

Sablier

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LAURELS AND BRICKBATS

After seeing the programme presented by the Dramatic Club on Friday evening I left the Gym, with mixed feelings. I was conscious of a definite feeling of appreciation for the first and the last play, but the "low comedy in one spasm" set me thinking of the frightful predicament of the man who caught sight of himself in a mirror with the result that he laughed himself to death.

Now, I do not desire to appear narrow in the view I have taken, but when a dramatic club that is looking for support includes in its programme so-called entertainment of this description it is not carrying out the purpose and aim that the name implies.

I do not deny that there is some cleverness in this type of writing; my point is that it is merely wasted effort for it is not the mirror of anything other than those who compose and put it on.

Farce of any description, burlesque of any description, is a job for professionals and in my opinion, anyway, is worthwhile only from that point of view.

Such an effort, as probably Ron Meek knows, lives a hectic life and dies a sudden death. Is it, therefore, worth while?

"E. and O.E." I enjoyed immensely, as did the entire audience. It was well done as a whole, particularly its climax and the black-out, well timed and most realistic was the fall of the corpse from the scaffold.

The two women in the play fell for the old fault of over using emphasis in their lines; if such players would just feel their parts a little and abandon conscious emphasis the lines would come the right way.

"The Royal Inn," a very moving little play, was excellently handled and full marks go to the players and the producer, particularly the latter for his work in the set. It was most realistic without being in any way overdone.

J. D. Freeman, as the American sailor, gave a splendid performance, keeping in character throughout in a perfectly natural manner. "Lily" played her part, a difficult one, with sympathy and that air of innocence so essential for the contrast with other characters. "Pearl," no doubt acting under instructions, was inclined to overplay. Her make-up was sufficient and her lines added what was necessary to put the character in its place without any over-acting. As a general rule it is useful to remember that loud characters should be played with restraint.

I appreciated the make-up of Mr. Burke and I expected an Irish brogue before he spoke, which, to my mind, would have made him an almost perfect character. He perhaps lacked a little in force and could have been played with more strength. These, however, are unwarranted criticisms under the circumstances. The main point is that so long as this Dramatic Club continues to produce this type of play with the degree of success already achieved they will have nothing to worry about on the score of progress.

Thanks for a very enjoyable evening.
—F. M. RENNER.

THREE TO ONE

On Saturday night the incredible happened; the extraordinary; the overwhelming. The Women's Club had a party, and the proportion of men to women was 3 to 1. Nothing like this has ever happened before. The Committee, watching at the door as masculine overcoat after masculine overcoat emerged from the rain and gloom without, fainted away in couples, and had to be hastily revived because there were so few girls anyway. And for the first hour or so the surplus men wandered round saying plaintively: "But isn't this a Women's Club party?" and suggesting the importation of girls in bulk.

In spite of this slight accident, however, everyone got through the even-

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

Is Victoria College developing a community spirit? A good case, based on the Annual Report of the Students' Association, could be made out to prove that it is. But another, based on the voting at the elections and the attendance at last night's general meeting of the Students' Association would seem to knock the assertion to pieces. In the elections, only 38 per cent. of the members voted, and last night only 75 were present. We hope that such apathy is not indicative of the spirit with which the new Executive will have to deal.

The attendance aside, however, the meeting did us credit. Messrs. Edgley (chairman), and Heine (secretary) produced order out of the inevitable chaos of absurd notions and hilarious amendments, and we can be said to have combined business with entertainment very successfully.

By way of entertaining the gathering until the crowd (!) were seated, Mr. Heine read the minutes; then the show began.

Mr. Scotney inquired into what he stigmatised as embezzlement of funds. At the previous meeting a sum of money had been collected in Mr. Hlott's "hat" to provide six clay pipes for the women's common room. Those pipes had not been installed. What, asked Mr. Scotney, had happened to the money?

Miss S. Sanders said the pipes had never been received; and, forestalling a riot, Mr. M. J. Mason explained that the pipes had been bought, pawned, and the money (2/2) donated to the Building Fund.

It was during the chairman's remarks on the report that the only unpleasant feature occurred. For some time a series of unspeakably bad puns had been heard from the rear of the hall; and Mr. Scotney's motion that Mr. Macaskill be suppressed was carried with only one dissentient, Mr. Macaskill having his vote recorded.

DISPUTING THE BANS.

After considerable argument, Mr. Heine's motion that no effort be made to reinstate the Procession was lost. Instead, the meeting decided to adopt Mr. Aimers's suggestion that a meeting be held to ascertain whether there would be sufficient support for a procession to justify the Executive's applying for the removal of the ban.

Concerning another ban, that on the discussion of sex and religion, something has already been done. The Executive has placed a request before the Professorial Board, and there is some possibility that the Professorial verbot may be removed.

THE DRINKING HORN.

Mr. Hlott, who was in fancy dress,

moved that a committee consisting of Messrs. Aimers, Pasley and Corkill—(Amendment: "With Mr. Hlott as technical advisor")—be set up—(Amendment: "And kept up")—to draft a set of rules to govern the contest for the Drinking Horn. He suggested six-men teams for the event, contestants to drain three 14oz. handles in relay fashion. "The Auckland team trained on half-handles," said Mr. Hlott, "but this should not be regarded as a sprint event. The idea of the contest is to test stamina and capacity. My proposal will ensure a real test." The rules so far could only be described as rafferty, and it was thus the contest was put on a proper basis. His motion, and another by Mr. Macaskill, that a bar for drinking be added to the tournament ribbon, were carried.

