

Salient

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EXTREMES IN SPAIN

THE BEGINNING — AND THE END

"I went to Spain because I hated Fascism, but it was only after fighting there that I realised the depth of my hatred," said Mr. F. Patterson, International Brigade Member, in an interview with "Salient." And Pat ought to know—he helped to storm the Alcazar, retreated 800 miles from Toledo to Madrid, and assisted in the defence of Madrid, seeing most of the worst part of the fighting. But "Salient" wanted some new points of view—it wanted information concerning Franco's fried nuns and priests, and also wanted Pat's opinion on the probable result of the war.

"In 1931," said Pat, "when the first Republican Government of Spain was returned to power, its first laws were that all workers on the land should be paid in wages and not commodities, and fixed a minimum wage; that the Church should declare its holdings; and, in future, that funds which had before been given to the Church for educational purposes, would be used by the Government itself to establish an educational system.

PERSECUTION.

The leaders of the Church, realising a loss of their power, identified themselves with a plot which at that time was the restoration of the Monarchy. With the Church in general in Spain, the procedure used was as follows:—Any priest showing Left tendencies was immediately driven out of the Church, and, in the majority of cases, excommunicated. The plot grew out of the hands of the originators, as the world knows today. On the 18th of July, the Fascists had established military sections in various parts of the cities, but they considered that in the small towns and villages the priests would be able to control the population. For a few days they did, but eventually the people overcame many of these priests, not because they were priests, but because they were members of a group that was opposing the constitutional rights they had established in February, 1936, by a democratic election.

RED ATROCITIES.

No better example could be found than the training base of the British battalion in Spain in the vicinity of Albacete. In this village the nominal population was about 2,000 and the Church was located in the centre. Opposite the Church, the only water supply in the village was situated. A spring coming from the ground led into two pipes and a wall was built over it. At dawn on the 19th July, when the men were getting ready for war, the women of the village went to the well to draw water. They were met by the priest, who sent them back, saying they wanted to meet the Councilors. Then the priest, speaking from the tower of the Church, demanded that they submit in the name of General Francisco Franco. On their refusing, he and his colleagues barricaded themselves into the tower with a machine gun and for four days nobody drew water in that village. At the end of that time, climbing the walls and surrounding him on all sides, they got him, losing 50 men in doing so. What happened to that priest and his colleagues was later described as one of the 'Red Atrocities.' I was in this village on the 36th day of the revolt and saw the bullets—German ones—lodged in the wall."

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Pat showed a copy of a Spanish number of "The Illustrated London News." "Look here," he said, "they've got photos here of every phase of the Spanish War from the beginning to the end—but in order to illustrate the 'Red Atrocities' they've had to get a drawing. Only in the smaller towns, where the Government had very little control and a priest was in charge, did isolated cases of church-burnings occur, and often, on their destruction, the Churches were found to be ammunition dumps."

VICTORY.

Pat showed us, with the aid of a map exactly why Franco could not and would not win. "At present," he said, "fighting is taking place very near to the coast, and the line comes through Fraga to Marella, on the North Aragon front. If the Govern-

ment forces have the armies at Negrin they are stated to have, they should be able to defeat the half million Fascists occupying a small salient. On the Madrid sector North Madrid is clear and the Government still holds a sector of the Jarama River. The Government has cut off all contact with the University City, and does not consider it policy to take it by force of arms. Franco is afraid that the French frontier will open up because if that happens, it means the end of the war.

The Government is superior in man power, though they are pitifully short of arms. Although Government forces hold only one third of the territory, three-quarters of the population are concentrated in it. The fact that there are seven million refugees in Catalonia alone shows this clearly.

Franco has occupied Teruel for sixteen months and is still forty miles from the coast."

EAGER AND SINCERE.

Pat is not intellectually brilliant, and, when confronted by a cool and logical Lecturer in Philosophy whom we subsequently visited, many of his statements such as his assertion that all the Spanish people were fanatically pro-Government—lost a little of their point. He has a one-track mind—he constantly interrupted a conversation on Bach in his frantic attempts to prove the philosopher wrong. The slightest criticism or comment he interprets as utterances of enemies of 'The Cause'; his enthusiasm is tremendous. But he knows his Spain—its past, present, and, perhaps, future—as well as anyone; his narratives carry conviction and his arguments are generally sound; and, above all, he is thoroughly and eagerly sincere in his intense hatred of Fascism.

And he is willing to die to rid the world of the object of his hatred. —R.L.M. (Next week "Salient" will publish some of Mr. Patterson's remarkable experiences in Germany.)

PLACES WHERE THEY SING

Derek Christensen, looking for all the world like an animated Jack-in-the-box or something out of a Silly Symphony, assisted by elegant Mr. Sandford, led about fifty Wiktorians in a Community Sing in the Gym. last week.

The repertoire ranged from "Gaudamus" to "Weeping and Wailing"; Susie Saunders was awarded first prize (an apple) for singing the loudest; and "a good time was had by all."

