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The **BIGGEST** of the
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On Dit

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
UNION



NOW SHOWING!
The Bengal Lancers of the Seven
Seas!

GARY COOPER in
"Souls at Sea"

Plus Eleanore Whitney and
Johnny Downs in
"BLONDE TROUBLE"

Vol. 7

TUESDAY, 29th MARCH, 1938

No. 3

ELECTION SYSTEM SOUGHT TO BE CHANGED

UNDEMOCRATIC AT PRESENT

Of late there has been considerable dissatisfaction among certain sections of the student community with regard to the manner in which representatives are elected to the Union Committee. At present the male and female members of this august cabinet are chosen separately, the men being voted for by the members of the Men's Union and the women by the component elements of the Women's Union.

The elected members of the committee, like the Apostles, are twelve in number, but only eight ("Only?" growl the women) are of the male persuasion. To these must be added as ex-officio members the chairman of the Men's Union (e.g., Mr. N. H. Wallman) and the president of the Women's Union.

It is our considered opinion that the personnel of the Union Committee would be more effective, more truly representative of student opinion, and of greater benefit to the Varsity as a whole, if all candidates, irrespective of sex (it's quite irrelevant, anyhow), were chosen by the vote of the entire student body. Our fathers, if they admired her cool efficiency and keen intelligence, were free to vote for Mrs. Skitch at the recent elections; our mothers, too, would indulge their desires, their choice not being restricted to men candidates. It must not, of course, be assumed that we suggest that the practices of the Parliament of this State may invariably be followed with beneficial results, for there are things of which . . . But we do suggest that the system we would introduce is a more rational and beneficial arrangement than that now in force.

At the conference held recently in Sydney, Hugh Gilchrist, a notorious nurseling of the Sydney University, read a paper on "The Principles of Student Self-Government," in the course of which he made many scathing observations on the presence of female obstructionists at committee meetings. "In discussions affecting student interests generally," he said, "and on procedural, financial, legal, and similar technical problems constantly before student councils, women student councillors are rarely of much help, and in matters concerning women students they tend to be inconsistent and indecisive. . . . Women student councillors take their responsibilities more seriously than the men, and are valuable as organisers of routine social functions, but they are seldom capable of making a constructive contribution to policy, plan, or programme, and are inclined to decide without due thought when they decide at all, and to be obstructionist without due reason." (We submit that these remarks apply also to men at times.)

It may be objected that Mr. Gilchrist's statements are highly exaggerated, or even, like the Blue Lake, bottomless. That is a serious defect in any argument; but—are they without justification? Isn't it true that at times the wrong people (of both sexes) are elected to important posts in the student world? These wrong

people are the rocks on which Mr. Gilchrist can build his argument.

On the other hand, there are in every University certain women whose qualifications for such posts are no less suitable than those of their male confreres. Some of these are elected, others are not, and in their stead we place obstructionist females and suchlike creatures.

Why are the right people not always chosen? The answer is to be found in the present election system. Take the case of women. They, when voting, are only too apt to be influenced by the fact that a candidate is a personal friend, or dresses attractively, or, above all, that she is rather sweet. Which matters are not relevant. Then why not balance things by allowing men to vote for women candidates? Certainly some men will be influenced by considerations such as those mentioned above, but this is true of a limited number only.

It will be objected that many men students will know nothing about women candidates. To that we reply that if nothing is known about a woman she is probably one, virtuous, and, two, not suitable for a Union Committee, as her activities must be few or none.

The most obvious objection to this proposal is that its adoption may result in the elimination of women from the student governing body. But, remember that we also advocate that women share in the choosing of the men. The men might be eliminated, then. But wouldn't the probable result of such a system be that the number of women and men representatives would be more or less equal?

We would even concede to the cautious a sanction to use preventives to avert such a catastrophe. Thus there might be a proviso that no more than eight out of the twelve elected should be men or (ye gods! what cheek) women. Above all, if members were chosen on such a basis the committee would be selected by, and therefore representative of the entire student body. As it is, men and women members have identical functions, yet the men have no power to oppose the election of a woman whose views they know to be contrary to their own. And the converse is, of course, true. I may know that Mr. X intends, if elected, to agitate for the introduction of compulsory Bible study into the University, but because I am a woman I cannot oppose his election. Yet he may be chosen to rule my affairs at the Varsity. This is wholly alien to the notion of democratic government. Everywhere, at the hands of Fascists and Nazis and others, democratic principles are being assailed—let us, at any rate, uphold them in this University by agitating for the reform of our election system.

RECOLLECTIONS

Each year, through the columns of this paper, suggestions are advanced by various people for improving the University. With the annual change of the personnel of the Union Committee and the Editorial staff, there is a danger that these suggestions will be forgotten before they have been properly considered. To avoid this, we outline briefly the principal alterations mooted in "On Dit" of last year.

Firstly, there was a strong feeling that students should be allowed to borrow books from the Barr Smith Library. This system obtains in practically every University in the Empire, and our librarian, Mr. Cowan, is confident that it could be introduced here. He assures us that, from an administrative point of view, it is quite feasible.

