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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
UNION

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This Edition Produced by J. L. Gough.

REX "Sing You Sinners"

With FRED MacMURRAY, DONALD
O'CONNOR, and BING CROSBY

Associate Feature:

WILLIAM BOYD in
"IN OLD MEXICO"

Vol. 9

TUESDAY, 4th APRIL, 1939

No. 1

SET-BACK FOR MUSSOLINI

At a not too crowded meeting of New Day debating enthusiasts in the George Murray, the motion of introducing a Mussolini to the land of the free was firmly rejected.

The student adviser prefaced the proceedings with some interesting revelations concerning debating in the Union this year.

The first debate for 1939, held last Wednesday at the debut for the year of the New Day activities, took the form of a parliamentary debate. The motion before the House, "That Australia needs a Mussolini," was proposed by the Honorable Member for Gilberton (Mr. Blackburn).

DEMUS MORIBUND.

Mr. Blackburn maintained that the position of Australia at the moment is very nearly desperate. We have at our back door Japan, a nation with great man-power, great naval power, and a strong and enthusiastic military element. "We stand behind Britain," he quoted, and compared us to the tail of Britain, the dog, the miracle being that the tail has so far not been left behind during the dog's twists and contortions.

Mr. Blackburn then proceeded with a comparison between Italy and Australia. The only difference he could observe was that at Italy's back door is an aggressive nation, Germany, on friendly terms, and at our back door is an aggressive nation, Japan, ready to spring at our throats any minute. If the intended policy of collective security is carried out, we, as allies of Russia, will be at war with Japan. "I do not support Fascism as opposed to Democracy," he said, "but in the last ten years Democracy in Australia has been hopelessly betrayed." He insisted that it was a dictator he sought, not rank Fascism. He deplored the undemocratic way in which Mr. Lyons presents the public with a "fait accompli," murmurs a few soothing words and retires into his shell to repair the inevitable gaps in his Cabinet. The number of Mr. Lyons' ex-ministers is positively amazing.

Then he turned to the Labor Party as a possible means of salvation. But the hopeless split on the question of foreign policy put them out of pain as candidates in the Blackburn Welter. Stating that he definitely did not want Fascism in Australia, Mr. Blackburn proposed the aforesaid motion.

FOR THE DEMOCRACY.

The Honorable Member for Springfield (Mr. Matison) then rose up, clasping in his hand a large sheaf of exotic pale green note paper. Solemnly he proposed that it was his intention "to reaffirm our undaunted faith in democracy." It is the practice of some, he said, to solve a problem by the method known as "reductio ad absurdum"; the Honorable Member for Gilberton had already reduced the matter to absurdity. Mr. Matison fully agreed with part of the motion, viz., "Australia needs," but not with the remainder. Mr. Blackburn had attempted to reconcile two irreconcilable countries; Italy, a small and over-populated country, seeking raw materials, whose slogan is "expand or explode" (c.f. Goering), and Australia, large and thinly populated. Italy's economic conditions are deplorable. She has for 3½ years been trying unsuccessfully to float a loan, and her debt from the Abyssinian venture is £400,000,000.

"Mr. Blackburn and I both abhor Fascism, but Mr. Blackburn wants to bring it into this country and I don't." Mr. Matison questioned the logic of Mr. Blackburn's argument that a dic-

tator in Australia would ensure friendly relations with Japan. Though both the Liberal and Labor parties in Australia are not all that might be desired, the point of importance is that we can still elect whom we want. Mr. Matison wouldn't mind seeing Mr. Lyons and Mr. Curtin drown so long as there were no tyrannous dictatorship. "Do we want to become a nation of blue-haired and blonde-eyed Fascists?" he demanded. "You are the guardians of British liberty, our priceless heritage—"; this glorious gem of patriotic sob-stuff was rather marred by a broad grin practically obliterating Mr. Matison's handsome features.

A MUDDLE.

The Honorable Member for St. Peters (Mr. White) referring to Great Britain who "muddles through but always gets there," compared Australia to the last dinosaur who, according to Mr. H. G. Wells, thought he was muddling through very well! Mr. White did not propose to banish democracy for ever, but insisted that we must keep up with the times and follow the present prevalent fashion of having a dictator. Later, when the cycle is completed, democracy will hold sway again—even crinolines are coming back.

The Honorable Member for Torrens Park (Mr. Jacobs) felt it his duty to warn the unenlightened that the revolutionists in our midst would, in all probability, shortly arrange for a march on Canberra. All that Mr. Jacobs could say for the speeches of his opponents was that they were flowing over with absurd aphorisms, anticipations and aspirations. After a fair quantity of mud-slinging at the expense of Mr. Blackburn and Mr. White, Mr. Jacobs read a radiogram sent and signed by Adolf Hitler: "Deplore efforts impose doctrines in Australia stop Policy intended home consumption only for present stop love Hitler."

The Honorable Member for Pennington Terrace (Mr. Kerr) stressed the word "needs." Socially, economically, culturally, Australia needs a strong man at its head to save it from getting in a worse mess than it is in at present. Mr. Kerr lamented the over-development of the shadier side of horse sports.

Mr. Kerr's concluding remarks are worthy of verbatim reproduction. "The ostrich which is Australia stands with its head stuck in a dismal sand of self-deceiving complacency; and with its bottom towards the rising sun. I maintain, sir, what must be obvious to all, that it is now high time this preposterous ostrich were awakened—a posteriori' laments will be useless."

The Honorable Attorney-General (Mr. Johnston) stated that although Mr. Kerr had propounded a wish for a strong man, he had not put forward any conclusive argument that Australia is in danger of immediate attack. Japan was the only source of danger mentioned, and it is obvious that she has her hands full with China for some time to come yet.

Mr. Johnston submitted that the proposers of the motion, deploring the unproductiveness of Australian democracy in the last 100 years, had

ignored the formation of (a) the Commonwealth Constitution, (b) secondary industries, (c) Industrial Arbitration Court, (d) franchise for women. Mussolini has been unable to do any of these in 17 years of Fascism.

BIRKENHEAD-JOHNSTON.