Seriously, though, the Glee Club (for it was they, augmented, who sponsored the warblings) is to be congratulated on its efforts to raise the standard of singing at V.U.C. A large body of people singing—and in tune—will be a welcome innovation at University functions.

AMENDMENT.

The Glee Club practices will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays, 7-8 p.m., not on Tuesdays and Friday as previously announced.

"All censorship exist to prevent anyone from challenging current conceptions and existing institutions. All progress is initiated by challenging current conceptions, and executed by supplanting existing institutions. Consequently the first condition of progress is the removal of censorship. There is the whole case against censorship in a nutshell.—Bernard Shaw.

Utopias inspire us with a disgust for reality.—Anatole France.

ACADEMY ART AUTUMN DISPLAY

An exhibition of the work of any large, loose group of artists is inevitably lopsided and the autumn collection from the N.Z. Academy of Fine Arts now showing at the Art Gallery is no exception. There is much that is competently stereotyped and a little that is experimentally exciting. When so many artists in the group are exclusively doing water-colours it is a pity that more of them do not exploit the cheapness and accessibility of the medium by being a little less precise and a little more stimulating. Many of the paintings hung this year could have been painted twenty years ago and will probably still be seen cluttering the gallery twenty years hence. Too many flower studies are a loose mass of colour, lacking any point of tension. Odd petals lie on a water-marked table and a curtain makes the background. A book or ornament completes the tableau. This style of thing may make a good art-class lesson in technique, but the results are more happily hung in a bedroom than in an art exhibition. E. V. Pope's "Kowhai" is good for arrangement and colour and lack of fussiness, but the inevitable curtain blurs the pattern of black stems, and W. S. Wauchop's picture, "Hydrangeas," is also a study of green apples, a Buddha and a pawa shell.

STYLE SURVEY.

An occasional landscape in water-colour can be vigorous and refreshing. T. A. McCormack achieves this by using a strong rhythm of line and colour and an elimination of detail. His "Hawke's Bay Hills" and "The Road to the Bridge" are a delight. Fresh, personal and tense, they draw one back again and again. Nugent Welch, with less rhythm and more subtle lighting effects, does the same. His skies and trees are lovely.

Possibly the most refreshing water-colour stylist hung this year, Angus Gray, with his two harbour scenes and a pine tree, has made a corner of real interest. His pictures are delicate and sure, and they do convey an atmosphere. His technique and point of view are individual and unhampered. It is a pity that only three exhibits come from his brush.

In oils, John S. Barraud has achieved an effect reminiscent of Van Gogh, both in technique and colouring. "Spring Sunshine" and "Sunlit Valley" have a quality and vitality rare in this class. The delicate construction balance of these two studies is particularly noteworthy, although it is the colour that first attracts attention.

PORTRAITS.

Perhaps the most finished and pleasing portraits are Mrs. Tripe's, because her flesh tones are enforced and she makes cold greys and greys look warm and natural. Her backgrounds are not curtains and they do not intrude. Incidentally, the subjects of the portraits look interesting. "In a London Studio" is a fine painting of herself against a subdued view of London roof-tops and chimney-pots that is quite charming. Again, her unusual use of greys is noticeable.

One other oil which provokes comment is "Spring Morning," by Marcus King, which achieves its atmosphere as much by its colour as by its subject. A branch of spring blossom flung across a window and a bowl of lilies give point to the title, but the dark plum purples of the interior are the beauty of the picture.

It is an exhibition which leaves one in doubt as to the issue of art in New Zealand. —E.M.B.

Photographic Exhibition.

A one-night exhibition of photographs by past and present students of V.U.C. is to be held in the Gym. on Tuesday, 14th June. Apart from its excellence, the exhibition deserves the support of all students since threepences collected for admission are to be devoted to the Building Fund. Remember Tuesday 14th June, in the Gym.

SOCIALISED MEDICINE

AN OPPOSING OPINION

In pursuance of its policy of maintaining contact with the outside world and not that of academic seclusion, "Salient" has obtained the services of a well-known Wellington medico, Dr. Alan Tennent, to report the debate held last Friday on the subject: "That the medical services in New Zealand should be socialised." As a member of the medical profession, Dr. Tennent's views and comments should prove to be of considerable interest.

DR. TENNENT—

Before proceeding to examine the arguments put forward by either side I should like to say how much I enjoyed the debate and how much I appreciated being amongst students again and catching from them that infectious enthusiasm about things that is the prerogative of youth.

The speakers for the motion based their arguments in favour of socialisation on the following points. Let us examine each in detail.

DIRTY IN THE HAND.

The medical services were a murderous absurdity because doctors had a vested interest in ill-health. The inference to be drawn from this statement is that doctors do not practice preventive medicine because the less illness there is in a given community the less they can feather their nests. One must at once refute such a calumnious statement. Quite apart from the immoral nature of such practice is the fact that from the practical point of view the question as to whether a doctor is going to succeed or not in practice is largely decided by the lay public on his ability to cure them quickly of their ills and prevent them getting those same ailments again. Further, one must here place on record the fact that New Zealand has the lowest infant mortality in the world, the lowest tubercular death rate, despite a highly susceptible native population, and the longest expectation of life of any country. These highly satisfactory vital statistics have been brought about by the loyal co-operation of the medical practitioners with the officers of the Health Department of New Zealand. Surely this is proof positive of the support given by doctors to preventive medicine.

