STUDENT PRANKS
FROM 1903 TO 1948

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

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

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

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

PART I.
The Victoria College Song No. 1. and Macri Halla.
Fiancette Solo: Capriee D'Espagnol.
Mr. Frerich.
Solo: "Redol Love Song" Mr. H. C. Richmond.
Plantation Song. De Lecture (apparently the singer was too bashful to give his name.)
Now for Part 2, the beginning of which appears to me to be worth reproducing in full.

FARCE
"MY TURN NEXT"

Taxicam Twitters (a village apothecary)
R. W. Watson
"Tim Bolus" (his professional assistant)
O. N. Gillies
Tom Trapp (a commercial traveller)
A. S. Henderson
Armchair Wooster (from Eltham College)
J. L. Stret
Ydia (Twitter's wife)
Miss E. G.
Roberts
Cly (her sister)
Miss H. M.
Baltimore
Gary (Twitter's Domestico)
Miss N.
North
Scene: A country chemist's shop.

GOD SAVE THE KING
(a Fresh Food and Ice Company)
"To us again on this page, this...extolling the virtues of their..." Table Poultry! Happy days! We are paying good money to the..." Book Committee to advertise for sale"—
in the lists disapproves from the...until 1906, when it again makes appearance as a two night stand. Were also, incidentally, thirty-sisters! On Part Two of the...a joke about the "Blueberry," or the...in of Genus," written by Mears, who is aware of the...Unfortunately, no...seems to have yet been...In Tableau 3, the...is an eleven word notification.

Duet.
"Commercial Miss Daisy Jaasac
"Miss Clean, Miss Noble, Miss Etc. Etc.

"Think of them in bathing dresses . . ."

Now, strangely enough, in 1912.
Part I of the early programmes was resurrected and again we are entertained with violin solos, glee and the rest. The main show was "Wumpty Dumpty" with a distinguished cast featuring Mears, Caddick, Hull-Jones and Sweiright.

By 1914, the persistent Part I has been interfered forever, and the Capping Book appears with its first colour, a two-colour cover in fact. Extrav from here on seems to be an established word for capping shows.

At the end of World War I, the formalised cover returns. A full-length show is presented in the Town Hall, "The Dogs The Path of Progress," with a distinguished cast including the following:


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

Now, on to the thirties. "CG" in 1928. "Willows the Captive" in 1930. Of the early examples of the "modern" type of script, Redmond Phillips desires mention. His best ex-such shows as "Cook and Husak" (1938) "Murder in the Common Room" (1934) and probably his best "Reed and Sula" (1932). The latter contains the song "Kartanee Blues" which is still sometimes heard in Extrav dressing rooms after the show. The Phillips' shows were typically presented by people such as Dorothy Tussman, H. C. Middleton, A. K. Scoky and the late Kingi Tuhii.

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

Then come John Carra's delightful variety shows with their incomparable nonsense and catchy songs, "Hale Night," "Port Nick Iniquity" and "The Dinkum Oil."

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

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

ANOTHER EXEC.
President: K. O'Brien
Vice-Presidents: M. McKenzie, J. Batterby
Secretary: C. Maclennan
Treasurer: H. Pearce, J. Robbins, S. Trott, N. Lanzford.
Editorial Comment

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

To answer "Scribe" first. A prose article keeping reasonably to accepted English usage (excluding our goals), an editorial but in language suitable to the writer constitutes a flexible but definite standard. For instance referential language is desirable in discussing controversial issues. As Mr. O'Conor has pointed out Salient's standard is not above criticism. We publish his article realizing that though his style may seem to some uninteresting and full of clichés it lends an example of language well within the limits of logical, that of criticism based on logic.

On the other hand Mr. Little's letter stands as an example of language abused to attain a double aim—ostensibly to criticise an editorial but in language suitable to the writer. In the first paragraph he calls the article "obnoxious," "communistic" and "malicious." Presumably he is endeavouring to put his readers in the mood for a logical criticism by using some emotive language. I endeavoured to show that I was aware of this by putting such words in inverted commas. In calling the Marshall Plan an economic biaduc and spelling it "Martial Aid" I was first assuming that the excerpits from the "Dominion" would show to any reasonable person that America was using the plan for military and intimidatory purposes.

