

Salient

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

VOL. 2, No. 18

WELLINGTON, SEPTEMBER 20, 1939

Price: Threepence

N.Z. University Students' Association

Despite the international crisis the New Zealand University Students' Association held a special general meeting at Wellington on September 2nd. A wide variety of matters was discussed and the more important are reported hereunder.

The method of selection of Rhodes Scholars was criticised. Most Colleges were of the opinion that the reports drawn up by the Student Associations on the social qualifications of candidates received little consideration from College authorities. There was also difficulty regarding the interpretation of qualifications on which the former were asked to report. Steps were being taken to see if student representation could not be obtained on the Selection Committee.

The need for an equitable basis for the payment of degree fees was stressed. In some cases they were too high (e.g., Law) and others too low. As a consequence it was felt that a move should be taken to bring about standardisation, and the Registrar is to be approached.

STUDENT CONGRESS

The meeting supported the idea of Student Congress, but the matter was referred back to the individual colleges for further investigation as it was considered that unless concrete proposals were forthcoming interest could not be adequately gauged.

The N.Z.U. Press Bureau was granted affiliation.

A sub-committee was set up at A.U.C. to investigate examination conditions. Apparently in provincial centres much latitude is allowed examinees. Also such things as the selection of supervisors, writing paper, ink, and other unhappy et ceteras were the subject of adverse comment. The report is to be referred to the Registrar.

A tour of Australian University athletes has been arranged for 1940. A strong team is being sent. C.U.C. recommended the inclusion of a pole vaulter.

In addition to athletes a debating team will make a 4 to 5 weeks' tour in June and July, 1940. An endeavour will be made to have public lectures included in the programme and, subject to the consent of both parties, the debates will be on a decision basis.

Many alterations and additions were proposed by V.U.C. to the Joint Scroll rules. And the suggestions were referred back to the colleges for consideration. They were chiefly concerned with the more efficient functioning of the contest.

The national student publication, "Rostrum," is to be continued annually, being published about the middle of July. The publication has been well received and it is estimated that over 1,000 copies will be sold. Editor Amies was congratulated on his effort.

REFUGEE RELIEF

It was decided that owing to the international situation and the fact that difficulties would be experienced with the immigration authorities "that the campaign for Refugee Student Relief be suspended until further notice; and that the funds already in hand be held by the colleges in trust for the purpose for which they were raised."

A comprehensive report by a C.U.C. sub-committee on Curricula was received. The report is divided into four sections—Liberal Education, Lectures, Examination System, and Reform. Under the heading of Liberal Education the need for popular lectures was emphasised, as was the need for some system by which a student can attend lectures that are outside their own course, but in which they are interested. The provision of lectures in current events was advocated. There also should be "a tremendously increased degree of flexibility extending through the whole of the first year and aiming at a general cultural education." It is gratifying to note that external examinations in Stage 1 subjects are shortly to be abolished and the report considered that the principle of inter-



DR. MILLIKAN

N.Z.U.S.A.

(Continued from column 1)

nal examinations could be extended to the higher stages. It was held that there was a wide scope for improvement in teaching methods on the lines of the tutorial and seminar system, but that this was largely impossible owing to "the lamentable lack of financial resources available to the University of New Zealand." However, a compromise could be made by the provision of more adequate duplicated notes and synopsis.

Alterations in curricula were dealt with in some detail. Investigation on lines similar to this report is to be carried out at all other colleges.

ON HEALTH

A preliminary report by an Otago University sub-committee on Health Facilities at each university was considered. It was felt that the question warranted a more detailed investigation, and consequently the Otago University sub-committee will draw up a comprehensive questionnaire, that will be circulated throughout the colleges. Also the Dean of the Medical Faculty will be approached to ascertain whether a medical student could not take "student health" as the subject for a thesis. Even this preliminary report indicates that many of the university faculties are outmoded and scanty and certainly not conducive to the best well-being of the student.

With regard to the transfer of students between colleges it was moved and carried "that in any such case the students' Student Association fee be considered as paid at the new college on production of a certificate from the former college."

In conclusion it was moved and carried "that this meeting recommends, in the event of war breaking out, that the Government takes steps to prevent profiteering and other associated evils."

The Attitude of the Scientist to the Problems Confronting Civilisation

Dr. Millikan, of The Californian Institute of Technology, Pasadena, is today the leading authority and research worker in the cosmic ray field of investigation. He started his research work some fifty years ago, at a period when physicists were beginning to realise that there were more than just the visible rays of the spectrum, and during his life he has seen opened up and explored, and has helped to open up and explore, practically the whole range of electromagnetic frequencies. In addition to this work in physics research, Dr. Millikan has studied and has written books on the social values of science. In a world ridden with hate and fear, we of the younger generation are looking to the men of Dr. Millikan's type to help us build a new civilisation from the chaos into which ours is so rapidly falling.

Application of Scientific Method.

Dr. Millikan speaks quietly and surely, with utter reason. He gives the impression that he has established for himself a set of values reasonably proportioned, and—rather disquietingly—the suspicion arises that these proportions differ from our own and those of the university students around us. He pointed out clearly one major reason why the world and society has gone astray—its neglect to consult the specialist to solve a specific problem. In his lecture to the general public, Dr. Millikan made the statement—"In physics, as in other sciences, there is established a zone or core of fundamental knowledge around which new knowledge is continually being accumulated." This "core of fundamentals" constitutes the laws of gravity, force, friction, etc., on which are based the theory of our gravitational machines and indeed all the machines which have helped to build up our modern civilisation. He stated that these laws were complete non-controversial facts and were the result of getting and adding to the accumulated knowledge of science.