The selection of Rhodes Scholars and the part which student opinion should play therein was discussed, but no finality was reached. This is an interesting point, however, with many arguments on both sides, and merits further consideration.

An oft-repeated complaint concerns "the spontaneous segregation of the sexes in the Lecture Room and Refectory." This ought to be guarded against, and doubly so now that the men have their own building. It will be a bad thing if the women retire to the Symon and the men to the George Murray, thereby creating a permanent division.

"Gaston" made an impassioned plea for an Excavations Club to dig up the Carnegie Art Set; we assume that he is now more or less placated and probably engaged in buying a stool against the coming lectures. Several people at the time felt the urge to sing, and so formed the Glee Club. The Editors also entered a plea for a students' representative on the University Council.

Graduates' week was held, and Mr. Barbour wanted to know why there was not a stronger link between graduate and undergraduate days.

"On Dit," Vol. 6, No. 11, was almost entirely devoted to abusing the present lecture system. This was the big campaign of the year, and undoubtedly had the support of the students. From a brief survey, it appears that no major change has been wrought in this direction, and that further, clamoring is required. This campaign lasted several issues. As an interlude, the Editors asked us whether we had T.B., told us that this disease could be stamped out by proper precautions in the early stages, and advised us of a new clinic where you can be examined free of charge. We hope to hear from the Meds. on the progress of the clinic.

Lastly, there was the "New Day," which has dawned in an anaemic fashion on Wednesdays. This led to the question of law students and whether articles simply mean cheap labor. Well, we hate to be rude . . . but you will hear more of it.

A NOTE FOR FRESHERS AND OTHERS

If the matter were less urgent one might feel that apologies were due to freshers (and others) for bringing up yet again the question of "extra curricula activities" within the University. The rapid growth of the Union during the past few years has been at once the result and the cause of an increasing recognition of their importance, but it is still true that the great majority of students who pass through this University show no sign of being interested in anything beyond the taking of a degree, and it is almost as necessary as ever to take every opportunity of encouraging men and women of all faculties, and particularly freshers, to take a wider view of their responsibilities and to make a corresponding use of their opportunities. It can be assumed that the academic side will not be neglected; economic considerations may be relied on to secure the taking of a degree in a minimum of time. But there is no equally cogent stimulus to induce the average undergraduate to take an active part in those activities of the Union and of the Sports Association which, often without his realising it, make such a difference to the finished University product—activities which, in fact, represent one of the major differences between a University training and that obtainable elsewhere.

The activities of the Union are many and varied, and with a little care in planning his weekly programme any student can share in one or more of them without allowing his work to suffer. This year the Union is hoping to gain the active support of members of all faculties by concentrating its activities, as far as possible, within the limits of an extended lunch-hour (1.30 to 3 p.m.) on Wednesdays and reducing the number of evening meetings to a minimum. It will be worth the while of every fresher to find out just what those activities are and to make provision in his programme for taking an active part in some of them at least. The completion of the building scheme leaves no excuse for regarding the Union as merely a convenient place for lunch.

Freshers and others may be glad of this opportunity of talking over the major question of how to arrange one's programme as to obtain the maximum benefit from one's time at the University, or for that matter any other question directly or indirectly affecting their University course. If so, to quote from an earlier issue of "On Dit": "The student adviser is there for that purpose; and if he cannot help you himself it is likely that he will be able to put you in touch with someone who can." He now has a permanent home upstairs in the George Murray Building, where he will be glad to see students at any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., preferably by appointment.

R.R.P.B.

ARDATH SPECIALS

The Cigarettes you are **PROUDER** to offer!

10 "Laube" Boxes, 9d. 20's Tins, 1/6 Also in 50's and 100's

PROVOCATIONS

OF ACADEMIC DRESS.

"At all lectures, examinations, and public ceremonies of the University, Graduates and Undergraduates must appear in academic dress.

"The academic dress shall be:

"For Undergraduates: A plain stuff gown and trencher cap.

"For all Graduates: A black trencher cap with black silk tassel: and black gown similar in shape and material to those used at Cambridge for similar Degrees, and hoods of the same shape as those used at that University."

That is not an upstart, gate-crashing proposal, but a solemn statute of the University of Adelaide. Yet, although disobedience of it ought to produce a prolific collection of fines, it is never enforced. Why?

At the present moment, the University has the same quality as an American law court: an embarrassing nakedness. The introduction of academic dress would decorously cover this, and, at the same time, give a tremendous fillip to the dignity of the place.

The idea of wearing academic dress is a handsome legacy from mediaeval universities, where students were required to wear the "cappa" or other outer garment (to be of "statutable or black" stuff), and sometimes hoods, which were not limited to graduates, although a miniver hood was the especial distinction of rectors and professors. No one was to go forth from his college except he have, at least, a sacerdotal distinction about his neck—a fine of six shillings and eightpence shall be imposed on anyone who disobeys in this respect."