Finally if Mr. Little can show that Soviet Russia is embarking on a policy of aggression, without resorting to such rabble rousing words as "tyrannical hordes," and sweeping statements such as "the Soviets are free and the Communists then reason people will perhaps be swayed by his opinion.

W.J.C.

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

Until that day, we must carry on the battle against journalistic irresponsibility and irresponsibility. Journalism, that "good, gray" quality that renders everyone "safe" by trying to pretend that there are two equal sides to every question, ignoring the variations of right and wrong. The editor who tries to straddle the fence is actually straddling his intellectual grave.

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

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

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

J. F. LITTLE

Criticism

"Dear Sir,—Published in Salient of the 4th April there was an obnoxious article headed "He Jests at Scars." Let me state now that I feel it may be another piece of Communist propaganda. Whether W.J.C. has been fooled or whether he is responsible for the spreading of malicious propa-
ganda remains to be seen.

To say that we are being "stamped into war" by American "dollar imperialism" is absolute nonsense. Moreover I remind you that without American aid, Europe would be left to Great Britain, "lon the rocks," Yes, that is what Russia wanted.

"American violation of Italian sovereignty" and "the Russian infiltration into Czecho-
lovakia" are one and the same. The only difference being that the Italians are the "scars" and the Czechs not. The Italian elections are won by the Communists (this is unlikely). For Communists have never had an out-
right majority in any general elections they have participated in. The industrial chaos communically in-
spired after the elections is the dan-
gers point) then we will see the programme being carried out "un-
curtin and only their wails and tears reach our ears."

There is only one way to avoid war. That is to go to the Truman doctrine and the Marshall Plan but at the same time to have a stern view of the effects of world aggression policy. Threaten Russia with the atomic bomb and tell it if uoerwise. That will bring her to her senses (if she has any). For the Russians realise that they cannot control the destiny of all nations.

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

J. F. LITTLE

Boy Scouts

"Dear Sir,—An article "World Youths Meet—Progress through Unity," appeared in a recent issue of your paper. It contained some astounding statements in the form of in-
flationary propaganda, which should be corrected, and I therefore ask you to publish this letter in full.

(Sorry, no. See last issue.)—Your suggestion that the Scout movement is a tool of Imperialist politicians is pure nonsense. The Scout movement owes no allegiance to any political party nor does it spread propaganda of any political creed. I am speaking from experience, your contributor obviously is not. Any person who has had the privilege of belonging actively to the Scout organisation for six or seven years cannot possibly fail to notice the manifest observations. For four years I have the good fortune to be a partner in business with Mr. Bruce Millburn, who was recently the editor of The Scout. In 1939-40 I attended the world jamboree in Sydney, at which Mr. R. Smith of the V.U.C. Socialist Club and Mr. B. P. O'Connell were present. I am sure these two gentlemen will con-
firm my observations.

I firmly state that the Scout movement does not concern itself with the pro-
blems of New Zealand education and social reform, etc., but as was pointed out to the previous debate, the ages of the Scout movement concern age from 11 years to 18 years. In their course they receive training in the field of industry, craft, agriculture, sports, etc. They are trained in the normal Christian virtues, and are encouraged to prac-
tise them. I suggest that the real essence of the article was another "red." B. J. CONNELLY

The Immoral Bard

"Sir,—It is surely lamentable that someone who has so much time and of value off on crook-
deyed imposts should be guilty of inaccu-
rate statements and bad taste. The magnitude of an Uplift is not one of the things examined the nature and limits of the power which can be exercised by society over the individ-
ual, is worthy of close attention. But the somewhat loose reference to the authority of Mill or Shakespeare or A. D. Lindsay is suspect. The political rhetoricians who in the porches of my ear did pour the imperfectly discerned ideas, and who shared with him the gift of picturesque and metrical language, Mr. Oliver seems to be extending ex-
travagance yet anew at the corrup-
tion and waste of the State, except to represent governmental, and in the fair play are entitled with mental and moral self-sacrifice, to be able to present straight political thinking? Hamlet is a man who is to say, "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! In form and moving how express and admirable! how fit and proper! And yet to Mr. Oliver what is this thickness of dust? Man delights him not; no, nor doth he admire himself, he neither. Mr. Oliver might reply in the same way.

