R. N. Brothers.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. R. V. Mirams.

Committee: Miss U. V. Dellow, Miss M. L. O'Donnell, Mr. P. B. Hannken, Mr. P. C. N. Wong.

After the formal business a film, "Coromandel Capers," was shown. This was an excellent record of the Afterdegree Camp, 1945, and gave Freshers a favourable impression of what to expect from the club by way of opportunities for field work.

Coming Activities

The new committee is arranging an attractive and varied programme for the year. A lecture on popular astronomy will commence the session—"The Story of a Starry Night," by Mr. E. H. Kerkin. The Easter Camp will be held at Swanson—an ideal place for your introduction to Field Club, especially for Fresher Botanists. May Camp will be at Muriwai. Watch the notice boards for further details of all these activities.

We welcome members from any Department, but especially from the Departments of Botany, Zoology, Geology and Geography. All you have to do to join is come along to any club activity, be it lecture, camp or excursion.

SCIENCE SOCIETIES' ACTIVITIES

STARTLING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Scientific Discussions Society held its A.G.M. in the Geology lecture theatre on Thursday, March 14, at 7.30 p.m. And that is about all that can be said in the conventional fashion about this meeting. To be sure, it commenced in the stereotyped fashion (or as near it as possible, with Mr. Harvey in the chair), but signs of internecine strife were not long in appearing. The whole matter arose from the correspondence, and the first flicker of dissension was between the chairman and the correspondent, the difficulty being to pluralise "colloquium." Should it be Anglicised first? The discussion was worthy of an English honours class, though the chairman's ruling (which pointed to "colloquias") might not have been accepted there. However, mere Bachelors of Science, and their satellites, were concerned with the root of the matter, the "to be or not to be" of their Society, to wit—the motion tabled that its separate existence was no longer justified.

This produced about as explosive an outburst of debate as your Craccum reporter had confidently hoped, and with Mr. Wong and Mr. Taylor delivering full broadsides in a relatively confined space, it needed only the arrival of Mr. Odell (in the tradition of previous A.G.M.'s, and "through no fault of his own") to create utter confusion. Mr. Odell appeared to grasp the situation in a remarkably short time and was by no means reluctant to enter the strife in defence of the Society he had helped to found. We were informed that he had something to do with Stage I students; they will no doubt confirm this. Further, that he had doubts as to "the amount of abstruse stuff they can consume in unit time"; would Mrs. Odd agree? At any rate, he remembered, apparently with some feeling, that the 1941 Sci. Soc. committee was composed of junior members and that the whole thing stank, and was ready to assert that all the weaknesses of democracy were exemplified in the average A.G.M. By now the others present had gained their second wind, and for the next twenty minutes the air was thick with amendments, to such an extent that it is certain the Secretary, with a background of logical training in scientific ways and means, must have had them classified, if not analysed, labelled and sealed away. Meanwhile Mr. Harvey continued to preside, not with an air of detachment, but as if it were his duty to prod at intervals and so ensure no flagging of effort.

The topics of discussion in 1945 were quoted, and then those back beyond living memory. It was anticipated that there would be no trouble whatsoever with Scientific Society; somebody challenged the veracity of Mr. Sprott; the original constitution was quoted and marvelled at; Mr. Wong was found to be indifferent; the back of a notice of motion proved wholly inadequate to record the spate of events, and through and above it all Mr. Odell was still to be heard speaking bravely to his amendment. At 8.52 the windows were flung open, and the discussion lapsed into one concerning the more formal intricacies of a constitutional change. However, the Science faculty is not lacking in stamina, and after an hour and ten minutes of brisk exchange the amended motion was put through. The activities of the Scientific Discussions Society were to be put in abeyance subject to the acceptance of new responsibilities to advanced students by the Scientific Society at its A.G.M. the following week.

But that was not all: the assets of the club must be safeguarded, and the fate of one shilling (in cash) and of one minute-book (in disrepair) had yet to be settled. Mr. Taylor was adamant that the shilling be vested in Sci. Soc. as trustees; Mr.

Harvey preferred to suspend the shilling with the Society; while Mr. Odell, not to be outdone, moved that it go to form the nucleus of a fund. The more far-seeing of those present realised that the shilling would go on occupying a sealed envelope in the research laboratory of the organic chemistry department whatever the decision, and were not really interested in the fate of the minute-book, so the discussion was neither as acrimonious nor as protracted as might have been feared. In fact, the chairman slipped in the fatal words "there being no further business" completely unopposed, and the serious debaters were forced to continue the argument half-way down the stairs. Craccum made a bee-line for an overdue supper and bed.

The following Monday saw the A.G.M. of Scientific Society in full swing. For the last four years there have been two science societies—the Discussions group, designed to cater for lectures and debate amongst Stage III and Honours members of the faculty; and the Science Society itself, which presented more general lectures attended (in theory) by Stage I and II students and any others interested, and Sci. Soc. has amended its constitution to ensure a certain number of senior lecturers during the year. In addition to lectures there are excursions to industrial plants, and films will be shown if and when these come to hand. Then, of course, there is the Coffee Evening—always an unqualified success—and those highlights of the sporting year, the Men v. Women and Staff v. Students basketball matches. An annual dinner is held, and (as a sort of preliminary to this) suppers are provided at all lectures, gas permitting.

You can't be a scientist without having wrangled and debated with Sci. Soc.: so all you students of the faculty—whatever your own pet subject—watch out for the lectures (on Monday evenings) and throw your weight behind the committee in these and in its social activities during the year. The variety and spice of the entertainment is never lacking, and there are no more instructive lectures given than those you will hear with this Society.

But we seem to have lost the Annual General Meeting, somewhere near the beginning on Monday 18. The annual report is a likely place. Fresh from the pen of Mr. Harvey, it lost many people—some in admiration and some in just plain disbelief. We were prepared to believe that there had been a visit to the gas-works when the only thing not seen was gas, and that a small excess of expenditure over income was rather satisfactory; even that the Coffee Evening had been the most successful of the year, and the basketball talk of the College; but when we were told we had consumed doughnuts to the cost of several pounds our sensitive digestions rose in revolt, and Mr. Harvey's plaintive enquiry for something to use upon his spotless ash tray fell upon deaf ears. Business proceeded rapidly, and the correspondence brought to light a series of proposed amendments to the constitution. This is where the true calibre of an embryonic scientist is revealed: if he can argue, abuse, deny; confound his opposition with amendment upon amendment; speak eloquently upon a subject of which he knows practically nothing; keep his head in the face of the secretary, the chairman, of every other person present—and all this with no prospect of supper—then he is a worthy member in a fine tradition. It would appear that A.U.C. is not lacking in this respect. After three-quarters of an hour Bedlam reigned. Mr. Odell was again speaking strongly to an amendment, though

ON THE BEAT

FOR HOT MUSIC-LOVERS

(By OFFBEAT)

It is hoped that for Hot Music-lovers this column will fulfil a long-felt want. Ever since the demise of the Wellington-produced magazine "Swing" in 1942 there has been no New Zealand publication which has discoursed in general on the subjects of Swing and Jazz, and published personnels or reviewed records. It is not proposed to turn CRACCUM into this sort of magazine (Heaven forbid!), but it is hoped that the numerous rhythm-lovers in the College will be able to find here the sort of information that rhythm-lovers anywhere like to talk about. And to that end, how about writing to Offbeat and asking him anything you want to know concerning the subject of rhythm? He doesn't guarantee to be able to answer you—he's only human—but he'll do his best. And if you know anything interesting in this line, which you think might be interesting to others, let Offbeat dig the—ahem!—have the information. A note in the letter rack, or lengthier communications in the CRACCUM box will reach Offbeat. So let's get it, men!

Tiger Rag

Some weeks back the "Tough Eighth Question" on the Musical Quiz (at that time worth £18) was, quite simply, "Who wrote 'Tiger Rag'?" The contestant, who was reputed to know something about jazz, gave most fans a few anxious moments, but was stuck for an answer. Finally, Guy Nixon, the Quizmaster (who knows his classical music inside out, and does arrangements for orchestras in his spare time), gave the answer as "Nick la Rocca, of the Original Dixieland Jazz Band."

We were interested in this, as we happened to know that Tiger Rag—regarded by most as the typical jazz tune—was, when jazz was in its infancy, improvised from, of all things, a French Quadrille! Since many of the negro slaves had French owners, they could hardly help becoming acquainted with their masters' music. Consequently they adapted this particular tune to the jazz idiom, though under what name it was first played seems doubtful. The O.D.J.B. featured this tune (Dominick la Rocca claiming composition) and copyrighted it in 1917. The horrible and fatuous words ("Get that tiger" et al.) were added by Harry de Costa, and the whole thing re-copyrighted in 1932. "Tiger Rag" now bears very little resemblance to the O.D.J.B. tune. Incidentally, whenever this number is repeated by genuine jazzmen, the clarinettist always repeats to the best of his ability the original clarinet chorus of Larry Shields of the O.D.J.B.

Discography

A new number, Johnny's Idea/Mean Old Bed-Bug Blues, by Vic Lewis and Jack Parnell's Jazzmen, had on the session: Lewis (g) and Parnell (dms), with Ronnie Chamberlain (soprano sax); Derek Hawkins (alto, clt); Billy Riddick (tpt); Dick Katz (p); Charlie Short (b). Recorded Feb. 12, 1944.

Somehow these English sides don't click, or maybe we just can't get used to Britishers trying to play genuine jazz. "Bed-Bug" is a traditional

blues, described by an earnest surrealist as a theme "Handled in an earnest surrealist manner," the successful re-creation of "The nightmare in all its awesome intensity." This tribute would have astonished whoever it was who strung the words together, meaning only to laugh off one of the inconveniences of slum life. The reverse, "Johnny's Idea," was by Johnny Mince, of Tommy Dorsey's Band, and is quite a bright number.

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Political campaigns are designedly made into emotional orgies which endeavour to distract attention from the real issues involved, and they actually paralyse what slight powers of cerebration man can normally muster.—J. H. Robinson.

whether for or against was not at all clear. the Secretary thought that Mr. Sprott should be ejected, or at least that they should apply the closure to him; there was the serious suggestion that a student might be taking Maths. III, Chemistry III, Physics III, Botany III, and Applied III at once; but for the bulk of the meeting activity was confined to making appropriate noises in the occasional lulls.

Meantime the tabled amendments grew and multiplied. We were told we were undermining the whole of the British constitution, and could not possibly legislate for a future generation. The cleaning staff became involved, and Mr. Cowley wanted to know why they couldn't attend lectures if they wanted to. Mr. Maslam was informed that he was all out of order, but looked none the worse for it. The suggestion that a committee would probably be elected whom it would be impossible to trust was suitably ignored, and in a final burst

of discussion the changes were made, and peace allowed to descend. But not for long. Officers had yet to be found, and all the ramifications of an election gone through. Mr. Bowden refused to be nominated, and then to vote, unless under a preferential system, but his objection was not sustained and events moved resolutely forward. A voice crying out for supper led Mr. Harvey to test the gas again, but it still "didn't sound like it should." The new sub-committee was set up, with Mr. Thomas somewhat alarmed at being nominated, and informed of its duties in no uncertain fashion. And, with only a flicker of opposition, the meeting came to an end.

As a fair sample of what Science students are capable of doing if sufficiently roused, this meeting served its purpose; we can only hope that the remainder of the year will prove as lively, but not as long.



In these executive reports we do not attempt to give a full account of what occurred—this may be obtained from the minutes—but a general survey of executive activities.

