

Only 263 shopping days to Christmas!

GUILD NEWS

Thursday, Jan. 21,
1960. No. 564

3^D

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham.

REFECTORY RUMPUS

WHY, why are we waiting so apathetically for the University evening meal service to improve?—How long are we going to let things slide?—Are we going to wait until the students start suffering from anorexia (loss of appetite)?

What's the big fuss about?—At the beginning of last year the evening meal service was transferred to the University Refectory with the installation of waitress service at the Union. This change over was due to the long queues in the Union, the increase in the number of students and the forthcoming transfer of Ed. Street.

Farewell Angus

As the final abandonment of Guild Club draws near, the old familiar figures depart rather than await the last lingering goodbye. Alf is no more. Now the list of immortals bears a new name—"Mr. Walker."

This cheerful, optimistic, confident of the pools fan represents the spirit of Guild Club, Mr. Walker and his scottie "Angus" were inseparable. We shall miss those little wet patches in the Guild Club corridor. He (not the dog), had a remarkable understanding of student mentality.

Any excesses committed in the Mermaid received a paternal blind eye, as he was always loath to quash youthful exuberance. He had an encouraging word for all who passed his office.

It is sad that his departure is just one aspect of the general decline and neglect of the University Guild Club. This building contains many features of University life which the Union, and the vast emporium that it is becoming, can never hope to imitate.

JUSTICIAR.

After a trial period of three months, the whole situation was debated at length. Most students were not satisfied with the service offered to them in the University Refectory. Their main complaints being the lack of variety, the atmosphere in the Refectory itself and the cold food. We were then promised by the University Refectory Committee that they would definitely improve the situation if we gave them the opportunity to do so. Upon this guarantee Guild Council decided to continue the evening meal service at the University.

In the summer we saw the new decorations and the installation of a new hot plate, but the lack of variety, which was our main complaint, seems to have been overlooked.

The service has been in operation for exactly a year. Surely this is ample time for any establishment to study the needs of its customers and not only study them but satisfy them wherever possible.

A protest meeting was organised last year by a number of students who were dissatisfied with the existing service then in operation. Although the University Refectory Committee disregarded its memorandum, ruling it out of order and that it had nothing constructive to recommend, it surely showed that there was dissatisfaction among students concerning the service.

Continued on Page 3, col. 4

'THE BARTERED BRIDE'

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BRIDE

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SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

Over £500,000 project starts this summer

THE University Council has approved plans for a new building which will accommodate the Physical Education Department and provide a University Sports Centre available for use by all students and staff. It will also incorporate the University Health Centre with facilities for the University Medical Officer and his staff. It will replace the present building, containing a gymnasium, squash courts and lecture rooms, built in 1939 and now quite inadequate.

Student numbers have risen from 1,700 in 1939 to 4,000 at present and it is anticipated that there will be 5,000 by 1965.

The estimated cost of the project is £550,000 and it is hoped to begin building the first stage in the summer of 1960. The remainder will be completed as and when the necessary finance becomes available.

EXCELLENT FACILITIES

The Sports Centre will consist of a sports hall, two large and five small gymnasias, eight squash courts, a swimming pool 110ft. by 48ft., and a rifle range, all adjoining the existing running track. The changing and ancillary facilities include 4,000 lockers for allocation to students. This accommodation will also provide for students using the adjoining playing fields. Spectator accommodation is included beside the swimming pool and in the sports hall, and galleries are provided for the gymnasias and squash courts. A feature of the centre will be an all-purpose, all-weather outdoor play area with an adjoining rebound wall 80 yards long. Since the gymnasias require to be top lit in order to provide extensive rebound wall surfaces both internally and externally, and since the site is a sloping one, the design consists of terraced levels between the existing running track and the lowest level of site some 35ft. below, to the west.

The gymnasias, teaching, administrative and changing facilities have been grouped below these terraces accessible from an entrance forecourt adjacent to the main University Ring Road. Projecting above these terraces and related to each other are the sports hall, squash courts and a boathouse, while poised above an "atrium" which forms the main entrance concourse, is the swimming pool.

TREMENDOUS SCHEME

Although the whole project will have a sleek and streamlined appearance, the main "identity" of the Physical Education Centre will be provided by the swimming pool and the sports hall. As Mr. Munrow points out on the Sports Page the nearness of the new Refectory will possibly result in the Sports Centre area becoming a social meeting place and thus relieving the pressure on the Union building. Once the centre is in operation there will also be no need for any changing accommodation in the Union basement—what a wonderful day that will be!

