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ON DIT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION.

REX
THEATRE

HELD OVER
For One More Week.
**"THE LIVES OF A
BENGAL LANCER"**
With Gary COOPER,
Franchot TONE,
Richard CROMWELL,
Sir Guy STANDING.
Also—
"3 MARRIED MEN"

Vol. 6

ON DIT, WEDNESDAY, 28th APRIL, 1937

No. 6

LAW STUDENTS v. THE COUNCIL

AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

The Council's treatment of the law students is a matter of vital importance to all students of the University.

As a result of two or three 'incidents' in the latter half of 1936, the Law Library has ever since been closed at night. The injustice of this action must be apparent on a consideration of the following facts.

In each case the same four or five more turbulent elements of the law school were responsible, and the cost of their little night's entertainment has been the exclusion of all the students, to whom access to the library at night is indispensable.

In each case it is hard to doubt that a little alertness by the janitors—forewarned by previous experience—could have prevented the damage occurring, and laid the culprits by the heels. Instead, the efforts of a few persons without any legitimate interest in the library, some of whom have since left the University, is made the reason for closing it to all.

During the day, between 9 and 5, first year students are able to use the library, but others who are articulated have no opportunity of prolonged useful study, owing to their precisely coincident office hours. Yet references by lecturers to reported cases, and text books, bulk just as large in the grasping of a proper knowledge and understanding of a course. In regard to text books of the more specialised variety, all students are more or less equally at a loss; but references to cases cause the greatest hardship and injustice, by reason of the fact some practitioners' offices have a library of Reports, while others have not.

The inequality of such a situation, where half the students, through no fault of their own, have no access to a most important source of study, while the other half has, cannot be continued if an equal standard is to be demanded of all. Where a subject is particularly obscure, the test of success is likely to become the accident of whether the articulated clerk's principal has a library, or perhaps whether he is sufficiently amenable to secure the opening of the Supreme Court Library at night by accompanying his clerk at his studies.

In their efforts to convince the Council of their earnest necessity, the law school have established a disciplinary committee. The Council, in reply, has conceded the opening of the library on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Two nights of about two and one-half hours each is perhaps sufficient for those taking three subjects—who can invariably keep those nights free. Presumably those who cannot are unfortunate, and must be content to labor under their disadvantage.

The situation is paradoxical—the students of justice undergoing an encounter with a very real injustice. But it concerns all, for it may arise in any other Faculty. Swift and effective action is called for before present students are irremediably behindhand in their work, and before a bar to individual development and research is irremovably established.

—N.C.H.

Reported Art Discoveries

ARRANGEMENT MYSTIFIES EXCAVATORS

Rare Works Uncovered

Thought to be part of the lost Carnegie Art Collection, some twenty pictures have been discovered during the week as a result of work undertaken by the Excavations Club.

The Carnegie Collection, believed to contain over two thousand reproductions of famous works of art, was presented to the University over a year ago. After one brief showing in the Elder Conservatorium, the collection disappeared.

The pictures discovered during the week were found in two separate fields—the basement of the Elder Conservatorium and the office of the Librarian's secretary in the Barr-Smith Library. Field workers believe that further rich discoveries are likely in the latter place.

Rare Van Goghs.

Barr-Smith Library, April 19.—Several of the finest color prints yet seen in Adelaide of the work of Vincent Van Gogh and several sketches by the same artist were discovered to-day in a large container unearthed in the office of the Librarian's secretary.

It has been definitely established that these are part of the lost Carnegie Collection.

The color prints, revealing a freshness of color undreamed of by those who have not seen the originals, include one of the bridge and one of the boats which are familiar subjects to all admirers of Van Gogh's work.

Medici Prints Unearthed.

Elder Conservatorium, April 20.—Twelve Medici color prints, whose presence and arrangement are puzzling

excavators, were found to-day in the southern hall of the Elder Conservatorium.

Placed on chairs in the almost perpetual twilight of the room in which the Carnegie gramophone is housed, these pictures suggested by their arrangement some ritual observance, the esoteric meaning which has not yet been established.

Armed with torches and carrying canaries to detect the presence of noxious gas, members of the Excavations Club, who are searching for the lost Carnegie Collection, entered the southern hall, a semi-subterranean chamber, late this afternoon.

The pictures discovered are: Hopner's Countess of Oxford, Gainsborough's Duchess of Devonshire, Romney's Mrs. Taylor, Constable's Bridge Over the Stour, Corot's Souvenir de Morte Fontaine and Belfry at Douai, Titian's The Tribute Money, Boucher's Madame Pompadour, Pieter de Hooch's The Spinner and the Housemaid, a watercolor by Russell Flint, a landscape by Richard Wilson, and a study of the Spey by Lamorna Birch.

Stop Press.

