

# On Dit

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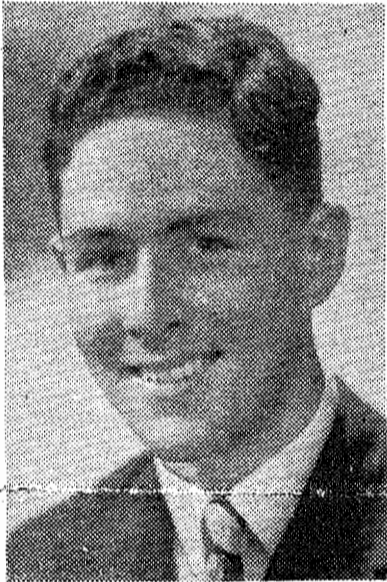
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1940.

No. 13.

1941

## RHODES SCHOLAR

Mr. W. A. N. Wells, a third-year student in law, has been selected as the South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1941. Mr. Wells has achieved a brilliant record in the law school at the University, having gained top place in every law subject in which he has been examined and having been awarded two Stow Prizes.



MR. W. A. N. WELLS.

The new Rhodes Scholar, who is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Wells, of Carter Street, Prospect, received his education at Queen's College and later at St. Peter's College, where he attended from 1933 to 1937. In 1936-37 he was a school prefect, and in the latter year vice-captain of the school.

Mr. Wells passed the Intermediate examination in eight subjects and the Leaving in seven. He gained the Leaving Honours in 1937, passing in English, Latin, Ancient History, Economics, and Chemistry. He entered the University in 1938, and in that year took a first class in elements of law and legal and constitutional history, top credits in psychology, a credit in economics I., and passed in Latin. Last year Mr. Wells gained first credits in logic, a first class in the law of torts, and top place (second class) in the law of contracts.

In both 1938 and 1939 Mr. Wells was awarded a Stow Prize; the winning of three of these prizes entitles the student to the rare distinction of being named as a Stow Scholar. This was last achieved by Mr. D. C. Menzies, Rhodes Scholar for 1939.

Mr. Wells's sporting activities have been principally concerned with football and tennis, in both of which he won his school colours.

At Oxford Mr. Wells proposes to read in law and philosophy, and he hopes to be called to the bar from the Inner Temple. Afterwards he hopes to obtain an appointment to the Malayan civil service on either the legal or the administrative side. He spent part of his early life in Penang, and is able to read and write the Malay language.

Mr. Wells has always interested himself in military work. In March, 1939, he joined the 3rd Field Ambulance, A.M.F., and was later made a corporal, which rank he held until June, when he enlisted in the 2nd A.I.F. He was granted two and a half months' leave of absence to enable him to do early examinations in August.

We all wish him the best of luck in the years to come. Well done, Andrew!

## SIR THOMAS BEECHAM

We were fortunate, indeed, in having such a distinguished and well-informed speaker as Sir Thomas Beecham to address us. His sly humour and biased judgments endeared him to all.

He expressed an uncertainty as to his subject matter, an uncertainty which he said, he always has until he meets his audience face to face. He cited a typical example, a Sydney audience, composed of men in black suits and women in black hats and veils. We, however, apparently put him at his ease with our air of amiable anticipation. He even revelled in the homely spectacle of knitting in the front rows.

Sir Thomas began his talk with a description of Old Europe, torn by a system of revolutions and evolutions, some of them violent and bloody. At the present time, however, Great Britain is the greatest totalitarian State in the world. The people have done it willingly. The people in Germany and Italy have done it unwillingly. Democracy and freedom are catchwords which are unreal and out of date. England is the real totalitarian country, the others are only mobs.

He qualified this statement in the case of Germany, but in Italy he states that the regime is frankly unpopular. The people will be glad when the war is finished. We in England, said Sir Thomas, have no intention of finishing the war soon. We have an enormous debt, and wish to have something to show for it.

The English are the economic masters of Europe. For two hundred years they have interfered, always with the highest motives—a good scheme, by which they help others and eventually get their territory.

Now, either we know how to govern the world better than most nations, or we do not. If we don't know how to govern it better, let's allow somebody to do it better. But no Englishman will admit that he can't govern the world better than anyone else. Germany, France, Italy, these countries cannot govern themselves. Life there is chaotic, a battleground of ideas. Everywhere is ruin and misery.

We always make war a most profitable business, others cannot. Wars are grand things—the women have more to do, the men have a chance to get away from home, and women, after the last war, got the right to vote.

The British race has always had one defect—lack of self-confidence in its capabilities. Intellectually, aesthetically, philosophically, we don't exist. Universities, however, are like brilliant, shining oases in a desert of mediocrity. But we have the capacity to govern ourselves. We are the only really law-abiding nation. We can govern others, well or not quite so well. We say to them, "Yes, you may govern yourselves, some day when you are fit to do so." Everyone knows, of course, that they never will be fit to do so.

