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Vol. 7

ON DIT, TUESDAY, 15th MARCH, 1938

No. 1

ALL HAIL THE GEORGE MURRAY BUILDING

N.U.A.U.S.

Successful Conference

Another National Union Conference, richer in gains for Adelaide than the first, was held in Sydney in January. The story of the conference is a long one; specific subjects will be dealt with, as last year, in successive issues of this paper. The gains should, many of them, be seen and enjoyed in more tangible form during the coming year.

We still believe that the less tangible gains from these conferences are the greatest—that most comes from our student leaders meeting colleagues from other Universities, and (as in this case), actually seeing how Unions like those of Melbourne and Sydney are run. Two of our three delegates had never seen other Universities or Unions before; the third had seen them only as a passer-by. But now they can all claim a fair knowledge of Sydney, and a general acquaintance with Melbourne. Our Union will benefit.

HOW THEY WORKED.

Running from Monday to Monday, the conference—especially in Sydney's climate—proved exhausting for none more than for Mr. Geoff. Bridgland, the Adelaide President, who took the chair in the absence of the National Union's own President. There was no rest, nor even a 40-hour week, for the wicked! Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions, together with meetings of the six sub-committees, kept delegates at work daily from 9 a.m. till 10.30 p.m. Nor did the conference begin with the opening session, for Adelaide's delegates had all been at work previously on papers. After two very heavy days of papers and work, the conference gave very heartfelt support to the papers of Miss Wighton and Mr. Bridgland—on "Lecture Reform" and "The New Day" respectively.

The sub-committees dealt with Publications, Debating, a N.U. Travel Bureau, Book Buying Schemes, Women's Interests, and Existing Law Courses. Other subjects before the general conference were Council Representation, Evening and External Students, Student Elections, Appointment Boards and Graduate Employment, a proposal for National Travelling Scholarships, the Student's Place in the Community (introduced by an excellent paper from the secretary, Mr. Alan Crawford), together with much discussion of N.U. organisation and finance. A word to the Editor, and articles on any of these subjects can be produced in this paper.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF UNION.

On Friday, March 18th, the Annual General Meeting of the Union will be held in the Union Buildings. The Secretary will present his report for the past year, and the financial statement will also be disclosed. This is an important meeting; it is the big night for law students. Everyone is urged to come—especially freshers.

Chancellor to Open Men's Building on Monday Next

DAY OF CELEBRATION

1936—"On Dit" reports appointment of committee to raise funds for Union Building.

1936—"On Dit" (special edition): "Our Chancellor comes good"—to the extent of £10,000.

1937—"On Dit" reports the laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Building.

1938—"On Dit": "On Monday next the Chancellor opens the new Men's Building."

So the student paper records the development of the students' latest acquisition.

It has been decided that next Monday shall be a day of celebration—and for many reasons. Firstly, for years the men have felt acutely their lack of quarters; secondly, the present structure completes the student block; and, thirdly (last but not least), the building was given and is to be opened by Sir George Murray, who has, in his position as Chancellor of this University, achieved an enviable reputation among the students. Nor are the celebrations to be confined to the students. The Council have caused circulars to be distributed widely among the graduates urging them to be present at the proceedings and giving a full description of the building.

The actual ceremony of declaring open will be commenced at 3 o'clock, when the Vice-Chancellor introduces the Chancellor. At the suggestion of the Union committee the number of speeches has been reduced to a bare minimum. Mr. Bridgland, as President of the Union, will thank the Chancellor, and will be supported by the Chairman of the Men's Union, Mr. Wallman. Subsequently, Sir George will be conducted through the building. The invited guests—this includes graduates and undergraduates, professors and lecturers—will also have an opportunity of making an inspection under the guidance of members of the Men's Union Committee.

After the opening ceremony, guests are invited to afternoon tea in the Refectory. Graduates and undergraduates, professors and lecturers, this is your big chance in the food business! So far as we are able ascertain this is the first time for many years

that such an offer has been made. "On Dit" suggests that to mark the novelty of the occasion each female under the age of 21 years taking afternoon tea should be presented with an autographed and framed picture of Robert Taylor.

And the Dance.

The evening will witness the great Celebration Ball. This is being managed by the Men's Union Committee with the help of the women. From the financial point of view the purpose of the ball is to raise funds for the furnishing and equipment of the building (estimated to cost £2,000). This dance will be lifted far above ordinary Refectory dances by the presence of both the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor; the former is to receive the guests between 8.30 and 8.45. Another outstanding feature is that supper will be served for the first time in the men's building. This ball will afford freshers an opportunity to meet the older undergrads., and they are especially desired to be present. In fact the committee, evidently men who accept the validity of the economic motive, have gone so far as to reduce the price to the meagre sum of 2/6 in the case of freshers. It is unlikely that such a bargain will be seen in Adelaide again this year; accept it, all ye of the first year.

