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ON DIT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION.

COM. NEXT FRIDAY

SIR GUY STANDING,
GERTRUDE MICHAEL"THE RETURN OF
SOPHIE LANG"And the Musical Comedy,
"THREE CHEERS FOR LOVE"
with
Eleanore Whitney—John Halliday.

Vol. 6

ON DIT, TUESDAY, 15th JUNE, 1937

No. 11

HOW LONG, O LORD?

VIA DOLOROSA
WAILS FROM THE PAST

In the other article on this page we have given the opinions of present members of the staff and of the student body concerning certain of the more anachronistic practices of the local lecturing system. Here are the results of a little more of "On Dit's" excavation work. For our complaint does not extend over space alone, but through a considerable period of time, too. The attempt to obtain some improvement in our lot, to which we summon you all this week to give your support, is, as you will see, long overdue. We want reform in our own time, and a humanising of the University system while we can still benefit from it. Is this nothing to you, all ye who pass by?

* * *

"A.U. Magazine," May, 1920.

"You give a vague or distracted attention or are so anxious to get everything down that in catching the words you take no notice of the meaning. You listen with your ears instead of with your minds, so that, instead of 50 p.c. of the learning being done in listening to the lecture, it has all to begin afterwards. . . . An opportunity for discussing each lecture should be made. . . . A University is not a glorified high school. . . . It is intended for students who have some independent intellectual life of their own, who value the contact of mind with mind, and who come to a seat of learning not simply to scramble through some breadwinning test." [The same issue made a plea for printed notes.]

* * *

"Med. Review," June, 1929.

"Having arrived at sixth year, I feel impelled to write a protest against compelling attendance at lectures. On entering the 'Varsity, I was given to understand that I had left the realm of school, and it was up to me to learn things for myself. . . . Surely it is not in keeping with the dignity of a University to make a certain percentage of attendances at lectures a qualification for sitting for an examination."

* * *

"On Dit" Editorial, 29/7/32.

"Earnest school boys about to enter the University probably look forward more to lectures than to any other branch of University activity. . . . Yet in some faculties (I cannot speak for all) their expectations are doomed to quick and bitter disappointment; for the lecturer, far from kindling any interest in his audience by his manner of address, does not lecture at all, but merely dictates from a little black book. . . . Most students become machines."

* * *

"On Dit" Correspondence, 16/9/32.

"I have to endure hours of rapid dictation, so strenuous and tiring that one begins to look forward with dread to the next lecture. You have no time to ask questions, and consequently matters which are hard to grasp remain unsolved." [Here followed the first "On Dit" appeal for printed or duplicated notes.]

"On Dit" Correspondence, 30/6/33.

"It is a remarkable thing to me that the Students' Union has never uttered a protest to the University authorities against the compulsory attendance at lectures. . . . We often feel that our time is being wasted—time which we could spend for better in the library or study. I know one poor devil who travels ten miles twice a week these winter nights just to hear a lecturer read his text-book to him."

* * *

"On Dit" Correspondence, 18/7/33.

" . . . Suppose we point out emphatically to the powers that be that we deplore being lectured into a degree, but would far rather read for it, as they do in England. Our professors could retire to their studies and laboratories, and write and discover great ideas for us and the world to benefit by."

* * *

"On Dit" Editorial, 15/6/34.

"On Dit" condemns compulsory attendance at lectures, and at the recent Men's Union debate the system was unanimously execrated."

* * *

"On Dit" Article, 16/6/36.

"It is high time that progressive thought banished acquiescence in the antiquated principles which dominate so much of the lecturing in this University. . . . The class is divided from start to finish into 'dictator' and 'dictatees.' Never was a system better calculated to instil a servile mentality. . . . Has it never occurred to these gentlemen to have their vital notes typed, to use lecture-time for discussion? If this were done, either the time or number of lectures could be considerably reduced. . . . Why not, as at Oxford and Cambridge, have well-defined courses and the system of voluntary lecture attendance, which throws upon each lecturer the onus of producing and delivering lectures which will hold his students?"

* * *

"On Dit" Correspondence, 11/5/37.

"The lecture, indispensable when books were a curiosity, lingers among us like many other anachronisms dear to the conservative heart. . . . It may be reasonably doubted whether any lecture, which neither presents new or recently published facts nor possesses a pedagogic value superior to the current text-books, is worth giving, and still less worth attending. . . . To test student opinion, the attendance rule might be allowed to lapse for a year or two. The only truth some people can recognise is a row of empty benches."

Such are the findings of an hour's research. Perhaps some of them were a crying of a lone voice in a wilderness; but to-day that is not so. The criticism to-day is general, and extends to the staff and beyond them to a number of people whose interest in the University is so real, and their knowledge of it so intimate, that they are in a position of informed sympathy with us. We went expressions of student opinion for next week's issue.