The British Empire is regarded in some quarters as a "dear old sleepy grandmother." This is not so, and every part of the Empire has to prove to the world that it can govern the world.

The Government here is not so bad. We enjoy personal freedom, although bound by the law! The war is, to us, a romantic spectacle viewed from a distance of twelve thousand miles.

Mechanization is necessary. We may start in a couple of years.

Sir Thomas then went on to talk of the condition of Europe. From 1760 to 1800 there was no serious war. The balance of power was perfect for peace. This balance of power was upset by the French Revolution, and the "levée en masse." War, hitherto the business of dynasties, became a national business. The nineteenth century dawned with France as the leading country. At the end of the century there were two first-rate powers in Europe, England and Ger-

many. Italy, France, and Russia were second rate.

Germany wanted to build a navy, which would have been completed by 1880. Germany did not wish to provoke a war, but other nations stepped in. Russia and Austria, pan-Slav against three-quarter Slav, upset Germany's plans. We beat Germany, only by the skin of our teeth and the help of nineteen other nations.

In 1940, what are the chances of Great Britain alone (for our contribution is only fractionable) of winning this war if we could only just beat them twenty years ago?

We shall win, asserted Sir Thomas with touching simplicity. The Germany of 1914 was united. It had a magnificent army, well prepared. It had a magnificent ruler, who did not want war.

Germany to-day is disunited. The men under forty are all for Hitler. The men over forty-five still cling to the old regime.

This is a different war from the last, not to be settled by large masses of men. The German army in the last war was never beaten in the field. They may have effected strategic retreats, but not routs. Not an acre of Germany has been occupied in the last four wars. The populace has had no knowledge of active warfare. Imagine the effect of six months of raids over Germany. They can't get through our defences. We can get past theirs.

The country is not united. In 1914 there were many Socialists, but they fought as one man. Now Germany is strong and brittle. Heretofore, she has always been the attacker—when she is now attacked, she will be broken. When the Germans lose the initiative, when they are seriously attacked by air and sea, they will succumb.

As for Italy, the country is not united: It is divided in sentiment into North and South. The Italians, moreover, have never been noted for their military pre-eminence. A French general at the beginning of this war, when asked how many men he would need if Italy entered the war against us, replied that he would need 700,000 if they were against us, and 1,200,000 if they were on our side. They will give trouble for six months or a year, but will go flat like lemonade after that.

Now what has this got to do with Us at the University. Well, in Germany free thought has been on the decline for fifty years. There is no such thing as independence of view. Everything is dictated from political quarters, and what political quarters! The class of rulers is appalling. Sir Thomas knows them. They are a gang of cutthroats, thieves, and robbers such as was never collected in America even in the palmy days of Al Capone. Judge for yourselves the effect they would have on educational centres. Sir Thomas quoted the example of the male soprano who was at one time president of one of the states of Italy, also of the former chauffeur who held a high administrative position in Munich. He also indicated his preference for the chauffeur.

English universities can, should, and do play an important part in national life as centres of culture. They are the quarter where liberty of judgment must exist. If autonomy of idea, of teaching cannot exist unfettered, the University ceases to fulfil its most important function in the state.

Unions of musicians, etc., according to Sir Thomas, are impossible, and savour of tyranny and obstruction. They are contrary to the liberalizing movement of three hundred years' standing. We should have the right of contract, a sacred privilege, lost here, but prevalent in England.

Sir Thomas concluded his speech with a few sentiments which were received with manifestations of glee in some quarters, but were frowned upon by all right-minded citizens.

## PRESIDENTIAL PARAGRAPHS

In an August issue of "Semper Floreat" there appeared an article and a letter from Max Julius, accusing the I.S.S. of political discrimination. He based his very cogent arguments on the "News Bulletin," issued by the World Student Organization, which urged student organizations, like ours, to withdraw their help from the I.S.S. appeal. However, due to the fact that "On Dit" was discontinued, we in Adelaide knew very little of all this, although we have sent contributions to the I.S.S. appeal.

Why, then, was "On Dit" scrubbed off?

On the recommendation of the Editor, due to lack of contributed copy, the Union Committee suspended the production of "On Dit," but gave the President power to authorize special editions.

For many reasons it now appears that it would have been better had some regular edition been maintained, even a single sheet weekly or fortnightly. The activities of a University, the regulations of its authorities, and the outbursts of its students require mention in some such organ as "On Dit."

There are those who agree with the Vice-Chancellor and those who agree with Sir Thomas Beecham regarding the liberties and rights of students. Surely we should preserve our rights, exercise tact in their use during war time, but resist any attempts to whittle away increments of them.