In fine, Monday is to be a day of joy, thanksgiving and amusement. It is desired that a record crowd of undergraduates join in and show the Chancellor just how we appreciate his gift. Remember, this is our building and our celebration.

THE GREAT MAN SPEAKS

It is usual to publish, at the beginning of each year, an interview with the Rhodes Scholar of the previous year, for the encouragement and guidance of freshers and others. So we set out to trail the elusive L. F. Crisp.

It was rumored that he had been seen on several occasions in the Barr Smith Library, so here we first looked, but with no success. Another of our kind informants suggested the Refectory, and there at last we ran our quarry down. He was striding across the lawn with a pile of books under his arm, and a far-away look in his eye; but we succeeded in attracting his attention, and elucidated the following facts.

He has been accepted for Balliol College, where he will study Modern Greats. For the benefit of the uninitiated, this consists of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. While there, he intends to join all possible political clubs, since from his earliest childhood he has been fascinated by the sport of kings—in fact, a rumor, for which we cannot vouch, has it that he possesses a birthmark in the shape of a map of the world in many colors.

Entrepidly braving the perils of concentration camps, castor oil, and Siberia, he told us—with that grim look which we know so well—that both Germany and Russia are to know him in the vacations. His many friends will follow his doings with interest—perhaps it would be too much to say foreboding.

Asked if he intended to join the Oxford Union, Mr. Crisp whimsically replied: "Certainly, certainly; but purely in the role of a listener." Those of us who have listened spellbound to his flights of fancy in debates may be inclined to doubt the truth of this remark, and we wonder if there is some subtle meaning which has escaped us. Australia, however, is not to lose Mr. Crisp altogether, for he hopes and means to return, although he will not enter politics immediately, but intends to lecture in economics and political science, and also to contribute again to the work of the W.E.A.—a movement in which he is very interested.

At this stage, both interviewer and interviewed felt a deathly calm steal over them, broken only by the clash of crockery in the Refectory. Mr. Crisp suddenly broke down completely, but after he had once again gained control of himself, he explained that he had been thinking of the one thing he could not take away with him. We—we admit it—were at a complete loss, but finally it appeared that the thought of losing George, his car, was too much for him. We can only hope that he finds another equally shaky and noisy friend to share his retreat in Oxford.

When asked to what he attributed his wonderful success, Mr. Crisp said only one word—"Bidomak"—and on this topic we could get no further information, so we came to the last inevitable question, without which no celebrity can be permitted to leave our shores.

"What do you think of the Australian woman?" we said. His face cleared immediately, and, without pausing, he replied: "Wonderful!"

CARRY ON THE FESTIVITIES AT
The CELEBRATION BALL
MONDAY, MARCH 21

4/6 SINGLE TICKET; 2/6 FRESHERS.

PROVOCATIONS

"By provocations, I mean statements that solicit thought by surprise, malice, image, or cogency."

This column is a motley look-over of what is being said and done in the world to-day, with many merry and amusing comments thereon; and an asylum for original contributions as stimulating and promiscuous as possible.

You will perceive that the title has been changed (from "As We Please": we weren't!), but that is just a low and subtle trick. Our opinions are unaltered. We still think the same of the drinking fountain and "Esquire," of "Venture" and Mr. McCubbin!

From all parasites and carrion feeders;
From those who have days of collapse;
From those whose impulses are negative,

O Men of Blood, deliver us!

A column of this sort occupies much the same place on the intellectual platform, and agitates its members in much the same way, as a university professor.

It has a very good right, and a reason for being among us; but its footing is always a little precarious. It depends for its health on the scraps, and they must be pretty exciting scraps, thrown to it by supercilious students. After all, the well-worn jape about "On Dit" being the official organ of the Union is not without its point.

Therefore, for God's sake, contribute to this column. We don't want the lamentable situation to occur, and we assure you that in the past it has occurred, in which the wretched editor has had to fall back on writing letters to himself. As a form of masochism it's not particularly funny.

It is an appropriate time and place to remark briefly on the fate of "Phoenix," which appears to be in imminent danger of being jolted out of its nest. The strongest shove comes from the conscientious objectors to its expense. On the face of it, their argument appears both a little wan, and strong. "Phoenix" costs about £53, or approximately 1/20 part of the total Union income annually; but it must not be forgotten that the Union has to devote enormous sums to "On Dit," debating, and soap, etc.

Thus, the argument boils down to this: that while 1/20 of the Union income is given to "Phoenix," about 1/40 of the Union members ever read it, and about 1/500 of them ever contribute. This is popularly supposed to be because "Phoenix" refuses to embrace all the faculties.