In the past this has not been done in social, economic, and political problems. Our politicians and statesmen are not going back into the past history of the race to learn the cause and results of certain actions. Today we have men and women in the leading positions of our community who have not had the required education and experience for the positions which they hold. They have not the ability and foresight to change their outlook at the correct time—they are content to move along in the same short-sighted and pig-headed fashion and refuse to consider any change of affairs or government which might be contrary to their views; thus the vast majority of the people are not reaping the benefits of the advanced scientific and political thought of today. The views of competent authorities are nearly always correct. Let us take an example in science. We have a certain number of leading scientists agreeing about some law, hence ninety-nine times out of a hundred it is correct and accepted as correct, because they have used all the results of their research into the background of the data governing the problem as a basis for its statement. Hence we must have our leaders educated in their own particular field and have them look back into past history so that they can, by statistical and historical processes, proceed to analyse and find the solution of the problem. At the present moment the social, economic and political problems are not being solved at all. All that is being done in these fields is being done in a haphazard fashion. A certain problem in economics arises, a law is passed which temporarily solves the problem, but out of which new problems and difficulties arise, the whole procedure is again repeated and so on *ad infinitum*. This is not the manner in which true progress is made. True progress does not come from the radicals or the reactionaries, but from those individuals who have the ability and foresight to see that the problem will arise and so bring about some ruling to prevent it from arising.

Science and the Citizen

"Salient" suggested to Dr. Millikan that at present science was losing favour in the eyes of the average man because of the fact that the war in which we were at present involved was being made more ghastly through the use of war materials which were essentially the result of scientific research and scientific advance.

Dr. Millikan assured us that, as long as man was prepared to believe in authoritarianism, superstition and every unscientific and irrational brand of emotionalism, so long as he was prepared to believe in quacks, and faith-healers, wars could not be prevented. With the advancement of science in the fields of power machines and chemistry, it was only natural that scientific methods of making warfare would be used—it was not within the power of scientists to prevent their use—so wars must go on until the individual and the people as a whole are prepared to live a reasonable life—the ideal of Socrates—a life free of superstition, free of unscientific and irrational emotionalism; he must be able to reject the influences of vague -ologies and -isms which are propounded by people who have no knowledge at all, and he must be able to distinguish between the right and wrong answers. This is all based on the education of man. He must not form opinions and try to find solutions which are based on hunch or emotion, but he must be educated to go to those sources of knowledge where he can obtain a true scientific answer to his particular problem. Not until such a state of education is achieved can we hope to eradicate the terror of war and attain a scientifically organised civilisation.

Science and Religion

When "Salient" suggested to Dr. Millikan that religion was opposed to the advancement of science, he replied that it was not religion, but the excrescences of religion which opposed science. The only method of reaching a valid definition of religion was by finding the elements common to all sects. Dr. Millikan confined himself to the sects of the Christian religion. The one element common to all sects, the essential core of Christian religion, was the figure of Jesus, advocating a spirit of altruism. Creeds were man-made and had nothing to do with this essence of religion. True religion, therefore, advocating the adoption of all impulses towards the common good, of social responsibility, is not opposed to science.

It is, however, lamentably true that certain sects oppose science, thereby to further their secular ends. Within religion, scientific methods are applied, and have been applied, to theological studies. Historical analyses and criticisms of the Scriptures are done scientifically by professors of theology. And today there exists from the viewpoint of an increasingly large number of people, a scientific approach, to personal religion. The superstitions which have accumulated about religion during the past centuries, and which priestly authority strives to maintain, are being seen in their true light and discarded. An evolutionary view of the development of religion from primitive ideas of magic, nature worship, and a sense of the sacred, through the advent of Christianity to the growth of creeds and sects, is incorporated with modern religious outlook. Thus scientific method within, and scientific advance outside religion, can exist without detriment either to religion or to science.

(The remainder of this article is on page 4)

Phoenix

To speak of "pricked ears" is to use a delicate expression, to have, for any extreme reason, to enunciate "pricked ears" is too painful, but to be able to say that the Phoenix Club was "all ears" is to be, we imagine, utterly satisfactory. Last Wednesday evening a discussion was held by the Phoenix Club on War and Culture, in which four people took part to their own immense and their listeners' gratification.

A speaker's power undoubtedly is contained in his capacity for believing in himself. He gets impetus from the strength of his personal convictions. And once he ceases to be convinced of what he is saying, he's sunk. Once sunk he'll not so much as blow the tiniest bubble to the surface.

POP!

The convictions of Misses Smith and Johnson gave us an impression somewhat of simulation. Their force was like that of a man in a sidehow paying threepence in order to see if he can burst a balloon. "Blow hard, George!" And it goes off with a mighty—pop. What is more, in these days there are so many digest- and fact-magazines spreading a thin fabric of information all over the place, and so many free discussions in universities, that it takes a really clever and diligent speaker to take hold of a spade and dig up something from deep down. Because most intelligent people today are in possession of the superficial points of a wide range of subjects, they are no longer impressed with them, and hence no desirable motion is set up inside their heads. And then, practically no one would refute the statement that war has a disastrous effect on culture, or at any rate that war yields no artistic stimulus. So that in a discussion of this sort we think it a pity that so much time should be devoted to saying that it is so.