"Who can be wise, amad, temperate? Who that bear the yoke of Loyal and neutral, in a moment?" ALAN MILES.
MEER MEMORIES

From his first show: Brave New Zealand. Sleek and sedate in 1938.

VOT-THU-HALLA SET ALIGHT
Extrav. 48 Erupts

Hell comes to Victoria again—this time to Melbourne. On Thursday night about a hundred students were in the audience of the stage production put on by the Theatre Guild of the University. The Guild, under the guidance of William Minto and his assistant, Miss Jane Ennis, put on a production of "The Arts of "H.H. Balfour." The production was directed by Miss Ennis, who also produced the lighting and stage effects. The cast was made up of students from the university, and the production was presented in the University Theatre on Thursday night.

The story concerns the life of a young man who is aspiring to become an actor. He is encouraged by his father, who is a successful actor, but the young man's dreams are shattered when he is told that he is too old to become an actor. The young man then decides to become a painter, but this too is thwarted when he is told that he is too old to become a painter. The young man then decides to become a writer, but this too is thwarted when he is told that he is too old to become a writer.

The production was well received by the audience, and the actors were praised for their performances. The production was well staged, with good lighting and sound effects. The costumes were also praised, and the production was well directed. The production was presented in the University Theatre on Thursday night.

THE TRUTH, PLEASE

We have recently received an inquiry regarding the accuracy of the information presented in our last issue. The inquiry concerns the statement that "The Arts of H.H. Balfour" was produced by the Theatre Guild of the University. The inquiry states that the Theatre Guild of the University did not produce "The Arts of H.H. Balfour," but that the production was produced by the Theatre Guild of the State University.

We apologize for any confusion that may have arisen as a result of our error. The production was indeed produced by the Theatre Guild of the State University, and not by the Theatre Guild of the University. We apologize for any inconvenience that may have been caused.

We appreciate the efforts of the Theatre Guild of the State University in producing a high-quality production of "The Arts of H.H. Balfour." We believe that the production was well received by the audience, and that the actors were praised for their performances. The production was well staged, with good lighting and sound effects. The costumes were also praised, and the production was well directed. The production was presented in the State University Theatre on Thursday night.

We regret any confusion that may have arisen as a result of our error. We apologize for any inconvenience that may have been caused.
The Student And The World

DR. COLEMAN SPEAKS

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

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

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

STUDENT RELIEF

Dr. Coleman began by describing the physical conditions of students in the world today. Universities in all countries which were involved in the war are all affected by some extent, but it is the countries of Europe and Asia where conditions are desperate. The work of World Student Relief and its constituent federations is well known here, but support is needed. It has ideas to test. The need for relief is as great now as it was forty years ago. Greek students are showing active tuberculosis, and the incidence is alarmingly high in many European countries. The shortage of books makes it seem that if students can continue at all, Hungarian students, because of their opposition to cyclistyle textbooks. A recent letter to the World Student Relief Committee is the much discussed International Union of Students. It is truly a unique movement.

II. H's

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SALIENT, April 28, 1948

ALL THE WORST POINTS

A group of S.C.M. Vis and Training College students. Dr. Coleman's complaints were gathered from English, Dutch, and American sources—mainly from the U.S.A. where both faults, their investigation (and it was implied, everything) are gone in for in a bigger way. The four major faults of the modern university, as set out by the American Commission are:

1. Over-specialization.
2. Lack of co-operation between departments.
3. Inadequate staff.
4. Unnecessary relations between the University and Community.