It is, therefore, to be run this year by the retiring editors of "On Dit" (a curious transmutation, indeed), with the aid of faculty urgers—intellectual laxatives (surely, at the very start, a confession of weakness and disorder within the hot pot of the university, rather than within "Phoenix" itself, and its late staff).

If, in the past, every faculty has not been represented in "Phoenix," it is for the very good reason that they simply haven't contributed articles. In any case, however, "Phoenix" is not a textbook of specialised erudition. It is supposed to, and does, however bastard the form; treat of subjects comprehensible by anyone with the rudiments of a normal repertoire of the usual human impulses. If you really believe that the Union soap has a wider and more potent appeal than "Phoenix," then, by all means, knock "Phoenix" on the head.

ULTIMATUM.

Confusion's scope is really rather small. Eve ate the apple, and thus came man's fall;

But that is nothing, if you consider it. Far worse it is that many sit And nothing do but dully stare And say, "That's nought to do with me; That's not my affair."

"On Dit"

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ELIZABETH HACKETT.

Tuesday, 15th March, 1938

AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING

ON Monday next the Chancellor opens the new Men's Building. Seldom has a University year begun under such favorable conditions, the more so since this act will mean the completion of the now old scheme of student buildings. It will be, in effect, an outward display of the maturity of the Students' Union, which, we believe, has definitely passed through the stage of infancy, and come to be recognised and appreciated as being of some force.

For many years the Union, possessing quite inadequate quarters, progressed slowly; since the erection of the Refectory that progress has been speeded up. Two years ago a student was chosen for the first time as President; and he was backed by a well organised committee, the majority of which were chosen by the undergrads. The idea of a student President and of student self-government is now firmly established, never, we hope, to be deposed. The Union committee has its own definite functions, constitution, and regulations; it acts as mediator between the students and the Council. The Union has complete control of its own finances, and its paper is now securely established as a weekly production. And now comes the George Murray building to complete the picture. Our organisation and equipment are complete.

Under these circumstances the future of the Union depends entirely on the attitude of the undergrads. Whether or not it is going to be a mere system of committees, an organisation existing solely for the sake of organising, productive of nothing either vital or original, depends on us alone. It depends on whether we are capable of adopting an intelligent and enthusiastic attitude towards the communal life of the Varsity. More interest in debating, in the Carnegie gramophone, and the art collection; bigger attendances at meetings, and more and better contributions to "On Dit" and "Phoenix," will be the signs of vitality in the student body. These are the things we look for during 1938. Let this be a Union of intelligent and original beings, not of nit-wits.

And so, with these few words, a new editorial staff casts itself tremulously upon the public. All we ask is articles and justice.

RETURN OF THE RUBICUND PROFESSOR CAMPBELL

At the end of an interview with the convivial and rotund Professor of Laws concerning his recent trip abroad, I had a jumbled recollection of champagne and Strauss waltzes, German wines (very good), Lord Craigavon and Kirsova (the "and" implies no nexus) and, inexplicably enough to me, our esteemed Premier, Mr. Butler. I was unable to understand Mr. Butler's associations with them all, but—the champagne was exceedingly potent.

The stout Dutch vessel which bore the Professor abroad contracted boiler trouble on the French coast. Professor Campbell nobly went ashore to the village of La Verdon to purchase vegetables. His was a large order, being equivalent to a month's supply for the villagers. "And as a result," he said, a smile indicative of happy recollections spreading over his face, "when the vegetables came the fruiterer produced also champagne"—the smile broadened—"to celebrate the completion of his biggest deal."

Dunkirk, I gathered, proved disappointing. Landing on May Day the Professor was surprised and a little vexed to find that the crowds were orderly. But there were compensations later; in Dublin he just missed seeing De Valera; he was able to glow with pride when, lunching in London with Kerenski last May, the

latter evinced keen interest in the Federal elections, and spoke of our statesmen, Lang and Lyons. Distance, they say—

It was interesting to hear of the progress made by ballet in London. During Professor Campbell's stay six companies in all visited various theatres, whilst Sadler's Wells is gradually developing a distinct English school. Robert Helpmann, he says, is now recognised as England's leading character dancer—Arnold Haskell in a recent letter speaks well of his "Oberon." The Professor must have been in close contact with the people of the ballet—he speaks of lunching with Haskell, conferring with Colonel De Basil, etc., etc.

One slip from the path of virtue is acknowledged. The Professor returned in a German ship, and there were excellent wines aboard. Being truly altruistic he wished his fellows in Adelaide to partake of these. The captain agreed to sell, stipulating only that he must retain sufficient for the return journey. All was well, but on arrival at Adelaide, the captain, on inspecting his cellars, found—no wine at all. They (?) had drunk it all. So the captain sailed back on a dry ship, and Adelaide, or part of it, is deploring Professor Campbell's prolonged potations.

