

"PRIVATE LIVES"

In the Gym.

**THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY**

Salient

An Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington, N.Z.

VOL. 10, No. 2 ★ WELLINGTON, MARCH 19, 1947 ★ Price: BY SUBSCRIPTION

EXTRAV . . .

**Rehearsals
Begin
Soon**

WATCH NOTICES!

VUC Delegate Reports Australian Student Congresses

It now takes twice as long to travel by train to Auckland as it does to fly to Sydney. In Hobart, the pubs are open till 10 p.m. The Melbourne Students' Union Building would cause our Building Committee to swoon in ecstasy. All Australian ex-servicemen are automatically entitled to full-time bursaries to complete their courses. These are some of the more striking impressions of Australia brought back by your delegate to the Annual Conference of the National Union of Australian University Students (NUAUS), which was held in Hobart in the latter half of January. At this conference, NZUSA was represented by Mrs. Marguerite Scott, who is its President, and VUCSA by Mr. Alec McLeod, Men's Vice-President on your Executive. Some of his experiences and impressions of a two-month stay in Australia are recorded here. These opinions would not necessarily be endorsed by Mrs. Scott.

The proceedings at Hobart were twofold. The Council of NUAUS, which held its Annual Meeting, is the co-ordinating and policy-forming body of Australian Student Organisations, attended by delegates of eight universities and university colleges, the number of delegates being based on the student population. This corresponds to the Annual Conference of NZUSA. Separate from this, but immediately following it, was the Inaugural Congress of NUAUS, which may be attended by any student. Australian students have no large scale sports tournament, like our Easter and Winter Tournaments, so this Congress affords the only opportunity for students to come together in large numbers and discuss common problems and ideas.

The 29 members of the Council and Executive of NUAUS met for ten days, often three times a day, and the record of resolutions passed occupies twenty foolscap pages; the New Zealanders were invited to speak to any motion and were frequently questioned by councillors. Some of the topics discussed are of particular interest to New Zealand students.

A motion was passed urging the Government to increase grants to rehabilitation students, to make them equal to the basic wage. Australia is already ahead of New Zealand in this respect, because all returned servicemen are automatically entitled to full time bursaries and payments are continued throughout the long vacation.

Several visitors were present from the Teachers' Colleges and full time Technical Colleges, and a preparatory committee was set up to proceed with the establishment of a Federation of Australian Students, to include the students of all tertiary educational institutions, namely Universities, Teachers' Colleges and Technical Colleges.

A motion to make chest x-ray examinations compulsory for all students was defeated. Speakers in favour of the move pointed out that adolescents were more likely to be infected than any other age group, and that the universities could give a lead to the community by such a scheme.

I.U.S. Withdrawal

The most controversial issue before Council was the motion for withdrawal from the International Union of Students. The motion was based on an unfavourable report from the Australian delegate to the Inaugural conference of IUS. Both the report,

and the support it received in Council appeared to be based on the contention that the aims of IUS are not in complete agreement with those of NUAUS. IUS stands for the right of self determination for colonial peoples. UNO stands for the right of self determination for all peoples. NUAUS, on the face of things, would appear to do neither. An objection to affiliation on the grounds that no constitution was available was quashed by the arrival of a constitution with the Sydney Technical College delegation. Mrs. Scott outlined the reasons for New Zealand students' support of IUS, and later in the debate I spoke against disaffiliation which was finally carried by 12 votes to 11. As a year's notice is required for disaffiliation, an Australian delegate will probably be sent to the 1947 IUS Conference, and there is still time to repent.

Inaugural Congress

280 students, drawn from all the Australian universities, met for ten days and were accommodated at the Brighton Military Camp, 16 miles from Hobart. The purpose of the Congress was to allow students to meet and mingle, both socially and in discussion round the theme of "Students in Society." For many, the holiday side predominated, which is understandable, since Tasmania is an ideal place for a holiday, having pubs open till 10 p.m., motorists who enjoy giving hitch-hikers a lift, and a wide variety of places of historical and scenic interest. Highlights were a midnight trip to Mt. Wellington (4,000 ft., complete with snakes) and watching the sun rise from the summit, and a visit to the Cascade Brewery (even if it doesn't come from Taihape it's still the best in

Australia) where the beer was on and free for over an hour.

Several sessions of Congress were addressed by guest speakers; at others students presented papers; at most of these a spirited discussion followed. These included a Broadcast symposium on Criminal Law, papers on UNESCO, on University Government and influences on it, on student newspapers and on New Zealand. At the last, unaware of the presence of a press reporter, I made some slick remarks about our State Medical Scheme, remarks which were later misquoted by several Australian and New Zealand papers. One session passed unanimously a motion disapproving of the action of the NUAUS Council decision to disaffiliate itself from IUS.

Labour Federation

On the way to Hobart I took the opportunity of attending the conference of the Australian Student Labour Federation (ASLF) which was held near Melbourne early in January and was composed of delegates from left wing clubs in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The Federation aims to weld together all students of socialist views on matters of common interest, and includes all shades of left wing opinion, from right wing Labour Party members through to social democrats, Communists, and even a Trotskyite fringe. The Melbourne University Labour Club is the strongest, with over 300 members. The Federation publishes a magazine, "Student," and a song book containing famous left wing songs and other popular ditties.

Highlights of the Conference were discussions on American Imperialism, on the position of the Aborigines, on the position of the individual under



ALEC McLEOD

" . . . a slick explanation."

Socialism, and on Morals for Moderns, which included everything from companionate marriage to Socialist ethics and the views of Arthur Koestler.

General Impressions

It has been pointed out that Australia is the least satisfactory place for New Zealanders to visit, because the two countries are so similar. This is fairly true, but everything in Australia is on a larger scale. Almost everything is bigger from the coat-hanger across Sydney harbour to the percentage of alcohol in the beer. The same applies to the issues which confront the intelligent citizen. The clash between Labour and Capital is sharper and the Labour Government seems less prepared to face the issue.