The lack of a fundamental basis or unity in University life and a general lack of appreciation of the same were reached in Holland during the conference by small alliances of students meeting to discuss the reform of the students' approach to the University which had formerly only a materially profitable training ground for a young man entering the professions. Today, unfortunately, as war-inspired vitality dies down, Dutch students are for the most part selling back to this common place in all Universities in the world. The question is not over-specialization was treated with American zeal, and examinations, and examination attempts to overcome it, such as the introduction of five years into the U.L.L.B. course, subjects to be worked through as rapidly as possible so that the Law Student may begin to work at "Law" level. His whole attitude prevails among American students who must spend two years on the "General" work of Liberal Arts, but, of course, the N.Z.S.C.M. is a member of the World Student Christian Federation.

THE MIND OF THE STUDENT

Dr. Coleman has found that there is a great mental outlook of students in European universities from that of students in the English speaking countries. Liberalism is no longer a live issue on the Continent. In a conversation with a Hungarian, Dr. Coleman discovered that the choice there is between Nationalism and Communism. Students in Europe take a live interest in social, religious, and political questions. In Germany, the issues are seen most clearly. It is not an asset that Germany's cultural tradition—learning for learning's sake has gone for art and science—has not brought the nation success and happiness, and there is a growing concern with the fundamental issues of life. Thoughtful Germans want to face these issues, and there is evidence of a return to Christian principles. A German girl who spent some time in England was glad to return to Hamburg, in spite of the great difference in moral standards of the two countries. It has taken the war to bring about this change must occur in all countries if the governments are to fulfill their proper function.

We have recently been rather fortunate in seeing La Kermesse, Nine Bachelors and Grand Illusion. Now, the Nightingales comes once more to our stage, that slender but worthy link in a chain of good and socially useful cinematic entertainment. The film as such deals only with the experiences of a young schoolmaster who is sent to a new school to instruct the young male delinquents, and is faced there with a tough aspersion, not only in the form of the pupils but also in the opposition he encounters from a sadistic headmaster, whose nickname is "the old brock and spoils the nest." The accent of the young schoolmaster is a good one, and his artistry is a joy. Old Brock sensibly is an admirable piece of work. The film, in my opinion, is of good production, the photography is well above the ordinary, the scenes are shot very accurately against simple background material. It is fast moving, and above all it contains an adequate portion of really exciting happy moments which are hard to forget. The Nightingales is a story of life under the lid of an orchestra. The accent of the young schoolmaster is a splendid one, and his artistry is a joy. Old Brock sensibly is an admirable piece of work. The film, in my opinion, is of good production, the photography is well above the ordinary, the scenes are shot very accurately against simple background material. It is fast moving, and above all it contains an adequate portion of really exciting happy moments which are hard to forget. The Nightingales is a story of life under the lid of an orchestra.

STUDENTS' FOLIOs

with SLIDE FASTENERS

from

2716 LANDS FOR BAGS

G.W.
THIS DEMON DRINK

In a letter to this paper a correspondent has pointed out the old question of Booze. He seeks help in combating this "lewd and lousy" evil which he terms the "beauty Extracts." He justifies the blame for these "foul minds and higher learning and culture" on the "beer made from one more particle to the volume of alcoholism in the land," the subject. "Sick-of-it-all" he will undoubtedly feel a little better as there are always been plenty of vigor and none of the consumption of alcohol beverages, many of whom have been equally as arduous. A study of the spread of drinking, the stage and even of habits of drinking will set a tone of calm, reasonable and convincing case for the theory that beer is undeniable proof of the evils of drunkenness and it makes me state here that nobody is so thoroughly contem- plative of and distressed by drunken- ness as the steady and wise drinker. Temperance men may keep us, as it does to most people, moderate whether it be in the field of alcoholic food, food or drink. But, in all cases excesses are equally repulsive and cowardly, and overindulgence is not to be confused with prohibi- tion.

The overwhelming majority of people in America are in favor of the moderate use of alcohol at a healthy and simple manner. As a physician of this life, it is only when, as in most areas, is alcoholic drink is subjected to barbershop legal restric- tions that people impute it to powers it is not possible to apply to a silly and misleading terminology. In the case of tobacco I may shed some light and perhaps stimulate further investiga- tions in the field, as the subject is one I am on before. The tobacco is a really astonishing fact for which I am sure the reader will see the book of "The Earnest Drinker's Digest.