PRIVATE FACES IN PUBLIC PLACES

Once again the 1 o'clock queue winds like a busy snake along the south side of the Refectory, wriggles into the cafeteria and emerges on the south, cut into sections and ready to eat.

Many of the old appetites have returned to the assault, and without doubt these and the new spirits will do justice to the fine extensions so thoughtfully built to combat that mid-day sinking feeling (the sinking feeling before eating, we mean). With the new self service, cries of "Pie with saucen bottlemilk" will not be so frequent, and there will be a few extra minutes for consuming and digesting. And now that the George Murray Building and the cloisters make more of an arena of the lawn, we expect bigger and brighter eclair contests and complex opportunities for more concentrated lunch-hour gossip.

Talking of the lawn—some stray pieces of paper have just been found there, obviously papers from the diary of some earnest fresher who came down last week to make himself less glaringly unfamiliar with the place. He appears to be amazed at the number of books to be read, and the number of clubs to be joined. He has been accosted by a rugby blue and also by a swimmer—the only sport where the teams are mixed (we once heard a member of the team describe this as a mixed benefit). The said fresher appears also to have been taken in by a med. and down by an engineer.

And, indeed, this week is the commencement of the "putting it across season," which always flourishes at

(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

VITAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION MOOTED

Notice has just been given of a proposed amendment to the Union Constitution. The amendment is one which all intelligent people must surely support. The section sought to be amended, Section 3(b), deals with the right to membership of the Union of message students. These students attend lectures at the University during the first and second years of their course, but thereafter their work is entirely practical. It is only during the first two years that they have the right to belong to the Union. The Women's Union Committee have for some time felt that this was an unjust rule, and as a result of discussion at the last meeting the following amendment has been proposed by Helen Wighton and seconded by Alison Anderson:—The inclusion in brackets after the name Message Association appearing in Section 3(b) these words "(to include third year students of the Message Association not actually attending the University for lectures of any sort)." The fate of the proposed amendment will be decided at the Annual General Meeting of the Union to be held on Friday, 18th March, 1938. So come along all you lovers of justice and uphold the cause of the oppressed Masseuses.

GRADUATES ABROAD

It is interesting to hear of the large number of alumni of the Varsity seen in various parts of England, notably London and Cambridge, by Professor Campbell. At Clare College, Cambridge, Gavin Walkley saw that the Professor was entertained right royally. At a luncheon held by the Eros Club there were more than 20 former students of the Varsity present, among them being Shirley Burns Cuming (now Mrs. Gardiner), Gavin Walkley, and Bills, who has taken unto himself a wife, Dick Pellew, West, Magarey (Frank), R. J. Clark, and Neville Bickford were also seen.

PEACE GROUP

Since the Adelaide University Peace Group went into recess last November, the condition of foreign affairs has obviously declined. We ask you to draw your own conclusions.

It has been obvious for some time that a split was developing within the National Government in Great Britain. Officially, of course, England's foreign policy was linked to the League; but the true state of affairs was becoming painfully obvious. After all, Abyssinia, Japan, Spain, and armament profits speak louder than words. The upshot was the resignation of Mr. Anthony Eden. We are disturbed not only by his going, but also by the manner of it.

On this latter aspect we have been kept very much in the dark. It is plain that the Prime Minister worked above the head of his Foreign Secretary. The circumstances of the resignation are not free from suspicion. Mr. Lloyd George says he has never seen anything like it, and he put through some smooth Cabinet changes in his time. The Prime Minister has assumed the role of dictator. That is no idle statement. It is the view taken by "The Manchester Guardian," everywhere recognised as one of the best informed, and certainly the fairest paper in England. Nor can it be disputed, we imagine, that this tendency towards dictatorship is connected with foreign policy. England has been turned into a fighting organisation. The essence of a military system is that there be one man in complete control—Chamberlain, backed by the wooden-featured Inskip.

All this well illustrates a point the Peace Group have always strongly maintained—that you cannot combat Fascism by building up a nation-wide military machine, for to do so means the strengthening of Fascism in your own country. You do nothing for the cause of freedom and democracy by curtailing your own liberty, and undermining your democratic institutions. In short, Nationalism and Imperialism can never be used to combat Fascism; for in the combat they themselves are productive of it.

THE NEW POLICY.

The departure of Eden has marked the open retreat of England from the League ideal. It is useless for Mr. Chamberlain to say that no country in Europe supports Geneva; that does not alter the fact that we are among the non-supporters. The League policy having been discarded, then, what remains? There is absolute pacifism, but no one suspects the P.M. of that. It is to be noted, though, that he recognises to some extent the pacifists' plea for conciliation, and consequently approaches the dictators with terms in one hand, and £1,500,000,000 of armaments in the other. One notes the absence of the friendly spirit without surprise. Increasing armaments and international trust are mutually exclusive.

