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OSCAR HOMOLKA, RAY MILLAND,
FRANCES FARMER in

"EBB TIDE"

GRANT RICHARDS, JOHN WAYNE,

ISABEL JEWELL in

"LOVE ON TOAST"

Vol. 7

TUESDAY, 5th JULY, 1938

No. 14

Dictatorial Element Still Strong: But Some Oppose It.

Views on the Lecture System

In pursuance of the campaign against compulsory lectures, the staff of this paper has, with dogged persistence, sought—and won—interviews with various exalted and/or representative persons in our midst. Like the Law men (i.e. the amalgamation, you know), some were con., some were pro., but all knew which they wanted. Contrast with the case of Mr. J. W. Fletcher. Lest you should think this paper biased (spelt as per the Oxford Dictionary) we have faithfully allotted space to the protagonists, as well as to the opponents of the present system. And many were its supporters.

MIXED COMPANY

Mr. Cornell, Lecturer in French, upholds the system. It enables the student to gauge the standard required of him and bequeaths to him the essence, the really important portion of all the books that are set. Moreover, it fosters a corporate spirit. Mr. Cornell fears that, unless we have lectures, the University would become reduced to a series of clubs. (This sounds rather jolly.) Such a state of affairs would seriously hamper the chances of country students, whereas, with a lecture system, their way is fairly smooth. Mr. Cornell, of course, believes that poor lecturing is a bad thing, but the remedy he would suggest is not the abolition of compulsory attendance, but an inward purge, a voluntary improvement in quality and attractiveness. Compulsory attendance, he says, is not without biblical support.

Mr. Corney, who expounds the obscure meanings of Latin idioms, etc., supports the idea of voluntary attendance at lectures. However, he is of

SCIENTIFIC AND OTHERWISE

Sir Stanton Hicks, Professor of Physiology, at first delighted the reporter by announcing that there was no roll call at his lectures, and that he did not dictate. Somewhat cynically, he proceeded: "But my classes are composed of third year fellows, who have previously learnt to work"—the sinister suggestion being that they learnt to work: (a) by attending compulsory lectures, and (b) by being dictated to thereat. Sir Stanton's remedy was a novel one. He suggests that the crux of the matter lies in seeing the matriculation standard students, if they are to work successfully alone, must enter the University with a higher level of education than is normally the case nowadays. If this level is raised the internal troubles of the University will automatically adjust themselves. When discussion circles were mentioned, the Professor remarked that, with the average students such innovations would result in one long silence. Those (and we are one) who now agitate most loudly for the abolition of lectures would be the first to run for assistance from iron-clad syllabuses and spoon-feeding notes when the cold winds of adversity began to blow—at examination time. Finally, Sir Stanton is convinced that before anything can be done Freshers must be taught how to work.

Professor Kerr Grant feels that constant lectures are necessary, at any rate, for Science students. It is only by means of lectures that they can

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. G. S. Bridgland, President of the Union, gave a guarded statement to the Press. He "strongly suspects" that compulsory lectures are inevitable in some Faculties (see above for Professor Kerr Grant), but as an Arts student he feels that they could well be abolished in this Faculty. Then followed a tirade against the (now nearly extinct—or is it extinguished?) butterfly. The absence of lectures would show them up. The Council is now keeping a careful check on the results of non-graduating students and those who fail are barred from re-

opinion that the majority of students are unable to progress along the path of learning without having their knowledge digested, or, at the least, cooked for them beforehand. He is definitely opposed to the regulations which make non-attendance a bar to sitting for examinations. This may operate to prevent a student, who is able to work, and perhaps to work better, without the assistance of lecturers, from making the most profitable use of his talents. This is a thing which Holy Writ deprecates.

Miss Helen Wighton, the President of the W.U. and Vice-President of the University Union, is a woman known to all for her liberal sympathies. In conjunction with her co-Editor, Mr. Crisp, she fought a campaign against compulsory lectures last year. Her reply, when interviewed, was pithy: "An insult to educated democracy."

Mr. Crisp's reply was brief (yes! truly) and to the point: "I echo Miss Wighton's sentiments."

learn to apply the principles which they have mopped up in the course of their reading. There is an analogy between the man who over-eats and the scientist who is ever teaching—the former's health is no better than the latter's status as a scientist. Thinking, says the Professor, is what is needed (we respectfully concur). Tutorials are perhaps the best solution of this problem. And then the Professor repeated Sir Stanton Hicks' melancholy cry: "Freshers are unable to work alone. They cannot do it. Lectures keep them at it." Finally, it is a good idea to record attendances—it is useful for statistical purposes.

Mr. Barbour, the Student Adviser, was consoling. He expressed his agreement with the Oxford system, which provides several lecturers in each subject and proceeds in a tutorial fashion. This is admirable—as are also its results. Attendance at lectures is voluntary; this, of course, tends to raise the standard of lectures, as few people really enjoy addressing bare walls. The only real argument against such a system is financial in nature—lecturers are not to be bought for a song. The independence of lecturing is bound up with the tutorial side. Mr. Barbour thinks that pass students possibly benefit more from a lecture system, whilst honors people profit most by tutorials. This does not mean that attendance at lectures should be compulsory—"Pass people would turn up anyhow."

election in the next year. Optional lectures would make these folk either work or get out.

An Honors English student, personified by Mr. Kerr, points out that abolition of compulsory attendance would cause the lecturers to rely for an audience on their own merit, instead of on a statutory provision. The result, he hopes, would be better lectures.

An eminent barrister said it was a dashed bad idea, as he frequently found himself without a clerk to fetch

WOMEN STUDENTS!

HAVE YOU ASKED HIM YET?

?

W.U. AT HOME

REFECTORY

16th JULY

SCIENCE MEETING ON MONDAY, JUNE 20

The President, Mr. Parkin, congratulated the Science team for winning the cup at the Women's Sports, and introduced the two student speakers.