HEALTH AND WEALTH.

The poorer members of the community did not get a "fair spin" because "health is dependent on wealth." As applied to New Zealand conditions this statement is incorrect and showed an ignorance on the part of the speaker of provisions already in operation to cover the less fortunate in a very efficient manner. These provisions largely consist of voluntary lodges whose membership is open to all, general hospitals and free doctors and medicine outside the hospital for those unable to pay anything. For those who are destitute or on sustenance and who cannot otherwise provide themselves with medical aid, application can be made through the nearest hospital for medicine and a doctor to be sent free of cost. In cases of emergency application can be made directly to a doctor. Surely nothing can better these services. Under the voluntary lodge scheme, too, these services can be administered much more efficiently, humanely, and cheaply than under any State scheme, because the administrators are usually voluntary workers.

On account of high entrance costs and outlay in medical training, the field of medical practice is narrowed down to the wealthier classes. Again, this is not true to fact. Actually, the majority of medical students come from parents of very moderate means and many from parents of very humble means. Few come from the homes of the wealthy, and one is confident in asserting that adversity breeds the best doctors.

SOCIALISATION.

The wealth of a nation depends on its health and the health of its children especially, and it is only by socialising the medical services that the health of a community can be improved.

proved. Although admitting the first part of this statement, actual figures do not substantiate the second claim. In no country where compulsory systems of health insurance have been introduced can it be shown that these systems have improved the national health.

There is, under the present scheme, no adequate provision for research. This is true, but such a state of affairs could easily be grafted on to the present system providing finance were available.

QUACKERY.

No medical education of the population is provided for by the present scheme. In the past, facilities for mass education have been lacking. With modern radio this handicap no longer exists, and already much has been done by the Health Authorities and Broadcasting Board. However, this is a very delicate question and it is important to know just how much knowledge on medical matters should be disseminated in this way without creating morbid fears amongst the laity. Speakers suggested that more knowledge and better medical services would do away with quackery. Knowing the frailties of human nature, one ventures to suggest that as "quacks" have flourished in all ages they will continue to flourish even more under a system of completely socialised medical services.

The speakers against the motion mainly based their arguments on:—

1. The lowering of the standard of medical treatment under socialised schemes.

2. The interference of the intimate relationship between doctor and patient.

3. The increase of attendances at doctors' rooms by people who want to be sick and don't have to pay for it.

These are all important points, and from an intimate knowledge of persons engaged in panel practice in England, one cannot doubt the truth of these assertions.

HAPPY MEDICINE.

To sum up in as impartial a manner as possible, one must realise that there are two sides to every question and that the best course to follow is somewhere between the two extremes. And so, one would suggest as the most ideal and practicable way of solving this knotty problem the following:—

1. To make some provision by way of cash benefits to all employed persons who through sickness or accident cannot attend work.

2. To provide medical, hospital and specialist, etc., benefits to all those below a certain income level who cannot reasonably be expected to make provision for themselves.

3. To provide home nursing facilities, to cut down admissions to institutions, and the length of stay of patients already in institutions.

4. To provide private wards and rooms in our general hospitals for persons able to pay for such. The profit accruing from this undertaking to offset the cost of non-paying patients in class 2.

5. To provide for research and some further medical education of the public by the Health Authorities and a general increase of preventive measures.

One has purposely avoided quoting figures and statistics in this article because they always seem such dry bones on which to hang the meat and flesh of good argument, and one hopes that reading will be made easier thereby. —Dr. ALAN TENNENT.

The motion: "That the Medical Services should be Socialised," was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Says Jim Gentry:

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GERMAN-AUSTRIAN UNION JUSTIFIED?

Democratic countries stand aghast at Germany's so-called "grab" of Austria. To them it is the anathema of conquest, the relentless triumph of a stronger over a weaker nation, and to the Socialist the subjugation of a people's will to that of Fascist might. The very thought that such an action could have any beneficial effects or be desired by a majority of Austrians is foreign and inconsistent. Politically, to the curious outside world Germany stands damned. But what might Austrians think and what might Germans think? They are vitally concerned, but apparently their views are irrelevant. Looking at the question from the point of view of a casual observer, economically, the union is justified. To illustrate this let us look at the question, not by putting the telescope to the blind political eye, but rather, by getting down to cold, hard material facts.

To understand something of the nature and effects of the union one must know first of all a little of the economic structure of Austria. The population of Austria is about 6,700,000; as in most other countries, it is unevenly distributed. After 1926 the surplus of births over deaths diminished rapidly until, about 1936, it disappeared altogether. "The economic distress in Austria in the past years is seen most clearly in the continual birth decline, which resulted finally in the fact that Austria was the European country where there were more deaths than births. This is partly the explanation of the fact that of a total population of 6.7 millions, 3.17 millions are 'gainfully occupied'—an unusually large proportion."

