

THE MAGNET

For Men's Wear

144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

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By Subscription

STUDENTS' FOLIOS
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SLIDE FASTENERS
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25/-
LANDS for BAGS

Medical Scheme Exhumed

SINCE this article was written for Salient, in February, 1948, precisely nothing has been done to put into effect a practical scheme. There was one brief passing mention of the Health Scheme in the Circular to Clubs concerning the requirements of the proposed Student Building, but apart from that the issue has been decently and reverently interred. This month there will be an election of officers of the Association and on June 28 the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held and students will have the constitutional right to talk their heads off. The medical scheme however must be pushed ahead and something concrete and practical done this year; the time for wind-bagging and wordy protestations is over, **ACTION IS NEEDED NOW.**

SINCE its very early days Salient has been interested in health, nutrition, medical examinations and preventive medicine generally. In June, 1939, in a special issue attention was drawn to prevalent malnutrition in New Zealand and Salient offered the "following practical measures for the consideration of University students, and those who are in authority":—

(a) The Government should cease advertising, over the air, foods and patent medicines whose contents do not attain a prescribed standard.

(b) A service similar to that given by the American Consumers' Union Reports should be immediately commenced by the New Zealand Government.

(c) Radio talks, circulars, newspaper articles demonstrating the principles of correct feeding should be sponsored by the Government.

(d) The Government should immediately organise scientific research on a large scale on the subject of malnutrition and food values in New Zealand.

(e) Films like the Nutrition Film should be made by the Government and shown widely.

(f) The New Zealand Sale of Food and Drugs Act should be immediately amended as follows:

(i) The formula of all patent medicines sold should be fully declared to the authorities.

(ii) Remedies sold as cures for certain serious diseases should be absolutely prohibited.

(iii) Advertising of foods and patent medicines should be severely restrained.

(iv) The operation of the Act should be extended to cosmetics.

On 27/5/40 the following appeared in the Editorial of Salient:

"The Physical Education Committee of the British Medical Association has made the bold and forceful statement that 'All Universities should make provision for the physical education of undergraduates.' This field of education which has been sadly neglected in New Zealand was the subject of a report to the New Zealand University Students' Association . . . proposes a minimum policy . . . to meet the needs of the New Zealand Universities."

B.M.A. proposes . . .

"The most important item to be provided is:

Medical examination for all first year students, with a view to pointing out any defects and indicating a suitable course of physical activities. Optional examinations after the first

year. The examinations to be of an advisory nature, and a poor report would not debar a student from attendance at University . . ."

"This programme . . . could be put into operation with a minimum outlay on materials and buildings. A second point in its favour is that the Government is interested in this kind of necessary work, and all efforts should be made to bring the New Zealand Universities into line with the rest of the world."

On June 23, 1943, in an article headed "Anti Grave-Digging" Salient gave the initial impetus to what is now widely known in the College

as the Health Scheme or the Medical Scheme. "A large body of V.U.C. students who realise the value of periodical physical check-ups as a necessary feature of student life, and a safeguard of the students' future. College life brings together students from all sections of the community. Imposes severe mental and physical demands on the individual . . . Periodical physical examination can detect much concealed disease at an early stage in its career and by bringing the disease under early control save the student from future sorrows and the treatments needed if the disease continues unchecked."

"The proposal that a part-time Medical Adviser be appointed to V.U.C. has been put forward. This Medical Adviser would undertake to give a general medical examination to all students enrolling at Victoria University College, to be followed by periodical overhauls in subsequent years."

Students in favour

In 1943 a referendum vote was taken and out of the 900 students then attending V.U.C. 625 recorded a vote on the medical examination proposals. 605 of the 625 voters declared in favour of the scheme for an annual medical examination.

In 1944 a voluntary examination was conducted. Just over one-third of the students then attending lec-

tures completed the examination. In a report submitted by the committee which ran these examinations it was stated that for the efficient running of the scheme it was necessary for the examination to be compulsory. This was based on records from the doctors who carried out the exams and from the students who assisted.

In 1945 and 1946 not a great deal was heard about the Medical Scheme although a great deal of solid work was done by small committees who were investigating possibilities, writing reports, getting opinions of medical men, professors, students and lecturers, on the best way to organise and run such a scheme.

