

The Magnet

For Men's Wear

144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

VOL. II, No. 5 WELLINGTON, APRIL 28th, 1948 Price: 3d. or SUBSCRIPTION

For all

Sports Goods

TISDALLS

65 Willis Street
WELLINGTON

Telephone 40-859

STUDENT PRANKS FROM 1903 to 1948

Many Freshers have probably heard the magic word "Extrav" whispered by sundry people throughout the College. To the Uninitiated it refers to the Extravaganza performed annually at the Opera House as part of the ceremonies of Capping Week; but to the initiated, well—this is not the place for personal remembrances of that kind.

However, it may be interesting to glance back over the years, so, with our Time machine in reverse, off we go—

Back in 1903 . . . The days of the "New Look" . . . we find a slim issue marked sedately "Students Carnival," the precursor of Cappicades yet unborn. In this we read that Diploma Day is Wednesday, 24th June, and a Carnival is to be held in the Sydney Street Schoolroom at which the whole thirteen graduates will be capped! On the front cover we are also informed that New Laid Eggs may be obtained from the Fresh Food and Ice Company, and that Tonkin's Linseed Emulsion is useful for your cough. (Sold Everywhere.)

Peeping inside, we find the programme from which a few selections would not go amiss:—

PART I.

The Victoria College Song No. 1. and Maori Haka.

Planoforte Solo, Caprie Espagnol. Mr. Frauhauf.

Solo, Bedouin Love Song, Mr. H. P. Richmond.

Plantation Song, De Lecture (apparently the singer was too bashful to give his name).

Now for Part 2, the beginning of Extrav. This appears to me to be worth reproducing in full.

FARCE

"MY TURN NEXT"

Characters:

Taxicum Twitters (a village apothecary) R. M. Watson

Tim Bolus (his professional assistant) O. N. Gillespie

Tom Trapp (a commercial traveller) A. S. Henderson

Farmer Wheatear (from Blenheim) J. L. Stout

Myrdia (Twitters' wife) Miss F. G. Roberts

Emily (her sister) Miss H. M. Batham

Aggy (Twitters' Domestic) Miss N. Heath

Scene: A country chemist's shop parlour.

GOD SAVE THE KING

The Fresh Food and Ice Company has us again on this page, this time extolling the virtues of their Table Poultry! Happy days! We are paying good money to the Capping Book Committee to advertise for sale!

The farce disappears from the scene until 1906, when it again makes its appearance as a two night stand. It is also, incidentally, thirty years old! On Part Two, of the programme is "Munchums," or the "Gin of Genus," written by Messrs. de la Mare, S. S. McKenzie and Schelbaum. Unfortunately, none of this noble script has yet been produced. In Tableau 3, the Historic is an item worth noticing:

Duet:

Commissioner Miss Daisy Isaacs

and B. J. Jacobs

The words have been preserved for verity, so herewith a selection:

Commissioner: Thee, hoary sailor, sitting on the strand,

(Apparently the Fresh Food and Ice Co. have found other methods of bringing their goods before the public as Myrtle Grove Cigarettes appear to have taken their place on the front cover.)

In travelling on to 1911, it appears that the same names are in the programme year after year, as now. In 1911 the show is now full length. Part 1 of the programme having died a well deserved death. In "Reform" or "The Metamorphosis of the Evoluters" we note:

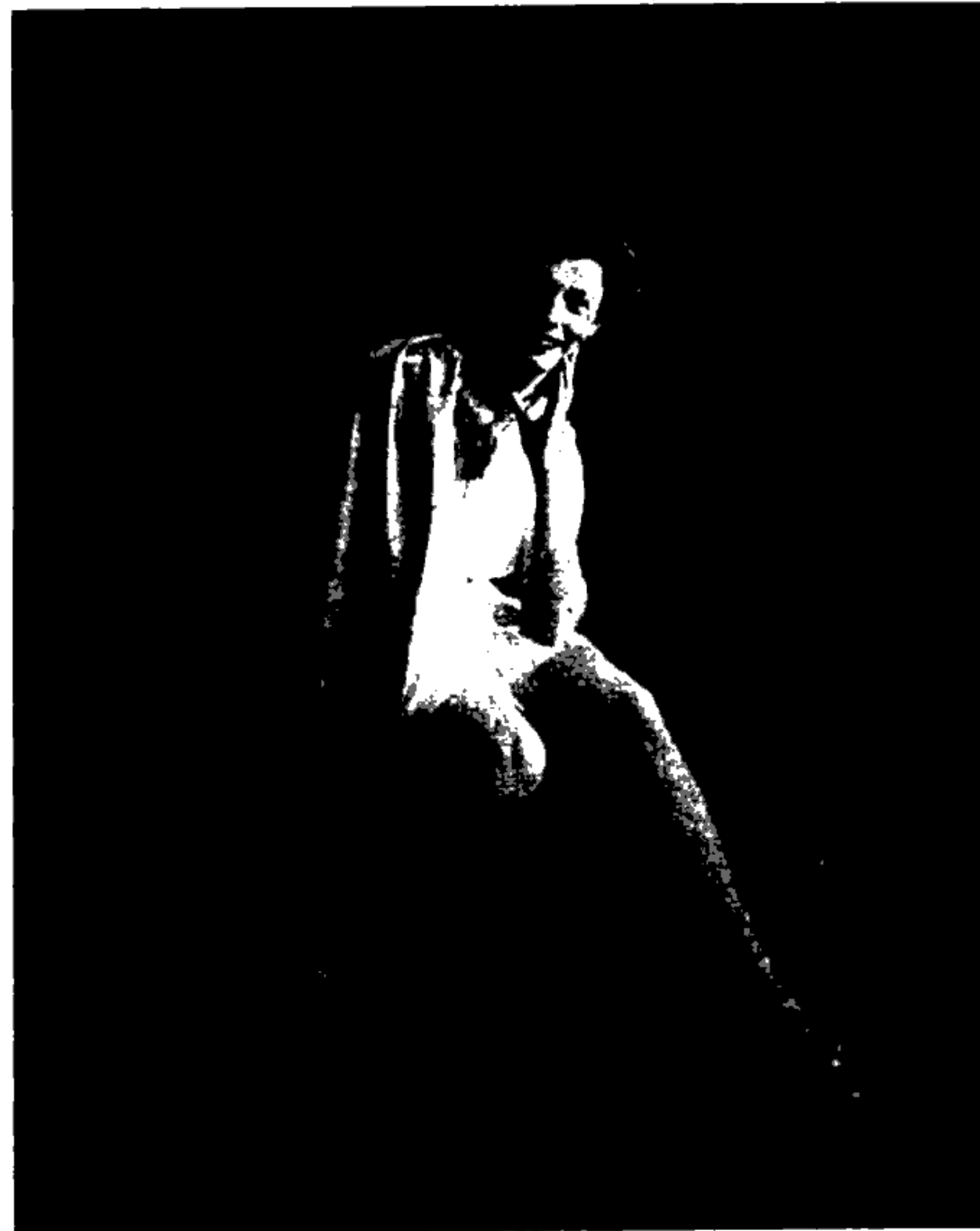
Herlock Sholmes A. E. Caddick

Queen Elizabeth E. M. Litchfield

Harem Skirt Girl L. P. Leary

Thomas de la Huntalre P. B. Broad

In 1911 another change has taken place. The Extravaganza (yes, it really was called an Extrav that year) has moved to the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall (Heaven help the stage manager). Also the odd types which haunt the back-stage are appearing—the properties manager and the stage manager.



"Think of them in bathing dresses . . ."

(Hey, but he's salty, bellow, bellow bally!)

Were you of the party that first found this land?

(Hey, bellow, bally oh!)

Sailor:

Split my bowsprit, yes mum, I was of that crew!

(Hey but I'm salty, billow, billow bally!)

Me and Cook was pals, mum, just as thick as glue;

(Hey billow, bally oh!)

You should see the gals, mum, smiling at us pals, mum,

(Hey billow, bally, oh!)

Etc., Etc.

Now, strangely enough, in 1912. Part 1 of the early programmes is resurrected and again we are entertained with violin solos, glees and the rest. The main show was "Wumpty Dumpty" with a distinguished cast featuring Messrs. Caddick, Hall-Jones and Sievwright.

"THE MODERN ERA"

By 1914, the persistent Part 1 has been interred forever, and the Capping Book appears with its first art cover, a two-colour cover in fact. Extravaganza seems to be an established word for capping shows.

