

ON DIT

Official Organ of the Adelaide University
Students' Union

"Doth sometimes counsel take
And sometimes tea"

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EDITORIAL.

"You Need Urbanity."

Somehow or another, a letter from a former undergraduate has fallen like rain into the Sahara of our correspondence column. And from among the many sensible things in that letter I should like to single out two statements. One is: "I never found . . . anything that I call the University spirit. Nothing but narrowness, apathy, and herd-tactics." Another: "You need urbanity."

It is unfortunate that a non-residential University can never be a real centre of culture. Unless students, in men's and women's colleges, know what it is to live together, sharing experiences, physical, emotional, and mental, picking each other's brains, knowing each other thoroughly, there can be little creativeness in University life. Here we merely pass through as units, with one eye on the future career, having no more leisure than to play a little on the oval, or gossip much in the Lady Symon. Such thought as exists is purely imitative, springing from and partaking of the nature of one's work. We lag behind modern thought, content with second-hand forms; some of us are acutely conscious of this defect, others happy in our ignorance.

One has heard the criticism expressed that this University is "no more than a glorified high school." Why, it is emphatically less. The public school and the State school have both of them strong corporate spirits, concerned with the life of the school, its successes in work and games. The university spirit which we might cultivate would be less purely objective, more of an atmosphere than a spirit, existing admittedly for the individual's pleasure, but serving to put him in sure touch with other thinking and "feeling" individuals within the University. The world need not be astounded by any manifestation of such thinking; the pleasure of the process and its inevitably refining influence upon the individual character should be enough. After all, university life is essentially a period of preparation, of collecting forces which will be put to the test later. Therefore, if we rush into action pitifully unequipped, if we gratify our vanity in that subtlest of ways—herding into societies, making a fuss, imagining ourselves to be living, pulsing brains—we may strike awe into the thoughtless; but we abuse our privileges and do ourselves small good. Better almost to sink into apathy.

Urbanity should serve us here. Not the exquisitely heartless urbanity of a Sir John Chester, but an urbanity born of tolerance, a sense of humour, a balanced critical faculty, and that most blessed faculty which a modern writer calls the faculty of "unshockableness."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor.

Sir, Would you allow me space to criticize the whole University, past and present? Thanks. In 12 years' acquaintance I have never found, except in one or two personalities, anything that I call the University spirit. Nothing but narrowness, apathy, and herd tactics. In my undergrad. days you simply had to belong to the Sports or Christian Union. There were sundry pariahs hardly enough not to: and if their interest was literature, it was at once thought to be mainly pornographic. Nice people, if they spared a moment from their industry in becoming school teachers, read E. V. Lucas and A. A. Milne. A superior Trade School. For social life there were S.C.M. conferences. Sunday School picnics. I was of a religious nature and used to be horrified at all that heartiness with Bibles. And they had no place for any but the converted. You mustn't make them think. I used to creep away from those dreadful "stunts" to read Byron (the erotic parts, of course) by an awful pond where the grass was full of burrs, and wonder why they couldn't put all that organization into a Reading Party or Literature Conference. The S.C.M. has never done anything but reassure itself. Last week's answers to Julian (in whose letter I see the University spirit) were typical—a turning of the other cheek, and while Julian was thus preoccupied, they one and all dealt him one below the belt. All they could do was retort, "We do think." I'd like to take them to a settlement in Canning Town, London Dockland, where I saw some University people, not thinking and listening to speakers, but working. You will want to know what I mean by a University spirit? Well, first, a University is a place of broad culture. This cuts out studying exclusively to qualify for a job. (You probably won't get one, anyway.) And a militant earnestness about religion. It implies a knowledge of modern thought in all branches, philosophy (with religion as a sub-branch); the arts—literature, music, painting, and sculpture. There are so many cantos to be de-canted. For instance, the cant of people who won't read any work of a Bad Man (Oscar Wilde) nor look at the pictures of a Mad Man (Van Gogh) in spite of the fact that the one had greater influence on all branches of English writing than any one of the last 50 years, and the other introduced a treatment of light and colour-form that must set the standard for the next 50 years. You need urbanity. In sheer self-defence, Julian and I have to have a slap at the S.C.M., but if all type of thought were tolerated there would be no need to. You take everything too seriously. People are not necessarily bad hats because they can't join in conferences; and if they read Aldous Huxley it's not "Antic Hay," but the essays in which he has shown himself the most tonic critic of modern times. I will say that in many respects you have advanced. Your Magazine and this paper show it. And the coeducational gaities in the Lady Symon and the sitters on the lawn, but there is still room for more clubs and interests. If there were fewer games and swatting and social fixtures, people might read and write and talk. Yours, etc.,