But anyone who can get up and talk coherently, having first of all assembled some matter, is definitely no object for derision. So while having to admit that by neither Miss Smith nor Miss Johnson were we awakened from our age-old lethargy, we admire and respect them infinitely. Miss Smith's matter was the better of the two, as Miss Johnson who followed her, was inclined more to trivialities, and, to our mind, missed the point rather, once or twice. It is not good for a speaker to miss seeing something which the listeners are bound to see, while she, or he, is gaily sailing on.

FATHER AND SON

Dorian Saker then opened the scoring for the men, the women having retired about fifty-fifty.

Now Mr. Saker entertains his convictions with the utmost importance. Actually, we feel there's something quite life-and-death-ish about him. To one or two this may seem pretty ghastly, but there's no doubt at all that this is the only way of creating a disturbance. And if you do not wish to create such, then what's the use of your talking? Further, Mr. Saker, whether unwittingly or not, is influenced to take what promises to be a quite scholarly view of things. As yet, whenever he feels compelled to make public his utterances he lacks comprehensiveness and co-operation in his material. At present, baby's learning to crawl beautifully, thank you.

But it took the only mature speaker of the evening, with both comprehensiveness and co-operation, to tackle the subject politically. Mr. Scotney started gliding off with fine edges to his skates, cutting a clear and concise figure on the ice, which was not, as we might have thought, thin where he did not touch . . . we wished to throw up our caps when he said that imperialism offered him more, freedom at the present moment than nazism. Apparently there's life in the old dog yet. And when he advised all the pacifists that they were wrong, we could have done it again. But owing to import restrictions, etc., etc. . . .

To put it briefly, as outsiders, we find the Phoenix Club, with one or two exceptions, to be lacking in intensity. —C.F.

GOSSIP

FROM NATIONAL PARK.
June Cummins has some lovely pictures of herself doing things on skis. These bear absolutely no relation to those of certain Piccadilly game-hungry ers.

Three 'Varsity gentlemen' had the honour of being escorted from the portals of the Chateau to the cold, cold snow and the hills without.

Morality Note.—The members of the 'Varsity rush-in ballet which edited the fancy dress ball wore football pants beneath the lunch papers.

It is possible to live for very little at National Park.

Derek Freeman's health foods filled a lot of conversational gaps. Particularly the seaweed. And he himself passed a good few terse remarks about "embalmed meat," to which his party could only retaliate, in pathetic fashion, by placing two saveloys in his bed.

Advice to Tony Chorlton: "And now there's nothing to prevent you having a Hollywood-Maxwell on your own perfectly-beautified bosom."

Mr. Austin! Fairy rings at dawn?

We understand that it was only our Mr. Hott's presence in town which prevented a consolatory telegram to our Mr. Scotney, on the Russo-German alliance, being read out at the Dramatic Club revue.

The Choral Union's production of "The Creation" will not now be all that it might have been.

Does George Culliford use petrol to clean his suit?

So Johannesson lost seven girls their reputations at one fell swoop: How now, Casanova?

Was the pipe Mr. Anderson crawled through the same one that he lost?

What ensued in the Exec. Room after George the Gardener had handed in a lady's handbag retrieved from the long grass outside?

Stocks in silks are not falling in Allensby Terrace.

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WAR

Its Causes and Effects

Dear Sallent—
Now that many university students are likely to be affected more or less by the present European war, some attention should be given by them to a careful consideration of its aspects, such as its avoidability, its recurrence and the causes that bring it about. Wars have taken place right down through the ages and they appear to occur inevitably time and time again. The serious question is, is there any effective alternative that will bring a lasting peace not merely for our own people but for others also? Confidently I affirm there is such an alternative, which, however, must be tested out completely, according to Reason and Truth. In the first place we all have to envisage a new outlook which will make allowances for the adequate expression of views by others and at the same time will provide some fundamental principle to work upon. Such principle must be capable of application to all classes of people throughout the world and be able to better the conditions of nations as a whole. Our law and constitution state the aim of the nation as "right and justice," while our political leaders personally rely upon God's help to defend the right. It is patent, therefore, that the only solution, or effective remedy, for war is the amplification of Truth and Christian principles in our community not in the manner in which they are practised today but in a way that everybody knows they ought to be, as declared by Jesus Christ himself. Society may shrirk this issue but so long as this is done, there can be no peace or end to wars.

Yours faithfully,
T. F. SIMPSON.

ODD THOUGHTS ON WAR

It is now an anachronism to say that we are at war; but it is necessary in order to commence what I have called odd thoughts on war. Odd in that they are not intended to be a guide to action or even an indication as to what one should think, for both will depend on the individual and his particular ambit in society. This is merely a series of jottings.

To the jingoist it is an opportune time for his airy urgings, but even the jingo accuser should beware that he is not similarly guilty. I have had experience already of those who would "wade in and smash the bloody Huns." Such an attitude can only result in placing the defender of the aggressed in a position comparable to the aggressor. Patriotic fervour is not altogether a rational process—and it has its sadistic aspects such as the delight in sacrifice, etc.