It is really a tremendous scheme, and Birmingham will undoubtedly have the best sports facilities of any university or club in the country.

I would like to mention in particular Dr. Charles Oxnard (formerly chairman of Athletic Union) and Mr. A. D. Munrow for their unflinching enthusiasm throughout the planning of the project. Charles Oxnard, as the real instigator of the Sports Centre, must be very proud indeed that his ideas have been turned into reality through the generous and wholehearted support of the university authorities.

DAVID SHAW
(Sports Editor)

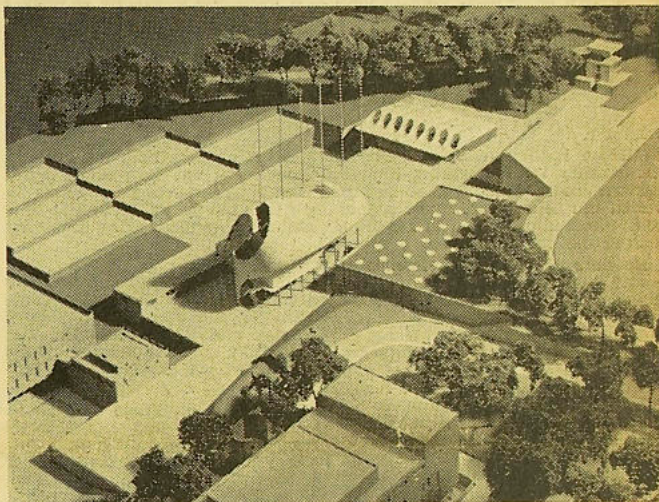


Photo: Alfred Cracknell, London

See Page 5 for further comments on the Sports Centre by A. D. Munrow and Professor M. Stacey

A photo of the model of the Sports Centre. Taken from the south-east overlooking the new University Refectory, it shows the swimming bath poised above the entrance forecourt and the barrel-vaulted roof of the Sports Hall beyond.

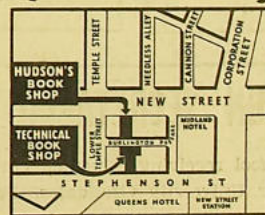
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GUILD NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER

THE UNION
EDGBASTON

Tel. Sely Oak 1841

EDITOR Mark Seaward

editorial

Another year rolls in—like the rolling stone which gathers no moss, the University Union year will conform pretty much to plan. "The Vernon Grill" menu looks the same (we wonder just how many copies of this were originally duplicated?); the cigarette and chocolate machines eat the same, gobbling up the money with no returns. The University Refectory service maintains its usual antediluvian standards; the beer in the bar is apparently having the same effects, despite its warmth.

There are, however, noticeable changes within the Guild: the External Affairs Chairman has gained a beard at the expense of the Guild Treasurer.

We should like to draw your attention to the Special General Meeting on Tuesday next, at which will be discussed the issues of the South African Boycott Movement within this University.

Guild Theatre Group are back in harness with a new production, and renewed ambition. We must take this opportunity of congratulating them on their recent successes at Oxford.

Mr. Peter Coultas, last year's Sports Editor, is swimming strongly for the Midlands and recently appeared on the television. Following in the latter's wake, Mr. Dave Shaw, this year's Sports Editor, had mention on the radio last week.

The Editor and Staff would like to wish, however late, all Guild members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.... and please endeavour to blow away those cobwebs once in a while and contribute to these columns.

Press Post

Dear Sir,

THERE is to be a Special General Meeting of the Guild on Tuesday, January 26, to consider a motion concerning the boycott of South African goods. Since it is to be hoped that at this meeting the issues involved will be discussed, those supporting either side would do well to have some information from which to argue. Below I have listed a few books and articles that may be a help.

Keesings Archives (on reference in Social Studies Reading Room of the library) has a number of factual reports on S.A. affairs and has a full and concise report on the passage of the University Apartheid bills (pages 15799, 16844 and 17031). Those who sincerely feel that we cannot really know whether the treatment of Africans in South Africa is just or not without being there, should read in Keesings Archives some of the reports (see index) on the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill or the Native Laws Amendment Bill, etc.

A short history of S.A. and a discussion of Apartheid and various constitutional problems can be found in South Africa by H. M. Robertson, a lecturer at Cape Town. He is sympathetic too, but critical of the present policies. The Science and Freedom booklets (No. 9 and 10) discuss University Apartheid and each have an article giving the case for apartheid. These will be on sale for 6d. each at lunch-time, Friday, January 22.