Italy has never known democracy, he continued, but the Australian is born and bred in it, it has become a part of him. Mr. Johnston concluded with a magnificent quotation from F. E. Smith:—

"I know that I am an insignificant member of an insignificant numerical minority in this House, but I venture to warn the gentlemen opposite that the people of this country will not easily forgive nor forget a party which in the heyday of its triumph denies to the infant Parliament of the Empire one jot or tittle of that ancient freedom of speech which our forefathers in this House vindicated for themselves at the point of the sword."

The Honorable Member for Hackney (Mr. Irwin) had three main points. The first, the appalling waste of energy in our Parliament; 50 per cent. of which is used up in confusing the arguments of the Opposition, 40 per cent. is dummy work for saps, 9 per cent. routine legislation, and 1 per cent., therefore, for successful parliamentary work.

[How would Mr. Irwin have proportioned the energy dissipated in this particular parliamentary debate?—Eds.]

Secondly, in a totalitarian state there are definite responsibilities for each man, therefore, if anything goes wrong, one definite man is shot. Very tidy and effective! Thirdly, he asked, when was Great Britain great?

MAN-EATING.

Mr. Gough spoke of the relation of master and lord with reference to Hitler and Mussolini. He read a letter written by an Arab sheik visiting Germany; the letter contained the startling information that Hitler and his peers, and Mussolini, had turned Mohammedan. Arguing from this, Mr. Gough maintained that if Australia had a dictator he might suddenly take a liking to some strange South Sea Island religion, and we might become cannibals overnight. (Who would you eat first, Mr. Gough?)

The motion was put to the House and defeated by 26 votes to nine. (Allah be praised! Benito Blackburn assured us that he had no intention of being dictator himself, but stories like that have been heard before.)

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ARTS ASSOCIATION DOES IT AGAIN

The Arts Association began its career this year with what promises to be a large society. Mr. R. A. Blackburn carried out his duties as president (unfortunately retiring) with his customary enthusiasm, and from the start the evening went with a swing. Officers for 1939 were elected as follows:—

President: Mr. J. G. M. Gent; Vice-President: Miss Doreen Jacobs; Hon. Secretary: Mr. D. B. Kerr; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. L. Gough; Committee: Miss Elizabeth Ashton, Miss Crook, Miss N. Britten Jones; Hon. Auditors: Messrs. R. A. Blackburn, B. Jenkins. The last-named officers were elected from a distinguished field of competitors, amongst whom were Mr. J. A. Lyons, Mr. W. M. Hughes, Brigadier-General Leane, and Mrs. Goodall.

The evening began with a delightful recital of a Mendelssohn Prelude and Fugue, played by Miss Alison Holder. This was followed by a play or sketch, entitled "Weatherwise," by Noel Coward, and produced by Mr. D. B. Kerr. The cast was as follows:—Lady Worpel, Miss M. McDonald; Monica, Cynthia, Violet (her daughters), Misses E. Ross, P. Britten Jones and M. Muirhead; the Rev. Harold Basset, Mr. J. Jenkins; Reggie Whistler, Mr. S. J. Jacobs; Butler, Mr. T. W. Thomas; Dr. Twickenham, Mr. D. B. Kerr.

The play kept the audience amused throughout its entirety with honors about evenly divided between Mr. Noel Coward and the cast. Possibly the best representation was given by Miss M. McDonald as Lady Worpel. A surprisingly adequate costume, combined with a dignity of mien, helped her to carry off a difficult part well. Of the remaining actors one cannot select one above another. There were no weak portrayals. Mr. D. B. Kerr, helped by his make-up, succeeded in convincing us that he was a psychoanalyst, and not Mr. D. B. Kerr, a difficult feat at so short a range as the Lady Symon provides. Lady Worpel's three daughters were admirably acted, being particularly successful in a scene with grim candle-light and an "ouija board."

Mr. Jenkins, in spite of being partly incapacitated by a physical malady, made a definite success of a somewhat thankless part as the Rev. Harold Basset. Mr. S. J. Jacobs made convincing the part of Reggie, and was responsible, through his own acting as well as by taking advantage of the opportunities afforded him by the author, for many of the best laughs of the play. There remains the part of the Butler, which was imperturbably portrayed by Mr. T. W. Thomas. There is a stage tradition about butlers which forbids them to speak unless absolutely necessary. Mr. Thomas preserved this tradition most faithfully. The play was unfortunately marred by an anti-climax instead of a good "curtain." For this it is only fair, however, to blame the author and not the cast.

The secretary for the year 1938, Mr. J. G. M. Gent, read his report for the year—a report couched in the most doleful language, which appeared to prophesy ultimate ruin and disintegration for the Arts Association. Such fears, he said, were now dissipated, and he looked forward to a successful year. The treasurer's,

ELECTION RESULTS

The following men were elected to positions on the University Union for 1939:—

T. A. Dibden.
B. A. Magarey.
H. B. Holmes.
R. G. Willoughby.
G. L. Amos.
F. F. Espie.
A. J. King.
R. A. Blackburn.

LIBERTY

When you come to the University straight from school, freshers, you must notice that you have at last attained a great deal of liberty. What the editor (against his practice intruding himself in print) wants to impress upon you on behalf of very many people throughout the 'Varsity, is to make the best use of your freedom.

There are many temptations to you not to use your liberty, chief among them being natural sloth and over-confidence. Also you will find yourselves seemingly out of your depth here, having become quite insignificant people after a career of glory at school. To cap all this you will find yourselves without a vote in Union affairs and at the various general meetings, and unable to hold any important executive position.

It is a hard test upon self-confidence, but what you must do is to start from the bottom again: this time it is not an ascent of ten years duration. You can, and would be well advised, to join in the activities of the various societies; you can get to know how they work, do small jobs in them; you can act in plays. An important task, and one that will reward the pains taken, is to become acquainted with the Union constitution, as printed in the University handbook and the calendar. Above all, the fresher may impress his opinions, with deference of course; but he must debate and learn to write his thoughts to the natural place of publication, "On Dit." Debating is the sauce of life at the 'Varsity, and is highly encouraged; do what you can, and don't hold back.

If the fresher should not take this advice, which everyone will give him, he might possibly pass a very easy and untroubled year. The price he will pay will be that nobody will have heard of him, that when committees are elected in the following year he will not be proposed, far from elected; he will see people of less intelligence and ability reaching positions which he might have filled had he shown more perseverance. It is just in this way that many bright boys of various schools, who had been fostered and pushed by their masters, become non-events.