American example

An extract from a Salient report of April 23, 1947, in connection with the American and Canadian tour of a party of V.U.C. biology students is of interest here:

"Compulsory Medical Schemes"

"Every University visited had a Compulsory Medical Scheme. This was generally financed by a small fee and organised by the university authorities. These schemes have been running successfully for years and are taken for granted by all students."

At a special general meeting in March, 1947, a motion that "every student attending lectures at Victoria University College be required to undergo a compulsory annual medical

down and printed in full by this paper. Sneering remarks were made but the facts were in print which was the more important factor.

The daily press on the whole gave us a slightly better hearing and in some cases they actually asked us (V.U.C.) for our comments on the matter. It may come as a surprise to some who have not thought on the matter that the much vaunted freedom of the press is a rather untamed animal, e.g., the press is "free" to print pretty much what it likes about the doings of students but we are not necessarily "free" to see our replies in print.

Reds again

As long as students act the silly goat and behave generally in a reasonably childish fashion, as at Capping Time, we are treated by the press with paternal indulgence and it is allowed that one "is only young once" and other such rot. But, let the students get a serious thought in their heads, e.g., when they thought that it was a good thing to be medically examined or to think that it was a bad thing for the Dutch to shoot the Indonesians, and there is a very different tale to be told. Distortions become the order of the day in all reports of meetings, etc., the University becomes once more filled not with childlike youth but with dangerous Reds; the pleasant pumsters of Capping become dangerous half-baked theorists of Marx and there is hell to pay. It is a little difficult for us to see just how these transformations take place within the College but the papers assure us that it is so.

. . . And B.M.A. disposes

One astonishing feature of the Medical Scheme at this stage is the wording of a reply received by the Health Scheme Committee here, from the B.M.A. The Committee had written asking the B.M.A. for their assistance and advice in the drawing up of a workable scheme for this College and you can imagine their surprise when they received a reply couched in terms unpleasantly reminiscent of "Truth's" hysterical ravings. This is rather interesting when you look back to the Salient Editorial of 27/5/40 in which a quoted statement of the B.M.A. advocated compulsory medical examination for students.

It becomes more obvious as time passes that it is essential for students to have a compulsory annual medical examination as a step in the direction of effective preventive medicine. Every year some students fall prey to T.B. and other communicable diseases of which they could have been cured much more rapidly and easily if they had been discovered at an earlier stage. The Committee envisages a scheme which will eventually not only give an annual examination but provide a health service for the students throughout their student life. Salient believed in the efficacy of preventive medicine in 1939 and continues to do so.

Truth at last

"Truth" with a typical disregard for facts and an almost religious belief in emotive journalism, really let itself go. The fact that the students had the temerity to request a compulsory medical examination was sufficient proof that V.U.C. was once more in the grip of the Red menace. We were, in the same sentence, "fascist, communist, socialist, totalitarian"—rather a difficult feat I should imagine.

A reply signed by nearly 300 students (within a day and a half—time was short and the reply had to be in smartly otherwise more names would have been on the list) was sent

ELECTIONS

THE ELECTIONS for the Students' Association Executive will be held next week, on

THURSDAY, JUNE 22,

FRIDAY, JUNE 23,

MONDAY, JUNE 26.

The results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Association on

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28.

ARE YOU ON THE ROLL?

ISS WORK DAY June 24th.

All funds raised to go to
International Students Relief
Details at the Executive room.
You should support

Salient

The Official Student Magazine of the University of Victoria, Wellington

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1950.

LOST CAUSES

MAYBE Universities are the last and final refuge of lost causes, from classical education to the Shakespeare-Bacon row. And maybe we, being but a college paper, are little better than the rest.

But as this is the silly season when every one is working too hard to think out any new ideas, and when the stir of the election on the horizon causes some students to take their own welfare seriously, maybe we are justified in raking over our own pet lost cause—the medical scheme.

The article we print in this issue will not be new to some of you. Those with memories stretching back as far as 1948 will recall that in our anniversary issue of that year we printed an article on the medical scheme at VUC, its history and prospects. You may find something familiar about this article—because it's the same one.