THE NEW EXEC.

The elections resulted:—President, Mr. R. W. Edgley; men's vice-president, Mr. R. S. C. Agar; women's vice-president, Miss G. M. Keen; men's committee, Messrs. R. J. Corkill, A. T. Fussell; women's committee, Misses J. Bacon, H. D. Maysnor, J. E. M. Osborn; secretary, Mr. R. W. Heine; treasurer, Mr. J. B. Bullock.

PAGING THE REPORT.

If I had been told to read through "The Excursion" I could not have felt less cheerful than when I poked up the Annual Report. And yet, as the splurges say, I read it through at one sitting, and was enthralled. These 18 pages carry a message of hope and a record of solid achievement over which our Exec. may justifiably gloat. We have, indeed, something new in annual reports.

ODE AND PALINODE.

Consider the dramatic intensity of the opening. In the first strophe, we

HAVE YOUR WORKS IMMORTALISED IN "SPIKE"

"SPIKE" requires a cover design as effective as the one on the notice board in the hall; contributions in verse and prose that are worthy to publish behind it, and photographic studies as good as those displayed in the recent exhibition of the Photographic Club.

"SPIKE" is published once a year at the end of September, and all contributions must be received by the Editor before the end of August. The editions of the past few years have set a high standard to be maintained and to achieve publication in "SPIKE" is a goal worth striving for.

The executive offers prizes of £1 1/- for the best contribution in verse, £1 1/- for the best contribution in prose, and 10/6 for the cover design.

WRITE FOR "SPIKE"

WHITHER? (Concluded)

Since this Congress provides annually the widest and most representative field of intellectual expression available to the students of the Universities of England and Wales, I would like particularly to emphasise, and I hope you will find an interest in it, the viewpoint of the student, in so far as the student seems to have a viewpoint in this country and in so far as it was expressed here, for there are a number of serious qualifications to be considered when accepting these views as representative. There is no question but that a very large section of the student population belong to the non-thinking section of the community; their motto is the old one of "shootin', shootin', fishin'"; their rallying cry "the old school tie"; their principal contribution to community life the O.T.C., and their only serious concern the economic necessity of getting a degree as quickly as may be. The attendance at the Congress (which was open to all) was 150 out of a total student population in the country of approximately 100,000; if this is eloquent of one thing above all others it is so of what was termed the hopelessly apathetic attitude of the average student towards the world around him—or so it was suggested, although it does seem to me that there may be an excuse because in this mad world the student instinctively foresees one of two things—either that his life is going to be a short one and therefore he will make it a merry one, or else that he is going to have to face bitter competition and therefore he must get as good a start as possible with an early degree. Is it not a case of the world around him going to the dogs between these two conflicting obsessions?

INTELLECTUAL MINORITY.

But that is another story; suffice it to say that at this Congress there were present only what may be termed an intellectual minority, a factor that did not fail to receive attention—it coloured all that was said and for an observer at any rate created a sense of apprehension in all that was decided. Space will not allow of a consideration of the activities of the different commissions and sub-committees set up (a full report will be found in the Report on the Congress which the N.Z.U.S.A. will shortly have) but in the general discussions, which were very animated, opinions ran very true to form—where everyone a few years ago used to see a new panacea in a "scientific" background to education, everyone now saw the same panacea in a still more vague "philosophical" background—as far as I could judge there was no very certain contact with the hard facts of modern life—although there was a very sincere striving after ways and means in which the student body could find stimulation for its dormant interest in the community and an outlet for its youthful enthusiasm when once this has been aroused.

SOCIAL SERVICES.

Great stress was laid on social service work, boys' and girls' clubs were to be visited and organised, and particularly and above all else an effort was to be made to get among the unemployed and the working classes generally; the enthusiasm for what was to be learned from the working-classes was unbridled and listening to it I gathered that between the very rich and the very poor, if there is anything at all it is only an arid waste as far as knowledge of and contact with the community is concerned—there was so much that the workers could do for us, there was no note of anything that a middle-class (if such existed) could do for us; this is where I criticise the delegates, where I part company with them, and where I feel that they give themselves away as mere idealists, immature and out of touch with essential conditions of which they have never had the need to become conscious. For the rest the results of the discussions could be regarded as nothing but praiseworthy; the conclusions seemed to be inevitable, that authoritarian rule will most probably lead to war, that in any case it will destroy free-

—A. T. S. MCGHIE.

And these your professed politicians, the only true practical philosophers of the world (as they think themselves), so full of affected gravity, or such professed lovers of virtue and "honesty," what wretches they be in very deed.

—Marcus Aurelius.

(Continued column 4)

Says Jim Gentry:

When I was at 'Varsity students drank the best Ale, and they are still drinking . . .

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Several candidates for office in the newly-elected Exec. when interviewed gave as their opinion that there was "too much outside stuff." An opinion held by several others is that there is not enough gossip and chat in it.