At the end of World War I, the formalized cover returns. A full-

length show is presented in the Town Hall, "Der Tag" or "The Path of Progress," with a distinguished cast including the following:

Sgt.-Major Cheetah P. Martin Smith

Lord Liverpool A. J. Mazengarb

Japhetrow Wilson H. Miller

Now we come to the modern era. 1920 marked the first show held in the Opera House, with all the present accessories, orchestra, props, stage manager, business manager and the rest. This was called "The Dogs," featuring such well-known players as P. Martin-Smith, S. A. Wiren, and many others. This auspicious move was celebrated by another return to the art cover in colour.

Now, on to the thirties. "GG" in 1929, "Willum the Conk" in 1930. Of the early examples of the "modern" type of script, Redmond Phillips deserves mention. He wrote some excellent shows such as "Coax and Hoax" (1932) "Murder in the Common Room" (1934) and probably his best "Medea and Soda" (1932). The latter contains the song "Karitane Blues" which is still sometimes heard in Extrav. dressing rooms after the show. The Phillips shows were ably presented by people such as Dorothea Tossman, H. C. Middlebrook, A. H. Scotney and the late Kingi Tahwi.

The late nineteen thirties produced another set of brilliant and prolific script writers—the Seven Pillars of Wisdom and Ron Meek. Of the Pillars' efforts the best are probably "Hell's Bells" 1936, "The Book of Bob" 1937 and "Adam in Wonderland" 1939, starring "The Voice," Mr. W. S. Austin.

Then come John Carrad's delightful variety shows with their inconsequential nonsense and their catchy songs, "Daze Bay Nights," "Port Nick Iniquity" and "The Dinkum Oil."

Last, but by no means least, the great series of Ron Meek shows commencing with "Brave New Zealand" in 1936, and reaching its highlight with "Peter in Blunderland" 1945 when the whole cast travelled to Palmerston for a two-night stand—but what nights they were!

Other outstanding shows were "Olympian Nights" 1938 and "Centennial Scandals" 1940. Script writers of the calibre of Ron Meek are difficult to find, but don't let this deter you from attempting a script. And always participate in this, the greatest social event of the College year.

ANOTHER EXEC.

President: K. O'Brien.

Vice-Presidents: M. McKenzie, J. Battersby.

Secretary: C. Macleod.

Women: H. Pearce, J. Robbins, S. Hott, K. Langford.

Men: B. Butchers, D. Brown, V. Henderson, J. Milburn.



Ed.: Bill Cameron. Associate Ed.: Jean Melling. Sports Ed.: Tui Keiha.
Exchange Manager: Mike Murray. Business Manager: Don McLeod.
Distribution: Margaret Dewar.

Salient

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This issue contains a letter criticizing my last editorial, an article appealing for logical thinking and clear language and a letter asking for a definition of a "decent literary standard." They represent three aspects of one problem.

To answer "Scribe" first. A prose article keeping reasonably to accepted English usage (Fowler is our guide) and in which the style is suited to the aim of the writer constitutes a flexible but definite enough standard. For instance referential language is desirable in discussing controversial issues. As Mr. O'Connor has pointed out Salient's standard in this matter is not above criticism. We publish his article realizing that though his style may seem to some uninteresting and full of clichés it stands as an example of language well used to attain a definite aim, that of criticism based on logic.

On the other hand Mr. Little's letter stands as an example of language abused to attain a double aim—ostensibly to criticise an editorial but in fact to vilify the writer. In the first paragraph he calls the article "obnoxious," "communistic" and "malicious." Presumably he is endeavouring to put his readers in the mood for cold logical criticism by using such words.

Admittedly in drawing a parallel between the actions of students at Victoria College and the actions of people who support Marshall Aid with all its possibilities as a political weapon, I descended into emotive language. I endeavoured to show that I was aware of this by putting such words in inverted commas. In calling the Marshall Plan an economic bludgeon and spelling it Martial Aid I was first assuming that the excerpts from the "Dominion" would show to any reasonable person that America was using the plan for military and intimidatory purposes.

Mr. Little says that it is absolute nonsense to say that "dollar imperialism" is stampeding us into war. Later he quite illogically states: "There is only one way to avoid war . . . threaten her (i.e., Russia) with the atomic bomb and use it now if necessary." He is certainly ignorant if he believes that by using the atomic bomb against Russia we would be preserving peace. This illustrates the fact that we are being stampeded.

In endeavouring to criticise my assertion that America is violating the sovereignty of Italy he merely states that Russia did the same in Czechoslovakia. He produces no evidence for the latter assertion but on the other hand I submit the following quotation from the "Dominion" to illustrate once more my opinion:

WASHINGTON, April 18.

The United States today gave Italian voters a last minute reminder of the importance of American aid by announcing new shipments to Italy of food and coal worth 8,000,000 dollars.

Finally if Mr. Little can show that Soviet Russia is embarking on a policy of aggression, without resorting to such rabble rousing words as "tyrannical hordes," and sweeping statements such as "the Italians are free and the Czechs not" then reasonable people will perhaps be swayed by his opinion.

W.J.C.

Journalism is a public trust, not a vocation like butchering or clerking. Through an increasing respect for the ethic of journalism, through a closer unity between journalism and the increasingly liberal art of living, we may some day be able to insure to the public a press that will reflect no more than the natural slanting that comes with our wonderful varieties of viewpoint.

Until that day, we must carry on the battle against journalistic irresponsibility and against that other crime: journalistic colourlessness, that "good, gray" quality that renders everything "safe" by trying to pretend that there are two equal sides to every question, when any man with sense knows that there are simply variations of right and wrong. The editor who tries to straddle the fence is actually straddling his intellectual grave.

—The Daily Trojan, Univ. of Southern California.

We apologize for irregularities and omissions in this issue. Power cuts are mainly responsible for them. We have rejected entirely a gossip column on Tournament and a libellous "poem" on the Exec. debacle. We hope to publish a literary page of allegedly poetical character next issue.

Sir.—While I object to the personal twist you gave your reply to my query re what you considered to be a "decent literary standard," I regret that you quite overlooked the point, for it was, I think, an important one. I would raise it again if I thought

you would furnish a satisfactory reply.

Finally, if you considered the article "Freshers Fraternize" to be humorous and appealing to "well-balanced minds," I suggest you have your funny-bone examined.

SCRIBE.

Criticism?

Dear Sir,—Published in Salient of 7th April was an obnoxious article headed "He Jest at Scars." Let me tell you now that that is just another piece of Communistic propaganda. Whether W.J.C. has been fooled or whether he is responsible for the spreading of malicious propaganda remains to be seen.

To say that we are being "stampeded into war" by American "dollar imperialism" is absolute nonsense. Might I remind you that without American aid, Europe would be starving and Great Britain "on the rocks." Yes, that is what Russia wanted; but America stopped that.

"American violation of Italian sovereignty." Yes and I suppose Russian infiltration into Czechoslovakia are one and the same. The only difference being that the Italians are free and the Czechs not. But if the Italian elections are won by the Communists (this is unlikely, for Communists have never had an outright majority in any general elections they have participated in. The industrial chaos communistically inspired after the elections is the danger point) then we will see the Italians vanish behind an "iron curtain" and only their wails and moans will reach our ears.

There is only one way to avoid war, and the Truman doctrine and the Marshall Plan but at the same time take a stern view of Russia's world aggression policy. Threaten her with the atomic bomb and use it now if necessary. That will bring her to her senses (if she has any) and make the Russians realize that they cannot control the destiny of all nations.

Men are born to be free: freedom of speech, freedom from want and fear will win against the tyrannical hordes of Soviet aggression.

J. F. LITTLE.

Otago Comment

Dear Sir,—The following is the text of a resolution (proposed F. Fowler and seconded R. Anderson) passed unanimously at the last club meeting on 8th April:—

"That this meeting of the O.U. Radical Club, while not approving



Boy Scouts

Dear Sir—An article, "World Youth Week—Progress Through Unity," appeared in a recent issue of your publication. It contained misleading statements in the form of insidious propaganda, which I feel should be corrected, and I therefore ask you to publish this letter in full.

(Sorry, no. See last issue.—Ed.)

Your suggestion that the Boy Scout movement is a tool of Imperialist politicians is pure nonsense. The Scout movement owes no allegiance to any political party, nor does it spread propaganda of any political creed. I am speaking from experience, your contributor obviously is not. Any person who has had the privilege of belonging actively to the organization for six or seven years as I have, cannot truthfully deny my observations. For four years I have the good fortune to be a patrol leader in company with Mr. Bruce Milburn, who was recently the editor of Salient. In 1938-39 I attended the world jamboree in Sydney, at which Mr. R. Smith of the V.U.C. Socialist Club held a responsible position. I am sure these two gentlemen will confirm my observations.

It is true that the scout movement does not concern itself with the problems of higher education and social reform, etc., but as was pointed out in your article, the ages of the boys concerned are from 11 years to 18 years. They receive training in camp craft, ambulance work, etc. They are taught the normal Christian doctrines, and are encouraged to practice them. I suggest that the real essence of your article was another (cut).