In no way better than this could we show just what has happened of note since 1948. There may have been rumblings within the Exec. but not even a tiny mouse has emerged from the labour—if there was any. The situation stands as it did then. The need is as bad; the arguments as cogent now as then; the possibility that a Student Union Building may at last be built, an additional reason for straightening our ideas about this quite vital scheme.

One of the first priorities for the new Exec. must be the medical scheme. Students who opposed compulsion for the sake of war will have no argument with compulsion for the sake of health.

If nothing happens, then perhaps the editor in 1952 will be able to reprint this again.

—D.G.

Policy

SALIENT is not intended to be an organ for reporting every or indeed any club activity in this college. The mere reporting of club affairs is the least of the jobs which Salient is concerned with.

We pretend to be nothing more than an opportunity for you and your friends or enemies to back out your verbal battles; and for ideas to be placed before the students of VUC; ideas which should be before them in more than one sense.

So unless reports of club activities are of direct concern on some point of opinion at issue, or unless they deal directly with actual opinions, we don't intend to spend a great deal of space in printing. This will mean that sports reports will have to be concise and, if possible, critical, rather than mere repetition of what any interested body could have seen in the paper a week before.

EXTRAV SONGS

COPIES of the programme section of the 1950 Cappcade are available free at the Exec. Office.

Those who wanted extra Cappcades and were disappointed are urged to get these programmes while they last.

THEY'RE FREE.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS GUILD

Next Meeting Sunday 11th St Patrick's College 7 p.m.

Dr. Duggan ("Evolution and Philosophy") will be speaking at the College July 17th on the subject "The Present Philosophy Syllabus at Victoria."

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NO MAN'S LAND

The Caf. again

SIR.—I support the submissions of the manageress of the Cafeteria in her statement in the last article about the Caf you printed.

There is little doubt that she is working under extreme difficulties in the place, and this is made no better by the number of students who don't co-operate in the slightest, to make her job easier. There are seldom any number of volunteers to work behind the counter. There are often a large number of students who are prepared to talk after the Caf had been closed until they are reminded by her that she has to clean up. These sort of petty things must make life hell for one who is trying to make the thing work without decent facilities.

We are to blame as much as anyone if the Caf doesn't suit our tastes. A little more willingness to work and a lot less bitching might turn the Caf into something worthwhile.

I. M. Partial.

Misrepresented

SIR.—Copies of this year's issue of Cappcade have only just reached me here.

I am appalled to think that my spiritual home can have cast me off so lightly, and even more appalled to think that the editor has attempted euthanasia on my unwilling self. Like those on Rita Hayworth and Queen Anne, the reports are premature. I am not dead.

T. (Cecil) Ruaparaha,
Antananarivo,
Madagascar.

A sneer

Sir,

Isn't it about time "Salient" folded up? It exists for the purpose of allowing students to express their opinions, you say hopefully. I haven't seen the slightest sign that there is any general desire around VUC to express any opinions at all.

There are a few good articles now and again, but these are so obviously written by the interested few.

Why should we even try to pretend that there is a need for an organ of student opinion when students prefer to have none.

For God's sake give us gossip.
Lou Lockheart.

Complaint

Sir,

Since I first came to this place, I have been amazed at the indecent anonymity of the "culture" clubs around here. I am given to understand that there exists a club for the discussion of historical subjects, another for the discussion of philosophical subjects, a club for the specific purpose of studying socialism, one for the specific purpose of studying the club which studies socialism—and there may be more, for all I know.

There are other clubs, like the Glce Club for instance.

But what in the world is going on, to quote this year's variety show at the Opera House? Where are these clubs? Do they advertise their meetings? Do they ever publish reports of their findings? I seem to remember one report for the Socialist Club and a couple for the Debating Society. Otherwise one would gather that the only reason people come up here at all was to play games.

Can we have some low down on the highbrows?

Ripening Fresher.

(Our staff is busy, we must regret, and it is seldom possible to get reporters to these meetings unless one of the staff happens to be interested in the particular club. It may be that those clubs have such pleasant little social gatherings that they keep quiet to avoid any strangers butting in on their cosy agreement. We couldn't say. But we would certainly welcome some signs of life therefrom.—Ed.)

The burnt child

Sir,

Your last issue reminded me of King Alfred's cakes—Cooked to Ash-tons.