Elder Conservatorium, April 21.—The twelve pictures discovered here yesterday are creditably stated to be on loan from the Art Gallery. No explanation as to who borrowed them or why has yet been advanced. They have now been hung on the walls.

Do You Debate?

"Speak now or forever . . ."

The first meeting of the Debating Sub-Committee has decided that the first debate shall be held on Thursday, May 6, at 7.40 p.m. This is essentially a Union thing, which you simply must attend. It is hoped to stage two debates for the evening, while before then the President of the Union will be in the chair to answer questions relating to Union affairs. Other officials of the Union will be on tap that night for cross-questioning. The combined societies will provide supper. This evening is for all those who debate, hope to debate, should debate (this means YOU!), and those who merely like listening.

Then on Wednesday, May 19, the Union will debate against the Graduates. This is part of the Graduates'

Week celebrations—and what a party! For Mr. Kriewalt is gathering the old champion team which won Adelaide the Inter-Varsity debates, way back in 1924 (was it?). Come and speak on the 6th and you may represent the Varsity on the 19th.

Debates for second term are fixed for June 17, July 7, July 22 and

COME	May 21st
TO	Tickets for
THE	Union members, 5/10;
BALL	Others, 8/9.

August 11. It is hoped to run Inter-faculty and Men's versus Women's Union debates. Please note these dates and keep them free; it will be worth your while.

GOLDEN GLORY CHOCOLATES

MacRobertson's

STAND UP AND SING

(By Mr. John Horner.)

Stirred by "On Dit's" challenging cry for more singing in the Union, some fifty of us held an experimental meeting during the lunch hour on Tuesday last week in the Lady Symon Hall. The result was encouraging and led to the following conclusions:—

1. That community singing would be an even more "howling" success (a) if the verses sung were of more local, topical and even personal interest, and (b) if students, having lunched, could linger at their tables in the Refectory during the singing instead of having to make a special excursion to the Lady Symon building.

2. That some primitive part singing is by no means beyond the resources of the Union members, but would need to be rehearsed separately from the community singing.

Ruthless Rhymes Wanted.

In regard to (a) the Editor of "On Dit" will be glad if the Varsity wits and versifiers will send to him for approval and (if necessary) censorship up-to-date verses designed to be sung to well-known tunes.

Against (b) the objection has been raised that the vast intellects at the high table might resent any interruption of their lofty post-prandial conversation. The easiest way to meet this objection is to write such verses about members of the staff as their colleagues will delight in singing. The following limericks have been submitted already:—

The knowledge of Mr. La Nauze
Is useful so far as it gauze;

But why can our clever
Economists never
Unburden this world of its wauze?

A pupil once played to Maud Puddy
A difficult clavichord study.

"You're muddled," said Maud.
"You have fuddled each chord,
And your pedalling's perfectly dreadful."

The next experiment in community singing will be made in the Refectory Lounge on Tuesday, May 4, at 1.30 p.m., and, on the following Tuesday, for those who would like to seek the more serious pleasure of singing in parts there will be simple glee singing in the Lady Symon Hall.

IF YOU CAN'T WRITE VERSE, BE THRIFTY.

Readers,—As Mr. Horner says, it is hoped to make community singing a regular affair. Also, we want to keep the songs topical. The question of printed sheets arises immediately. The Union paid for the first lot, but, if the hoped-for song column in "On Dit" eventuates, it cannot be expected that the Union will continue to stump up money for printing.

Therefore we advise you, especially if your memories are somewhat dulled (by study), to hold tight to your copies of "On Dit" containing songs, and bring them along with you next time we meet together in the Lady Symon for community singing.

The editors are expecting an overwhelming supply of skits before the next issue goes to press. Here is your longed-for chance to get one back at your pet lecturer! Make the most of it.

Once the column is established, it cannot help but be a success. Be one of the founders, and help to get it on its feet.

AS WE PLEASE

THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

I have been looking at Mr. Mencken's huge book, "The American Language." When I say "huge," I do not mean that it runs into ten volumes, though, as a matter of fact, its single volume is an unusually large one—large enough to make it most uncomfortable to read by being held in the hands. It is huge in the sense that a gigantic amount of work has gone into it. The number of articles, editorials, speeches, essays, books, and twopenny-halfpenny pamphlets which are cited by Mr. Mencken has to be seen to be believed. They date from the first settlement of America to the present day, and Mr. Mencken himself admits that he has worked through every discussion of the American language printed in the British Empire since 1922. It is unusual to find a page in this book which has fewer than three documentary notes at the bottom.

It is not long since I read somewhere that to talk of the American language was highly improper—an unnecessary sneer at America. Mr. Mencken differs strongly from this view. He is proud of the American language and its pronunciation, and to him English is decadent and effeminate. (He cites a number of English authorities on this point.) Accepting Mr. Mencken as our authority, we must cease to think of American as a rather lurid offshoot of English. It is a foreign language, as foreign as French or German; and if we accept this, I suggest that all the arguments so often quoted in support of the teaching of these languages in our schools apply with double force to America. Perhaps the day is not far distant when we shall see American a compulsory subject in the Intermediate, and then, perhaps, some hard-boiled business man will complain of the stultification of young minds by the highly academic subjects taught in schools.