N. B. SAINT.

The Editor "On Dit."

Sir, After reading the letters of tremendous length in "On Dit," by members of the S.C.M. I felt very remorseful and repentant. I was reminded of the last sermon I heard and the gossiping admiration of the elders, "Wasn't he wonderful to-night?" Nevertheless, I feel annoyed. I feel annoyed that the religious should have bagged so much space in "On Dit." In plain words, is "On Dit" a religious tract? Are we being inveigled into reading a paper which we should use for different purposes, if we knew it was the official organ of an evangelistic society? Are we being bamboozled? Yours suspiciously, MEDICO.

To the Editor "On Dit."

Sir, I was very pained to see such a large amount of space devoted in your last issue to such a socially decadent institution as the S.C.M. What part could this "Movement" possibly play in a modern University such as ours purports to be? The flaming notices which have so justly plunged Julian into despair are obviously a vain attempt to keep alive the dying embers of prejudice and superstition. The tranquil rationalism of University life is surely incompatible with the emotionalism which so obviously found expression in the letters published in the last "On Dit." One of your indignant correspondents says, "Religion is not self-culture." It is indeed to be regretted that this is not so, as the "Movement" could find so much scope for its energies in attempting to instill a little of that quality into the puerile tribe who loiter round and litter the Refectory, disturbing the peaceful calm with insipid girlish voices, forlornly betokening a pitiful immaturity, so offensive to the ears of, Yours, etc., CULTURED.

The Editor.

Dear Sir I feel bound to make two apologies—to the S.C.M. for laying myself open to its misunderstanding, and to the Varsity at large for causing the last issue of this paper to look like a tract. However, there are one or two things I should like to clear up. "Not Julian's Disciple" seems to think my "deep and difficult" religion something darkly esoteric. Perhaps I meant "difficult" more than "deep." My point was: need religion be degraded to the same level as a talkie and be hawked about on posters adorned with wisecracks? However, the poster incident seems closed, and I apologize for reopening it. As regards that mystifying word "blague," I must make it clear that that was a beautiful flight of fancy on the printer's part; the epithet should have been "blah." [Sorry, my fault.—Ed.] I should like the S.C.M. to feel that I wrote, not as a malicious individual, but as representative of a body of opinion whose members would have been content otherwise to sneer and go no further. By thus dragging the matter into prominence there has been produced such an excellent and sane statement of S.C.M. principles as that in "Nil Desperandum's" letter. On the other hand, the niggling philistine note of "Julius Caesar in Great Hope" almost inclines me to fall again into despair. For the aim of my original letter was to criticize taste rather than ethics. Perhaps my purpose would have been served better had I merely quoted these following lines from Clive Bell: "One of

the qualities that most clearly distinguish a civilized man from a savage is a sense of humour; and the sense of humour is in the last analysis nothing but a highly developed sense of values. By a sense of humour I do not mean a taste for buffoonery and romps . . . I mean the power of perceiving the ludicrousness of taking things too seriously and giving them an undue importance; and this power is enjoyed only by those who can tell ends from means. To attach to a means the importance due to an end is ridiculous; and because all human achievement falls something short of the ideal to a thoroughly civilized person all human endeavour will appear at moments slightly comic." Nevertheless, if members of the S.C.M. turn to page 112 of "Civilization" and follow on this quotation for a few lines, they will find a perfect justification for a sincere pursuit of "love, beauty, and truth." So *pace vobiscum*. "JULIAN."