Finally, some mention must be made of an extraordinary phenomenon of present-day student affairs. A childish mood of irresponsibility and vandalism appears to descend upon a few benighted individuals in our midst, prompting them to do such things as sprinkle salt in the sugar basins. One person also felt moved to steal half a dozen valves from the radio in the lounge of the George Murray.

I hope that anyone knowing the culprits will deal with them in the approved manner.

## Front Office News

### LEGACY.

The University has been notified of a legacy to establish prizes in Surgery, but details have not yet been settled.

### SCHOLARSHIPS.

Students are reminded that they have to make special application for the following scholarships and prizes:

John Lorenzo Young Scholarship for Political Economy.

John L. Young Scholarship for Research.

David Murray Scholarship in Science.

David Murray Scholarship in Medicine.

Sheridan Scholarship.

Cable Makers Prize for Engineering.

Details will be found in the University Calendar.

### EXAMINATIONS.

Entries for Degree Examinations close on September 30. Examinations begin on Thursday, October 31. Students entering on two forms are urged to pin them together.

### R.A.A.F.

The Registrar has received notice from the R.A.A.F. Recruiting Drive Committee that applicants who have been previously refused because they have not reached the required standard in any branch of knowledge necessary, but are otherwise perfectly eligible, should apply once more; also those who have not applied are urged to do so. Their country needs them. Special classes will be arranged for such persons to give them the necessary instruction to bring them up to the standard required.

## LADIES --

## Women Students, Past and Present.

Rack your brains! Have you ever taken a book from the Lady Symon Library and omitted to return it? According to librarian's statistics, more than sixty of you have! The books must be returned at once. Re-cataloguing must be done before the beginning of 1941, and how can we do it without the books? Search your shelves and bring them in.

## AND GENTLEMEN --

We have a library, a truly magnificent library. A definition of the word library, to judge from ours, would seem to be "a place where books are to be stored, but are not stored yet." However, if you take the time to look behind the library door in the George Murray Building, you will notice, if you look carefully, a small collection of books, so small indeed that you need to be forewarned of their presence. These books consist mainly of gifts—gifts from the Men's Union, gifts from sundry persons who have graduated from this University and have wished to show their appreciation, and just gifts.

The previous Librarian, alarmed by the emptiness of the shelves, felt himself moved to make an appeal to the graduates for donations of books. The appeal produced one astounding result—one only. Out of the vast number of graduates of this University, one, only one, had the decency to reply. He asked, "What kind of books?" The Librarian told him, and that was the last of the appeal to the graduates. All that effort for not a single book.

We still have the Library. Its shelves are still empty. Instead of a place of intellectual recreation it has turned into a den of iniquity. Quiet is unknown there—when one wishes to work.

The shelves are a constant reproach. What can we do about it? Well, the present Librarian has had an Idea. He offers it for your consideration.

On looking at his bookshelves at home, he was amazed to observe how many books he saw there which he had read, re-read, and not read since. These books no longer interest him. But—they might interest others.

Now, here is the suggestion for your consideration. At home, you, like the Librarian, must have books which you no longer read and which merely clutter up the shelves. You may have one, you may have a dozen. Why not donate these books, suitably inscribed, to your Men's Union Library, to cover the awful nakedness of the shelves. Let us fill our library with books, books which will interest others. You will find interesting books there which others have brought. Let us make our library a place of enlightenment, of enjoyment for all. Let us make it a place of concentration where we can read or work as we please, without distraction.

Books may be left in Mr. Hamilton's office. If you consider this appeal worthy of a response, we shall be deeply grateful. If, like the graduates, you think it "infra dig," WE THINK YOU STINK.

Watch for  
the  
SWIMMING  
DANCE  
after the  
Exams.

Aeronautics Class  
—  
EVERY THURSDAY  
in the  
ENGINEERING LECTURE  
ROOM  
at 5 p.m.

## "ON DIT" STAFF, 1940.

Editor:  
NEILE OSMAN.

Business Manager:  
J. C. MELLOR.

The views expressed in "On Dit" through correspondence, etc., do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Editors, and we reserve the right to obtain an answer to any letter and publish it in the same issue.

## The UNIVERSITY and the WAR

"What is the University doing towards the war effort?" Everywhere the same question is being asked. What are we doing?

The University has been making a noble response to the appeals made upon it. The women raised sixty odd pounds in one term, and, besides, are working themselves really thin with knitting. Donations from various clubs to the Comforts Fund have been made. The Non-Pennant Tennis Club has invested £29 12/- in War Savings Certificates.

Besides this monetary assistance, we know of two hundred and twenty of the staff, graduates, and undergraduates who have joined up. The list of them is on the back page of this issue. What more can an institution give than its members, the life-blood that flows in its veins, and without which life will be all the harder. These have done their duty, but what of those who remain? They have a duty also.