RALLY: FALLACIES

Firstly, can anyone explain to me the theory of "drinking" as if it were synonymous with alcoholic beverages? And why to apply this term "drunkard" only to excessive con- sumers of this type of drink and not equally to babies who do nothing but drink milk on a regular basis? The word "intoxicated" literally means "poisoned". Tobacco and alcohol is only one of hundreds of in- toxication substances and, could a drink alcohol for it is an ex- tremely dangerous poison rare in its state. The peril of mixing drinks, the favorite fallacy of drinkers believe in its mystic potency. It stems from the idea that the first, it is the total quantity of al- cohol consumed is a given time that counts. Secondly, the alcohol ratio of drinks varies between about 1/3 of a glass, the same as if the wine, and most spirits is it approxi- mately 1.3.10. This to switch from beer to spirits the equivalent of stepping back on the heels ten times. To a glass drunk enough to attend the taste of "mixed" drinks for you to taste that of a glass of beer or wine, and most spirits is it approximately 1.3.10. This to switch from beer to spirits is the equivalent of stepping back on the heels ten times. To a glass drunk enough to attend the taste of "mixed" drinks the total quantity of beer drunk in the "time" normally taken to one the heels of the heel, being disastrous.

It is almost impossible for any drinker to pick differences in alco- hol strength in the "skid" of mixed spirit drinks is largely imagina-

RICK: KICK

It is also a fallacy that salt or sugar alcohol will improve the taste of beer. Nor is brandy any more poten- tiary than the others. Potent spirits contain about 45 per cent. alcohol and there is a greater danger in employing them than in using "equal" quantities of different spirits. Stout is no more nutritious.

For alcohol does not make men happy, though. It dulls the higher nerve centres whose work is partly creative. A drunkard man loses his normal restraint and is short- tempered, and in no hurry when he is bad and be good. The sincere man re- mains astonishingly the same sober or drunk.

Alcohol moderately used is not a

habit forming drug despite the warn- ing of habit and prohibition. Temperance ginger-beer as brewed in the home is often a higher alcoholic content. This has been figured out.

Many of the toxic and potent medicines so loved by the women contain so much alcohol they are actually to be called cocktails or even liqueurs.

The consumption of alcoholic bever- ages by law or by entreaty has al- ways and again we feel sure, always been found impossible. This is a tri- bute to the taste of highways, because through alcoholism, the want of means of placing, and the disadvantages of 100 percent for every man. We are talking about the effects of alcoholic beverages and alcohol thus, which are against the reformation and are not the reformers assert and they do not have to be the pleasures of drink because a few appear.

The Latin races should be under a constant. Drinking is universal, but over-indulgence is rare.

T. H. Q.

Those Reds!

Recently I conducted a Gallup Poll among acquaintances of the question: "What is Communism?" The pur- pose of this poll was to determine the standard definition for a political idea, but to attempt to discover what it meant to a relatively small term in their minds, and whether the term meant more or less to them than to the nation at large. Seventy people were questioned, and the results were extremely surprising.

Eleven gave answers that were broadly in accordance with the Ox- ford Dictionary or Marxist senses, as there gave fairly accurate answers, twenty were extremely vague and inaccurate, nineteen had no idea whatever, but disagreed even though they did not know what it was, and seven evaded the question by giving answers as "a form of Government," and "the Russian system of life." The poll showed that the majority of the students possessed an emotional feeling about the word, but not any clear idea as to its historical meaning. Here are some of the answers:

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

Barry: "A sort of self-government of the people in small groups. Community of Everybody dwelling in and taking out what they want, Germany."

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

Third year: "The nationalization of the means of production, distribution and exchange."

The means of production, distribution and exchange.

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

Second year: "The mutual recognition of all schemes of organization of the things that happen in the communal experience and existence."

First year: "A form of government. The benefits of Christ complicated by socialistic answer from him. But they are supposed to Christianize, and that was for enough for him."

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

Second year: "Communism? I'll tell you what it is—it's dividing up of property in such a way that you end up by dividing your soul. Nobody should have anything belonging to the State. The government claims everything. Your house is not your own. They can walk in and say we want this and where are you? In the gutter."

(At this stage he gave an indignant belch and reached for a backup spoon.)