To fully understand the situation and the feelings behind apartheid, the summary of the Tomlinson Report should be read; it is the report of the original Government Commission.

Yours, etc.,

A. M. CONNING.

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REFUGEE WORK CAMP IN AUSTRIA

MOST of the refugees in camps in Austria have been there since the end of the last war. There are some from as far back as 1917, resettled between the wars only to be uprooted again in the 1939-45 period. The total refugee population in Austria is now 43,000.

The Hungarian refugees who flooded into Austria after the uprising in 1956 are now to a large extent settled. Many have emigrated to other West European countries and North America. Many, too, have been integrated within Austria, leaving only 19,000 Hungarians still classed as refugees from the vast influx of three years ago.

Those who remain in this class are also in a fortunate position; some have settled in Austria with permanent jobs; many are young people with opportunities for emigration, though an increased emphasis is being placed on the integration of these young Hungarians within Austria. Financial and other aid has been given to this group and little practical help can be given to them through work camps.

The "New" Yugoslav groups in the camps arrive in a steady stream crossing the frontier. They are forced to escape for political reasons. Others find it easier to obtain emigration visas from Austria than from Yugoslavia. They also find it easier to obtain employment. This group of refugees mainly take jobs in agriculture where there is a labour shortage, but they have to suffer very low wages.

ED. STREET COLUMN

CALLING you Rupert from Edmund Street grim:

How's the work going I'm in the swim!

My tutor don't love me; lectures I hate.
Sometimes I miss 'em or else I go late.

The corridor's draughty, the common room bleak.

Coffee here's lousy, it's wet but it's weak.

The food is insipid wherever I dine;
Thinks will console me on landlady's wine.

There's gin in the lounge and champagne in the store,
But there! if I touch it, she'll only get sore!

I've spent all my money, I'm now in the red,

Due home for Easter, and feel pretty dead.

Must make an effort and be nice to dad,

Use my persuasion if business is bad—

Allowance is shocking, expenses insane,
But mother gets migraine the times I complain.

On with festivity, bury my woes!
The torments I go through! Nobody knows.

Yesterday breakfast, for instance, you see,

No cream with my cornflakes and Indian tea!

Cold eggs and bacon and primitive bread,

And those who look sullen can make their own bed.

Evening's no better: How can you relax

On a sofa that sags and digs springs in your back?

TV's not working, the radiogram's broke

And if we want heating we just have to smoke.

Exams in the offing, the brain that was mine

The third degree victim of mental decline.

Oh, who's to preserve me from sorrow and sin,

The evils of lodgings and Edmund Street grim?

Here's to the Union! And may you sleep tight

Whilst I light my candle and work in the night!

BLOODY MARY.

The remainder of the refugees still in camps are what are termed "Old Refugees." They particularly deserve our sympathy, compassion and practical charity to help erase the tally "old" if we are to have any sensitivity towards human misery at all. They include Ethnic Germans and Russians, Poles and Czechs.

The Ethnic Germans, the largest group in Austria, mainly originate from Yugoslavia where they had been settled before the Second World War, after which they were persecuted by the rising Titoists.

The foreign speaking group of refugees are so diverse in background that in this report it is impossible to give a general picture of them. Their problems are those basic to all refugees.

About half the refugees in Austria are still housed in camps which were built as forced labour camps or as army barracks. The former type, to which the camp we were connected with in Linz belonged, normally consist of long, low wooden huts, housing up to ten families each. Each family has one or two rooms. Each barrack shares the washing and sanitary facilities. The buildings are often cold and damp in winter and the sewerage disposal leaves a lot to be desired. It is therefore no wonder that ill health, especially tuberculosis, is common in the camps. The tuberculosis rate is as high as 25 per cent. among the older residents.

Our work was to give voluntary assistance to those refugees who were building their own houses. The progress of the building was completely by the amount of money each family could save from what they earned and from long-term loans. Construction takes four or five years, working each evening and at the weekends. The building work is a family affair since the idea of men being the workers is very alien in these surroundings, and women join in manual labour with great zest.

The people building their own homes are contented, hardworking and, essentially happy. They are seeking the security offered by their own home. All are employed, although earning lower wages than Austrians in similar positions, they seem grateful for any employment at all.

The officially termed "difficult to settle" refugees present a different problem. Continual movement and continuous unemployment has bred apathy. They refuse any employment offered them and adopt the attitude that the government have looked after their needs in the past and must continue to do so. Much of their social work is being done among this group. Some measure of success among those given a fresh start in Sweden has been achieved.