Living in Sydney or Melbourne is really city life—on one hand the slum districts are larger and worse than any in New Zealand, but on the other hand the opportunities for cultural activity are far greater. In Sydney the Public and Mitchell libraries combine to give an excellent library service, while in Melbourne the Art Gallery has a number of world-famous paintings. Art exhibitions and symphony concerts appear to be almost weekly occurrences.

Australian students are faced with the same problems as we are, and generally behave in the same way—a New Zealander can be at home among them in a few minutes. The Melbourne Students' Union Building shows what we might have in 195X. There are two cafeterias, each four times the size of ours, a well equipped theatre which seats 500, adequate men's and women's lounges (no common common room), a billiard room, music room and library. Their university stands on about 50 acres of

(Continued on Page 6.)

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March 19.

NOTES FOR FRESHERS

In the near future, a Special General Meeting of the Students' Association will be held to adopt, amend and wrangle over the new draft constitution. The present constitution has been amended so many times in the last forty years that it now consists mainly of amendments; it is large and cumbersome and it is very difficult for the uninitiated to put a finger on a required section. The new constitution will be simpler and it is hoped that it will be made available in printed booklet form, so that the provision it contains that it should be available to any member at a small charge can be more easily observed.

It is profitable at this juncture to review some of the basic rules of the constitution. There is one which seems to us to be well overdue for revision, and that is the rule which excludes freshmen students from voting at any meeting of the Association until after the Annual General Meeting. The introduction to this rule which most freshmen who are interested in the affairs of the student body receive is a blunt statement from the Chairman at the meeting of some Club or Society that "Freshers can't vote." This exclusion from voting in the first six months of the academic year is a great enough imposition when it is considered that there is no other organisation in which the payment of the membership fee does not entitle the payee to vote; but this six months exclusion means that students have no say in the election of the executive which administers their affairs for the next year; this is virtually disfranchisement for one and a half years, with the only safeguard that a subsequent General Meeting can demand the resignation of the Executive.

It will be argued that the enfranchisement of freshmen would mean that many of the voters will have very little knowledge of the affairs of the association. This argument hardly holds water when it is considered that only about a quarter of those students entitled to vote do so, and the restriction on freshmen means that there is little incentive for them to take such an interest in their first year. Giving them the vote would at least encourage them to attend meetings and join clubs.

EDITOR'S FORUM

Sir.—In his tribute to Sir John Rankine Brown, "D.M.S." makes the following statement: "He had begun by being a devotee of Rome and ended with an abiding love of Greece. For myself, I can see no greater indication of intellectual progress than this." I wonder if your contributor would care to give a reasoned explanation of this categorical statement. In particular, I should like to know whether he refers to the Rome of the Scipionic Circle, of Caesar and Cicero, of Augustus, or of the Antonines, and to the Greece of Homer, of Lycurgus, of Pericles, or of Alexander. If he thinks that, from all these and innumerable other phrases, he can extract the quintessence of "national characters," the attempt is certainly interesting, but must be set out at greater length than the sweeping judgment I have quoted.

—E. BADIAN.

Dear Sir.—While the biased reporting of *Salient* has long been noted, and in fact, due to the teaching of psychology one would expect it, nevertheless salient news has seldom been omitted.

The last issue does not mention the mountaineering disaster, into which an inquest will have been held by the time this is in print, nor the conference of the Australian Student Labour Federation, which Mr. A. O. McLeod attended, presumably as a NZUSA delegate.

J. R. JACKSON.

1. Due to the teaching of English, *Salient's* biased reporting is usually grammatical, which Mr. Jackson's letter is not.

2. Because of *Salient's* unusual policy of not publishing reports until the relevant information is available, the report on the mountaineering disaster and the report of the ASLF Conference will not be published until Mr. Evison and Mr. McLeod return to Wellington. Incidentally, Mr. McLeod attended the conference as the delegate of the VUC Socialist Club.—Ed.

film reviews

wicked lady

It is to be hoped that the exhibitors of this film have suitably rewarded a certain critic for his inimitable effort in advertising on their behalf. As a result, the public of Wellington have flocked to it ever since hoping to be shocked by this supposedly spicy entertainment. They must have been disappointed. The film was disreputable alright, but the greater part of the action was so flat and unconvincing that those little gasps of virtuous horror they had come to produce were absolutely impossible. What a flop! What a delusion! The emotions were entirely unaffected.

The story is punk. The hero (?) Roger Skelton dishes his fiancée to marry her girl friend who thus becomes Lady Skelton (the wicked one). The dished fiancée is maid of honour at the wedding, and remains as housekeeper. Thereafter it is difficult to decide to whom Roger is really married. Lady Skelton then proceeds to lead her wicked life: impersonates a highwayman, meets him, murders people who get in her road, and finally gets killed herself. This cleans everything up leaving Roger to marry his true love. Presumably they live happily for evermore.

No doubt there was a modicum of noteworthy items in the picture—most pictures have a few—but only two pierced the general boredom. Firstly the crowd scene at the hanging, and secondly, the shots from the back of the fire place of the butler and Lady Skelton.

The film has no further redeeming features.

—M.G.S. and T.A.T.

orchestra debut

We have just witnessed the inaugural concert of an orchestra which may well be described as the finest heard in this country since the visit of Verbrugghen and the NSW State Orchestra in 1929. The new National Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Anderson Tyrer, demonstrated beyond doubt that the capabilities of its selected players are very high.

The most ardent objector to the appointment of Mr. Tyrer as organiser must concede that in the short space of time he has had to co-ordinate and polish the work of the members of the team, a very fine job of work has been done. He has spared no-one, and the fruit of his determination and enthusiasm is borne in the 130-odd works, including 30 symphonies and major works, which comprise the repertoire after only five months of individual and group practice.

Solo work was admirably performed. It was sheer pleasure to hear the intricacies of wood-wind, brass and string passages in the *Rhapsody of Enesco*, and in the technically difficult tone poem, *Till Eulenspiegel* (R. Strauss).

As an overall criticism, however, one point must be raised. Although enthusiasm may explain the intense and vigorous treatment of almost every item, it is to be hoped that, as practice continues, a more subtle and reasoned approach will be made to passages marked *piano*, and to the orchestral accompaniment of solos.