GENERAL DISSATISFACTION
LECTURE SYSTEM
CONDEMNED

A Definition.

"The lecture system is the process by which the notes of the lecturer are transferred to the notebook of the student without passing through the minds of either."

What the Staff Think.

This definition recalls comments of several members of the staff, both in and out of the lecture room. When interviewed, just after he had received his knighthood last May, Sir Robert Chapman "deplored the system of dictated notes as being a waste of time" in the Engineering School. Prof. J. I. M. Stewart (Eng. Lit), both by caustic comments at the expense of those who take notes during his lectures, and by strong implication, has time and again proved his abhorrence of the dictation-lecture system.

The new head of the Anatomy School, Prof. Goldby, has already been heard to express views very much to the detriment of the existing lecture system. Prof. Portus (Political Science), well known to all as a brilliant lecturer, holds extremely advanced views on how lectures should be conducted—views which he puts into practice himself; while Dr. Oldham, of the same school, declared at the end of last term, "You have heard recently of the defects of the lecture system—of which criticisms I am in approval." Mr. J. A. La Nauze has already introduced a type of discussion system amongst the lectures of Advanced Economic students.

These are only a few random examples—we know that there are others in every faculty who hold similar views.

What the Students Think.

To prove that we are not crying in the wilderness, but have a strong backing of student opinion, we interviewed several prominent undergraduates on the subject of the present lecture system existing within our University. Of all those we tackled, not one even attempted to defend the system.

G. S. Bridgland, the Student President, admitted to our representative that he thinks the time is now ripe to do away with compulsory lectures. He assured us that he had already made up his mind to approach the Vice-Chancellor and see whether anything was either being done or could be done about the matter.

W. S. Allen, 1936 Rhodes scholar, sympathised with the lecturer whose students were not compelled to attend lectures. (A.B.—Mr. Allen is a tutor). But he believes that compulsory lectures are a necessary evil only among first year classes, as they are generally so large and unwieldy, and that second and third year students should be given more freedom. He very definitely favors a semina system where there would be a set syllabus of typed notes. One hour a week students and lecturer should

meet. If the student finds any difficulty in the work, this meeting is his chance to have it explained away. If there is no need for explanation, the lecturer has time to ask questions of the students and keep abreast with them in their study. To Mr. Allen, "the system of dictation is absolutely revolting."

L. Barr, the W.A. Rhodes scholar, was strong in his condemnation of the existing system, and declared that "compulsory lectures can be nothing but a hindrance to a busy student."

Everyone will remember the trenchant attack upon the lecture system made at the last Union night by M. M. S. Finnis, President of the Arts Associations. On that occasion there was no doubt that he found almost unanimous support from the eighty or ninety Union members present.

J. C. Yeatman, last year's Editor, waxed eloquent in his criticism of the lecture system. "One certainly cannot write and think simultaneously, and writing is a sheer waste of time, a relic of the Middle Ages, when there was no printing," he asserted. "Nothing is more deadening to the interest and intelligence than the widespread habit of copious note-taking. I believe that the rules of the General Medical Council make it impossible for local authorities to make any radical change, but lecturers could do a great deal by having printed notes prepared, with a bibliography of reference books, and by converting the lectures into tutorials."

Last, but not least, we approached the hero of the hour, A. G. Campbell, the hundred yards record breaker. Mr. Campbell refused to issue a statement for publication, but heartily endorsed our views on the impossibility of the present system of lecturing.

COMING EVENTS

To-Day.

Science Association Meeting, 8 p.m., Refectory.
Commerce Association Excursion, Kilkenny Glass Works.
Law Society Meeting.

To-morrow.

St. Mark's Sports, University Oval: Afternoon.
Women's Union Stunt Evening, 8 p.m., Lady Symon Hall.

Thursday, June 17.

Union Parliamentary Debate, 7.45 p.m.
Men's Union: Mr. K. C. Wilson; Lady Symon Hall, 1.20 p.m.

Saturday, June 19.

Men's Union Dinner. Speakers: Prof. Goldby, Mr. J. A. La Nauze, and Mr. Eric Millhouse.
Pharmacy Ball.

Wednesday, June 23.

Women's Union Sports Day: University Oval.
P. & I.R.C.: Dr. Bindscelder on Palestine, 7.45 p.m.

AS WE PLEASE

ACHITOPHEL AND ANOTHER

Achitophel, grown weary to possess
A lawful fame and lazy happiness,
Who looked upon the world with
squinting eyes,
Still cooling Israel with a compromise,
Was held in power by men who loved
the State
So well they would not lose one foot
of it,
These, finding David a wise king and
true,
Thought that a change in monarchy
was due;
And, for their means, Achitophel
appointed
To raise the cry against the Lord's
Anointed,
Nor was Achitophel averse to change,
Who dearly loved all matters to
arrange,
And in the settling of some State
dispute,
'Twere had to have a king so resolute.
By victory he might some prestige
gain
To wipe away the Abyssinian stain,
David removed, he could securely
live;
How goodly 'tis to be conservative.