H.

(That came out Pat, didn't it?)

"SALIENT"

WE will not bring out the usual issue next week, as the selling days for Salient coincide with the days for elections.

Instead we hope to have the special election sheet out on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week—that is, about two days before the elections. We have had to drop the usual issue largely because we couldn't handle two at the printers in one week.

The next normal issue will be on the Tuesday of the following week.

FIRE OVER DEVON

50 Devon Street has long housed University students—it is handy to University and that is a dominant motive for any student wanting to live there. Despite the fact that its construction and state made it not the most desirable place to live in, it has been very useful. No-one would try to count the number of times people have wound up that way after one bash or another. But the bashing days are over.

About noon on Monday, and only the stoutest efforts of the brigade saved the bottom flats. Volumes of smoke and water, though, made the state almost as bad. That the Fire Brigade was successful in stopping the flames was commendable; that they saved it even in part considering the state of the building made it miraculous.

Four families lived there—two of them, the Mellings and the Gawns, are well known enough at VUC. "Salient" and the Tramping Club and the Exec. have seen their presence. They saved some of their possessions from extinction in the shambles of the bottom flats. They had a common entrance.

The people on the top floor have one common entrance, reached by a drawbridge-like porch which, if damaged, could easily have been a fire trap.

There were no fire escapes.

As it was they were lucky they saved themselves and their baby, even if they lost all their personal possessions.

There are many such old buildings in Wellington, most of them good fire traps. Though four families lost their homes, and two of them nearly everything they had, we can be thankful that the Providence which failed to provide fire escapes at least got them out before this neglect took toll.

Another

TEA DANCE

THIS SATURDAY

June 17

WOMEN'S COMMON ROOM
5 to 8 p.m.

GOOD FOOD — GOOD MUSIC

Run by the Social Committee.

WINTER SPORTS BALL

In St. Francis Hall

JUNE 30

THE SHOW OF THE YEAR!
DON'T MISS IT!

HOW TO SAVE DEMOCRACY

... in one easy lesson

OUR FREE PRESS has given its customary one-eyed story of the Communist Party Dissolution Bill recently introduced in the Australian Parliament by the Menzies Government. The side they do not publicise is the mass protest against the Bill from student, trade union, religious and other circles. We reprint these statements from copies of Australian university and union papers over the last few weeks:

Rev. Frank Hartley (Methodist, one of the five Victoria clergymen who accompanied the protest delegation to Canberra on April 27):

"I know there are people of all shades of opinion alive to the fact that it is the Communists today, and after they are suppressed, tomorrow it is the Jews, and then the trade unions will be split in two, and then it will be the Church—and then war." Freethought Society, Melbourne University:

"We protest emphatically against the threatened ban on the Australian Communist Party. Such action is an infringement of the basic liberties which are essential to the development and progress of society. . . ." (Farrago, 22/3/50.)

Professor Wright (Physiology, Melbourne):

Referring to the clause in the Bill which makes a branded "Communist" responsible for proving his innocence):

"When you abolish an organisation and accuse a person of being a member of it, how on earth can anyone prove that one is not a member? The only person who can show the accused to be innocent is the recording officer of that organisation. But the organisation having been abolished, the accused's only way of proving his innocence is abolished." (To the M.U. Political Science Society, 11/5/50.)

Professor Maxwell (English, Melbourne):

"The only way to combat an ideology you don't like is to practise its best ideals. The bad ones will fade away." (Ibid.) (The Labour, Labour Party and Liberal Clubs of M.U. have come out in opposition.)

Mrs. Jessie Street (graduate of Sydney University, wife of the Chief Justice and Lieut.-Governor of New South Wales, former Labour Parliamentary candidate, president of N.S.W. Peace Council):

"I have been asked to comment on the Bill. . . .

"I wish to recall the great bravery and self-sacrifice displayed by the men and women of all races in World War II, waged by the United Nations against the Axis Powers of the Anti-Comintern Pact.

"I also recall the democratic enthusiasm aroused among all peoples of the United Nations by the promise that after the war they would enjoy liberty, equality, independence, self-government and rising standards of living.

"How many lives were gladly given that these great liberties should be enjoyed by all peoples! When the U.N. was formed, these promises—all of them—were included in the U.N. Charter.