Now that we have the nucleus of a permanent musical institution in New Zealand, let us hope that further steps towards a National Conservatorium are not far distant.—G.C.W.

the captive heart

This is an excellent film based on the lives of prisoners in a British P.O.W. camp in Germany. It is not a record of adventure and mighty deeds but one of a dreary monotonous captivity borne with unquenchable belief in a dubious and far distant victory.

The story concerns Michael Redgrave, who as a Czech, while escaping from the Gestapo, impersonates a dead British officer. He is captured and is suspected by his fellow prisoners but proves his identity. To avoid suspicion of the authorities he writes to his impersonatee's wife and falls in love with her. He is repatriated and joins her. Other sub-themes of almost equal importance carry this story along.

The treatment is admirably restrained. It could have been spoiled by a display of lush sentimentality. A good beginning culminates with an ending that is quite effective but not entirely convincing. Apparently everybody lived happily ever after.

The camera flashes back continually from home life to prison camp, perhaps too well, for there is a constant sense of action—of something brewing. This is a fault. The story of the film takes place over a period of years, yet we do not fully get that atmosphere of dreariness that must have pervaded the camp at times. The same stodgy food, that same deadly monotony, those petty irritations which must at times have made life almost unbearable. Things were portrayed as happening just a little too easily—the right time, the right place for everything. The lighting was perhaps at fault in creating this atmosphere. Everything was too bright, too summery. Slightly less light with a correspondingly more sombre background would have dampened this effect of apparent ease.

These slight defects, however, do not spoil what is otherwise a good film. It is worth seeing.

—M.G.S. and T.A.T.

to the ed.

Sir.—In the light of recent events we can more easily understand the persecution of Galileo in 1632. . . . Such times are not passed. We have still with us the unintelligent and reactionary, exemplified perfectly in that great organ "Truth."

What a pity that such an influential paper has not a longer history! Then we might have been spared the curse of vaccination, pasteurized milk, penicillin and social security. That is if its success in muzzling any form of impartial social investigation among secondary school pupils is an indication of its policy and power.

It is rather disgusting to read with what smugly moral glee that paper announces its most recent success in effecting the suppression of yet another questionnaire. Particularly so in the case of a paper which apparently delights in wallowing in the slime of the more revolting details of criminal and divorce proceedings and consistently panders to the peculiar tastes of the perverted.

This aversion to social investigation is a characteristic of the ruling class, and it is natural to see it reflected in the policy of one of its faithful organs. But the forces of progress are growing stronger and the reactionaries fight a losing battle.—S.T.H.S.

this english —a review

"English?" responds a treble voice. "I speak English, don't I? My cobbers understand me. Why the heck should you have to teach me English at all?" Having asked this question Professor Gordon proceeds to answer it most satisfactorily in his book "The Teaching of English." The book which has as its sub-title "A Study in Secondary Education," begins with an historical retrospect which will clarify for many readers what their secondary education never made quite clear, what English really is, or rather, how it came to be in such a muddle.

There is a certain thesis, "that the English which we must teach our children is English for the purposes and usages of everyday life, and that all other varieties of English must be subordinated to it." Adolescents should not be expected to describe in an inappropriate style events they are not capable of comprehending and emotions they have never experienced. "The surrounding hills," writes one pupil, "were still enveloped in a shroud of pearly grey mist while the verdant pastures that stretched to the west were paled by the morning dew." The child's possible fate in a government department can be ascribed only to a mistaken teaching policy.

Equally sensible and concise is the three-fold definition of the meaning of English: (1) the ability to express

scribes organise

A peculiarity in the social life of this university college which must strike any casual observer, is the absence of any student clubs of languages and literature. The votaries of the sciences meet; physicists, chemists, biologists and others, as do the lawyers and political scientists. The sole exception is found among language students. There is no French, German, Russian, or classical club at the college, nor is there one for the tremendous number of English students.

The reason for this is certainly not an absence of interest in the ordinary and sensational basis of literature, passion and love, and the beauties of nature on one hand, and ghosts, primeval monsters and mysterious murders on the other. Nor can it be ascribed to a lack of academic interest in literature. A follower of modern apocalyptic verse could not fail to be interested by the curses written in vulgar Latin and found upon tablets, while students of the English romantics would find many obscurities elucidated by a speaker who really understood the modern "Apocalypse."

These aspects of literary interest could be covered by outside speakers

appearances

*It is extremely naughty
To call snubnosed people haughty.
Even when judging superiors
Never go by exteriors;
It is better to wait till the time is ripe
To judge a cow by its tripe.*

—ANTON VOGT.

oneself in spoken or written speech and so to communicate; (2) the ability to understand the spoken or written speech of another and so to complete the communication; (3) the ability to feel or appreciate the appeal of literature. To realise these statements must be applied, a grammar that is a means only, not an end to an understanding of the meanings of words and an appreciation of a literature that is not "lives and dates and influences." Children must learn to know good from bad writing, so that when asked to criticise some bad emotive prose beginning, "For those of us who are concerned with the unplumbed depths of the present day problems and the triumphant march of democracy towards its appointed goal"—there will be none to answer (as there were), "I admire his choice of words and the felicity of his diction," or "the fault of this passage is that it contains only four full stops and one comma."

By chance the annual letter came yesterday from my sister who is at secondary school. The process of being educated bores her, but this and the fact that she is fifteen and facetious does not necessarily detract from the underlying significance of what she says. "The inspectors came on Friday . . . some man in composition time fired questions in all directions—silly sort of things which made us all tongue-tied. 'What is Literature?' glaring round the class—'You,' he pointed a long finger . . . Then 'what are classics?' and he stabbed the air again, 45 degrees to the left of the last hole he had made in the air." The treble voice might well ask, "Why the heck?"

part ii

philosopher's song

*And if the blasted bourgeoisie
Don't take themselves so solemnly
Or give a damn about the good
Of your Utopian brotherhood,
They take the gifts God gave to tease
Those with ideologies.
So dope your mind with talk or booze
Or crawl away somewhere to snooze—
Try enjoying what you're got,
And stopping your bitching. Mr. Vogt;
For when you have pursued and caught
Every lovely noble thought,
Scanned and rhymed each stubborn
line,
Knell at each new thinker's shrine,
You'll find all ideologies
Reduced to booze and shapely knees.*
—MAC.

of some merit and standing, and the only way in which such speakers could be introduced to a university audience would be through a literary club. Until such a club is formed it would be impossible to predict its chief lines of activity. These may be partly linguistic or wholly literary; or may be primarily concerned with the past or with the present, or again, the club may be mostly interested in prose and verse written by members. In any case the writing and criticism of indigenous literature must be of great interest to club members.