Only one quarter of the land is fit for crop raising, and thus Austria is heavily dependent on imports for the supply of foodstuffs such as maize and wheat. Cattle-raising is important, and specialisation in recent years in milk and dairy products has resulted in her having a large export surplus in butter and cheese.

About 37 per cent. of the total area of Austria is composed of forest lands, and the lumber industry is one of the largest export industries. Sawmills are found in all parts of the country, but in addition to timber cutting and sawing, the production of paper and cardboard is widespread, while in Steirmark and Karlen cellulose and wood pulp are produced. This group of industries, which is largely controlled by British interests, must prove valuable assets to Germany, which country is deficient in timber.

Considerable deposits of "surface" iron are located at Steirmark and Karlen, the former being the chief centre of the metal industries. The dismemberment of the Austrian Empire after the war destroyed the market for the engineering industry, and the Austrian market now absorbs only 30 per cent. of the (pre-war) capacity, as compared with a normal pre-war utilisation of 80 per cent. capacity.

Economically, Austria has recovered far less from the depression than have most of the other industrial countries, and if the standard of living of the masses is considered it is very doubtful whether any improvement has occurred since 1932 and 1933. This failure to recover has been due in no small measure to the Peace Treaties of 1918 and 1919, but it has also been due to the old Austrian Government's policy of not practising self-help but rather to seeking the aid and confidence of foreign countries and to hoping for favourable reactions of world upswing. A policy of "amortisation of public foreign debt, gradual abandonment of foreign exchange control and balancing of the Government budget means deflation and the rejection of a public works policy." This is the chief reason why the Austrian economic situation since 1933 has been for the most part merely "a reflex of the improved situation throughout the world."

Before the war the economy of Austria was dove-tailed into that of other parts of Austria-Hungary. Austrian industries found markets, and Austrian people found foodstuffs elsewhere within the Empire. Dismemberment meant that industry was uprooted, and the post-war economic nationalism of the newly formed states meant that many roots lay rotting on the surface. Such a complete change forced the Austrian people, deprived of their "domestic" markets, to seek foodstuffs outside the new barriers. Regional trade became international. Austria was thus faced with two alternatives—to search for new foreign markets to pay for imported foodstuffs, etc., or to reconstruct industry upon a basis of production to supply domestic needs. She should have chosen the latter, but the choice of the former meant that she became "merely a straphanger in the international train." Her precarious hold on foreign trade necessitated a deflationary policy which prevented a natural expansion of the home market.

From the foregoing it may be concluded that the entry of Austria into the German economic system should prove decidedly advantageous to herself, not only from participation in the big German market but also in the recovery in the German economic position. The Austro-German market, with its population of 74 millions, will be one of the largest in the world, and the free exchange of goods throughout this large territory will certainly be a boon to those Austrian manufacturers who hitherto had to rely on a small home market as a sole support for their export business. The removal of trade barriers and changes in economic organisation should exercise a favourable influence on the trade and industry of the two countries. An influx of German tourists will be more than sufficient to compensate the declining Austrian tourist trade. These factors together with the increased activity in the metallurgical industries that will probably occur owing to general rearmament and a comprehensive public works scheme to effectively amalgamate "Greater Germany" should result in increased prosperity and a higher standard of living amongst the Austrian people. Whether or not the creation of a tremendous war machine is desirable from the point of view of raising the standard of living depends almost entirely on political outlook, and no doubt a majority of Austrians will welcome a chance to recover their former wage levels and recuperate with the aid of Germany some of the pre-war glories that were Austria's.

—M.L.B.

What Is This Mission?

Much of the discussion by students about Christianity is irrelevant because of fundamental misunderstanding as to the real nature of the Christian Faith. Most of us think that we are quite capable of discussing intelligently the relevance of Jesus Christ for the modern world, yet how many of us could give in clear, succinct terms those things which form the essence of the Christian Faith and make it what it is?

Now if, as is possible, most of us are really ignorant of the essential nature of Christianity, then at least one important thing follows, viz., that the said Christian Faith may have something to do with us, and we have been blind to that fact, because we have not understood Christianity. If we would be intellectually honest we must investigate that possibility.

The Rev. H. J. Ryburn, M.A., B.D., who is to give the series of addresses in the Mission of the Church to the University this week, is well qualified to present the Christian Faith to the student community. A Rhodes Scholar from Otago University, he studied in Oxford and in New York, and has been practically all his life in touch with the student world. Last year he gave a series of addresses on the Christian Faith to Otago University, which even the most intellectual found food for thought. His addresses at Victoria will be on:—

"THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD."

An effort to state, in honest terms, the relation between the Church and the wider community, just what the Church is doing or not doing in the world, and to distinguish between Christianity and the Church as we see it.

"GOD OR MAN?"**WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST?**

God or Man? On the answer to this question rests the whole system of Christian truth. And it can't be solved easily. At least we have to listen carefully to those who knew Him in the flesh, i.e., the writers of the New Testament. And their conclusion was? Were they right? If not, why not?