You don't believe all this? Very well. Let me show you some different specimens of American. Here are two honest American citizens in conversation. They are "vaudevillians," talking, as far as I can judge from the first question and answer, about the way Fortune is treating them.

1st V.—How they comin' Big Boy?
2nd V.—Not so hot, not so hot. I'm playin' a hit-and-run emporium over in East New York.

1st V.—Gettin' much jack?
2nd V.—Well, the storm and me is cuttin' up two and a half yards, but when the feed bill and gas for the boiler is marked off, they ain't much sugar left.

1st V.—Why don't you air her and do a single?

And so on. Here is a delightful piece of modern verse in American:

Pash Flaps M.C.
Fan Clubs Rated
Worthless to theatres
As B.O. Gag.

Is it not charming? The word music, the rhythm, the imagery? Reader, the joke's on you. This is not verse, but a newspaper heading. It was printed in the "Manchester Guardian," which explained to its English readers (perhaps "translated" would be better) that the intention was "to convey the assurance that impassioned young women organised into clubs because of their admiration for the master of ceremonies have been found useless as a device for increasing box-office receipts." We can only admire in silence the American brevity. Look at this for highbrow stuff:

"Criticism has at least the following categories, differing greatly in the volume of their verbal manifestations, and not equally zoned. . . . However

"On Dit"

Editors: Miss HELEN WIGHTON, FINLAY CRISP.

Editorial Staff: R. A. BLACKBURN, D. C. MENZIES, Miss EDITH IRWIN.

Business Manager: E. F. JOHNSTON.

Wednesday, 28th April, 1937

The Student Front

Something is in the air—not spring—but merely a vague something. Students no longer linger around Refectory tables littered with empty milk bottles, but roam about more or less sociably to watch the Men's Union Building rising from the dust, or the footbridge being hoisted into position. On Thursday, at lunch time, we heard the strains of music floating from the Refectory piano. Finally, the unexpected happened last week, when the Elder Hall was packed to overflowing at the first Students' Concert for 1937.

So now we are definitely up and about let us look about for something into which we can throw all our energies. Firstly, there is the Union's new debating enterprise on Thursday week. The earliest Universities put debating to the front of all their activities; then gradually it began to fade into oblivion. Here is our chance to rescue it from a lingering death.

When you have read Mr. Horner's article you will find that not only is community singing to be regular, but that "On Dit" is to run a column for topical skits and songs.

Law students are fighting for their library, or rather for release from an obnoxious system of parental patronage: while Art lovers, headed by the Excavation Club, are doing their best to unearth, keep, and make the most of the Carnegie Art Collection presented to the University.

Mr. Cowan, the librarian, is doing his utmost to have the Barr Smith converted into a lending library, which will undoubtedly be to the benefit of students.

The graduates intend to hold a "Back-to-Varsity Week" from May 14-21 as we announced last week, and are relying upon present student encouragement.

Each one of these ventures need our whole-hearted support. If they are to come to anything they will have to be backed by a consolidated student enthusiasm. Students of the Varsity, unite! Let us show the Council, the graduates, and each other of what stuff we are made!

1937 CHAMBER MUSIC RECITALS

In the Conservatorium South Hall at 8 p.m.

May 3 Haydn. "The Emperor" Quartet. Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739). Concerto for Oboe, String Quartet, and Cembalo. Oboe: Mignon Weston; Pianoforte: John Horner. Waldo Warner. Trio, Op. 22, for Violin, Violoncello, and Pianoforte. Arved Kurtz, Harold Parsons, and George Pearce.

May 17 Mozart. Quartet in D major. Percy Grainger. (a) "Walking Tune" for Wind ensemble. Flute: Constance Pether; Oboe: Mignon Weston; Clarinet: W. Robertson; French Horn: Percy Gray; Bassoon: William Honan.

(b) "Mock Morris" String Sextet. Assisting Artists: Clarice Gmeiner and Ronald Porter.

Brahms. Quartet in C minor, P. 51, No. 2.

much you accept of Frobenius' theory of paideuma as general and over-reaching, overstretching the single man, whether you take this as a literal fact, or as a convenient modus of correlation, the spoken idiom . . . is a prime factor . . . progressively so as any modality of civilisation ages." This is Mr. Ezra Pound. Can we call it American and not English? I am not so sure.

At any rate, Mr. Mencken is convincing that there is a difference between American and English, and that it is a sufficient difference to make them two separate languages. But then we are fairly caught. If we follow Mr. Mencken we must realise that it is as silly to adopt the imbecile "O.K." for instance, as to talk about "savoir faire" and "soupçons," and all the other idiotic French phrases which are so common, and we must stop talking about the beneficent influence of the virility of American or the moribund English tongue, which is priggish rot.