"They also serve who only stand and wait," said Milton. We must not just stand and wait: we must act. We who remain here owe it as a duty to those who have gone to protect us to work all the harder. They are not fighting so that we can waste our time. Many of us are essential to the community. Many of us are not, but we could be of use if we worked hard. We must exert ourselves, we must make every effort to waste as little time as possible.

There are some who prefer to spend their time making nuisances of themselves. There are the self-appointed mentally elite, bedecked with white ties and dark shirts as a sign of their intellectual superiority, so clever in its own opinion that work is a secondary consideration. There are those who spend their time trying, apparently, to win the war on the tables of the Refectory, making strategic moves with salt and sugar, wasting time and property. There are those who unroll the fire hose on the sun porch of the George Murray and remove the valves from the wireless set. There are those about whom it is rumoured that they are taking Honour Schools in Tea. All these drones who batten on the time, resources, and patience of others are potential fifth columnists, undermining, as they do, the will to work which has inspired so many of us.

There are so many things they can do instead. The War Savings group is still pitifully small, with a membership of twenty only. A.R.P. work would take so little of their time, yet its lectures are unattended. The Aeronautics Class provides Air Force Reservists and others with a background which will be useful to them when they begin training. Collapsible tubes may be left with Mr. Hamilton, and the tin and lead extracted from these will be given to the Comforts Fund.

We leave you to consider these thoughts. "England expects that every man will do his duty." Do yours!

## WOMEN DO ALL the WORK for the WAR EFFORT

Someone said the other day that if you want to get anything done in this place, the only way to get it done is to ask the women—and that statement doesn't need much qualification. There are some men down here that are helping raise money, etc. Pilgrim and Mr. Hamilton are the two most obvious ones—but what about the rest?

At the beginning of the year the Union Committee agreed to sanction a University Union unit of the F.F.C.F.—the men students weren't too keen, perhaps they didn't want to give up their fancy work and turn to knitting. With Alan Pilgrim working like a nigger organizing things, that Comforts Fund has developed into something pretty good. The amount of knitted garments that comes in every week is pretty amazing—but the number of women who don't knit is still pretty amazing, too. And you women who think you've done your bit when you've knitted one garment a term—just have another think because you haven't, not by a very long way. Well, that's one thing that the women grads. and undergrads. are doing, and can do still more.

But just note this—last term the Women's Union gave £62 to the fund. Thirty-three pounds odd they raised by the sweat of their brows at the play evenings (two of them, if you didn't bother to ask) and £12 odd they gave out of their own pockets instead of going to the dance that they didn't have, and the rest of the money that they gave was money

granted for the annual "at home" and the Wives' Club tea—and £62 is no mean effort for one term.

But there's still plenty of them that could do a bit more—for example, what about helping the Wives' Club on Fridays when they sew for the Red Cross civilian relief depot? The wives are doing a wonderful job and it wouldn't hurt anyone to drop in for half an hour and give them a hand. Don't be afraid, they won't keep you all day. Yes, we know it's third term, but just try spending an hour there instead of in the Refectory—it's much more fun, for one thing.

Well, that's what the women are doing—they sew and knit and give and work, and let's hope they'll go on doing it more and more. But what of the money to buy the wool to knit with? If you men can't or won't knit, you can organize something to raise money. It's a pity the procession fell through, because that was a good idea, but there ought to be plenty more. It's your unit as well as the women's, so get to work and raise some dough.

## THE CLOISTERED LIFE

Did you notice the fur-swathed glamour girl, obviously out of touch with the men of Adelaide, flaunted by one of our younger engineers at lunch the other day?

Why doesn't Max Harris want his name in "On Dit"? This reticence is surely out of keeping with Mr. Harris' character.

German measles are prevalent in the Engineering faculty. We are led to believe that all cases have a common source.

What is happening in the Anatomy School? Every massage student shies at the word "mud" and displays a dislocated finger. By the way, there has been a series of basketball and hockey matches lately.

While in the Anatomy School we might draw to the notice of some ultra-hungry lunch-pincher the fact that the owner of the lunch is often hungry too.

## TIT-BITS AND SNIPPETS

"And wit its humour lent without its sting."—Thompson.

See the happy nitwit,  
He doesn't give a damn.  
I wish I were a nitwit—  
My God, perhaps I am!

TO-DAY'S BRIGHT SAYING.  
A student in need is a student indeed.

ANOTHER FISH YARN.  
Ermyntude  
Delightful soul  
Kept two goldfish  
In a round bowl.

Every day  
She hid them away  
Behind a curtain  
Because she was certain—she said—  
That goldfish like privacy just as much  
as anyone else does.

TO-DAY'S SHORT STORY.  
Two old ladies went for a tramp.