The Government has chosen to revert to the pre-war diplomacy—alliance and counter-alliance, increasing armaments, a perpetual twisting and turning to meet immediate contingencies, without ever reaching out to remedy the root causes of war—international anarchy. This amiable system produced wars for most of the last and the beginning of this century. 1914 was its big effort. Nor is there reason to believe that it has lost any of its old-time efficiency in 1938.

People are losing their heads, admitting that war is certain. Chamberlain declares ("Advertiser," 9/3/38) that 15 hundred millions is not enough for armaments—we must have more. There is no protest. He says that Britain is building up an "enormous, terrifying power"—so terrifying, indeed, that other countries are re-arming equally. Consequently we have universal terror, which means universal hate and war.

The aim of the Peace Group is to examine these things critically, to look past patriotic blurb, and perceive the essential features of our policies, and where they are leading us. The group does not demand of its members adherence to any particular view. But it does believe that the way to attack the war problem is through brain, not

Sporting

Sports Editor, D. C. MENZIES.

AN APPEAL FOR SPORT

The University has always been well to the fore in amateur sporting, and it has representatives playing every week in nearly every sport that is played. Unfortunately, the standard here in the last two or three years has not been as high as it might be. We won very few premierships and also very few intervarsities last year. The main season of University sport—the winter—is now approaching, and it is to be hoped that this year results will be better. With all the facilities which are now offered to both men and women there is little excuse for those who do not participate in one or other of our sporting activities. The games are so varied that it is almost impossible to say that one cannot play one or other of them. We appeal accordingly to all members of the Union to join the Sports Association. Freshers particularly are invited to take up Varsity sport. Those who are hesitant will find all the clubs eager to welcome new members, and we appeal to all to decide quickly which sport they will play and then to join the club decided on. Keeness is essential if we are to raise the standard of Varsity sport this year. Activities are beginning right away. The annual meetings of nearly all sporting clubs will be held in a week or so, and the Annual Athletic Sports are set down for the 29th April, and, indeed, most games will have begun by then. For the present there is the Non-Pennant Tennis Club's Tournament. So it is essential to begin right now. The appeal of the Sports Association goes forth to all to join up, to start training, and to begin the year with keeness and determination to raise the sporting standard of the University.

SPORTING RESULTS

There is not very much to report in the way of sporting results since the end of the last Varsity term. We have had two cricket teams in the field, but neither have shown conspicuous success. Davey, our cricket captain, is once more leading the A team, and is bowling with some success. Lonergan, however, has been the outstanding Varsity cricket player this season. For a time he had the highest run-aggregate in district cricket and now he is running a close second. We wish him luck. If he does head the batting aggregates this year it will be the first time a Varsity player has done so for many years.

We have had five tennis teams playing regularly at the Memorial Drive. Our district team has been very unfortunate, losing many matches 5-4, and is well down the premiership table. Apart from our D pennant team, which has not been successful, the other teams are more or less holding their own.

Our women have been playing two teams, both in the same grade, the A team with average success, the B team with none whatever.

Apart from the cricket, which we hope to report next issue, only one intervarsity was fought during the long vacation—the swimming at Melbourne. Our men rather disgraced themselves—gaining only one place in all events, but our women retrieved the honor of Adelaide by doing quite well to come second. Both men and women, however, had a most enjoyable trip, with the exception of Bob Brown, who spent a week in hospital after a diving mishap.

At the present time it is only in cricket that the Varsity is interested. The A's are at present playing against Port Adelaide, and the match is in an interesting position. Port Adelaide were all out for 110, due chiefly to the bowling of Stewart (3 for 22) and Rice (3 for 26). Our batsmen, however, have made a pitiful effort. Eight are down for 83, and only two batsmen have scored more than seven. Stevenson made 26 and Lonergan is 36 not out. The match is in an interesting stage, and if Lonergan can make some runs next Saturday we should be able to win.

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LACROSSE.

The annual general meeting of the Lacrosse Club is to be held on Monday evening, 28th March. Unofficial practices are beginning this week. Freshers are invited to take up this game; if members of the club committee are approached they will be able to arrange for the loan of sticks to beginners. All players and intending players should attend the meeting.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

Open to all members of the Sports Association.

Open and Non-Pennant Events. Singles, Doubles, Handicaps and Championships. Try the Invitation Mixed Double, in which we handicap you with a partner, or vice versa!

If you can play tennis you have a

But entries must be lodged before Tuesday, March 22nd.

Forms obtainable from Mr. Hamilton, Secretary's Office, Men's Union Building; N. C. Hargrave, 112 King William Street; Members of Committee; and R. F. Brown (for convenience of Pennant players).