The anthropologist has fairly effectively exploded the Nazi racial theory, but it is disturbing to find that such illusions are common even to those of our own ilk.¹ The magnifying of the virtues of Anglo-Saxons may assume such proportions that all the civilisations of enemy belligerents may dwindle into remote inferiority. Nation glorification is as pernicious an evil as self-glorification. It is interesting to note an early example to hand, namely, a request that a certain vocalist, broadcasting, should substitute for two German compositions those of a different nationality. Such stupidity or perhaps excessive bureaucracy must be avoided.

Let us look now at civil liberties. Democracy is a relative concept, that is, even totalitarian states have some aspects of democracy, as is true vice versa. What I am concerned with are those aspects that have proved most fleeting in previous emergencies, and are covered under the collective term of "freedom of speech and assembly." On this point Laski says "that either in peace or at war the citizen's business is to contribute his instructed judgment to the public good. . . . If a man says, like James Russell Lowell, that war is an alias for murder, it is his duty to say so, however inconvenient be the time of his pronouncement." To disallow this is "to limit criticism, and to limit criticism is to stifle criticism. An executive that has such a free hand will be liable to commit all the follies of a dictatorship."² In such light should the Censorship and Publicity Emergency Regulations and other related enactments be wisely regarded, as also could they be administered and interpreted. To have a mere profession of democratic rights is not sufficient, it must be a reality.

Judging from discussions in the College precincts the cause of our malady seems wholly to be economic. That many basic, causal factors are economic is evident even after a casual examination of facts. And to agree on this is not uncommon. That we can trace many of the roots of war to the aggressive economics of capitalism is true, as it is to say that in its very aggressiveness it ultimately liquidates itself. But to claim that the economic is the sole cause seems a little sweeping. Rather that there is a whole complexity of economic, political, psychological,³ historical, and geographical reasons that are—as a whole—so that to say that one exhibits the entirety is to propose that a sole is a boot. On these grounds an alteration in our economic system must correspond with like adjustments in other spheres.

For those who are resolved that war is the solution, they should examine their premises, as should those who possess pacific tendencies. We have had the example since the last war of nations arming to preserve peace. Or has it been to preserve peace? Or is it a case of ends and means? (are justified, not justified). At this moment there is a need to think clearly and to reflect reasonably. "To think effectively is to think to some purpose. To pursue an aim without considering what its realisation would involve is stupid; the result may be fortunate but cannot be wise." Besides, the danger of rushing in where angels fear to tread may be its opposite, "the danger of indulging in an academic detachment from life. This is the peculiar temptation of those who are prone to see both sides of a question and are content to enjoy an argument for its own sake. But thinking is primarily for the sake of action."⁴ And with this in mind I will leave you to your own devices.

1 See "We Europeans"—Julian Huxley, A. C. Haddon, A. M. Carr-Saunders (Pelican).
2 Laski, "Grammar of Politics."
3 See "War, Sadism, and Pacifism"—Glover.
4 "Thinking to Some Purpose"—L. S. Stebbing (Pelican).

FARSITY FABLE NO. 2.

A Certain Very Attractive Undergraduate lived at Upper Hutt and because of this found it Very Difficult to get Partners to take her to the 'Varsity Dances. So she was Not Able to Come to many of these. This was a Great Pity for she really was a Very Attractive Girl and could have had a lot of Fun. However, One Night she Became Desperate and Decided to Come to a Dance Without a Partner, and she Hoped, by a Suitable Display of her Charms, to Pick One Up. As it happened, there were Quite a Number of Pretty Girls at the Dance, but nevertheless she had very little trouble in Attracting a Fairly Handsome Youth round about the Third or Fourth Dance. He took her down to Supper and for a Little Walk afterwards, and the Two of Them were Getting On Famously together. However, she happened to Mention, quite casually, that she lived at Upper Hutt. As soon as the Handsome Youth heard this his Ardour Cooled Considerably, and Mumbling something about an Early Lecture next Morning, said he Must be Getting Home to Bed. Hence the Very Attractive Undergraduate, Instead of having a Nice Cosy Ride Home with a Handsome Youth, had to Take a Taxi and Go Home by Herself at a Cost of Eleven Shillings.

MORAL: A GIRL IN THE TOWN IS WORTH TWO IN THE SUBURBS.
—ÆSOPHT

STOP PRESS

The latest development in the international field is the entry of the U.S.S.R. into the Polish Ukraine. The Ukrainian minority consists of some 3½ million people, who have (if reference is made to "Sallent," March 22, "Obituary") suffered severely from Polish quarters. The U.S.S.R. occupation may indicate that the latter is determined firstly to re-incorporate that strip of Soviet soil surrendered by Lenin to Poland in 1921 to secure peace, and secondly to forestall the realising of what Hitler said at the Nuremberg Parliamt, 1936, namely: "If the Urals with their incalculable wealth of raw materials, the rich forest of Siberia and the unending cornfields of the Ukraine lay within Germany, under National Socialist leadership, the country would swim in plenty."¹

¹"The Bulletin of International News," January 14, 1939.

—M.L.B.

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"ROSTRUM"

MULE IN THE GRAIN

At the end of the last term we received the first issue of "Rostrum," published by the New Zealand Students' Association.

To begin with Aldous Huxley naturally assumed a large portion of this publication. He has become a stock part of University diet and remains, needless to say, very seriously indigestible in several cases.