Mr. J. Jenkins, financial report came in for much criticism, and Mr. Jenkins was only able to refute charges which, had they been prosecuted, would undoubtedly have harmed his professional reputation, by the skilful manipulation of the chairman. The election of officers followed, and an appeal put forth that as many present as possible would become financial members of the Society on the instant. In the absence of further business, the chairman declared the meeting closed.

WHAT'S YOURS? MINE'S A-----

A.M.S.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GOOD, CLEAN FUN

The Meds. had a very jolly annual general meeting in the Refectory last Thursday night. Dr. G. H. Burnell was in the chair, and W. A. Dibden, the secretary, conducted the clerical side with rare skill.

As the secretary's report droned on its way, there were unusual signs of restlessness among the senior years. In due course the president invited comment on the report, and the fur began to fly. After much legal wrangling by Messrs. Gold, Ackland-Horman, Magarey, and "Jumbo," and a lot of talk about honor, three students who were concerned in various incidents, made statements, like God-fearing gentlemen.

Having heard these statements first hand, onlookers realised that molehills had been made out of worm-casts.

Mr. Edelman, the treasurer, then told the members how he spent their money; but everyone approved of Mr. Edelman as treasurer because he pointed out that, at the recent luncheon tendered to Dr. Silas Mead, the Society had made a profit of 3/3. They say doctors are bad business men!

In a way societies have, the constitution was man-handled on five counts. Prior to the amendment relating to the "Review," the editor gave a report on the last year's issues of that organ.

He deplored the lack of support by medical students, and said that, in his opinion, it was not worth the money that was being spent on it. Further, there had been some trouble about the "Review," and as he was of a quiet and peace-loving disposition, and hated argument in any shape or form, this grieved him very much.

An amendment to the constitution, deleting all clauses relating to the "Review," was passed, so the "Review" is no more.

A committee was appointed to inquire into the treatment of students at the Queen's Home, and to report to the Society at its next meeting.

Dr. Burnell, the popular president for the past two years, bade farewell, and made way for the incoming president-elect, Dr. K. Stuart Hetzel. As a token of regard for Dr. Burnell's fine work in the double role of a wise and capable president, and as a tactful and discriminating censor of the ill-fated "Review," the Meds. presented Dr. Burnell with an electric clock.

Officers elected for 1939:—President, Dr. K. Stuart Hetzel; vice-presidents, Drs. F. Ray Hone, Darcy Cowan, L. Wilson, F. N. Le Mesurier, and G. H. Burnell; secretary, H. B. Holmes; treasurer, R. M. Hains; honorary assistant treasurers, J. E. ("Spike") Dorman and W. C. T. Chambers; secretary to the clinical branch, E. B. Sims; representatives to the clinical branch, sixth year, K. Viner Smith; fifth year, C. G. Semler; fourth year, F. A. Dibden; honorary librarian, R. W. J. Crossby; honorary auditors, W. D. Ackland-Horman and Miss I. Dutton; representatives to "Phoenix," Mr. D. W. Short and Mr. V. J. Odlum.

Committee to the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science: the secretary and treasurer (ex officio), Miss P. L. Bidstrup, and Messrs. W. A. Dibden and A. P. Cherry.

A committee meeting earlier in the week had decided to abolish all form of initiation, so some forty freshers swore the Hippocratic oath and were welcomed to the Society by the president. After this (and some well before) the meeting adjourned to Mrs. Goodall's well-known supper.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 5, 1.30.—See next page.
Wednesday, April 5, 7.45.—Varsity Swimming.
Thursday, April 6, 1.20.—S.C.M., Lady Symon.
Friday, April 7—Tuesday, April 11—Easter vacation.

COMMERCE A.G.M.

The annual general meeting of the Commerce Students' Association was held at the University on Tuesday night. The business of the evening comprised the usual presentation of reports and accounts. The annual report disclosed a very successful year, and special reference was made to the efforts of the association in bringing about a revision of the Course in the Diploma of Commerce. A report has been submitted to the Council, but any further progress in this direction is being held up pending the arrival of Professor Eyles, in August.

In addition to the usual activities, a week-end tour of inspection was conducted, the ostensible object of which was a visit to the barrage under construction at Goolwa. The schedule was upset by the untimely destruction by fire of the party's conveyance, which was hailed by the press as a glorious achievement.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President: Mr. E. H. Burgess.
Vice-President, Mr. B. R. Macklin.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. L. Kenihan.
Hon. Treasurer and Assistant Secretary: Mr. H. T. Green.

The Committee comprised, in addition to the above mentioned, Messrs. J. T. D. Todd, R. Wright, R. Ringwood, R. H. Rungie, L. K. Rosenthal, and K. Kilgariff. Auditors: Messrs. W. W. Twiss and B. I. Thomas.

The Association extends a very warm welcome to freshers, and hopes to see a good representation from them at its various functions throughout the year.

AFFECTION, DOGS, Etc.

There is a mistaken idea current that students of the Classics have chosen a dull profession. Nothing is more interesting, delightful, etc. At any rate here is the substance of a note, by an American, on an ode of Tibullus.

The point commented on is the habit of early Empire lovers, namely assailing the lodgings of the beloved at night. Watch-dogs, then as now, were a difficulty. One of the older critics, Achilles Statius, says of them: "Nihil amanti molestius." This may be experience or a nascent love of fair-play.

Several hundred years later du Bellay, it would seem, wrote an epigram from the dog's point of view:

latratu fures excepi mutus amantes:
sic placui domino, sic placui dominae.

To complete his note and show the broad scope of his general knowledge (a thing all scholars possess and realise), the editor quotes from the "Femmes Scavantes" a couplet adding something to the description of a lover, French style:

Et pour n'avoir personne a sa
flamme contraire

Jusqu'au chien du logis il s'efforce
de plaire.

Such was the oasis a traveller found one weary afternoon in the Elegiacs.

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For particulars of accounts see the front page of this issue.

The audience seemed to regret the fat, prolix Faure quartet almost as much as I did. At the appropriate time, and in the appropriate context this quartet may perhaps be acceptable with its "solemn melody" in the middle. Thrown into this programme it was raspberry balm after dry sherry of the best vintage.

So to John Horner and his players and singers much thanks and all good wishes. We'd go twice a week to hear them at double the price!