In studies of mediaeval dress, you will find statutes by the score against various forms of "indecent," "unhonest," "dissolute," or merely "secular" apparel—such as trunk-hose, puffed sleeves, pointed shoes, red or green boots, etc. This does not mean that the universities were clouded in a drab uniformity. Far from it. In Oxford, for instance, the color prejudice in gowns ran in favor of pink, blue, or green. That is, in effect, my point: judiciously selected color groups—say, of Faculties—would lend great enchantment to the view.

A further suggested advantage is that the enforcement of academic dress for (only) bona fide undergraduates would finally extirpate the plague of "butterflies" so troublesome in the University. All other forms of fly-tox have failed, but surely no butterfly could survive in the midst of a swarm of fully clothed giants—ping!

It is absurd to object that gowns are uncomfortable and unwieldy, because professors perform in them daily, and, for further evidence, this notice was issued in Cambridge in 1920: "The Proctors beg to notify tutors of colleges that they will not henceforth require undergraduates 'in statu pupillari' cycling after dark in cap and gown to be provided with a certificate from their tutor authorising them to do so. The rule against cycling in cap and gown will be allowed to lapse."

It seems to me there are only two, in any way dangerous, arguments against academic dress: in the first place, it might be abnormally hot, and, in the second, it might produce a sharp intellectual otiosity. The first trouble could easily be dealt with by the introduction of superfine silk gowns, something after the style of those favored by Miss Marlene Dietrich.

The second trouble, however, is more deeply rooted and malignant. I fear that many students (self-styled), veiled in the decent solemnity of an academic gown, might sink into a deeply compacent slumber, and the University become a large-scale mental necropolis.

The time would come, When we would touch the hem of Learning's shift;

In search of hermeneutics, lift The closest, all-concealing tunic, And find beneath an intellectual eunuch.

"On Dit"

Editors: GWENNETH WOODGER, ELLIOTT JOHNSTON.

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Tuesday, 29th March, 1938

"Ancient oratory," said an eminent professor, "is a fine art, an art regarded by its cultivators as analogous to sculpture, to poetry, to music." But in modern times this art has fallen into neglect, possibly on account of the diffusion of literature and the growing influence of the press. It is true that in England there have been several great orators during the past two or three centuries, but they achieved greatness more by an inborn capacity than by a conscious effort to perfect their art. Modern educational systems have paid little attention to the cultivation of rhetoric.

These apparently irrelevant thoughts were prompted by the fact that to-morrow night the P. & I.R.C. will conduct the first debate for the year on the subject of Mr. Eden. For the present the subject is important; it is debating which we wish to discuss. That our present standard of debate in Adelaide is deplorable is unfortunate but true; that our present speakers are capable of better things is apparent. The fault, surely, lies in the attitude adopted towards debating.

There are among us, it seems, only two types of speakers: the one which presents a few facts in drab sentences, unimaginative, colorless, and boring; the other which would damn a debate to raise a laugh. Never do we find any appropriate appreciation of debating as an art, never do we find any admiration for an idea sincerely expressed in terms which lend color and life and strength to it. The feeblest pun is dragged into each speech without regard to its relevance and is usually heartily applauded with regard to its merits. In short, our debating lacks both sincerity and imagery (it is interesting to note that when one of these qualities happens to be achieved, the other is the more conspicuously absent—as in the 1936 debate on compulsory military training).

The causes of this unfortunate attitude number at least three. Firstly, there is the hopelessly uncritical nature of our average debating audiences. Next the fact that our Parliaments set us a deplorable example, both by the quality and (seemingly) the conduct of their deliberations. And thirdly, our debating clubs do not seem to have produced any great orator who has added lustre and dignity to the art and set a standard for future undergrads. We have produced nobody like Gladstone, Hilaire Belloc, or F. E. Smith—men who raised the Oxford Union to its present position in public estimation, so that freshers prepare their maiden speech to the Union with perhaps more trepidation than in later years they feel when delivering their first address to the Commons. This is unfortunate, but the loss is not irreparable. Demosthenes has shown that in this art at least practice can produce perfection.

"Great is the labor of oratory," says Cicero, "as is its field, its dignity, its reward."

BOOK CLUBS RIGHT AND LEFT

"The Right Book Club recently formed has the avowed purpose of combat against Communism, and is the direct answer to The Left Book Club, which is Red and violently political."—Editorial, "Desiderata," of 1/2/38. And, later: "... If his (the reader's) political tendencies do not lean to the Right the blame rests with himself and not with the selection committee."

I dislike book clubs (especially political) on principle, and the above quoted remarks illustrate my objections. The writer assumes that hard and fast division of political thought into Right and Left, Red and non-Red, which stultifies a great deal of modern political speculation. He fails to realize that if a person tends to the radical it is essential for his proper understanding of it that he consider the arguments of the conservatives: a proper understanding of the views of the Right is a prerequisite for a full comprehension of the aims of the Left. I take this to be clear since Mill wrote his treatise on Liberty.