NINEPINS

If H.W.G. were not inclined to burble so unwisely and publicly, he might conceal a little in himself and so keep us guessing as to his actual potentiality. But as it is in his burbling state we cannot help finding him in, "Is There Any Hope?" to be, as it were, caught in underwear full of extremely awkward holes. . . . The question "Is There Any Hope?" is in itself a vast rent which cannot possibly be repaired with any of the unreasonably inadequate rags he pulls out of his bag. H.W.G. suffers from what in these days is the very contagious disease of too many pretensions.

In "Technique of Reaction" we find something of pure inspiration in, "A loud accordion successfully swung Annie Laurie through the rye." That is clever. Quite a little of this confused article is clever. But Ronald L. Meek forces himself further to make his style crude, even triumphantly grating, while the substance of both his writings points to a young man gaining his feet and more or less advertising this difficulty in his verse (which has, however, some poetical likenesses). In a year or two he ought to be steady. . . . For the present he is only interesting as the legs he stands upon are fairly wooden, and he is forced to lean rather heavily on Mr. Aldous Huxley, and others.

THE MULBERRY BUSH

In further articles the propagandist, the advertiser, the quack, the "new religion," God and Britain are all taken severely to task. This may appear to indicate that "Rostrum" is a true university production. These are the vital things which must be dealt with! But it rather points to the danger of our treading round and round in a circle like the mule that threshes the grain.

The articles themselves are well written. "The New Religion" and "This Advertising Racket" are two especially which take a very capable grasp. But not one of these articles gives us anything new, they break no new ground, and they come to no new or forceful conclusions. We have all taken part in these sort of discussions ourselves round club and cafetables. It is for this reason that they are chiefly what journalists, always vulgar, call "rehashes," that they fall. Now, if ever, is the time for revolutions in the university. But the mule, the mule. . . .

We do not require to be told again that "the crux of the matter is that these strange teachings are approached emotionally rather than reasonably." ("Some Charlatans") . . . The writer of this, though a perhaps promising enough thinker, must surely have been in the vicinity of a recent shower of rain. There are other writings which we find highly embarrassing in their raw-boned youthfulness.

OR MATURE?

"But," someone has said to us, "you are not to expect anything mature or original from a university student."

"Then," is our immediate reply, "in this case why trouble to print 'Rostrum' at all? Of what value is such a collection of work? It may be interesting as a testimony to those outside the university of our immaturity showing that just at present too much is not to be expected of us. But it is bad for us inside the university in that by it we are taken in by our own pretensions and cleverness. Again, we cannot presume to believe that we are telling anything to anybody. We are not.

But it must certainly be said that the fundamental intention of "Rostrum" was good, and that alone is admirable, when so many are bad. —CELIA FREDERICK.

A BOOK

No Time Like The Present. Storm Jameson. Modern Books, Dominion Farmers' Building.

After H.W.G. in an editorial, and speakers at the International Relations Club have convincingly, as it would seem, put the pacifists on the shelf, it is of value to hear a different attitude. This book is frank hatred of war, on few grounds that are not emotional; but from this basis its strength arises. Miss Jameson's uncompromising denunciation of the cloak that is laid on war is as bitter as the song of a mad Ophelia. Her attacks on pseudo-religion, on the press, and on armament manufacturing, though mere rationalisations, are like the sword that pierces a heap of dung.

It is the autobiography of a sensitive woman-in-the-street, and it rings true. It should recall memories to those of her generation which they were in danger of forgetting. If they have not already forgotten. She does not seek to morbidly dwell on the horrors of war, or to enhance them. What she does describe is untrammelled. Her young friend died, "holding handfuls of his entrails and screaming."

Miss Jameson's charm and sincerity, embodied in her simplicity, make the book well worth reading, even were its enunciation not so vital to the world today. Her brief sketches of people are delightful and her impressionistic painting of scenes, slightly reminiscent of her admired Lawrence, have much of his warmth and colour.

It is a book essentially for women. —D.S.

ET DECORUM EST

And fathers to their firstborn sons Said come you here unworthy ones In College offices we see not Your names emblazoned.

Before suns rise forlorn on yet other darkened days Awake your weary languid minds from stupor

Replace with your uninitiated counsel The wisdom of your College Council Let College magazine and paper Fill its pages with your childish patter Lower standards . . . what does it matter.

A right Divine there is of those Who privileged go the full-time way. You know the ways of life embittered In the big and bad and nasty World of business.

You are the secrets of administrative feats Yours in experience.

You are favoured children as those of Israel.

Take that which impassioned reason Proves is yours

If You can persuade the educated masses That essentials of service Are learned in daily classes. —R.H.J.

THEY FIGHT—

The world is stricken with poverty; Like an old hag, a toothless crone; With skinny fingers worked to bone; We have scarce recovered from the last war;

And Abyssinia and Spain Will ne'er see freedom again; (But Capital pushes all that behind her—

They fight, the vested interests in China.) —D.M.R.

N.Z. VERSE

The Land and the People

The latest book of verse from the Caxton Press is, as one may expect, a delight to the eye by reason of the excellent printing and production. "The Land and the People, and Other Poems" is by Charles Brasch, a name new to most readers, no doubt—although two poems by Mr. Brasch appeared in the June number of "Art in New Zealand"; which fact may surprise those who know the views held by most of the Caxton school.