FRESHERS' WELCOME S.C.M. FUNCTION

The Student Christian Movement Freshers' Welcome was held in the Lady Symon Building on Monday, March 27. After the president, Mr. Bob Cotton, had welcomed the visitors, he called upon Professor McKellar Stewart to address the assembled multitude.

The Professor took us back to days long past when he himself had been an undergraduate and had spoken to a similar assembly upon a similar subject. He claimed that he spoke with less assurance now than he did then, not because he was any the less sure of the value of an institution such as the S.C.M., but because the years had given him a caution and a caniness in proportion with his Scotch ancestry.

"What are your purposes as undergraduates to be at this University?" said the Professor. "You must realise that your present existence is a great change from your school days. At school, the master is the master of the pupil; at the university, the professor is the professor of his subject. You are left much more to yourselves, fewer restrictions are placed upon your liberty, and you must work out your own salvation."

The Professor went on to draw attention to the fact that the primary purpose of the student should be the accumulation and acquisition of knowledge, but that this accumulation was entirely to be done by the student himself. "There are books in the library full of knowledge," he said, "but they are so much waste paper if the student's mind does not bring them to life again."

Remarking that it was dangerous to ask professors to talk to you, as they were accustomed to speaking for an hour, the Professor warned us that the University was not a place purely for enjoyment, although the play and social activities of the University were all to the good, but a training ground for the life we were to lead in the future. Throughout his talk the Professor was obviously struggling with a desire to discuss his subject philosophically, but he nobly restrained himself in order that his hearers might understand him.

The President thanked the Professor, and a competition followed which was won by Miss Margaret Lindsay. Musical relief or otherwise was supplied by Mr. Tom Holland, who played for us a "Little Bit of Beethoven" and Miss Margaret Sullivan sang two delightful songs.

DEBATING TOUR

Arrangements have almost been completed for a team of undergraduate debaters from this University to tour the Middle North of the State during the May-June vacation. The towns to be visited include Riverton, Clare, Port Pirie, Kadina, and Gawler, and in each of these towns there will be a debate against a local team. There will also be a debate against Roseworthy College.

All (male) members of the Union are eligible for selection, and it is likely that the team will include at least one "fresher." The value of a tour of this sort, from the point of view of debating experience alone, is obvious, and it is hoped that as many names as possible will be added to the list (on the Refectory notice-board) of those available for selection.

Offers have been received to billet the members of the team in each town visited and, as arrangements have been made to meet practically all travelling expenses, there should be virtually no cost to individual members. The team will travel by car and, according to present arrangements, will leave on Friday, May 26, and return on Friday, June 2. Any further information may be obtained from the Student Adviser, who will act as manager for the tour.

TO CLUB SECRETARIES

With full apologies for an intrusion that is not unnecessary, the present assistant editor wishes to address some very important remarks to club secretaries.

He went along to the secretary of the Union and said: "I should like to have a list of the secretaries of the various clubs." The reply was: "So should I." This is an unhappy state of affairs which Mr. Hamilton, for one, and Mr. Nichterlein, for another, would like to see rectified. The sooner the clubs send in the names of their secretaries the sooner a list will be posted and published for reference.

The remarks made by the sports editor in the last edition of "On Dit" apply not only to secretaries of units

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of the Sports Association, but also to those of societies throughout the student body. Whatever association does not send in an account of its activities promptly after a meeting may quite well not be covered by a staff reporter, and so an important omission be made in the chronicle of University activities.

A further point: Would the reporter of any function, whether he be of the society reported or the "On Dit" staff, please affix a statement of the number of words in his article to the written copy. From this the editors in charge can accurately gauge the amount of space the article will occupy, and at once assign it a suitable position in a skeleton copy of the paper. Again, will any contributor, whatever, please write on one side of the paper only.

To Others.

Please put your ideas into print. This is not merely to help the editors, but to make the paper a true representative of University life. We not only do things at the "Varsity," but we think on important questions. In fact, at least half the value of an education here is that one can exchange one's thoughts with others, whether in conversation, debate, or letter writing. The last two we can chronicle, and are only too pleased to do so. We should never find trouble in filling space: the question should be one of rejecting superfluous material, and adding pages to our official organ. The rush should by this time of the year have begun to chronicle your views, theories, and strictures on any subject worthy of you, and give the world a real cross-section of University life in Adelaide.

ENGINEERS' SOCIAL

Preliminaries

Thirty minutes late the Engineers started to the shouts of "Twelve bananas a bob," as Dopey Mullins marshalled the freshers into the shafts of the covered waggon; the brawnier freshers had already been harnessed to Boadicea's chariot (i.e. Jones' milk float with two flat tyres). To the sound of Lootenant Ifould's whip and encouraging shouts from the passengers, the great cavalcade passed the front office, and with the help of Policeman Ifould, complete with hard hat, directing traffic at the intersections of Pulteney with Rundle Street and North Terrace, a halt was called in front of Hoyts' Mighty. But, unfortunately, P.C. 49 called our attention to By-law X, section Y, sub-section L, and amendment A, under which we were not allowed to rest.

Owing to rather inferior horse power, a trolley bus won the race up Rundle Street, but down the city hill the covered waggon outpaced the slightly damaged chariot.

THERE WILL BE NO EDITION OF "ON DIT" IN THE WEEK AFTER EASTER

JOHN HORNER CONDUCTS

PLAYERS AND SINGERS

The credit for last Monday's recital by the Conservatorium Chamber Players and Singers goes to John Horner. Everything on the programme for which he was responsible had the mark of thorough rehearsal and good taste. The players and singers, under his conducting are really good, and I hope this most healthy limb that he has grafted on to the Conservatorium will bear fruit a hundredfold.

Why such an excellent programme should have been saddled with two major irrelevancies is not clear. Nevertheless, for the benefit of those who could not get tickets, Monday's programme is to be repeated in the Elder Hall on April 26. I do hope the Faure quartet will not be inflicted again. The programme is too good to be spoiled like that.

We start with a symphony of William Boyce, which has a charming vivace movement in the middle; courteous and stately. A fantasy by John Jenkins (1592—1678); proof, if proof is needed, that we don't have to wait till Bach for flowing counterpoint written with mastery. Jenkins does not have to be self-conscious, and can express himself naturally and freely in an otherwise intricate idiom. Both of these were done with good ensemble.