Israel's High Priest, as at this time
befell,
Was of opinion with Achitophel.
This doddering rabbi, pious aristocrat,
Could not forbear some meddling in
the State,
For think how great a sin 'twould
surely be
To crown one tainted with democ-
racy.
One who in shibboleths had never
joyed,
But felt keen interest in the unem-
ployed;
And was he not in deep debauchery
sunk?
Was often merry, and e'en sometimes
drunk?
Besides he wasn't a religious Jew:
To have him king would surely never
do.
This was for laying good King David
by.
On principles of pure morality.
The plot succeeded: By their power
alone
Was honest David tumbled from the
throne,
All was accomplished that their
schemes had sought:
The frock-coat was restored for use
at court.
The crowds beheld the old, proud,
pompous train,
And royal horseflesh racing once
again.
And those who'd feared for dividends
and shares
Achitophel relieved of all their cares,
He and the rabbi were acclaimed with
glee;
So dearly Israel loved true probity,
"ASAPH."

THE MEN'S UNION DINNER SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Besides being an opportunity to meet all your Varsity friends at their brightest and best, this is the one occasion during the year when men of all faculties can get together in an atmosphere of convivial bon homie. Those who have heard about past Men's Union dinners are not going to miss this one (didn't Mr. V. L. Ryan pop his name on the list as soon as it was posted?), and those who have not yet put in an appearance have a chance to start now. The day is June 19 (Saturday), and the place (very important), is the Victoria Hotel, Hindley Street.

"On Dit"

Editors: HELEN WIGHTON, FINLAY CRISP.
Editorial Staff: Misses IRWIN, WARD, and RICHARDSON; D. C. MENZIES.
Business Manager: E. F. JOHNSTON.

Tuesday, 15th June, 1937

DICTATION TESTS.

Australia and the world at large laugh heartily at our immigration laws. For these expect Mrs. Freer to be a multi-linguist genius who can cope with any dictation test which departmental ingenuity and capacity can devise. But the world at large would laugh—a metallic, desperate laugh—if it knew about the Adelaide University's dictation tests. The Senior Common Rooms and Dons' quarters of Oxford would be shaken to their foundations by laughter at the expense of this University, which is soon, by the way, to entertain world educational leaders to a conference on modern education!

We feel that it would be difficult to find among modern educational practice anything more antiquated and out-moded than the dictated type of lecture from which so many students suffer in this University at present. Some of the lecturers concerned are ready to print their notes, some are not; but until that is done in courses where notes are so vital we shall remain spoon-fed school children. For the other side the question gives us no chance to be otherwise—we are coerced into compulsory attendance of at least seventy-five per cent. of the lecture output. In a word, the system is bad, but we are forced to put up with its perpetuation.

As Editors of "On Dit" we have been approached to voice student opinion on this subject, and asked by a wider circle than just students. We know that a fair proportion of the academic staff, amongst others, are in agreement with our condemnation. And what we ask is not impossible nor even very difficult of attainment.

FIRST, WE WANT ALL LECTURE ATTENDANCE TO BE VOLUNTARY. This means that courses would have to be fairly well defined—then, if students found lectures and lecturing poor they could read for themselves and eliminate a considerable waste of time. This would only be advancing to the state of affairs obtaining at Oxford and Cambridge. Then we should not be "lectured into a degree," as a past writer put it, but could "read for it," as men and women do at the real University.

SECONDLY, WE WANT PRINTED NOTES. We recognise that some subjects require careful notes. But dictation is a waste of time which could without effort be expended in discussion, out of which arises REAL scholarship and REAL learning.

THIRDLY, IT FOLLOWS THAT WE WANT DISCUSSION CLASSES AND TUTORIALS WHERE TO-DAY WE HAVE LECTURES. There are good arguments for lectures—good lectures, though—in the first year of courses. The size of classes and the tender age and inexperience of "Freshers" gives them a general utility. But in succeeding years the size of classes is rarely unwieldy; the capabilities of students is (we imagine) growing. A few progressive lecturers have mixed discussion classes with lectures in the second and third years. Perth is far ahead of us in this respect—they even have a group of voluntary tutors (senior honors and post-graduate people) who help out with the larger classes who have to be broken down for tutorial work. You may object that our honors people are not fit or too busy to do this work—then, as compared with Perth, there must be something wrong with our system of training; and we submit that it is a surfeit of lectures and too little discussion.

What do our readers think? We want views and support from you. This must not drag on past 1937-38.