This book of verse is interesting, and, at the same time, rather exasperating. Mr. Brasch leads us to expect of him rather more than he seems prepared to give: perhaps it may be more than he is able to give, but I do not think he lacks that ability. However that may be, these poems (for they are, most of them, more than verse) do show definite ability, combined with a nice facility of expression. Mr. Brasch is a thinker, but he does not always let us know just what he is thinking, which makes him a little difficult to read. The title-poem is, I think, quite the most important. It is in four parts, which appear at irregular intervals through the book, and is not only thoughtful but (what is probably more important) thought-provoking.

In the poems here presented, Mr. Brasch has, for the most part, abandoned rhyme, but he has not made the mistake, so prevalent among contemporary poets, of abandoning rhythm also. In consequence, his work flows easily and without effort, although the sense, at times, is not so accommodating. There is not, in the main, very much music in these poems, although "Wai-anakarua" and several closely following it are pleasing to the ear. The poet seems rather to use an intense line, with much effect.

From "Wai-anakarua" we quote: "Knowledge ends thus with the traveller's glimpse; But there imagination wakes Vivid with an alternative creation But near-related, complementary. Later attainable; and flashing Unknown visions of the known, Rivals that time's tenderness shall reconcile."

"To Joy Scovell" is an exquisite, almost lyrical poem; and "Envoy's Report" is vivid and alive, with a strange and vibrant haunting quality that makes the poem of unusual and outstanding merit in a book of poems which, although promising, are not outstanding. —A.

L'Enfant Glace

When baby's cries grew hard to bear I popped him in the Frigidaire: I never would have done so if I'd known that he'd be frozen stiff. My wife said, "George, I'm so unhappy, Our darling's now completely frappé."

Dress Parade

My, how they fall for the military man Who spreads 'out his chest like a Japanese fan; And smoothes his tunic with cart loads of medals As big and as shiny as bicycle pedals. —J.D.F.

Eaper Weaver, chimney-sweeper, Had a wife but couldn't keep her, Had another, didn't love her, Up the chimney he did shove her.



CAROL FOR DICTATORS

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Ye berserk brotherhood— By whose beneficent command Oppression lifts a rigid hand And writes his name in blood.

God keep you joyous, gentlemen, And send you dreams as deep As theirs who huddle on a bed And watch the laggard dawn grow red, And clench their hands, and weep.

God give you homes as warm with peace, As free from fury's shock As those where panic walks the floor, And drags a chair against the door, And trembles at a knock.

Oh may the charity you mete Be poured for you, as well, Full measure while you live—and then May God receive you, gentlemen, And damn your souls to hell! —Sara Henderson Hay.

When God laid Ananias low They had no press or radio— See how His mercy waxeth, that He spares the British diplomat. —H.W.G.

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S P O R T

SPORT and WAR

War and sport are incompatible, but even in time of war the ordinary life of a community must be carried on, and of that ordinary life recreation in the form of competitive sport is now an integral part. There must, too, be some diversion of thought, and sport will serve a useful purpose in that direction. V.U.O. sports clubs can play their part by conducting their affairs in as nearly as possible the same way as in time of peace.

MEN'S HOCKEY RURU SHIELD RUGBY

The third grade team completed a successful season with a rather hollow victory over a weakened Hutt team at Nainal No. 2. Largely due to the bumpy nature of the ground the standard of play was not as high as in other recent matches.

During the season the three full-backs, Lawson, Mason, and Boyd, have been consistently steady. Lawson's clearing hits are generally strong and well directed. Boyd is energetic and very reliable, his main weakness being a lack of a strong clearing hit, though he is improving in this respect. The full-backs should see that one of their number is always fairly close to the opposing forwards.

Purvis at centre half is tireless, and hits hard on defence. Horn uses well-controlled push shots to advantage in feeding his forwards, while O'Donnell is reliable. Closer following up on attack might be an improvement.

Early in the season, as a result of frequent changes, the forwards found difficulty in acquiring combination, but this position has now been remedied. The general standard of ball control and positional play is high, but the effectiveness of their play is much reduced by inability to make the most of chances in the circle. Hands (right wing) is tireless and has good ball control. Quicker centring might be an advantage. Parkin (left wing), playing hockey for the first year, controls the ball well on attack, but has difficulty in centring. His coolness in the circle has produced several goals. Orman's play at centre has been of a consistently high standard. This player has a fine turn of speed. Stilwell, Martin and Treadwell have shared the two inside positions. Stilwell is keen and follows up fast. Treadwell at left inside appears to be conquering a tendency to drift back into his old position at left half. Tackling back is a feature of his play. Martin is consistent, and combines well with the other forwards.

Features of the team's record worthy of note are the consistent attendance at practices of Hands, Lawson, O'Donnell, Purvis and Stilwell, and the reliability and punctuality of all the members on Saturdays.

TENNIS PROSPECTS

If the keenness so far displayed is any indication, the club is in for a very successful season. It is a little early to discuss Tournament prospects in any detail, but there is no reason why we should not retain the tennis cup just to perform the hat trick. Several of the best players have already been seen on the courts. Elizabeth MacLean was winning points with her devastating forehand drive. Kathleen Pears is very keen this year, and is right out after a place in the Tournament team.

Marie Fletcher was going well in between bouts of reading Cicero. Marjorie Palmer-Brown, Ruth Singleton, Gladys Rainbow and Lila Marshall are others who have been noticed. The last-named would go far if she cut out social tennis. Pixie Higgin and Marie Walker are on deck as avowed social tennis players.

Norman Morrison, Bert Foley, Bill Pasley, Murray Cartner and Johnny Hott, of last season's prominent players, have already turned out, while there are several others who have been noticed as showing distinct promise.