The Editor "On Dit."

Dear Sir, It is a deplorable fact that there is no Debating Society in the University. It is true law students wrangle over the technicalities of their trade, as may also those professing to study medicine, science, or commerce. It is also only too true that another society, which falls far short of its aims, hurries through a so-called debate occasionally before producing a play, a prima donna, some supper, and some dancing. Debates in that society are mere formalities to justify its title. Most other Universities of note, and even those of no note, have realized the value of public speaking. Many include it as a degree or diploma unit. The public schools in this State are doing their best to remove the dearth of really efficient public speakers. As the University failed to take the lead, it at least behoves it to arise from its inertia and follow suit. The Men's Union is a suitable body to take the matter in hand. The co-operation of trained speakers could easily be obtained both from within and outside the University. Subjects debated could be of an economic or political nature, which might remove for the biased and intolerant the stigma of the formation of a Labour Club, and at the same time endeavour to remove the worse stigma of the bias and intolerance itself. Hoping your readers will give this matter their earnest consideration, I am, Yours faithfully, "DEMOSTHENES."

Dear Mr. Editor of "On Dit."

In the last issue of "On Dit" your correspondent, "Topsy Turvy"—I beg pardon—Flossy Fluffytop," made such a horrible error in mistaking King William Street for Hindley Street. No one could ever mistake the two, except, of course—Unfortunately, I was not at the evening; but I do know all about the studio in question, the Ab-intra Studio; but coming from it as "Topsy Turvy" did (I do mean "Flossy Fluffytop"), and intoxicated with the "incense stuff," and having seen the effective work of their hosts, and producers of the play, Alan Harkness and Kester Baruch, any "Topsy Turvy" or "Flossy Fluffytop" might easily have made such a mistake. Still vivid in the memory of play lovers is the splendid success of the production "Iphigenia in Aulis," done recently in St.

Peter's College, and which gained the favourable opinion of "On Dit." The latter, however, made no allusion to the work of Alan Harkness and Kester Baruch. The costuming and setting for this play were all designed by Alan Harkness, while Kester Baruch was largely responsible for the lighting effects.

I wonder if we could convene a production of another heavenly play at the University, where we could enjoy, say, "Prometheus" at home, secluded from the noise and disturbance so peculiar to St. Peter's. Possibly an "exciting cushion" might be provided for "Flossy Fluffytop," if he is well enough to stand up to it (I mean the play). There is just the possibility that to help keep alive the beauty of the Greek tragedies, St. Peter's may be willing to co-operate by lending us their costumes.

Yours, etc.,

"ZENO."

To the Editor "On Dit."

Sir, It was with a feeling of heavy sorrow that I read the effusion of your legal correspondent in your last issue. So far as his somewhat heavy and laboured style enables me to determine, he seems to view with alarm the progress of women towards that perfect liberty which is theirs by right. Can it be, Sir, that your correspondent is biased by the recollection of an unsuccessful suit or by a feeling of inferiority which, perchance, oppresses him when in the company of women? Let him remember that violent denunciation will do more harm than good to the public belief in his contentions and that he may preserve unsullied those delicate sensibilities of his by holding himself aloof from all dealings with woman-kind. If it be necessary for him to have communication with his declared foes it were well for him to bear in mind that a gentle admonition directed to them will render his cause more service than the most terrible reproof. I am, Sir, etc.,

SQUILLA.

To the Editor "On Dit."

Sir, As one who has been a frequent attendant at the Dance Club I would like to protest against the poor standard of dancing there. Why is it that the average shop girl can dance ten times better than the average University student? Why does a woman with several years' training in music walk about a dance floor quite regardless of the time (much less of the rhythm) of the music? Of course, it is only "Jazz" music, but even the negroes can keep time to that. It still seems to be the idea of University students that it is correct to dance wholly on the toes and to take steps so short that no swing is possible. No wonder they "pump-handle" their arms! No wonder people say that modern dancing is not dancing but "merely walking about." Why don't they take advantage of the lessons available? Why don't they buy a two-shilling book and learn a little about dancing, before they make a show of themselves in public? No wonder alcohol is considered a necessity at a dance by our society people! Yours, etc.,

HALISTERESIS.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

Law.