From the singers, two madrigals by two contemporary late Tudor composers, Bateson and Orlando Gibbons. The first had for words a "conceit," which drew an extended analogy between Cupid, and being stung by a

bee—and "sting" is a grateful word to sing. The second, the "Silver Swan," they will sing even better after more experience together. Smooth singing, without any bumps, is probably hardest of all to get perfect. The diction of the singers, however, is worthy of special comment. The effect of the counterpoint of words is lost if any of the parts are blurred. The clarity of the parts in the Gibbons came as a joyous surprise. The Arnold Bax carol had to be repeated; robust, clean, vigorous—a real carol, splendidly done. Something of Ireland, of the 15th century, of civilised good cheer about it.

Hilda Gill has seldom had a better group of songs to sing. I think she must have felt this from the way she sang them. The Dowland song, with its own lute accompaniment; the Byrd cradle song, with its sublime ending, and its delicate management of words; and—altogether fittingly, since we probably owe at least the Dowland song to his transcription—one of Peter Warlock's own settings of a 16th century poem to end with. Warlock had learned from those early people not to break the purity of the vocal line by the intrusion of the accompaniment into the range of the melody. A song, in fact, is a song, not a duet for voice and piano.

Of the violin playing of Marie, wife of Peter Bornstein, I need only quote the director: "I told her she must play . . . and that was all there was to it!"

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CONVENTIONS

The Editor,
Sir,—Your paper has published impressions on matters of political importance. Accordingly, it has appeared to me a most suitable time to broach questions of social importance.

We are, I shall not say hide-bound, but in many ways restricted by conventions in which we cannot believe, and there must be many who feel the ignominy and acute aggravation of such a position. The first example that springs to every young person's mind is the difficulty of divorce and the stigma attached thereto.

Though the family I spring from can never have fostered such thoughts in my mind, yet I have had the strongest feelings on the abuse for a long time past. Why should two people whose tempers are incompatible have to live together because they have signed a marriage register? For the sake of the children is the usual answer. But why should the children have to suffer for their parents' living apart? Because society in general thinks (or affects to think) such a separation shameful: it is a convention, a verdict of an unthinking or hypocritical majority. But see another point of the question. What if the parents decide not to separate (perhaps led to such a decision by the good offices of some angelic child, as on the picture)? The result is almost surely family squabbles and displays of violent temper—an environment than which none could be worse for the rearing of a well-balanced mind. This, in truth, is an unfortunate bifurcation, when each of the paths leads to the detriment of an impressionable child.

It pleases me to know that a great number of South Australians are, practically speaking, opponents of what I suppose a psychologist would call repression; but it certainly does not please me that a majority of the enlightened will not express freely opinions commensurate with their actions. No, they profess shame before instances of what they practise most sensibly, shame in proportion, often, to their own indulgence. And it is just the defection of so great a number of those not absolutely blind that delays the consummation of the day of great light; when nothing will be "unspeakable," or "too horrible to mention," when all will be fearless in the possession of mental cleanliness, and so sinless.

This is not, sir, a pastoral letter to a flock that can do nothing but bleat, but a letter to people who can think, the best adolescent brains in South Australia. Other letters have dealt with politics, in which pie the young can have very little finger. This will be a social problem that confronts us all. Think (and write) on these things.

Yours sincerely,
MOROSUS.

CONGESTION IN REFECTORY

Sir,—Though I am only a fresher, I feel that it might not be out of place for me to make a suggestion to obviate the huddle of tables in the Refectory. The tables are crowded so closely together that it is impossible to get between them at lunch time, while at the lower end of the Refectory there is a large, empty space. The notice board is pushed right against the lower tables, with the result that only one side can be got at.

My suggestion is a simple one, namely that the tables be distributed over a larger area, and that decent cross passages be left opposite the open side doors. If this is done it will be unnecessary for anyone coming in from the side to make his way as best he can over, round and under tables to the cafeteria entrance. The notice board should be kept near the main entrance, and well clear of the tables. It would be an easy matter to make these alterations, and it would do a lot to make our lunch, including the pre-luncheon scramble, more comfortable and dignified.

Yours, etc.,
PEACEFUL PENETRATOR.

CLEAR THE AIR

The Editor,
Dear Sir,—Is it not axiomatic that for a profitable discussion we must have the points for debate clearly defined? Even if both contestants have a clear, and exactly similar, idea of these essentials, the looker-on would find it useful to have any of his doubts on them clarified; he, too, may take up the cudgels.

"Madame, the sentence of this Latin is"—let us get some expert to define the terms Socialism, Fascism, Communism, etc., let them be published in this highly respectable organ, and if they seem unworthy of acceptance they themselves may be debated. Finally, I hope we shall have our terms defined, and be able to proceed to a brisk and fruitful debate.

Yours sincerely,
NON LIQUET.

REQUIESCAMUS

To the Editor,
Sir,—I am only a poor humble fellow," said a visitor to the parsonage one day. He got mentioned in the parson's sermon not long afterwards. I do deserve fair treatment by equaling myself with such a man when I draw forth some rather immature reflections on a vital political question.

I submit, then, that the people who are in a majority in our country do not want a change in the form of government. It would be too much bother, bother for a people whose attendance at elections is in some cases compulsory, because otherwise they would not bother to turn up and vote. It may not be used as an argument against me that the majority passed the last ruling, for it is a measure obviously in favor of those who held seats at the time it passed through parliament. Another consideration is that the socialisation of this country might sterilize industry (for at least a time), and even bring down our precious standard of living. If, on the other hand, the change could be made in the twinkling of an eye, without the people at large having to consider and weigh the matter, perhaps there would be less objection. It is an unfortunate fact for the political innovator, that in a country of which the people are so sluggish, if not downright block-headed, experiments in the direction of Socialism, by which, of course, it is unfair to judge the whole system, have not been entirely successful. Government-run services do not only not pay, but also (as Tasmanian electric power) are by no means cheap to the ordinary user.

If we may postulate the existence of the average man to solve our Australian problems of finance and armaments, he would not fly to dictatorship—he does not like saluting and being prevented from criticising—but he would not adopt the opposite course of putting his country on a sound Socialistic basis. In either case it would be too much fag—raise a few new loans for the banks to underwrite, and work out salvation and decent economies when something turns up. What the majority wants it should get.

Yours sincerely,
PEACE FULLER.