UNION BALL Saturday, July 3 THE DANCE OF THE YEAR

Impressed by recent Inter-Varsity failures, the Union Committee has chosen not a Friday night but Saturday, July 3, for the Union Ball, all athletes and sports people can therefore attend with a clear conscience. But even if your matches may have made you weary this dance will still be the students' best for the year. No high prices either—tickets will be about 3/6, as last year. We hope that members of the staff will come and bring their wives. We can always make good deficiencies in that direction (sorry, we meant, if they are unmarried, there will be plenty of partners about).

The Refectory is to be decorated with Faculty shields and colors, because this is OUR DANCE. The executive committee has been elected, and formidable and efficient it is—Mr. V. L. Ryan as secretary; Miss Jean Ward and Mr. Brian Maguire as assistant secretaries; together with

Messrs. Bob Elix and George Angus, Miss Helen Wighton, President of the Women's Union, with a committee of some twenty helpers, will decorate the Refectory for the ball.

HEADSTRONG VERSES

In Adelaide there is a Barr
Where we are daily seen;
And though the brew is hardly new
We're never really keen.

Around the walls a thousand shelves
Support their varied wealth,
We're told the fare would soon repair
Our intellectual health.

In Adelaide we know a pub
Which does not close till nine,
At six the fun has just begun
If we follow the swinging sign.

Our many bags are kindly held,
And then the host himself
In solemn voice demands our choice
And leads us to the shelf.

I've not as yet tapped any shelf,
Nor any label read,
For I basely fear the elixir
Might exercise my head.

FIRST CARNEGIE TALK

LOOKING AT A PICTURE

On Thursday, 10th, Mr. Lismer, the Educational Adviser of the Toronto Art Gallery, gave a brilliant talk on the history and development of painting. He said he was travelling through Australia, studying various reactions of the Australian public, and that he realised that here, as elsewhere, the Varsity student has no time for culture, and may be regarded as a sponge in a hurry. After which pleasant remark, he enlarged upon his main theme—namely, what we should see when we look at a painting. Mr. Lismer said that the subject matter of a painting, occupied not more than a fifth of the whole significance. We should be able to see an expression of the spirit of the period in which the picture was painted, and an expression of the nature of the artist himself.

Mr. Lismer held up a weird example of modern art, and said that he would explain how it came about by giving a brief account of the development of painting through the ages.

The Greeks painted on vases, and no more authentic record of the actual life and spirit of the ancient Greeks can be found than on these works of art. The early Italian painters discarded the idea of painting continuous, flat scenes around vases, and were the first to portray dimensions of depth, length, and height, painting on walls and ceilings. In the Middle Ages, the Arts were used in religious propaganda. By paintings, the churches and monasteries were beautified; by paintings, the saintliness of womanhood was conveyed and expressed.

At the time of the beginning of the Renaissance the paintings were all religious and of great simplicity; from this the art grew and flourished, to blossom forth in the 14th century in intricate, exotic paintings of cherubim, archangels, and madonnas. Some Italians, in a unique burst of romanticism, painted lovely, nude maidens by lakes; while a Venetian showed an amazing sense of movement in the painting of dancing girls. In contrast to the Italian art, we go over the Alps to countries where the influence of the Renaissance had not yet been felt, and see the friendly, paternal point of view of the Northern German religion, which was clearly portrayed in the paintings of the day.

Then developed the painting of a simple figure or head, and this was the beginning of the ancestor painting of the 18th century, and, incidentally, of "ancestor worship." During this century men were successfully sailing the high seas, and the fear of travelling vanished, and so the way was paved for the first landscape painters, who developed along two lines, one of realism, one of romanticism. From this comes our modern art, which is the bringing together of all kinds of things, the stuff that life is made of, including lemons and shirt fronts. Modern art is often hard and satirical, but so often is life. In all paintings, from the earliest times to the present day, artists are telling us facts, as well as giving us beauty, and we must study those facts if we are to appreciate the art to the full.

Students owe Messrs. Barbour and Cowan a debt of gratitude for arranging this talk and the illustrations.

Charles Wells & Co.

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As a TOOTH POWDER they recommend

SODOX

—It WHITENS the Teeth.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON THE MAT NEXT THURSDAY

The Leader of the Opposition will move that "The British Government is Grossly Mishandling the Foreign Situation." The Prime Minister will then make an authoritative statement on the Australian attitude towards British policy to-day. The debate will then be thrown open to the House as a non-party measure. You must imagine this as a debate prior to the departure of an Australian delegation to an Imperial Conference. A question time will precede the debate, during which the Ministerial bench may be freely bombarded—with questions only, please.

There will be no Union question-time on Thursday, as the first part of the evening will take the form of a Special General Meeting of the Union to consider three proposed amendments (you can see them on the notice board).