An effort to form such a club will be made in the next few days. Details of the first meeting will appear conspicuously on the main notice board. All students should be interested in this project; such a club as this is academically important to the student life of this college, as well as culturally illuminating.

New Zealanders to Attend Prague Congress of WFDY

Next summer young people from every corner of the globe will travel to Prague in their thousands to participate in the World Youth Festival, sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth. For the first time in the history of the International Youth Movement, young workers, peasants and farmers, students, young people from religious, cultural and sports organisations will spend their holidays playing, working and learning together.

It is not expected that there will be any large delegation from New Zealand, but it is known that at least three people are definitely going to Prague. These people are Jim Hollyman, Rona Bailey, Senior Physical Welfare Officer, Department of Internal Affairs, and a representative of the Young People's Club. This delegation will no doubt be supplemented by several young New Zealanders at present residing in England.

The total number of participants from all countries, it is anticipated (excluding, of course, Czechoslovakia), will be 40,000 to 50,000, some staying the whole month, but the majority spending at least one or two weeks in harvest or reconstruction camps either in Czechoslovakia itself, or in neighbouring countries.

This will be one of the outstanding achievements of WFDY. It will be an opportunity for youth of many diverse organisations to show their activities, aims and achievements to the rest of the world. Furthermore, it will be an unequalled opportunity for young people to meet and get to know one another.

... and a jive band

Included in the scheduled activities are exhibitions by all manner of youth organisations, governments, trade unions, etc. Lectures and discussions by Youth Leaders from different countries and from prominent personalities will form a basis of the educational programme. The cultural side will include various films, dramatic performances, ballet, concerts, symphony orchestras, singers, musicians and national folk dancers.

Sports activities include demonstration of national sports, games and displays by outstanding teams and all manner of sports competitions. Possibly the most important part of the Festival will be the recreational and social activities. As far as we know, these will include camp fires, sing-songs (and how), ballroom and folk-dancing, tramps, picnics, cycling tours, sight seeing, fairs and amusement parks.

But the most pleasurable, memorable and important part of the Festival will be not the planned activities, valuable as they are, but those spontaneous unplanned and informal gatherings, discussions and friendships that inevitably occur when young people get together.

The success of this World Youth Festival will be an outstanding demonstration of the integrity, value and importance of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and a unique refutation of much of the thoughtless, unintelligent and uninformed criticism that has hitherto been levelled against WFDY.

*A policeman of Stillwater Junction,
Who owned an immoral pagoda,
He said that he could,
And the jolly chair broke,
But think of the money he saved.*

Stagger Week Must Come

The recent Sunday strike of the Municipal Milk Workers should be sufficiently indicative of the futility of our ways.

There is not the slightest reason to reproach the workers for their action, which is only in accord with the other industrial upsets of the present time.

It should now be clear to all that the only solution lies in the introduction of a stagger week to supplant the existing weekend. Present conditions are sufficient reason for an immediate change; but we must look to the future, and in doing so it is obvious that the present arrangement for the division of work (and leisure) can only become increasingly unwieldy. The machine of modern living must be driven whether for work or on excursion, and it is apparent that the week-

end only impedes our progressing to a better way of living.

With reduced working hours caught up in the evolution of social progress, increasingly our adjustments are made to release more weekend workers, when it must be realised that the zenith of such a movement can only be regarded as a step backwards.

We want milk just as much on Sunday as we do any day during the week.

And so it is with all activities derivative of food, transport and entertainment, which, besides trams and eating houses and pictures embraces such not quite so imperative services as newspapers and broadcasting.

Perhaps your legal advice may be able to wait till Monday, so too your new pair of shoes, but there are many other things that can not. We continue living in this inconvenience of our own making because the problem is not widely enough thought about and though many would be spontaneously agreeable it yet remains to be generally ventilated.—H. L. M. MASON.

Women's Charter Movement to Affiliate to WFDW

The VUC Student Association, as an affiliated body to WFDY, was invited to be present at a meeting called by the Interim Committee of the Women's Charter Movement. It is important for students to take an active interest in this movement as will be shown below and you are invited as individuals to join. A meeting will be held in about a month for the purpose of electing a Committee and forming a constitution. It is intended that this Charter should deal with various aspects of community improvements and reforms required in New Zealand and that also as a body the Committee should be affiliated to the International Federation of Democratic Women.

The meeting was held on Saturday, March 8, to celebrate International Women's Day (for the first time in N.Z.) and for the purpose of calling another meeting to set up a Women's Charter Committee in Wellington. **This is not just another Women's organisation and is definitely not a feminist outfit.**

Representatives of the Trades Unions, of the Affiliated bodies of the Wellington section of the World Federation of Democratic Youth movement were present as well as representatives of most of the worthwhile women's associations in Wellington and many interested individuals.

Those present, though of all possible political colours and religious creeds, passed the various resolutions unanimously and with acclamation. This is a rather remarkable achievement and indicates that the basis of this world-wide movement must have a wide democratic appeal.

The necessity for a strong anti-fascist basis was emphasised by speakers who pointed out that there can be no peace without democracy, and no world democracy while fascism continues to exist, therefore fascism must be uprooted before democracy can be built in peace and security.

Power to Act

The International Federation of Democratic Women is a body with headquarters in Paris and having an Executive with power to act. Passing resolutions and sending parcels are all very well but a body which can act swiftly in a crisis is essential and effective, as was demonstrated recently when the Paris H.Q. were responsible for saving the lives of several Spanish women who had been condemned to be shot by Franco. Even he had to take notice of an organisation representing

81,000,000 women throughout the democratic world.