Miss Joan Cleland gave an interesting account of the koala bear, describing its appearance and habits with reference to its rather unusual and obscure physiology, upon which she is doing research work. The koala, Miss Cleland is happy to be able to inform us, is not verminiferous, and has claws specially adapted to clean its fur.

Mr. Dallwitz outlined Wagener's theory that the continents were formed by the breaking up of a large land mass, and that subsequent continental drift was responsible for their present positions.

Both papers were very interesting, and supper time was spent by students enthusiastically fitting Africa and South America together, deciding on the probable drift of Australia at the moment, and in tasting various specimens of gum leaves Miss Cleland had brought as examples of koala diet. The trouble the speakers took in preparation of their subjects was very much appreciated by the members present.

WHAT DO YOU REGISTER?

Have you got "it"? The "it" of Mesdames Chew and Soong, of Miss Gedge, Courtney, and Caton, of C. F. Andrews, of Drs. Koo and Kagawa? These visitors to the University had personality. The S.C.M.—such is its faith—sees in folk like you and me potential Courtneys and Kagawas. It is holding a big conference at Holiday House, Mount Lofty, next weekend, on the source, development, and expression of personality. It is charging only 11/- for accommodation from Friday (6 p.m.) to Sunday (9 p.m.). Application forms (front office) are due in by yesterday. Late entries will not be accepted, so get to it!

ONE UP FOR THE SCOUTS

Tours Arranged

At the Union meeting held on June 20, F. B. Magarey was unanimously appointed the local National Union Travel Representative. The Central Representative is Mr. Coaldrake. The aim is to arrange tours for students to various places of interest. It was felt that Mr. Magarey had the knowledge of camping, of men and of localities necessary to enable one to fill such a post. All who are interested are asked to communicate with him.

books, etc., in court. As a result, he had to put up with a junior partner, which was a bad thing, as the J.P. did not always understand the references, etc., etc. You see?

The reporter approached a female Fresher, who said: "A good thing. I go to Latin lectures and do French. Simple."

UNION COMMITTEE

At the meeting held on June 20 it was reported that the editors of "Phoenix" had decided to hand over portion of their grant for the use of "On Dit." The total cost of the two publications will not exceed that of last year, but this paper will benefit as a result of the economies of Miss Wighton and Mr. Crisp.

An application from the Board of Social Studies for the use of the George Murray Building for the conferring of diplomas, etc., was considered and the requisite permission granted. Most of those who will receive diplomas are University graduates, and Professor Boyce Gibson, of Melbourne, will preside.

The question of reciprocity of membership among the various Australian University Unions was discussed at some length. The privilege would extend to life members only, and would mean that if, for example, a life member of the Union of some other "Varsity" came to reside in Adelaide, he would from then on be a life member of our Union. The committee was favorable to the scheme, and the Secretary was asked to write to the secretaries of the various Unions of the National Union to ascertain their views on the matter.

A recommendation was made that all notices should appear on the board in the Refectory as well as that in the corridor, and that "On Dit" should be more frequently used to advertise meetings, etc.

The question of the Appointments Board was raised, and it was decided to approach the Vice-Chancellor.

Mr. Barbour suggested that the purchase of a rug for the landing in the M.U. Building might: (a) mitigate the noise, and (b) preserve intact the flooring. This matter was referred to the Finance Committee, and the chairman declared the meeting closed.

DANCE!!

Science

Refectory

July 23

PORTIA IS ACTIVE

The Women Law Students' Society (yes, it is still in existence) had two nights out last week. On Thursday, Mr. J. W. Neilligan gave a paper on "The Presentation of a Brief." He dealt with the civil, matrimonial, and criminal jurisdictions in a most lucid and interesting manner, and explained the necessity for full disclosure of all relevant facts, particularly in the Divorce Court. This paper was one of the most valuable, from a practical point of view, that the society has heard.

On Friday night, in the presence of the four counsel, Mr. F. E. Piper played the judge in a matter dealing with the intricate intricacies of Private International Law. After listening patiently in the cold of the lecture room to arguments which, if not exhaustive, were certainly earnest, the learned judge dismissed the appeal, in accordance with the wishes of Misses Lovick and Rhodes.

MAURICE FINNIS.

ARDATH SPECIALS

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COMING EVENTS

July 5, Tuesday: P. & I.R.C. Sino-Japanese Dispute, at 7.45 p.m., in Lady Symon Hall.

July 6, Wednesday: Mr. J. Rymill on the British Graham Land Expedition, in Bonython Hall, at 8 p.m.

Inter-Faculty Debate, Science v. Med., in George Murray Hall, at 1.30 p.m.

Swing Club Meeting, Lady Symon Hall, at 1.30 p.m.

Professor Hicks on "Biology and Morals."

July 8, Friday: S.C.M. Conference at Mount Lofly, Holiday House, on July 8-10.

July 9, Saturday: Engineers' Dance.

July 16, Saturday: Women's Union, At Home.

FRESHERS' DEBATE

According to the numbers that came to the debate on Wednesday, everyone must have realised that this was a Freshers' debate and had come to witness their (the Freshers') dire misery—which goes to prove that the University student adds heartlessness to his many other vices.

The honorable premier, Mr. Wells, proposed the motion that this house deplores that our public life is hide-bound by ceremony. He stated that ceremony was a great waste of time, citing as examples the opening of Parliament and then (what an anticlimax!) the cheers given before drinks, "Here's to the skin on your nose!" etc. His speech definitely merited his worthy position.

Miss Wagner, the leader of the opposition, together with the rest of her sex among the speakers, disappointingly read her speech. She pointed out how dignified one became with ceremony and how undignified without it (e.g., old ladies, match boxes, and noses), a game which few of us had ever heard of before.

Miss Macpherson, the next speaker, gave her views on ceremony in religions. She declared that we should not cling so lovingly to ancient customs, but should progress with the times, leaving the past behind us.

Miss Britten-Jones, the honorable minister for transport, gave a long discourse on the psychological effect of ceremony on human beings. At least one thing we gathered from her speech—namely, that she has great faith in Aldous Huxley.