On February 28, three days before the end of the month (see Denney on "Dates"), at 7.5 p.m., a meeting commenced of the Auckland University College Students' Association Executive Committee. A brisk determination characterised Mr. Jones as he read the minutes, apparently because he well knew that the Exec. Room chairs are covered with sackcloth and that the last meeting closed at 11.30.

Correspondence

The correspondence proved interesting. Mr. Jones himself writes a good letter, and so does his opposite number at V.U.C. The firm stand of Exec. in the matter of the damaged piano at Victoria deserves to be applauded. The facts were that to pay for alleged damage by A.U.C. students at Tournament to a piano, V.U.C. detained a sum owing to A.U.C. under a totally different head. An acrimonious, lengthy, and not unentertaining correspondence on the subject was maintained, till, finally appreciating the weakness of their position in law, V.U.C. sent the £15 in question—in the hope, it would appear, that A.U.C. would generously offer to make a contribution to the Damaged Piano Fund. Though this hope has been undecieved, Exec. does not intend to quibble over the exchange missing on the cheque, a characteristically prudent gesture of goodwill.

Finance

In watching over the financial affairs of the Students' Association, Exec. exercise commendable zeal. Much time was spent at this meeting examining the accounts of the furniture renovation under the auspices of the Men's House Committee. When passive, Mr. Morton watches over the finances with the jealous concern of a female goldfish, carping at every unjustifiable expense. When active, his trenchant parodies of Juvenal only add dignity to the picture he presents of a bloodhound in full cry, as, pen in hand, he does addition on a piece of paper. In contrast to Mr. Morton, it is impossible to reject the conclusion that the business manager, Mr. Postlewaite, is regrettably casual. During the course of one meeting, evidence of this came forward on three occasions: first, in failing to reply to letters from V.U.C.; secondly, in giving permission for the B.M.A. Conference to use the Caf., thereby interfering with renovation schemes with which Exec. was proceeding; and, thirdly, by failing to send a cheque promised before long delay. It has often been observed that Mr. Postlewaite has his fingers in many pies; it would appear that he has allocated the eleventh finger to A.U.C. business.

But this is almost the only complaint which can be laid against the efficiency of the present Exec. Those who were perhaps only names at the time of the elections have become a capable committee. The staying power they display at unbelievably boring meetings is more than creditable. While all doubtless work efficiently at their portfolios, as committeemen, Messrs. Jones, Laurence, Morton and Piper are outstanding; it is recorded with regret that Miss Bell and Mr. Hooton seldom speak. All students will be sad to hear that the members of Exec. smoke during their meetings. Perhaps their ash, combined with the sackcloth, was a sym-



MR. K. L. PIPER
President A.U.C.S.A.

bol of distress at the resignation of Mr. Laing, with whom good wishes were exchanged and regrets expressed. In his place, Mr. J. Rutherford has been co-opted. This appointment should be widely approved: Mr. Rutherford is a returned soldier, having attained the rank of major and been awarded the Military Cross. He has already done effective work on Student Relief Committee and the Ex-Servicemen's Society, and will prove an acquisition to Exec. Chaos began to supervene at about 9.15, and the meeting closed some three-quarters of an hour later.

* * *

On the nineteenth evening of March, at seven sharp, or sharp enough to be startling, the executive of the Students' Association, having o'erleapt the minutes as mere verbiage, plunged into the correspondence, inwards and outwards.

The adage here, as in pecuniary matters, seems to be "we shall not commit ourselves," and the Secretary, Mr. Jones, is kept out of any possible mischief writing for more details. He has a wide range of correspondents, from Professor Fitt to the Auckland Missionary Association, and so might be expected to take a broad view of life. A letter from Training College, couched in the most diplomatic terms, desires "better relations and closer co-operation" with 'Varsity. An enquiry had been made into an interesting medical scheme at Victoria for the examination of students. It was revealed that it hadn't been working for the last few years, but the idea was flourishing and in the process of being "handed on"—probably ad infinitum.

Mr. Morton takes over, and we discover that Professor Fitt is demanding precedent for his invitation to the Grants Committee. Mr. Morton is supplying it with weighty references to the Constitution, and some acerbity.

A new machine for more harmony between the powerful and the oppressed is being constructed in the Students-Staff relations Committee, in which two Exec. members and two from the Professorial Board will "in-

formally interchange their viewpoints"; a further committee will attend to the discipline of the College, and the liquor problem; the vexed question of student representation on the Council brings up the rear, but we feel will not pass unpressed.

Caf. Crisis—Or Storm on the Teacup

Mr. Morton framed a motion that the Caf. kitchen should not be used in the evenings after club meetings, owing to the loss of some "lovely steel" and priceless china. Misses Garland, Laidlaw, Bell and Messrs. Piper, Hooton and Laurence all grew rampant, and gave a fine display of democracy violated, but not yet conquered. They were unsoftened even by Mr. Jones' assertion that the teapots were getting lower and lower. The suggestion that the power point in the W.C.R. should be used and the washing-up done in the cloakroom was refuted on the principles of the Rights of Man and Hygiene. Mr. Hooton was heard to mutter "more locks and keys."

Mr. Morton: You can't lock up everything.

Miss Laidlaw: Cupboards have doors.

Here, Mr. Piper, who had been fishing for the Great Fundamental, hooked it with triumph—"After all, it's our kitchen, and we suffer the losses, not Mrs. Odd." The waves were now, of course, hushed and an amendment was made that locking arrangements should be provided and damaged cups paid for by clubs—as Miss Montague added with legal finesse—"jointly and severally." Mrs. Odd was then taken into committee for further discussion, with Mr. Laurence established as her resolute champion.

Another Caf. matter—the Rationing Controller has slipped up in his simple proportion. According to him, the more students there are, the less butter they require. Nothing apparently can be done, but Mr. Laurence poured balsam on the wound by his recipe for lengthening the life of butter. We may expect more culinary advice from this quarter.

Members looked a trifle jaded after this, and it was left to Mr. Morton to deal with the request of the ex-servicemen for restriction of membership. Taking his stand firmly against the constitution, he announced that the membership of a club "was restricted by the ambit of its operations"—and that, said John, was that.

Mr. Hooton now makes his contribution to the comfort of students by his motion that the doors below the stairs will be opened, with the co-operation of the caretaker, to mitigate the hourly jam round Room 19.

As Revue comes up, two things are evident. Miss Bell wants illimitable supplies of cash, her reasons heavily interlarded with references to Pete and Pos. Mr. Haresnape wants a jam band. Both proposals were modified, the latter, we hope, nullified.

The Classical Society and the Debating Club were engaged in mutual invective—or, as Mr. Morton said more graphically—"drawn swords." The first booked the Common Room—or place—and the second, the night—or time—but they found they couldn't have both together. To avoid this sort of thing again a club must have a chit from Mr. Haresnape before booking the room. Mr. Haresnape asks if double-banking of clubs for the same night should be allowed. Mr. Piper: "Use your discretion." Mr. Haresnape looks puzzled.

As Easter Tournament was announced, in waltzed Mr. Beard and

fixed things up. There was talk of a Blues Dance and the depressing suggestion that blues won over the last five years should be handed out at it. Mr. Haresnape was all agin it, but agreed, reluctantly enough, to a Blues Coffee Evening. Mr. Piper was all for Blues Certificates done out in Old English lettering, but was not willing to pay 7/6 an hour. Finally, with a sort of inverse auctioneering spirit, he beat it down to 9d a certificate.

Mr. Piper suggests that Mr. Pattison be sent down to Tournament (a) to gather reports of events, (b) to see some people about "Rostrum."

Messrs. Laurence and Jones wonder if Mr. Piper has not reversed the order of importance, and talk about an all-round man. Mr. Beard affirms that a correlator, though not a sporting man, is necessary. Mr. Piper varies it with contactor. Finally Mr. Pattison is left in abeyance. With the last strains of Tournament, out waltzes Mr. Beard, apparently a believer in specialisation.

M.H.C. or—"They lie low an' do nuddin!" Mr. Morton mounts his hobby horse—with pleasing succinctness says, "You ask them for a locker, and they tell you to go to hell and come back in a week." From comments one gathers that the chairman is always up a scaffold and the rest might well be, for all the difference it makes. With the ominous words of Mr. Laurence, "Let's do something drastic," the Exec. retires into committee and the press into the night air.

Of a session of three hours five minutes, three hours had been spent in getting through twenty-four items of agenda. The Exec. has no lack of seriousness and strikes a nice balance between ceremony and informality in its business. Strengthened by the cogency and directness of Mr. Laurence, urged on by the indefatigable Mr. Morton, and held under control by Mr. Piper, it will do good work.

* * *

RETURNED STUDENTS MEET EXEC.

On Monday, March 25, representatives of the returned soldiers met a sub-committee of the Exec.—Miss Garland, Messrs. Piper, Morton, Jones, Laurence and Rutherford—to suggest proposals to be put forward at the Staff-Student meeting and discuss 'Varsity matters generally.

The proposed Disciplinary Committee of three was agreed to and despatched summarily. The liquor problem commanded somewhat more attention. All seemed of the opinion that the moderate consumption of liquor in the College, under the control of approved clubs, was preferable to indiscriminate swilling outside. A motion was framed that the matter be brought up at the joint meeting of Exec. and Professorial Board. The question of extra-mural discipline was pondered over. Mr. Morton, for instance, wants to know if a professor can drag a student from the Wynyard Arms.

The preliminaries past, the real business began. Mr. Morton mounted his hobby horse, the Men's House Committee—the rest got up behind him, and they all rode it hard. Miss Garland, naturally not versed in the details of this matter, hiked behind. It seems that it would have been to Milton's profit to have visited the Men's Common Room before he wrote

CHOSEN MEET

EXEC. MEETING

his description of Chaos and Destruction. If he had, the M.H.C. would undoubtedly have featured in the crew of the fallen angels.

Mr. Rice, speaking for returned students, denounced it as juvenile and lacking the power to enforce discipline. Mr. Piper was hurt at their insubordination in refusing to clean up during the vacation. He admitted, on questions from Mr. Haughton and Mr. Hilliard, that their duties do not officially include "work on the bended hands and knees," but based his argument on the fundamental premise that if they did their duty the place wouldn't get into the shambles it's in now. To Mr. Haughton's suggestion that the M.C.R. should be placed out of bounds when things became too riotous, Mr. Piper replied briefly, "Broken windows tried before." Mr. Laurence was all for order, not through force but purification. The problem of discipline is aggravated this year by the returned students' unwillingness to take orders from a party of boisterous and apparently irresponsible young men.

To Mr. Rice's definition of the ideal committee as a combination of good hard workers, and policemen, Mr. Piper, more in sorrow than anger, said he could enumerate two or three of the former class in the present shooting match but none of the latter. The one member who apparently represents order amid chaos "has had it with the whole outfit."

Mr. Rice: "There is no organisation and no will to organise." Mr. Morton (mildly): "There's no room to meet in." After discussion of the suitability and non-accessibility of several rooms, and the condemnation of the tower, as mere constructional elevational effect, the meeting decided that no room, whatever its qualities as a room, could improve the calibre of the present committee.

They were veering towards this all the evening and now it came. Mr. Morton, taking the last jump with desperate decision, the rest hanging on tight—and all according to Article 27 C of the Constitution. Motions were framed which amounted to this—that the sub-committee recommend to Exec. the turving out of the M.H.C. and the co-option by Exec. of "responsible blokes with more suitable personalities"—a list of suitable returned students to be handed in by Thursday, March 28.

There are apparently larger issues behind the proposed dismissal of the M.H.C. than the mere punishment of irresponsible youth. "Putting our own house in order" is a preliminary to entrance into a more exalted house—dare we whisper the College Council?