These opinions must be given the weight that is their due, and if "Salient" can be truly charged with being too dull and heavy, it is a defect and not a virtue.

There are, however, students in the College who like their literary diet to be fairly concentrated, and they are by no means few in number. The question arises: Is it possible to provide for both?

There can be little doubt in finding the answer to the question that there are amongst students, as amongst the general public, people who find the daily recital of tragedies, wars and rumours of wars, and other outstanding features of contemporary life a little hard to face up to, and who prefer, consciously or unconsciously, to turn their back on them, and to seek refuge in escape.

A humourless existence has nothing to recommend it, but if a person seeks humour, pleasant talk and similar diversions to the exclusion of serious thought, an attitude of mind arises which when confronted with an unpleasant concrete reality, cannot adjust itself to the new circumstances, and renders the person upon whom it rests of little use to his fellow men in times of crisis.

The Dramatic Club performance last Friday night exemplified the point I want to make. This club is an active and efficient body and is prepared to take its work seriously. In the past it has produced worthy plays of some dramatic value. They do not claim that all their plays should be "arty" and have always maintained a good balance in their programmes between fatuous comedy, thrillers, and so on.

The programme on Friday night was no exception. The farce, done well in the approved manner of farce which is not a particularly high dramatic form (vide Extrav.), was received very well. The dramatic piece, which, by the way, should have been first instead of last, was received with the most intolerable tittering and giggling. For example, one good line, "Say, if that's so, I guess I better go sleep with the Doctor," was received with a good laugh, which it fully deserved, but when at what was a good moment in the play the sailor said, "Poor little devil, she was only nineteen," and the girl replied, "I'm nineteen, too," it also was received with a laugh. On another occasion Lily was looking through the window at the snow, and remarked, "I can see one star"; the sailor replied, "So can I," the audience again giggled. There was nothing in either the acting or the situation to suggest a comic situation. From this it seems to me that the Dram. Club should either go out of existence or else give up serious and worthwhile dramatic art and go in for minstrel shows with a few wise-cracking black faces. I think these would be well received. And if that is so, "Salient" could give up any pretensions to seriousness and run gossip news and columns of jokes lifted from "Humour" or the "Evening Post" Saturday edition.

Nevertheless, an effort has been, and will continue to be made to provide in "Salient" for as many tastes as possible. Actually, one is inclined to think that the students of V.U.C. are fairly well served in this respect.

—A.H.S.

NEW SPEAKERS Interesting Debate

Counting very late arrivals, nineteen people attended the third New Speakers' Debate. Was the prospective audience warned off by the last "immature discussion" when a "Salient" speaker was placed first, or was it the general 'Varsity apathy to all intellectual clubs?

The Affirmative's main argument was that the Allies had no right to take the colonies. The Opposition replied that Germany did not know how to govern colonies, and did not want them back. "It is not to colonial acquisition that we must look—but to the acquisition of territory within Europe, which will increase the area of the Motherland." Even so, Germany has need of colonies as a source of raw materials.

The question of expediency was raised—regrettable. Ethical right or wrong should have decided the question.

When the Negative spoke of former German colonial misgovernment (even quoting such doubtful authority as the Librarian of the Colonial (British) Institute) the Affirmative should have quoted instances of worse rule under Mandate, e.g., our gentle rule in Samoa, the present shootings in Palestine, etc.

Voting: Ayes 8, Noes 8.
Mr. A. B. Cochran, as Judge, gave speakers several useful hints.

—P.A.O.

POMP AND GLORY

"In the heart of the cities one sees the very worst—people selling rubbish and living on an indescribable rubbish heap. A man tries to sell rotting oranges, probably out of rubbish-bins; another tinkers with a tuppenny watch beyond repair; children have the most aimless things 'on sale'—a handful of sticks, twigs, just any rubbish. Behind them, water and mud on the broken bricks, whole mountains of rags and rubbish, and tenement buildings where bricks have slithered and more are obviously about to fall. They are a rotting 'house of the dead,' but it's the living who are crammed into them—people to-day, rubbish to-morrow, but still people."—Robin Hyde.

D. J. DONALD.

Obit. 23rd June, 1938.

IN MEMORIAM.

*To make a voluntary death, go softly,
Brother, down the dark ways, the
lucifer steel
of this cold night, with no hand-axe,
and*

*Word, reluctant word; this is your
wish, go
Brother, farewell, go softly, oh fare
well.*

*We happy, make no choice, but you
have chosen
Strictly, this last day, last hour,
ultimate*

*Choice, end of all. Stay; but you do
not stay.
This is the parting, this is our grief;
go*

*Softly then, brother, in the darkness,
go
Alone now you on the dark way, fare
well.*

THANK YOU!

We would like to offer our thanks to those people who "gave a hand" behind the scenes in last Friday's One-Act Play Evening.

(1) To Messrs. Edwards, Fussell, Latham and Macaskill—for time spent at make-up.

(2) Special mention should be made of the achievement of Mr. Williamson, who handled staging, lighting and music, in a most able manner. But for his willing help any measure of success would have been impossible.

PROPERTY

"Do you see, my son," he exclaimed, "that madman who with his teeth is biting the nose of the adversary he has overthrown and that other one who is pounding a woman's head with a huge stone?"