The funny thing is, however, that Mr. Mencken himself uses unimpeachable English throughout his book!

May 31 Brahms. Trio in C major, Op. 87. Violin: Sylvia Whittington; Cello: Harold Parsons; Pianoforte: Jessica Dix.

Herma Sandby. (a) "Lounge"—for String Quintet. (b) "Berceuse"—for Strings and Piano.

Assisting Artists: Clarice Gmeiner, Alice Cronin, Marjorie Hounsell, Alla Zevan, Ronald Porter, and J. H. Calverley. Herma Sandby. Quintet for Flute, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Piano. Constance Pether, Sylvia Whittington, Clarice Gmeiner, Harold Parsons, and George Pearce.

June 7 J. S. Bach. Overture in B minor, for Flute and Strings. Flute: Constance Pether.

Heinrich Finck (1445-1527). (a) "O schönes Weib," for Voice and Strings.

Percy Grainger. (b) "Willow willow" (Old English Air) arranged for Voice, Harp and Strings.

Assisting Artists: Linda Wald and Clarice Gmeiner.

Beethoven. Quartet in B flat, Op. 18, No. 6.

June 21 Wm. Lawes. Fantasy and Air, for Six Strings (17th Century).

Assisting Artists: Clarice Gmeiner and Ronald Porter.

Frank Bridge. String Quartet, "Three Idylls."

Beethoven. Trio in B flat, "The Archduke," Op. 97 (1st movement only).

Maud Puddy, Arved Kurtz, and Harold Parsons.

Schubert. Quartet in A minor, Op. 27.

ADMISSION.

A transferable Season Ticket (reserved seat) at 7/6 may be purchased to cover the whole Season; but admission to single Recitals will be 2/- (payable at the door). Owing to the smallness of the Hall, only reserved seats can be guaranteed.

Season Tickets may be purchased at the Offices of the University, the Conservatorium, or at Cawthorne's, Rundle Street.

EAST MEETS WEST

School System Slated

Three members of the Conservatorium—Misses Molly McLachlan, Joan Kneebone and Beatrice Pether—came to the Arts Association meeting last Tuesday, and when the new Secretary (Mr. Blackburn), wearing a new navy-striped suit for the occasion, had read the minutes, they played a delightful trio. This, we hope, marks a definite step in the breaking down of the barrier between Conserve and other Varsity students. An appropriate letter received by the Editors of "On Dit" was read out. This is what it said:

Sir,—I want to express my very sincere appreciation of your kindly editorial in regard to the Conservatorium. It is my greatest wish that there should be a closer fraternity between our students and those of the other faculties. I want all University students to feel that the Elder Hall, as well as the South Hall (in which the Carnegie gramophone is installed) is as much theirs as ours, and we shall welcome them at all times to any music-making that they would like to attend.

E. HAROLD DAVIES.

(The enclosed programme of Chamber Music recitals is printed below.)

Then came the presidential address on "Art and Us." Mr. Maurice Finnis fished for fundamentals and tried to awake in the audience a growing conception of the value of art. This was done not merely by words, which he explained are inadequate, but by expressive handies and sounds. At one stage Mr. Finnis tried to ph-ph-ph like a brass band.

He read poetry, and slated the present school system, where small boys are forced to swallow their mental education whole and spew it up again during exams. "The nature of sickness," observed Mr. Finnis philosophically, "is that the food has not been digested." He suggested the importation of such a system as that of Ocelong Grammar School (where Mr. Russell Ward abides), and said that there schoolboys from ten to fourteen were taught primarily to use their hands. They make their own ties, scarves and study curtains. They act, sing and go for excursions. Thus, gradually, their minds are awakened and they ask "Why?" all these things are.

"CAESAR'S WIFE"

(By Our Dramatic Critic.)

If the Adelaide Repertory Theatre continues to produce plays that fall to such a regrettably low standard as "Caesar's Wife" (current at the Tiv.), it is certainly failing to achieve its objective. Though the play itself had some considerable merit it was unsuited to the audience which attended, calling, as the play did, for very sensitive acting by skilled actors. Without these it fell flat. The play was not very effectively cast, and the actors were for the most part not at all at their ease. Exception must be made of Mimi Mattin, who stood out from an uninspiring, perhaps uninspirable, cast. Good work was also done by Alex. Foster and Lilian Pritchard.

The thing that impresses itself most clearly is the lack of poise and balance, and also the apparent nervousness of the actors in using their hands effectively—gestures speak quite as loudly as words, and an actor who merely stands on the stage and indulges in just a few stock gestures cannot fail to arouse the irritation of any intelligent audience. Although amateurs are very apt to scoff at the professional theatre, I would suggest that they might be considerably improved by studying at every opportunity the manner in which men and women to whom acting is not only their bread and butter but their great delight in life to tackle a part.