## The Objector

Your Conscience is "against" the war?  
So let it be. But what's it "for"?  
The Peace which the Gestapo brings:  
The triumph of all evil things:  
Compassion, Honour, Mercy, Truth,  
As practised by the Hitler Youth:  
Instruction formally designed  
To prostitute the infant mind,  
To wean from Pastor and from Priest  
Potential for a super-Beast.  
Your Conscience is against the war . . .  
Are these the things it's praying for?

Your Conscience thinks that War should  
cease;  
But finds no fault with German peace,  
Accepting with a careless nod  
The kingdom of its anti-God.  
It minds not who seduces whom  
If, safe within its narrow room,  
It still can hug itself and say,  
"We took no part in war to-day";  
It will not mind who lost, who won,  
So long as YOU have fired no gun.

Thus does your conscience firmly stand  
Smug in its faith, complacent, bland,  
And say to Heaven, "Observe me, Lord,  
Your follower who drew no sword.  
Then let me, from all evil freed,  
For all the guilty intercede:  
The wicked ones who fought to save  
Your world of Beauty from the grave;  
The falsely-led who overthrew  
The blatant gods the heathen knew;  
The ignorant who, unafraid,  
Died in that ultimate Crusade.  
For when I saw the Devil plain  
I said benignly, "Let him reign,"  
And watched, religiously aloof,  
The world beneath his cloven hoof.  
And weaker men were led to fight  
For what they misconceived as Right,  
But I, O Lord, was not as they;  
I knew Your will and turned away."  
—A.A.M. (from "Punch" with acknowledgments).

## WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

Early in July the Union resolved that in conjunction with the Sports Association a War Savings Certificate Group be formed to give members of the Union and the Sports Association an opportunity of helping in the war effort by subscribing regularly to the war funds. Similar groups have been formed in most offices, factories, clubs, schools, etc. At the time of formation of the Union group the secretary of each student body was informed of the proposal and notices relating to it have been posted on all the notice boards throughout the University. Unfortunately, the result of this student effort has been far from worthy of the student body, the total membership of the group to date being only twenty, this number including some of the members of the University and Refectory staff.

In response to an appeal from the State War Savings Certificates Committee, a separate group has been formed for the staff and arrangements have been made for amounts to be deducted regularly from the salaries of members of this group.

Students, for the most part, have no salaries, but this fact does not, or should not, prevent their making some contribution to their group. Membership is not confined to the student, but can include members of his or her family, and as contributions for as little as 1/- per week may be paid to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hamilton, it was, and is still, hoped that there will be a greater response than the present figures indicate.

Full details of the interest return on the certificates, together with information regarding the objects of the group formations, may be seen on the notice boards or obtained from Mr. Hamilton. The interest rate is higher than the Savings Bank rate and the certificates can be converted to cash at any time.

Most of us, for various reasons, cannot assist the war effort by serving in the fighting forces, but surely every student, every University student, can make some effort, some sacrifice, in helping to provide the essential funds for financing the war by contributing one shilling, weekly or fortnightly, either alone or with the assistance of other members of his or her family. Sixteen weekly contributions of one shilling will purchase a certificate and interest on the amount paid in will accumulate from the end of one year.

The Bank of Adelaide, Rundle Street, or any other trading bank will undertake, free of charge, the custody of the certificates for any member of the group.

The trustees of the Union group are the Hon. Treasurer of the Union and the Hon. Treasurer of the Sports Association.

## INTER-VARSITY DEBATE

Owing to the war, a compromise was made in inter- varsity debating this year, and teams from Melbourne and Adelaide met half-way at Mount Gambier and held the debate on neutral territory, so to speak. The debate was held in the Mount Gambier Town Hall on August 24, the subject being, "That we should not put our liberties in pawn to victory."

The affirmative side was taken by Adelaide, the team consisting of Mr. D. B. Kerr, speaking first and replying, Miss Judith Murray, speaking second, and Mr. E. F. Johnston, speaking third. The Melbourne team consisted of Mr. Sam Cohen, speaking first, Mr. Niall Brennan, speaking second, and Mr. Max Nicholson, third. The adjudicators were Archdeacon Clarke and Mr. Laught, to whom our thanks are due. The decision was given in favour of the affirmative. The chair was taken by the Mayor of Mount Gambier, Mr. Davies. We owe him, especially, thanks for all he did for the teams during their stay (not forgetting the supper provided after the debate.)

The experiment, on the whole, was a great success, and it is to be hoped that it will be repeated, if the decision is made that proper inter- varsity debates must be given up for the duration of the war. It is only by such methods that there can be free argument, and free expression and exchange of opinion.