Dr. Garland, Industrial Hygiene Advisor to the Department of Health, spoke at Saturday's meeting of women's work in industry and of the fact that it has been proved in England that women are capable of doing all the work that men are, with the exception of heavy weight lifting.

The incidence of fatigue on various jobs is the same for both men and women and if it is desirable for a woman to have a chair to sit at her work it is equally desirable for a man to have one.

It has been shown that providing a woman has leave before and after the

EASTER TOURNAMENT will be held in AUCKLAND

VUC and the other University Colleges will compete in:—

TENNIS
ATHLETICS
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SHOOTING

Further Information in Next Issue

birth of her child; that creches are provided and that time off to feed the child is given; the woman's health is better than if she had given up working.

A movement such as this one will help to bring the women's point of view on questions such as equal pay (this is where the Trades Unions support will be important), better working conditions (for both men and women) in industry, play centres, kindergartens, creches, education and many other aspects of community life.

The International Federation of Democratic Women has in common with the two other World Federations (Democratic Youth and Trade Unions) the following three aims:

1. To build peace (the link between peace and anti-fascism has been mentioned above and cannot be too heavily stressed).
2. To maintain social progress (to improve working and other conditions).
3. To educate people to an intelligent consciousness of Democracy (thus enabling the checking of insidious moves towards fascism before it becomes too strong).

Debating AGM

The Debating Society held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 12. The officers for the coming year will be:—

Patron: Sir Humphrey O'Leary, K.C.

President: Professor Williams.

Chairman: Harold Dorrick.

Vice-Chairman: Dick Collins.

Secretary: Nell Casey.

Treasurer: Kevin O'Brien.

Committee: Lorraine Leicester, Jean Priest, John Maccreary, Harold Gretton.

After the business was concluded, "Film and Reality" was screened. A review of this significant film will appear in the next issue of "Salient." The first debate will be held on Friday, March 28.

*There was a young girl called Matilda,
Who went for a ride in a tram,
And the landlady said,
There's somebody coming,
And they backed in a Thorneycroft
lorry.*

Prof. Gordon Interviewed On Visit to Japan

"In my opinion," Professor Gordon told the "Salient" reporter, "the present methods of the general reconstruction of Japanese education, if given a chance and continued long enough, in the spirit in which the Supreme Command, Allied Powers have commenced, should have the effect of introducing real Democracy into the schools."

He went on to say that this reorganisation was left entirely in the hands of the American authorities. Their first move was to destroy all text books on history, geography and morals, and to forbid all teaching in those subjects as they were so tied up with the Japanese ideology that to replace them by the democratic outlook would mean the complete renewal of all teaching staffs. Non-propaganda subjects such as mathematics, Japanese literature and foreign languages were allowed to stand, and indeed, the teaching of English has been made compulsory. However, over-enthusiasm of some teachers, whether through attempts to hinder or a sense of safety first, resulted in the destruction of not only history, geography and morals textbooks, but also those of non-propaganda subjects, which, taken together with the drastic shortage of printed material, reduced the supply of text books to a position comparable with that of Victoria.

The second step was the "screening" of all teachers for previous authoritarian and militaristic views and connections. This process was carried out by a specially appointed committee of Japanese educationalists, it being SCAP's policy to leave as much in the hands of the Japanese as possible. The committee, however, was not careful enough. Out of thousands of teachers only one was reported as unfit to teach. "Screening" of the "screening" committee resulted in their wholesale rejection, it being found that further back all had some connection with the late lamented Government, and their replacement by an extremely well investigated body. As an additional check, special officers are sent round the schools asking pupils such embarrassing questions as "Why has the Emperor's portrait been removed?" On the results depended the teacher's future. "The low number of rejects," continued the Professor, "not one in one thousand, is a sign of the reasonableness of SCAP's methods."

Their Universities

The universities had, as far as Professor Gordon could see, been left alone on the whole. The only major change effected was the forcing of the Imperial College of Tokio to admit women students. They, however, still form only a very small proportion of the 10,000 students. The professorial staffs were, in the two universities he visited, substantially the same as before the war. The equipment is good and their library resources, especially in foreign languages, are much better than in New Zealand. Books are easy to buy, even those now out of print being obtainable in a street of bookshops outside Tokio university—remnants of the pre-war days when Japan was the best customer of the Oxford University Press. Their one shortage is fuel, and it is a common sight to see a room full of students clad in overcoats freezing quietly to death.

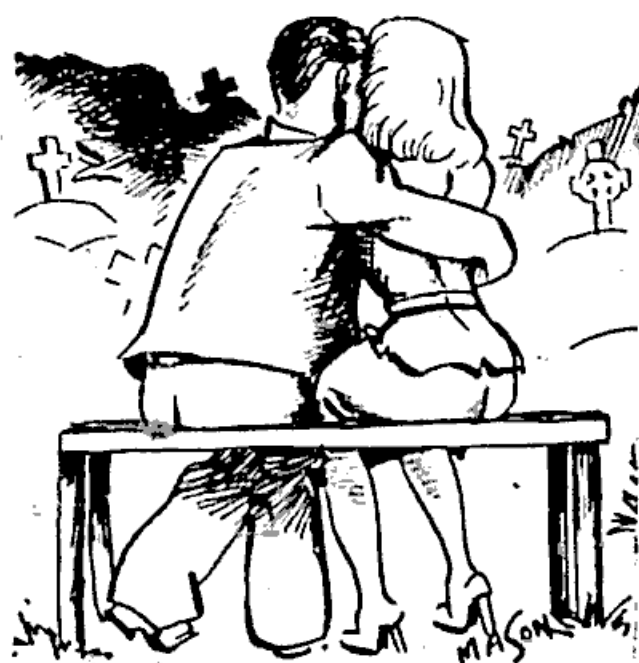
As far as adults are concerned, the Professor's impression was that re-education is taking the shape of promoting interest in politics by stimulating the growth of Trade Unions, encouraging criticism of the Government in the papers and holding a genuinely free election. This appears to be an attempt to work through

common sense and not force by giving them a wider interest in their own Government and conditions. Helping in this is the employment of native Japanese in as many positions as possible, as housegirls, and also as interpreters, clerks and typists. To gauge exactly the amount of success this policy is meeting with is, in the Professor's opinion, impossible, for at the moment the average Japanese citizen is mainly interested in the whereabouts of the next meal. However, all indications point to a favourable result.