We see that the plays which the Repertory Theatre intends to produce in the near future show more promise, but until it makes a serious study of the art of acting the Rep. must be merely stagnant.

The Economics of Socialism

MR. LA NAUZE'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Isaachsen, Vice-President of the Men's Union, presided at a meeting of the S.C.M., under M.U. auspices, and introduced Mr. La Nauze.

Mr. La Nauze professed to offer merely a few remarks on the economics of socialism—of a social system where means of production were in the hands of the State, and some approximation to equality of income obtained. Speaking of the present system, he showed that prices, expressive of consumer demand, were the directors of the profit-seeking producer. The factors of production would go to the highest bidder, subject (as the whole system is) to considerable frictions and complications in our real world. Mr. La Nauze was of the opinion that under socialism, too, there was necessity for a wide free consumers' market, or else the equality of income would mean nothing. The distribution of income would lie with the State, upon some criterion of social justice—probably income should best be divided between wages and some type of social dividend.

The Calculus Problem.

Yet socialism would still be faced by the "economic problem" of what should be produced, and would have to employ a "rational calculus" for its solution. So socialists and would-be socialists should not let their thoughts rest on the moral and sentimental aspects: it has its all-important economic side, too. Nor does one solution cover the whole matter: the local problems for each area must be given separate treatment; e.g., in the case of England there must be taken into account the fact that we have big industries fitted for export production.

The Trial and Error Factor.

Prices to-day do not represent the real wants of the population, because of unequal incomes. But given intelligent managers and administrators, under socialism, still using "the market," prices might well do this. There will inevitably be a sphere wherein production is arbitrarily decided upon—as in the case of armaments to-day. The socialists, in deciding how best to use scarce resources, must rely partly on previous experience, partly on reasonable judgment. They must start with a provisional allotment of factors (reckon a long-term rate of interest, etc.). Taking a period, they must plan it, and check the result at the end, and then plan a further period in the light of past successes and failure. It must be a process of trial and error—as, in fact, it is to-day under competition, though we do not notice it so much, as it is long-established by now.

Socialism Possible.

There is no "a priori" reason why a satisfactory calculus should not be evolved. But you must get people of sufficient intelligence and devotion to be able to see what they are doing, and to make alterations from time to time. There is no reason in economic theory why socialist planning should fail; but there are many problems to be faced squarely—as those of foreign trade, use of money, and the dynamics of change under socialism.

FOOTBALL.

Come and see the A's play their first match, v. Saints' Old Scholars, on Saturday, at the Varsity Oval.

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SPORTING NEWS

BASEBALL.

Results:

A's defeated Kensington, 4-3.
B's lost to Sturt, 8-13.

The A Grade match produced a high standard of baseball for a first match. Early innings on both sides were dominated by good pitching. Varsity were first to break through, scoring a single in the fourth innings, Taylor crossing the plate on Swan's hit to right field. In the next innings Sutherland hit a two-bagger to right field, went to third on Taylor's hit, and came home on left field's error. The ninth innings was begun Varsity leading 2-1. Kensington came out with four bunched hits, to score two runners. However, several hits, aided by the catcher's error, allowed Sutherland and Thompson to cross, giving Varsity the odd run necessary. As a whole, the team showed good form, only two errors being recorded. Reilly pitched well, especially in the early innings. Kilgariff did very well with the big glove; and Taylor, playing his first game with the Varsity for two years, proved what an asset he is going to be this year.

Safe-hitters.—Sutherland, Gillespie, Taylor, Stevenson (2), Gould, Swan (1).

The Varsity B's looked like starting the season well when they led 8-1 in sixth innings, but the rot set in properly at this stage, and they were beaten 13-8. As is usually the way, they managed to make some well-timed errors, and spoil their otherwise good chances. Noack pitched well in the early innings, and O'Brien showed to advantage, both in the field and with the bat.

Safe-hitters.—O'Brien (3), Oldfield, Eckersley (2), Johnston, Kerr, and Noack (1).

DO YOU BOX, WRESTLE, OR FENCE?

We would remind readers that the Boxing, Wrestling, and Fencing Clubs are now in full swing, and that intending members should join up promptly if they are to benefit from the introductory lessons, which, especially in fencing, are the most important. The Men's Fencing (and Women's) Club is in the charge of Miss Wanda Edwards, recognised as one of the best teachers of fencing in Australia, and as membership is free to members of the Sports Association, all who are interested in fencing are urged to take advantage of the expert tuition available. The Fencing Club (Men) meets in the Lady Symon Hall at 5 p.m. on Thursdays, and the boxing and wrestling in the Jubilee Oval Pavilion on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively at 5 p.m.

RUGBY.