B. J. CONNELLY.

of the political motion passed by the late V.U.C. Executive, strongly deprecates the tactics pursued by the Right Wing at the recent special general meeting and regard these as a denial of the freedom of speech and election."—Yours fraternally,

M. GOODEY,
Hon. Sec.

Building Fund

Sir,—The decision of the Building Fund Appeal Organizing Committee to defer the appeal for funds for the new student building "because of the effect on the public of recent events in the Student Association" must cause concern to all students who hope to see this business proceeding as efficiently as possible. The appeal for funds has been the object of a great deal of thought and planning for some time past, and the present year with something of a boom in the business world, together with the growing urgency of the matter, certainly makes the energetic pursuance of this appeal most desirable at the present time.

Even if the business men of Wellington were so antagonized by the suggestion made in the daily press of "Communist influence" at V.U.C., this reason surely no longer exists. With the present executive in office, the association is in a more favourable position for winning the affection and confidence of the City Fathers and Godfathers than it has been for many years. Not more than one or two members of this Executive can fairly be accused of progressive political ideas. Surely this unusual state of affairs provides the best possible security to the business world that their money will be wisely spent:

H. C. EVISON.

Found!

Dear Sir,—I have in my possession a woman's blue jumper that was left in the C.U.C. Tournament delegate's car at the picnic held in Dunedin. I would appreciate it if you could advertise this fact in your paper, and asking, the loser to, send description and address to me, c/o the Students' Association, and I will then forward it.—Penelope Pocock, Hon. Secretary, C.U.C.S.A.

The Immoral Bard

Dear Sir,—It is surely lamentable that anyone who has so much that is timely and of value of say on crooked thinking and muddled language should himself be guilty of inaccuracies, overstatement and bad taste. The magnificent essay "On Liberty," examining the nature and limits of the power which can be legitimately exercised by society over the individual, is worthy of close attention. But the somewhat loose reference to the authority of Mill or Shakespeare or A. D. Lindsay is suspect. The political illiterates who, "in the porches of my ear did pour the leperous distilment," to quote the bard, share with him the gift of picturesque and metaphorical language. Mr. Oliver condemns emotive extravagance yet sneers at the corpulent figures of the city fathers. The precepts of representative government, the American way of life and British fair play are equated with mental blindness, and this is an example of straight political thinking! Hamlet in saner mood is made to say, "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! In form and moving how express and admirable! . . . And yet to Mr. Oliver what is this quintessence of dust? Man delights him not; no, nor small town lawyers nor accountants neither. Mr. Oliver might reply in the words of Macbeth:

"Who can be wise, amaz'd, temperate and furious,
Loyal and neutral, in a moment?
No man."

And indeed I am in sympathy with much of his comment though not altogether with the manner of its express.

ALAN MILES.

MEEK MEMORIES

From his first show: Brave New Zealand. Slick and sedate in 1936.



VOT-THU-HALLA SET ALIGHT
Extrav. '48 Erupts

Hell comes to Victoria again—this time on the stage. On Thursday night about a hundred students were in the Gym. and a fairly rough and ready method of selection had to be used. After giving a short summary of the show the producer, Jeff Stewart, aided by Jean Melling, Henry Connor, who are associate producers (Dave Cohen was unable to be present that night) heard men and women of the College reading and singing.

The amount of really good talent offering this year far surpasses anything seen for some years. The producers were actually wishing that there were more large speaking parts, instead of having to scratch around for Extrav. actors as they had thought might be the case. The good speaking voices of the women who "tried out" was particularly noticeable as also was the willingness of all types to take a really active (i.e., ballet) part in the show.

A good thing to see was that there were quite a number willing to take on the not-so-glamorous but essential jobs such as helping with Props, which are under the guidance of Ray Michael. Huddy Williamson is back on his usual job of managing the stage and effects as well as lending a helping hand in all fields. Dave

Cohen is well remembered for his effective peppering up of choruses in past Extravs and his natty appearance in tie and tails as conductor. Gwenda Martin is handling Wardrobe this year; and Frank Munro is busy putting an orchestra together in his usual efficient fashion (by the way if you can tootle a flute or fiddle or blow, he may find a spot for you). Ted Harcourt will be directing make-up operations and help is welcomed, especially if it has any experience at all. Gwenda can use people who can sew or who can guide a piece of material through a sewing machine. Every little helps in all fields.

Vot-thu-halla commences in hell (Vot-thu-halla to you) it having been decided by the Selection Committee that there is much more scope for Extrav. there than in Heaven—we wondered why??? But you'll soon find out.

The Devil gets a little bored by this and that and decides to summon Peater from Waydownundah to answer for his misdeeds. The Hell's Belles, who are noted for their ability to "get their man"—you'll soon see why—are sent to bring him down. They wander off singin' and dancin'. Their route and the getting of Peater wanders through the Miss Enzed

From his last: Peter in Blunderland. Slick and sophisticated in 1945.

Conquest, the Lord Mare's Show, and State Receptions to several well-known visitors but eventually we arrive back in Vot-thu-halla where Peater is tried. He is inevitably found guilty by devious means and after many "trials"—he is removed from office, the Cashionalists are quite unsportingly jubilant, and then—but if you're not in the show you'd better come to it to find out what the end is.

Rehearsals started on Sunday with a song session and the playing of several records so that the right swing of some numbers could be gauged by the cast. By the time this issue is in print a week's rehearsals will have taken place and the show should be getting into form.

All members of the cast must be at every rehearsal in which they appear. All castings at present are tentative (when we went to press that was) and as such as subject to any necessary alteration. By the time this appears in print the show will have solidified somewhat.

A feature of the show is the music—but definitely!! Some popular,

some traditional (?) and a number of original songs by Jeff. "I am a Spy," a solo in the show, will probably live on as will others of Jeff's originals in this show—there are several of them.

The show as you perhaps know by now was written by Jean Melling and Jeff Stewart and they wish to specially thank George Turner for his lyrics.

Gerry Player, who is well-known for her activities in previous Extravs. is this year "doing" the ballets. As there are more than usual of these it is up to the cast to make her arduous job as easy as possible by being on time and their their damndest to learn the steps. Three weeks is not a very long time remember—this applies to all members of the cast.

As far as enthusiasm is concerned the cast, producers and other important people leave little to be desired, and it will not be their fault if Extrav. does not meet with the support it has merited and received in days gone by.

This article has been prompted by the appearance in Sallent of two articles of considerable interest and importance concerning the principles of thought and of journalism and public speaking.

Mr. Oliver has written a much-needed appeal for the abandonment of crooked thinking and muddled language. Students of English will understand the distinction between emotive language, and they will also realise the wisdom of, or even the necessity for the use of referential language in the exposition of opinions on political and controversial issues. The present writer does not wish to criticise the use of emotive language in its proper field—oratory, eulogies and the like, and by modern standards, editorials. Surely, however, we have a right to expect cold, factual language from an author who sincerely attempts to rid our minds of the tendency to stray from the straight way of reason and charity in political thought and expression.

And yet if readers will turn back to the article in the last issue of Sallent referred, will they find the clear thinking and clear expression which Mr. Oliver sincerely and enthusiastically extolls? It is more likely that the critical and intelligent will see in Mr. Oliver's exposition, expressions and phrases which give emotive colour to his writing in such a way as to induce his readers

to follow his opinion rather than think for themselves. But it must be remembered that knowledge is more soundly and securely acquired when it is the fruit of the student's own thinking process rather than the result of the influence of cogently expressed opinions of a skilful writer. Emotive language is good, but referential diction is better when it is a matter of inducing thought on the part of the reader with the minimum of confusion.

The present writer is of the opinion that too often in public speaking, conversation and writing, we are willing to subordinate to our secondar

leftism" and "Christian march" of the Catholic Worker Movement will be quite clear. Ludlow's language, however, may cause confusion to the person who is making a first acquaintance with him, for he is using common words in his own private, though not unreasonable, interpretation. Nor can the blame for this confusion be placed entirely on the shoulders of Ludlow when the reprinting of the article in Sallent omits the important exposition and qualification of his position as an extreme leftist. He who is responsible for that editing and omission may be guilty of the serious fault already

THE PLAIN TRUTH, PLEASE

reader our primary aim—the expression of influencing the audience or sion of an objective truth or a sound opinion.

We must realise how complicated many matters are in politics, sociology, economics, philosophy without any aids to confusion on our part by emotive language that is likely to result in as many interpretations as there are opinions or prejudices.

It is on this point that comment is invoked on the article in Sallent (April 7th) reprinted from the Catholic Worker, U.S.A. To those who have read and understood the Catholic Worker in many issues where Robert Ludlow's articles have appeared, his reference to the "extreme

here quoted of subordinating truth and clear opinion to the desire to influence the reader in some particular direction.