"I see them," said Bulloch. "They are creating law; they are founding property; they are establishing the principles of civilisation, the basis of society and the foundations of the State. . . . Throughout the ages their work will be consecrated by lawyers, and magistrates will confirm it."

—Anatole France.

ANTITHESIS

The following is an extract from a statement handed by the Dominican Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the American Charge in the Dominican Republic in response to the American Foreign Policy Statement of July 16, 1937, advocating the maintenance of peace.

"The Dominican Government under the inspiration and direction of President Trujillo Molina, illustrious statesman who has given singular demonstration of his love for the cause of justice and international order, has not weakened nor will it weaken at any time its co-operation to as many efforts as are realised, not only on the American continent but in any part of the world. . . . In favour of the maintenance and consolidation of peace, whose benefits extend to all people and whose conservation must be, as a consequence, a common ideal of all nations.

" . . . is pleased to proclaim in view of the conflicts that agitate other continents and place in danger the tranquillity of the world, its decided and loyal adherence to the cause of peace, to the noble postulates of justice and law . . ."
(International Conciliation, November, 1937)

Extract from Carleton Beals' Current History, January, 1938.

"Santo Domingo last October was the scene of the terrible Dajobon massacre when the Dominican Army and police brutally murdered some 5,000 peaceful Haitian settlers—tossing babies on bayonets, clubbing women to death, and jabbing men with three-pronged daggers. An American witness wrote me of seeing trucks after trucks driving with blood and filled with mangled bodies pass in the direction of the shark infested seas.

"This frightful occurrence which has been fully verified, is not entirely a surprise to those who have followed politics in Santo Domingo since Rafael Trujillo seized power eight years ago. His administration has been one long record of brutality and assassination.

"After the withdrawal of the U.S. marines he rose rapidly and became Commandant of the entire National Guard. In February, 1930, he used this Guard to set up a puppet government, and held a typical bayonet election, in which he actually received more votes than there were registered voters.

"Trujillo represents an extension (beyond Berlin, Rome, and Tokyo) of the Nazi outset throughout the world. Specifically the Hitler regime has been casting its eyes on Santo Domingo as a possible friendly base near the Panama Canal and Trujillo has arranged for a preliminary land settlement of 40,000 Germans along the Haitian frontier.

"It happens that many of the Haitians recently massacred were squatters on this land."

HAEREMAI!

Recently the Haeremai Club's annual meeting occurred.

The Club, you will be pleased to know, now possesses a Constitution. (Our congratulations!) Members shall "do all things the Club deems expedient"; further, it was decided to provide in emergency for the admission of honorary female members. "Salient" understands that it is extremely unlikely that the provision will be availed of.

The secretary reported that one letter had been received during the year. This is distinctly encouraging.

Officers having been condemned for the coming year, business proceeded. The Club intends to support wholeheartedly the resurrection of the Capping Process.

We are not a Club member. We gathered that members only may attend meetings.

We gathered our notes and departed.

—BOB.

BERKLEYAN.

There once was a man who said: "God Must think it exceedingly odd. That this stately old tree Continues to be
When there's no one about in the Quad!"

JEANSIAN.

Dear Sir,
Your astonishment's odd,
For I'm always about in the Quad,
And that stately old tree
Continues to be,
As observed by
Yours faithfully,
God.

"If an offence come out of the truth, better is it, that the offence come than the truth be concealed."—St. Jerome.

PROPAGANDA NEGRO DEBATERS

In a praiseworthy effort, no doubt, to avoid hampering the current negotiations between "the City" and the Reichsbank on the ticklish question of British loans to the Ostmark (nee Austria) no use whatsoever was made of the excellent Nordic expression "Public Enlightenment" at the Phoenix Club's recent conversation on Censorship and Propaganda. This is a pity, for as the evening wore on a sad lack of precision in the English vocabulary caused the dissipation of much valuable energy and time.

GOEBBELS v. GALILEO.

"Propaganda" is defined in the Oxford Dictionary (1909 edition) as any association, systematic scheme or concerted movement for the propagation of a doctrine or practice. For the purposes of his talk, however, Mr. J. R. Elliott, the principal speaker, used the word in the sense which it seems to be acquiring exclusively, in these last few years, namely—the publication of deliberately distorted facts compelling people to make a decision on a false or insufficient basis. To exemplify his view of the subject the speaker went on to regale his audience in a most entertaining fashion with a choice selection of atrocity (and other) stories, and since the morality of the Phoenix Club is reasonably high, no one felt inclined to contradict Mr. Elliott in his uncompromising condemnation of such malpractices. It looked like slow curtains and the National Anthem when a speaker from the floor, in true V.U.C. style, brought the discussion round to the time-honoured theme of social and political reform. The audience was invited, and readily consented, to sympathize with the fate of one Galileo, who was adopted for the evening as the proto-martyr of knowledge in its struggle with contemporary Toryism. The audience gave tacit acceptance to the general principle that reformers came into conflict, more or less deadly according to the nature of the reform proposed, with vested interests. To overcome this opposition there was proposed the method of extensive and vigorous dissemination of whatever happens to be the truth on which you base your reform, but in this connection such activity was characterized by the word counter-propaganda. Instead of staging an immediate philological show-down, the club continued in stormy session, with one or two members using the word propaganda in its innocent sense of dissemination, but with the majority understanding the term in the particular connotation which had been adopted for the meeting, i.e., an offensive manner of dissemination. As Euclid or some other aviator once had the wit to observe: straight lines on parallel planes never meet. Hence a spot of bother. To avoid further misunderstanding we shall hereafter in this article use the expression "Public Enlightenment" to describe the Goebbels-Rothermer type of Propaganda, and Propagation with reference to the Galileo product.