On the Monday holiday, University played a composite team picked from all the other clubs, and made up of players with a possibility of selection for the State team, and therefore called "The Possibles." As is usual in Rugby, a team that has had some experience together, and developed a little combination, will always be superior to a team lacking this, even if the individual players are not so brilliant.

Varsity was unable to field its full A team, but the newer players did their bit valiantly.

The game opened with The Rest pressing to the attack, and coming so close to scoring that only a forward pass in the actual goal area saved the try. After defending stoutly for some time, Varsity forced the ball to the other end, and on several occasions, from a loose ruck, a forward got over to touch down. Each time, however, the kick failed.

The backs, who hitherto had been almost completely starved, as our forwards, though shining in the loose, could not get possession from the scrums or line outs, now began to see the hall once in a while, and ran with good effect, to score between the posts, and this time the kick went over, and

at half-time Varsity led by about 14-0.

Scoring was much less frequent after half-time, but one back movement delighted the spectators, every man in the line handling twice, to score from two-thirds of the field. The opponents, however, were not so delighted to discover that at this stage we had two more backs on the field than they did. This matter being adjusted, the scoring ceased for the day, although the play was better and more even.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLUB.

The first A Grade match of the season was played on Saturday, 24th. Wirrawarra defeated University 5-1, the Varsity goal being shot by P. Salter. The Varsity team held their opponents well until nearly half-time, when they shot two quick goals. In the second half Wirrawarras were the superior team. The Varsity was represented by H. Ligertwood, C. Ward, J. Ward, J. Ray (captain), B. Irvine, J. Cleland, N. Newland, G. MacDonald, M. Nock, P. Salter, and P. Winterbottom.

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MILITARY NOTES.

In order that members of the University may not be in ignorance of personalities in the University Company, a few points about those of importance will be given from time to time.

O.C. Company.

To the uninitiated, this means "Officer Commanding," and not "or right," or some similar gem of English literature. This gentleman commands the company, and should be treated somewhat as a minor deity. Our O.C. is Captain F. G. J. Place. Yes, you can see him any time you like at C.M.L. Building, where he will give you any information concerning the company—or, rather, almost any.

"The Skipper," as he is sometimes irreverently called, has been in the army for many years, was at Saints (Up the Blues!), Hobby, to the best of our knowledge, information, and belief, B. Coy.

Second in Command.

Captain Pickering. As this officer has but recently come to us, we know not whether he has any peculiarities. However, in time we will find out, and, of course, advise all parties.

The subalterns now with us are but two. But what a pair! Lieut. F. A. G. Tucker (his friends call him George) guides the feet of the Saturday morning platoon along the straight and narrow path. He is SOMETHING at the School of Mines. Drives a Baby Ford, cream in color (the car, not F.A.G.T.), and was in charge of the competition platoon on Anzac Day. (Which won.—Ed.)

Lieut. W. K. Mussared has recently joined us from A Coy. His heart has been with us for long, and now he looks after the welfare of No. 5 Platoon (Keswick)—the Monday night wallahs or sahibs, etc. His only vice is apparently rifle shooting, and his hobby, kettle-drumming.

Next issue we hope to discuss the backbone of the company—the sergeants.

THE BIOLOGICAL OUTLOOK

SCIENTIFIC GATHERING

On Monday, 20th, the Science Association had an entertaining evening, when our Patron (Sir Stanton Hicks) talked to us on "The Biological Outlook." We were a little mystified at first by the array of objects on the table, including two carved figures, an Etruscan vase, a laudscape and several tumblers; but Sir Stanton assured us they were of biological interest.

For the next hour our attention was held on topics ranging from Mr. Goodall's pies to the ideals of Communism, and on each subject Sir Stanton urged us to bring to bear a biological outlook. A hundred rats bred under similar conditions showed a wide variation in response to the same stimulus, and this variation, which is always present, forms the bases of plant and animal life. We were reminded of the variation we have found so disconcerting, in the effect of the same quantity of alcohol on different people. Though 2 and 2 equal 4 at school, it is doubtful if this is so at the University—the only reliable results in biological work are obtained by averaging the results of a great number of tests. Applying this variation to humans it is seen that no two individuals are alike, and so every individual varies in reaction to a standard code of behavior—they cannot be expected to respond similarly—and yet all judgments on breaches of this code are based on the assumption that they can and should.

However much research work is done on the nutrition problem of modernised countries no improvement will be seen in the people until the people themselves heed the results—until they give up their narrow, individual desires for the 1937 Buick and actively help their race by producing more and better children. We are now breeding from badly nourished stock—it is almost too late! We are interfering with Nature's selection of the fittest, and to replace this we must be doubly sure to produce the fittest. With which provocative remarks Sir Stanton concluded. After many questions, more or less relevant to the subject, we bent the biological outlook towards the question of supper.

RIFLE CLUB.

NEW CLUB SHED OPENED.