"What happened? Those who claim equality for men and women or equal treatment for white and coloured races are called Communists! Those who support independence and equality for the peoples of all countries are called Communists!

"Those who work for rising living standards for the people are called Communists! Those who seek to guard our precious heritage of democratic rights and civil liberties are called Communists!

"... Is the U.N. Charter a Communist document?

"A Bill is before the Commonwealth Parliament which aims to deprive Australians of the democratic liberties and civil rights which have been won in countless bloody struggles since the time of Magna Carta.

"Furthermore the foundation principle of British justice, that a person is innocent till he is proved guilty, is to be sacrificed." (Tribune, 6/5/50.)

Mrs. E. Madeleine Wood, B.A. (widow of the late Professor G. Arnold Wood, History, Sydney; her son is well-known to many V.U.C. students):

"I wish to support the statements of Mrs. Jessie Street about the Anti-Communist Bill. . . .

"The Bill violates not only the individual clauses, but the whole spirit of the United Nations Charter which all members of Parliament are pledged to support. . . .

"How can any man or woman have 'freedom from fear' when, 'on information received,' he may at any time, with no reason being given, be denounced as a Communist?

"Some of us have worked actively for peace. . . . Are we to be denounced and jailed for subversive activity if we venture to criticise our leaders for not strenuously seeking the greatest common measure of agreement with the leaders of other nations, rather than exaggerating differences of opinion, and thus stirring up suspicion and hatred?" (Tribune, 13/5/50.)

Mr. A. E. Monk (president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions):

"It is obvious that this Bill is designed to pave the way for attacks on the whole trade union movement.

... It is the first step to fascism." (Tribune, 17/5/50.)

Mr. J. Healy (secretary, Australian Waterside Workers' Federation):

"Whatever one's opinions of the Communist Party or of Communists, this Bill provides no boundaries; its boundaries of action depend entirely upon the whims of the administrators." (Circular to his unions, May, 1950.)

Police state

These parts of the Bill have not yet hit the pages of the New Zealand press:

1. "In this Act . . . 'Communist' means a person who supports or advocates the objectives, policies, teachings, principles or practices of Communism as expounded by Marx and Lenin."

2. "The Governor-General may, by instrument published in the Gazette, declare any body of persons to be an unlawful association" if "he is satisfied that a majority of the members, or a majority of the committee . . . were at any time after May 10, 1948, members of the Australian Communist Party" or that it "supports or advocates or supported or advocated the objectives, etc., of Communism" or that "its policy is directed or influenced by persons who were members of the A.C.P."

3. Anyone remaining a member of an illegal organisation is liable to five years imprisonment. The onus of proof in this clause as in the last is with the accused (individual or organisation).

4. Section 20—"An authorised person shall at all times have full and free access to, and may, if need be by force and with such assistance as is necessary, break open, enter and search, any house, premises or place in which he suspects that there is any property of, or documents or papers relating to, an unlawful association, and may search any person found in the house, premises or place,

and may take possession of, remove or impound any property, books (including documents or papers) in the house, premises or place which the authorised person is satisfied belong to that association."

Parallel

By an emergency decree of February 5, 1933, during the farcical Reichstag Fire Trial, all the printing establishments and buildings owned by the Communist Party throughout Germany were expropriated by the German Government under the new Chancellor Hitler. The same procedure was applied next day to the newspapers of the Social-Democratic Party. Then came the banning of the militant Miners' and Metalworkers' Unions, the Red Sports organisations, Left Writers and Artists' Leagues, International Workers' Relief. Then the League for the Protection of Motherhood, the Association of Social and Political Organisations, the League for Human Rights, and the German Peace Society were outlawed. On May 2 the remaining unions and the Social Democratic Party were dissolved. . . .

The story from there on is well-known. . . . Pogroms of Jews, Liberals, Christians, everyone with decent ideals. . . . (See "The Hitler Terror," Gollancz, 1933.)

In view of this excursion into not very ancient history, the following quotations may be of interest:

"If you and I were Germans . . . we would not be critical of the leadership (Hitler's) that has produced such results."

R. G. Menzies, 19/9/1938. "Democracies cannot maintain their place in the world unless they are provided with leadership as inspiring as that of the dictator countries."