CLEAN UP.

To the propagation of new ideas, no university student who has the ideals of democracy at heart can possibly object. In a true democracy there must be freedom of thought and speech, freedom for the expression of all shades of opinion; but we must not confuse an honest statement of opinion (however unpalatable it may be) with deliberate and unscrupulous misrepresentation. An objectionable doctrine if honestly expounded must necessarily meet with a sudden death (in all places outside the lunatic asylum) and such a doctrine becomes a menace to society only when its exposition is controlled by Public Enlightenment experts. Public Enlightenment is an insult to human reason and personality, employed by people whose conceit in their cynical assumption of superiority over the "mob" is equalled only by their lack of principle. In a true democracy, Public Enlightenment is one of the few victims of merciless Censorship.

Yet to talk idly of true democracy is as futile and fooling as to speculate, without ever having the intention of taking a ticket, on what you will do when you win the Irish Sweep. We must face up to the fact that Public Enlightenment in varying degrees of insidiousness and virulence is firmly established among our present-day social and political institutions, from the War Office down to the editorial columns of the publications of all types of societies. We must take steps towards the annulment of this baleful influence. While it seems that the vigorous and extensive propagation of truth cannot fall to cause the downfall of injustice, yet, from the moment that skilful Public Enlightenment is used in defence of injustice, what price Truth? And what is to determine John Citizen

N.Z.U.S.A. has received several interesting letters from Professor Alexander, Head of the Department of Economics and Debate Coach at Le Moyne College, Memphis, Tennessee. He will accompany the two negro students in their tour of New Zealand. The following is an extract from one of his letters:

"During recent years the American Negro youth has been showing such progress that the educators of this country continually cite them as an example of possible achievements when intelligently directed educational methods are used. In the past emphasis has been placed upon the purely inherent qualities of the American Negroes, such as singing, and the Jubilee Singers became world-famous. Lately the athletic achievements of the American Negroes, as for example during the last Olympic Games, became noticed world over. In order to show that the artistic talents and the physical development are not the only qualities of the American Negro youth this world-wide debating tour is planned. We who rock with them believe that their intellectual and cultural qualities are as equally well developed."

NEW ZEALAND TOUR.

The team will pass through Wellington on 7th July, on which day they will address secondary school pupils. Returning from the South, they will debate with a V.U.C. team on 20th July in the Town Hall. The subject will be "That people of America have found the formula for happiness."

UNIQUE DEBATING RECORD.

Since 1930 Le Moyne College has established a unique record in inter-sectional and inter-racial debating. In 1931 it met Shurtleff College in what is believed to be the first instance of inter-racial inter-collegiate debate in Southern States. In 1935 Le Moyne was the only Negro College to participate in a national debate tournament. The following year Le Moyne Debaters went to California, meeting fifteen colleges, including the University of California and Stanford. Later in the same year a team from Oxford University visited Le Moyne and engaged in a debate which was attended by about 800 people of both races. In the spring of 1937 the Eastern States were visited, and twenty-four debates were held. Out of eight decision debates five were won by Le Moyne.

TRUE STORY

Dear "Salient"—
This is a matter of importance which I think should be brought to the notice of all students. The story is true. Briefly, here it is. Last week a boy and a girl went to the pictures. The theatre being crowded, she sat at the end of a row three seats in front of him. Presently the girl was worried, as she thought, by an insect and later began to feel rather queer. The woman next to her, noticing her restlessness, asked the girl if she were quite well and, on being told that she felt sick, the woman offered to go out with the girl. The boy, of course, followed, but the woman told him to go back as she, being a woman, could deal with the matter—if need be she could take the "poor girl" home in a taxi. The boy needn't worry 'cause she would arrange everything. But the boy told her to go to — and, putting the girl in a taxi, drove straight to Dr. —'s. The girl had become unconscious. The doctor said she had been heavily drugged by means of a hypodermic syringe. Evidently White Slave traffic is acting in Wellington.
Yours sincerely,
HELEN MAYSMOR.

In his choice between the two kinds of Truth set before him by genuine Thinkers and by vested interests or quack reformers, if the latter group call in the assistance of Public Enlightenmenters with all their resources? Obviously, the choice of John Citizen is determined by his intelligence and character, or lack of same. If we are ever to counteract Public Enlightenment we must be optimistic enough to pin our faith on the power of the individual, when assisted by sound mental and moral training, to see through and reject the machinations by which Public Enlightenmenters are trying to instill prejudices into his mind, and at the same time to appreciate and have the courage to support whatever elements of truth are contained in any plan, manifesto or policy with which he may be confronted (without being carried away by the label, "progressive" or "reactionary" which some local Solomon has stuck upon it). What should be the aim of education if not to produce this kind of citizen? Therefore the sooner our modern educationalists plan their curricula along these lines, and ex-

N.Z. VERSE

Fairburn's "Dominion"

A month or so past the Caxton Press issued "Dominion," poems by A. R. D. Fairburn, in five parts—Utopia; Album Leaves; Element; Dialogue; and Struggle in a Mirror. We have come to expect excellent printing from the Caxton Press: we are never disappointed.