And not only do the book clubs assume the political division, but by their efforts they contribute to it. Each member becomes set in his own opinion, and since he probably reads little political work outside his own club book, his mental development is one-sided: indeed, it is non-existent, since development comes mainly from contrasting opposed ideas.

There are two checks on intellectual liberty: the external and the internal. The first is the restraint imposed by the laws and the force of public opinion; the second, the restraint which each man places upon his own freedom by restricting the field of his mental activity, or by not pursuing his thoughts to their logical conclusion.

During the past centuries, the struggle for freedom has been directed against the external check. Socrates, Galileo, and countless others have in their own time and place carried on that struggle with considerable success, so that in the democratic countries, at least, this external restraint has been considerably restricted (though it still exists, as witness the recent banning of Gibbs' "Ordeal in England").

Now it seems that man, freed in this respect from the tyranny of kings and parliaments, voluntarily imposes an internal restriction by confining his thoughts to one set of ideas, one particle of truth; unused to his new liberty and frightened by it, he seeks refuge in one ideology—hence our book clubs.

That intellectual servility which other men endured of necessity modern man embraces of his own volition.

"SPURIUS FURIUS."

PRIVATE FACES IN PUBLIC FACES

CONSTITUTIONAL BAG.

Opening meetings, annual general meetings, and just meetings have brought forward that traditional early term feature, the "Open Season" for Law students. Their sport consists of darting in with some argument (the point of which is often caviar to the general) just as hands are being flapped in the usual listless manner of assent or disagreement—and this bag consists of a collection of constitutional loopholes. We suggest that some of them be labelled L. in the true Tongasse manner. All this is inclined to give way, however, as winter draws on, and Faculty and club dinners invade some of our less prominent pubs, to the other type of constitutional parryings and amendments.

The hoped for amendment to the Union constitution regarding the masseuses has provided much meat for discussion. Some suggested that the powers thought them not acceptable to the Union because their profession is regarded as a sport, in which case they should apply to the Sports Association!

BOOKS v. BEER MUGS.

The sight of so many empty shelves in the Men's Union Library is somewhat disheartening at present. There is a scheme afoot, however, to approach each man as he graduates for the gift of something worth reading. Someone who hopes this will be his last year has asked if he may bequeath one of his text-books with handy margin notes left in for interest's sake.

How much less fruitful will this idea of a parting gift be than the St. Mark's one of leaving a beer mug in memoriam? In a few years there should be a stimulating collection of these college trophies, left in a true spirit of sympathy and understanding.

STUDENT VOICE

"The first fact which emerges from any survey of the student activities throughout the world is that those countries where student enthusiasm is least and their place in the community of least account are the so-called 'democracies,' and especially the British Dominions. And although the necessary information for comparison is scanty, it would certainly appear that Australia is worst of all in this respect. Nowhere else does the University student seem to bear so little weight or command so little respect. It should be the first task of a National Union to find out why this should be so."

—A. G. Crawford, at the National Conference.

"The spiritual basis of a democracy is a philosophic and moral principle. The basic element of our political life is man: the individual with his personality, and not party or class, nor even the nation—that is to say, no collectivity. That is why we are opposed to-day to all forms of totalitarianism in social, economic, and political life. Our democracy aims to be inspired by humanitarian principles, and that is why it is so true, so realist, so objective, and so deeply rooted in our country. That is why it tries at the same time to be morally noble and humanly sensitive. We call it humanitarian democracy."

—President Benes to the National Union of Czechoslovakian Students.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 29th, 8 p.m.: A.U. Law Society.

Wednesday, 30th, 7.45: P. and I.R.C. Thursday, 31st, 8: A.U. Engineering Society.

Thursday, 31st, 7.45: Swimming Carnival.

April 1: A.U. Arts Association.

DOINGS OF DENTALS

The A.G.M. of the Dental Students' Society was held in the lecture theatre of the Dental Hospital on Wednesday evening. The election of Mervyn Evans as president and Bloomfield as secretary were small items beside the subsequent events.

Miss Barbara Wagner gave a short talk on "How and Why I Won the Loveday Bonython Prize, and What I Intend to Do About It." The retiring president, Malcolm Joyner, extended an invitation to the members to a cocktail party on Friday next.

The Faculty photo was arranged for All Fools' Day, at 11 a.m.

The dance will be held in the Refectory on Friday, July 1.

Owing to the efficiency of Willoughby as treasurer, the programme for the current year is on a lavish scale.

Chicken and lobster supper, with appropriate liquid refreshments, was served in the Common Room at 10 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

DUPED INNOCENCE

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,—Regarding the pictures in the Sir George Murray building, we wish to criticise one in particular—viz., Renoir's "A Woman Combing Her Hair," at present hung in the Common Room. The artist must have had extremely little education in anatomy, for whoever saw a woman's breast in her axilla. We feel that this picture would give the rising generation (with the exception of medical students—and some others) completely wrong ideas, and we beg to suggest that the picture be removed and hung in the Lady Symon, where women students only would see it. They know better, anyhow.—Yours, etc.,

"The Drones."