Saturday, April 17, marked the culmination of one of the Rifle Club's cherished hopes, when the new club shed was declared open at the Port Adelaide Rifle Range. This palatial mansion has been constructed by the Sports Association for the club, which has been the only club in the Association which has not had changing rooms. No longer will we stagger around in seas of mud looking for shelter from the downpour. Now we will sit in comfort, nay, luxury, and curse the weather with impunity.

C. J. Starling (Club Captain), in presence of a large group of visitors from other clubs, the military units, and club members, introduced Mr. Hamilton, who, on behalf of the Sports Association, then asked Brigadier Martyn, Base Commandant, to open the shed. This ceremony took place shortly after 4 o'clock. The success of the afternoon may be judged by the fact that at closing time the openings were still proceeding merrily.

In conjunction, a one-round shoot for Sports Association members was held at 900 yards. C. J. Starling scored the possible, while R. E. Allen and L. D. McKenzie each scored 39, and T. H. McFarlane and A. E. Welbourn 38.

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Correspondence

POLITICAL EDUCATION.

[The receipt of the following letter prompted us to publish Mr. Gilchrist's Conference speech on the Social Sciences.—Ed.]

Sir,—Political culture—by which I mean at least a universal elementary understanding of public affairs, at most an intelligent interest, even a fair degree of participation, in political, economic, and sociological questions and processes—is surely a necessary corollary to any democratic system. On this, not merely on any paucity of citizens, was built the democracy of ancient Athens. Likewise, the immense progress of Soviet Communism to-day may be traced in no small measure to the political culture aroused and fostered by it throughout the length and breadth of the U.S.S.R.

The state of democracy in Australia was forcibly and deplorably revealed by the late Federal Referenda. The majority in all sections of the community seemed incapable of even grasping the fundamental issues involved, or were insufficiently interested to make the initial effort required to do so. This lack of political culture is apparent on all sides. If we wish to be rid of the taint of parochialism—if we wish to be a community capable of the long view—both in internal and external affairs, and one capable of adapting itself to the changing social conditions of modern life, then we must look to the roots of this problem.

These, I believe, are to be found in our present educational system. It is not merely that the aim of education, as expounded by Dr. Priestley, needs stressing. We must go further, and alter the very context of education, especially at the elementary stage. As every child is taught to read, so it should be taught the elementary principles of economics, of political institutions, and of sociology. At present it is only the advanced students, and few even of those, who come in contact with such subjects. The general mass of the students are sent forth into the world with nothing but vague memories of wars and imperialistic conquests on which to base their interpretation of public affairs. Is it little wonder that there is no political culture in Australia to-day?

"KRUPSKAYA."

THE FOUNTAIN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—A Fresher asked me: "What is that gaudy green thing stuck in the wall?"

"Oh," said I, "that is a fountain."

"What sort of a fountain?" it persisted.

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"A drinking fountain, of course," I replied.

Then I went to a lecture, and while I automatically copied down the lecturer's flowing phrases I began to wonder. Had I told the truth?

I know for certain that the object is a fountain, but can it truthfully be called a drinking fountain when no one has yet been caught drinking from it? It had never occurred to me before that perhaps this particular species was an abbreviated model of the ornamental type of structure found in ancient Mesopotamia or of the Enneakrounos of Athens. But, no, I feel sure that our fountain was put in with our money for a purpose.

Why, then, do people shun it? Is it—(a) because it is difficult to manipulate; (b) because Varsity students never drink water; or (c) because it is infra dig to drink from a fountain, especially in such a conspicuous place? For the first, we cannot pass judgment until someone tries out the fountain. For the second, I know that there is a definite demand for water, or the Union Committee would never have been so extravagant. I did hear a rumor that the fountain was installed to save students having to pay a penny for a glass of water in the Refectory. Therefore, it is the third object on which is the fountainhead of all the trouble—Q.E.D.

In a recent questionnaire circulated among candidates for the Union Committee by "On Dit," comments were invited on the fountain. It was noticeable that both our new President (Mr. G. S. Bridgland) and one of the committee's most venerable members (Mr. A. H. Magarey) considered the fountain a good thing.

Therefore, may I suggest that to get over this childish and sheeplike silliness on the part of all "the future leaders of the nation," the two men mentioned above be asked to lead a "campaign to induce students to use the fountain." I think it would be best if they gave a public demonstration, presided over by Mr. N. H. Wallman as Chairman of the Men's Union, one dinner hour in the near future.

I trust, Sir, that you can do something in this crisis.

LETTICE DRINKWATER.

MORE ABOUT CATS.

We feel that, while it comes from an entirely independent source, this letter is in some senses complimentary to one received lately by the On-looker.

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Dear Sir,—Knowing that you are always interested in, and open for an investment in, a good live proposition, I take the liberty of presenting to you what seems to be a most wonderful business, in which, no doubt, you will take a lively interest, and subscribe towards the formation of the company.