TENNIS INTERVARSITY.

This year the intervarsity tennis is to be held in Sydney at Easter time. It is to be a four-day match, played on the Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. Any tennis player, whether pennant or non-pennant, and of any standard, if prepared to make the trip is invited to get in touch with R. F. Brown, or Mr. Hamilton at the Union office.

ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL.

Where?—Unley Crystal Pool.

When?—Thursday, 31st March, at 7.30 p.m. Eleven events for men, and ten events for women, also a mixed relay handicap! There must be something that YOU can enter for.

For the first time there will be a University Cup, presented to the swimmer who gains the most points in cup events.

Entries close on Friday, 24th March, with any of the numerous committee, or with the secretaries—D. F. Cleland and Margaret Menz.

(Continued from page 2, col. 4) the beginning of each Varsity year. Some of the old hands are trying to impress, and will be only too pleased to hand out advice on all subjects, ranging from "How I make my good resolutions" to "Methods of exam evasion." Freshers are advised to treat such people as being of the earth earthy clods, soon to be per-

DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

The embryo of a new dramatic group, which has been mysteriously developing for some time, at last came into being at a meeting in the "Hut" on Tuesday, March 8. Professor Innes Stewart was elected to the chair. He remarked cryptically that this was a tip-top laboratory, not a repertory, and gave it his avuncular blessing.

Dr. Fenner outlined the constitution. The child is to be called "The Adelaide University Theatre Guild," with the following god-parents: President, secretary, treasurer, and 12 committeemen, of whom two—surely a meagre ratio—are to be undergraduates. The fees are 10/- for ordinary members, and 5/- for undergraduates. Strictly, it is not an undergraduate or Union affair: it is an amateur group, with a University tie-up.

Mr. McLachlan suggested possible avenues of development for the Guild. He envisaged, at least, four sub-committees to discuss such diversissements as miming, masking, music—in such exotic forms as opera, accompanied by string quartet—and ballet.

High-handed action from the floor enthroned Professor Stewart as President, and the following were elected to the committee: Hon. Sec.—Miss R. Sims. Hon. Treas.—Mr. R. A. Blackburn. Members—Dr. Davies, Dr. Fenner, Mr. Horner, Miss Crampton, Miss Davies, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. E. R. Corney, Mr. Frank Johnston, Miss Heather Gell, and one other, to be elected. Also two student members, to be appointed by the Union committee.

Dr. Davies was invited to speak, and leapt to his feet. Following Mr. McLachlan into the future, he saw a metamorphosed "Hut" as the centre of Adelaide culture, and, aided by "The Sunday Times," he exalted the voice beautiful, suggesting that this also might be cultivated by the Guild. (Hear, hear!)

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Office and Bookroom: UNIVERSITY. Cent. 3355.

Dr. Davies explained that the Council heartily approved of the movement, so long as it cost them nothing. He hoped, however, to raise a fund—of which no more could be said at present.

For a long time there has been a crying need for some such dramatic group within the University. Therefore, now that it has arrived, don't allow it to fall flat from lack of undergraduate support. In the past there have been very frustrated students, who have wandered off to act for amateur groups outside the University. We sympathise with them; but now they can, and should, re-orientate themselves within the University. The group proposes to put on only plays accepted as first-rate, and offers a catholicity of aim far beyond that of any similar group in Adelaide.

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UNION COMMITTEE

The first meeting for 1938 of the Union Committee was held on Monday, February 28th; outstanding features were the largeness of the agenda and the smallness of the attendance.

After the reading of the minutes it was announced that the Council had agreed to the hanging of part of the Carnegie Art set in the Union buildings: the unframed prints are to remain in the Barr-Smith library, while those with frames will be divided between the Lady Symon and George Murray Buildings. The Finance Report followed, the main point being that owing to a mistake in the estimates the Union would be responsible for a sum of between £400-£600.

National Union.

The President reported that the all Australian Conference had been a tremendous success; both for the formal business and for the understanding the delegates had acquired of student methods and affairs in other States. The various conference subjects will be discussed in future issues of this paper.

The President advised that Miss Alison Anderson, having been appointed to the staff of the Barr-Smith Library, had resigned from the editorship of "On Dit"; the recommendation of the Publications sub-committee that Miss Gwenneth Woodger be appointed in her stead was adopted nem. con.

The most important item of discussion was the opening of the George Murray Building. It was decided that the number of speeches should be reduced to a minimum, and that, subject to the Chancellor's consent, the only speakers should be the President and the Chairman of the Men's Union.

Open Meetings.

After several items of little present importance had been disposed of Mr. Crisp strongly urged that the agenda for each Union Committee meeting should be published some few days beforehand, and that meetings should be open to Union members. In this he was supported by the President and Mr. Amos; Mr. Eardley was in opposition. Owing to the unrepresentative character of the attendance, the matter was finally left undecided.