SARTORIAL SNOBBERY

To the Editor.

In 1933 I bought a Sports Association blazer, for which I paid 39/6. In 1934 I bought another at a sale, from a man who had won his "Blue" and was able to discard what he called "a beastly concoction." He and I both had unfortunate lapses of good taste—his has been rectified, mine is about to be (if anyone will buy the garments).

Which brings me to the topic of sartorial snobbery. Surely the Adelaide University Sports Association blazers could be made of plain black material, with white cord or tape borders, instead of the present hideous and multitudinously striped cloth—which I have yet to hear anybody praise.

Admittedly I committed a breach of good faith on two occasions, but it has only convinced me more forcibly of the pity of having our supposedly distinctive Sports Association blazers of the same striped cloth as leading city stores make up in thousands and sell for about 20/- (or 5/- down and 2/6 a week) as "gents' natty sports blazers." (See advt. in leading daily.)

A distinctive feature should be the pocket with the University Sports Association crest, and embossed buttons, the cloth remaining as a distinctive and tasteful black, bordered in white. Possibly white with black bordering would meet with approval; but, in any case, the pocket should be the most dominant feature. Some years ago the blazers were of a somewhat similar distinctive pattern.

A prominent Varsity woman student, staying at Kangaroo Island, recently met the s.s. Karatta coming from Adelaide laden with passengers on a "day special" excursion. Her eyes brightened as black and white stripes showed through the seething mass at the rails. "Hurrah! Some Varsity chaps!" But by the time the boat tied up, the stripes became "gents' natty sports blazers." Ask Miss Helen Wighton.

President Bridgland also has, I believe, some pointed views on this topic. He asked me to set the ball rolling—so here it is, coming over the top!

H. G. Andrew.

SPORTING

Editor: D. C. Menzies.

COMPULSORY SPORT.

In some of our Australian Universities membership of the University sports association is compulsory; that is, all those who in Adelaide have to become members of the Union would also have to become members of the sports association. Opinions have been expressed to the effect that Adelaide should have a similar system. At present, the membership of the Sports Association is quite voluntary, the only compulsion being that those who are not members cannot take part in our sporting activities. It has been thought that if all members of the Union were members of the Sports Association also there would be many more players, and the standard of our sport would be raised. If membership of the Union were not compulsory a great number of those students who do not make a great use of the Union buildings would not be members, and this is the position with the Sports Association. It is chiefly those who take a leading part in our activities that are members, and there

must be a great number of students at the Varsity who would avail themselves of the sporting facilities offered if they had to pay the subscription, irrespective of their personal activities. It is to be noticed that the Universities with the greatest numbers in their associations are the most successful in the inter-Varsity contests, and Adelaide might be able to improve on last year's performances if all students were members of our association.

An argument to the contrary is that any form of compulsion is repugnant to students who control their own affairs. "On Dit" professes to be the official mouthpiece of student opinion, and as such it cannot advocate any encroachment on student liberties. And so we are merely endeavoring to point out that something should be done to better our sporting standards, and we are putting before our readers a proposal which may commend itself to them.

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

The tournament began in fine style on Saturday. Five courts were used, and a great number of ties were played. The number of entries this year is easily a record, and the committee appeals to all to be on time for their ties. A list for this week is set out below, and those for Saturday will be posted on the notice board. Results are posted at the Oval, or may be seen in the week-end papers.

Tuesday, March 29.

W.S.H.—J. Hayter, o. 15—1 v. E. Salter, o. 15—1.

W.S.H.—L. Hannan, o. 15—2 v. N. Cowell, o. 15—1.

5 p.m.

O.S.C.—Homburg, J. H. v. Mills, E. W.

O.S.H.—Cleland, D. F., o. 15—3 v. White, J. C., o. 5—6.

C.D.H.—Gurner, C. M., and Trigonning, J., o. 30 v. Catt, A. F., and Slade, W., o. 15.

W.D.H.—P. Winterbottom and P. Salter, o. 2—6 v. S. R. and K. Anderson, o. 2—6.

I.M.D.—Hawkins, F. J., and B. McIntosh v. James, G. R., and D. Jacobs.

Wednesday, March 30.

W.S.H.—N. Walker, o. 15 v. P. Viner Smith, o. 15—1.

W.S.H.—A. Rix, o. 1—6 v. H. Ferres, o. 1—6.

W.S.H.—R. Hiern, o. 15—1 v. J. Stuckey, o. 15—1.

2.30 p.m.

C.D.H.—McPhie, J., and Hunter, T. B., o. 3—6 v. Formby, G. L., and Laycock, F. J., o. 5—6.

3 p.m.

W.S.H.—A. Bickford, o. 15 v. S. MacPherson, o. 3—6.

M.D.H.—Moran, J. F., and C. Williams, o. 30—3 v. McPhie, J., and C. Padman, o. 3—6.

4 p.m.

O.S.C.—Bridgland, G. S. v. Cotton, R. L.