Having ridden the M.H.C. to death, the meeting dismounted. Miss Garland joined them, and they sought a little light relaxation in the Caf. question. Mr. Haughton suggested that enquiries be made about the Grant system at Victoria. Mr. Piper said it didn't work. Ultimately all came round to the opinion that the Caf. is the biggest, brightest and best-at-the-price Dining Hall in Town. (Moral: Habit breeds content.) Mr. Laurence threw his bouquet to Mrs. Odd as the best manageress in town.

An attempt was made to delve into Tamaki, but Mr. Piper in fatherly fashion told him to forget about it for twenty-five years. He made the interesting disclosure that in 1937 Mount Pleasant Hospital had been offered to the Council as a hostel for

male students. Mrs. Odd offered to take it over. One may reflect that there would have been now no dearth of disciplined material suitable for any M.H.C.

Things were reaching the comfortable stage when, at 8.5, Mr. Piper announced an important engagement. The meeting was dissolved.

The atmosphere throughout was friendly, and the two bodies met and parted in equanimity. Although none of the returned students' proposals were startlingly new, they confirmed—and that strongly—Exec's. intentions in the main business. In the general discussion pleasing domestic qualities were evident on both sides.

* * *

EXEC. AND M.H.C.

Time: 8.5 p.m., April 1.
Scene: Exec. Room.

After a preliminary canter (now Miss Bell, don't prick up your ears) through the correspondence, the minutes of the last meeting and the reports of grants committee, Exec. settled down to a steady trot to deal with the business of the meeting.

The main topic of the evening, the discussion of the report from the Ex-Services' Society dealing with Student Affairs—especially the M.H.C.—was broached with gusto.

Mr. Piper explained that M.H.C. would be asked to resign as a committee, and a new committee would be appointed by the Executive, to which some members of the old committee would be asked to return.

Mr. Denny looking slightly confused, assumed his usual angelic expression and demanded reasons. He added that the reason why Men's House Committee had not been functioning properly was his own fault. He was a part-time student and could not devote enough time to his committee.

"I shall resign from the Chairmanship of M.H.C., and if this entails my resignation from Exec. I shall do so, too," he added.

"The blame is not altogether yours," said Mr. Piper, "let us decide who is to blame. Personally, I have seen M.H.C. in action and am prepared to admit that there are some worthwhile fellows on it. But if I were to go, Exec. would still work as a team."(!)

Exec. was overcome by Mr. Piper's high opinion of them and at the way his natural modesty would out.

Mr. Denny, however, looked pained and asked plaintively whether it was really necessary to ask M.H.C. to resign.

Mr. Morton, who had been ruminating for some time, said suddenly, with child-like simplicity: "Let's have 'em in."

It was quite some time before his wish was granted, but if the reader will peruse what has gone before several times, he will have a fair idea of the conversation which went on during the next half-hour.

At least M.H.C. were called in, and Mr. Waters acted as their spokesman. Mr. Rayner came armed with a wooden club.

M.H.C. then asked questions and answered questions—an interesting but not very fruitful quizz programme.

Finally, Mr. Piper, whose benevolence and love of his fellow "men" seems boundless, said: "Resign you must, but we leave the method of your resignation to you." He then

smiled bewitchingly and added that this was not a personal slight to M.H.C.; merely a committee matter. Once again we were overcome by Mr. Piper's charm of disposition. Messrs. Waters, Rayner, Rykers, Arnold and Bolt then filed out in an orderly fashion and Exec. went into committee.

As soon as Exec. returned to the world where mortals may listen and report, a long argument ensued as to how many members were to be on the new M.H.C. At length, to break the monotony of this, Mr. Jones stated he was going to resign the Secretaryship—bombshell among sleeping members. A motion was framed and passed not accepting Mr. Jones' resignation. Mr. Jones dissenting. Ultimately our Exec., being constitutionally-minded, accepted the resignation. Exec. members' regret at this very real loss was tempered with decision not to be burdened with the secretaryship. Mr. Piper tried to persuade each member individually to take up the post, but even he could achieve no results. The matter was deferred till the next meeting.

Sudden switch-over to further discussion on M.H.C. The debate on the number for M.H.C. continued with renewed vigour. Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Beard were all for ten, Mr. Haresnape tried an exciting variation, eight and one chairman. The number finally decided upon was ten, but Mr. Hooton voiced his dissent vociferously.

The new M.H.C. decided upon consists of: Chairman, Mr. Hooton; Committee, Messrs. Waters, Rykers, Rayner, Giffkins, Humphreys, Hodder, Perrit, Smith—one to be co-opted.

M.H.C. entered at this juncture and resigned, the alternative presenting fewer attractions.

The position of assistant secretary was now found to be vacant. Just as this was about to be discussed, Mr.

The Corresponding Member (or Mr. Morton's Finger).



SERIAL

(Continued from last issue)

He let himself in through the back door and put his umbrella in the sink. Spring weather could never be trusted, and he thought that it was just as well he had remembered to take his umbrella. He took off his coat and dried his face with his handkerchief. The rain seemed the heaviest he had ever experienced. The sky had looked beautifully blue, and suddenly this downpour had come. Although it was October, it was now quite cold. He looked out of the window and watched another cloud moving across. The sun was obscured and a pall covered most of the sky. Soon the rain began to fall again, gradually becoming heavier, until the insistent pattering on the roof rendered everything else inaud-



Denny stated that he wished to go home as he could hold out no longer. After the roar had died down Mr. Denny added that he had had no dinner and was extremely hungry.

After his departure Exec. again turned its attention to the vexing question of the post of Assistant Secretary. Miss Laidlaw and Mr. Rutherford were nominated, and with customary gentility offered to stand down in favour of each other. When it came to voting on this issue, Exec. were somewhat bewildered and Mr. Haresnape asked in plaintive tones: "Please, how do you spell Smith?" Chaos! Mr. Morton restored tranquillity by suggesting that further adjustments of portfolios be postponed till the next meeting.

After a mad scramble through the rest of the Agenda (most of it was deferred) Exec. retired wearily at 10.55 p.m., feeling well satisfied that they had at least dealt with half of the Agenda.



ible. It was colder now and hail began to fall. Now that he was inside, he could watch it. The drops were unusually large, almost the largest he had ever seen. The piles of hail in the corners grew big very quickly. He wondered whether the pile would reach the top of the steps and how big the stones would grow. He did not notice the rain stop, but he kept his eyes on the hail, and the cloud moved on and left a hazy blue sky, with a sun and a rainbow. He saw the glistening hailstones and got up and went outside. He looked at the front door with the sun and the shadow and the wet step and the hail. He ran in to find his camera. When he returned, however, the pile and the size of the stones had decreased. Soon all the hail was gone and a little stream of water was trickling down the path.

(To be Continued)

MUSIC AND THE RADIO

QUIZZES, MUSICAL, 12B

And so the Musical Quiz is to leave us. No more the frantic rush to the radio at 7.45 on Fridays and Saturdays, no more the hopping from one foot to the other whilst the announcer extols the virtues and delights of staying at the right brand of D.B. Hotel, and no more the urgent hush as Guy Nixon introduces the night's victims in his most friendly arachnoid tones. Gone will be the catch of the breath around the family circle as the first hopeful with tremulous voice "like as the love-lorn turtle" misses Rubenstein's Melody in F, and five shillings (a high estimate for it, I wis, some would say), gone will be the derisive "I told you so"'s to each other when our particular guess is right, and gone the feeling of gnawing envy when the contestant pockets eighteen crisp notes and a half for knowing Brahms and his dates—(anyhow his Christian name is Johannes and not Johann," says Junior Omniscience with a wrathful glare at the bars covering the speaker, as if they were made of iron and the lucky winner rightly placed on the other side of them).

I for one will really miss this stimulating session in spite of its occasional lapses into puerility. It has attracted quite a number of people I know to listen in and learn who normally would not bother with good music as such. It had, moreover, the important merit of treating Swing as something able to stand on its own feet, requiring neither a detrimental comparison with, nor the condescending tolerance of, the classics, old and new. That is, of course, as it should be—I have no sympathy with people who shudder if Fats and Ludwig van happen to get themselves mentioned in the same sentence. This by the way, however.

Perhaps the sponsors of 12B's Musical Quiz will reintroduce it after a spell. They are to be congratulated on a fine little series to date.

"TAKE A PAIR OF SPARKLING EYES"

Listening to "The Gondoliers" the other night in the Gilbert and Sullivan series on the N.B.S. at present, I made a rather illuminating discovery—so it seemed at the time—about the old chestnut "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes."

I wonder how many people realise when they hear this air just wherein its particular charm lies. The melody is popular, and justly so, for it is one of Sullivan's best, but there is more in it than that. The accompaniment gives us the secret, I fancy. As in so many of Mozart's operatic arias, the scoring for the orchestra heightens the effect immeasurably. It adds the icing and makes a rich wedding cake where there was but a fruit cake before. Think of the soft comments from the woodwind choir, the sustained notes lying so softly atop the more rapid lilt of the tenor's voice, the gentle guitar-like introduction, and I am sure you will agree.

Sullivan's style in such moments ever seemed to dilly-dally between Handel and Mozart (here definitely the latter), and through his thorough parodying of both these composers, unconsciously took on many of their superficial characteristics, so that at times it is difficult to tell whether he was doing it purposely or the opposite. Quasi-plagiarist or not, however, he has in this air given us an exquisite example of his delicacy and refinement in catching the mood of Gilbert's words.

12B's ANNOUNCERS

We are so used to hearing one set of announcers at a particular station that it comes as something of a shock to hear them blithely mouthing away into a rival microphone, brazenly changing from their usual style to another quite alien, and not a whit abashed in the process. Hilton Porter of 12B seems especially apt in the art of being a radio chameleon, and one or two others are not far

behind him.

1YA and 1YX have apparently run short of announcers for the moment, and have had to rely upon their commercially-minded cousin for help. So far it seems to have been quite adequate, although one of the announcers is inclined to "continue" every item and programme from the one before it, much in the style of that gentleman so famous for his pronunciation of Beethoven. When announcing symphonies and suchlike, too, Des Locke seems a trifle uncertain of his keys, which on the face of it doesn't read rightly I suppose.

Still, whatever their faults, the 12B announcers have made the change successfully, and I doubt very much whether their opposite numbers could have even made an attempt at it.

They are at least one hundred per cent better than the horrible stop-gap gentleman whom 1YA apparently recruited from the technicians to hold the fort till 12B came to the rescue. He sounded more like the proverbial Office Boy a' la Harry Tate than anything else. It was a trifle disconcerting to be told vigorously at the end of a "number" that the recordings were Klumbia.

RE-HASHES

Constant Lambert has added another triumph to his very successful rehashing of some of Dr. William Boyce's violin sonata movements in the form of a ballet, "The Prospect Before Us." The orchestration in this was a model of propriety, admirably preserving the flavour of the eighteenth century with the introduction of "Bach Trumpets" and characteristic oboes to boot. It was in far better taste than William Walton's similar venture with Bach entitled "The Wise Virgins" (though this is not at all offensive in the way that some Stokowski's "transcriptions" are), and even more judiciously served up than the arrangements of Scarlatti and Boccherini—"The Good-Humoured Ladies" and "The School of Dancing"—both of which I unhesitatingly include in the Canon of Transcription.

I must confess that, wherever possible, I place myself amongst the rabid purists who cry out against performances of the old music which deviate in the slightest from the conditions laid down by the composer, but when it is a matter of not being able to hear it at all if the ideal conditions are stipulated, then my theory softens somewhat in practice.

It is very reassuring, then, to hear the arrangement Lambert has made of Purcell's music to "Comus" (whether this is all of it or just some of the dances I have not been able to find out).