OFFICE HOURS

Sir,—I wonder would it be possible for the Union committee to make some arrangement to leave the Union office open during the lunch hour. Many of us can only get down to the Union buildings for lunch, and if we want to see Mr. Hamilton, we find that his office is deserted and locked. If the secretary had his lunch hour from 12 to 1, he could be on duty during the time when most members are in the Union buildings. And if his typist had her lunch from 1 to 2, there would be no need to close the office at all. This is an important matter to many students, and deserves serious consideration by the committee.

Yours, etc.,
"WEARY WILLIE."

SOVIET RUSHER

Dear Sir,—Perusing last week's "On Dit," I find that we have in our midst some keen admirers of socialism. How too, too divine!

In this brief epistle, allow me to assume that the U.S.S.R. are the home of socialism.

Broadly speaking, there are two kinds of "Soviet Rushers"—a few trying to rush in, and a — of a lot trying to rush out. Those inside know, and those outside think they know, but neither class seems to pass the border.

Socialism arose out of a desire of the "have-nots" to share everything with the "haves." For instance, if learnedski possessed some fine harvesting machines, then Ididntearnski deserved full use of them. Well, possibly such a system has its advantages, but I am inclined to think that the human race will advance and achieve more if ability, energy, honesty, and thrift receive their rewards. Go-ahead people must not be held back to maintain the equality of parasites. Nature sees to it that such types die out, and it is not for man to interfere to preserve them. There is plenty of scope in a democratic country like our own for a child not born of wealthy parents to become a great doctor, engineer, politician, or artist. This is not the life history of many of our socialist agitators, who left school early because they were too lazy to study, and spent their youth in the life of a hooligan, always trusting to get something for nothing, and finally enjoying the success of the man who worked. The favoritism and intrigue which permeates the ranks of Russian socialist leaders would suggest that, even there, the working man is down to stop down, and the leaders a separate class despite the gospel they preach.

If socialist workers were encouraged to listen to the words of Christ instead of Stalin, it might eventually be found that a policy of "Love thy neighbor" achieves more than one of "Hate the undermentioned, —."

Admittedly this applies also to others besides socialists, but I plead with some of our budding politicians to preach a little more love, and so engender less animosity.

Yours,
VINCIT AMOR.

The Editor,—

Sir,—This is not a complaint but a plea. Strange nature for University correspondence! Last winter the short cut across the footbridge to the University Oval was often impassable. I do not wish to blame anyone—man, beast, or element—but could some negotiable path be put down to lead us from the bitumen to the Oval moderately dry-shod? The marshy state of the spinney before the "Varsity horse-paddock" may make an attempt here out of the question, but the horse-paddock might be bridged from direction due south.

Yours sincerely,
COPROPHOBE.

UNREASONABLENESS

The Editor, "On Dit,"

Dear Sir,—We heard recently a bitter complaint from Tacitus upon conditions in the upper part of the Barr Smith Library. I admit that I have no official connection with that highly deserving institution, but shall still put forward a plea on its behalf.

The namesake of the great and terse Latin historian, himself terse and an historian it should seem, has every right to say that the noises emitted by the lighter-hearted and headed of the frequenters of the library are disturbing. But there is the obvious remedy, go elsewhere. The place I have in mind is the periodicals room. Perhaps enquiries should be made before entering it for purposes of general study.

But let us suppose this room crammed full of earnest students: there may still be some left in the body of the library. So, may I add my prayers to the complaint of Tacitus that everybody should move about as quietly as possible, and talk, if at all, not much above a whisper. If the more impressionable wish to conduct flirtations, let them do it far from the precincts. Please remember that the staff cannot interfere with your actions as if you were still school-children, and do not take advantage of this.

Yours sincerely,
ANIMOSUS INFANS.

LIBERTY ON BRAIN

The Editor, "On Dit,"

Sir,—Liberty appears to me a fungus found on the brains of a number of people, chiefly English and French. Liberty is, surely, only a relative thing: if we are not allowed to walk about the streets after dark, we may at least perambulate all the rooms in our home: if we can't express our opinions freely, we can at any rate form as many free opinions as we like. There is no social system that can give absolute freedom: communal life, Fascist, democratic, anarchist, bring restrictions inevitably.

There is a certain amount of liberty, though it seems a contradiction of what I have said above, that a man of our type likes, and this, I admit, Socialism certainly gives; but not to speak of superfluous liberties that no man would take when offered, other systems could supply this amount quite as well. A fairly mild plutocracy (disguised as democracy) is found moderately acceptable by Englishmen and Australians. They are fairly free, all things considered, though they cannot make any impression on the money holders where policy is concerned. Most of them have a fair wage, and they are governed with at least an approach to efficiency. I think, too, that an un-bombastic monarchy would be accepted, if, for instance, Mr. Chamberlain controlled all the big financial concerns in England, munitions, papers, etc., and did not make a song about it.

What I would point out is that Socialism is not necessary for Englishmen. The mass can live fairly content and easy under the present system. Bright young things about the Varsity feel much more for them than they do for themselves.

Very sincerely yours,
PASS ME.

THE YOUNG IN HEART

The Editor,—

Sir,—It cannot be too late in the year for a little advice to freshers. I was one myself once, and I still find advice useful after many years. I shall not ask you to take part in Union activities and sports: that goes without saying, or at least there will be sufficient exhortation from other sources. My warnings concern the internals of settling down to University life.

In recent years the freshers have been addicted to driving cars at dangerous speeds, and that in the Varsity grounds; cornering has been wont to tear the tyres in a skid, and noise is no object (except of emulation). Dear youths, this is part of that self-display common to animals from homo sapiens upwards. If you consider that those impressed are also very fresh and hardly worth the impressing, you may learn to curb your dangerous proclivities. The fashion of mutilating felt hats has ever been prevalent; the wearing of glaring ties is not unknown, even, be it said, among sophomores: but there are some people in the University who can clothe their necks decently, who should be imitated.

To the women freshers I shall be more lenient, as befits me. Pray do not be impressed by the antics of your male counterparts. Also, one of your characteristics is to stop and talk and never stop laughing, nay giggling, which is one of the drawbacks of co-education. Could you but be charming and subdued . . . as I am,

Yours, very sincerely,
OLD MAID.