When Mr. Trudinger rose to speak he began with the amazing revelation that we are all insane, so that ceremony is intrinsic to our natures. Excessive ceremony, in his opinion, was contrary to sincerity. Modern life depends on practical issues, and in this fast (in two senses of the word?) life ceremony, as the honorable premier said, is a waste of time. Mr. Trudinger was not quite certain of his own views on the subject, so he excused himself by saying that a little ceremony was feasible, but an excess—never! What profound reasoning!

The next speaker was the honorable member for Oodnadatta, who, incidentally, had been summoned from the outback for this debate owing to the illness of his colleague. He gave various examples of ceremony, and pointed out, rather unconvincingly, why it was not to be deplored. Having stated that one grows a little sick of coronations (do we have so many?) he got down to lesser issues, such as hat-raising, which, he said, was extremely convenient because one could do this and talk at the same time—whereas, with a smile (which might be misinterpreted, as he so innocently expressed it) one could not. (Try it, Mr. Sawers.)

Mr. Gough, who had all this time been extremely conscious of himself sitting midst rows and rows of empty chairs, magisterially rose from his at this juncture and gave us the astounding news that he was steering a middle course in this debate. How difficult! He rambled along, giving his various reasons for such a decision, and was loudly applauded when he resumed his seat.

Mr. Johnstone then rose to propose a vote of thanks to the speakers. He proceeded by blessing us with his own worthy opinion on the subject, and his obvious amusement at his own remarks, and his insinuations caused much laughter among the lofty-minded house.

After some futile and petty quibbling on the part of the more worthy members, the house eventually decided to adjourn till the following week.

"On Dit"

Tuesday, 5th July, 1938

Editors: Gwenneth Woodger.
Elliott Johnston.

Sub-Editors: Mimi Richardson.
Donald Kerr.

Foreign Editor: M. Quinn Young.

News Editor: Geoffrey Anderson.

Reporters: Elizabeth Salter.
Peggy Britten-Jones.

Production: Elizabeth Hackett.

Business Manager: Robert Cotton.

"Perhaps it needs a little laughter, more than it does changes in administration and curriculum."

A man who never smiles is either mentally blind or physically paralysed. The physical organisation (the administration) of the University is not by nature paralytic; the University is stodgy because of its mental blindness, the result of its inability to laugh at itself.

We do not suggest that individually the students are glum as oysters, but that the University, when it considers itself as a University, is possessed by an entirely disproportionate anxiety about what are, in reality, its petty little affairs. It takes them all far too seriously. There is a belief, for instance, that the students exist for the Union, not the Union for the students. We have created in the Union a machine whose sole function ought to be the administration and organisation of our affairs; it has escaped us, taken life, and become a spurious deity which we solemnly worship. As it becomes more and more powerful it assumes to itself more and more responsibility, and, as a result, has recently developed a strong acquisitive urge. This is laughable because the Union has no direct concern with many of the things it desires to control, and in certain cases is probably ill-fitted to control them. It is regrettable that the Union cannot see that this is childish, and confine itself to matters of greater importance.

A little laughter might well be turned against our over-developed Faculty consciousness. As has so often been pointed out, the Faculty should not constitute a wall round our interests. We need not emphasise the absurdity of intelligent people crouching behind these artificial barriers.

These petty Faculty feuds lead inevitably to myopia in the members of the Faculties—in fact, to nothing better than squalid personal recriminations, which in turn lead to further bitterness. Personal attacks such as those we have recently witnessed would, under any circumstances, display a defective sense of humor, but they are made more serious by being secondary results in the train of complacent bigotry.

It is probably untrue that laughter is an adequate substitute for changes in curriculum, but it is indeed significant that an antiquated lecture system has not provoked more laughter. It is a sign of mental torpor that we do not appreciate the ludicrousness of rows of students feverishly scribbling notes that could twenty-five years ago have been bound and sold as text-books.

A University "founded on faith in solemnity" not only develops a false sense of values, but stunts the mental growth of its students.

THE FOREIGN EDITOR

We talk with pride, although perhaps with a slight deprecatory smile, of our modern detestation of cruelty in any form (although, perhaps, if animals could speak they would question this). However, immediately a "sex crime" takes place a cry for the flogging of the offender goes up, justified by the assumption that we must return violence for violence and that a flogging will act as a deterrent, both to the offender and to potential criminals. This code of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" was one of the fundamental ideas of the Mosaic law, and it has survived unchanged until the present day. Is it sound: does flogging, in fact, act as a deterrent? On the face of it, physical violence should work, criminals should be dissuaded from committing crimes for which they know the penalties, but in practice something seems to go wrong.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The Departmental Committee on Corporal Punishment has recently published a report in England which puts the case against corporal punishment in a most effective way. Corporal punishment can be given for a surprisingly large number of crimes, including (comparatively recently) living on the earnings of a prostitute and robbery with violence. These are crimes for which there may be some possible justification, although since society creates the demand for prostitutes it seems unfair, to say the least of it, to punish those who supply that demand. Legally, too, by an Act of 1708, a solicitor who serves a writ on a foreign ambassador, or anyone who commits certain irregularities in the

The Editor, "On Dit."

I feel that indeed it is my bounden duty to express my regret at the fact that Mr. Jas. Boucaut, jun., has found an article written by me dealing with facts and truths concerning the legal profession for articulated clerks and young graduates to be quite "ungentle"; in fact, repulsive!

I was, indeed, astonished at his horror of the suggested Law union. Perhaps he is unaware of the fact that the Engineering profession (which is surely on a professional basis equal to that of Law) has a union which guards the financial and professional interests of its members.

Unfortunately (or, perhaps, in some ways fortunately) many Law students are not in such a snug position as the gentleman in question to be able to study for five years for "the good of their health"! Mr. Boucaut is, indeed, to be congratulated on the fact that he has apparently found a way to exist on "the traditions and ideals" of the ancient and noble profession—Law—without bothering his head about such ungentlemanly matters as monetary returns or future prospects (perhaps these have been already determined for him).