In our work, however, we only met those who in the face of past disappointments are willing to start their family life again in a foreign country by the difficult yet rewarding task of building a home. We are privileged to have helped these courageous people in a small way.

This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED JANUARY 21)

THE NEW FUNDAMENTAL PARTICLES

(First of three talks)—1 The First Fourteen
O. R. Frisch

THE UNPASSING MOMENT

(A talk marking the anniversary of the birth of Chekhov)
William Gerhardi

LANDFALL IN UNKNOWN SEAS

Jack Bennett

THE DISAPPEARING GOD

A conversation between J. P. Corbett and the Rev. Ronald Gregor Smith

PICTURES AT BIRMINGHAM

Quentin Bell

and other features

A BBC PUBLICATION

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6

More rights in danger

THE year 1959 must surely go down in the annals of the Guild as one of the most disturbed ever. The year 1960 will show whether the trouble which has smouldered unsatisfactorily will be guttered and die out, or will be kindled into a flame of fundamental change or even of outright revolution.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It all seemed to begin with the celebrated *Guild News* headline, "YOUR RIGHTS IN DANGER," under which the first news of the then proposed catering changes, which by then had been virtually fixed but only for a so-called experimental period, was given publically, much to the wrath of the President.

There then followed at the end of the Spring term, the dramatic resignation of the Guild Secretary, Mr. M. J. Heseltine, who openly accused the President and the Executive of hoodwinking Council and the Guild as a whole, and whose resignation was demanded by them before he was given a chance to make a statement to Council.

The rest of the session, amidst threats of Special General Meetings, saw the crowning farce of the ratification of Guild politics re-enacted—the Presidential Election—and then came the annual examinations, summer vacations spent in catering factories or on the Riviera, and so last term began.

AUTUMN TERM

Yet again trouble bubbled under the surface. There was a lively A.G.M. of the Guild when the new President, many felt, adopted an unduly thwarting attitude when signs of healthy discussion began to emerge on several occasions. Since then, there have been rumours of Special General Meetings, votes of "No Confidence" and counter-rumours of face-saving pressure from above. There was a recent article in *Guild News* on the scandal of Guild Elections, followed by rapid speculation and talk in the Guild, and finally a document by Mr. J. Betteridge on the workings of the Guild entitled "Is the ordinary member really necessary?" was issued to Guild Councilors.

One thing is clear. The present state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. It is unsatisfactory; it is unhealthy and there are many who believe that behind the frills, it is undemocratic.

THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION

Steps must soon be taken to revise the Guild Constitution if only to bring it up to the needs of the larger Guild with its larger Union. Let us look at some of the faulty elements of our present system of administration, and consider its present value and its possible future.

The skeleton outlines of the system of Guild administration as it stands at present is a President and a Vice-President (by the constitution, of opposite sex to the President) who are elected by the Guild; Guild Council, elected by the constituencies of the Guild; the Executive which (except for the President and Vice-President) is elected by Council; and standing committees, elected by the Council, which in theory work out the policy of particular departments of the Guild. This often leads to something being discussed in triplicate by the Executive, the appropriate Committee and Council.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

In place of this, the following system or something similar, would have much to commend it. A President, a Lady President, and a specific number, say four, of Vice-Presidents, would be elected by the Guild as a whole. They would replace the present Executive in status if not in function. The Vice-Presidents would be on hand to deputise for the Presidents whenever necessary. Guild Council would be based on its present constituency basis with minor amendments to the present set-up. Detailed agenda of all Council meetings would be widely publicised

in the Guild for a reasonable period (not less than four days) before every meeting. All members of the Guild, whether Councilors or not, would have the right to speak at any council meeting. Only Councilors would be allowed to vote, except where the Chairman ruled otherwise, or where a majority of all those present ruled that non-councilors should be allowed to vote. This last point is arbitrary and details would have to be worked out more precisely. The majority of the standing committees of the Guild, as policy deciding bodies (including the Executive) would cease to exist.

General Meetings of the Guild would be held under present arrangements. With all students able to participate in Council Meetings, the need for a Special General Meeting of the Guild would be even less than at present, but it would remain as a safety valve.

REFLECT

If any of you are muttering such remarks as "Wild," "Unrealistic," "Far fetched," or even the celebrated "Wind and puff," don't be too hasty in your judgment. Let us see how justified this attitude is by a closer look at some of the present administration.