'VARSITY BALL

The Editor,—

Sir,—Could not the committee of the University Ball, fixed for May 19, be coaxed, forced, or otherwise persuaded by some means to alter the date of the aforesaid function? Ardently wishing to attend both the hop at the Varsity and the "Highland Fling" (like hundreds of others), I feel it would meet with popular approval if this clashing of dates was avoided. Surely those responsible for the event could pick a night out of the 364 that are left and allow gay young things to have the pleasure of attending both balls.

"SCOTCH STUDENT."

UNI. DANCES

Editor, "On Dit,"

Sir,—Recently I had the honor of attending one of your dances held as usual in the refectory, and the impression that was left with me was very unfavorable.

In the first place, except for the number of cars around the place, one would never have realised that a dance was in progress. On advancing into the hall one had to fight one's way through a crowd of very socially minded youngsters, who, in progressing from one pose to another, were doing their best to impress one another by talking in highly affected tones, which they perhaps thought indicative of social position.

Apart from this another thing that left a lasting impression was the lack of seating accommodation, and the bad music, and also the necessity of having to do any drinking required outside in cars.

Yours, etc.,
COUDUR.

NOISE

The Editor,

Sir,—May I draw the attention of the uninitiated to the fact that several students work at the bottom of the Barr Smith Library, that their desks, tables, carrels are placed near the windows to get the light, that these windows must be left open to create a current of fresh air, without which headaches are unavoidable? So, fellow-frequenters of the University Library, would you be so kind as to take my words to heart. Any noise made on the Library steps, any conversations or chattering, any talking in tones above the whisper by any of the windows of the lower floor, interrupts the semiternal studies of those fighting the disabilities of an Honors course. We should be grateful . . .

Yours sincerely,
PISTRIX.

PERIODICALS

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have often been in the periodicals room of the Barr Smith. Strange it is, very few people use it. There are dozens of periodicals I have never seen any one approach. The range of these publications is very wide indeed. Though it's no business of mine, I don't like seeing so much good material go unused. Do the freshmen know about them? Are the women too fresh to read them? Everybody should be acquainted with the magazines dealing with political and economic affairs at home and overseas. Both sides of debated questions are dealt with by the most competent people in the "Economist," "Nation," "New Statesman," foreign office bulletins, Hansard, etc. They are really too good for any one to miss.

Yours, etc.,
ANN ALES.

MEMBERSHIP

The Editor, "On Dit,"

Sir,—The recent annual general meeting of the Sports Association was the first I had attended. Naturally enough I was struck by the paucity of auditors. But what surprised me more was to hear of what seemed to me the small number of people in the association as compared with the number in the Union.

Is it a fact that freshers play for other clubs in preference to the University teams? If so, why on earth? For the payment of one subscription you can play sports right through the year, practising on the very best grounds obtainable. I might draw the notice of such people to the fact that you cannot get a blue by playing for a team outside the Varsity, and that such a blue is a very valuable thing. Everybody should understand that the more people join the association the better practices and material will be for people all round.

I remain, sir, yours sincerely,
OLD HAND.

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SPORTING COSMOS

1939 SPORTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

General.

President, W. D. Verco; deputy president, G. L. Duffield; hon. treasurer, E. H. Burgess; hon. assistant secretary, E. G. Robinson; registrar, F. W. Eardley; council, Dr. F. S. Hone, J. F. Ward; graduates, J. P. McFarlane; St. Mark's, R. R. P. Barbour; life member, P. M. Cudmore, and secretaries of the clubs; athletics, R. B. Craven; baseball, N. S. Johnson; boat, R. A. Goodhart; boxing and wrestling, T. W. Parkhouse; cricket, J. L. Stokes; football, B. A. Magarey; footlights, J. D. Searcy; golf, P. Jay; hockey, N. C. Hargrave; lacrosse, J. P. Boucaut; rifle, W. C. R. Brooke; rugby, G. M. Neuenkirchen; soccer, R. Jarrett; swimming, W. Ligertwood; tennis, R. F. Brown; non-p. tennis, N. C. Hargrave.

Women.

Basketball, M. Crook; hockey, H. Church; swimming, J. Young; tennis, M. Cowell; student adviser, R. R. P. Barbour.

Finance.

President, W. D. Verco; hon. treasurer, E. H. Burgess; council representative, Dr. F. S. Hone; graduate member, G. L. Duffield; undergradu-

ate, J. P. Boucaut; chairman of grounds committee, to be elected.

Grounds.

Hon. treasurer, E. H. Burgess; hon. assistant secretaries, E. G. Robinson, B. A. Magarey; undergrads., N. C. Hargrave, G. M. Neuenkirchen, J. P. Boucaut, N. S. Johnston, Miss M. Cowell.

Waite Park Grounds.

President, W. D. Verco; graduate, Dr. F. S. Hone; undergrad., A. P. Cherry; Waite Institute, Dr. I. Phipps; hon. treasurer, E. H. Burgess.

Permit and Disciplinary.

President, W. D. Verco; council representative, Mr. J. F. Ward; undergrads., E. H. Burgess, E. G. Robinson.

Men's Blue Committees.

Chairman, W. D. Verco; R. F. Brown, J. J. Rice, E. G. Robinson, M. Nairne, G. M. Neuenkirchen, R. W. Richardson.

Women's Blues.

President, J. Cleland; B. Irvine, A. Rix, J. Tassie; Mrs. H. V. Menz, Miss A. Menz.

Record Keeper.

The only K. T. Hamilton.

CORRESPONDENCE

As some letters reached us addressed to the sports editor, and obviously meant for him, we thought fit to publish them on the sporting page.

PRACTICES

The Sports Editor,

Dear Sir,—As a fresher it struck me that some of the practices were pretty badly organised. Of course, at school we could get masters to look after us, and see that we had the right material, while here, sometimes even material cannot be found. There were very few at my practice last night, and those who were there could not teach me much, who am new to the game. A few months back we had prefects taking the names of those absent. I know that some chaps find it hard to get down on certain nights, but something really should be done about it. I know that some more at least could have joined our practice if they had had enough energy to come down to the ground. Could not each of the smaller clubs arrange it so that at least a necessary minimum should be present on each practice night and so avoid disappointments. I know that after being slipped up once I don't feel too keen on being caught again.