Sage provisos, sub-intents, and saving clauses.

On 28th June, in the Law Lecture Room, the Law Students' Society debated a question of Company Law before Mr. J. S. Murray. B, a shareholder, had applied by summons to have his name removed from the list of shareholders of a company then in liquidation. Mr. Glynn appeared for the applicant, Mr. Irving (with him Mr. Bright) for the liquidators, Mr. McGee for one shareholder, and Mr. Tuck for the contributing shareholders other than B. The case turned largely on the interpretation of Sec. 122 of the Companies Act.

After a long and singularly placid debate Mr. Murray decided in favour of the liquidators and consequently refused B's application. He spent some time in answering questions from the bar on Company Law generally, and on the motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Glynn, was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

S. C. M.

WHAT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY?

On Friday, July 1, Mr. Biaggini addressed the S.C.M. on "What of Private Property?"

We had met there solemnly (?), he said, to criticize the order in which we lived; and that kind of criticism didn't pay. Robert Owen had found that out. In twenty years we shall, most of us, have compromised and adjusted ourselves to the ways of our "tribe," that is, if there is any "tribe," for "if we don't put this crooked world straight it will cease to be in its present form." We must, he said, face the problem that we have taught men to believe, that they have an equal right to happiness; how about giving them the means to happiness?

We are trying to enthrone reason, and reason demands that man should be rewarded for what he does, not for what he has. We must have a revolution (!); it is the only way of establishing an order in which everyone will have an equal opportunity of achieving happiness. It depends on the people themselves what kind of a revolution it will be.

Mr. Biaggini then gave a short sketch of the use of rights in property from primitive times, pointing out that a man had a right to what he needed and could use (e.g., a plough), but that a state of society which allowed men to hoard property they did not use or, which is worse, used for harmful purposes (e.g., running a dishonest newspaper), could not be allowed to continue.

We should have to adjust our ideas about the holding of property, Mr. Biaggini said, strengthening some ideas and attenuating others. Perhaps in fifty years time we shall have gone some way towards this, and will look back with amazement on the order of to-day.

U.W.L.S.S.

On Monday, August 11, the Women Law Students held their second debate.

This time the freshers debated a question set by Miss Sheila Maddeford, "Can women perform any useful functions in Parliament?"

Misses Gladys Matthews and Betty Mayo convinced us of the moral and intellectual attainments of women, of their entire fitness for the position of legislating in Parliament, in fact, of the necessity of having them there.

Misses Nancy Burton and Audrey Gregory immediately succeeded in dispelling all our illusions. Women, so they said, are unreliable illogical, extravagantly emotional biased, and, moreover, they can best perform their proper functions in their own sphere. That sphere, we were surprised to hear, is the "Home."

Miss Maddeford gently pointed out faults, and awarded well-deserved praise, especially to Miss Gladys Matthews and Miss Betty Mayo, who had succeeded in winning the debate.

Miss G. Matthews proposed, and Miss N. Burton seconded, a vote of thanks to Miss Maddeford.

The Library Clock.

Esteemed Mr. Editor—It grieves me to complain,

But a duty must be carried out, though greatly it may pain.

Now here's a fact I've noticed since the year was first begun:

We always have to guess the time or tell it by the sun.

Oh! would we had an hour-glass, or an egg-glass p'raps would serve,

Or even an alarm clock, if no better we deserve.

If you'd bring this one petition to the ears of those in power,

Perhaps they'd ring a bell to wake us just before the hour.

I'm sure that if they realized how we hated to be late,

They'd something do to save us from so terrible a fate.

FLOSSY FLUFFYTOP.

[We understand that the authorities have the matter well in hand.—Ed.]

Coming Events.

July 19th. Science Association meets in Refectory at 8 p.m.