Theoretically, the standing committees are policy-making bodies of the Guild where the brass tacks are hammered hard, yet without any loss whatsoever, and possibly an increase in the efficiency of the running of the Guild the majority could be abolished. THE EXECUTIVE ITSELF COMES UNDER THIS. IT IS A BASIC EVIL OF THE PRESENT SET-UP THAT THE EXECUTIVE MEETS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. ITS DELIBERATIONS ARE SECRET; ITS MINUTES NEVER PUBLISHED. EXECUTIVE OFFICE STANDS AS A SANCTUARY, NOT BEHIND A VEIL BUT RATHER BEHIND AN IRON CURTAIN. ALL DECISIONS RELATING TO THE GUILD SHOULD BE TAKEN OPENLY BY THE GUILD AT ITS COUNCIL MEETINGS. ANYTHING ELSE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A DIRTY WORD.

COMMITTEES

Some of the chief committees could quite justifiably go out of existence. It is blatant effrontery to assume the responsibilities which this committee involves. What is the point of having a paid and fully qualified staff when we take it upon ourselves to do part of the job?

As regards Guild Publications, officials are appointed by Council and should be answerable direct to Council. Policies are a matter for the individual staffs of each publication and the Guild as a whole. A committee for this purpose is superfluous.

The activities of external affairs in recent years, have taken up far too much time and attention in the Guild. In many ways for a long while, the Guild's administration has revolved round N.U.S. affairs and some of its major elected officers have had duties at N.U.S. headquarters, and matters of internal administration have had to take second place or be arranged to fit in with such activities. We have become swallowed up in a N.U.S. mania.

Before the die-hard supporters of the established order shake their heads in rage or dribble down their beards in fury, may they just pause

REFEC. RUMPUS

Continued from Page 1, Col. 2

Recently I received a number of complaints from members of the Guild about the lack of variety in the meals served there. I myself went and ate there for the whole of last week and found that there was occasionally one proper meat dish apart from the standard dishes, for example, eggs, sausages, fish-fingers and meat pies. Last Monday when I did not find any additional dishes apart from the ones mentioned above, I complained to the Catering Supervisor and I am afraid I received very rude treatment. I was told that he usually tried to produce one joint or liver or some sort of meat dish every day. One is not enough choice, and occasionally we don't even find one item as I proved to him on Monday. Furthermore, when I pointed out that people were not satisfied with the present evening meal service and that he should have a look at the variety offered at the Union during lunch hour, I was told by him that why didn't I eat in the Union if I was not satisfied with his service. A fine statement from a Catering Supervisor who should be trying to attract people to eat at the Refectory so that he does not run at a loss. When I told him that I did not like his statement I was accused of being a damned nuisance and to clear away from the place. It is rather unfortunate that I cannot make any comparison between the Union lunch-time menu and that of the University Refectory, since I was bluntly refused the menu for the whole week.

'WHAT DO YOU WANT?'

When I went again to see the Catering Supervisor he said the following, without letting me utter

a word: "What do you want now? You are a proper nuisance, why don't you clear away from this place? I want you to get out of this place immediately—I have no time for any more complaints. If I hear any more complaints from you I will report you to the University Refectory Committee"—I wish he would!

Here are the facts. It seems that we are living under a totalitarian system as far as the University Refectory is concerned. Are we going to put up with it? Can we not, in the most democratic country in the world, raise our voices against a system we are not satisfied with? Is the University going to appoint people who are so apathetic that they are not prepared to accept any comments on their services and also have the nerve to call a person who complains a damned nuisance and ask him to clear out of the place.

Something drastic must be done so that not only do we get a proper service but if anyone does take any complaints to the Catering Supervisor he will be treated politely. But nothing can be done if only a couple of people try to do anything. What is needed is for anyone who has a complaint to come forward with it. This might be your only chance to get this situation straight once and for all.

Don't sit apathetically waiting for some miracle to change things for you—if you want better conditions in the Refectory bring your complaints in writing to myself or our representative on the University Refectory Committee (John Paling).

Note: This is my own personal opinion as an individual member of the Guild, and does not represent the views of the Executive.
S. K. M. JIVANI.