4.30 p.m.

O.S.C.—Searle, H. M. v. Cleland, D.F. W.S.H.—B. Mills, o. —30 v. Winner, Hannan v. Cowell.

5 p.m.

M.D.H.—Hodge, J., and J. Stuckey, o. 3—6 v. Menzies, D. C., and P. Kelly, o. 3—6.

C.S.C.—Wesley Smith, H. E. v. Semler, C. G.

O.S.H.—Mills, E. W., o. 5—6 v. Runge, R. H., scr.

O.S.H.—McPhie, J., o. 2—6 v. White, J. C., o. 5—6.

C.S.H.—Fenner, F. J., o. 5—6 v. Humby, R. J., o. 2—6.

Thursday, March 31.

5 p.m.

C.S.H.—Field, F. L., scr. v. Luscombe, F. J., scr.

O.S.H.—Menzies, D. C., o. 5—6 v. Thompson, J. R., o. 15—0.

C.S.H.—Bundey, G. W., o. 1—6 v. Geisler, W. R., scr.

O.S.H.—Mills, E. W., o. 5—6 v. Cotton, R. L., o. 30—4.

O.S.H.—Runge, R. N., scr. v. Kelly, J. E., o. 3—6.

To be Played at Memorial Drive

Tuesday, March 29.

5 p.m.

O.S.H.—Bridgland, G. S., o. 30—2 v. Plummer, A., o. 4—6.

O.S.H.—Brookman, M. R., o. 4—6 v. Masters, M. L., o. 40—1.

Wednesday, March 30.

5 p.m.

O.S.H.—Zelling, H. E., o. 15—5 v. Cowell, D. F., o. 0—40.

O.S.C.—Kelly, J. E. v. Edmonds, S. J.

Note.—Persons playing at 2 p.m. or at the Drive, will have to obtain balls from the Secretary beforehand, and return them. The winner must report the result on the same day.

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TENNIS RACQUETS, ALL MAKES.
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TENNIS.

Our district team had its second win for the season, and showed that it really has some good tennis players by defeating Glenelg, 8—1. The scores tell their own tale.

In the Pennant Division also our three teams were highly successful.

Scores:—

District v. Glenelg.

Lock-Homburg d. Walsh-Peake, 6—3, 5—6, 6—5.

McAskill-Moran d. Farrant-Marshall, 2—6, 6—3, 6—4.

Searle-Masters d. Cooper-Bock, 6—2, 6—1.

Lock d. Walsh, 6—0, 6—5.

McAskill d. Peake, 4—6, 6—3, 6—4.

Searle lost to Farrant, 6—5, 5—6, 6—1.

Homburg d. Marshall, 6—5, 6—3.

Moran d. Bock, 6—4, 6—4.

Masters d. Cooper, 6—4, 6—0.

A Pennant defeated Sturt, 5—10 to 1—2.

LIBRARY NOTES

It is possible that there are a number of people who do not realise that the Barr Smith Library is not a rigid, ungrudging affair, but one which is continually adding books to its shelves. It is proposed, therefore, that a list of new books be published from time to time in "On Dit." These will be found in the new books section, on the right as one goes into the library.

The latest additions are:
On the Bringing Up of Children. Developmental Psychology. Good-enough.

The Platonic Tradition in Anglo-Saxon Philosophy. Muirhead.

Plato's Conception of Philosophy. Gauss.

Year Book of Commonwealth of Australia, 1937.

The Lessons of Monetary Experience.

Public Enterprise. Science and Social Welfare in the Age of Newton. Clark.

Half-Caste. Rover. Year Book of Dentistry, 1937.

The Eternal Moment. E. M. Forster. Pharos and Pharillon. E. M. Forster.

Men of Mathematics. E. T. Bell. Writings of Oliver Cromwell. Abbott.

CRICKET.

The A.s played East Torrens on Saturday and lost. We scored 119 in 99 minutes, including 23 from Loneragan and 23 (one 6, two 4's) from Davey. As is often the case, our batsmen helped a bowler to gain excellent figures. This time it was D. G. Jamieson, who took seven of our wickets for 31.

East Torrens made 137 for seven wickets. Davey took two wickets for 9.

MEN'S UNION
Annual General Meeting
THURSDAY, at 1.20
Election Results.

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VITAL DECISIONS BY NATIONAL UNION

MANY RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT SYDNEY

The Sydney Conference clearly showed that the National Union has gained great strength since its formation in Adelaide last year. Several very important papers were read and discussed, and various sub-committees did highly valuable work. Some of the principles decided will be discussed from time to time in this paper.