Hear it at your first opportunity for a piece of thoroughly responsible editing, and for some more crumbs from Purcell's table, from which there are so many more morsels yet to be given to the recording world.

"DIDO AND AENEAS"

There can be no quibbling over this next recording, however. Collectors must be eagerly awaiting the release of the performance of "Dido and Aeneas" on H.M.V. which Compton MacKenzie enthusiastically announces in a recent edition of "The Gramophone." The older Decca recording is surely well known to most listeners, and it was a most laudable effort, considering how long ago it was pressed.

The new H.M.V. presentation, however, appears definitely to have eclipsed it in both performance and recording. Full honours go to the orchestra and Boris Ord at the harpsichord. (What an amazing difference the introduction of this very necessary instrument makes, and yet how many people are still biased against it.)

The most happy choice it seems to me, without having heard the recording, is that of Isobel Baillie for Belinda. Her pure intonation should be ideally suited to the high-range, delicate phrases Purcell gives this

BOOK REVIEWS

"SONNETS AND VERSE"

Hilaire Belloc. (Publisher: Duckworth.)

The new edition of Hilaire Belloc's "Sonnets and Verse" contains about a hundred poems, many of which are published for the first time. Such a collection is of interest to anyone concerned with modern literature, owing to the prominent place Hilaire Belloc has won both as an author and as a critic.

Sonnets

The First Part of the book is devoted to sonnets. Their subject matter varies widely from joy at homecoming to a lament for the destruction of Troy. The dominant impression of Mr. Belloc's style is one of gentle melancholy, as in the sonnet:

"Your life is like a little winter's day
Whose sad sun rises late to set too soon."

Yet occasionally he introduces lines startling in their incongruity as:

"Then would I chuck for good my stinking trade
Of writing tosh at 1/6 a quire."

Or as in the topical:

"The trifling entrance fee
Is paid (by proxy) to the registrar."

In not a few cases the reader is led to suspect that a striking opening line is thought of and the rest of the sonnet is laboriously constructed to fit it.

L., D. and G.

The second section is entitled "Lyrical, Didactic and Grotesque." It contains many poems on fantastic subjects as "The Moon's Funeral" and "Lines to a Don," the latter of which is often quoted as an example both of literary repetition and of sarcasm. The poems treat mainly of people and nature. The most successful piece in this section, perhaps in the whole book, is "The South Country," a nostalgic and quietly beautiful description of Sussex, the poet's home county. I also liked the brief verse "The Early Morning."

Songs and Ballades

The next section, "Songs," is almost a continuation of the last, as the subjects and treatment are very similar. The short poem "Ha-nacker Mill" has the same poignant quality as "The South Country." The gay "Tarantella" is well known to all who have ever studied elocution.

In his "Ballades" Mr. Belloc was obviously more concerned with writing glib topical verse than in creating poetry. Although the reader might be amused at such a verse as:

"Or 70 or 63
Or 55 or 44
Or 39 and going free
Or 28 or even more,"
or at such a metaphor as
"The £ fell out of bed,"

it is unlikely that he would be moved or charmed.

Many of his epigrams are witty; others are rather obscure. A series of nine epigrams "On a Sundial" emphasises Mr. Belloc's pre-occupations.

character. Aeneas (so well given in the old recording) is entrusted this time to Den's Noble—he seems to have risen considerably in the musical world these last few years after his being included in the British Council's recording of "Belshazzar's Feast."

Compton MacKenzie is not altogether happy with Joan Hammond as Dido. The role is a very difficult one to sustain, and for the critic's perfect performance of the Lament I fear most of us will have to wait for the next world.

But I fear that at least the first year of my hoped-for possession of the new "Dido and Aeneas" I shall be too busily engaged in enjoying the beauties of it to feel at all disposed to criticise anyone in it—even the label manufacturers.

—Cembalo.

tion with the swift passing of time.

The book concludes with two long poems, "The Ballad of Val-es-Dunes" and "Heroic Poem in Praise of Wine." The former is an account of an ancient battle and, as the author admits, is grossly unhistorical. Yet even if it is inaccurate, it is dramatic and moves swiftly. The "Heroic Poem" abounds in classical allusions to various gods and heroes who revelled in wine and to distant localities where the grape flourished. It is written in rhyming couplets and reads like an eighteenth-century translation of the classics.

Many of the poems in this collection are merely the routine exercises of a facile pen. They lack both the "fundamental brainwork" which Rossetti said was the first essential of a successful sonnet and the spark of passion or genius which makes a poem great. Yet others are very good, especially "The South Country," "Ha-nacker Mill" (both of which could be included in any modern anthology). "The Ballad of Val-es-Dunes" and "Tarantella," and the whole book is worth reading as a representative collection of the poems of a representative modern writer.

"STUDENT"

The editors state that every article in "Student" presents one outlook—the Christian one, that this is not because no other outlook is worth setting out, but because their space is "too short to be cluttered with second-class matter." In spite of this restriction varied subjects are treated.

The first article, "Russia and Marxism," is a discussion on how far contemporary Russia is to be taken as a triumph or as an indictment of Marxism. The author, Alexander Miller, in conclusion, puts forward a thoughtful argument in favour of all those of whatever political creed who fight for true democracy.

John Summers contributes an essay on art called "Mirrors for Men's Minds." He finds his inspiration in a quotation from Shaw: "Works of Art are the mirrors that men make in order to see their own minds." A brief biographical sketch of Charles Peguy by H. G. Miller makes interesting reading. Two articles, "Christian Co-operative Commonwealth," by E. H. Langford, and "Can We Be Christians Under Capitalism?" tackle the question of Christianity in the world to-day. A report on Conference, an article on Bible study, and various paragraphs of interest to members of the Movement conclude this issue.

The editors claim that "Student's" sole concern is with this universal concern of all students, namely, how to live in 1946 and how to deal by 1946." That they have tried conscientiously to fulfil this ambition is reflected in the pages of "Student."

—A.D.

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JAPAN & THE FAR EAST

PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION

On March 17 Mr. James Bertram, graduate of A.U.C. and Rhodes Scholar, addressed a well-attended meeting in Lewis Eady Hall on "Peoples and Powers of the Far East." Mr. Bertram has had much contact with the East, and more than was pleasant in Japan, where he was prisoner of war for some years. His outlook therefore on Far Eastern affairs is tempered by practical experience. He is in the position to avoid the wholly academic view, yet to see individual people and actions in the terms of broad trends and policies. Mr. Bertram has at present gone into "retirement" to write another book on Far Eastern affairs.

We reproduce below the substance of his talk, although, unfortunately, not the manner:—

Mr. Bertram set out to examine the major peoples and powers in the Far East. The tremendous concentration of population in this area makes the people more important than the powers. Economically backward, and politically unenlightened as they are, only mass movements can demonstrate their will. The Taiping Rebellion was an example of these periodic reawakenings; they are bound to happen again—and in our time.

Japan

The surrender of the Emperor and the Imperial forces may be taken to mean the defeat of fascist militarism, but it is not necessarily the defeat of feudalism, of Japanese reactionary forces, or the automatic freeing of the Japanese people. The five largest industrial companies were officially liquidated by MacArthur, but the families controlling them also controlled other companies. The Zaiatsu came out of the war stronger, more united and better equipped than before. Japanese factories seemed to be destroyed by incendiary raids, but large underground workshops with first-class machine tools were left unscathed. The small factories were completely mined. If the factory system survives it will still be controlled by the same big groups, which will have no competition.

Japanese People

We are now influenced by propaganda about the Japanese—they are either all sadists or all suffering victims. As a prisoner of war, Mr. Bertram bore no grudge against the Japanese people for his treatment, but against the system represented by the gendarmerie. The Japanese were good soldiers and fought fair enough. It was when the combat troops moved on and the gendarmes took over that the worst features of the old feudal system were exhibited. The common Japanese people, who worked beside the prisoners in the railway yards, were a people fundamentally not so different from ourselves. Mr. Bertram mentioned, in particular, a Japanese railway worker who frequently intervened to stop other guards from beating up prisoners. Contrary to current report, allied bombing did not break the civilian morale.

Sanzo Nosaka, better known as Okano, one of the most interesting figures in Japan to-day, was a graduate of Keio University, where he first studied economics. He continued his studies in France, England and Germany. He was arrested for "dangerous thoughts" in 1927, but escaped to the Soviet Union. When the China War started he went to North China and worked there in front line districts organising anti-Japanese imperialist propaganda and encouraging Japanese to desert. Mr. Bertram was present at Okano's return to Tokyo after the war, and was amazed to see that he was greeted as a national hero by all political groups.

When asked whether he considered the Emperor a war criminal, Mr. Bertram said that the only people who have denounced Hirohito openly as a criminal were certain Chinese leaders, but this had not been followed by any official Chinese denunciation. According to the documentary evidence of former Premier Konoye, the Emperor could have prevented war being declared on America, and he is therefore guilty

in not taking a stronger line in the vital war conferences. The Emperor at present is a useful tool to the executive command in Japan. If he were removed there would be considerable unrest. The only party in Japan who have ever attacked Hirohito are the Communists. Mr. Bertram thinks that sooner or later Hirohito must make his defence.

American Occupation

When the American forces first landed in Japan their basic policy in dealing with the people came from Washington. It was generally liberal and progressive, but the Far Eastern Advisory Commission set up in Washington to represent eleven nations never had the co-operation of Russia and could only make recommendations, so the actual conduct of policy was turned over to MacArthur. After the Moscow talks of 1946 the Advisory Commission was dissolved and replaced by a Far Eastern Commission, in theory the supreme policy group; and, in addition there was set up in Tokyo a four-Power Allied Council—the U.S.A., U.S.S.R., China and the British Commonwealth (represented by an Australian, Dr. MacMahon Ball) to advise MacArthur. The Council can hold up any of MacArthur's directives of which it does not approve. The Allied aim now, in Japan, is to produce a democratic regime, and a more even distribution of wealth, and to break up the old monopoly financial system. If this policy is really enforced the main lines of development should be satisfactory.

China

China, with its four hundred and fifty million people, is recognised internationally for the first time as a Great Power. Potentially it is, but at present it is politically divided and economically unstable. It has suffered perhaps more than any other power during the war. The United Front in China, formed during the Sian Rising, was the essential factor in Chinese resistance. When the Japanese military threat eased there was increased strain between the Eighth Route Army and Kuomintang. In January, 1941, National troops attacked the rear of the Communist New Fourth Army. This was the beginning of the deterioration of relations, and there was no effective United Front after that. General Stilwell, the American Commander in China, aware that the Government was not sending supplies to the north, wanted to arm the Communists with lend-lease equipment. He almost won his point, when the American policy went into reverse. Stilwell was recalled, and General Hurley directed supplies to Chiang-kai Shek alone. After the Japanese surrender the Americans made possible the movement of National troops into North China and Manchuria, where there were serious clashes with the Communists. General

Marshall was sent out as ambassador to prevent civil war. He saw the Chinese situation in military terms, and had no political interest in it. He gained apparent concessions from Chungking, and succeeded in reaching a temporary solution. A new "Unity Conference" was held in Chungking, but some of the proceedings were broken up by the Elucshirts—Chinese gestapo—under General Tai Li.

The situation in China at present is by no means stable. The real opposition is not between the Communists and the Kuomintang as two separate parties, but between a small reactionary group in the Kuomintang, and the great bulk of the Chinese people, represented by the rank and file of the Kuomintang, a few articulate democratic leaders, and the highly organised Communist group. The majority of Chinese wish to avoid civil war above all, and are prepared to accept an all-party government.