A man who loves machines

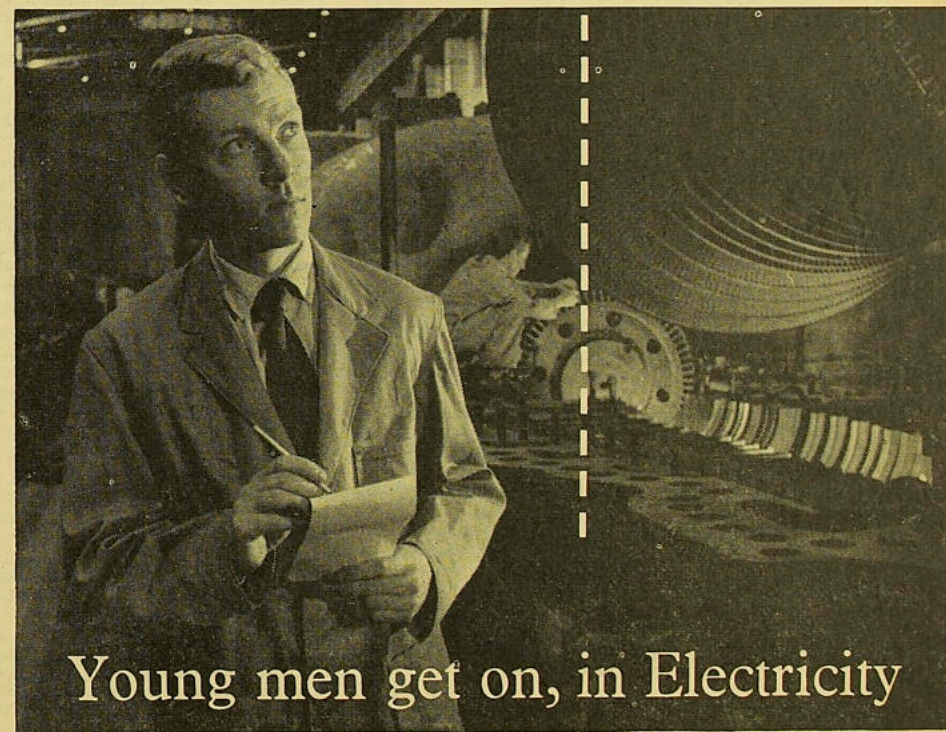
Age: 27. Joined Electricity Supply as a graduate trainee. Put A.M.I.Mech.E. after his name last year. Job: Assistant Maintenance Engineer in a power station. Hobby: Making working models.

It's his responsibility to keep the turbines in action and see they're stripped down for overhaul when they need to be. They're 'his' turbines and he cares for their health like a doctor. In fact, it's because he loves machines—the bigger the better—that he chose to work in power stations. The salary's good, too, and likely to be even better later on when he's Senior Charge Engineer—which he's fairly sure to be before he's forty.

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HERE AND THERE

The University has started the new term in a blaze of press publicity, unfortunately not of the decorous kind appreciated by the authorities.

Mr. Vincent Powell-Smith, himself a well-known "revolutionary," has himself been the victim of revolutionaries, in circumstances which to even the most objective onlooker seem a little incongruous. Mr. Powell-Smith was the recipient of a printed yellow card with a printed swastika and the words "Juden Raus." With commendable public spirit he has unleashed bloodhounds, in the shape of the Birmingham Police Special Branch, to trail the culprits. He has also called for an international campaign against Anti-Semitism.

Another well-known political campaigner, Mr. Brian King, has acted promptly in attempting to stem the flood of Nazism by organising a protest march of the Liberal Society for next Saturday. No comment has so far been forthcoming from the other two political parties in the University.

The swastika painting orgy has been somewhat over-shadowed by a more serious matter (NOT the Bardot baby). As a result of the Y.W.C.A. murder, Winterbourne and University House are now under police protection and stricter rules have been introduced for the rest of the term. This has somewhat offended the vanity of some of the University's male members. Girls in "digs" have however, been left to their own devices and although they may view the colour of their boy-friends' hair with a certain amount of trepidation, they have not been kept away from University functions.

J. and J.

M.R.D.S. and ME

To see M.R.D.S. jive is sufficient to make his audience wonder whether he is not deaf. Not that our friend and yours cannot jive, his unfortunate defect is that he seems to be jiving to some cerebral, heavenly music emanating from the far-beyond of the bar, a music far-removed from the solid, earthy beat which directs and diverts everyone else. To see M.R.D.S. with eyes glazed and jaw tucked firmly between his collar-bones, on the floor of the Debating Hall was the pleasure given us at the Jazz Band Ball last Wednesday. Once or twice the music of Mr. Acker Bilk broke through into that brain which U.F.A.W. is endeavouring to preserve as an object of scientific interest—when it did M.R.D.S. was unfortunately removed from the floor, his long lean neck tucked beneath the arm of some public-spirited student from the College of Art.