In conclusion, Professor Gordon had a tribute to pay to the precision bombing of the Americans. "The centre of Tokio," he said, "provides a perfect example of their accuracy: From a mass of buildings they had pin-pointed the German Embassy and destroyed it, leaving the surrounding buildings unharmed." The Italian Embassy suffered a like fate, whilst the British, almost next door, is totally unharmed, being in fact now occupied by the British Ambassador. After some stories I have heard of the damage, the sight was a revelation."

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SALIENT SALUTES GREAT SCIENTIST

The French National Assembly, December 19, 1946, the day Paul Langevin died. When the announcement was made six hundred deputies and all the spectators in the visitors' gallery rose in a body and stood in reverent silence as they listened to the eulogy of the deceased. The Government honoured him with a National funeral, and on a dark December day in bitter, biting weather, tens of thousands followed his bier to the cemetery. In the procession workers rubbed shoulders with scholars, shopgirls marched by the side of professors, trade-unionists with their banners followed academicians.

The work of Paul Langevin, scientist, was not of a kind that arouses and moves the masses. His achievements were in the least accessible fields of higher mathematics and physics. Magnetism, para-magnetism, dia-magnetism, and the introduction of restricted relativity and Einsteinian relativity to France—these were his work. Its fruit is to be found in the detection of underwater obstacles by a supersonic projector with a piezo-electric quartz base, and similar industrial developments. How then can we explain the scene in the National Assembly, the reverent procession in weather that chilled to the bone?

Popular Front

Paul Langevin was born in 1872, and entered the School of Physics and Chemistry in 1888, where Pierre Curie exerted a decisive influence on his life. Barely out of the Ecole Normale, he threw himself into the struggle against injustices and tyranny which was being fought round the Dreyfus case. He was sent by the city of Paris to work for a year at Cambridge with J. J. Thomson, and there he made a lifelong friendship with Rutherford. In 1902 he became Professor of Physics at the College de France. 1914 found him among the intellectuals who formed a regular group at meetings addressed by Jean Jaures, where he found his political outlook beginning to crystallise. When students were being extensively enrolled in 1920 as strike-breakers, Langevin publicly protested, and began a period of close association with the working-class movement which was to last for the rest of his life. In 1925 he became head of the School of Physics and Chemistry of the University of Paris. With Romain Rolland and Henri Barbusse, he was one of the initiators of the World Committee for Peace and against fascism which was formed in 1932, and which later played so important a part in the Reichstag Fire Trial and the international support for Dimitrov. From then on his activity was closely linked with the Popular Front.

Nazi Occupation

When the Nazis occupied France, Langevin was the first university member to be arrested, and he was imprisoned in the grim prison of La Santé in October, 1940. There in the course of interrogations by the Gestapo, the Nazi Colonel Boehmelburg said to him: "You are a man as dangerous to us as the eighteenth century Encyclopedists were to the ancient regime." In 1944, at the age of 72, he escaped across the snow-capped Jura Mountains into Switzerland. Hundreds of his students had been murdered, including his son-in-

law, Jacques Solomon, famous like Langevin as a scientist and a Communist. Returning to France on the heels of the liberation armies, although a sick man, he threw himself immediately back into his work, at his side his greatest pupil and associate both in the scientific and the political field, Frederic Joliot-Curie. He was appointed Director of the Government Commission for the reorganisation of public education.

No Ivory Tower

The answer to our question, then, is clear. What the French people honoured in Langevin was not the modern magician, the creator of complicated mathematical formulae, but the man who was a living example of the unity between scientist and the common people, whose whole life was a denial of the academic seclusion observed so rigorously and so disastrously by too many of his colleagues.

In the speech he made at the burial, Professor Joliot-Curie said that Paul Langevin did not consider science merely a brilliant sport of the mind, but a "powerful means of educating and liberating man, with a view to creating more justice and kindness. Paul Langevin embodied two missions: that of the great scientist and that of the great citizen. He sought to enrich our knowledge of the world, and at the same time to create a world in which justice prevails. One finds in his work the imprint of a universal mind as well as extraordinary clarity and accuracy of judgement. It was these high qualities which enabled him to analyse social problems so profoundly and to adopt towards them the attitude we admire. Langevin did not want to be one of an elite of scientists divorced from practical events. It was as a member of a community of workers that he concerned himself with social problems." —K.J.H.

(Continued from Page 1.)

ground and the chemistry block alone cost over a million pounds.

The housing shortage appears to be worse than it is here, and students are often in a desperate position. However, the setting up of a student-controlled hostel has shown the way to improve the position. It houses about 20 students and rent averages 10/- weekly. Students eat out or cook their own meals. The warden is a student and he is responsible to a committee appointed by the Students' Representation Council.

In case this is read by any Australian, I wish to apologise for any mistakes or wrong impressions I may have perpetrated, and to express my thanks to them for a most enjoyable stay in "God's Other Own Country."

Scholarship Holders, 1946

Salamanca has collected its usual crop of Senior Scholarships this year, and a number of special Senior Scholarships for Servicemen have also come to VUC. Outstanding scholars of the year were J. Ziman, J. H. Robb and K. J. Hollyman, who were awarded Post-Graduate Scholarships. The following list may not be complete, but it includes most awards since December, 1946.

Post-graduate Scholarship:
J. M. Ziman, Science.

Special Post-graduate Scholarship to Returned Servicemen.

K. J. Hollyman, Arts.
J. H. Robb, Arts.

British Council Scholarship:

D. D. Beard and C. S. Belshaw are among those put forward for the final selection.

Senior Scholarships:

French: Florence J. Benstead.
German: W. H. Mabbett.
History: G. N. McDonald.
Philosophy: Betty M. Spinley (Additional).

Education: Marie M. Irwin.
Physics: E. O. Hall.

Special Senior Scholarship Awarded to Returned Servicemen:

Zoology: R. G. Stuckey.
History: K. M. Hay.
Education: A. Taylor.
Property: P. B. A. Sim.