Korea

In theory this is a liberated country, but in fact is more occupied than Japan. The Russians came down from the North and met the Americans at the thirty-ninth parallel. Now there are two zones of political occupation which creates a hopeless situation, as the mines and electric power are in the North, while food supplies are concentrated in the South. The two zones cannot function independently, yet cannot apparently work together. In the North the People's Republican Government has taken over with the support of the Russians. The U.S.S.R. discourages journalists in this area, so not much is known of the actual functioning of the government. In the South the U.S.A. adopted a policy of direct military government, and displaced the Korean People's Republic which had assumed control everywhere except in two districts. This unhappy situation has been discussed in Big Three talks in Moscow, and the Russian and American commands have met in Korea, but no solution has as yet been reached. Unless there is agreement on a Democratic Government for all Korea, the country may be put under a Four Power Trusteeship for five years, which will be very unpopular with all Koreans. Mr. Bertram considers this the most unjust local situation in the Far East.

Soviet Union

Has both mass population and is a Power in the Far East unlike Britain and the U.S.A. The Germans tried hard through Matsuoka to get Japan to join in the attack on Russia in 1941 as revealed in the "memoirs" of Konoye. Instead, it was decided to attack America and Britain. In February, 1944, the tide had turned in Europe, the Livadia Secret Agreement was signed between Russia, U.S.A. and Great Britain. On certain conditions Russia was to enter the war against Japan within three months after the German surrender. She kept her word to the day, and the atomic bomb did not, as was currently thought, precipitate her entry.

British Policy

Britain, according to Mr. Bertram, is on the way out in the Far East. Already her interests are yielding to American economic pressure. Hence the few points that we do hold take on added importance. The British occupation of Hongkong is of some use to China at present, both as a centre of economic stability and as a base for liberal writers and intellectuals. But ultimately Hongkong must be returned to China.

New Zealand's Contribution to Japanese Occupation

The U.S. Army demand demobilisation, so MacArthur is trying to cut down his forces and shorten the term of occupation. Mr. Bertram feels that the occupation must be longer to be adequate. This is where Australian and New Zealand forces will perhaps play an important role in the rehabilitation of Japan.

SPORT

CRICKET

SEASON ENDS

Cricket has now given way to football, and a brief resume of the results of the first post-war season will be made. Although University as a club had its most successful season since its palmy pre-war days, it became apparent as the year progressed that this was due more to the low standard of cricket generally than to the efforts of individual players. The fact that many batsmen had very high averages does not detract from their performances, but is a regrettable commentary on the quality of the bowling in Auckland. This was amply demonstrated when the Australians played here. The only remedy is to encourage young bowlers, and give them a chance to make their mark, provided they are willing to do the necessary practice.

Meuli's Second Century

The Seniors finished the season with an easy win against Middlemore, Meuli (121) and Cooper (86) being associated in a fourth wicket partnership of 175. This was about the only bright spot in the last four series, of which one was won, one drawn and two lost. During the season only two matches were won, both against the same team. This is not an impressive record, and it may be partly the fault of the selectors for not cultivating youthful talent. For most of the season there were never more than three present students in the team. This is in distinct contrast with Victoria College, where an almost exclusively student team won the championship. In Auckland there is hardly any incentive for young players, and if this policy is to continue the club must inevitably suffer.

E. Meuli was easily the most outstanding member of the team. In all he scored over 400 runs at an average of close on 70. Cooper was very reliable, while Boaden, Brabin Cup captain, showed great promise when he scored 80 against Grafton, the championship winners.

Hat-trick to Thompson

The Seconds came third in their section, winning five games and losing three. The last two championship games were most exciting, the first against Y.M.C.A. being won in the last few minutes. H. Thompson took nine wickets for 57 in the two innings. In the match against Stanley Bay, time only prevented a first innings loss from becoming an outright win. 'Varsity followed on 116 behind, and made 219 (Thompson 72). When time came, Stanley Bay's last two men were in, and only 26 runs were on the board, Sinel in an inspired spell taking five for 14. Against Parnell, Walsham made 83, and proved himself the most consistent batsman in the team. This player should be given a fair trial in the Senior eleven next season. It was in this match that Thompson performed the elusive hat-trick, taking four wickets for 37.

In the third grade we find the most satisfying performance of the season. Only two matches were lost out of nine, both to the ultimate winner, and the team finished third in the competition. An interesting game was played against Ponsonby-Balmoral, the latter just winning. 'Varsity scored 133 (E. Thompson 59), and Ponsonby replied with 168. In its second innings 'Varsity declared at 160 for four (McCoy 79), but there was not enough time to get Ponsonby out again. Meadowbank was defeated outright in another good match. Mackay made a welcome return to the crease after being overseas, by making 69, and Ingham bowled particularly well to take six wickets for 35.

The fourth grade did not do so well, but great keenness was shown by all members throughout the season.

SOCIETIES

MODERN LANGUAGES CLUB

Tuesday night, March 26, witnessed a crowded Women's Common Room for the year's first meeting of the Modern Languages Club. The audience numbered over sixty, as indicated by the membership roll—probably the best attendance yet.

The object of the evening was the presentation of Bernard's comedy, "L'Anglais Tel Qu'on Le Parle."

As usual, Professor Keys in the main role of the interpreter who was perfectly ignorant of all languages (including English), except his native French, was the highlight of the performance. His superb expressions of blankness and bewilderment were utterly convincing. Barbara Bell, as the cashier, was very natural and fluent, while Dr. West, as Mr. Hogson, the irate English father in hot pursuit of his runaway daughter, was forceful, although not as good as he is in a French-speaking part. Some of the other characters did not seem particularly well cast. John Nathan as Cicandel, who was eloping with Mr. Hogson's daughter, although fluent, was obviously not enjoying his part. His English fiancée, Betty, played by Anne Thomson, was rather wooden. Pierre Conlon and Lionel Izod, in minor roles, were solid, as usual. Despite a few very audible promptings, after the initial scene the play went with a swing throughout.

The unanimous verdict on the evening was—very enjoyable entertainment, and profitable, in that it truly depicted French comedy and set before students French "as she is spoke." Younger students particularly relished Professor Keys' manipulation of the telephone and his naive English vocabulary, which consisted of "Yes, Manchester, Regent Street, Mr. Churchill, O.K. baby," but not "lavatory."

The Modern Languages Club intends to pay a little more attention to languages other than French this year, which will greatly broaden its outlook and increase interest. Plays, play-readings and talks by different speakers will be presented throughout the year. It might encourage some people to note that a resume in English is always given before the presentation of dramatic work in a foreign language. This, together with expressive actions, renders comprehensible even a language unknown to the listener.

DEBATING CLUB FRESHERS' DEBATE

On Tuesday, March 26, at 8 p.m., the Debating Club staged their Annual Freshers' Debate, the subject being "Personalities of the War." Seven contestants took part and about forty people attended. Mr. Norwood was in the chair and controlled the meeting well, although for a leading debater in the College his clarity of diction in the announcement of the contestants' names was rather indistinct.

The judge was Mr. A. R. D. Fairburn, well known around the College for his interest and enthusiasm concerning the intellectual societies, and he performed his duties as judge crisply and concisely.

The winner of the contest was Mr. Duncan, who thoroughly deserved first place, and the judge is to be commended on his criticisms, as they agreed entirely with those of the reporter, although if it had been left to the reporter he would have marked Mr. A. R. D. Fairburn in first place.

Each speaker was granted a twelve-minute period, and the following is an individual report:

Mr. Ellis, who gained third place, chose Mr. David Low as his subject. Ellis has a well-modulated speaking voice, but severely hampered the clarity of his diction by reading quotes from his notes placed on the

lectern, which was slightly behind him. Nevertheless, the address was informative, original and interesting.

Mr. Lee chose the late President Roosevelt as his subject, and the first impression was that he was in training to become a soap-box orator with his audience at least 14 miles away and slightly to the left of a line of hills. There is no doubt that Mr. Lee is a deliberate speaker, but his speech did appear to be an excellent obituary to the late President. He unfortunately gave the impression that he did not think his audience agreed with him and was going to ram his opinion down their throats—so help him. The whole was very strained, with little life, and his modulations and inflections would surely trace out a sine curve.

Mr. Wells, who came second, spoke on the late Major-General Wingate. His stance was correct and his delivery good, although slightly hurried, but he also seemed to feel the audience was not with him. Apart from numerous quotations and those delightful things known as clichés, the audience appeared to be held after his speech had gone eight minutes when his sense of humour improved.

Mr. Hooker (or Butcher, announcement indistinct), speaking of Montgomery, was not inspiring. He used little inflection and it did appear that he would not have been able to stand up without the aid of the lectern. However, he appealed to the audience mainly because of his sense of humour.

Miss Dellow. Her choice was Montgomery, but unfortunately appeared to be nervous because, in an endeavour to make herself heard, she threw her voice, with the result that most of the speech was a sob. Possibly the sob was part of the effect because the theme of the speech appeared to be that Miss Dellow was completely carried away by her subject. The attempt to memorise her speech resulted in numerous pauses, mistakes and corrections.

Mr. Bryant spoke on Marshal Tito, and although he was a more mature speaker and knew his subject well, he took so long to come to the point that the time did not allow him to give a complete speech. Neither Tito nor Fascism were dealt with completely, with the result that the audience was left a little up in the air. Enunciation and voice production were rather ragged.

Mr. Duncan chose Adolph Hitler as his subject. Mr. Duncan gained first place by virtue of the fact that stance, delivery, enunciation and sense of humour were all good. However, Mr. Duncan was inclined to be theatrical and just too—too poetic.

All in all the evening was worthwhile and the Debating Club was fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Fairburn—his judgment being brief, to the point and helpful to the speakers.

STAFF v. STUDENTS

The Staff v. Students' debate was held on March 12. Professor Keys, Dr. West and Mr. Rodwell debated for Staff, while those in the Student teams were John Blennerhasset, John Hooker and David Norwood. Lilian Laidlaw was in the chair. We regretted the absence of Dr. Blaiklock, who was unable to debate.

Professor Keys, viewing the subject from the semantic angle, deprecated, in the first place, the crudity of the proposition that "There are too many people in the world." Rather, he suggested, be it that "This house deplores the plethora of population on this planet." He proceeded to horrify us with visions of people in seething masses on beaches, people forming long and dismal queues for such necessities as tobacco and chocolate—shortage of which they themselves have caused by their redundancy—and yea we wept when we remembered the lecturer who marks unlovely

proses every week. Passing back to linguistic issues, Professor Keys reminded us that no poet had ever approved of people in quantity. Consider the emotive value of the words themselves, "mob," "horde."

He concluded, quoting W. S. Gilbert:

"As some day it may happen that a victim must be found

I've got a little list

I've got a little list

Of society offenders who might well be underground

And who never would be missed

Who never would be missed.

There are the pestilential nuisances who play their phonographs

All people who have flabby hands and irritating laughs

Professors who are up in dates and bore you with them flat

And lecturers who summon crowds to listen to a chat

And all those other persons who on milling crowds insist

They'd none of them be missed.

They'd none of them be missed.

There's the radio announcer and the others of his race

And all the ZB crooners—I've got them on the list

Bing Crosby, Jimmy Maymes, Frank Sinatra's soupy face;

They never should be missed,

They never should be missed.

Then the idiot who praises with enthusiastic tone

Debating Club, College hops, where his soul is not his own,

And the student from New Plymouth who dresses like a guy,

Who cannot do the Palais glide, but thinks she'd like to try;

And that singular anomaly, the College botanist

I don't think he'd be missed,

I'm sure he'd not be missed.