The question of Ludlow's objections to Americanism is an important one that merits more consideration than is possible in this article. The article is quoted here for the sake of a topical example of the dangers that beset journalism. Sallent is to be complimented on the publication of it for the present writer is of the opinion that Ludlow has developed an outlook on economics and politics that is at once reasonable and revolutionary. But this very nature of Ludlow's argument demands that the most logical and clear consideration pos-

sible. It is to be hoped that these instances will give all an emphatic warning of the necessity for resolute pursuit of the three-fold goal that should be fixed in the mind of every University student—the unbiased and logical search for real objective truth, the clarity of mind and mastery of language to express that truth without danger of ambiguity or taint of prejudice, and the courage and self-respect to act on it.

Only by such intellectual development can we fit ourselves for the life we must follow as leaders in the world of reason. If University figures such as Professor Walter Murdoch in the "Evening Post" are willing to indulge in glib generalizations such as "No thinking person now believes . . ." can we blame those who are not highly educated when they scorn the "Varsity folk" for talking and writing in glowing colours on every topic under the sun, instead of penetrating to the roots of the question with sound philosophy and then expressing their findings in clear and calm logic whether that logic be found in factual, emotive, or directive language.

KEVIN F. O'CONNOR.

(The N.Z. Christian Pacifist was responsible for the editing of and omissions from Robert Ludlow's article. All of the omissions were references to people who would have no significance to a wider public than that of the Catholic Worker.—Ed.)

The Student And The World

DR. COLEMAN SPEAKS

"The University must bring the student to ask himself: 'Why am I here?' Ideas shape the destiny of nations and the lives of individuals. It is faith that makes nations great. The University must develop a spirit of service to the country, and a spirit of faithfulness to the students in the universities of the world."

This was the idea which concluded the address given to the students of this college by Dr. John Coleman, Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation. He is a young man with a vigorous personality and a world-outlook. His views are largely those with which most people will agree, whether Christian or not.

The Principal presided over the meeting, which was attended by a relatively small number of students, a fact which reflects the anarchy that exists in many countries and that is responsible for the lack of interest in fundamental questions which is apparent in those countries.

STUDENT RELIEF

Dr. Coleman began by describing the physical conditions of students in the world today. Universities in all countries which were involved in the war are all affected to some extent, but it is the countries of Europe and Asia where conditions are desperate. The work of World Student Relief and its constituent organizations is well known here, but support for it has decreased considerably in the last two years. There is no justification for this. The need for relief is as great now as it ever was. Forty per cent. of Greek students are showing active tuberculosis, and the incidence is alarmingly high in most European countries. The shortage of books makes it seem incredible to us that studies can continue at all. Hungarian students, because of WSR, are able to cyclostyle textbooks.

A recent addition to the World Student Relief Committee is the much discussed International Union of Students. It is, of course, con-

cerned with many questions other than relief, and in its early stages it was obvious that the main impetus came from the countries of Eastern Europe. Dr. Coleman was able to tell us of some new developments in the International Union. At the time of the crisis in Czechoslovakia, where IUS has its headquarters, a commission was set up to investigate the demonstration at Prague, where students were fired on by the police. The commission reported in terms which directed no criticism at the Czech Government, but the two Americans on the IUS Executive objected to this report and have left Prague. American students, through their National Students' Association, were proposing to affiliate with IUS, but it looks as if this will not be carried through. IUS is the only one of the constituents of World Student Relief to which N.Z. students are affiliated through N.Z.U.S.A. but, of course, the N.Z.S.C.M. is a member of the World Student Christian Federation.

THE MIND OF THE STUDENT

Dr. Coleman has found that there is a great difference in the mental outlook of students in European countries from that of students in the English speaking countries. Liberalism is no longer a live force on the Continent. In a conversation with a Hungarian, Dr. Coleman discovered that the choice there is between Feudalism and Communism. Students in Europe take a live interest in social, religious, and political questions. In Germany the issues are seen most clearly. It is becoming apparent that Germany's cultural tradition—learning for learning's sake, art for art and science for science—has not brought the nation success and happiness, and there is a growing concern with the fundamental issues of life. Thoughtful Germans want to face these issues, and there is evidence of a return to Christian principles. A German girl who had spent some time in Sweden was glad to return to Hamburg, in spite of the great difference in material standards of the two countries.

It has taken the war to bring about this change in outlook in Europe. It is a change that must occur in all countries if the universities are to fulfil their proper function.

ALL THE WORST POINTS

On Saturday evening, April 11th, for a group of S.C.M. Vic and Training College Students, Dr. Coleman pulled a few Canadian holes in the University, and they proved remarkably familiar. Dr. Coleman's complaints were gathered from English, Dutch and American sources—but mainly from the U.S.A. where both faults, their investigation (and it was implied, everything) are gone in for in a big way. The four major faults of the modern university, as set out by a recent American Commission are: 1. Over-specialization. 2. Lack of co-operation between student and staff. 3. Unsatisfactory relations between the University and Community. 4. The lack of a fundamental basis or unity in University life and aims. Approximately the same views were reached in Holland during the Occupation by small allied groups of illicit students meeting to discuss the reform of the students' approach to the University which had formerly meant only a materially profitable training ground for a young man entering the professions. Today, unfortunately, as war-inspired vitality dies down, Dutch students are for the most part slipping back to this view, common place in all Universities including our own. The question of over-specialisation was treated with its implications, and examples of attempts made to overcome it, such as the introduction of five arts units into our L.L.B. course, subjects to be worked through as rapidly as possible so that the Law Student may begin his real work of "Law." The same attitude prevails among American students who must spend two years acquiring general culture out of the six required for training as the general medical practitioner, or a similar proportion of their studies in other courses. Such reforms, even if their aim is unappreciated, do tend to guard against that type of specialist encouraged in Nazi Germany, as being very useful in his work, but incapable of forming a balanced critical judgment of the society in which

he occupied a well-understood but well-defined slot.

BASIS OF STUDIES

The discussion took as its main point the lack of basis in University studies. Scholarship in the Middle Ages pivoted on the Church, whether the approach was orthodox or heretical. Today that over-all and underlying connection has vanished but nothing has taken its place. The majority of students leave the Universities as liberal rationalists, but this is a negative creed, if it may even be regarded as a creed. Christianity as a basis has not been denied, but rather disregarded, Professor and Lecturer implying in their subjects the non-relativity of Christianity to the student's life and aims. Such an implication, claimed Dr. Coleman lies in the up-till-recently-taught law that "Matter is indestructible."

Two answers to the problem were suggested. Feeling a need for unity among his students, President Hutchings, of Chicago University, developed the idea of making philosophy a compulsory subject, and thus the basis for University education. To the question, "What philosophy?" he answered that he believed St. Thomas to be the most recent great philosopher with a comprehensive approach to life. A second solution was that the professor should at the beginning of his course outline the assumptions on which he based his teaching, whether these were Christian or otherwise, awakening the student into the realisation that a choice between various beliefs exists, and not instilling in and unconscious acceptance of Liberal Rationalism, so that any choice of creed he may later make must be conditioned by his earlier limited conception of life. This suggestion, actually adopted by an American professor of sociology, was accepted doubtfully as a valuable but not probably, a complete answer. Most of the group felt that the necessary stimulus must come not from the professors but from the students themselves.

If It's

"FOR THE ROAD"

Call at

D. H. SMALL & SON Ltd.

36 MERCER STREET
WELLINGTON — PRONE 47-414

★

TRAMPING and CAMPING
REQUISITES and
MOTOR ACCESSORIES



A Cage Of Nightingales

The present low in films caused by the utter sterility of the Hollywood studios and to a lesser degree of their English counterparts, is only too rarely broken by the introduction of a first-class Continental production.

We have recently been rather fortunate in seeing *Le Kermesse*, *Nine Bachelors* and *Grande Illusion*. Now, *The Cage of Nightingales* comes as a worthy link in a chain of good and socially useful cinematic entertainment. The film as such deals mainly with the experiences of a young schoolmaster who is sent to an institution for young male delinquents, and is faced there with a tough as-

signment, not only in the form of the pupils who are placed under his charge but also in the opposition he encounters from a sadistic headmaster, whose solo motto appears to be: "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Our hero of course disagrees with this punitive form of treatment, and in turn succeeds in gaining the boys' confidence and affection by inducing them to take up organized leisure activities such as choral singing which the producer manages to introduce most effectively without even the aid of an orchestra. The accent is definitely on simplicity set against the Spartan background of the boys' school. The voices, in particular that of the young soloist are superbly chosen, and their rendering of some old Breton folk-songs is amply impressive and successful. The film, in my opinion, is a triumph of good production, the photography is well above the ordinary, the scenes are shot very accurately against simple background material, it is fast moving, and above all it contains an adequate portion of really excellent humour. My only criticism is directed against the sound which could well be improved, although it may be assumed that "dubbing" will always present some difficulty in this respect and detract from the quality of the original. But on the whole, the local patrons may consider themselves fortunate that this film has reached this country through the keen efforts of Mr. Scheinwald, it definitely belongs to the "must see" category.