July 20th. Arts Students' Association dance, Lady Symon Hall. Dental Students' Association meets at 8 p.m. at Dental Hospital.

July 21st. Medical Students' Society meets in Refectory at 8 p.m.

July 23rd. Women's Union "At Home" in Refectory at 8 p.m.

July 15th. Prof. Hancock on "Nationalism," Lady Symon Hall, 1.20.

SPORTS NOTES.

Boxing and Wrestling Club.

There was a good attendance at a general meeting of the Boxing and Wrestling Club on Tuesday night. The Secretary's report and the constitution and rules of the club were received and adopted, and the following officers were elected: President, Mr. C. L. Abbott; Vice-Presidents, Professor C. S. Hicks and Dr. LeMessurier; Secretary, Mr. E. S. Wyatt.

After the meeting members of the club were entertained with an excellent exhibition of wrestling by Messrs. Bennett and Cooper, who have offered their services as instructors to members of the club.

Activities will be commenced immediately, and excellent facilities are offered for students wishing to learn boxing and wrestling. Students are urged to begin their training now in preparation for any contests which may be arranged.

Lacrosse.

After having been severely defeated by North Adelaide the "A" team decided to change some of the positions. Bonnin was brought from back to attack (his last year's position) and Turnbull was promoted from Aii to replace Thyer, who ably assisted the fine performance given by that team. The A team had a meritorious win against the top team (Goodwood), winning by 12 goals to 6.

The Aii team threw about 4 goals more than usual, i.e. 4 goals, and will endeavour to defeat their rivals for the wooden spoon—West Torrens—on Saturday next.

McKay, despite a ruptured leg, played an heroic game for the Aii, but worry and evening excursions are not good for training, are they, boy!

It seems as if the A team is practically finalized for the inter-Varsity, and last week's result does much to consolidate it. Cook did not get his usual "bag" owing to the alertness of his opponent.

The club has three representatives in the Interstate practice, Cook, Bonnin and Muecke. It is very early to say yet, but it looks as if all three are fairly sure of inclusion.

The B's went down unexpectedly to Dummies owing to a shocking exhibition of passing. Thomas played an excellent game in goal.

The O's are rapidly improving and have won four out of last five games.

Football.

This is undoubtedly the clubs best season for some time. Although we don't want to count our chickens, but the way things are going it looks very much as if the team will be undefeated. However last Saturday's match against Alberton showed that it is not going to be all beer and skittles, and some officials of the club are of the opinion that a couple of sound defeats would do a good deal towards improving our inter-Varsity chances.

There is no doubt that many men are hanging out except when it is essential for

them to exert themselves, and this has been more noticeable in the last few matches. While admitting that all would do their job when the crisis came, we think that the Melbourne match will be about as much as most of the team will be able to stand up to, and from this on everyone should make it their business to settle down to steady training and hard practice.

McMichael had the misfortune to sprain his ankle on Saturday and won't be available for this week's match against Goodwood at the Oval.

Gillespie is playing the goalsneak position with much success. A high mark in front is a big asset, and Hann is finding his nippy ground work much more help to him out on the half-forward lines.

Thompson is back again after his injury which didn't seem to do much damage to his football.

McBain, who has been playing good football for B's, has been promoted as a ruck man for the coming match.

Elix is another one off the injured list now and is showing better form than ever on the left wing.

Porter may be going up North soon, but it is possible that he will be available for inter-Varsity selection.

It is interesting to note that if the A's win on Saturday they must win the minor premiership.

Owing to interference with their usual players and their positions by the A team, the B's have not yet won a match, but they certainly have the material.

Apocryphal of the B's, it is interesting to note that in 1928, when the A's were barred from playing B Grade players, this team was a member of the final four. It is high time that something definite was fixed to allow some sort of stabilisation otherwise the second team will never get anywhere.

Incidentally, the O's have won their last three matches.

Baseball.

Despite the fact that supporters of the A team considered that victory was a thing of the past the team came good against Adelaide on Saturday, thus maintaining their position in the four. For the few weeks previous to this the fielding, especially the in-field, was shocking, the out-field having very little to do except turfing the two catches they got.