All teachers of the classics—both the Latin and the Greek

I've got them on the list,

I've got them on the list;

All teachers who insist on getting proses every week,

They never would be missed.

They never would be missed.

The entire Maths. department, tho' it seems a trifle harsh,

To include Mr. Segedin, with Prof. Forder and Miss Marsh.

Prof. Worley, Mr. Rodwell—withal that rara avis

That expert in procedure—I mean Professor Davis,

Of course I know you won't agree, indeed might even laugh,

I don't see why we couldn't sack the entire College staff,

They never would be missed,

They never would be missed."

John Blennerhasset, in reply, quietly denounced the blatant self-interest of Professor Keys' argument. Besides, he asked, how could one wrapped in the academic calm of this institution believe that there were too many people in the world? He expressed dismay that one of Professor Keys' standing should sink so low as to employ emotive artifices in persuasion.

Dr. West, speaking next, enumerated his betesnoirs; those whose capacity for reserve is such that, unable to enjoy their own company, they must inflict themselves upon others who want, a la Garbo, to be alone; the pseudo-intellectual, who, affecting long hair and dirty fingernails, wins by defeat what ne'er by talent, and finally, on this list of the superfluous, all who favour "inners" and "outers."

John Hooker replied, rather aptly, to Professor Keys' reminder of Horace's "odi profanum vulgus et arceo" by quoting "usque ego postera crescam laude recens." Horace knew where his support was coming from, and where would we be, anyway, without a profanum vulgus to produce the commodities of life? Mr. Hooker proved conclusively that there cannot be too many people in the world, since statistics show that there is an equal number of men and women. Therefore there are neither too many men nor too many women; therefore since men and women constitute the population, there are not too many people in the world. Mr. Hooker's next consideration was the falling birthrate. This, he said, he felt called upon to deal with—an evidence of public spirit which we duly appreciated. Mr. Hooker's speech was mainly statistical—unfortunately most of the statistics were subsequently refuted by Mr. Rodwell.

Mr. Rodwell defended Professor Keys' use of emotive language, for only by such devices can people in a body be convinced. Unflavoured reason can avail nothing. The too-obvious power of the demagogue is proof of this. Mr. Rodwell spoke from long experience as Chairman of Debating Club.

Mr. Norwood attacked Dr. West's assertion that one's best moments are spent alone. He affirmed that the

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contrast and variety of others' company are necessary for the full realisation of oneself.

When a show of hands was called for, the vote went to the affirmative. Considering that three of the speakers, Mr. Rodwell, Mr. Norwood and Mr. Hooker, were impromptu, the debate was a remarkable success.

CATHOLIC CLUB A.G.M.

Catholic Club activities for 1946 commenced officially with the annual Students' Mass celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, on Sunday, March 17, followed by a buffet breakfast held in the rooms of the St. Patrick's Young Men's Club. A number of graduates attended in academic dress, and over a hundred students from the University and the Teachers' Training College were present.

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7.30 that evening in the Women's Common Room. Attendance was particularly good, as approximately eighty-five students were present. We were glad to welcome back to the club many ex-servicemen members. After an open discussion concerning club activities for 1946, the elections were held. The following were elected officers for the year:—

President: Mr. Ian Reynolds.

Secretary: Miss Gilberta Carroll.

Committee: Misses Patricia Egan, Patricia Quinn, Shirley Marcroft; Messrs. H. Shanahan, Brian Cotler.

At this general meeting it was decided to commence a course of lec-

tures in Scholastic Philosophy to be given at the University, by the Club Chaplain, Rev. M. Ryder. Students are reminded that these lectures take place each Monday and Wednesday, and club members are particularly urged to attend.

EVANGELICAL UNION PROGRAMME

With activities in the College now in full swing, E.U. is able to record its distinctive part of witness to Jesus Christ.

The year began well with the Freshers' Welcome. A good number of Freshers were warmly greeted, while Dr. Blaiklock's message of Christian advice could not have failed to impress.

A Sunday Tea held on March 10 in the Women's Common Room was excellently attended. Mr. J. W. Mains' address on "The Life Worth Living," given in such a simple and direct manner, challenged all with the claims of Jesus Christ on their lives. Its effect was manifest in all who were present.

"Who IS this Jesus?" is the title of a series of weekly addresses being given by Dr. Blaiklock, of the College staff. By analysing the documentary records of the life of Jesus Christ and by comparing them with the National and Philosophical Ideals of that day, Dr. Blaiklock states that these studies on the Humanity of Jesus will provide the ultimate proof of His divinity. To all in the College we commend this series.

COMING ACTIVITIES

Who IS this Jesus? Series—each Thursday, Room 2, 1-1.40.

April 13th:

Games Afternoon, followed by a Discussion Evening—a panel will deal with any question on the Christian Faith you care to submit. It is to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Carter, 9 Kakariki Avenue, Mt. Eden.

May 5th:

Sunday Tea—Women's Common Room, 4.30 p.m.

SWIMMING CLUB CARNIVAL

On March 13 A.U.C. Swimming Club held a highly successful Inter-Club Carnival at the Olympic Pool, Newmarket. Despite the fact that the threat of lighting restrictions caused some last-minute changes, first to the Tepid Baths and then back again to

the Olympic Pool, the public was more intelligent than we expected, and by 8 p.m. most of the seating accommodation was filled. Did the Haka party go to the Tepid Baths? They were sadly missed and their presence would have done much to enliven the proceedings.

Bob Buchanan was the winner of the 110 yards men's free-style championship, while Joan Hastings was successful in the 55 yards ladies' championship. Both these swimmers show promising form and should give a good account of themselves at Tournament.

An interesting feature of the evening was the Inter-Faculty Medley Relay. One member of each team swam backstroke, one breaststroke, and the remaining two free-style. We didn't know that Commerce was so aquatically minded; their teams carried away the honours in the two relay races. Well done, Commerce!

The A.U.C. Swimming Club has just been re-affiliated this year. The fact that it was able to turn on a first-class Carnival which would have done credit to any Auckland club promises well for its future. The Inter-Club handicap events drew a large field from the other clubs, and bold but most successful innovation was made in the introduction of a new system of arranging heats whereby every lane was filled and the necessity of running off half-empty heats caused by competitors "scratching" was avoided.

As a grand finale to the proceedings Bob Buchanan proved himself a most elusive "duck" to the blindfolded competitors who were out to have his blood.

Results of the University Championships were as follows:—

Ladies' 55 Yards Champ.—Miss J. Hastings 1, Miss L. Brown 2, Miss P. Hastings 3. Time, 3mins 34 2-5secs.

Men's 110 Yards Champ.—C. R. Buchanan 1, J. Ferguson 2, C. O. Craig 3. Time, 71secs.

Inter-Faculty Relay, 220 Yards (four-a-side).—Commerce 1, Architecture 2, Arts 3. Time, 2mins 12 4-5secs.

Inter-Faculty Medley Relay, 220 Yards (four-a-side).—Commerce 1, Arts 2, Science 3.

Secondary Schools' Relay (Schiska Cup), 220 yards.—Seddon Memorial Technical College A 1, Auckland Grammar A 2, Takapuna Grammar 3. Time, 2mins 8 4-5secs.

BASKETBALL CLUB

At the A.G.M. held on April 1 the following officers were elected for the 1946 season:—

President: Mrs. Lewis.

Club Captain: Dorothy Wilshire.

Club Vice-Captain: Rayma Phillips.

Secretary-Treasurer: Fay Roberts.

Committee: Janet Harwood, Helen Clark, Joan Hastings, Norma Croot (Fresher member).

Reporter: Janet Harwood.

Official Referee: Dorothy Wilshire.

All the efforts of the Club in the next few weeks will be concentrated on getting our team fit for Tournament. Some keen players are getting themselves fit for the season by practising against our Tournament team, and any more who would be willing to help, please contact Dorothy Wilshire.

APOLOGY

We apologise that this issue should appear so late. First, the shortage of gas held printing up for a week; secondly, though we could have been on sale on Easter Monday, the recess has obliged us to wait a further week.

Copy for the next issue closes on Wednesday, May 22, at 6 p.m.

CRACCUM STAFF

P. K. L. Arnold, Nora Bayly, J. E. Blennerhasset, Margaret Brand, Anne Dare, Judith de la Mare, Eve Hersch, D. J. Hooton, Sue Ivory, Margo Miller, Prue Miller, C. W. Salmon, R. A. Snow, Joan Winter.

The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editorial staff.

Auckland University Students' Association

PRESENTS

THE 1946 SMASH REVUE
"THIS SLAP-HAPPY BREWED"
"THIS SLAP-HAPPY BREWED"
"THIS SLAP-HAPPY BREWED"

COMMENCING

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O P E N F O R

M.H.C.

Sir,—

It has been brought to my notice that a major portion of the M.H.C. (appointed by the students they represent under an entirely democratic system of voting) have been ousted through pressure applied on the students' executive by the "representatives" of returned servicemen. The basis of the complaint is "inefficiency as a committee."

Surely an unbiased, intelligent observer and even a number of servicemen themselves, upon comparing the record of this committee with those of previous ones, will arrive at the decision that it has done more for the general welfare of students than any of those preceding it. This is no idle argument. Here are the facts:—

Record Of Current Committee:

Appointments In Common Room:
All furniture new or reconditioned (with much opposition from Exec.)

Lockers:
Completely reconditioned.

Magazines:
An excellent selection of American and English magazines constantly being replaced.

Fires:
Fires were regularly lit throughout last winter.

Sum Record of Committees Over Past

Four Years:

Appointments In Common Room:
No record at all—not even proper maintenance.

Lockers:
Nil.

Magazines:
A small number of magazines were issued at the start of the year and were not replaced at any time.

Fires:
In my previous years the number of fires I have seen in the Common Room have not exceeded ten, and over half of these were lit by the students themselves.

Students! Do we have to put up with this dictatorship by a minority with its accompanying drawbacks?

Yours, etc.,

G. England.

Sir,—

Last Monday, myself and several others were kicked off M.H.C. after having been voted on by the students in the elections last year. Actually the whole of the remaining six members of the M.H.C. were "asked to resign" for so-called inefficiency, i.e., we were told that Exec. had no confidence in us. Within about five minutes four of the previous members were co-opted on a new committee; incidentally, only one of these was voted on last year), showing that the Exec. had got confidence in them after all, which seems rather ridiculous.

Mr. Piper and Mr. Morton (of Exec.) didn't have the guts to tell us personally we were not wanted, but went a round-about way to say that Exec. had had complaints about the house committee, but when Mr. Rykers asked Piper, Morton, Garland and Co. what the complaints were they couldn't answer.

If M.H.C. is going to be a puppet to Exec. why have one at all? As there are about a dozen people on Exec. doing nothing, and they should, according to their own ideas, be able to do all the work necessary about the College.

Lastly, I would like to ask why it is that Piper and Morton allow themselves to be run by the Returned Servicemen, when the R.S. have nothing to do with governing the Student Association and have not got the votes of the students behind them.

Yours, etc.,

John Bolt.

ATHLETICS

On Wednesday, March 27, at Sarawia Park there was seen very convincing evidence that the A.U.C. Athletic Club has been thoroughly revitalised and placed on a standard of quality equal to that of any club in Auckland.

This fact is now obvious, but I wish to point to one that may have been overlooked. Apart from being a success from the point of view of the quantity and quality of the spectators, the Club championships were an object lesson in organisation and executive work. This meeting, not being held on a Saturday afternoon, it was a foregone conclusion that the spectators would not be numerous; however, they were enthusiastic. The programme was full if not large, but the outstanding feature was that it was completed well within scheduled time. Except for one unavoidable incident the arrangement of the programme, moving of equipment and the general work of the stewards, especially the marksman, left little to be desired.