—G.W.

ENGLISH STUDENTS

Available at last

KATHERINE MANSFIELD'S SELECTED STORIES

Price 8s. 6d.

Also a wide range of English classics and the best modern authors

at

MODERN BOOKS

Manners Street (opp. Schneidemann's)

STUDENTS' FOLIOS
with
SLIDE FASTENERS
from

27/6

LANDS for BAGS

THIS DEMON DRINK

In a letter to this paper a correspondent has brought up the old question of Booze. He seeks help in combating this "rampant evil" the cause of "lost Tournaments" and "bawdy Extrava." He puts the blame for the "low morals" of this "institute of higher learning and culture" on beer and thus his letter adds just one more page to the volumes of absurd and muddled writings on this subject. "Sick-of-it" will undoubtedly receive the support he seeks for there have always been plenty of vigorous and bitter opponents of the consumption of alcoholic beverages, many of whom have been equally as ardent in their condemnation of smoking, dancing, the stage and even of music, but I have yet to see a calm, reasoned and convincing case for prohibition. What I have heard is undeniable proof of the evils of drunkenness and let me state here that nobody is so healthily contemptuous of and distressed by drunkenness as the steady and wise drinker. Temperance to me means, as it does to most people, moderation whether it be in the field of alcoholic drinks, food, religion or anything else, in all cases excesses are equally repulsive and equally dangerous. Temperance is not to be confused with prohibition.

The overwhelming majority of people in the world regard the moderate use of drink as a healthy and simple addition to the pleasures of this life. It is only when, as in most Anglo-Saxon countries, alcohol is subjected to barbarous legal restrictions that people impute to it powers it does not possess and apply to it a silly and misleading terminology. In the hope that I may shed some light and perhaps stimulate further investigation of this definitely absorbing subject I am quoting here some of the more illogical expressions and more interesting facts, for which I am deeply indebted to O. A. Mendelsohn's book "The Earnest Drinker's Digest."

FALLACIES

Firstly, can anyone explain to me the logic in referring to "drink" as if it were synonymous with alcoholic beverages?

And why to we apply this term "drunkard" only to excessive consumers of this type of drink and not equally to babies who do nothing but drink for their first six months?

The word "intoxicated" literally means "poisoned." Like caffeine, alcohol is only one of hundreds of intoxicating agents. Nobody does or could drink alcohol for it is an extremely distasteful poison rare in its state.

The peril of mixing drinks is a favourite fallacy and most drinkers believe in its mystic potency. It arises from the neglect of two facts first, it is the total quantity of alcohol consumed within a given time that counts. Secondly, the alcoholic ratio of drinks varies, e.g., for beer, wine, and most spirits it is approximately 1, 3, 10. Thus to switch from beer to spirits is the equivalent of stepping up the rate of drinking ten times. To a man drunk enough to stand the taste of mixed drinks the effect of ten extra glasses of beer drunk in the time normally taken to drink one, is, to say the least, disastrous.

It is almost impossible for any drinker to pick differences in alcoholic strength and the "kick" of mixed spirit drinks is largely imagination.

KICK?

It is also a fallacy that salt or cigar-ash increases the potency of beer. Nor is brandy any more potent than whisky. All spirits contain about 45 per cent. alcohol and there is a greater range in qualities of a spirit than between equal qualities of different spirits. Stout is no more nutritious than beer.

Alcohol does not make men happy, though it may do so. It dulls the higher nerve centres whose work is partly repressive. A drunken man loses his normal restraint and is shown in his true colours, be they good or bad. The sincere man remains substantially the same sober or drunk.

Alcohol moderately used is not a

habit forming drug despite the warnings of rabid prohibitionists. Temperance ginger-beer as brewed in the home has often a higher alcoholic content than beer.

Many of the tonics and patent medicines so loved and so needed by the wowers contain so much alcohol that they ought really to be called cocktails or even liqueurs.

The suppression of alcoholic beverages by law or by entreaty has always and, I feel sure, will always be found impossible. This is a tribute to the sanity of human beings. There is little trouble in suppressing narcotics because men recognize them as harmful, but the rantings of moral cranks on alcohol arouse only amusement or resentment. Men can see for themselves that the effects of alcohol are not in truth as deplorable as the reformers assert and they do not intend to be deprived of the pleasures of drink because a few abuse it.

The Latin races should be our model. Drinking is universal, but over-indulgence is rare.

T. H. Q.



Those Reds!

Recently I conducted a Gallup Poll among students on the question "What is Communism?" The purpose of this poll was not to find a standard definition for a political idea, but to attempt to discover what significance and meanings such a term had in their minds, and whether they were more or less in agreement upon its meaning. Seventy-three students were questioned at random in the common rooms and cafeteria, and the results were extremely surprising.

Eleven gave answers that were broadly in accordance with the Oxford Dictionary or Marxist sense, thirteen gave fairly accurate answers, twenty were extremely vague and inaccurate, nineteen had no idea whatsoever, but disapproved even though they did not know what it was, and seven evaded the question by giving answers such as "a form of Government," and "the Russian Social System."

The poll showed that the majority of the students possessed an emotional feeling about the word, but not any clear idea as to its general meaning. Here are some of the answers.

Barbara: "Well, it's a bit difficult to say—mostly it's oh, State control, ah, giving up your freedom, and all that."

Gus: "A sort of self-government of the people in small groups. Community life. Everybody dubbing in and taking out what they want."

Second year: "The dividing up of everything of your own and giving it to the government."

First year: "The socialization of the means of production, distribution and exchange."

Third year: "The nationalization of

GAS THE MODERN FUEL

YOU EAT
YOU NEED WARMTH
YOU NEED BATHS AND
HOT SHOWERS

OBTAIN:
GAS COOKING
HEATING
Hot Water Appliances
from

WELLINGTON GAS Co.
For all Gas Equipment

the means of production, distribution and control."

Second year: "A state in which everyone helps each other and helps themselves."

Second year: "The mutual recognition in all spheres of organic activity of the things that matter in communal experience and existence."

First year: "A form of government opposed to Christianity." (I tried to get a more direct answer from him, but no, it was opposed to Christianity, and that was good enough for him.)

Second year woman: "Well I'm rather at a loss to know what the b— thing is. All I know is that I don't believe in it."

Third year: "Equal opportunity and equality for everyone. Money is shared out and so on."

Second year: "Communism? I'll tell you what it is—it's dividing up of property in such a way that you end up by dividing your soul. Nobody owns a damn thing—it all belongs to the State. The government claims everything. Your house is not your own. They can walk in and say 'we want this' and where are you? In the gutter." (At this stage he gave an indignant belch! and reached for a pudding spoon.)

Jocelyn: "Oh, the sort of thing that goes on in Russia."

Ron: "Communism means two things. First, the organization of society which involves the social control of the means of production, and secondly, it is associated with a specific party and world outlook—Marxism if you like."

BRIAN BELL.

Beaglehole on Marx

Prefacing his remarks with the hope that none of his audience would feel moved to rush out and send telegrams to the Queen of Tonga, Dr. J. C. Beaglehole proceeded to describe the essential features of the Marxist philosophy of history.

In the first place, the DYNAMIC FACTORS in human history, according to Marx, were CHANGES IN THE METHODS OF PRODUCTION. "In changing the modes of production," wrote Marx, "mankind changes its social relations." And again, "The method of production in material existence conditions, social, political and mental evolution in general."

Secondly, history may be divided into a number of logically connected phases. The economic structure of capitalist society, for example, developed out of the economic structure of feudal society.

Thirdly, the history of all previous society may be regarded as the history of a struggle between classes for control of the instruments of economic production.

By way of illustration, Dr. Beaglehole proceeded to give a strictly Marxist interpretation of the French Revolution. According to Marx, the French Revolution was a perfect Re-



THREE ONE ACT PLAYS

Cathleen Ni Houlihan, W. B. Yeats.
Two Gentle of Soho, A. P. Herbert.
The Shewing Up of Blanco Posnet, G. B. Shaw.

Training College Hall, Friday, 30th April.

Capping Proceh, Friday, 7th May.
Capping Ball, Friday, 7th May.

Write for the Literary Society Broadsheet. Contact Bruce Weir, Hon. Sec.

olution in that the triumph of the bourgeoisie over the feudal aristocracy was determined by a change in the material basis of society.