"SIN AND REPENTANCE."

We don't like the word "sin." And we don't know the meaning of the word "repentance." Well, a review of the world situation might lead one to think that something is radically wrong with human nature. Can human nature be changed? That is the question. There doesn't seem to be much hope for the world if it can't. Social and economic systems for the controlling of perverted human nature must always prove useless. Perhaps the first step towards real change may be the recognition of some fundamental twist in our natures, which could be called "sin." It is something like that, that the Christian is talking about when he mentions "sin."

"RECONCILIATION WITH GOD."

This twist in man's nature is the result of his separation from God, by Whom and for Whom he was made. Man is in enmity against God, and God has done something about reconciliation at terrible cost to Himself, in Jesus Christ. Is this true? Have you really thought it out?

"GOD IN ACTION."

Of course all this depends upon whether there is a God. But can you say for certain whether there is? The philosophers and scientists can go no further than to say "It looks as if . . ." But "God in Action." If we think of God we are inclined to think of Him as passive, as having created, and left it at that. But God in action now—changing men and women. Possible? Well, it's happening.

All this seems so very removed from living, from the real issues. But let us face these questions:—Is there any way out of the world chaos, except by dealing with and changing human nature? Does that mean changing my nature? Can I change my own nature? Has God done something about that very need in Jesus Christ?

If we, as students, are to be what we claim to be, realists, let us also be honest about ourselves. Let us also be in deadly earnest and leave no possibility untried, for the solving of the problem we are all concerned with that of living together.

J. A. LINTON.

GOOD NEWS

Dear "Salient,"—Further to your report of the deputation to the College Council in reference to the new Students' Union Building, I am glad to inform you that a favourable reply has been received. The Council is in full sympathy with the aims of my Committee, and also with its desire to proceed at the earliest possible date. The Committee has been instructed to draw up more detailed plans and estimates, and these will be submitted to the College Council at its next meeting on 23rd June.

J. B. AIMERS.

Hon. Secretary,
V.U.C. Building Committee.

THE "SOVIET WORKER"

Dear "Salient,"—Since R.W.B. in your last issue has taken it on himself to sing the praises of "I Was a Soviet Worker," I should be grateful if he would explain to me the following apparent contradictions therein:—

1. Smith starts his book by telling us how he was victimised by capitalist employers; he goes to U.S.S.R. and tells the Russians how kind and noble are capitalists.

2. As far as I can gather, Smith's housemaid worked 48 hours per day.

3. Smith mentions that the price of bread was 1.75 roubles per kopeck, and fifty pages further over gives an official price list of food with bread at 1 rouble per kopeck.

4. He dramatically describes how at a Soviet tribunal, he threw down the party book he got on joining the Communist party in 1919; at the end of the book he publishes a photograph of an American testimonial stating that since he joined the party in 1922 he has . . .

5. He states that foreigners were prevented from leaving U.S.S.R., and later describes how he travelled by train across the border to Lithuania to renew his passport.

R.W.B. emphasises two points:—
1. Smith is unbiassed. (Of course that is why he has written a book more imaginative than Grimm's Fairy Tales.)

2. The book is written with insight. First, R.W.B. has not proved that Smith is unbiassed. A turncoat will excel all others in abusing what he has left. Smith is obviously making money on royalties, etc., and perhaps is drawing a reward from his noble capitalist friends for writing the book. The number of untruthful statements is a final "damning exposure" of the biased nature of the book.

Secondly, if Smith is biased, his insight is worth nothing.

I should like to make it clear that, although condemning Smith's book, I am not necessarily supporting Communism. Smith could have found much wrong with the system without writing the drivel he did.

I agree with R.W.B. that "I Was a Soviet Worker," by Andrew Smith, is "a most damning exposure"—

1. Of Smith himself;
2. Of the methods employed by the capitalist class and countries to discredit anyone who is trying to help the under-dog. —X.Y.Z.

P.S.—I see that, like a true Nationalist - United - Reform - Coalition - Tory, R.W.B. professes not to know that Communism and Socialism are as alike as Marx and Mussolini. —X.Y.Z.

LETTER IN REPLY

My dear "J.D.F.,"
I'm really awfully sorry. Sorry because, owing to my writings lacking the elegant style and clarity of yours, I have been unable to make you understand fully the implications of my Preface to "Olympian Nights." Because, you know, we're both saying pretty much the same thing.

In reply to my assertion that the root trouble is not national but individual, you gave us an irrelevant dissertation on the Marxian axiom that religion is the opiate of the people. It really isn't an answer, you know. Because I didn't mention religion at all in the Preface—I merely made a plea for the eradication of ignorance, sloth, and inactivity in the individual, so that he would at least be qualified to build up the new world system which you and I desire. Obviously, you can't reform the world if you don't know anything about the institutions that need reform, or simply don't care.

You seem to believe that "personal reformation" consists in resting "India-rubber buttocks on the red-plush of church pews" or "forming spiritual exercises amid the opulence of cushions." Picturesque. But that, of course, is personal degeneration, not regeneration. Merely insincerity and dishonesty in the individual.