The credit for the success of this meeting and for the success of the Athletic Club's return to competition is without reserve due to the untiring efforts of the club captain and secretary. If the Auckland University does not triumph at the Easter Tournament lay no blame to these two members of the committee. Too often the athlete takes all the glory, and I am sure the competitors appreciate the work of both Mr. Jim Neesham and Mr. Ken Greville on the committee this season.

—Also Ran.

MUSICAL COMEDY

Sir,—

Apparently your critic "R.P." is an old play-goer, and hence, as one whose experience of things in the musical comedy field has been confined to a High School Operetta, I should like to present my views on the three productions starring Gladys Moncrieff.

The "Merry Widow" left me puzzled for about thirty seconds, and then I decided I liked it. The story was weak, and the presentation was only fair, but the frocking, and the dialogue and, above all, Miss Moncrieff's singing, were wonderful. I was disappointed that the "Waltz" was given such poor treatment, and "Vilia" I at last rather like. (Prior to this an intense hatred of the song has dated back to the number of times I have heard it murdered since the days of the original IZB "Talent Quest.") I disagree with "R.P." that Fred Murray was miscast; I don't think any other member of the company could have played the part so well.

"Viktoria" was a much better production. Again I thought the story weak, but even the best productions film, radio or literary, have a theme that is, or very soon will be, worn out. Miss Moncrieff had a much better chance to display her talents in this, and although her voice has lost a little of its original power and tone, she still far outshines anyone else that can be heard from our local theatre or radio entertainment.

"Rio Rita" was the climax. Although classical ballet was overdone here, I don't think it is altogether out of place. In fact, it seemed to me that in musical comedy anything goes. Colleen Tangye particularly delighted me with the shame and scorn she seemed to pour on the luckless Fred Murray. Ormonde Douglas, Herbert Brown and Fred Murray were at their best, and were most at home in their parts.

I again disagree that Miss Moncrieff's voice is harsh; the "Australian twang" appeared to me to be a poor and, fortunately not sustained, attempt at the American "snarl" in "Rio Rita." It impressed me that it

was better to have her speak English and not American for her part in "Rio Rita."

By all means, bouquets to chorus, ballet and orchestra, but what about the men behind the scenes? I think they outdid themselves. There was no noise associated with the change of scenery, no fault with the lighting, and no hitches of any sort—something that is very difficult to attain.

Suffice it to say that I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to "Maid of the Mountains."

Yours, etc.,

—R.B.M.

MOTHER'S LAMENT

Sir,—

We shall never know what happened at the last meeting of the Classic Club. We went thinking we were going to the Debating Club. We left because the women were not our type. What we heard sounded interesting. We thought we would read a resume in Craccum. We did not. We can read. Therefore (see Prof. Anderson) it cannot have been there.

We could see reports of only two of the many meetings we have seen advertised. We are sure we are missing something. We trust this state of affairs will be rectified.

Mother of Five.

[Your other effusion is not worth 12/-, cost of printing. Suggest you paste it on a convenience wall.—Ed.]

W.H.C.

Sir,—

May I, through your columns, express my appreciation of the efforts of the Women's House Committee in voluntarily giving up their Saturday mornings to clean the Women's Common Room? While applauding their fine public spirit, may I ask why this should be necessary? The Common Room is cleaned thoroughly every morning by Mrs. Burns, and surely this should be sufficient to ensure a reasonable degree of comfort and cleanliness throughout the day. Yet every evening the picture is the same—cigarette ash spilled in glorious confusion all over the room, butts trampled into the floor, old papers, books and magazines strewn in odd corners, while the fireplace, with its collection of used lunch papers, decaying apple cores and similar rubbish, is a disgusting sight. Surely one has a right to expect that in a presumably decent, self-respecting community of Varsity students one will find a certain sense of responsibility and social pride? Is it asking too much that the one place where women students may relax may be a comfortable room which, if not comparable to a de luxe hotel lounge, is at least clean? The members of the Women's House Committee have realised that this is little enough to expect and are doing more than their share to make the Common Room a place where it is a pleasure to rest, and that instead of a mere passage-way or a depositing ground for the accumulated debris of some seven hundred women students. May I, then, urge the women students of our College to co-operate with the W.H.C. and make the Common Room a "haunt of peace for weary-hearted" and not "a dismal situation waste and wild. A dungeon horrible . . . where peace and rest can never dwell."

—Laurie Evans.

AESTHETICS?

Sir,—

I sense certain flaws in the splendid fabric of the society of so-called Aesthetics. In the first place I submit that no group of students of this College, whatever the hue, shape or size of their neckwear, can call them-

selves "Aesthetics." For "Aesthetics" is, to quote an unimpeachable source, "the science which seeks to determine the canons of taste upon which criticism of the arts is based." Nor can any single student aptly style himself an "Aesthetic." For "Aesthetic," like "Aesthetical," is an adjective meaning "pertaining to aesthetics." To give one the impression that they mean it, that they fully appreciate the magnitude of their undertaking, these haters of women and destroyers of alcohol should, in short, style themselves "Aesthetes." For an "Aesthete" is "one who affects an extravagant appreciation of the beautiful in nature and art"—a definition not wholly inapplicable.

Secondly, can these aesthetes count themselves among the truly great if they renounce their creed on the first occasion that it inconveniences them? I recollect seeing at the Freshers' Ball at least one student adorned with the significant bow-tie who had thrown his ten-foot ideal to the winds (see diagram).

However, I would be the first to welcome someone who could vindicate the good name of the society. Let the members be tested by preparing and publishing an appreciation of the beauty or otherwise of the College tower.

Until then I shall remain grievously disillusioned.

Yours, etc.,

—J.

TRUTH ABOUT DEBATING

Sir,—

To-day in this college are reflected the changes and the adjustments brought about by four years of war. New ideals, altered outlooks and fresh approaches to old problems are some of the deeper changes wrought. Yet out of all this change and strife emerges the dominant fact that one of the major influences, both in the cause and in the waging of the war, is either misunderstood or overlooked in the life of the college—the power wielded by the orator.

History shows that the orator with a cause has ever been a powerful influence, and it remains a very pertinent fact that no matter how noble or worthy a cause, without the necessary ability to put it before the people it will remain in obscurity, generally predestined to oblivion.

To draw a parallel between these facts and the general apathy towards formal discussion and oratory in the college, would appear to be straining at a gnat, yet two points are worthy of consideration.

A university exists primarily for the teaching and the propagation of facts and new theories; yet all this teaching is to no avail if the student does not exercise his logical facilities, and leaves the college conscious only of the teaching of his own particular faculty. In this way the original conception of university life is stultified, and too often the graduate enters the world obsessed with the importance of his own learning, and unable to assess its true comparative worth. To obtain the fullest possible benefit from university life the student should at all times be able to state his ideas and outlook, both in formal debate and normal discussion. Debating with various faculties will bring out new ideas, and in all cases give those concerned a fuller appreciation of other activities. A university is not a series of self-contained faculties, but rather a varied entity within which a free and constant exchange of ideas should be encouraged. Many of those now studying will in time become community leaders, and it is only by acquiring a balanced and logical outlook at an early age that they will be able to fully comprehend the varied aspects of community life. Allied to this is the fact that Auck-

U M

Mainly About Movies by Astra

FOR AUCKLAND, A FILM SOCIETY

land is the only college in N.Z. where debating and oratory are virtually moribund. Although an encouraging number of people have joined the active ranks of the club this year, this is purely in relation to former years, and the total in comparison with the college roll is pitiful. Too often good speeches and new ideas have been presented to empty halls. Those of the college who have come from southern provinces will have remarked, no doubt, on the small part that debating plays in the college life. The causes of this need not be discussed here. The fact remains that an essential part of college life is at a low ebb, and can only be revived by the efforts of those who would benefit—every student in the college. Nothing can be forcibly grafted on to college life, yet every thinking person must realise the ultimate effects of the loss of the means of exchanging ideas and ideals.

Yours, etc.,

R. D. Norwood,

A.U.C. Debating Club.

"BLIND MOUTHES"

Sir,—

The New Zealand Returned Servicemen's Association is notoriously narrow in outlook; unsympathetic to a degree towards the individual whose opinions differ from those of the Association; and apt to pass resolutions which do not carry the unanimous approval of all returned servicemen. At no time has this been more evident than during the last few months since the cessation of hostilities.

We have amongst us men whose beliefs, religious or otherwise, have forbidden them to take an active part in military warfare. Many of these have had the courage of their convictions and have been confined in internment camps throughout N.Z.

We may or may not believe that these men are misguided in their opinions, but we cannot question the sincerity of those who have chosen internment rather than the negation of their beliefs in military service. Life during the war years has not been easy, either for themselves or for their friends, nor is it less difficult for them now, as we can see. The position is as they realised it would be, long before the time came for them to assert their views.

This, sir, is a democratic country, is it not? Shall I shun my neighbour because his opinions on films differ from my own? Shall I shun him because I do not subscribe to his religious beliefs? If I am an employer choosing between two applicants for a position requiring long years of training and no little administrative skill, shall I choose the untrained man because his ideas on the cultivation of roses coincide with my own, while the trained applicant is unable to distinguish between a rose and a primrose?

I suggest, sir, having read the report of the resolution concerning Conscientious Objectors passed at their last meeting, that the Auckland branch of the R.S.A. would applaud the appointment of the horticultural expert, and I take this opportunity of expressing publicly my own view that the branch of the R.S.A. in this town is represented by men who can see no further than their own little back gardens; that their action in writing to the College Council concerning Mr. Laird is petty in the extreme; that the resolution passed at the last meeting of the R.S.A. was not an indication of the feeling of the larger number of returned servicemen; and that the College Council in appointing Mr. Laird has shown a degree of enlightenment surprising to many students of this college.

Yours, etc.,

Judith M. de la Mare.

"An association of people who are interested in the motion picture both as art and entertainment, and whose object is to encourage higher public standards of film and protect the interests of consumers."

Thus reads the Constitution of the newly-formed Auckland Film Society, sponsored in the first instance by the Adult Education Centre.

And what will the new Society do? A further glance at the Constitution indicates that the aims are: (1) To provide regular screenings to members and friends of worthwhile films (particularly 16mm). (2) Where possible supply information about current cinema entertainment. (3) Promote public screenings of special films where opportunity arises. (4) Co-operate with other societies with similar objects and link up with the British Film Institute. (5) Conduct other allied activities as the Society may see fit.

A Worthwhile Venture

Probably you, too, have long felt that something more than forty circuit cinemas was needed in a city of a quarter of a million people. Probably you, too, have memories of commercial attempts of about ten years ago to bring to the public foreign and documentary films, and of evenings spent in the poky low-roofed Civic theatre. You recall perhaps "Un Carnet de Bal," "Crime and Punishment" and "Sous Les Toits de Paris." We knew, though, that at that time there was no support forthcoming for anything but American film, not sufficient support at any rate in a city of the size and cultural sterility of Auckland to allow success to attend this branch of the film art in open cinema competition. Life was brief for the venture, and a long silence has only now been broken.

From Acorns, Great Oaks

The Auckland Film Society, whose second evening I was privileged recently to attend, has many features worthy of note, apart from the constitution itself. It has not, in its infancy, attempted too much; it has left to persons and sub-committees the arranging of other activities, such as the survey of films likely to be available, producing a film newsletter, forming a film study group and investigating the possibilities of making short films on social topics; in the meantime it is getting on with the main job of bringing the Society to the notice of the public and screening its films.