Sir Julius Von Haast Prize (Geology):

R. J. W. McLaughlin.

Law Society Prize for Ex-overseas Servicemen:

P. B. A. Sim (in Property and Contract).

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BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

—By Our London Correspondent

There are snowfields at the bottom of our garden. Though the sun shines bright there seems to be no immediate prospect of lessening the cold. The crisis, now in its third week, is the dominant problem for all, in our daily lives and in long term future prospects. Britain is fighting against economic catastrophe. The position is perfectly clear. The question is, what steps to take.

The Conservatives and Liberals are not very helpful. The first reaction of their Press and Party was a blind punch at Mr. Shinwell, the responsible minister. This was accompanied by howls about the horrors of socialization and appeals to loosen controls. Such talk, although perhaps satisfying conventional Tory political theory, was convincing to neither audience nor speaker, and the Government wisely refused to be drawn. No scapegoat has been sacrificed; Mr. Shinwell, despite ferocious letters to the "Evening Standard," still has the support of the miners, who remember that he achieved the socialization promised them more than a quarter century ago. He has made some serious mistakes, apparently ignoring the warnings of well informed authorities and lulling the public into a sense of false security by contradictory statements, but he seems more unlucky than sinful. He gambled with the weather, much as Montgomery gambled at Arnhem, and was defeated by the worst winter in 50 years.

The appeal by the Government received a heartening response, both from coal and transport workers, who have broken all records under frightful conditions, and from consumers, whose combined savings of power have effectively lightened the load. In spite of the gradual falling off in public response after the initial days, the situation now seems to be in hand and we need not expect any more drastic cuts this winter. Yet the immediate crisis is symptomatic of the general crisis of British economy, and on this the Government has taken some steps, publishing a White Paper and agreeing to the importation of foreign labour.

White Paper Lacks Guts

The White Paper, a manpower budget, underlines the seriousness of the position. Yet most observers agree that it is not nearly drastic enough. It makes verbal appeals for effort, but does not provide a basis of imaginative and far reaching plans to direct that effort, nor any concrete idea of how long and to what goal we are to strive. There is a curious refusal to demand real sacrifices, as if the Government with its huge majority, were unsure of its position. If American films cost twenty millions (and we import only sixty millions in machinery from America) they can go; if tobacco were less, we should grumble and queue and black-market, but not die; if the 100,000 workers in the gambling industry were put to productive work, we might be much better fed. Churchill showed during the war that putting a difficult situation squarely before the people and saying: "This is going to hurt you, but it must be done," was not a way to become unpopular.

Nor is the importation of displaced persons a solution. Mr. Arthur Horner, Secretary of the Mine Workers, put the position very clearly when he said: "If these people are fit to work, it is because they were fed by the Nazis; if they are Anti-Nazis they will not be fit to work after years in concentration camp." Europe is no less short of labour than Britain, and if these displaced persons have not been reabsorbed by their own countries it is precisely because they are the elements who welcomed the Fascists and were driven out at the liberation. The argument that Britain has always welcomed refugees scarcely holds water after our refusal to admit and use genuine anti-Fascist refugees from Spain and Germany. That the presence of these people will cause trouble is evidenced by the Poles, who have caused riots and are deeply hated in several northern towns near which they are stationed.

The fact is that the British miners are traditionally the lowest paid and hardest worked section of industry, and they refuse to have their legitimate demands for improved conditions and wages which alone can attract new manpower, fobbed off by the introduction of what is effectively slave labour. By a curious anomaly, the White Paper allows for 400,000 unemployed, when the normal turnover rate is around a quarter of a million. Privileges of pay, better working conditions, and income-tax rebates would be the surest and fairest means of getting the surplus into the mines.

Bevin's Foreign Policy is the Cause

The crux (and the solution) of the problem, however, does not lie here, but in one and a half million workers in the forces and armaments industry. Britain, before the war, had some 500,000 men under arms. It seems incredible that in her obviously reduced position among the Great Powers she should need twice as large an army now. A realistic foreign policy that is not tied to prestige and "commitments," must be recognised that such enormous force (we are spending in defence twice as large a percentage as the budget of the USSR) is sheer bluff when we have not the economic strength in this island to back it. At the same time, the causes to which these troops are being put in Palestine, India, Greece and Egypt is disgracing the name of the Labour Government and hardly corresponds to the spirit of UNO.

There is some hope that this point of view is gaining ground amongst Labour Backbenchers. Debates on the White Paper and Foreign Affairs are scheduled for the Commons this week. Geoffrey Cox, in the "News Chronicle" has suggested that the proximity of the two topics is significant and that the logic of events has led many more M.P.'s to join the 80 who have already put themselves on record as opposing Mr. Bevin's "continuity policy." I hope he is right.

—SINBAD.

Women's Hockey Plans New Season

Last year V.U.C. Women's Hockey Club entered five teams in the local hockey tournament. The teams went from strength to strength in enthusiasm and even in results. Practices are held in the gymnasium once a week during the second term, and matches are played every Saturday of that term.

It doesn't matter if you have never played hockey before—at least half of our club members first met hockey at Varsity. Of course, if you have played at school just keep on with the good work.

The Annual General Meeting will be held shortly after the beginning of this term and all prospective members are invited to be there. Watch the notice board for further information.

Members of the club are asked to consider the following and to have

their opinions ready for airing at the AGM. Last year as an experiment, a graduates' team was formed in addition to the ordinary students' teams. The committee suggests that as last year's arrangement tended to weaken the senior teams, the "graduates" be invited to join the ordinary teams.

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ATHLETICS

At any time athletes can be seen on Kelburn Park training hard for Inter-faculty and Easter Tournament and although we are not strong numerically, we have all the confidence necessary to turn out some place getters.

Local competition has been falling off lately but Varsity athletes have been doing quite well.

At Hataitai on February 22, Clem Hawke, Doug. Dillon and Trevor Levy were all good winners.

On March 1, a small team went to Paraparaumu for a picnic meeting which was enjoyed by all. Trevor Levy won the 100, while Doug. Dillon was a good second in the 220, and the scratch relay team was a fair third.