But I should like once more to remind him that there are some ambitious Law students at the Adelaide University who have to battle for themselves, and who are seriously concerned about their futures, and are not content to be merely "Varsity loungers."

In regard to the argument that the status of the legal profession would be lowered by a petition for a reasonable remuneration, I should like to point out, Sir, that a result quite contrary to the one anticipated would ensue. If rewards were made more attractive we should have a type of student entering the profession who, under the present conditions, is forced to turn his attentions to a profession in which initiative and intelligence are justly rewarded.

"LAW STUDENT."

THE CAT

slaughtering of horses and cattle, is liable to flogging. The committee recommends the repeal of these punishments, but it goes far further and advises the abolition of all corporal punishment except for the one case of use in prisons as a deterrent to violent prisoners from assaulting prison officers. It hopes, however, that in course of time this may be dispensed with altogether.

These findings are not arrived at through sentimentality, but are the result of a cool and deliberate estimate of the value of flogging treated as a preventive measure. The conclusion is that its value is entirely negligible, except in the very small group of cases mentioned above. The committee was satisfied that in a large number of cases flogging would have no marked effect on the prisoners' frame of mind, and would often do lasting damage on a man's personality and character, and never has any reformative quality. Its retention can therefore only be justified if it can be shown to act as a deterrent. None of the witnesses suggested that this was so, and even those who believed in it most strongly claimed only that it deterred the criminal from those crimes for which flogging may be given. In an article in the "Lancet," a report was given of two prisoners who had been flogged and imprisoned for robbery under arms, who were about to be released. One said: "Next time I shall use my gun." In neither case was there any thought of abandoning crime. The "British Medical Journal," in an article, says: "The committee was unable to find any body of facts or figures which showed that the ad hoc introduction of a power of

flogging had brought about a decrease in the number of the offences for which it might be imposed, or that such offences had tended to increase or decrease in proportion to the number of floggings ordered."

This report will surely be welcomed and its recommendations carried out. Corporal punishment is a survival of the dark ages, and in these "enlightened days we should have more knowledge of character than to suppose that violence will breed anything than resentment. After a flogging, followed by a period of imprisonment, the natural reaction is to forget the pain of the punishment and to nurse a desire for revenge on society. It is evident, therefore, that the sooner we adopt a saner attitude towards the complex problem of punishment of crime the sooner will we reduce the necessity of that punishment.

The aim of all treatment of prisoners should be to make them normal citizens, not merely to punish them in a barbarous way, without consideration of the forces of environment and upbringing. The sex offender is very often a psychological case, and should be given sympathetic and careful treatment. Finally, one of the most distressing features of flogging is the revolting and gloating eagerness of the public, which revels in newspaper accounts of the trial and punishment of the criminals. The Marquis de Sade would have been immensely gratified to see so many people following faithfully in his footsteps.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, "On Dit."

At last someone has been courageous enough to bring to the notice of the public the problem which is surely foremost in every Law student's mind—the lack of unity between men and women Law students on that all important question of "future remuneration and prospects." There can be no doubt that the salary received by young Law graduates in Adelaide, £2 per week, is simply ridiculous! There must be some means of altering this position, and, as "Law Student" pointed out, the most practical way would be to take the matter before the Arbitration Court.

What is wrong with this suggestion, Law students? As far as I know, nothing has been done about the matter, even though it has been brought to our notice. Are we going to allow this idea to sizzle out while we continue to wrangle over amalgamation for men and women?

Anyway, there would certainly be no harm done if we called a meeting and at least discussed the proposition.

It must be remembered that one of the objects of the Law Students' Society is "to conserve or advance the interests of Law students in matters touching their University life or professional career," and we certainly could not get a more important matter touching Law students' professional careers than the one in question.

"ANOTHER LAW STUDENT."

The Editor, "On Dit."

Some weeks ago we were requested to hand in our names if concessions on the trams interested us. Well, the names went in, but what of it? Surely an important matter such as this deserves some publicity.

We have every right to expect some concession on the trams, as from 12/- to £1 per month is hard on a student's pocket.

Awake, Sir Toop, and remember that one day we will be in a position to repay favors granted now.—I am, etc.,

"TRAM CAR."

The Editor, "On Dit."

Surely "Alma Mater," in your last issue, reaches the high-water mark (or low-water mark) of bad taste!

Mr. W. N. Oats is accused of "cheap sneers" by one who (under the cloak of anonymity, be it noticed) proceeds to give a rather polished exhibition of cheap sneering himself. To those of us who know Mr. Oats, both for his brilliant career as a scholar of this University, and from his untiring work in several prominent University activities during his undergraduate days, the last paragraph of your correspondent's letter is deplorable in tone and insulting in insinuation. "Alma Mater" shows, in particular, a colossal ignorance in not having consulted that indispensable volume, the "Calendar" of this University, for he would have learned that Mr. Oats was admitted several years ago to the "Rights and Privileges" as a member of the Senate.

This display of ignorance is all the more surprising when we notice that "Alma Mater" speaks with such authority on problems over which our most distinguished citizens would think very carefully before expressing so decided an opinion. Such statements as "a dozen public utilities . . . are hopelessly crowded into North Terrace," and "the continuation of a city high school is a dubious policy," argue a person highly conversant with the problems of our city's expansion. I hesitate to commit myself on these points. But of this I am certain, that the rights of Adelaide High School or a University Residential College to the Frome Road site, if measured by the needs, could hardly fail to give the verdict to the high school. Most of us know the shocking accommodation provided by our main high school, and this is a bad state of affairs, not only for a State which has committed itself to a policy of free (more or less) education, but also for its effects on the students themselves. Moreover, when we consider the long list of ex-Adelaide High students who have so distinguished themselves in every department of this University, we can see that Mr. Oats, far from "siding" against the University, is rather, by supporting the high school cause, helping the University towards ultimate greater and truer expansion.