At this point in his discourse Dr. Beaglehole proceeded to criticize the Marxist interpretation of history. The strange point about modern Russia, the speaker argued, was that, although the material basis of Russian society is similar to that of America, Russia has produced a widely diverse ideology. If this is so, what becomes of the Marxian interpretation of history?

In the course of an amusing speech Professor Wood similarly challenged the orthodox Marxist interpretation of the French Revolution. In his opinion the French Revolution was precipitated largely by the feudal aristocracy itself which had "fallen down on its job." "Was Marx right?" have I fallen down on my job as a lecturer?" Professor Wood asked. Dr. Beaglehole was embarrassed. "Was Marx right?"

Dr. Beaglehole's address was the first of a series of talks arranged by the Historical Society. The purpose of these talks is to approach the broad problem of international relations from different points of view, and thus to present a many-sided picture of the modern world.

—J.M.

Comfort
and
Enjoyment
— at —

BARRETTS HOTEL

with
Ballins Draught XXXX
Ballins Bottled Beer

E. J. FROST,
Proprietor

THESPIANS INC.

Wellington Little Theatre Society
present

N.Z. PREMIERE PRESENTATION

of

J. B. PRIESTLEY'S 3-ACT PLAY

"AN INSPECTOR CALLS"

Special concessions for student parties.
Ring Mrs. Unwin, House Manager, 26-736.

FIVE NIGHTS

CONCERT CHAMBER

25th to 29th MAY.

NOT PARTIAL TO MARSHALL DEBATERS' DECISION

Last Friday night saw the Debating Club discussing its second debate for the year on the motion: "That the Marshall Plan is detrimental to European self-determination." After some 22 speakers had said their pieces, the motion was put, being carried by 30 votes to 22. Judge: Miss Catherine Ford.

Detailed reports are as follows:—

Mr. L. Samuj opening for the affirmative, maintained that Marshall Aid was not a grant but a loan. Quoting from the American's Committee's report on European recovery, he showed that the object of U.S. aid was not simply economic, but strategic, as it sought to combat the spread of Communism and Russian expansion. Self-determination, Mr. Samuj declared, was impossible with the economic ties which were contained in the Marshall Plan. He saw an alternative in America handing over her surplus money to the Economic Committee of the United Nations for fair and just distribution.

Mr. B. Lyons, for the negative, sought to show the link between U.S. over-production and European under-production, which would be balanced by the Marshall Plan. He outlined the main points of the plan which were: (1) To increase producer goods for Europe; (2) maintain stable European economy; (3) break down tariffs; (4) supply dollar assistance. "All nations were invited to participate," he said, "but why weren't Poland and Czechoslovakia at Paris?" "Their wives wouldn't let them go!"—(Audience.)

He constantly reiterated the point

that the plan was not forced on Europe.

In seconding the motion, Mr. C. Bollinger stated that the plan was good in theory but not in practice. "When a country goes boots and all into another's back yard . . ." ("Shoe them out"—audience.) He traced the financial implications behind the plan, which he declared was ruled by vested interests. Culminating his address with this magnificent piece of rhetoric, "Shall the people of Europe sell their souls to the Mephistopheles of Wall Street for the doubtful pleasure of chewing gum?"

Replying for the negative, Mr. M. O'Brien tabulated carefully the entailments of the plan, which he declared guaranteed European self-determination and which would re-instate the participating countries as nations. It was the only alternative offered, instead of the strict economic and political code of Communism. This menace would be laid by the Marshall Plan.

FROM THE FLOOR

The discussion that followed was interesting and amusing.

Mr. W. McLeod translated fluently some passages from Swedish papers.

Mr. Curtin quoted Mr. Marshall and M. Molotov (just to liven up proceedings). However, he wasn't sure of the difference between the Communist Camp, the Democratic Camp ("and Mein Kampf"—audience).

Mr. J. Milburn presumably speaking for the negative, gave a fluent speech on war hysteria.

Mr. Barclay was a little mixed; for though he changed sides, he avowed he hadn't changed his mind.

Mr. Toomey wasn't sure what he was talking about—at least so he told the audience. However he did seem muddled over whether the plan was a loan or grant, grant or loan, vice versa or so on.

Mr. Dowrick who, after being interrupted by Mr. Curtin inquiring how long he was in Russia—exploded violently with—"I was a damn sight longer in the Middle East than you, you little nincompoop!" He later explained, "Little things try me."

Mr. Dowling spoke on the Italian

elections and athelism. (We couldn't see the connection.)

Other speakers for the affirmative were: Miss Casey, Messrs A. McLeod, R. Smith, C. Pottinger, Melling, and Williams. For the negative, Messrs. McIntyre, Cook, K. O'Connor, B. O'Connor, Toomey, Moore.

The Judge, Miss Ford, placed the speakers as follows: 1st equal, B. O'Connor and Milburn; 3rd C. Pottinger; 4th, B. Lyons.

Next subject: That private schools should be abolished.

DON'T MIX WITH

MR. IN-BETWEEN

The Socialist Club has announced the birth of a New Zealand Student Labour Federation embracing left wing groups from three of our University Colleges. This is a vital challenge to the traditional Ivory tower of the esoteric erudite. The very existence of such a body means that increasing numbers of students are not content with absorbing swags of knowledge and not relating it to life or reality at all; but that they consider practical application of their learning, not for *sed*, but for the amelioration of society, one of their chief duties. That, of course, is the reason why capitalism keeps launching assaults on academic freedom: independent thinking in connection with a little serious study can lead the honest student only to conclusions highly dangerous to the status quo.

In the end, fear of the searchlight of scientific inquiry being turned on to society leads reaction to crush scientific inquiry altogether. John Strachey, in his early days, explained that "it is necessary for the Fascists, whose object it is to perpetuate our more and more irrational capitalist system, to assail in every conceivable way the supremacy of human reason." (International Literature, No. 4, 1934). A great nation like the Germans, with an unequalled tradition of scientific and academic achievement, could be plunged into the slough of unreason by Fascism, and her education sent back to a worse than mediaeval condition, dominated by the mythology of racialism: let that be a lesson to the students of the world.

Our universities must be kept independent, as strongholds of progress in the resistance to the still living menace of Fascism.

Many will claim that education is "above" Student Labour Federations. They will protest the right of the student to go on in the old way, divorced from reality, with some ethereal conception of right and wrong as his universal standard. They would like to ignore the existence of the workers. They will sit contemplating their navels, meandering in metaphysics, and talking about aesthetic beauty being the only criterion. But for the fellows on the dole, (there are 2½ million today in the U.S.A. alone — "Dominion" 8/4/48), "beauty means nothing. A German realist poet of the turn of the century, Gustav Schueler, wrote a wonderful poem, two stanzas of which I venture to render thus:—

"Beauty is breath; but bread is always bread;

And thousands starve; and still the mills are turning;

And royal tables still know nought of need;

And thousands pray at night in want and yearning.

"And all the while the 'Holy Night' is listening,

And all the while the 'Light' is burning out,

And all the while the 'Beauty's' vainly glistening

In every pearl the dew of morning brought."

NO HALF MEASURES

There is a fight on today. The fight between the forces that are

interested in maintaining moribund and predatory capitalism, and the forces that are looking towards a society where the people will control their own destiny. There is no standing halfway in this fight. Those who claim to be on neither side are acquiescing in the present inequitable state of affairs. Day Lewis has answered them admirably:—

"The red advance of life
Contracts pride, calls out the common blood,

Beats song into a single blade.
Makes a depth-charge of grief.

"Move then with new desires,
For where we used to build and love
Is no man's land, and only ghosts
can live

Between two fires."

The intellectual individualist, attempting to maintain his "integrity" in a world of two amassing forces, is in an impossible position. Either he must openly prostitute himself to reaction, or he must sink his self-centred infantility in the common yearnings of the people.

WHITHER THE INDIVIDUALIST

Stephen Spender once wrote: "Today the individualist withers, isolated and futile in his protected social niche. And if we try altogether to undo the development of democracy by going back to a time without political freedom, we get Fascism, a violent assertion of fake individuality by men of average or less than average understanding. To go forward, the masses must be given not merely political but also economic freedom, so that they may produce their own free individualists and their own culture. The future of individualism lies in the classless society. For this reason, the social revolution is as urgent a problem for the individualist as it is for the worker; he must break down his artificial barriers and join the workers in building up a new civilization." (Forward from Liberalism, p. 71.)

The fact that Spender, like so many other Bloomsbury "individualists," ended up by just woffling out of the Socialist movement as he had woffled into it, in no way alters the truth of his somewhat idealized argument. The man of science and learning must be rid of the fetters that shackle him to moneyed interests; he must give his services to the people. This is the only condition for his being able freely to conduct his researches for the general welfare of mankind.