—R. G. Menzies, 24/10/1938. Hitler . . . Belsen . . . Gestapo terror . . . Lidice . . . Inspiring?? Menzies . . . ????

C.V.B.

"Passport to Pimlico"

THIS is all those things which Extrav 1950 was not: all those things without which no Extrav will ever be popular. From start to finish, Passport to Pimlico is a rollicking, ribald ribbing of everything in recent British affairs from rationing and currency restrictions to the Berlin airlift.

Just as in Gulliver's Travels, Swift managed to make man look silly by reducing him to midget size, so the heated matters of principle with which we puff ourselves up when we want an excuse to have a fight look absurd when reduced to the scale of Passport to Pimlico.

The satire is very neat, particularly in the "newsreel"—which was worthy of the best Extrav traditions. This sort of thing doesn't come our way very often: in 10 years maybe no-

one will be able to see much more than the humour in it; the keen edge of its satire is pretty much localised in time. But for the moment, it's a fresh and delightful sally.

The story doesn't matter in this comment; and it would spoil it if you see the show. There are many cracks which come up to the standard of the "Their pleasures are few, but simple" from "Whisky Galore": the most obvious is the "It's because we're British that we fight for the right to be Burgundians." But from the airlift to the road blocks, from the "I have no comment to make" to the "Wix Aid Plan" which caps it, the film is worth remembering. We suppose there had to be a love interest in it; the scenes of that kind, even humourously interrupted, caused the only dull moments in this thing.

Passport to Pimlico is a healthy sign: even when the nations in the self created hours of perils are taking

(Continued P. 4, column 4.)

FOR--

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The Lysenko Dispute

THIS is part two of an article setting out a point of view on Lysenko. "Salient" printed an article on this subject in 1948, and raised a slight row at the time from people who didn't like any sort of praise for the man. If you don't agree with the viewpoint here expressed, then you have the right to say so. He continues, quoting Ashby . . .

"One would expect therefore, Lysenko's claim to be supported by exhaustive and convincing experiments, carried out with pedigree plants free from disease. In actual fact, the experiments were carried out with plants of no certain pedigree, some of which carried the virus disease spotted wilt, which produces a red yellow mottling of the fruit. Furthermore the numbers of plants used was far too small to establish such a striking claim."

This is only one of the many examples which Lysenko and his school cite as evidence for their beliefs. There has been built up a large amount of data from similar experiments, all of which are claimed to prove the inheritance of acquired characteristics. Several experimenters have attempted to repeat these experiments to prove their validity, notably M. B. Crane, an American geneticist who tested a large number but was unable even in a single case to produce anything which might have been called a vegetative hybrid. Lysenko attributes such failures to the fact that the experimenters had not produced the "right conditions" but he neglects to say what the right conditions might be.

Chimeras

A certain amount of the evidence of vegetative hybridisation can be attributed to the occurrence of chimeras, i.e., plants which, as a result of grafting have fused their tissues although the individual tissues retain their individuality to the extent that they are recognisable cytologically as coming from their respective parents. Such plants can only be reproduced by cuttings or further graftings as any seeds which may be produced will be formed from one tissue or the other and will show only those characteristics of the parent from which the tissue came.

As was noted in the tomato experiment, Lysenko and his associates work with very small numbers of plants and no "control" plants, i.e., plants in normal conditions for use as checks on his other plants, are used. The latter he considers unnecessary although regarded by scientists as standard practice throughout the scientific world. Usually large numbers of plants are used for experiment so that the results can be statistically analysed but this practise Lysenko deplores as "abiological." When the results of one of Lysenko's students were found to be incapable of standing up to the test of statistical analysis, Lysenko replied "we biologists do not want to submit to blind chance . . . we maintain that biological regularities do not resemble mathematical laws."

Colchicine

Lysenko condemns formal genetics practically from the point of view of a layman. All his criticisms are levelled at subjects which were under discussion, controversial, and in the earlier stages of the science. The science of genetics is only fifty years old. Probably two-thirds of our present knowledge of heredity has been accumulated in the last 25 years but Lysenko ignores this latter period almost entirely. His comments on this period are confined to answering specific questions and these he answers from the point of view of the man in the street. Recently much success has been achieved in producing high-yielding crop varieties by treatment with colchicine and X-rays. According to Ashby, Lysenko's comment was "Mendelian geneticists who maim plants by application of poisons and other extreme treatments maintain that they are working out a method for producing fertility in sterile distant hybrids (i.e. hybrids between distantly related plants). The crossing of distant species and the production from the crosses of fertile offspring, should be studied in the works of I. V. Michurin."