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

Ron: "Communism means two things: First, the organization of society which involves the social control of the means of production, and Second, is an associated activity in specific party and world outlook—Marxian or if you like."

BRIAN BELL

Beaglehole on Marx

Preaching his remarks with the hope that none of his audience would fear to raise their voices to the Queen of Tonga. Dr. J. C. Beaglehole proceeded to elaborate the essence of the theory of Marxian philosophy of history. In the first place, the DYNAMIC FACTORS in human history, according to Marx, were CHANGES IN THE METHODS OF PRODUCTION. In changing the modes of production, wrote Marx, "mankind changes its social relations."

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

Thirdly, the history of all previous society may be regarded as the his- tory of a struggle between those who control the instruments of production and those who are exploited. By way of illustration, Dr. Beaglehole proceeded to give a brief history of the French Revolution. According to Marx, the French Revolution was a perfect re-

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

At this point in his discourse Dr. Beaglehole proceeded to criticize the orthodox Marxian interpretation of history. The strange point about modern Rus- sia, the speaker argued, was that, although the material basis of Rus- sian society is similar to that of modern France, it has produced a widely diverse ideology. If this is so, what becomes of the Marxian inter- pretation of history?

In the course of an amusing speech Professor Wood similarly challenged the orthodox Marxian interpretation of the French Revolution. In his opinion the French Revolution was propelled by the "hopes" of the Russian people. The birth of modern Europe had occurred in Russia, he argued, with a new spirit of freedom and democracy. The Russian people were the "first" of the world to express a desire for freedom, for democracy, for a new spirit of human liberty. The French Revolution was, therefore, a "reactionary" to the "revolutionary" spirit of the Russian people. By way of illustration, Dr. Beaglehole proceeded to give a brief history of the French Revolution. According to Marx, the French Revolution was a perfect re-

COMING EVENTS

THREE ONE ACT PLAYS


Training College Hall, Friday, 30th April.

Capping Froshet, Friday, 7th May.

Capping Ball, Friday, 7th May.

Write for the Literary Society Broadsheet. Contact Bruce Weir, P. S.

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CONCERT CHAMBER

25th to 29th MAY.
NOT PARTIAL TO MARSHALL DEBATERS’ DECISION

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

Dont mix with

Mr. IN-BETWEEN

The Socialist Club has announced the birth of a New Zealand Student Labour Federation embracing left-wing groups from three of our University Colleges. This is a world tradition as it is a must traditional ivory tower of the esoteric erudite. The very increasing numbers of students are not content with absorbing abstract knowledge and not relating it to life or reality at all, but they continue to search for applications that lead to learning, not for bad, but for the liberation of society, one of the chief duties. That, of course, is the reason why capitalism keeps branching out its economic and political influence in connection with a little serious study, and the honest student only to conclusions highly dangerous to the status quo.

In the end, fear of the searchlight of public inquiry being turned on them society leads reaction to crush the movements. John Strachey, in his early days, explained that “It is necessary for the Fascists, whose object it is to perpetuate our more and more irrational capitalist system, to assimil in every conceivable way the supremacy of human reason.” (International Literature, No. 4, 1944.) A great nation like the German people have, with an unequalled tradition of scientific and academic achievement, been plunged into the slough of unreason by Fascism, and its education sent back to a worse than medieval condition, dominated by the mythology of racialism: let that be a lesson to the students of the world.

Our universities must be kept independent, as strongholds of progress, the resistance to the ever living menace of Fascism. We must claim that education is “above” Student Labour Federation. The struggle will be the right of the student to go on in the old way, divorced from reality, with some ethical conception of right and wrong in his universal standard. They would like to ignore the existence of the workers. They will all contemn plate their navels, measure in metaphysics, and talking about aesthetic beauty being the only criterion. “But for the fellows on the table, we are 2 million today in the U.S.A. alone — ‘Domination’ 86/460. Beauty must go. Nothing can be. A German realist poet of the turn of the 19th and 20th century, Gustav Schubert, wrote a wonderful poem, two stanzas of which I venture to recite thus:

“Beauty is breath; but bread is all
And thousands starve; and still the mills are turning;
And royal tables still know not how to need;
And thousands pray at night in want and yearning;
And all the while the ‘Holy Night’ is burning,
And all the while the ‘Beauty’s’ vainly glistening
In every pearl the des of the morning light.”