The delegations were composed of very competent men. Outstanding were J. F. Samuel and A. J. Moline, last year's editors of "Farrago"; D. F. Gee and R. L. Harry from Tasmania, the latter being last year's Rhodes Scholar and also the editor of "Togatus"; from Sydney there was the President, Mr. Kevin Ellis, Alan Crawford, Hugh Gilchrist, a past editor, and Cawdery, the present editor of "Honi Soit"; Queensland sent Coaldrake and Gibbs; Adelaide was represented by Bridgland, Wighton, and Crisp.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

Several papers were read to the open sessions of the Conference. The first two were by Helen Wighton on "The Lecture System," and Geof. Bridgland "The New Day." The first-mentioned attacked the present system of lecturing, taking the points as in "On Dit" last year, so we will not press them for the time being (only). Bridgland reported on the steps taken and the degree of success achieved in Adelaide for the introduction of a timetable allowed of extra-faculty activities during the day.

Mr. Crawford gave a long and interesting paper on "The Student's Place in the Community," in which he developed the thesis that the students of the democratic countries are taking least part in the development of their national policy and culture, and this most of all in the Dominions. Hugh Gilchrist put forward a plea for National Travelling Scholarships on the lines indicated in "Phoenix" of last year, and Crisp advanced strong arguments to show why professors and lecturers should be permitted to take an active part in the political life of the community. The outstanding contribution was made by Mr. Gilchrist in his paper on "Principles of Student Government." It is a clear, concise and masterly discussion from a wholly practical point of view. The ideas expressed were purely personal and did not meet with the full approval of the general Conference, but, nevertheless, the paper should afford a basis for future development. We have a copy of each of these papers in the Publications Room and anyone so wishing is welcome to read them.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

Law Students.

A very enthusiastic committee enquired into the various law courses as they exist in each State and the possibility of standardisation. It was felt that only a degree course should entitle a student to be admitted to the Bar. This committee has not yet finished its investigations, but a report will probably be to hand soon, and steps can then be taken to gain the approval of the body of students and the consent of the authorities. The system of articles also, of course, came in for discussion and abuse, and possibly some constructive ideas on this point will be forthcoming. This particular sub-committee seems to have distinct promise and certainly has plenty of material to work on since it is generally realised that the varying systems of training lawyers in Australia are (1) chaotic and (2) imbecile.

Book Buying.

The idea of this committee is to arrange some system of bulk buying and distribution of text books among Union members at a price consider-

ably less than that of ordinary retail shops. A representative of a London publishing firm met the committee and gave valuable information. At present there are no stocks on hand, and it is necessary to order six or seven weeks in advance, but it is hoped that by next year the system will be in operation; if so, books will be obtainable at two-thirds of their present price.

Debating.

One of the duties of this sub-committee was to appoint the team to tour Canada later in the year. The final selection was:—

F. W. Coaldrake, Queensland.

J. Thonemann, Melbourne.

Coaldrake later dropped out and Robson, of Sydney, was elected in his stead. The latter is consistent and steady, while Thonemann is brilliant and witty.

The sub-committee also recommended that the N.U.A.U.S. take over the organisation of the Inter-Varsity Debating Contests—this offer will probably be accepted after the next Inter-Varsity Debates in August.

Travel.

The Travel Sub-committee found that the various travel bureaux were not prepared to grant any substantial reduction for student teams. Enquiries will be made in each State regarding costs, etc., of proposed tours which are likely to interest students, and, if such a tour is found feasible, arrangements will be made accordingly.

Publications.

Several editors and members of staffs were present, and consequently this sub-committee did some good work. It was found impossible for the time being at least to publish a National Union broadsheet, but there was valuable discussion as to methods of production and policies of existing papers. Many of the recommendations made at the Adelaide Conference in this respect have already been carried out in the various States.

General.

The Guild of the Perth University is not able to join the N.U.A.U.S. at the moment on account of its constitution, which is statutory. It may be possible to get over the difficulty by slightly altering the constitution of the N.U. However, the Guild sent a representative, and is with the rest of Australia in spirit if not in name.

The Conference was a marvellous success; it is an important milestone in the history of the growth of the student movement in Australia; its discussions should afford material for many future conferences.

CAFETERIA NOTES

We want every member of the Union to patronise the cafeteria. That is what it's for. But have you noticed how slowly the 1 o'clock queue moves? Why do some people stare at the food as if it were out of reach? Why do some stand talking and holding each other's hands? Please make your choice and keep moving. If ten people waste one minute each at the counter, those further back in the line have to wait ten minutes longer. Work it out for yourselves. Please help the service to function efficiently and quickly.

STANDS EDEN WHERE HE OUGHT?

The whole foreign policy issue will be fully discussed at the meeting of the P. & I.R.C. on Wednesday (tomorrow) night, at 7.45. Everyone interested is urged to attend. We publish below an article which we have received from the President of the club:—

To the Editor of "On Dit."

Sir,—Vacation has come and vacation has gone: and Mr. Eden, even if he hasn't come, has most assuredly gone. Geneva, indeed, is no more: ipse dixit: Mr. Chamberlain himself has told us. And who are we to dispute with the dictator?