The sooner the university yogis wake up to this fact the better. Strengthened Student Labour organization can be a very valuable alarm clock.

C.B.

Coming Events

MONDAY, 3rd MAY

Law Faculty Club, Moot Room B3.

A. M. Cousins—Judge.

Procesh.

FRIDAY, 7th MAY

Law Faculty Ball early in June.

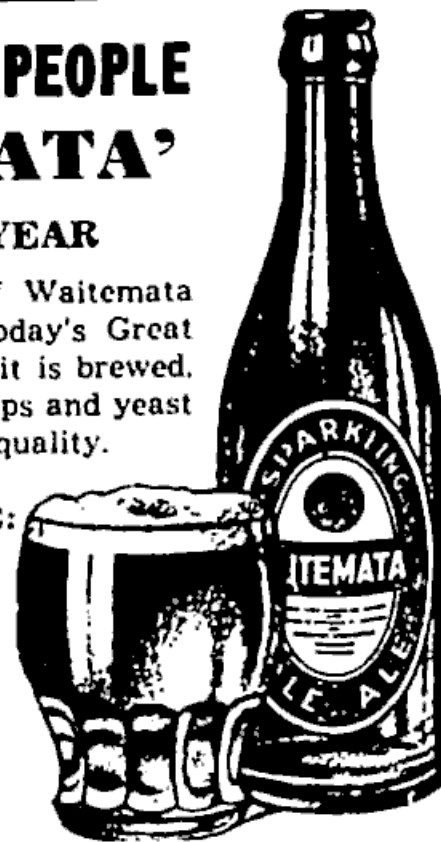
★ EVERY DAY MORE PEOPLE DRINK 'WAITEMATA'

25,000,000 BOTTLES A YEAR

The consistent flavour and quality of Waitemata beer ensures its pride of place as Today's Great National Drink. The care with which it is brewed, together with the finest barley malt, hops and yeast which are used, ensure its consistent quality.

WAITEMATA PRODUCTS INCLUDE:

- ★ D.B. LAGER
- ★ WAITEMATA SPARKLING ALE
- ★ DOMINION BITTER
- ★ VITA STOUT
- ★ DOUBLE BROWN ALE



WAITEMATA — "Today's Great Drink"

TEXT BOOKS

POSSIBLE SHORTAGE

Those for some subjects will definitely be in "short supply" so our advise is—

PURCHASE EARLY!

WHITCOMBE & TOMBS

LAMBTON QUAY

Minds Still At Work

On Thursday, 8th April, the Philosophical Society held its second meeting of the philosophical season, in room C14, Weir House. Owing to the success of the previous meeting the room was crowded to the door—some were turned away. It was only by the operation of a shift system that the last man managed to get in, in time for supper. Seventeen members attended.

The subject for discussion was the distinction between science and philosophy. Unfortunately, I arrived a little too late to hear the introductory address by Mr. Robinson on Wolfenden (our text) and various topics of philosophical interest, but I am told on good authority that it was presented in an extremely lucid manner.

Mr. Robinson stringently criticized Mr. Wolfenden (in absentia) and brought forward new ideas on the proposed course of study. His proposal was to diverge from Mr. W.'s treatment and to deal with matters of a less metaphysical character. This suggestion was received with wild enthusiasm by Mr. Robinson's supporters who rose to their feet and cried "Down with Wolfenden," "Mr. Robinson for ever," and "Good old Erle."

Dress was quite informal and everyone looked most attractive. Particularly were two ensembles I noticed—Arch, in a brown corduroy jacket, battle-dress style and Brian in a brushed-wool sweater of eau-de-nil which contrasted effectively with his platinum hair.

With reference to Science and Philosophy, a newcomer from Otago explained the probable attitude of

Write for the special jubilee issue of

"SPIKE"

Prizes for original creative work.

Entries close about August.

State whether contributions are for normal 1948 issue or for special issue.

Entries to the Editor, R. W. Burchfield, Department of English.

Dingle-types (a major classification we believe). Dingle-types hold the fundamental tenet that the whole of existence will ultimately be explained away in terms of Physics. We hope for the sake of the club that this will not be too soon. There was an interesting discussion upon this issue.

Neil was wearing an impressionistic tie in subdued shades of green and white which was only rivalled by Harry's draught-board sweater.

Another topic approached was the implication of Descartes' "Cogito ergo sum." There was an interesting discussion upon this issue.

A member whose name I could not catch was wearing the most distinguished fairisle pullover that has yet been seen at the society's autumn meetings.

Part of the time was spent on a lengthy investigation of Hume's theory of Causation, illustrated by billiard balls. There was an interesting discussion upon this issue.

The girls made an engaging "tableau vivant" as they reclined on the bed. Most were in casual attire although one or two wore dresses. Corduroy seems to be popular among women as among men this year.

The welcome call of "Come and get it," brought us to supper. (Crockery by courtesy of the New Zealand Railways.)

Gleanings from the evening's study:—

The most provoking statement, "There's not going to be any more sunsets, only guilt complexes."

The most penetrating statement, "Cogito ergo sum" may be translated as "Thinking urges some," or "I think I can do sums."

—G.P.



... then there was Palmerston.

NOTICE

The Literary Society has opened a library of modern periodicals. Details are on the main Notice Board. A meeting discussing the specimens so far received will be held in the near future. For that, also consult Notice Board. A cure for all diseases of the soil is being worked out by a special committee of the Literary Society. Again, consult and keep consulting the main Notice Board.

LITERARY REVIEWS Five Aphorisms

1. I do not know which German poet of the last century declared that he was modern from his head to the bottom of his heels. He must have meant that the questions he asked could not be answered by the past, but only by the present.

2. It is impossible for a poet to be traditional, in the sense that he models himself on precedent. He asks the present his questions and receives his answers in the vocabulary of the past.

3. Many people have observed the profound difference between criticizing the classics and the work of our contemporaries. From the classics we obtain our vocabulary and from our contemporaries a spiritual war communique.

4. In a literary review we find the chronicle of a series of battles. To those who do not themselves fight battles, they are like explorations in the fourth dimension.

5. We sometimes consider a writer of the past our battle companion. For that purpose, however, we give them an entirely new shape, like we do with our women.

—S.E.

V.U.C. PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB 1948 "SPIKE"

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Judgment June 1st. No entry fee. Any photograph suitable for enlargement eligible.

1st PRIZE £1/1/- AND TWO CONSOLATION PRIZES.

8 p.m., Tuesday, June 1st.
Room C4.

As five people have signified interest in Mr. Brian Bell's article entitled "Film in N.Z." we present yet another instalment.

TYPES OF FILMS

Love:

This seems to have been the most predominant theme of films during the last thirty years. In fact, it has been the habit of producers to include this ingredient as part of the box-office formula, regardless of whether love is appropriate to the particular film. In this way many good films have been ruined by having "love-interest" thrust into them. Love, as represented by the bulk of US films is a very stereotyped and conventional affair. It is not represented in a very matter of fact objective way, but seems to consist of a combination of thick sentiment, surreptitious eroticism, and romantic symbolism.

The sentimentality is obvious, the eroticism is surreptitious in the sense that verbal reference or blunt awareness rarely marks the screen performances, and the symbolism is plainly evident in the shape of moons, chairs, and oozing orchestras accompanying the embraces whether they occur on a sofa, or in the middle of the Sahara Desert.

(b) Miraculous or Absent-Minded Conception

There is a hackneyed sequence where a wife informs her husband that she is going to have a baby, and the husband expresses amazement. This suggests that either the wife has a large circle of male acquaintances, or American contraceptives are extremely unreliable. The first inference would not be intended by the producer, and the validity of the second would be vehemently contested, so we must conclude from this that the film is neither representing nor suggesting actuality.

Horror:
The literary material from which macabre films could be made is very plentiful, but unfortunately it seems to have been neglected. Poe, M. R. James, and Blackwood, for instance, could provide the material for some outstanding films dealing with the supernatural. The commercial horror film has vulgarized the idea; and so we get people having their humdrum lives brightened by a weekly thrill from clutching hands and mechanical promenading monsters.

THE ODOUR OF A BAD EGG REPERTORY LAYS IBSEN'S "GHOSTS"

Ibsen's scalding assault on one of the great social problems of all time—the fruits of sin overlaid with the veneer of bourgeois respectability—loses little of its moral punch with the passing of the years.