Mr. Fairburn has, as usual, written some very fine poetry which deals, also as usual, almost exclusively with social problems. That is a pity. For, while Mr. Fairburn is rapidly creating his own peculiar style of verse (he is certainly the leading New Zealand exponent of the methods he has adopted—Mr. Glover, on a slightly different line of attack, has not achieved the same measure of success) he is capable of making quite a different style, and a so much better style, his own. Perhaps I should note here that I have not used peculiar in the popular sense.

So much of contemporary verse that is written "in the modern manner" is, unfortunately, just that and nothing else. Not so with Mr. Fairburn—he can, and does, write poetry, and his use of the modern manner is excellently adapted for the sympathetic treatment of social problems. No doubt his poetry is influenced by his experience and impressions of New Zealand and of the life of her people to-day—and yesterday. But surely even Mr. Fairburn has found some little beauty. For there is frequently beauty in the expression of his verses:

*"Hearts poised at a star's height
Moved in a cloudless world
Like gulls afloat above islands."*

There is also striking originality which justifies by its effectiveness its unorthodoxy:

*"... and those who keep
The records of decay,
Statisticians and archivists,
Turning the leaves with cold hands,
Computing our ruin on scented cuffs."*

And again:

*"... angels crying under the crumbled
arch of heaven,
Tongues of fire that shout, and fall in
silence,
Leaving the carbon copy of a world of
words;
Black earth, stillness of ash; world of
fact."*

Yet in his subject-content there is seldom beauty.

Admittedly there are very grave and terrible social problems in New Zealand to-day, as elsewhere, but surely neither Mr. Fairburn nor anyone else can do very much about it by propaganda in their verse. And while it is not necessary to sing only in such terms as these:

*"My love is like a dynamo
With woven wire for hair..."*

as does Mr. Glover in reply to Miss Andrews' accusation in "To-morrow" that he, Mr. Fairburn and others adopt, without poetic success, the view of these lines:

*"We must away with trees and springs,
For stern reality's the thing..."*

we can avoid that type of verse, unfortunately so common in New Zealand, that has provoked their attitude.

Mr. Fairburn is, of course, conscious of beauty, but his sense of the injustice of things is so strong that it will not let him write, in his own style, of the beauty in modernity (for there is at least a little there) as he so well could do. "Conversation in the Bush" betrays Mr. Fairburn as he could be—and as he would be.

When Mr. Fairburn forgets his bitterness, as in "Elements" (and only there) he mirrors that beauty of New Zealand in perfection—in poetry that makes the exile long for home, awaking vivid pictures of its landscape.

*"Treading your hills, drinking your
waters,
Touching your greenness, they are content,
Finding peace at the heart of strife
And a core of stillness in the whirl-
wind."*

THE GHOST

*I have been contented all these years...
But there you stand with wondering
look
And laughter in your eyes,
My heart lies in your transparent
hands
And new-born in me rises
Arc of your mysterious womanhood,
And restless seekings, like a sea
Groping on cold-grained sands.*

*Under the vague young moon I turn
To peer at star latticed skies
Breathless as a pale rapt dream
Your peerless ghostly beauty fits,
Haunting my sleep-dimmed eyes.*

—Vesta Emanuel

tend facilities for such education, the sooner will the danger from Public Enlightenment be counteracted and Public Enlightenment shown to be ridiculous knaves and blackguards.

—Q.E.D.



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S P O R T Wake Up!

We are failing to sustain the effort, begun so well at the Easter Tournament at Auckland, to raise the general standard of sport at V.U.C. and to regain the prestige we had some years ago in the sporting world. In some degree that failure can be attributed to inertia and apathy. There was a record attendance at the annual meeting of the Rugby Club and, apparently, players in abundance, including much good material. Results in practically all grades have been frankly disappointing. With capable coaches and improved facilities for practice, this should not be so.

The story of men's hockey is no better. Here is a large club that places six teams in the field every Saturday, yet the total number of games won by those teams so far this season could be counted on the fingers of both hands. The players are asked to attend practice for a couple of hours on only one evening a week. More often than not the attendance is under 30.

The harriers have suffered through the retirement of several old stalwarts, but the Club should still have been able to do better than come 7th (8 clubs competing) in the first inter-club race of the season.

We cannot take the basketballers to task; they are doing well. They have a record that the Women's Hockey Club probably envies. This Club now has only one team, which is noticeably improving. It may be true that, playing senior, it is in too high a grade, but V.U.C., with its scores of women students, should be able to field a hockey team of senior standard.

The remedy lies in the hands of the players themselves. Regard attendance at practice as a duty, membership of a sports club as a privilege, and you yourself and V.U.C. will benefit. —L.B.S.