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

On Monday, September 9, Professor H. W. Gartrell, who was recently appointed Deputy Director, Air Raid Precautions in South Australia, gave an address on Air Raid Precautions in so far as the University staff and students were concerned.

Notices to the effect that the address would be given had been posted in the Refectory and a reference to it had been made at a crowded meeting in the George Murray Building some days prior to the date arranged for the address, but, in spite of the fact that during the last week or so, the question of air raids has, or should have been, exercising the minds of every member of the British Empire, there was a very poor attendance of students. Arrangements were made for Professor Gartrell to speak because he has over the last thirteen months, even prior to the outbreak of war, devoted much of what should have been his leisure time in planning the arrangements which it is proposed should be carried out in the event of the University block of buildings being subjected to an air raid.

For the purpose of Air Raid Precautions, the School of Mines, Technical High School, School of Arts, Teachers' College, and the Technical College have been included in the University Group which has been under the control of Professor Gartrell as Section Officer. This group is part of a larger group including all schools and colleges, which is directed by Dr. C. E. Fenner, who in turn is responsible to the Director of Air Raid Precautions for the State, Lt.-Col. G. Shaw. Meetings of the Control Personnel of the Schools and Colleges Group have been attended by the University Section Officer during the last twelve months, and it is regrettable that the University students as a whole evinced so little interest in what has been done for their own safety. It is true that the probability of the University being bombed is somewhat remote, but it is equally true that it is a possibility and one which should be provided for.

For this reason "On Dit" is publishing the following information, most of which was contained in Professor Gartrell's address. It was thought that many students would be wondering how much had been done in connection with Air Raid Precautions. Much has been done without any outward and visible sign. Whereas the general arrangement for colleges and schools is for the appointment of a chief warden, school warden, and room warden, and for all children to be transferred to trenches in the event of a raid, certain difficulties are associated with the University group, such as changes in numbers of students at different hours of the day and evening, and the use of rooms by various instructors. For these reasons the Section Officer of the University group has been authorized to make variations from the general arrangements. These variations include the retention of some people in selected buildings, which offer the maximum of safety. All the buildings have been inspected by compe-

tent authorities, and the present arrangement is that all women students shall remain in or be transferred to the selected buildings. It is to be anticipated that in the event of raids there would probably be a number of false alarms, and the transfer of women to trenches, which are not completely safe, should be avoided as long as possible. The sites for trenches in University grounds to accommodate men students have been decided on and these can be dug at short notice. Mr. A. W. Bampton has now succeeded Professor Gartrell as Section Officer, and Mr. J. W. Statton as Deputy. An officer in charge has been appointed for each institution in the University group, together with wardens (male and female where necessary) for each building. In the case of large buildings, extra assistants have been appointed. If and when the position becomes more serious, notices will be hung in each room stating by which door the building is to be left and where the class goes. Although many things can be left till the "alert" stage, there is one item in particular which cannot be delayed, namely, the training of men and women to cope with casualties which are inevitable should there be a raid. Our circumstances are such that we should be able to deal with our own casualties better than by relying on the city aid posts. To enable this to be done a survey of men and women with first-aid training has been made, and arrangements made for training others, as well as providing for advanced training. The Women's Union has sponsored a first-aid class for women students, and Professor Goldby, assisted by an officer of the St. John Ambulance Association is giving a course of instruction to men students. Unfortunately, the attendance at the men's class has not been satisfactory. It is anticipated that additional classes will be formed soon, and it is hoped that University students will fulfil their obligations in this respect. The training received can be utilized outside as well as inside the University in the event of air raids, and will always have a peace-time value.

There will probably be differences of opinion regarding methods to be used in regard to Aid Raid Precautions, and when various steps should be taken. In any scheme there must be flexibility on account of lack of knowledge of what form possible raiding will take. The decisions reached are subject to modification with a changing situation. The University as a whole should be grateful for what has already been done, and those responsible for making decisions should be entitled to rely on the co-operation of the staff and students.

Many within the University cannot enlist and take a more active part in the war effort, but it is incumbent on all to give the help they can when called on. It is, therefore, hoped that if further classes in first aid are established there will be a better response by students prepared to give a small amount of their time for this purpose.

## AERONAUTICS CLASS

Every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Engineering Lecture Room an Aeronautics Class Lecture is held. These lectures are arranged to assist Air Force Reservists and others by giving them some knowledge of the work they will be expected to do when they are called up for service.

Last term five lectures were given by Mr. Boris Osman on "Aircraft Engines." This term we have had Mr. Roberts from Parafield on the construction of an aircraft, and Sergeant Grundy, of the R.A.A.F., Parafield, on "Armament" for two lectures.

Last week, instead of a lecture on Thursday, on Wednesday afternoon the class took part in an expedition to Parafield on the invitation of Warrant Officer Abicair. Fifty-four members attended, and, though it rained continuously and the wind made flying impossible for the trainees, we all had a good time looking at the planes in the hangars.