Much of the justification Lysenko employs for his theory is obtained by appeal to authority. Several authorities are cited, but for the present only those concerned with the scientific aspect will be considered. The main "scientific" authorities are Darwin, Timiryazev, Michurin and Burbank.

Darwin's theory of evolution by a continual series of small changes really forms the fundamental basis for Lysenko's "new genetics." Darwin however, is not accepted in entirety. "Malthus' preposterous reactionary ideas on population" are

rejected along with certain other "bourgeois" elements. The rest, the "materialistic" basis is accepted as true, final and unquestionable.

Criticisms?

The second authority, Timiryazev, was a Russian scientist with a world-wide reputation. In the early 1900's when genetics was wobbling on unsteady, unfamiliar legs, he expressed doubt as to the validity of certain of the early theories on heredity. This opinion was perfectly valid criticism and he was certainly not the only biologist to do so on the subject at this time. Lysenko has however made use of this opinion as further evidence against formal genetics.

The other two, Michurin and Burbank are in a separate class. Both were exceptionally competent horticulturists and very successful. Both, through their products, became famous and the subjects of popular acclaim. Their success tended to give them a false authority on biological subjects in everwidening fields in which they had no background other than their own specialised experience. Michurin went further than Burbank and developed several subjects which now form the practical basis for Lysenko's "new Genetics" along with the theoretical background gleaned from Darwin. This then, rather sketchily outlines

GAS

The Modern Fuel

YOU EAT
YOU NEED WARMTH
HOT SHOWERS

OBTAIN—

GAS COOKING
HEATING
Hot Water Appliances
from

WELLINGTON GAS Co.

For all Gas Equipment

the background of the genetics picture. There is, however, a much more prominent foreground which is the situation as usually considered by the layman when referring to the "Lysenko controversy." This latter aspect will be elaborated in a later article.

"B.G.H."

Continued from P. 3.)

themselves and their "defence" with all the self righteous seriousness of a parson playing bridge, something like this can be produced to cast a little gentle derision at all the most fervent of causes.

ELECTIONS AND FRESHERS

THERE must be a number of freshers—and non-freshers too, for that matter—around the place who say "What is the Executive? Who are these people?"

In just over a week, the Association will be able to decide the latter question for itself: we'd like, for the benefit of those who haven't much idea, to outline the executive set-up.

Every year about this time—at the end of June—the Association gets the chance to select a new executive. Obviously, with over 2000 students here, it wouldn't be possible to run the affairs of the Association without some sort of permanent body.

This consists of 13 people. Five of these are officers of the Association; that is, they are chosen directly for the offices they hold. These are the president, the men's and women's vice-presidents, the secretary and the (new office of) treasurer. Apart from those officers, there are four men and four women committee members. Once they are selected, these executive members meet at odd intervals, seldom less than once a fortnight, to get through the business of the Association. And there is a fair bit of that, ranging from the control of all the finances of the Association, to the indirect control over all student activities and behaviour. Extravaganza and Procession are their responsibility, so are the occasional staff student affairs. And then there is, of course, the Cafeteria.

That 32/6 of yours is administered

by these 13 people, and from a purely mercenary point of view, it is as well to know how the money you pay in is spent.

The voting for all Executive positions is by a preferential system. When the student goes into the main hall to vote next week, he will be given a paper with the list of candidates on it. These are to be numbered in order of preference, starting at one and working down to seven or eight or whatever the number of candidates is. From the time the voting closes, the Returning Officer and his assistants take over—and it is no mean feat to get the 700 or more votes counted by the time the results are to be announced at the AGM two nights later.

So that's the story. You know what you are voting for and how you vote. We can only hope now that you will be among those who do vote. Out of 2300 and more students last year, less than one-third of the possible number actually used their votes.

We hope that you will be one of the people who will see that the number is higher this year.

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