In reply to questions about a borrowing system for the library it was reported that the matter was under way (it has been now for over 12 months), and about to be further considered by the appropriate committee of the Council. It was decided that notice be sent to the Council urging upon it the desirability of such a system.

SECOND MEETING.

A further meeting was held on Thursday, March 10th; the agenda was again heavy. Various non-graduating students were admitted to the Union (English Lit., course A., appears to be still the popular subject, though psychology is definitely gaining ground). Nugent Wallman was appointed as Adelaide's representative at the opening of the Melbourne University Union Buildings next month.

A letter from the President of the Sports Association requesting that a Union sub-committee be appointed to meet a ditto of the Sports Association to discuss the Union Ball was read; Bridgeland, Wallman, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee were appointed; the feeling of the meeting was that profits and losses should remain the property of the Sports Association, but that the Union should have the organising of the ball.

Mr. Crisp moved that third year massage students should be admitted to the Union; this was found to be impossible under the Constitution, whereupon the learned committeeman gave notice of intent to move for an

THEY CALL IT PROGRESS!

DARK AGES TO RETURN?

The New Education Fellowship leaders would suspect themselves of nightmare were they to see some of the proposals of the Powers-That-Be for Public Examination reform. The avowed aim of these proposals (which have been circularised to a select band of headmasters and others of the educational elite) is the liberalisation of exams., and the humanisation of schooldays. We invite you to judge for yourself.

General Outline.

The general idea is this. The old order—Intermediate, Leaving, and Leaving-Honors—passes away. And out of the dying flames which consume its "putrescent corpse" arises the new regime—Secondary Certificate and Matriculation, with an exam. "of lower standard" for commercial and technical certificates. The Secondary Certificate will represent a standard between the present Intermediate and Leaving exams., suited to a child of 16. Matriculation goes to those with the Secondary Certificate who have passed certain exams. of a sterner sort ("Matriculation").

For the Secondary Certificate a child must pass five subjects—English, two other languages, and Maths. ("provided that if he passes in Maths. at the higher level, one language other than English shall be sufficient, that if he passes in two languages other than English, Maths. at the lower standard should be sufficient").

Armed with this certificate, the scholar must (not earlier than a year after the Secondary Certificate) pass specified subjects at a higher exam. For Arts, one language other than English; for Science and Engineering, Maths.; for Med. and Dentistry, Physics and Chemistry; for Law, Latin. These are the only COMPULSORIES apart from the Secondary Certificate.

How Bursaries Are Won.

Bursaries are won at the Matric. exam. Here maximum marks are 1,000. All candidates must do English, consisting of two two-hour essays (with choice of subjects), marked by different examiners, and worth 100 marks each. In addition, candidates' three best subjects at Matric. standard are to count at the following scale of marks:

Latin, French, Greek, German—300 marks each.

Maths. A and B (2 subjects)—300 each.

"Either (1) History (200), or Physics (200), and any one of or (2) any three of the following, to count as one subject: Chemistry, Zoology, Physiology, Botany, Geology, Geography, and Economics (each 100)."

We Pick Holes.

First, if, as is specifically proposed, there are separate commercial and technical exams., why are there still

alteration in the said Constitution at the coming A.G.M.

The President reported that the theatre movement was fairly under way, and that the Union Committee were entitled to recommend two undergrads. for the committee. Miss Irwin and Mr. Geisler were the recommendations.

The question of open committee meetings was again raised. Mr. Crisp put a motion in favor of such meetings but failed to obtain a seconder. Matters were now being hastened through; the report of the joint secretaries of the Cabaret was received, and appreciation of their work expressed. A vote of thanks to the editor of the 1938 Handbook was passed, and the meeting closed at 6.30 p.m. amid universal rejoicing.

two sets of exams. for those seeking to matriculate? Surely one set would be enough, with, say, 65 per cent. as the qualifying mark in any subject which may be compulsory for a particular student to matriculate for a particular course. The pass mark could still be 50 per cent. (or any other figure) for students doing it as an optional subject. To reduce public exams. to one set would, indeed, be to humanise schooldays. Let it be added that the higher exam. should remain—otherwise the tendency will be to end education too early. Another reason for preferring the higher exam. is the rigidity of the Secondary Certificate, as set out here. Children would have to concentrate too long on the five compulsory subjects, to the exclusion of wider development.

Further, if both exams. are introduced as proposed, as well as an earlier commercial exam., life still threatens to be one long string of exams. for the majority. For who can separate the sheep from the goats to-day at Intermediate stage, and say which shall go to the University, and which not? In a middle-class Australian community it is rarely possible.