There are several gaps to be filled in our men's Tournament and inter-club teams. Bennie O'Connor is back in Nelson farming. Joe Hartley has left V.U.C.; Bruce Brock is in Auckland and Leon Pitt in Raratonga.

Those who aspire to Tournament honours and who are comparatively unknown in the club should get in early and challenge on the ladder before the vacation, because Tournament will be considerably earlier than last year and trials may be held before the first term begins.

When playing for Canterbury in a successful Ranfurly Shield challenge against Auckland in 1934, R. B. Burke outhooked W. E. Hadley, rated by English critics in 1935 as foremost rake in the world. Last year Dick repeated the performance when on tour with the Wellington Reps., this time against C. E. Quaid of Otago. Test hooker of the unbeaten 1938 All Black side. Who said Lambourne was the best hooker in Wellington?

HARRIERS

It is with feelings of regret that the members of the Harrier club view the rapid approach of the end of the season. The Endeavour Cup contest marked the completion of the racing programme, but there yet remain two club runs before the season is finally brought to a close. Scrymgeour is club champion for the third year in succession with Newall runner-up. Although on perusing the actual results in open competition it appears that the season has been a failure, this is far from being a true indication of the club's position. The membership has now grown to over fifty, probably more than in any previous season, while the average attendance, too, has shown a marked improvement. The members all showed a healthy enthusiasm and amongst the large number of new members there was in evidence quite a supply of harrier talent. That more success did not attend the runners' efforts is due largely to the fact that they were for the most part inexperienced, as it is only after several seasons in the sport that big things can be expected.

A SUCCESS

So much for the attaining of honours. From the recreational and social viewpoints the season can be said to have been an outstanding success. The runs covered the usual variety of courses for as far north as Paekakariki and Silverstream, including practically all the available land around the city and the favourite endurance test to Pencarrow. The consistently good attendances proved that all these runs were extremely popular. At several runs we were pleased to see some of our former prominent members and it is gratifying to see them still taking a keen interest in our activities.

Perhaps in no other sport can the social side be welded so closely and so successfully with the active sporting side as in harriers where invitation runs assist so much in promoting the true club spirit. This year as usual a band of good friends rallied round and showed warm hospitality in entertaining us with very acceptable afternoon teas. After a run for an hour or so, outdoors on a wintry day nothing is more welcome than a cup of tea in homely surroundings. We wish to sincerely thank all these people for their generosity and assure them that the club could not hope to function successfully without them. Our coach, Mr. G. C. Sherwood, is also deserving of praise and gratitude, not only for giving us two invitation runs, but for unflinchingly sacrificing his time and energy as coach and adviser to the club.

NO MATCH

In the N.Z.U.C.C.C. race at Auckland, Victoria was no match for the opposition. We offer our congratulations to the Auckland team on its fine win, and also to G. Koefoed, the new N.Z. Varsity champion.

Our gratitude is due too to our hosts during the Tournament who went to great pains to make the team's stay in their city an enjoyable one.

ANNUAL DINNER

Although this function lapsed through lack of support last year, its revival was heralded by a very successful gathering this year. About twenty-four members and friends gathered at the Grand Hotel after the Endeavour Cup race when all the hardships of that gruelling encounter were forgotten in the enjoyment of an excellent repast. The assemblage included Mr. G. F. Dixon, who presided, Mr. G. C. Sherwood, coach, Mr. R. Spence, representing the Wellington harrier sub-committee, and Messrs. N. Clare and D. Viggars, two foundation members of the club in 1932.

RUGBY REVIEW

The season just ended has seen the most cherished hope of recent years realised. After a period of servitude in the second division the first fifteen has not only regained but justified its status as a senior team. This has been the result of various factors; firstly the keenness of Jim Parker and Dick Wild to bring it to the peak of achievement; secondly, the marked accession of interest by those connected with the club in former years, and finally the enthusiasm shown by the individual members of the team.

The team has been particularly fortunate in welcoming back to the fold that stalwart of former years, "Fat" Rae. The new members of the team have proved valuable acquisitions while the nucleus of the "old hands" has performed with distinction. Victoria has supplied her quota to the North Island and N.Z. Varsity teams and various members have won representative honours.

While the team performed in rather an inconsistent fashion, yet there is every reason to believe that next year Varsity will regain some of the glamour which has surrounded the team in other years.

JUNIOR A RUGBY

THE SEASON'S REVIEW

Again, the individual performances present a very mixed bag.

Grieg has been a saviour to the team as full-back. His kicking and handling has been outstanding but the team has had many anxious moments when he has had to do any tackling. The three-quarter line has shown plenty of dash and a point in favour of any wings has been to "give it a go" whenever possible. Ek Dahl, Donovan and Mahood have all performed well; especially the latter who started the season as a forward. His tackling has been a feature of his play, and this coupled with his general "energy" has made him a particularly acceptable wing.

The inside backs have had a troubled season due to the many changes to which they have been subjected. Hay has scarcely been comfortable but has shown sound defence; McVeagh through injuries has not been able to settle down. Peppas has directed back play with considerable skill and should be considered as a very promising back.

At half-back Carey has played a plucky season but has retarded back play on account of his slowness. Certainly he has had rough treatment from the opposing forwards but despite the lack of protection from his own side row much has been caused from his own slowness.