You shouldn't look at right and wrong, good and bad, in the light of the Class Struggle.

I agree that "the bulk of the people are forcibly held in the thrall of traditional concepts." To release them from that thrall we must, as you say, make them "consider events outside of a system of traditional prejudices." An individual problem. I agree that "active participation in day-to-day struggles" is essential. You see, both you and I are addressing ourselves to the individual.

If you want to change the social order, unless you wish to do it by a bloody revolution, you must have the consent of the masses. All Governments, except perhaps those of the totalitarian states, are dependent upon the passive consent of the people. In other words, the individual must consent.

If you house a slum population in a palace, they'll soon turn it into a pigsty.

Plastered luridly on hoardings and blatant in shop windows, we see advertisements which, referring to the

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Dear "Salient,"—Thank you for the free advertisement. We appreciate your quip—is that the right term?—and acknowledge our vanquishment. But we wouldn't have it thought that we didn't expect it. We wrote our answer (in anticipation, as it were!) on the same day. It still holds good.

We do not apologise to "Salient." To do so were to admit insult, and thereby give injury. We merely extend in all seriousness the hand we gave in (perhaps ill-timed) humour. We hope it will be as readily returned!

We like "Salient." We admire its virility. What is more, we subscribe to its coiffers as well as—in another sense—to its editorial policy: that is the mark of our good faith.

We are in no way opposed. What "Salient" has succeeded so well in doing at Salamanca, we are trying to do further up the hill. If the results are dissimilar, then the key lies perhaps in a diversity of interest. We are all destined for one profession, you for many. But most of us are at Victoria too. We have dual loyalties, but there need be no friction. The objects of "Student Opinion" are essentially to give cultural unity to the T.C. In this work it differs in no way from that of "Salient" at the V.U.C. But what is more—and this we realised from the first—our aim would be utterly obstructed by creating friction with other bodies with similar tendencies.

We simply refuse to do it!

Wishing you well, sincerely yours,

"STUDENT OPINION,"

Spence Combs,

Anton Vogt,

Co-Editors.

MARCO POLO

Sam Goldwyn has excelled himself. His name has long been a by-word for everything that is showy, pretentious, illiterate and vulgar, but with "The Adventures of Marco Polo," he has surely beaten all his previous efforts. The Wellington Press will, of course, say nothing that might be taken as criticism of the picture. "The Evening Post," for instance, calls it a "rollicking story of the adventures of a bold Venetian traveller" and goes to say that it "needs little false colour added to it." Nevertheless, the opinions of the first night audience must soon become known throughout the town and it will be really remarkable if the picture has an extended season. It was only to be expected that the picture would be hopelessly inaccurate as to the facts of Marco Polo's life and adventures, but Sam has filled the smaller roles with well recognised character actors whom we have seen as the Babbitts, bankers and garage-proprietors of so many Mid-Western films that we know them as old friends. The language and ideas were also straight from Zenith City. If the characters did not use "I'll say," "You're telling me," and "Sez you," these are the only forms of rubber-stamp American repartee that were not used in this opus. "Psychologically speaking" raised a good laugh. If Sam had only put Eddie Cantor and Martha Raye in the film instead of Gary Cooper and Sigrid Gurie, it would have been funnier than "Roman Scandals." As it was the lions stole the picture.

A "March of Time" dealing with



"The great interest which is taken in, and the strength of public opinion in support of, the development of an efficient Air Force as one of the arms of defence of New Zealand were shown by the great crowds which watched the display given by permanent and territorial sections of the Royal New Zealand Air Force at Rongotai Aerodrome on Saturday afternoon." —"Evening Post."

Toll of the Road, exhort us to "Ride in Safety with So and So's Tyres" or "Avoid Accidents with Such and Such Brakes." But it is very unlikely that the accident rate will decrease until the drivers are more careful.

But still, we both really mean the same thing.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald L. Meek.

JUSTIFICATION

Dear "Salient,"—I have recently had my attention drawn to a comment in the "Salient" of April 13th in which reference is made evidently to myself. I should just like to say that (1) The debate proved conclusively that students could, as you say, discuss religion and sex "with dignity, wit, and clarity of mind." (2) As it was naturally not possible for me either to speak or to vote I should like to make it quite clear that I think students should be free to discuss such subjects.

O. E. BURTON.

THE EARLY CHURCH

It is absurd and disgraceful for one to live magnificently and luxuriously when so many are hungry.

—Clement of Alexandria, 150-215.

All riches come from iniquity, and unless one has lost, another cannot gain.

—St. Jerome, 340-420.

The Snag

Your eyes resembled wells, gazelles.
Or stars, as rhyme dictates.
I'll grant you all hyperboles
From Chaucer down to Yeats.

Your tresses, like a waterfall
Or woven sunlight, shimmer;
Your body's on the Milo plan—
Perhaps, I fancy, slimmer.