Sir, we have been most foully abused and our liberty jeopardised. Let me marshal my points. One: The National Government of Britain was elected on a platform of one plank only—namely, collective security. From beginning to end, Mr. Chamberlain and his financial colleagues have avoided that issue, thwarting the activities of younger men like Mr. Eden, whose minds were not permanently warped by life in a pre-war Europe. Two: Mr. Lyons was elected on a similar platform, but has trailed along in the wake of the British retreat, picking up the scraps and achieving nothing. Three: Australia is an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations, and as such shares (or should share) in the formation of its foreign policy, and must by right be consulted on matters of high policy. (Inter-Imperial Relations Agreement, 1926.) On the admission of Mr. Chamberlain himself, and despite the latest blusterings of our own Prime Minister, there were no proper consultations at all. Four: Mr. Chamberlain is rapidly establishing a dictatorship which the British still have sufficient of their peculiar naivete to cover with the ancient forms and symbols of liberty. He is Prime Minister, virtual Chancellor of the Exchequer, accepted as Foreign Minister, watchdog of the Dominions Office, inquisitor of the Home Office. Ministers are responsible, not to Parliament, but to Mr. Chamberlain and the coterie of vested interests which stand behind him. No need now to laugh at Benito Mussolini's armful of portfolios! Five: Mr. Lyons persists in his refusal to summon Parliament. He treats the representatives of the people like school children. Satis est.

Meanwhile, foreign policy is unchanged. Indeed, Sir, that is true. The National Governments, both in Britain and in Australia, never have had a real foreign policy. The National Governments just vacillated. And as they are still vacillating it is obvious there has been no change. And so away with the League and up with power politics, up with secret diplomacy, up with violent nationalism—up with everything the League opposed. There is no need now to lay real foundations of peace by earnest conciliation, which would influence the lives of the peoples, but in the frantic scramble to be "prepared for war" let us hastily patch up the surface as dictator with dictator—and, above all, let us hasten to preserve the interests of the great investing class. Let us abandon France, Czecho-Slovakia, Russia, and the Little Entente, and be glad if we can let Franco win in Spain—and now let us hob-nob with the dictators.

I am, etc.,

JOHN STOKES.

P.S.—Saturday, 12th March.

I told you so. If it weren't so tragic we could laugh. A change which was at least economically necessary, and could have been made legitimately and peacefully in 1931, and was frustrated by France and Britain long before Hitler's rise to power, has now been accomplished by violence. Italy and Japan have also required a sympathetic approach to their difficulties. Not receiving it, they have overthrown the unduly weighted status quo—by violence. If we are not prepared to see that other countries

MATRIC. REFORM TO THE DARK AGES

Sir,—

The responsibilities of a large family prompt me to support the contributor of "They call it progress." The fundamental inspiration of the "New Educational Fellowship," which visited us last year, was the challenge offered by Fascist educational methods to our own. In totalitarian States the whole educational system has been overhauled to make it an instrument for the instilling of the political ideology of the State; in democratic countries on the contrary educational practice muddles along with no comprehension of the part it could play in the preservation of democratic ideals. It was amply demonstrated by the delegates of the Fellowship that the subject taught and the relative emphasis placed on each were not adapted to produce effective citizens of a democratic community. Reform was asked for, and behold! what a reform our Grey Beards offer us. To the Dark Ages with streamlined ease.

We take the marks allotted to the various subjects as a measure of their relative importance in the eyes of the "powers that be." The first thing that offends is that dear old phoenix, the maxim: "Latin and mathematics are training for the mind." This has been so thoroughly debunked that one can only assume that the Greyheads prefer their own fancies to the facts of experience. Academic ostriches meditating with their heads in the sands of murky ratiocination while the world goes by. Wake up, my Ancients, for the dinosaur has gone and the Ford is here. Some heretics even think the mind can be trained by reasoning about biology or economics, and the reasoning afterwards put to use. But perhaps they are too stupid to realise that the mind must be trained on useless things or it's time wasted. Not enough Latin presumably. And the presumptuous manner with which the sciences and social studies, which in any well balanced course would occupy about 80% of the curriculum, are marked down, makes it clear that the last thing this type of education hopes to produce is a good allround citizen.

We had reason to expect something better than this, for it is emphatically not the type of reconstruction that is desirable—reactionary not progressive, and a distinct announcement that the visit of some of the world's most famous educationists was not welcome to smug little Adelaide. Dear little Adelaide, you museum piece, you precious relic of an age long past, you snub the talkative fools from overseas and show 'em where they get off. A hand-clap for your efforts.

Yours,

"MOTHER OF TEN."

also have interests, and try to do justice to them, then we can expect more violence. And now our eyes are blinded—rather blindfolded—by our own hands. The armaments' race, which was thought to be having a "salutary and quietening effect" on Europe—which was to precede "friendly" talks and real disarmament—have robbed us of all sense of judgment. Mr. Chamberlain's power politics have already signally failed. We are carried forward on a sea of weapons. We are sitting once more on the powder magazine of 1914. And these are the qualities of a powder magazine—it is frenzied but not reasonable, it sees "facts" but ignores permanent realities, and it goes off, "not with a bang but a whimper."

Again, I am,

JOHN STOKES.