Having given up jiving, M.R.D.S. and his friends adjourned to Exec. Office, where the Seaward Sock Scandal was revealed. Not wishing to despoil the furniture of that august room, his friends removed their shoes and socks. But not so M.R.D.S. We insisted he desisted. Then the scandal broke. The Seaward Sock System was exposed to the waiting world. M.R.D.S., apparently, long ago decided that socks need not be worn in the same spirit as Mr. Acker Bilk's waistcoat. Therefore, he wears the woolly wonders till they grow stiff, crack and drop off.

Everyone knows you can't take M.R.D.S. anywhere, now you have to be careful where you take his socks.

M.R.D.S., however, continues to wind his happy blissful way through life and Grammar School fatigue.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

THIS meeting of the New Thinkers on January 12 took the form of a disputation between the Rev. Keith Wilkes and Dr. Fremlin, Reader in Physics, who spoke as a scientist and an atheist. Several important points emerged from this frank and cordial exchange of ideas.

The most striking of these was the change in attitude, over the last 50 years, of Christians towards science. They have become more open-minded and have re-interpreted most of their dogmas.

There seemed to be a great deal of uncertainty regarding the scope, realm and usefulness of the religious point of view. There had also been a decline in the militant dogmatism of some scientists. Dr. Fremlin said

he was an atheist because there was no evidence for the existence of God. It was not necessary to disprove the existence of God; he disbelieved in the same way that he disbelieved in the existence of fairies, although there is an extensive folk-lore which suggests that they exist. He did not accept the view that a system of ethics must be based on a religious faith; the emergence of moral values could be explained very satisfactorily on an evolutionary basis, and this accounted for the variation of values between different societies. R.M.S.

TWO LEARNED DIVINES

Medieval Disputation

DEBATING Society and the Newman Catholic Society once more combined last Thursday evening in presenting a Medieval Disputation, the thesis of which was that "Ignorance is Bliss."

Father Edmund Hill and Father Nicholas Polan, O.P., of Spode House, Rugeley, argued for and against the thesis respectively. To a house commendably full in the prevailing arctic conditions, Fr. Polan first explained lucidly the history and technique of the Medieval Disputation; then his opponent proceeded to establish his thesis. The measured grandeur of the syllogistic argument was made clear as the two clerics argued their case, their movements mirroring the steady unhurried calm of their speech; the formal tread of these occasions can never be caught by the normal debate and has an appeal all its own. About half way through Fr. Polan deftly turned defence into attack in proposing the converse thesis, that "Knowledge is Bliss," which he did, to quote his opponent, "in a typically Hibernian and amoral manner." Thereafter the thesis was open for comments and objections from the floor; it is pleasing to be able to report that these were more numerous than of recent years, some objectors even essaying the syllogistic form themselves. Perhaps it is indicative of a certain intellectual irreverence that most objections were to the second thesis.

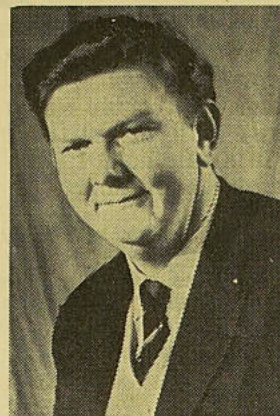
The meeting, with Miss Wood as an unobtrusive chairman, was a further success for what is now established as an annual event, and our thanks are due to the two learned divines to whom this is of course due.

R.J.W.

Opera Profile

MATTHEW ENGLAND

and JOHN GRISWOLD

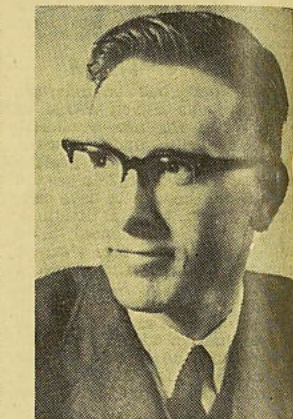


Matthew England

Photo: Dolphin

IF you see two very "arassed young men" wandering round the Union looking as if they have the cares of the world on their shoulders, the chances are that they will be Messrs. England and Griswold. And the chances are that they will have the cares of re-creating a world of 19th century Czechoslovakian peasants. And the material they have to hand to accomplish their task? Twentieth century students! Wouldn't you look harassed? They need not worry unduly however, for they are producing the "Bartered Bride," an opera which, though not written by Gilbert and Sullivan, is none the less a very lively and enjoyable one, quite capable of carrying an audience with it.