The young Fellow hit a home run well into the right field "bleachers," and his major only got a safe hit!—the first for six matches. Cheers and heavy spitting from the rooters!

In the last three matches Alex Smith has connected safely 7 times out of 11 up to bat.

Keith Taylor was responsible for a nice little "Texas," and in this Gordon Hughes, the big row from B's kept him company. Everybody was very pleased to see Kingley's comeback.

Ray has been left out for the last few matches, and Todd has taken his place behind the homestead. The vacancy so caused in the outfield has been moderately filled by Magarey and Burden.

The B's are doing very well. They beat Adelaide, 14—1, and the O's are now regular match winners.

Hockey.

The A team having successfully defeated the second team, Wanderers have now definitely established a good lead and have a strong hold on the minor premiership. Turner is now playing for the senior team and is filling the right-half position.

Dorsch is still leading the backs in their rough and vigorous play in which he is ably helped by his young edition.

Jimmy Allen, from India, has now played for the following countries: England, Africa, South America, West Indies and Canary Islands.

Bills has not yet struck his form of two years ago, but manages to snap an occasional goal, and also to keep the forwards on the go.

O'Connor is playing a fast game at inside left and always gets his goals from short range.

The B's are third on the list, being narrowly defeated by the top team last Saturday, whilst the O's hope to repeat their victory of some months ago, when they got a forfeit.

Suggested Introductory Remarks for a Students' String Quartette.

(From our Musical Correspondent.)

Everyone who is anyone has attended the String Quartette Concerts recently given at the Conservatorium. Each concert was a great pleasure to all present, but to model students like ourselves it was more than a pleasure. We learned the "done" thing. It is the Done Thing we would emulate now. You observe that we have arranged ourselves into a nicely symmetrical semicircle, and the 'cellist introducing the players in a few well-chosen words. But we have no lamp. This is regrettable, because the lamp is a most important accessory to any good string quartette. It should look like a starved toadstool, and must be so placed that it makes the heads of the players shine when they stoop over their instruments, and shows up the immaculate partings of the 'cellist and second fiddle. Its most important function is to cast a greenery-yallery light over their fine interpretative countenances. I may remind you that in the best psychological circles greenery-yallery is the colour of the intellect, while physically it is the colour of mal-demer. A touching thought that, upon which one might write a pensive essay.

Schubert, whom we are to play to you this afternoon, was, as you know, a composer of the early fifteenth century. He is most famous for his dance music, written for the pipe-organ and concertina, an appealing combination of instruments of which he was the originator. This dance music he constructed in an American rhythmic idiom, which he acquired when he visited Australia, for the opening in that country of the Panama Canal, believed to be the tallest canal yet constructed with eleven thousand jolts in every wave. It is supposed to have been

those jolts which gave him the inspiration for his syncopated rhythm. But besides dance music he also wrote a hundred and seventy-nine string quartettes, and for this reason is often referred to as "Papa" Schubert, and also because he kept a canary and had a shrewish wife called Xantippe.

The particular quartette of which we are playing part this afternoon is posthumous, which, as you know, means that he wrote it after his death. The first movement is an allegro con brio. We are giving the allegro this afternoon, and intend to render the con brio at a later concert. It is written in an orthodox key, and is bright and lively throughout. It opens with a bold figure, in which all the instruments play in unison—at least, we hope they will. Then notice particularly the piquant effect when some of the instruments make the repeat and the others don't. It is followed by an andantino of exceptional charm, every note an artistic joy, every moment one of pure bliss. It is, however, far too long, repeating itself after the manner of the masters of that period, who, when they hadn't much to say, said it several times.

In closing, I might add that considerable credit is due to myself for the arduous and painstaking research which preceded the compiling of these notes. This was done in the Reference Library, from books which were all on the top shelf. As a result, however, it is a satisfaction to know that I have been able to present you with historical details which are absolutely unimpeachable.

We will now commence to play.

STUDENTS!

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