There will be several more lectures before the examinations. This week Mr. Buckley, of Guinea Airways, will lecture to us on instruments, controls, etc. Come along and hear him. You are all welcome.

## A Christian in a Society at War

An Address given by John Alexander, the Travelling Secretary of the S.C.M.

Mr. Alexander gave to members of the S.C.M. and others a most thoughtful address. Those who heard him could not but feel impressed by his quiet conviction and obvious sincerity, and come away feeling that they had learned a valuable lesson in Christian principles and toleration, at a time when it is so easy to be swayed in the direction of bitterness and hatred.

Mr. Alexander began by defining what he meant by "a Christian." He is the man who attempts to make all his decisions in the conviction that Jesus Christ stands alone as his Lord and Master.

This decision, continued Mr. Alexander, must, of necessity, separate the Christian from many other members of the community who largely base their principles of morality either on political, national, or expedient grounds.

The true Christian must then realize these circumstances and must not condemn the community for actions which he, as a Christian, cannot uphold. The Christian is in a minority and must make allowances for the fact that others do not think as he does. This fact is strikingly illustrated, said Mr. Alexander, in a recent case. He referred to the attitude of Mr. Millhouse, who, totally misunderstanding Opperman's point of view, merely condemned the latter as sacrilegious.

Mr. Alexander then went on to define the second part of the title to his address, "in a society at war." There were, at the moment, several societies at war and Christian duty would, of necessity, differ in them. For instance, he said, Christian duty in China resisting Japan was not the same as Christian duty in Japan, the aggressor nation. Similarly, Christian duty in England would differ from Christian duty in Germany.

He then stressed the importance of the Christian avoiding the influence of propaganda in the national state in which he lived. Many German Christians, by these means, believed quite sincerely that this is a just war. How similarly is the Christian mind affected in England.

The Christian duty must obviously be independent of judgment. No doubt, said Mr. Alexander, England was in this case more right than Germany, but that must not influence the Christian to identify England's cause with God's cause, nor consider the British Commonwealth as co-extensive with the Kingdom of God.

Is it then, the Christian's duty to fight the invader? Under these circumstances, the Christian must ask himself, What would Christ do? Would Christ enlist? The answer, said Mr. Alexander, was yes and no.

On the affirmative he quoted the opinion of Karl Barth. Barth considers that in light of the suffering and oppression of the human spirit which the philosophy of Nazism brings, the Christian Church would say to the nation, "You are right in fighting for your freedom."

On the negative side, Mr. Alexander pointed out that Christ said, "Overcome evil with good. Do good to them that hate you." It is this attitude of the Christian that arouses sharp opposition from the community at large. The Christian pacifist who said he would offer Hitler a cup of tea is denounced as a weakling.

In the light of these alternatives, then, the Christian must make his decision as to his duty in war-time. There are many tasks which the Christian may do in war-time which will not conflict with his conscience, nor bring him under the disapproval of national authorities. Even if he finds, like Opperman, that he is clashing with political authorities, he must be true to his conscience. He will thereby do his country as great a service.

Throughout, concluded Mr. Alexander, the Christian must endeavour to retain his faith in the ideals of his beliefs. He must endeavour to out-sacrifice and out-live the world — to follow like Melanie in "Gone with the Wind," the teachings of love and unselfishness, and avoid the materialism and hypocrisy of Scarlett. This he can only do by his undeterred belief as revealed by Christ.

Unfortunately, there was no time for discussion, but the audience felt, in the words of the chairman, Mr. John Gent, that they had gained much food for thought, in addition to several points of view which had not previously occurred to them.

## URGENT -- WE WANT

SOX

COIN

PIPES

PAPERS

SILVER PAPER

TOOTH PASTE TUBES

HITLER'S BLOOD

(All such waste materials to be delivered to the Union Office as soon as possible)

ELECTIONS

WOMEN'S UNION

The following are the nominations for the Women's Union Committee:

- President: Miss D. JACOBS.
Vice-President: Miss M. COWELL.
Secretary: Miss M. SCOTT.
Treasurer: Miss E. CARTER.
Arts Representatives (two required): Miss M. HASTE, Miss P. FRASER, Miss A. HOGBEN, Miss S. MacPHERSON.
Science and Dental Representative (one required): Miss B. WAGNER, Miss A. STOKES.
Med. and Massage Representative: Miss P. GARDINER, Miss M. YATES.
Law Representative: Miss E. TEESDALE SMITH.

The ballot will be held in the Lady Symon every day this week from 12.30 to 2 p.m. and on Thursday and Friday only from 5.30 to 6 p.m. as well.