It would be quite out of the question, I expect, to complain about the lack of playing-space and the mixed nature of some of the games, footballs, baseballs, or lacrosse balls, often being seen in close proximity, though not in the same place. I have thought more than once what a difference it would make to our already fine oval if the south-east blocks were ours too.

Yours sincerely,
PILASEQUUS.

PING-PONG

The Sports Editor, "On Dit,"

Sir,—I am by no means a member of the table-tennis committee or whatever they call it, but am, nevertheless, a keen follower of the game at the University. First, may I put in a plea for the tables and trestles. There is a right way and very wrong way of setting a table-top on trestles. The 'Varsity tables I have often found horribly mis-set. The idea is to get the trestles as near to the table ends as possible, so as to present a completely horizontal surface. Faulty placement of the trestles is apt to make the tables sag, and eventually split (especially if people lean any weight upon them, a thing foreign to my ideas, and those of all real players).

Next, I shall add my grain of persuasion and commendation to those of the table-tennis notices. It is in the best interests of the game at the 'Varsity that we should enter a team in the S.A. Table-Tennis competition in whatever grade. Ping-pong here, though in some cases worth watching, is pat-ball compared with the heavy top-spinning and smashing of grade games. Our entry of a team or teams would first improve the standard of the personnel out of mind, and they in turn would raise the play of their fellow students to a like level. A place in the 'Varsity table-tennis team will mean practice and perseverance, but, believe me, patience at the University will be rewarded.

Yours, etc.,
PENG-PUNG.

ROWING NOTES

Two University crews were rowing on the Torrens Lake on Saturday, April 1. The maiden eight, though steering a good course, lost its heat: there was some trouble with a crab. The senior crew won its heat, but did not survive the next round.

VACATION GAMES

To the Editor, "On Dit,"

Dear Sir,—I speak from bitter experience. During the shorter vacations, at least, there are too few players in the various University sports clubs to form the required number of sides. Often we turn up to a game, very often under the most adverse conditions, and find ourselves with an inadequate team, or none at all. I fully realise that some people love to go away in the holidays, that our teams can't help growing weaker at such times, and that we must get beaten by far inferior combinations

under such conditions. But what we could avoid is incurring a fine through not sending a full team along when we have not arranged otherwise. We could register the players available some adequate time before the vacation starts, and see if we can field our full number of teams. If we can't we can give due notice of inability to play, inform the League, and so avoid burdening the club we belong to with an annoying and wholly unnecessary fine.

Yours, etc.,
Y. NOTT-SCRATCH.

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FOOTBALL CLUB

The football club has already started practices for the season, as the first match will be held on April 22. Attendances have been quite good, but we must point out to all freshers and all people wavering in the balance that the opportunities offered by the football club are many and varied. This year there will be three teams, two of which will be playing in Amateur League, a very notable performance. The C team, under the leadership of Austen Ifould, plays in the same standard as the best schoolboy football. There are, therefore, many opportunities for a player to rise to the highest standard possible in amateur football. We, therefore, urge everyone who can, not only to play football, but to play with the 'Varsity team, and so reap the benefits of intersarsity matches and cheap travel in other States. The club is undoubtedly the finest and largest in the 'Varsity.

PENNANT TENNIS

The only finalists in University tennis on Saturday won their match against Glen Osmond, although losing the first two doubles. With two rubbers down the team had to win every single to make sure of a win. Alec Plummer produced some very fine tennis to beat the Glen Osmond No. 1 man 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. The game was very fast, and a very high standard was reached. In the other singles, the only set lost was by B. Magarey, who, however, went on to win the rubber comfortably. Hutton and G. Hunter both secured convincing wins against the Glen Osmond third and fourth players. Although this was the final, the team still has to survive a challenge by the minor premiers, Keswick and Wayville. Results:

Williams-Ockenden (G.O.) d. Hutton-B. Magarey, 6-5, 6-3; H. Nield-Gibberd (G.O.) d. Plummer-G. Hunter, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; Plummer d. Williams, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; Magarey d. Ockenden, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; Hutton d. Gibberd, 6-1, 6-2; G. Hunter d. Nield, 6-2, 6-2. Totals, University B. 4-9; d. Glen Osmond, 2-6. Good luck, 'Varsity!

BASEBALL

The first matches for the season will be played on April 15, that is shortly: we shall be ready. The A.s will field a strong team. Of last year's line up, Art. Gould is the only one missing. There have been two big practices and sundry minor ones. Recently a match was played against a scratch Kensington team. In two innings we batted right through the line-up, winning the game comfortably. On Saturday afternoon there will be another full practice, with perhaps a skull-session to follow at the home of our coach, Mr. Kriewaldt, whom we now thank both in anticipation and retrospect for the interest and trouble he has taken.

WOMEN'S UNION COMMITTEE FOR 1939

President: Edith Irwin.
Vice-President: Gwenneth Woodger.
Secretary: Jessica Mawson.
Treasurer: Doreen Jacobs.
Committee:
Arts: Margaret Cowell, Marjorie Crook.
Science: Barbara Warhurst.
Law: Suzanne Corbin.
Medicine: Barbara Quinn Young.
Undergraduate representative on Union Committee: Barbara Quinn Young.

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PHYSICAL FITNESS

COUNCIL AT WORK

The University Council at its meeting on Friday considered the matter of physical education. No official intimation has been received from the Federal authorities of the grant to be made to the University for this purpose, although it has been announced in the public press. Consequently, no definite plans can be made, but the council has, in the meantime, appointed a committee to consider the whole question of physical education, and the training of instructors for it, and has appointed the following committee to report: The Vice-Chancellor, Mr. W. J. Adey, Professor Campbell, Dr. William Ray, Dr. A. J. Schultz, and Dr. C. T. Madigan.

SCIENCE REPORT

ENJOYMENT FOR ALL.

The annual excursion of the Science Association was held on Wednesday last, when a party of scientists (and others) spent the afternoon at Hamilton's Ewell Vineyards, Glenelg. Scientifically, the excursion was quite interesting, the various apparatus and methods of wine-producing being explained and demonstrated; but quite an amount of the time was spent to good advantage in the tasting room, where quite a variety of Hamilton's products were duly tasted by the company. The products tried even extended to grape juice! However, the party, strange as it may seem, motored back to town, and arrived quite intact, physically at least—though it was rumored that one member of the party had difficulty in doing some practical work on Wednesday night.

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