C. W. SEMMLER.

The Modern Office

In an incompletely industrialised society, the professional classes form the source from which most of the Arts drew, if not their patrons, at least their practitioners. An aristocracy might build its Versailles, but the work would be that of an artist whose immediate ancestors were drawn from the classes from whom the Church and civil services were supplied with recruits. From this may be drawn the conclusion that it is not from the masters or slaves of a country that is produced the body of artistic achievement that gives to a civilisation its particular character.

MATURE CIVILISATION.

And civilisation comprises not only the enduring and tangible literary and architectural remains of a given period, but also the impermanent and incommunicable framework of common life, which is the basis and prerequisite for all individual accomplishment. Part of this frame are social conventions, which are obviously necessary so that common ground may be discovered by people of widely different opinions, outlook, and education. It follows that upon the readiness with which such common ground can be established with a person of unsympathetic background depends the obtaining of a free, open, and fluent communication of purposes and aims. It follows also that a commercial and competitive society is likely to be deficient in this facility, since most dealings with strangers will be reserved and circumspect. On the other hand, it might be guessed that the maturity of a civilisation may be gauged by its urbanity and ease of reaching common ground between dissimilar temperaments.

RETREAT FROM THE RENAISSANCE.

That the Renaissance was the apotheosis of the individual might be proved by an examination of the elaborate houses and ceremony of the kings and rich men of the period, and seeing how architecture and design provided a setting, which was not comfortable, by modern standards, but which was magnificent and glorious, as was intended. The palaces seem not to have been regarded as any greater importance than of being one element in a certain way of living. No theory that a house is a machine for living was applied, but a need was satisfied without regard to anything but the desires of the builder and the creating of the desired effect in the mind of the guest or beholder. As was pointed out by Hilaire Belloc, however, the interests of the modern Englishman in a mercantile community are in terms of rent and profit. His interests tend from concrete things to abstract and incorporeal wealth. This trend is evidenced in Australia by the furnishing of the average office. This has become a task delegated to the shops and is no longer the frame for his activities, arranged by any one individual. The effect of this delegation is usually an expensive and unpleasing exhibition of tastelessness. The atmosphere of the majority of professional rooms and offices is both depressing and repulsive.

THE PROFESSIONS CULPABLE.

For this state of affairs and the cultural indifference behind it the professional classes are surprisingly to blame. With few exceptions, the surroundings of doctors, and solicitors especially, are ill arranged and unsuitable for giving advice to harassed and anxious people. The typical solicitor's office boasts usually of a poor example of a mass-produced desk, which could without much difficulty be bettered by most secondhand shops, and an accumulation of old, dusty, and long useless documents. On the walls will be, in all probability, a copy of one of those highly and falsely colored pictures which are stocked by every furniture shop, and worthily complete the impression of shoddiness created by their stock. That such a decoration should be chosen argues a cynical opinion of the clients' taste, or a reflection on its owner's education.

The argument that the adequate furnishing of an office so as to create a civilised and congenial background for the adviser and client demands an impossible outlay is met by the reply that, in most cases, it is poor economy to provide an irritating and unpleasing environment for one's work. There are several periods which have evolved a simple and pleasing treatment of the problem, and the matter is not necessarily one of innovating but of developing and extending authoritative precedents.

Provocations

THE WHITE DEVIL

Of the cheaper and altogether nastier genus of pornographic literature, there used to be two main species. The first, the confidential and highly informative sort, which you get usually through the post, in a plain wrapper, and which, "because of its peculiar nature, can be sold only to clergymen, physicians, lawyers, members of the learned professions, and sincere adult students of anthropology." The second, "the shudder group," frankly salacious, combining great horror with great sexual interest, and never allowing any crime milder than rape. Now there has emerged a third sort, the white devil group, which, under the guise of serious and frank discussion on sex and its problems, manages to put across quite as much indecency as either of the two older groups, even in their most lucid moments.

It is, too, far more dangerous. Because of their apparent seriousness, these illuminating sex discussions are able to appear in quite reputable and widely circulating publications. They are usually distinguished by one or two disarming characteristics: they are either breezily frank, straight-from-the-shoulder, with a disgusting smile, or carefully and passionately scientific!

They appear most frequently in cheap and handy magazines, mostly American, devoted to ill-digested and easily read articles, on anything which is at once interesting and entirely useless; not so much in things like "Esquire," as in "The American Mercury" or "Readers Digest."

A characteristic one, by a young woman, appeared in the last "American Mercury." It was entitled "Chastity on the Campus" (this catchy title gave it away at once, of course), and was in the breezy style. The woman opened by assuring everybody that she had long since healthily surrendered her maidenhood, and was feeling much the better for it. She then remarked that, "since there is a case for chastity, it follows that there must be a case against chastity." The article rapidly developed into the usual rigmorale about contraceptives, abortion, satisfactory sex-life, and integrated personalities, and at the end it

wasn't difficult to see why the same young writer had lost her maidenhood.

The point about an article of this variety is that the apparent frankness is nothing but an inverted self-consciousness. It is obscene because it deliberately sets out to shock, and all the more obscene because it pretends to be perfectly serious. The writer would claim that she is doing valuable pioneering work towards freedom in the discussion and action of sex and its ramifications. In reality, she is vilifying the whole business.

The second dangerous feature of this sort of article is that it tends to queer the pitch for genuinely serious discussion. A couple of years ago a serious scientific book was submitted for publication. Before doing anything, the publishers got the advice of half a dozen well-known scientists and doctors, amongst whom were J. B. S. Haldane and Julian Huxley. On their advice, the book was published, and a month later the publishing company was fined for issuing "an obscene libel," and one of the directors was bound over for twelve months.

I would not accuse "The American Mercury" and its cousins of being the direct causes of this legal faux pas, but it would certainly have been less likely to happen in a climate free from them.

Dr. Johnson records the prosecution of Richard Savage in 1735 for publishing an outspoken poem called "The Progress of a Divine." It appears that Savage was acquitted on the ground that he "had only introduced obscene ideas with the view of exposing them to detestation and of amending the age by showing the deformity of wickedness."