MEN'S UNION

The ballot for the Men's Union will be held in the Refectory, starting to-day. The ballot will be open from 12.30 to 2 p.m. every day, on Thursday and Friday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. as well, and on Saturday from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Of the sixteen candidates twelve are to be elected to the Men's Union Committee. This is all you have to do about it. The rest is done for you. The twelve elected choose eight of their number to serve on the Union Committee. This body elects the President and other officials. It is all so delightfully simple, isn't it?

What do ordinary, retiring, and junior mean? I'll be the mug—you tell me. Well, to start at the beginning, a junior is one who has not been a candidate before and who will be available for election again. An ordinary is just ordinary, he won't be available again. A retiring candidate has been elected before. We hope you know now what you are doing, because it's more than we do.

Here are the sixteen good men and true. No ballot paper will be considered valid unless it contains at least five names. This does not stop you voting for twelve, but don't vote for any more, as that makes it invalid also.

- R. A. BURSTON, Med., Junior.
H. E. COCK, Dentistry, Retiring.
R. L. COTTON, Law, Ordinary.
R. B. CRAVEN, Eng., Junior.
J. A. GORDON, Science, Ordinary.
M. H. HARRIS, Arts, Junior.
F. J. HAWKINS, Law, Junior.
E. F. JOHNSTON, Law, Retiring.
J. M. McPHIE, Med., Retiring.
N. OSMAN, Arts, Ordinary.
A. P. PLUMMER, Dentistry, Ordinary.
R. C. SPRIGG, Science, Ordinary.
R. T. STEELE, Med., Ordinary.
A. A. STOCK, Commerce, Junior.
J. TREGONING, Eng., Junior.
C. H. WARDMAN, Commerce, Junior.

We leave it to you.

Women's Union Ballot
LADY SYMON
MONDAY to FRIDAY
ALL WOMEN TO VOTE

ENLISTMENTS

IN THE

2nd A.I.F., R.A.A.F., R.A.N., Etc.

Please notify us of any omissions.

Table listing names and military service details for various units including R.A.A.F., R.A.N.V.R., and Imperial.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SWAN SONG.

The Editor, "On Dit." Dear Sir, My erstwhile co-editor and I wish to thank, through your columns, those people who helped us with our work on "On Dit" earlier in the year: all our contributors, both spasmodic and regular, all our staff and those valuable and anonymous ones who weren't on the staff. And our thanks are due to the printer and his staff, without whose superhuman co-operation and patience "On Dit" would never have lasted a week. Yours, P. M. VINER SMITH.

Dear Editor, Do you want to hear a fairy story? Well, I won't tell you one but if you go down on the river bank any morning between ten and twelve you'll see something. And if you went every morning for a week you'd finish up thinking you had the D.T.'s. Guess what? Yours, THE HOB-GOBLIN.

Dear Editor, "On Dit." Dear Sir, I suppose you've heard—at any rate you wouldn't be much of an editor if you hadn't—about all the pinching that's going on in this place. And it isn't only in the Union Buildings—it's everywhere. The women's library is a prime example—just sixty books lifted in cold blood. The men's library is a great deal more sparsely populated than it ought to be, and I hear on good authority that Mr. Cowan has torn at least half a handful of hair out because of people helping themselves out of the shelves. Someone told me once that the University was a place of learning, liberty, and light. Don't believe it. It's a lot of rot. It looks more as though it's an incubator for burglars. And if your success or failure is counted by the amount you manage to abscond with, then I guess I'm an utter washout—thank Heaven. But, seriously, this is either a den of thieves, or we've got a few kleptomaniacs about. The other day in the Refectory at lunch time, a friend and I were just preparing to leave when a youth, standing at the next table, was heard to say, "Don't worry, wait till those two stand up and I'll pinch their seats." My God, what next? Yours, etc., POP-EYE.

Dear Editor, "On Dit." Dear Sir, It has been with mounting alarm that I have watched the progress of a group of hooligans in our midst. Blessed with more spare time than sense, these young horrors have been making a thorough nuisance of themselves, ruining Union property and acting the goat in general. Not only is it impossible to work—which is a sheer necessity in third term, because of the interruptions ever imminent, but the senseless, unreasoning damage to property makes my blood boil. I have observed a panel in one door of the George Murray split when someone crashed into it. Must we allow these annoyances to continue? Will it reach the stage when we will have to pay "Protection," as in Chicago, to save ourselves and our property from destruction? Shall we tolerate this spreading cancer in our midst, this cesspool of lawlessness? I tell you, it makes me mad—and I'm dangerous when roused. So I issue a warning to these young scamps. Interrupt me once more when I want peace and quiet, let me catch you in a destructive mood, and I shan't be able to answer for the consequences. Thanking you for your forbearance, Sir, I am, Yours, etc., HEAVY WEIGHT (Wild).