WHETHER THE INDIVIDUALIST

Stephen Spender once wrote: “To-day the individualist is a hotly execrated and furtive in his protected social niche. And if we try altogether to undo the development of man by going back to a time without political freedom, we get a violent assertion of false individuality by men of average or less than average understanding. To go forward, the masses must be given not merely political but also economic freedom, for that they make free descendants of free individualists and their own culture. The future of individualism lies in the classless society. For the reason, the social revolution is as urgent a problem for the individualist as it is for the worker; he must break away from his narrowness, and the workers in building up a new civilization (Forward from Liberalism, p. 71.)

The fact that Spender talks so much about individualism, ended up by just wallowing out of the Socialist movement, walloping wallopping it into no way alters the truth of his somewhat defended argument. The man of science and learning must be rid of the letters that shake him to his very core of individualism. The masses must go to him and demand his interests; the masses must make him the people. This is the only condition for him to have freed himself to conduct his researches for the general welfare of mankind.

The sooner the university cellar wake up to this fact the better. Strengthened Socialism and socialism can be a very valuable alarm clock.

C.B.
Minds Still At Work

On Thursday, 8th April, the Philosophical Society held its second meeting of the philosophical season. In room C4. It was an issue. Owing to the success of the previous meeting the room was crowded to the door—some were turned away. It was only after the operation of a shift system that the last man managed to get in, in time for supper. Seventeen members attended.

The subject for discussion was the division of labor in modern philosophy. Unfortunately, I arrived a little late and was the introductory address by Mr. Robinson on Wollstonecraft's (or was it Wollstonecraft's) views on analytical topics of philosophical interest, but I am told that good authorities that it was presented in an extremely lucid manner.

Mr. Robinson's address, as usual, was not to my taste. The subject was Mr. Wollstonecraft's treatment and to deal with matters of a more metaphysical character. This suggestion was received with wild enthusiasm. Mr. Robinson's support was given to its face and crumpled up the main Notice. Mr. Robinson's proposition was that the chief and "good old Erie." It only piqued my interest, and everyone looked most interested. Particular was noted, for no notice was taken of the preface to their feet and crumpled up "Down with Wollstonecraft, Mr. Robinson," to usual proposition of the Literary Society. Again comments and keep consulting the main Notice Board.

NOTICE

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

LITERARY REVIEWS

Five Aphorisms

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

2. It is impossible for a poet to be traditional. In the sense that he himself is not independent. He asks the present his questions and receives his answers in the vocabulary of the past.

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

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

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

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

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

Ask For O'HALLORAN'S Natural Ale

Brewed and Bottled by O'HALLORAN'S BREWERY LTD. 17-19 STURGE STREET Tel. 52-293. P.O. Box 68, Te Aro.

Then there was Polanmorar.

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

TYPES OF FILMS

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

The sentimentality is obvious, the eroticism is surreptitious in the sense that when covered, the heroine barely marks the screen performances, and the symbolism is plainly evident in the shape of monsters and souring orchestras accompanying the embraces whether they occur on a sofa, or in the middle of the Sahara Desert.

(a) Mausal or Absent-Minded Conception

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

Hammer and Tongues.

THE ODOUR OF A BAD EGG

REPERTORY LAYS IBSEN'S "GHOSTS"

Ibsen's "scandal" is a result of one of the great social problems of all time—the fruits of sin overrided with the victory that knowledge—theatre loses little of its moral punch with the passing of the years.

This play demands a high standard of acting. Like all the world's great dramas, its theme carried on skilful characterisation, and for equally skilled interpretation. It is difficult for an amateur company in this little counter—required. But full honours must be given to Harry Painter for his very creditable performance as the drinking blacksmasher. Engranger.

Gracie Gordon became progressively more skilful, as did the other principal members of the cast. In a word, the play was a success.

The lighting effects were poor, and did that chip on the switchboard enjoy itself.