Yet 'twas not unrequited love,
Or search for simile,
Or building hopeless fancies, gave
Insomnia to me;

Rather, this paradox remains
To sabotage my sleep:
What made you lovely as a flower
And silly as a sheep? —H.W.G.

A 'VARSITY ORCHESTRA

If the hopes of several music lovers are realised, a permanent Victoria College Orchestra will soon be in existence. Anyone interested is requested to communicate immediately with either P. Marsack or L. Sandford.

Rumour has it that 'Varsity functions may in future be enlivened by the singing of a male quartette. Neither does the Glee Club intend to be idle this year, so musical prospects at V.U.C. are distinctly bright.



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S P O R T

Hockey Inquisition

Is the standard of men's hockey declining at Victoria? In 1929 the Hockey Club won the Senior A, Senior B, and Club Championships. That was the most successful season the club has ever had, and in no year since have good results been achieved. In 1930 we were runners-up for the Senior A Championship and two years ago victory came our way at the inter-College Tournament, but these were isolated triumphs. Feeling that there must be some good reason for the comparative lack of success of our teams during the last few years, "Salient" sought the opinion of the well-known umpire, Mr. R. H. Scott, who has been in close touch with Wellington hockey for the past 20 years, and his views are given below:—L.B.S.

"It is difficult," said Mr. Scott, who represented Wellington before he became an umpire, "to state briefly why University has not, in recent years, done so well as in the past, but the chief weakness, I think, can be summarised as follows:—

1.—LACK OF UNDERSTANDING.

"There does not appear to be the same degree of understanding between players; and this does not apply to the forwards only, but to forwards and backs alike.

2.—CARELESS HITTING.

"The same care is not being taken to see that all hits are as accurate as possible and of requisite strength. All strokes should be a model of accuracy and of necessary strength, with all attention focussed on your own players and on your opponents.

3.—THE PUSH STROKE.

"It should be more apparent that the advantages of the 'push' stroke over a 'hit' shot are many. Apart from the artistic point of view, it definitely gives added strength and accuracy to a shot and gives the least possible delay in its execution.

4.—THE BACK PASS.

"Players seem to have forgotten that a back pass is a very effective way of freeing a player and of changing the direction of a game, although the execution and effectiveness of a back pass depend upon perfect understanding and anticipation between the two players giving and receiving it.

"The principle to be observed here is that, if there is no opening for forward play, it is better to pass the ball back than to give it to an opponent, and such play can often be used to advantage in the circle, where so much over-keenness is now apparent.

5.—KEEP YOUR POSITION.

"Most important of all to remember is that a good player is expected to play in his position. In the game of hockey no team work is possible unless this fact is rigidly observed and non-observance can only lead to disorganised play."

A word of advice that Mr. Scott would give to the budding hockey player is that he should watch the Indians in action. They will be here again shortly, and no hockey player should miss the opportunity of studying the methods of the quick little men who, Olympiad after Olympiad, prove that they are in a class of their own as exponents of hockey.—L.B.S.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES.

Although trailing by 1-3 at one stage, the seniors staged a good second-hand recovery to win 5-3 against the second Hula team. Pitt scored two goals and Shaw and Braithwaite one each, the remaining one being a penalty goal. With two wins and two draws, the team is doing well, but it has not yet met the strong Karori combinations or the first Hula team.

Hula defeated the Senior B1 team in a game in which Allen showed much improved form in goal. He was kicking well on Saturday.

The other Senior B team could do little right against Karori (2). Silcock scored within the opening two minutes, but we could not score again (Karori having meanwhile scored six times) until near the end of the game, when sparkling rushes ended in Williams twice netting. F. H. Renouf played his first game of the season.

Although the Juniors were defeated by Hula (1), they have, especially in such older players as Goring-Johnston, Ashley-Jones, Fussell and Edgley, a nucleus around which a useful side can be built. The thirds lost to Petone by the odd goal in three, but the Fourths were trounced by Technical College.

The fresh academic distinction gained by C. S. Plank serves to remind us that for many years he was a valuable member of V.U.C. hockey, and tennis teams, gaining College blues in both sports and a N.Z. blue in hockey. He had marked coaching ability as well.

Rugby

For some unaccountable reason the senior fifteen never reproduced their true form when they played the curtain-raiser at Athletic Park, and their display against St. Patrick's Old Boys was very disappointing.

The forwards, rather listless in the first spell, played up better after the interval. They went well in set scrums and line-outs, giving the backs plenty of the ball, but St. Pat's were superior in the loose play. Meads played a very good game, and Thomas and McNicol were also prominent. Eade again backed up well on defence.

The St. Pat's forwards broke quickly from the scrum and hustled the inside backs, who were also handicapped by the speed of the opposition backs in getting up to their men. Most of the passing rushes went to McElwain's wing, but he invariably ran into a tackle and the attack broke down. It was unfortunate that more play did not go to Tricklebank, who ran strongly and, when blocked, used a judicious centre kick to keep the attack going. It is hard to understand why none of the inside backs used a short stab kick behind the St. Pat's when it was seen that orthodox passing to the wings was not bringing results. This would, at least, have provided some variety in the attack.