The 440 Senior Handicap race at the Junior Champs. was won easily by Trevor Benjamin, who should have good prospects at Inter Fac.

In the National Senior Champs. Brian Pohlen took third place in the Three Miles Walk after burning himself out in the early stages. He walked well, as he was in experienced company, and should be a force to be reckoned with in future. Our other competitor there, Fred Marshall, wasn't up to his usual standard but he should regain his form for Tournament.

The Junior Champs. were held this year in Wellington, and young Pat Rafter ran very well indeed, to take second place in the 440. In other years he would have won this event because the National Record was broken this year and Pat was only two or three yards away from the winner. Lissienko competed well also, and should profit by the experience.

By the time this issue comes off the press, the Inter Faculty Sports will be over; and as long as the weather holds out we are sure of success as we have the necessary athletes to make the events go with a swing.

We are not including the Women's Javelin or 80 Metres Hurdles on the programme at Inter Fac.; but any girl who is of average standard should contact Trevor Levy, 17-056 (day) in order to be given a trial for Easter Tournament.

Basketball

This year the Basketball Club has started well. For the last two months we have been practising hard, under the expert direction of our coach, Mr. Budden. Mr. Budden, who is one of Wellington's leading referees and coaches, has consented to be our permanent coach and we feel confident that he will help to restore to our Club the status that it once held.

Although we started last season badly we gradually improved and by the end of the season all the teams were playing well. As all the members are very keen we hope to do much better this season. The Blues Committee awarded Blues to two of our members, Shirley Cole and Val. Berry. Both these girls played well and worked hard to make the Club a success, thoroughly deserving their Blues.

The majority of last year's players are playing for the Club again, and as a result twenty members are eligible for Easter Tournament, twice as many as last year. This year's team due to its keenness and Mr. Budden's tuition is superior to last year's.

Members representing VUC are Shirley Cole, Marie Irwin, Audrey Cook,

CRICKET

This season has not been as successful as last, the senior team occupying third place in the championship. They have beaten Kilbirnie, Karori, Midland and S.P.C.O.B.

Players selected for Wellington representative teams have been T. C. Larkin against Country, D. E. Brian, J. H. Oakley against Auckland, and J. H. Oakley against M.C.C. R. A. Vance toured with the Wellington Colts. Outstanding individual performance for the season, and a senior club record, was 205 not out made by T. C. Larkin against St. Pats.

At Christmas, University played Manawatu B, North Taranaki, South



JOHN OAKLEY
Played against M.C.C.

Taranaki and Wanganui, winning every game. On tour, D. D. Beard took 23 for 211, average 9.17. Two centuries were scored, 179 by Oakley, and 112 not out by Larkin. The touring team was ably captained by P. D. Wilson and its success was largely due to the work done by T. C. Larkin, the team manager.

The club played AUC at Auckland in January, winning on the first innings. The lower grades are playing well. W. F. Vietmeyer, until injured at Christmas, was in remarkable form, scoring several centuries. A social evening was held before Christmas when C. S. Dempster and J. R. Lamason, well known batsmen and T. C. Dick and J. Watson, popular umpires, gave interesting talks. The club intends holding further evenings on the same lines during the year. The thanks of the club are due to Mrs. G. H. Stringer and Mrs. I. O. Stace who prepared the supper at the last function. The club possesses several promising players and there is every likelihood of a very successful season next year.

Kath. Martin, Avis Reid, Audrey Inkersell, Dot Peebles, Geraldine Player, Gay Nimmo, Muriel Vincent, Julie Dean and Susan Ferguson.

The 1947 season now beginning, necessitates an appeal for new members. FRESHERS, WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD. Come to practices, make yourself known, we will be pleased to have you play with us.

TENNIS

Tennis has seen its normal course for the '46-47 season. Three teams have played in the inter-club competition, the A team with little success, the B and C with more wins to their credit. The top ranking players in the club have been on the Men's ladder, Ben O'Connor, Doug. Goodwin, Roy McKenzie, Hugh Smith, and Jack Walls. On the Women's Ladder, Anne Walker, Gladys Rainbow, Avis Reid, Joan Robbins and Loris Webley. The Easter Tournament team will come mostly from these players, but the pair playing in the doubles may include players lower down the ladder. Miles O'Connor, president of the club, '45-46, is the selector, and will publish the team shortly.

Freshers' Tournament produced some very good tennis on Saturday. Sixty players hopped around the four courts and enjoyed themselves. Prominent players were, Miss Malcolm, Miss Nankervis and Mr. Petch.

The committee this year has done a considerable amount of work on the courts, and on Saturday afternoons the girls have worked hard to satisfy the appetites of the healthy male population in the club. If you like your tennis, turn up at the club on Saturday or Sunday and make yourself known.

Fencing

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the upstairs gym. on Tuesday, March 11. There was an attendance of 30 members but this is not the limit of the club's capacity, and for the information of others wishing to join, the regular club night in the gymnasium is Tuesday—time 7-15 p.m. The Executive was represented by President and Secretary, Messrs Taylor and Dorrick, who congratulated the club on their success last year.

The salient points from the Annual General Report were a report on last year's Tournament victory and the availability of ample equipment. The club closed down for 1946 on December 17, and started again this year on January 14.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

Club Captain: Pix Hurrell.
Vice-Captain: Peter Hampton.
Secretary-Treasurer: Stuart Cathie.
Committee: Alison Keys, Peg Moore and Brian Cato.

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, April 11, venue will be decided later.

Rowing

The final crew for this year's Tournament was selected three weeks ago by two ex-New Zealand and University Representative oarsmen, Mr. Alex. Ross and Mr. Dave Boswell. Mr. Ross, sole selector and coach of the 1947 Wellington Provincial crew, intends to give the Victoria crew a hard test by racing them against the Provincial crew. Mr. Boswell represented New Zealand as an oarsman in the British Empire Games and has seven times rowed in the Provincial "eight."

The final crew selected was: S. Gillen (stroke), K. G. Honore (seven), R. C. Connel (six), G. Stuckey (five), M. Pownall (four), P. M. Taylor (three), D. H. Thomas (two), V. E. Donnelly (bow).

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