The implications of that form the basic principle of British law in re obscenity and it is chiefly because the white devil articles on sex push the application of this law off the rails that they are to be deplored. Not only are they reprehensible in that they corrupt and debauch the morals of the King's subjects, but they are also reprehensible in that they corrupt and pervert the judgment of the King's bench.

ON AUSTRIA

DR. EMMERY SPEAKS

At a well attended meeting of the P. & I.R.C., on Tuesday night, Dr. Koch Emmery gave us a fresh slant on "Austria from 1908 to the Anschluss." His intention was not to spread propaganda, but to express his own opinions, those of the average Austrian. The dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was inevitable. Already in his later years, Francis Joseph had to rule without a parliament, because all the various nationalities came to blows whenever their deputies met. It was clear that the monarchy could not last much longer. It was part of the irony of fate that the Crown Prince, who wished to give all nationalities equal rights, was killed by a Serb, and that the German Austrians, who had hated him so much for his Slav sympathies, had to go to war to revenge his death. The year 1918 was a time of defeat, but of great hope for young people, and changed their whole attitude to life. The educational system was reorganised, gymnastics were built on a new basis, since freely copied, and slums cleared for new workers' houses. Many factories were in Czecho-Slovakia, while only the head offices were in Vienna, and because of tariffs those in Austria itself had to close down. The period of inflation followed, and almost overnight fortunes disappeared. Chancellors appealed to Geneva for markets, but received only loans, the interest burdening Austria until 1938.

Italy was the only country which offered help to Austria by taking her products, but this was only to anticipate sanctions. This helped the country, but in the city Dollfuss could give a dole only for two years. There were thus a section, not wealthy, but not uncomfortable, and one which had to be suppressed by the army, living

underground in sewers. But the choice was starvation for all or for a section. This had to be concealed from tourists, Austria's biggest source of income.

When Italy's aid was withdrawn conditions were desperate. There was actual starvation, two in one bed at hospitals, no hope for youth in any walk of life, and no payment of debts in business until forced. Such prolonged conditions change people's characters and make them, on gaining power, wish others to suffer likewise. Thus most people under thirty became violent National Socialists, while the rest were Conservatives (Roman Catholics) or Communists.

Union with Germany was inevitable economically, for Germans benefited the whole country, while the English and French visited only the big tourist centres. Moreover, Austrian factories are highly specialised, and Germany offers markets, since her own factories are for mass production. Indeed, if the Socialist German and Austrian post-war governments had combined many difficulties would have been solved.

The difference between a democracy and an autocracy is largely due to economic conditions, for both Dollfuss and Schuschnigg would have liked the former. In a democracy, the ruling class is educated enough to tolerate others' views, and also the minority has too much to lose to upset the whole system. But where a class has just come to power, with nothing to lose, it is ready for any violent measures, and democracy is impossible. But with a little more understanding and insight the world could have saved Austria from all this suffering.

Dr. Emmery good-naturedly returned full answers to numerous questions.

ABOUT IT

AND.

ABOUT

By Omar Khayyam

Most rackets, of course, originate in America. However, kidnapping or the "snatch racket" is apparently becoming rather too dangerous a short cut to easy wealth in that country, and I hear that a new racket has sprung up to take its place. A note is sent to the prospective victim threatening to leave a baby on his doorstep if a sum of money isn't paid. In other words, as someone said over the air the other night, the threat is not to kidnap but to "kid-dump." It seems a hairbrained scheme. I should imagine its only hope of success lies in the extreme readiness of most inhabitants of the American (or any other) small town to believe the worst of anybody. A reputation is a precious—and precarious—thing. Anyway, the idea has many interesting possibilities. Should the racket gain ground, we can expect the American, as usual, to coin a pithy, descriptive term for it. They appear to be particularly good at that sort of thing—I still chortle whenever I hear breach of promise cases referred to as the "heart-balm racket."

* * *

I heard a saying the other day to the effect that "every dogma has its day." I rather like that, although, of course, I'm quite prepared to believe that you've all heard it before. In any case, I leave it to you to amplify it for yourselves. At the moment, I can't be bothered, myself—and, anyway, who cares?

* * *

The poem for this week can be regarded as sound advice to budding punters. The author is G. Rostrevor Hamilton, the title, "On a Distant Prospect of an Absconding Book-maker":

Alas! what boots it that my noble steed,

Chosen so carefully, the field outran?

I did not reckon, bookie, on your speed:

The proper study of mankind is man.

* * *

A medical friend of mine the other day was deploring the present-day flood of patent medicines that promise positively florid health to anyone buying (and taking) them. Of course, I put forward the usual layman's view that even if the patent medicines did no great good, they at least did no great harm, and that perhaps the psychological benefit to anyone taking them with faith in them was a point in their favor. I regret to say I was very promptly squashed. Dealing with my second point first, my friend maintained that, psychologically, the numerous advertisements on the subject of ill-health are producing a neurotic population, filled with quite the wrong ideas about disease and treatment. Even medical students discover all the symptoms of a disease in themselves after reading an unemotional, text-book description of that disease. But the main objection to patent medicines lies in the fact that they depend on the patient's own diagnosis of his complaint. If the complaint is not an organic one at all, or if it is organic but not serious, then admittedly no great harm is done; but is the patient himself in a position to decide? Most people these days with "indigestion," for instance, would take one of the many "antacid powders" on the market, yet their symptoms might be due to insufficient rather than to excess gastric acid. Similarly, most advertisements for "tonics," in outlining the various symptoms that are alleged to indicate that one should buy a few bottles, give the perfect picture of early tuberculosis. Many a case comes to a doctor for diagnosis too late for successful treatment, because the person has been treating himself for a considerable time with patent medicines. . . . Well, it seems a reasonable argument, doesn't it?

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OSSIETSKY

TRAITOR—OR HERO?