This is YOUR chance to speak and get a footing in Union debating circles.

A Resignation and Some Recruits

The Editors announce with regret the resignation from our staff of Mr. R. A. Blackburn, who has been appointed Editor of "Phoenix" for 1937. We thank him for his past work for the paper and look forward to further assistance from him in the future. For the present, we ask you to send him a positive snowstorm of contributions for his new charge.

We have also to announce that Misses Jean Ward and Mini Richardson have joined "On Dit." The staff of the paper will be the brighter for their assistance.

MEN!

Have your next Hair-cut and Shave in the new Men's Hairdressing Saloon at

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Men who take a pride in their appearance—and men with an eye to personal comfort, too, cannot speak too highly of the new and beautifully appointed Hairdressing Saloon on the first floor. Read the advantages: eight chairs, attended by highly skilled craftsmen, modern steriliser and stainless steel fittings, ensuring meticulous cleanliness of all instruments. Natural lighting, pleasant surroundings.

THE NEW

MYER

STORE FOR MEN

SPORTING NEWS

FOOTBALL.

Varsity displayed its best form for the season on Saturday, when we beat the strong Walkerville side by six goals. We led throughout the match and were superior in all parts of the game.

Parkin, our goalsneak, with eight goals, played excellently. Varsity has lacked a really good goalsneak for several years, but in Parkin we seem to have found the right man.

The final scores were:—Varsity 11.15, Walkerville 9.9.

Goalkeepers: Parkin 8, Parker and Rice 2, LeMessurier and Betts.

Best Players: Elis, Brown, Parkin, Rice, Playford, Dawkins.

E's v. S. Peter's College.

Varsity B 7.6, S.P.S.C. 4.13.

LACROSSE.

A's ON THE UP.

The A team has met with considerable success in the last month. Three out of the four matches have been won, and we were by no means disgraced in the fourth.

On Saturday we played West Torrens, which was one above us on the premiership list, but which is now one below us. The scene was at Bowden, in the park lands, which a night of rain had turned into a morass. We surprised the natives, however, by beating them in their own element. At one time the outlook was black. We were 5.2 down and rain was threatening, but the skies cleared and Isaachsen threw a goal.

The B's were ignominiously beaten by a team which has been renowned for its weakness.

Results:—

A's defeated West Torrens, 9—7. Goalthrowers: Harry, D, Taylor, 3; Isaachsen, Ward, Barnfield. Best players: Barnfield, Harbison, Nancarrow, Menzies.

B's lost to North Adelaide, 12—7. Goalthrowers: Kayser, 3; Ward, Krautz, Osman, Snow. Best players: Kelly, Kayser, Osman.

C's lost to St. Peter's, 12—3. Goalthrower: Heddle, 3. Best players: Heddle, Lake, Frayne.

RUGBY MATCHES.

A's drew with Woodville, 9 all, subject to protest by Woodville for a goal which was disallowed.

Conditions were muddy, but handling was quite possible.

University back line on several occasions handled well to the winger and inside again. Two of these bore fruit as tries, but several were thrown away when all the work was done.

Freeman and Fairweather worked well together as halves, and Fairweather also played solidly and occasionally brilliantly to make openings and get the whole back line working again. Hamilton did well in the forwards.

Tries: Edelman, Hamilton, Napier, 1 each.

The B's had no difficulty in winning, 15—0, against Woodville B's. A considerable amount of pace and talent is to be found in this team, and some of it will soon be found in the first team. The B team continues easily top of its grade.

BASKETBALL.

Results:—
Varsity A lost to Y.W.C.A., 41—21.
Varsity B lost to College, 34—19.
Varsity D lost to Sunshine, 59—7.

BASEBALL.

The weather prevented play in baseball matches on Saturday.

The "A" side, by a 3—0 win against Prospect last week, moved into fourth position. Though the opposition was weak, Varsity, as usual, played at an equal standard, so that it was not until the eighth innings that any runs were scored. Reilly's hit clinched the first run, and others came from errors. Gould and Swan were absent through injury, but Johnstone and Morrison substituted in fine style.

The "B's" registered their third win by crushing Prospect, 12—2, in a six-innings game. O'Grady and O'Brien get in some big hits, and the opposition's errors were very helpful in swelling Varsity's total.

While the "C's" had a day off, the "D's" got closer than ever to the opposition, the scores being 10—13 against. The intricacies of baseball are clearing up rapidly for them, and prospects of a win are bright.

A.U. BOXING CLUB.

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS AND NOVICES.

Under special supervision, the above classes will commence on Wednesday next, June 16, at 5 p.m. sharp, in the Jubilee Oval pavilion.

These classes are supplementary to, and held in conjunction with, the ordinary boxing practice held every Wednesday. Both the above classes the FREE and WITHOUT LEVY to all financial members of the Sports Association. If you cannot box, then come and be taught in the new painless, bruise-less, black eye-less style.