Secondly, a wise policy has been adopted in fortnightly meetings. A space of one week only between screenings would tend to become somewhat of a tie to members, more than a fortnight would mean that much of the good that can be done would be lost and the pattern of regularity interrupted.

And, thirdly, we were pleased to find the Society headed by comparatively young men, men who also obviously understood the inner workings of motion picture production.

Wretched Acoustics

Conditions were right against the carrying through of a successful programme on the second screening of the Society, that which I attended. The film chosen was Paul Rotha's outstanding production "World of Plenty." Now "World of Plenty," a documentary widely shown in the United Kingdom but banned in Sydney because of believed political implications, is a film which, although diagrammatically illustrating many of its points, depends largely for its success on dialogue. The acoustic properties of the W.E.A. hall were so wretched that for the most part narrative was but an unintelligible splutter, and I am sure that had I not

previously seen the film, much of its undoubted worth would have been lost to me. This was, however, an unavoidable and unfortunate occurrence which should not have to be put up with a second time, since the society hopes before its next meeting to be established in the Methodist Bi-Centennial Hall in Pitt Street.

Things To Come

A glance through the proposed programme for the coming months discloses some outstanding documentary films—Frank Capra's "Battle of Britain" and "Divide and Conquer," both made for the United States Signal Corps, "Grant Trawler" and "Industrial Britain" from Grierson, the acknowledged inventor of the documentary, "The Smoke Menace" directed by John Taylor, the nutrition film "Enough to Eat" with supervision by Julian Huxley, "Spring on the Farm" and "Children's Corner" (Cortot Playing Debussy), the United States Government film "The River," and "Target for To-night," generally considered the second great British documentary after "Song of Ceylon" (the latter film incidentally being the one chosen for the initial meeting of Auckland's new Society).

You may on first thought consider, as I did, that so many factual and documentary features will tend to become boring, until you realise that every film selected for screening is considered to be in some way a noteworthy example of the progress of the art and that the first article of the Society's Constitution is "that it will provide regular screenings . . . of worthwhile films (particularly 16mm.)"

The preponderance of 16 millimetre film is brought about by the fact that the screening of standard 35 millimetre reels would entail all manner of regulations as to fire risk and exhibition rights. And when we realise that the 16mm film is becoming tremendously popular and that motion pictures made during the war years and shown before the fighting forces all over the world were largely of the 16mm type, the outlook for supply must be considered bright. At any rate, I was assured that negotiations now in hand would probably mean the obtaining of noteworthy feature films, including those from France and Russia, films which have perhaps not been commercially "box-office," and that these films would replace some of the scheduled documentaries.

The Next Programme

The third meeting of the Film Society was to be held on Thursday, April 11, and for this evening the scheduled films were "Night Mail" and "Royal Mail." The former topic was made for the General Post Office Unit of Britain in 1935 and was widely shown. Outstanding features of "Night Mail" are its photography, dawn shots and most of all its sound. W. H. Auden contributed a letter-poem in time with the sound of the wheels in "Night Mail" and Manvell describes the effort as "excitement and romance with glimpses of men working in the sorting cars, shunting boxes and at stations on the way."

For May 2 the programme contains "North Sea," "Out of the Night" and "The Negro Farmer."

Support Is Necessary

Although about eighty persons (in the main women) were present at the "World of Plenty" screening, it is apparent that the Society needs more public support if it is to realise two of its most important objects—the securing of its own projector and the activities such as the arranging of "family programmes" or a "repertory" or festival season of exceptional 35mm films once or twice a year.

We strongly recommend the readers of *Craccum* to extend to the Auckland Film Society the help it de-

serves, to assist in launching another branch of art in Auckland so that this new Society may come to take its rightful place in our future community life.

Curtains for Chetniks

September, 1943, was a crowded month. The Allies landed in the south of Italy, "My Day" featured large in local newspapers as Mrs. Roosevelt toured New Zealand, the Red Army rolled irresistibly west, and Ginger Rogers at twelve was the talk of Queen Street.

Among all this, you would be excused forgetting that the Oxford Theatre was occupied for two weeks of that month in boosting what it was pleased to call "the Fighting Spirit that lives in all of us . . . the story of peerless men and fearless women who have dedicated their lives to the Fight for Freedom. With Philip Dorn as General Mikhailovich and leader of the fighting guerillas."

Can he be the same man whom the papers last week headlined:

"Chetnik Leader Caught."

"Trial For Crimes."

. . . the "hero whom guns cannot kill, invaders cannot conquer, who sabotages by day, rides out of the night to strike the enemy in a thousand places, who holds 23 of Hitler's Crack Divisions at Bay"?

Can it be he who to-day . . . "was the cleverest of many criminals trying to evade responsibility . . . went from mountain to mountain, from wood to wood . . . whom rumour has falsely represented as waging a bitter struggle in the Yugoslav mountains as leader of 60,000 well-armed soldiers . . . is held responsible for the deaths of 10,000 Yugoslav persons"?

Perhaps in the cold glint of some future dawn, Mikhailovich, remembering that he was not so long ago the God of the Hollywood Darlings, may wish that the shooting was still being done with cameras.

The Latest "Oscar"

It might come as something akin to a shock, even after you have watched his progress through light comedy, romance, mystery and drama, to find Ray Milland at the head of the line for this year's male Academy Award. More than the drunk of "Lost Week-End," we can imagine the pleasant young man with the onecocked eyebrow of "French Without Tears," "Major and the Minor" and "Lady in the Dark." Yet, if we keep in mind "Ministry of Fear," "Till We Meet Again," "The Uninvited" and "The Unseen," the Award will not contain so much of the element of surprise. Milland has, through the war years, shown a decided flair for the dramatic and has been slowly consolidating his position in a branch of the profession in which the number of competent masculine performers has, of necessity, been small.

His performance in Billy Wilder's "Lost Week-End" is acclaimed as one of the finest in some years and is proving something of a sensation in Australia if we are to believe reports to hand. His Award is apparently a well-merited one in times when "Oscars" have often come to mean little more than service ribbons for stars.

Many Pacific servicemen will have had a first-hand experience of the Milland personality, and will recall those open-air shows and long-distance squinting at arc lights and at the girls who accompanied him, two of whom were victims of an aircraft crash in New Caledonia in the course of the tour.

"It was their silver wedding; such a lot of silver presents, quite a show."

"We must not grudge them their show of presents after twenty-five years of married life; it is the silver lining to their cloud."—H. H. Munro.

STUDENT RELIEF



In the years before the war the International Student Service was an organisation established to foster some international spirit among students of all Universities. It gave general assistance to young people wishing to study abroad. The wish to promote a cosmopolitan outlook marked all the activities of the Association.

The war changed the immediate nature of the I.S.S. In 1940 it combined with the Pax Romana and the World Student Christian Federation to form the World Student Relief. The urgency for material aid to distressed students outweighed the more vaguely idealistic considerations important before.

The W.S.R. in the early war years was a money-making and money-distributing concern. That it would be necessary, however, to establish some kind of international university relations, cultural and intellectual, as well as material, was realised nowhere better than by the students, who were prisoners of war. A German prisoner in Australia wrote to the General Headquarters: "As good comrades you have helped me to get through this senseless time. . . . In your gesture I feel the spirit of student comradeship which knows no political frontiers. . . . the common bond uniting the whole university community—the search for knowledge and scientific truth." An Austrian and a Dutch prisoner both speak of their hopes of a "regular international contact among students" in the future.

The transition from war to peace of the W.S.R. has been by no means easy. "A right balance" had to be found between individual and co-ordinated action of the three bodies during the reconstruction period, between centralised and decentralised administration of relief between European Student Relief Fund within the framework of the inter-governmental relief plans.

The E.S.R.F. have drawn up a full but flexible plan for aid in post-war university construction in Europe. The programme placed under the authority of an international executive committee will be carried out through the agency of an international secretariat at Geneva. In each country the work, whenever possible, will be carried out through

the national representatives of the affiliated international organisations or through other local student groups. The temporary character of aid is emphasised, both for moral and material reasons.

It is interesting that during the war, with a view to preparing future workers for European construction, training courses have taken place under joint I.S.S. and E.S.R.F. auspices both in Britain and Switzerland. The first training course was organised at Morges, Switzerland, 1944, when students representing seventeen different countries studied the major problems, economic, political and spiritual, likely to confront university youth in the post-war period.

From 1942 international conferences were held at Geneva, and discussions took place on the problems affecting the different countries after the war. A University Charter was even drawn up and adopted by the conference.

With the co-operation of the "Institute of International Education" in New York, and the "Fondation Universitaire" in Brussels, I.S.S. hopes to promote student exchanges across frontiers. The student demands for a world-wide unity can be seen in the establishment of international "foyers" in Paris and an "international room" in Greece.

Conditions in Europe

France: One month after Paris was liberated the General Secretary of the E.S.R.F. was on the spot, meeting with French student leaders and laying plans for a pioneering job in the first country liberated. The University of Caen can be taken as an

example of the general conditions. Four hundred thousand volumes, all the scientific instruments and equipment were destroyed with the university itself. W.S.R. cannot rebuild Caen, nor replace its library and laboratories; its job is the immediate provision of students with such necessities as food, blankets, clothing; along with this material help is the provision of opportunities for international conduct. Both of these functions cannot be fulfilled by a government occupied with more long-range and less detailed policies.

The W.S.R. also carries on a unique programme, providing physical, intellectual and moral rehabilitation for French students at the "Chalet des Etudiants" at Combloux Haute Savoie. A similar scheme exists in Italy and Great Britain. In England, at "Ashton Moyes," a country house eight miles from Chester, twenty-four Dutch refugees in September, 1945, started a period of mental and physical rehabilitation. The close contacts between them and English students and professors means much in the general fostering of a universal friendship.

Greece: When U.N.N.R.A. initiated its programme in Greece two student relief workers, the Rev. and Mrs. Francis House, were sent into Greece as members of the staff, with their special responsibility, as designated by U.N.N.R.A., in the field of university education. The University of Athens has suffered greatly from looting during the civil war, and £400 towards expenses have been granted from London.

China: In China the great problem is the return of refugee schools to their home locations in the East. Already the refugee school in Chungking has moved back to Kwei Yang. These government schemes will cause individual suffering that can only be helped by a private organisation such as the W.S.R., who can attend individually to each problem.

Work of the W.S.R. in the next few years will include:—

— the giving of thousands of books and study materials to university people who are again taking up their studies in France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Italy, Greece, and to refugee students in Great Britain, France, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and elsewhere.

— the sending of token gifts of foodstuffs and clothing, where possible to students in dire need and making available subsistence grants to others. Help is given to students in liberated countries in building up their own self-help organisations.

— the offering of hospitality in Switzerland for tubercular students from many countries of Europe, in collaboration with the "Don Suisse"; and for other ill and weary students who are offered the opportunity to regain their health as guests in Swiss families.

The work of the World Student Relief at present has two aspects. The close of the war has meant little alleviation in the conditions of the students of Europe. Financial aid, food, clothes and fuel must be supplied for the preservation of life itself. Books must be sent so that students can, if unable to attend universities, at least feel they have not lost all contact with the intellectual life. The second aspect of their work is concerned with the larger relationship between student and student, unaffected by race and religion, and the building of an international university community.

Andre de Blonay, General Secretary of World Student Relief, writes:—

The time will come sooner or later when mankind must once again set to work to rebuild the edifice of civilisation that it has so swiftly and so wantonly demolished. In this great task the W.S.R. is ready to bear its part. The University community has been disintegrated by war; it must be recreated. Broken links must be re-forged, and the youth of all nations must be encouraged to keep in intimate contact and to cultivate a close, mutual understanding.

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