Carl von Ossietzky died on May 4, 1938, in Germany. He was a noted pacifist, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1935, while in prison, although the German Government protested very strongly against a "traitor" receiving the prize. His opposition to the Government brought him into conflict with the authorities, and after the publication of an article in 1929, suggesting that Germany was building up her air force in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles, he was charged with high treason, and in May, 1932, was sent to prison, from which he was released seven months later, only to be taken into "protective custody" as soon as Hitler came to power. There he remained, and developed tuberculosis, from which he died.

Whether one agrees with his pacifist principles or not, nothing but admiration can be felt for the courage which made Ossietzky openly defy his Government and remain to face certain imprisonment rather than take the chance of escape which he had after his release. Hero or traitor? Germany says traitor, but a sane world would judge by different standards.

FINE WINS IN FOOTBALL, RUGBY, HOCKEY

D. C. MENZIES, EDITOR.

MARGARET COWELL,
REPORTER.

INTER-FACULTY SPORT

Last Wednesday saw the first of this year's interfaculty sport, when two lacrosse matches were played. Medicine and Dentistry combined to defeat Law-Arts rather easily, 6-1, while Commerce was able to keep off the greater numbers of the Engineering-Science and win, 5-3. Neither of the matches showed a high standard of lacrosse, but with the number of non-regular lacrosseurs playing this was only to be expected. The great thing about the games was the excellent spirit in which they were played; hard knocks were given and taken, but nobody minded. We understand that there are to be further interfaculties in hockey and Rugby, while some enthusiasts are trying to arrange them in football and baseball. We sincerely trust that as many as possible will be played. Sport is perhaps the best leveller that there is of barriers between faculties, and any opportunity for encouraging these interfaculty matches should be carefully encouraged.

FOOTBALLERS DEFEAT TOP TEAM

The best match this season was seen at the Oval on Saturday, when we defeated the top team, Semaphore Centrals by six goals. The whole team played excellent football, and apart from one or two outstanding men it is hard to single out any others.

The first half was evenly contested, Centrals holding an advantage of two goals at the interval. The third quarter saw a great change come over the game. Page, who previously had found strong opposition in the air from the Semaphore goalkeeper, was now making position excellently and outmarking his opponent. Dashing football by Dawkins and Brown on the wings pushed the ball forward time after time, and we were able to put on 6-5 to Centrals 2 goals for the quarter. Three quick goals at the start of the last quarter put us in an excellent position, and the team held the advantage till the end by brilliant football in all departments. Scores:

'Varsity, 16-15; Semaphore Centrals, 11-7.

BASKETBALL

The A's, in spite of improved passing, were not able to cope with Railways, who defeated them 42-27. The combination among the University forwards was more marked than among Railways, though their centre showed slightly better command of the ball. Marjory Crooks and Arita Rix were best players, while Judith Young played her usual consistent game.

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WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The A's showed great improvement on Saturday, the alteration in the forward line proving most successful. Public Service were consequently defeated 5-2. All the goal hitters—Vera Szlich, Joan Gluis, and Alison Anderson—played excellently, and Joan Cleland did some very stout work as goalie. The whole team played well and showed their mettle as truly fast women.



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BASEBALL

Every Team Defeated.

On Saturday the A's met with the worst defeat they have experienced for some time.

For the first four innings neither team looked like scoring, but in their fifth innings Glenelg virtually won the match, hitting Noack out of the box with powerful smashes to left field. In this innings Head, of Glenelg, scored a home run with a fine smash over left field's head. Glenelg only obtained six safe hits, and four of them were registered in this innings, with two batters already out.

'Varsity were able to counter with only one run in their next innings.

Catt played his usual brilliant game at second base for 'Varsity.

Safe hitters were: Gould, Nichterlein, Swan, Lewis, Johnston (1 each).

Averages for First Round.

	Batting.		Aver.
	Safe	Times at	
Lewis	8	21	.381
Nichterlein	10	30	.333
Swan	11	34	.324
Kilgariff	10	35	.286
Gould	10	38	.263
Thompson	6	34	.176
Catt	6	39	.153
Johnston	5	35	.143
Noack	1	9	.111
O'Grady	2	23	.087

Fielding.

	Put outs and assists.		Errors.	Aver.
	Put outs	Assists		
Lewis	5	1	1	.833
Nichterlein	12	3	3	.800
Swan	109	5	5	.956
Kilgariff	69	5	5	.932
Gould	28	6	6	.824
Thompson	21	8	8	.725
Catt	75	6	6	.926
Johnston	37	9	9	.804
Noack	25	2	2	.926
O'Grady	11	7	7	.611

Above are the half-yearly averages of the A's. It is well known that averages do not tell everything, but Lewis certainly deserves his place at the top of the batting averages, and we congratulate him on winning the bat donated by Norm. Todd for this.

RIFLE CLUB

The first stage of the club championship was fired over 500 yards on Saturday. The shoot was self-coached, with two rounds of 10 shots and two sighters, and competitors were divided into A and B Grades. Conditions on the whole were easy, though the wind and visibility were making quick changes towards the end of the afternoon.

In A Grade, A. E. Welbourn was unlucky to miss the possible, as his ninth shot just missed the bull's-eye for an inner. Scores of 48 out of 50 were made by R. C. Bills, A. B. Robertson, T. Barrien, G. P. Sandford, T. A. R. Dinning.

Honors for the day were shared by R. C. Bills and A. E. Welbourn, each with 94 out of 100.

PRIVATE FACES

Excuses for celebration are hard to find these days—they all seem to be used up in the term or at the end of the year. However, Jumbot Hains is now no longer a minor (in years we mean), and, having reached the age of consent (if not discretion), he turned on a cheer (cheese and beer) party in the loft the other night. The chief mourners at the party sang dirges, one of which asked the two eternal questions, Why was he born so beautiful? Why was he born at all?

Discussing lecture reform over a plate of nice solid soup, one of our not so high brows, who had rather lost the thread of the argument, said: "Well, halfway through the lecture to-night I understood what he meant—by the end he'd talked me out of it."

Contrary to what the Boy Golfer said before his match on Saturday, "the game's Crook mob," it turned out contrary to Crook, and he won the Seaton champ, fanning the agate in fine style.