The object of the company is to operate a large cat ranch near Sydney, where land can be purchased cheaply for the purpose.

To start with, we want about 1,000,000 cats. Each cat will average about 12 kittens per year; the skins run from 1/6 for the white ones to 2/6 for the pure black ones. This will give us 12,000,000 skins a year to sell at an average of 1/6 each, making our revenue about £2,500 per day.

A man can skin about 50 cats a day at 5/- a day wage, and it will take 100 men to operate the ranch; therefore the net profit will be £2,475 a day. We feed the cats on rats, and will start a rat ranch. The rats multiply four times as fast as the cats. If we start with 1,000,000 rats, we will have four rats per cat per day, and we will feed the rats from the carcasses of the cats from which the skins have been taken, giving each rat one quarter of a cat. It will thus be seen that the business will be self-acting and automatic throughout—the cats will eat the rats, and the rats will eat the cats, and we shall get the skins. By keeping the

The Social Sciences

A STUDENT OPINION

This is our fifth student conference topic. Mr. Hugh Gilchrist, B.A. (Sydney), last year's editor of "Honi Soit," made the following speech for the students before the full conference. It has extreme relevance to South Australia.

If I may be permitted to speak on a matter which hardly concerns undergraduates in any direct fashion, but which rather belongs to the broader issues of educating a people for democracy in its fullest sense, I should like to comment on what seems to me to be a virtually suicidal gap in the education system of New South Wales, if not in the other States of Australia. My only excuse for offering this paper here is that it is a condensation of a series of articles published in the Sydney University newspaper, "Honi Soit," of which I was editor in 1936.

I refer to the inadequate attention to the social and political sciences, and the grudging recognition which is given them, both in secondary and in tertiary education.

Our Parlous State.

In New South Wales, for example, the subject of economics was for long graded as an inferior subject in examinations at the end of the secondary school course. At Sydney University it has been impossible to make a specialised study of the social sciences while proceeding to an arts degree, because of by-laws requiring three years of a language course or courses. Such circumstances, it is conceivable, may also exist in other Australian Universities. And only four months ago New South Wales was afforded the disquieting spectacle of a member of Parliament securing, without opposition, an amendment to an otherwise progressive Education Bill, which amendment in principle, if not in fact, brands modern history as a dubious and unsuitable subject for school instruction.

In the majority of historical texts, which aim to cover the entire phylogenetic story of man, we have come to expect towards the end of the concluding chapter this familiar warning:

"The nineteenth century has witnessed extraordinary progress in the physical sciences, accompanied by a comparatively insignificant advance in the social sciences." And we are left wondering whether the latter will ever catch up on the former in time to prevent a wholesale extinction of civilised things. If you have dipped into that immensely stimulating fiction by Wells: "The Shape of Things to Come," you will perhaps appreciate more acutely the urgency of this situation.

Some Remedies.

But in New South Wales one sees only a very rudimentary recognition of this urgency. And, therefore, I would urge with the greatest insistence two means by which this situation may be to some extent remedied.

There are, first, the earliest establishment in all of the Australian Universities of a post-graduate course in

rats' tails, we get the Government grant of 4d. per tail.

Other by-products are gut for tennis racquets, whiskers for wireless sets, and the cats' pyjamas for American flappers.

Awaiting your prompt reply, and trusting you will appreciate the opportunity to get rich quickly.—Yours faithfully,

D. S. WINDLE, Manager.

P.S.—Eventually we will cross the cats with snakes, and they will skin themselves twice a year, thus saving the men's wages for skinning, and also getting two-skins from each cat.

social and political science, and secondly, the earliest establishment of a secondary school course, in all States, leading to a public examination in the elements of sociology, of political science, and of constitutional law.

The post-graduate course, I suggest, might be included as a two years course for a Diploma in Social Science, the first year of which might well be fitted in, if so desired, as the third year of the arts degree course.

The secondary school course would naturally only include the most elementary systems, which are accepted as facts. The Australian political system, and, perhaps, a discussion of the various systems of government outside Australia, with emphasis on Australia's Dominion status and position in world affairs, would be profitably included in the course. The instruction would keep pace with world affairs and local affairs by reference to the daily press, and the attitude of civic responsibility at present hardly existent in senior school pupils would be developed to good effect.

Before concluding, I think it would be opportune for me to refer incidentally to the need for a Council of Social Sciences, similar to the C.S.L.R.; as you know, it has been suggested that such a Council should be established at Canberra.

Finally, political education of the child by the radio broadcast, the daily press and the unqualified parent, is, I feel, a most inadequate insurance premium against the stagnation or collapse of our present struggling democracy. And no less than the school pupil, and perhaps even more, must the University man and woman enjoy the opportunity of unprejudiced instruction in the science of the social forces which dominate our environment.

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