A GOOD QUARTET

In the forwards there has been a hardworking quartet in Bullock, Webb, Russell and Clendon, while Bannister, though not as brilliant as last year, has played steady football and been one of the most reliable of men in backing up and tackling. In the front row, despite his lack of inches, McGlynn has played like an Irish tiger, as one of the few forwards who have displayed dash. Corkill has given the team a full share of the ball from the scrums and has shown dash and spirit in the forward play. Though at the head of many forward rushes, Gander has not shown inclination to assist in the "heavy work." The most promising forward is Smith—on occasions the "red headed terror" who has been a hard worker in both tight and open play.

When hooking, Taylor has had a degree of success and has worked spasmodically during the season.

FRED MACKEN

A special bouquet should be given to Fred Macken, the coach, who has had a very wearying time this season. His keen and optimistic presence has spurred the team both at practice and on the field. In spite of the great provocation on many occasions, he has not resorted to lamentations. The strain of the usual "Varsity loaf" which was indulged in during most second spells must have aged him greatly during the season.

ANNUAL REVUE

Two Blissful Hours

The Dramatic Club presented its annual revue to a fair audience last Friday evening. The customary two-night season was wisely curtailed.

The actual mechanical arrangement of the revue numbers has become established over the past few years and this year there was no evidence of the occasional outbursts of originality which have characterised the previous efforts. It again took the form of a radio programme with spoken interludes to cover the gaps between it. This was, however, merely a convention, as so little of the show actually took place on the stage and the announcements, many of them very good, some just too obvious, covered changes of scene that didn't take place. The speaking of the announcements was well done but the other sounds from the amplifier were exceedingly disconcerting, particularly during some good serious songs, which by the way, were accompanied by a young lady on the piano who struggled with the score in the darkness because someone had forgotten to turn the lights on.

It must be stated in extenuation that we had heard of many bright ideas but there seemed to have been some mishap perhaps with the censor. Actually it was obvious that the show was not properly prepared. Some of the waltzes were too long and the whole affair lacked the essential neatness to make it entertaining. Many of the turns were good and well fitted together and rehearsed would have made a very enjoyable evening. The talent was in most cases first-class. We have so far avoided mentioning artists' names but I can get no farther without giving the big hand of the evening to that accomplished but modest actor, John Bullock.

Seriously, the show had many good points and only small details prevented it from being good entertainment. The Dramatic Club must tackle the question of preparation seriously. It would be unfortunate if it fell into the evil ways of some few years ago.

NATIONAL PARK, 1939

Twenty members thoroughly enjoyed this trip, even if it did rain on all ten days. Everything ran very smoothly, one outstanding feature being the remarkably high standard of the food. This caused several lassies from Victoria House to forget themselves, particularly one morning when Garth poached 63 eggs. We made two attempts on Ruapehu, but, as usual, the weather was foul and the crater was the highest point reached. It is becoming difficult to entice people to go climbing now that such an interest is being taken in skiing.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE SCIENTIST (Cont. from page 1)

From Dr. Millikan's philosophy we draw the conclusion that until man becomes educated on truly scientific lines, he cannot attain the Utopia for which he is ceaselessly seeking. That Utopia will not be perfect by any means, for as long as man continues to be the same self-centred being, the same jealous, lustful and grasping individual, the goal of perfection cannot be attained and never will be attained. Science has its chief social value in broadening man's outlook, in teaching him to think for himself, to disbelieve in superstition and to guard against hysteria. Today we have a world drifting back into a state of barbarism; free speech, free thinking and the entire freedom of mankind is being curtailed, and why are we sliding backwards instead of progressing? It is because we are prepared to listen to unscientific principles advocated by those who have fine oratorical powers but no reasonable sense of values, we are prepared to be ruled by dictators, we are not prepared to think for ourselves, we would rather others did it for us and we are always ready to take the easiest way out. The easiest way out! This is illustrated in our music, our poetry, our art and our politics. Our poetry is merely a string of vague phrases written without rhyme or any of the poetical merits of the poems of the past centuries, our music is disjointed and harsh, and our politics are of such a nature that we are not attaining anything which is definite or constructive. We are slowly but surely drifting away from the ideal of Socrates. But what are we to do? We must establish for ourselves a new set of values—in culture, politics, economics and social problems, we must establish a definite "core of fundamentals" and commence to rebuild our chaotic world.

Science is far in advance of any other section of our modern civilisation because of the fact that scientists have been prepared to accept revolutionary lines of thought, they desire definite proof before they accept new theories, they are not afraid to put their theories to the test and they are continually seeking, not the easiest method to solve their problems, but the best. They will not accept untruths and have no fear of superstitions, thus we must follow their example and fearlessly apply scientific methods to solve our problems, for it is only by this means that true progress, scientific or social, can be made and so our ultimate desire achieved—a new and finer civilisation, a civilisation from which mankind as a whole can benefit.

The departure of J. R. Stevens for Nelson means the loss of a stalwart to the Victoria College Cricket Club. Jack has been connected with the club for many years, rendering valuable service on both the administrative and playing sides. He captained the senior team for two years and was also club captain. For the past two years he has also served on the management committee of the Wellington Cricket Association. Last Christmas he was manager of the Wellington Plunket Shield team that played Canterbury in Christchurch. Jack was a capable all-rounder, being a sound batsman, a good field, a very fair batsman, and a very useful stock bowler of medium pace.—L.B.S.