Bryers cut through on several occasions, but instead of carrying on, passed to a man in a worse position and the opportunities were lost. The chief problem seems to be to find a combination of half and first five-eighths that will give the attack a good speedy start.

KICKING.

How valuable to a Rugby team is a man with a good goal-kicking boot! Fuller was a case in point. His remarkable accuracy often resulted in his team winning matches when it had been outplayed in all other departments. The art of kicking is not studied as it should be. There are very few footballers in New Zealand who can drop-kick or place-kick a goal from half-way in the absence of wind—the great majority, in fact, could not send a place or drop 50 yards with any degree of accuracy. Last winter an interesting kicking competition took place between Stanford University (American game) and Carlton Club, Melbourne (Australian Rules) footballers. The Americans kicked well but were outclassed by the Australians, all of whom despatched drop-kicks well over 60 yards, the longest drop-kick being 70 yards. The longest kick ever recorded was a place-kick by D. McNamara, an Australian, whose prodigious effort resulted in the ball landing 93 yards away.—L.B.S.

BY SPECIAL STEAMER.

Appropos to the reference, in last week's "Salient," to the proposed visit to New Zealand next year by Australian Rules football teams, we now learn that two exhibition matches are likely to be played, one on the Basin Reserve and one in Auckland. The two Melbourne Clubs coming, St. Kilda and South Melbourne, will charter a special steamer to bring the large party of players, trainers, officials and supporters to the Dominion. The object of the trip is to give players a holiday. Australians realise that the establishment of their game in New Zealand is a virtual impossibility as grounds here are too small—an Australian Rules ground is twice the size of a Rugby field. The game itself was first played about 1850, and is therefore about the same age as Rugby and Soccer.—L.B.S.

HENDRY FOR WELLINGTON.

It is very likely that H. L. Hendry, Australian Test cricketer of a few years ago, will be living in Wellington next summer. Hendry, who is 43, is with the Vacuum Oil Co., and is still a fine all-round cricketer: graceful batsman, fast-medium bowler and excellent slip field. Institute had J. R. Sheffield as player-coach last season and will have C. Loxton, Queensland Sheffield Shield player, helping them next season. "Salient" suggests to Cricket Club officials that overtures be made to Hendry with a view to securing his services as player-coach. Hendry was a member of Warwick Armstrong's famous 1921 team in England.—L.B.S.

FOOTBALLER-RECENTIST.

For many years a hard sufferer in the van for Victoria College fifteens, L. O. Desborough, A.U.C.'s new Registrar, is this season playing for University in the Auckland senior competition. Soccer was not known to be one of his interests in Wellington, but he is, nevertheless, President of the recently-formed Auckland University College Association Football Club. The Women's Hockey Club, too, has him as a Vice-President.

"WASHING UP"

Executive Meeting

As is usual towards the end of a Parliamentary session, a financial year, or (as in the case of V.U.C.) the end of the Executive's term of office, final meetings are in the nature of a financial washing-up.

At Monday night's Executive meeting "Salient" heard the Finance Committee's recommendations on annual grants to College Clubs, being put through the wringer. Dull it certainly was, and "Salient" dozed through most of the evening's business to the accompaniment of the frenzied rattle of the Women's Hockey Club at practice upstairs.

We learned however:

That the Table Tennis Club is granted affiliation and will go into action with two new tables and new equipment.

That the Capping Ball was a financial success (and a social success, we believe).

That the Tramping Club will have to buy its own billys, and that it will have to be more careful with ice-axes and skis in future.

That the Free Discussions Club will soon be no more if it does not show signs of life within the next two weeks.

That, judging by its application for grants for "entertainments to visiting teams," the Football Club is in the nature of a social club—or something.

That Dick Simpson is running the Bob Hop on King's Birthday night (Monday, June 6th): The Gymnasium is now licensed to hold 100 couples, we understand.

That the annual general meeting will be held on the 28th June, for the purpose of electing a new Executive Committee.

TIME MARCHES ON!

—Y.E.A.

SPANISH STRUGGLE

Elsewhere in this issue of "Salient" appears an article based on an interview with a member of the Spanish International Brigade.

"Salient" has tried its hardest to present to its readers the views of the side opposed to the duly elected, constitutional Spanish Government, but Franco's qualified apologists have shyly refused to present us with their apologia.

Hearing that a gentleman who had served in Franco's tank corps was in Wellington, "Salient" wrote him a letter (to which he referred in a lecture as "a very nice letter") enclosing a copy of "Salient" and asking him if he would care to give us his views on the Spanish war, either in an article or in an interview. Some time later he replied, stating baldly that he was unable to comply with any of our requests. He returned the copy of "Salient," having annotated a line in a poem and a sentence in the leading article, and corrected two spelling mistakes. Subsequently this gentleman has been interviewed by and contributed an article to a well-known weekly paper.

"Salient" is willing at all times to publish conservative views on any problem, local or international, but if this moribund element passively acquiesces, it must expect an unfavourable construction to be placed upon its silence.

LOYALTY

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