The annual tournament with the Legacy Boxing Club, in competition for trophies and the Stevenson Cup, will be held in the latter half of this term, followed shortly afterwards by the annual championship tournaments of this University.

The inter-Varsity boxing is this year being held in Sydney, and if the proficiency of individual men warrants it, a team will be sent to represent Adelaide.

Commence your training early, under the experienced and expert eye of the coach, Mr. A. Price.

Julius Cohn & Co.

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BARR SMITH ADDITIONS

[The other Universities have been publishing short lists of books newly added to their libraries. We think an occasional "On Dit" selection from the list with which the Librarian (Mr. Cowan) is supplying the Union may be of use here.]

Letters of and to Malthus and Ricardo.—At least four volumes of these have recently been added, and should be of considerable interest to Economics III people.

Japan's Feet of Clay, by Freda Utley. "Anyone who wants to understand what is happening in Japan to-day, and what that distressful country is likely to do next, ought to read it from cover to cover." It is indeed of first-class importance." Pol. Quarterly.

London Girl of the Eighties, by M. V. Hughes. Puts some life into what is rapidly becoming a museum piece with us.

Electrical Machinery and Apparatus Manufacture, by P. Keimp.

Libraries in South Australia, by A. G. Price. Legislation on this subject is expected to be before the House very shortly. Read the report and know what it is all about.

The Foundation of Australia, by E. O'Brien. This book has been given some very good reviews, and should be worth reading by any of the History School.

The League and the Future of the Collective System, by Morrison, Rish and others. This is the very latest book on a vital Peace Group subject.

Cabinet Government, by W. I. Jennings. This book has become a standard work immediately upon publication, and has met with enthusiastic English and American reviews.

Truants, by Lord Moynihan. The story of some who deserted medicine yet made good.

Textbook of Pathology, by Sir. R. Muir.

Political Philosophy of Hobbes, by L. Strauss. Indispensable to Honours History students.

The Flying Flea. This is a translation from the French, and tells how to build and fly this Baby Austin of the air.

Child Psychology, by H. W. Curtis. Should be some use to Teachers' Training College readers.

Psycho analytic Study of the Family, by J. C. Flugel.

Civilisation and Its Discontents, by Freud.

Collected Papers of Sigmund Freud.

Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Age, by Freud. These books should interest not only psychologists but all who are at grips with the social sciences in any way.

The Moscow News. This has been presented to the Barr Smith, and we noticed the first numbers on the desk last week.

MEN'S UNION DINNER

All You Want to Eat AND Drink for 5/-

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

AN ALMOST ENGLISH MOLIERE

Miss Dobson Again

Miss Agnes Dobson has scored another success with her presentation of two of Moliere's plays, "The Highbrow Ladies" and "The Doctor in Spite of Himself." Not only does the English version retain the spirit of Moliere's comedies, but the acting was for the most part in accordance with the dramatist's ideas.

Miss Alice Creed as Madelon in "The Highbrow Ladies" was a super-affected damself to life, while the valets, Cecil Reed and Frank Willoughby, gave a better performance than their masters, Frank Willoughby looking exceptionally pale and interesting until the unveiling ceremony. This play has a distinct moral flavor.

Undoubtedly the star turn of the evening was "The Doctor in Spite of Himself." Three things impressed us: Mr. Ron Beck's acting, his doctor's robe, a gorgeous affair covered with red moons and stars, and the suggestive looking trees in the woodland scene.

The important parts of Martine and the Father were not played as well as they might have been: one was spoilt by partial inaudibility and the other by a certain stiffness. But Ron Beck carried the play with him. Though seeming to introduce some of the American film technique into his acting, he played the part of Sgnarelle, a buffoon, very well indeed. His miming dance with Miss Beth Baker, another good performer, was one of the most amusing incidents of the evening.

The play is sheer farce, and Miss Dobson and her players are to be congratulated on its production. Its presentation as an entirely English play does not in any way detract from its essential comic spirit.

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Correspondence

Dear Sirs,—You seem mystified about the falling away in debutante attendances at the Varsity Ball—from 40 in 1932 by easy stages to 4 in 1937. Such a trend is, however, easily explicable in terms of an economic interpretation. Collation of the graphical representations of Reno divorces, Chicago frozen beef output, and the volume of oil for the lamps of China over the period 1931-1937 would reveal a thin red line rising from the bottom left hand corner to the top right. To the initiated, good sirs, this means that the world is moving from depression to boom. Now, to apply this to our case: at the depth of a depression debts cannot afford a ball of their own to announce their advent to the marriage market (or thereabouts), but as the boom swells and armament shares appreciate in value this IS possible, except for those who genuinely like the fun of "coming out" at a big "do." It is all so simple,—Yours,

ECONOMI KUSS.