RUGBY SENIORS WIN

The Seniors scored an easy win over Miramar by 28 to 8, but the wide margin was due not so much to Varsity's brilliance as to the extreme weakness of the opposition. In fact, Varsity did not appear to be very interested and played rather lackadaisically. It is to be hoped that the failure to secure promotion to First Division will not cause any lessening of interest as the Club now stands a change of winning both the Senior A Second Division and the Senior B Championships, which would be a fine achievement.

The forwards played well in the tight but did not display much dash in the loose. McNeil played a good game and Hansen was also prominent. It was unfortunate that injury caused the retirement of Burke and Meads, who were playing right up to their usual form. Burke's dislocated collarbone may keep him out of the game for the rest of the season.

Since the first few games Kissel has played consistently well as full-back and on Saturday he was again quite sound. Wild's penetration was again in evidence and led to several openings. Tricklebank was impressive on the wing and one of his tries was scored after a brilliant run in which he bumped off a couple of opponents and swerved past the full-back. His transfer from full-back to the three-quarter line has proved successful.

A.U.C. 20-V.U.C. 16

In spite of the heavy state of the ground at Auckland the game was interesting to watch. Both sides were willing to "give it a go," and some fine movements were seen. The V.U.C. pack had a decided advantage in the set scrums, especially in the second half. In the loose the two packs were more evenly matched, with Auckland slightly superior. Outstanding forwards for Victoria were Russell, who played a great game both in the tight and the loose, Thomas, Meads and Taylor. Among the backs the five-eighths, Larkin and Bryers, handled the ball well and showed good understanding. The play of this pair was, on the whole, most enterprising. Bryers frequently found gaps in the opposing defence, but seemed to lack just the necessary pace to show a clean pair of heels. The full-back, McVeagh, played a sound game in every respect. His line kinking was excellent, and he showed no unwillingness to going down on the ball.

For Auckland, Drake, Lance, Hodge and Caldwell were the best of a hard-working pack, with Martin and Hayman the best of the backs. Cooney was prominent in the first half, but did not get many opportunities later in the game.

In the first half play was fast and open, with the Auckland backs handling well and opening up the play at every opportunity. After half-time play was rather less spectacular; V.U.C. got most of the ball, but it rarely passed the second five-eighths. Some solid forward work marked this half, honours being equally divided in the loose, but V.U.C. had the better of matters in the tight.

At least half the regular V.U.C. Senior team could not make the trip,

and it was, in the circumstances, a creditable performance to run A.U.C. so close. The northerners, however, have not won a single club match this season, are bottom in the grade, and will be relegated at the end of the round. Four old stalwarts in Caughey, Bush, Mulvihill and Thomas decided not to turn out again this year, the loss of these men, all of whom were Auckland representatives, being severely felt.

FOOTBALLERS OF WEIR

Thanks to Parker's lone try, North defeated South, 3-0, in the annual match. The Weir fifteen to play "The Best" for the Ruru Memorial Shield has not yet been selected, but some players are more or less certain.

Promising forwards are Bannister and Langley. Mahood is ideally built for football and should attend practices more often. For genuine scrumming Corkill and Ryan are superior. Parker is a fast flank forward who has a good sense of anticipation, but he should curb his propensity for off-side play.

One of the fastest and nippest backs playing for Varsity is Ongley. Unfortunately, like Mahood, he does not seem to be enthusiastic about the game. Larkin is a heady back, but he could improve his defence.

HARRIERS

FIRST INTER-CLUB RACE.

There were 14 Varsity Club members in the field of 188 runners for the Dorne Cup, held at Lower Hutt over a two-lap course of 5 miles. D. R. Serlingour, finishing 8th, was our first man home, all the others being well back. Seventh was our position in the teams' race.

The lesson taught by the race is that all Club members must train harder. The adoption of two training nights a week is wise, and we should fare better in the race for the Vosseler Shield in a fortnight's time.

FARQUHAR WINS SHERWOOD CUP.

Run this year at Paekakariki, from the home of Mr. G. C. Sherwood, the race was over a 3-mile course rendered slippery and treacherous by heavy rain. No fewer than 25 fences had to be negotiated besides an awkward water jump. All fifteen runners got away well, but were strung out by the time the main road was reached. W. A. Robertshaw and F. D. O'Flynn were second and third respectively, the deduction of handicaps having disclosed G. S. Farquhar as the winner.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

This Club commenced activities for the year with a Handicap Tournament, both Club tables being fully occupied. Though the women generally are weak, Miss D. Croxton certainly showed good form to win the Women's Section. There are several possibilities amongst the men, N. Morrison, E. Robertson and Staples revealing talent.

Considering the fact that the majority of players were unknown quantities, the committee deserves credit for the excellent handicapping. The Club night has not yet been definitely decided, but if they are run on the same efficient lines there should be no falling off of enthusiasm. The talent is there.

BASKETBALL

On Saturday the Senior "A" Basketball team, which has been playing consistently well since it won the Tournament Shield, was a little unfortunate in going down to the Kia Ora team by 18 goals to 15. The half-time score was 11-9 to V.U.C., but particularly able defence by their opponents and an unaccountable lapse in goal-throwing by our girls swung the score in favor of Kia Ora.

SLOW TO BEGIN.