We welcome the accommodation (as in the Secondary Certificate sketched above) for the student with a comparative weakness in either languages or maths. Nor would we quarrel with the suggested compulsory subjects for matriculation, except, perhaps, to deprecate the extreme stress upon Latin for Law. Surely Latin at the Secondary Certificate standard would be sufficient for Law (remembering that the exam. is to be taken at 16).

The Old, Old Story.

The real quarrel, however, is with the basis of marking for bursaries. Here it is that reaction shows its hand. He is a bold man who would precisely assess the relative value of subjects at all. He is surely a man out of the dim past who says that Greek or one part of Maths. is equivalent to Physics and Chemistry together, or to History and Economics together. The old notion of mental discipline is to-day sufficiently exploded—though a few still cling to the wreckage. The N.E.F. Conference made it plain that MODERN educational thought regards the teaching of the dead languages as largely "pedantic," and sees mathematics as "highly useless stuff," except for the few. Yet because Gladstone or Peel or someone took a Double First (Classics and Mathematics) in another country a hundred years ago, the little Adelaide must continue to have their young lives blighted by the weight of dim centuries. Another amusing aspect of this classification is that it comes from the head of a university which lavishes thousands on its scientific departments (but N.B. physics = only 200; chem., zoo., physiology, botany, and geology = 100 each), whilst there is neither professor nor degree in modern languages (N.B. French and German = 300 each), and German is taught for two years only by a part-time lecturer. There is a discrepancy somewhere here.

And why should students whose ability lies in the appreciation of English literature be penalised? Why not an exam. worth 300 marks for them, as well as the general essays for everyone? English Literature will be found to be a most valuable bursary subject.

Thus, reviewing the General Leaving Honors list for a period of five years, the writer found that the students of one particular school who secured places won 21 English credits, whereas the next best was Latin, with 12, and Maths. (doubled), also with 12—and English was optional, like the rest. Why, then, should Eng. Lit. not be on an equality with other languages?

We can only hope that the clock will not be put back. We must hope that what is good in these proposals will be

CONSERVATORIUM

Closer Co-operation

For a long time relations between the general University and the Conserv. have been thoroughly unsatisfactory. The later has existed as a separate unit rather than as an ordinary faculty. Last year "On Dit" and the Arts Association made an effort to bridge the gap. We are pleased to report that the response has been immediate. For on Friday, March 11, a meeting of Conservatorium students was called for the purpose of forming themselves into an association. Mr. Philip Wood was in the chair, and he explained that the general aims of such an association should be to bring music students into contact with students of other University faculties, while at the same time encouraging team-work among themselves. Mr. Wood then called on Mr. R. A. Blackburn to talk about the Adelaide University Students' Union. Mr. Blackburn stressed the advantages of such a student body, and urged Conservatorium students to join the Union and share in the privileges of the Union buildings and activities. He also added that individual membership of the Union was necessary to enable the Music Students' Association to become affiliated with it. Mr. Blackburn spoke of the enormous advantage to both students of music and of the other faculties which would result from intercourse between Conservatorium and other University students. No musician, he said, was ever the better for keeping entirely to the society of musicians and the subject of music. Similarly students of other faculties were enriched by a knowledge and love of music.

After this appeal to Conservatorium students to share in the corporate life of the University, Miss Mollie McLachlan proposed and Miss Dulcie Sampson seconded the motion that a Conservatorium Students' Association should be formed. Mr. Gordon Bowen proposed that the association should be known as "The Adelaide University Music Students' Association." This proposition was seconded by Miss Kathleen Ashton and agreed to by the meeting. It was decided to elect a committee consisting of six women and four men. The personnel of the committee, which was decided by a complicated system of preferential voting insisted upon by Mr. Bowen, was as follows:—Messrs. P. B. Wood, Max Worthley, H. M. Searle and Gordon Bowen, Misses Doreen Jacobs, Mollie McLachlan, Beatrice Pether, Dulcie Sampson, Alethea Upton, and Gwen Paul.

It was decided to hold at least six meetings a year with varied programmes, consisting not only of music but also of talks and discussions on topics of interest, both musical and otherwise. The arranging of such programmes was left to the committee, who were also responsible for electing among themselves a President, Secretary and Treasurer. The meeting then came to a conclusion, and was promptly ejected by the caretaker!

Our Response.

The Conserv. have made a move. They intend to take more interest in Union affairs. It rests with us to complete the good work by taking a corresponding interest in their faculty. To help you do this we intend to publish the programme of concerts for the coming year as soon as it has been decided upon.

dragged clear from the dead mass, and that in the new alignment a more modern and more sympathetic treatment will be accorded to the ideas of MODERN educationists, and to the trends of our times. But if the Powers hold fast to their present proposals, and call them reform, we can only conclude that the New Education Fellowship completely wasted its time in Adelaide.