The glut of sporting (?) cars that has rallied in answer to the enthusiasm for the new club includes a number of flying bedsteads and Hornby trains. Somebody asked if the pre-war vintage, Stellite, that stands in front of the engineering building, might be the commodore's car. Most

CAR CLUB

A meeting was held last Thursday for all those who are interested in the formation of a University Car Club. Mr. Alan King conducted proceedings, and several major points were decided.

It was unanimously decided to form a sub-branch of the Sporting Car Club of S.A. rather than a University club affiliated with this organisation. Thus if the members pay 10/6 per annum to the S.C.C. they will be entitled to the same privileges as the S.C.C. members. An extra 10/6 will buy a S.C.C. badge, which can be displayed with the 'Varsity Car Club badge on the front of the member's car.

The financial side of a club of this type is somewhat intricate, and a temporary committee was elected to go into this and other matters.

Negotiations with the S.C.C. and the Melbourne University Car Club are now in progress. The committee elected were: Mr. King, Mr. Rutt, Mr. Duffield, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Burden.

Members of the club will probably be able to compete in all S.C.C. events with the obtaining of an A.A.A. licence; and the club can hold a meeting of its own for holders of this licence.

Apart from that, technical evenings in the form of smoke socials can be arranged. For those members who do not possess cars this should be interesting, for it gives the crowd a chance to get together and exchange ideas on current motoring topics.

These evenings should not interfere with work, as they would be on Sunday nights.

Those who don't want to race can compete in reliability trials and club runs. The subject of an Inter-'Varsity has been mentioned to Melbourne University, who have a fine Car Club, but the reply is not yet to hand.

RUGBY

The A's defeated North, one of the top teams. Endeavoring to strengthen the back line, Wallman was moved to five eighth. This experiment was singularly successful, as he not only set the backs moving well, but also scored two fine tries.

A's v. NORTH, 15-6.

The game started at a fast pace, 'Varsity forwards, particularly, following up very hard. Wallman scored first, crossing near a corner. 'Varsity attacked again, and the three-quarter line scored through Jefferies, who ran fast to elude several opponents. Winning the scrums and line outs pointless, 'Varsity was able to keep the powerful North back line on the defensive. Wallman, receiving the ball from the half, scored the best try of the day when he forced his way through the whole North pack to cross between the posts. At half-time 'Varsity led, 9-0, as no tries were converted. The second half opened well when Lindsay accepted a kick from a North player in defence and ran through unopposed to score be-

LACROSSE

A's Soundly Beaten.

On Saturday we played St. Peter's, Glenelg, and were confident of avenging our earlier defeat. Apart from the second quarter, however, when we scored five goals to two, we were always beaten. Our opponents made much better use of opportunities, and they played much more scientifically.

We did not score in the last half, although at half-time it looked as if we would win. Some of the players who have not been playing so well lately recovered form on Saturday, Nicholson and Dave Taylor showing great improvement. Duffield showed what he can do when he really does try, and played an excellent game in goals, covering up many of the mistakes of the backs. Our interstate representatives, especially Menzies, Barnfield, and Nairn, were disappointing in view of their recent good form.

Results:

A's lost to St. Peter's, 12-6.
Goal Throwers: Martin (3), Nicholson (2), Barnfield.
Best Players: Duffield, M. Taylor, Nicholson, Isaachsen.
B's defeated Norths, 10-3.
Goal Throwers: Krantz, Bonnin (4), Buick, Heddie.
Best Players: Krantz, Bonnin, Buick.
C's lost to Ports, 20-2.
Goal Throwers: Thomas, O'Sullivan.
Best Players: Thomas, Mueller, O'Sullivan.

Inter-Faculty Matches.

The first round of these matches was played on Wednesday last. The chief features were: (1) The success of the many non-lacrosseurs, especially among the Engineers. (2) The tin helmets of a number of Engineers. (3) Goalkeeper Duffield's two goals. (4) The black eyes received by Isaachsen and Menzies.

Commerce did well to defeat Engineers. It was a case of seven good players against a full team of irregulars. Medicine, with a team composed mostly of regulars, beat the uneven and ragged Law-Arts team, and will play Commerce in the final to-morrow.

Results:

Med.-Dentistry d. Law-Arts, 6-1.
Goal Throwers.—Med.: Thompson (2), Krantz, Martin, Bonnin, Heddie, Law: Boucaut.
Best Players.—Med.: Bonnin, Thompson, Krantz. Law: Formby, Menzies, Hargrave.
Commerce d. Engineers, 5-3.
Goal Throwers.—Commerce: Duffield (2), Cottle, Isaachsen, O'Sullivan. Engineers: Robinson, Kindley, Nicholson.
Best Players.—Commerce: Taylor, Duffield, Isaachsen. Eng.: Nicholson, Hart, Goode.

neath the bar. Thereafter the game fluctuated, but Freeman finally worked the blind side well to bring our score to 15 points. North scored two tries in the last 10 minutes, these being the only chances our forwards game them.

Final Scores.—'Varsity, 15; North, 6. Tries: Wallman 2, Jefferies, Lindsay, Freeman.

PUBLIC PLACES

Inside our own precincts everyone knows that the annual twit season for the women is at hand as the time in which to find a guest for the 16th becomes more pressing. You would think that those not wishing to commit themselves would ask along a member from the serried ranks of those who claim to be misogynists. But, alas! the word has become too broad of late, and "misogynist" has come to mean something akin to a person with a blotting paper gullet.

The demolishers of the Jubilee Oval stand have dropped a few bricks—one of them being that they have deprived Rugby players of the chance of hopping in for a quickie in the dark changing rooms at the back. The said players on our side now change in the George Murray building, while the opposing teams are forced to trek up to the old kiosk underneath the stage at the Chinese Gardens. This discomfort may bear fruit in the summer, when they will know a convenient way of getting in free to the Chinese Gardens.

And, in conclusion, the Engineers' ball comes off on Saturday.