As is all too common in their play, Varsity were slow to begin, but after being down 3-1 they rallied and by extremely fast and accurate positional play scored goal for goal with Kia Ora. At this stage the goal combination between Eric Overton and Janet Grainger was undefendable and the many snappy movements were topped off by accurate shooting, especially on the part of the latter player. A newcomer to the team, Grace Kniverton, was proving most useful in backing up.

In the defence third, Marie Walker was giving her best exhibition of the season against a most able goal combination. Joan Bythell used her reach to the greatest advantage and made Kia Ora's goal-throwing very difficult. Sylvia Hefford made some brilliant interceptions, but in general did not play up to her usual consistent form.

CENTRE COMBINATION.

Playing against some of Wellington's very best centres the Victoria trio acquitted themselves admirably. Rosamond Drummond found herself persistently well defended by her N.Z. Representative opponent and it says a good deal for her that in the second spell she managed to come well into the picture. Nora McLaren, whose experience has been of such value to the team, did all that was asked of her with her usual thoroughness. Her line play is probably as good as that of any player in the city. Pixie Higgin gave us her best performance to date. She is especially alert for unusual opportunities, and passes most accurately to her forwards.

The half-time score, 11-9 to V.U.C. was a fair indication of the run of play.

DISAPPOINTING SECOND SPELL. Immediately on resumption Kia Ora leaped the score, but Victoria regained a lead of one at once; prospects of victory were bright. Then followed the lapse in goal-shooting which cost us the match. Something like a dozen shots almost went in!

In every department of the game V.U.C. improved on their first spell display except in that fatal last throw to the ring. The forwards' combination was even better than in the first half and it is bad luck that the movements were not topped off.

The final score, 18-15, is a trifle to Kia Ora's dogged display, and accurate goal work.

A feature of the game was Miss L. Sturrock's first-rate refereeing.

SENIOR B.

The Senior B. team met Training College on Saturday morning, by whom they were defeated 25-19. The teams were evenly matched, and both played a good fast game.

In the afternoon Varsity suffered a heavy defeat against Y.W.C.A. Two of the most experienced members of the team being unable to play left the team rather weaker than usual. The game was scrappy, especially in the second half, and, owing to poor passing, the goals did not obtain as much of the ball as they might have.

JUNIOR A REVIEW

The Junior A. team has had an unfortunate season. Hopes were high when the competition opened, but little has been achieved.

The loss of both five-eighths has proved a severe handicap and the consequent extra work thrown on the remainder of the backs has not lightened their task. As originally constituted, the team functioned well against Porirua in the opening game, when they registered their only win. Since then, through injuries and other causes, their effective power has dwindled and the fine pack of forwards who have gone well every Saturday have seen their good efforts wasted. With anything like a decent back team, they could have, on at least two occasions, turned defeat into victory. However, the first round having been unkind, the second may be more lenient.

Henderson and Shinn will throw their weight into the backs in future and will give a much-needed aid to the team. Of the forwards, Drummond, Shannon, Berendsen and Craig may be mentioned as just shading the remainder of a good solid pack. With McVeagh as full-back, the team was very fortunate, but through the dearth of backs whose places were filled with emergencies (and forwards in some cases), an enormous amount of work was thrown on his hands, and it is to his credit that he never

shirked or flinched at his sometimes impossible task. On several occasions he has had to retire unwillingly through injuries, but the next Saturday found him at his post again. Scotney, at half, shared the honours on defence with McVeagh well and willingly. Murphy and Johnston would have made a great attacking combination as five-eighths, but both these players were out early in the season through injuries.

Arnold, on the wing, is still as strong and powerful a runner as ever, but with little or no ball this potential try-getter's services have been annulled. Dan Campbell, at centre, is captain of the side, which, to date, has put through about 30 players, never having had the same fifteen twice. This is enough to worry any captain but Dan still remains cheerful and the team are a happy family.

HOCKEY

The Thirde are to be congratulated on their first win of the season. At times the positional play reached a good standard and if the players would only realise how essential this is the team should steadily improve. J. Lewin, in his second game, showed he has a good eye and is now playing in goal. If one of the 4th grade players would emulate Lewin's example the defence of that team would be considerably strengthened. Downes and Johansson played well at full-back. However, they were inclined to

play square instead of one being slightly in front of the other when awaiting an attack. Johansson has previously played in the forward line, but seems to have found his "niche" in a full-back position.

Brasted and Till for first year players are doing well. The former needs to avoid moving too far into the centre. Till, on the other hand, should not get drawn away from there. O'Donnell, who has played two games in the half line has now a better idea of the game and it will not be long before he settles down in a position where keenness and fitness are essential.

The forwards maintained their positions in a far better manner than previously. They fell back when their side was defending and went up on attack in line, with the halves supporting them, thus obviating any long gaps between the different lines. Black will have to avoid crowding in on Walls and if he moves over to collect the ball should move back to his correct position immediately he has passed. As the two wings, Bowyer and Osborne, kept well out it was easy for the backs to pass the ball and thus inflame some excellent attacks. Treadwell played his first game in the forward line and should develop on the right lines if he remembers not to drop back in his old half position. Walls, at centre-forward, led the forwards but should not wait quite so far upfield.

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