THE LECTURE INQUISITION

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—The admirable letter on "The Lecture," in conjunction with Mr. Finnis' remarks recently at the Union meeting, has stirred my dull brain to disgorge at last what has been lying fermenting for three years. As Mr. Finnis so truly remarked, we learn dictation at school at the tender age of ten, forget it, and then come to the Varsity to learn it all over again. Sir, I have suffered silently, thinking it only another cruel jest amongst the many to which we are subjected. But the time is now ripe. In four of my subjects this year I attend only to write furiously all the time—pure dictation, for every student this year has the same notes, and the notes go back to twenty years.

Mr. Editor, in the name of suffering humanity, I appeal to you! Do something. The folly of the argument that the staff has not enough time to give real tutorial classes is self-evident; let them print notes and devote what little time there is to elucidating them, instead of leaving us sunk in gloom until the Sevot Vae (of accursed memory). If they can't go to the trouble of printing the notes, we at least could get last year's notes, which have been exactly the same for the last twenty years. Then, if compulsory lectures were abolished, we could remain at home and learn the notes. That is all we do, anyway, in a lot of subjects.

For obvious reasons, no explicit references have been made, but I will be charmed to quote chapter and verse for your further edification, if necessary.—Yours,

"TORTURED SOUL."

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Published by the Adelaide University Student Union, and Printed by E. J. McAlister & Co., Blvth Street, Adelaide.

"LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN"

Dear Sir,—In your issue of May 17 you published, under the title of "Military Notes," a eulogy of the various sergeants of our eminent and illustrious military corps: their characters, ideals, interest, and activities. Now, Sir, couldn't you possibly perform a similar service for the rival organisation, the Peace Group? I should be simply delighted to take upon myself the privilege of writing panegyrics about any of the more brilliant stars of that flaming galaxy—e.g., your noble self. A theme so exalted could not fail to uplift and inspire.

Far be it from me to controvert the aforesaid Military Notes: they have my full and benign endorsement. At the same time, the descent to personalities is niggling and rather ludicrous, and reeks of Suzanne. Surely, Sir, you can find better use for Union time and space.

W. D. ALLEN.

[At the first paragraph we blush, Mr. Allen, but with the second part we agree; but we believe that the publicity of bankruptcy may well be the best punishment of the bankrupt.—The Editors.]

PEACE GROUP NOTES

WHY CAN'T WE FOLLOW AMERICA?

The following statements made last September by Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State of the United States, ought not to pass unnoticed: "The cause of peace is the cause of civilisation. Every war of the past has retarded the progress of civilisation in direct proportion to the vigor with which it was pursued and the number of days, months or years it has endured. A general war now would set loose forces that would be beyond control. The wars of the past give us no basis for judging the effects of a war of the future. . . . From the end of the World War up to a short time ago, those who labored to bring about the settlement of differences among nations by peaceful means were termed impractical idealists. The realists were those who put no faith in those efforts for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. They refused to believe in the possible effectiveness of this work for peace, and held that it was futile to attempt to settle differences between nations except by the judgment of the sword. But today the true realist in international affairs knows that, in the face of present threats, our efforts to devise ways and means of preserving the peace must be redoubled. The true realist is he who knows that the fabric of peace has been worn perilously thin; that if it is again torn asunder by the bloody hands of war it may never be repaired. . . .

"The responsibility of maintaining peace rests not upon governments alone. The people of the world must learn that war is a cruel mill whose stones are the misled hope of national aggrandisement, and the selfish ambitions of unscrupulous persons. The oil and fuel of that mill are furnished by the fear and hate which come from greed and suspicion. The grain for that mill is the valiant, patriotic youth of the world, ready to carry out the orders of the leaders, who are too often reckless or ruthless. The grist from that mill is death—death to youth, death to hope, death to civilisation. . . .

"There exists to-day an unparalleled opportunity for those nations and groups which look forward with clear vision to bring about an early return to sane perspectives and relationships. . . .

"Our only hope is that the governments and peoples of the world may fully realise the solemn responsibility which rests upon them all, and that realistic envisaging of the inevitable consequences will prevent their flying at each other's throats no matter how great may be their impulses and the fancied incentives." What is the Empire's answer.

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE NOTES

Twelve of our members are having plenty of fun furnishing their new rooms (yes, the builders have departed!) at the end of the New Wing. The College is one and indivisible again, and we see new faces in our various bathrooms this week. The address of the whole college is Pennington Terrace again, and we are just one big, happy family—except Frank Espie, who is carrying his left arm lovingly in a tasteful blue sling—rumour has it that in a Brisbane nightmare he hit the floor rather hard.