The quintessence of the work lies in the naturalness of the performances, and the house by its dead master, with his two-faces—that of the pugilistic, diseased rose, as he really was, and that of the non-existent pugilist of society that his wife showed to the world. On the one hand we have the visible effects of congenital syphilis developing in the son. Oswald, with his unanatural love for the maid, his illegitimate half-sister—on the other hand we have the erection of the orphanage to the old rogue's metaphysical character, and whom convention had boxed.

Between the two is more the hubris or husband's debauchery and whose whole life is dedicated to the last. This is backed up and in whitewashing his memory after his death. The son is in a quandary with her orphanage burnt and the sea. Never eliminating through no fault of his own.

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

The strength of this play cannot be hidden. It is a presentation. Though our outlook is broader than in sixty years ago, this still stings.

G.P.
WHAT OF OUR CAPABILITIES?

Easter 1948 at Dunedin; the O.U. Tournament committee’s small Bridgetout, as did the winning of the Tournament

Fied by C.U.C. and the Wooden Spoon by V.U.C.

Naturally we are concerned mostly with Victoria regaining

the Wooden Spoon for the seventh time since 1932. (The other

Colleges combined to fail it only seven times.) 1948 saw us

take the Wooden Honours in athletics, rowing and swimming,
third in shooting, second equal in tennis, basketball and


cricket, and finally retain the bowling with good sport and

luck.

Setting down to tin tacks, we find the athletic, rowing and

swimming people have been consistent in getting their respective

specks correct, and if we are to succeed we must

"blitz" these clubs. (V.U.C. has at least won Tournament twice

since 1923.)

Athletics: Going back to 1946, of eighteen in the team at

Christchurch not one athlete gained a point for Tournament

Shield (i.e., gained a first place) but seven got seconds which justified

their inclusion in the team. At Auckland, 1947, we got 34 points

(A.U.C.), a marked improvement, but of 21 athletes

only seven gained points at all.

This year of 35 competitors only two gained points for Tounament

Shield, while one runner had two seconds. Being second

and finishing fourth more that obtained third places, we find that a

team of seven would have done equally as well. So far the last

three years, if we had sent a team of seven it wouldn't have

affected our second place, but it would have created greater

competition for V.U.C. athletics to get into Tournament teams.

At present it is quite an easy thing for a hack sprinter or jumper to

beat the two-five-five.

Rowing: 1946 last in eights. 1947 last in eights. 1948, Wot!

agian! Yes! Last in fours and eights. Where is this leading us

to? Only the Rowing Club knows. All we know is that rowing

takes a large bite out of Tournament Shield. The sooner the V.U.C.

has a mouthful the better. As this is an aquatic sport, rowing

ability should be the primary consideration in picking the team.

It seems probable that other aquatic qualifications have helped—

there is always the chance that the boat may turn over.

Swimming: 1946. Of our team of ten only one gained a point

for swimming or Tournament Shield, while one more gained a third.

1947. Of our team of twelve only two gained points, while one more

granted a third. 1948. Of fourteen that went to Dunedin three

gained points, with two more getting thirds. Thirteen points are

allocated from the Tournament Shield for swimming and V.U.C.

has only gained one point for each of the preceding three years.

Admittedly the N.Z. standard for 1945 was the highest ever, and

everyone who won an event was a N.Z. National champion. But

this doesn't get away from the fact that we haven't encouraged

swimming enough at V.U.C., for our standard is very low—never

enough encouragement or training.

Fundamentally the idea is cut down on the number of athletes,

rowers and swimmers going to Tournament until a higher standard

can be made. This will be a better rowing eight before entering

this. Will pep up enthusiasm and make students realize there is an

Athletic, Rowing and Swimming Club that has to be

built up.

Easter Tournament next year is at V.U.C., we have a territorial

advantage, so let us win the shield for a change.

P.

Ski Notes

The increasing popularity of winter sports has led to the

building of new ski-laps in Victoria which are having a

great effect on Australian winter sports. The mention of

different ski-club activity is coming to a better rowing eight before enter-

ing the tournament. Will pep up enthusiasm and make students realize there is an

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