This play demands a high standard of acting. Like all the world's great dramas, its theme carried on skilful characterisation, which calls for equally skilful interpretation. It is difficult for an amateur company in this little country to meet this requirement. But full honours must be given to Harry Painter for his very creditable performance as the hard-drinking blackmailer, Engstrand. Gracie Gordon became progressively more convincing as Mrs. Alving—a most difficult part, and excelled in the climax of the last act. Graham Brown-Douglas made a very good pharisaical pastor, though as a character part, the acting ability required was less than more dramatic leading roles. Graeme Allwright's part was possibly the most exacting: the youth overcome with the wages of his father's dissipation. It calls for complete sympathy with the character to change in a single scene from a temperamental genius into a drivelling idiot. And in this case the audience showed by their reception that they thought Mr. Allwright's a worthy attempt. Brigid Lenihan had very little acting to do as Reena, and what she did lacked something of spirit.

The lighting effects were poor; and did that chap on the switchboard enjoy himself!

The quintessence of the work lies in the absolute haunting of the whole house by its dead master, with his two faces—that of the profligate, diseased roue as he really was, and that of the non-existent pillar of society that his wife showed to the world. On the one hand we have the visible effects of congenital syphilis developing in the son, Oswald, with his unnatural love for the maid, his illegitimate half-sister—on the other hand we have the erection of the orphanage to the old rogue's memory, and the prim ecclesiastic whom convention had hoaxed. Between the two is Mrs. Alving who bore the brunt of her husband's debauchery and whose whole life is devoted to keeping the scandal hushed up and in whitewashing his memory after his death—but is left in the end with her orphanage burnt and her son disintegrating through no fault of his own.

The set and props, exact as in all repertory productions, did manage to bring forth the gloom of the day and the evil contagion that haunted the house—these to a certain extent made up for the eccentricities of the lighting. Immaculate furnishing also emphasised the respectable face of this sordid household.

The strength of this play cannot be hidden by mediocre presentation. Though our outlook is broader than it was sixty years ago, this stuff still stings.

—Hammer and Tongs.

Ask For

O'HALLORAN'S Natural Ale

Brewed and Bottled by

O'HALLORAN'S BREWERY Ltd.
17-19 STURDEE STREET

Tel. 52-393. P.O. Box 68, Te Aro.

WHAT OF OUR CAPABILITIES? VUC ROUTED AT OTAGO

Easter 1948 at Dunedin; the O.U. Tournament committee's smooth organization stood out, as did the winning of the Tournament Shield by C.U.C. and the Wooden Spoon by V.U.C.

Naturally we are concerned mostly with Victoria regaining the Wooden Spoon for the seventh time since 1932. (The other Colleges combined have had it only seven times.) 1948 saw us take the Wooden Honours in athletics, rowing and swimming, third in shooting, second equal in tennis, basketball and cricket, and finally retake the boxing with good sport and luck.

Settling down to tin tacks, we find the athletic, rowing and swimming people have been consistent in getting their respective spoons for the past four years, and if we are to succeed we must "blitz" these clubs. (V.U.C. has at least won Tournament twice since 1923.)

Athletics: Going back to 1946, of eighteen in the team at Christchurch not one athlete gained a point for Tournament Shield (i.e., gained a first place) but seven got seconds which justified their inclusion in the team. At Auckland, 1947, we got 3½ points (A.U.C. 13½) which was a decided improvement, but of 21 athletes only seven gained points at all.

This year of 25 competitors only two gained points for Tournament Shield, while one runner had two seconds. Being generous and including four more that obtained third places, we find that a team of seven would have done equally as well. So far the last three years, if we had sent a team of seven it wouldn't have affected our position one bit, but would have created greater competition for V.U.C. athletes to get into Tournament teams. At present it is quite an easy thing for a hack sprinter or jumper to make the big twenty-five.

Rowing: 1946 last in eights. 1947 last in eights. 1948, Wot! again. Yes! Last in fours and eights. Where is this leading us to? Only the Rowing Club knows. All we know is that rowing takes a large bite out of Tournament Shield. The sooner V.U.C. has a mouthful the better. As this is an aquatic sport, rowing ability should be the primary consideration in picking the team. It seems previously that other aquatic qualifications have helped—there is always the chance that the boat may turn over.

Swimming: 1946. Of our team of ten only one gained a point for swimming or Tournament Shield, while one more gained a third. 1947. Of a team of twelve only two gained points, while one more gained a third. 1948. Of fourteen that went to Dunedin three gained points, with two more getting thirds. Thirteen points are allocated from the Tournament Shield for swimming and V.U.C. has only gained one point for each of the preceding three years. Admittedly the N.Z.U. standard for 1948 was the highest ever, and everyone who won an event was a N.Z. national champion. But this doesn't get away from the fact that we haven't encouraged swimming enough at V.U.C., for our standard is very low—neither enough encouragement nor training.

Fundamentally the idea is cut down on the number of athletes, rowers and swimmers going to Tournament until a higher standard can be made. Concentrate on a better rowing eight before entering a four. This will pep up enthusiasm and make students realize there is an Athletic, Rowing and Swimming Club that has to be built up.

Easter Tournament next year is at V.U.C., we have a territorial advantage, so let us win the shield for a change.

—P.

Ski Notes

The increasing popularity of winter sports in New Zealand has had its effect at V.U.C. Trampers from Victoria have long sought the shows of Ruapehu, Egmont and Arthur's Pass for their winter vacation, but the growing tendency for the art of down-hill ski-running to become a specialised sport has decreed that there shall be a University Ski Club, run on similar lines to those already in existence at Otago, Canterbury, and Lincoln Colleges.

An inaugural meeting held in C.2. on April 13 was attended by some forty persons. The merits of a separate ski-club were debated and a motion affirming a wish to remain with the ski-section of the Tramping Club was defeated. It was decided by a large majority to form a ski-club.

Roy McKenzie, N.Z. Slalom champion and N.Z.U. champ, showed films taken at Queenstown during the Wigley Cup and the N.Z.U. Ski Champs., also some taken at Egmont during the N.Z. Ski Champs. A vote of thanks was tendered to Roy with the

hope that he would have a good trip overseas.

The Club hopes to run a series of weekend trips during the second term to Ruapehu and to Kime Hut in the Tararua, starting with a King's Birthday weekend trip to Ruapehu, and culminating with two winter trips in August to Dawson Falls and to Ruapehu. A team of four men and two women will be sent with a small supporting party to the N.Z.U. tournament at Queenstown in August.

By providing tuition for learners and an adequate number of ski trips, the committee hope to see a fair all-round standard of skiing at Victoria at the end of the season.

A film evening will be held on Tuesday, May 4, in room C.2. Business will include the ratification of the committee.

Watch the notice board for developments.

The following were elected to the provisional committee—

Chairman: John McDonald.
Secretary: Tui Kelha.
Treasurer: Malcolm Mace.
Committee: Gay Nimmo, Jerry Barnard, Bruce Milburn.



What Hope have Hirsute He-males of Hequalling Habove?
Past Extrav. Ballet shows form.

Harriers

At the annual general meeting of the club held recently, the following officers were elected:—

President: G. F. Dixon, Esq., C.B.E.
Vice-presidents: Dr. F. B. Shorland,
Messrs G. C. Sherwood, I. C. McDowall, D. Cairns, Jnr., N. Claire,
S. K. Newall, D. A. Viggers, C. Bagnall, F. O'Flynn, R. M. Daniell, M. J. Poole, F. O'Kane.

Club Captain: J. C. Hawke.

Vice Captain: D. C. Hefford.

Secretary: B. M. Blundell.

Treasurer: J. McEnnis.

Committee: J. P. Holden, P. Whittle, J. W. Mawson.

The opening run of the season was held from Weir House on the first Saturday after Easter, about fifty runners being present. New members discovered that running is not the strenuous sport it is often made out to be, and they certainly had no objections to the afternoon tea.

Last Saturday the Club turned out for the opening of the Wellington harrier season at Petone, and again there was a good muster of runners. Although it is perhaps a little early to start forecasting the club's prospects for the season, one thing is clear—as far as races are concerned, an almost completely new senior A team has to be formed on the basis of three runners who have survived the annual migrations from Wellington—Hawke, Holden and Whittle. Just what talents hidden amongst the ranks of the new members we are not yet sure, but by the time Salient appears again, we hope to be able to give some indication of it.

If it's

Sports Goods

You'll find them at

THE SPORTS DEPOT

[Witcombe & Caldwell Ltd.]

**45 WILLIS STREET,
WELLINGTON**

"For All Good Sports
Goods"

Meet you at

THE EMPIRE

THE
STUDENTS'
HOTEL.

★

Willis Street, Wellington

P.O. BOX 357

TELEPHONE 40-907

SOUTH'S BOOK DEPOT

8 WILLIS STREET, WELLINGTON

All kinds of books and particularly
University Text Books

are obtainable at South's, where, along with set books are many recommended books of the kind you require, also a selection of reading surrounding each of your subjects.

Use Our Mail Order Service

SOUTH'S for BOOKS