The common room, too, has taken a turn for the better—twelve new chairs and some tables—and the addition of "Esquire" to our magazine list. Meanwhile, ping-pong is hardly languishing in its new home in the gym. Even this does not exhaust our changes—there are some new garages, and something which looks like an embryonic quoits court.

Our six oarsmen have returned after their Brisbane odyssey—little abashed and little quieter than before. No trail of broken hearts seems to have marked their progress.

By the time this appears in print the College Wranglers' Club will have debated the Aquinas Society on the subject, "That the Divine Right of Kings is Imperishable." Meanwhile, our word-warriors prepare and we are hopeful.

The University is not having all the bridge work on its own—the College card-sharps will be on the job next Friday night.

At the moment of writing, our President has not returned. Has he been shot in Sydney (Well, I ask you?), or has his motor outfit let him down? Yet, even on this point, we are hopeful of a happy issue out of all our afflictions.

S.C.M. CONFERENCE

That insistent and fundamental question about tongues in cheeks and bees in bonnets was thrashed still further inside out at the S.C.M. Conference on "Reason and Emotion," at Mount Lofty over the first week-end of the vac. At the end we felt that there was nothing we hadn't talked about, from Hitler to shaving paper, or vice versa. Consequently it is not easy to single out the basic ideas of discussion or presentation; but a few are as follow:—As children we live quite in the self-centred world of our own illusion, largely in the light of our imagination. The growth to maturity is the development of our thoughts and feelings so that they correspond to the objective situation outside us. The process demands the development of skill through self-discipline, so that our actions both physical and social may be performed with adroitness and grace. Emotion is the seat of action: it is not merely that surplus nervous energy which cannot be expressed in action, and which is characteristic of the neurotic. Religious emotion, in particular, must not be short-circuited: if it is simply lost in an unexpressed sense of uplift it may be positively dangerous. Friendship is the fundamental religious fact in life: although for most of us the ideal of perfectly intimate friendship remains a castle in the air. We are satisfied if we are able to maintain such unity as we have achieved without serious breakdown. But the religious urge is the challenge to refuse to be satisfied with such a compromise.

WITH THE RUSSIANS Arts Association

The Arts Association provided a bright and varied programme last Friday. The President (Mr. Finnis) informed the society that they were in possession of a badge and motto dating back to 1910; the latter, being translated, meant something about flying through the air and encompassing the sun—but let's skip it.

The first part of the programme was a play by Tchekhov, "The Proposal." As our President foretold, Mr. E. Ronald Corney, B.A., the producer, "was looking his most beautiful" in a black fluffy beard, that was in continual danger of disintegrating. Rosalie Hiern, as his beautiful daughter, Natalya (I won't attempt the rest), displayed two or three fine fits of anger. Dick Blackburn, looking a little too youthful for a hypochondriac of 35, saw that Natalya got as good as she gave, and matched her feminine obstinacy with complaints of pains in his leg and agitation of the heart.

Herb. Piper entertained us with a short paper on Surrealism: "I have a horror of the painting of Cezanne; it bores me stiff." As a reaction against the Past-impressionists, they abandoned reality, declaring that it hampered the imagination. Without using light and shade or color, they gain their effect by incongruous juxtaposition. Human bodies made of cubes are all right to Herb, but even he can't take it when these cubes are scattered at random over the canvas.

Mr. Mercer, visiting us from the Science Faculty, talked about Aldous Huxley and "The Brave New World." In this, his earlier work, Mr. Huxley is just a satirist, but later he developed into a reformer. This is a "clever" satire on the hypocrisies of our age. Its "biological seasoning" led to its being banned for some time, but that ban is now lifted.

Donald Kerr reviewed for us "The Enormous Room," by Mr. Cummings, an American. This is a war book on prison life. Sam says that Mr. Cummings is "interested in life served up raw." The book, which is still banned, displays a somewhat aggressive sophistication.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL AND CHURCH UNION

The leader of the English Unitarian Churches, the Rev. Lawrence Redfern addressed the S.C.M. on Friday on the subject of the Liverpool Cathedral controversy. It was Mr. Redfern himself whose preaching in the cathedral in 1933 raised the storm. That staunch old Conservative and defender of the C. of E., Lord Hugh Cecil, threw up his hands in horror. I. The whole procedure was ecclesiastically illegal; II., Unitarians had no place inside the Christian tradition; III. such freedom would lead to anarchy.

At Convocation the Bishop argued: I., that there are times when law must be superseded by the Spirit; II., that Christianity is not the acceptance of a creed but the manifestation of a Spirit; III., that if Unitarians are not under the authority of creed and law they are under the authority of love and of reason. He failed, however, to convince even one of his fellows.

"Yet all the contestants showed a fine spirit, remarkably free from the old theological bitterness."

I am happy to say that no one was burnt at the stake.

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