John Griswold has been an associate musical director in the past, working under Ian Marshall on last year's "Ruddigore," and Cliff Peartree. Now he has an opportunity to tell other people what to do—and like Matthew, he



John Griswold

Photo: Dolphin

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Jack Frost freezes up most of the early-term sport

THE SPORTS CENTRE
"...a great opportunity and a challenge"

by A. D. MUNROW, Director of Physical Ed.

The new Sports Centre presents us with a great opportunity and a challenge. I see the new buildings as a social centre in the University offering opportunities for contacts which cut across the cleavage lines of department and faculty at both staff and student levels and also offering opportunities for staff and students to mix.

Of course the Athletic Union Clubs will welcome it; and surely it will avoid headaches for fixture secretaries of the five clubs who at present battle with each other (and with the Physical Education department) for space in the gymnasium for fixtures and practice; surely, too, it will relieve women's club officials of the embarrassment they sometimes feel now when they conduct visiting teams to the inadequate and overcrowded changing facilities in the Union. Naturally all these keen players will use the Centre. They simply need the doors open—that is all.

But there has been a very vigorous growth of inter-faculty sport in recent years and beyond this, some extensions of casual play of a wholly unorganised nature. Much of this aspect of sport here has been characterised by a thoroughly light-hearted approach to activities; happy rabbits and formidable hares have joined together playing just for fun.

The proximity of the Centre to the main Refectory and Staff House is very much to be welcomed. I think we shall see many people walking on the main promenade roof, watching casual games of tennis or volleyball or strolling into the Sports Hall to see an inter-faculty basketball game, and within the building we shall see many students and staff energetically engaged in squash games or leisurely swimming or perhaps just enjoying a sauna bath.

When the University demands on the Centre by the keen athletes and the casual players are fully met, there may still be some spare evening hours or vacation free time. If so, then our Centre provides another social opportunity, namely for us to make contact with the local community by offering training or coaching facilities to promising youngsters or gifted local athletes. It is too soon for this to be more than a distant vision and certainly we must first see how fully the University community itself makes use of the facilities. My private ambition—now made public—is for our Centre to be in use throughout the day, six days a week and fifty weeks a year.

"...our standards must improve"

by Prof. M. STACEY, President Athletic Union

AS one who has been associated with this University for more than thirty years I consider that the bringing into being of this fine Institute of Physical Education is one of the most important and exciting things that has ever happened within the University.

Since the war some of us have been concerned with the major task of creating new buildings for highly specialised teaching purposes, especially those technological. A good deal of this job has already been accomplished as also has that of settling our Arts Colleges at Edgbaston. We can now think about and plan this Institute, the Halls of Residence, Refectories and other matters of interest to the whole University and to students in particular.

It is my experience that students are most relaxed and at their best when taking part in, watching, or even discussing sport; indeed some of my happiest friendships with students have been made through common interest in sport and athletics, so that I am confident that the Institute will help enormously to further staff-student relationships. As president of the Swimming Club, I particularly welcome the new pool. For too long now the teams have struggled valiantly with the difficulties of their "away" matches but soon they, with Max Madders, will be proud hosts to teams even up to international level.



Professor M. Stacey

into being this great project, which is bold in conception and with Mr. Chamberlain's guidance unusually exciting architecturally.

With these new facilities and with increased playing field accommodation soon to appear within the Green Belt, and with greater numbers of students here, our standards must improve. We shall be able to emulate Oxford and Cambridge in providing a large number of representatives for county, national and international matches in all forms of sporting activities. I am very proud to be associated with Mr. Beale, Mr. Munrow and other colleagues in bringing

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GUILD
NEWS

TABLE-TENNIS

Midland U.A.U. title

For the second successive year, the University has won the U.A.U. Midland Area Championships. At the end of last term, a 10-5 win over a strong Loughborough side made absolutely certain of this, as we had already gained comfortable wins over North Staffs, Leicester and Nottingham.

By this win we have a place in the Semi-Finals, away to the Northern Area Champions, who will probably be Durham, the reigning U.A.U. Champions.

The ladies' team fell by the wayside in the W.I.V.A.B. championships, mainly due to the fact that we were unable to field our strongest team throughout.

J.G.F.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL SPORT

THE new term sees departmental sides ranging from ladies' netball to rugby, fighting for positions which will now count towards the Inter-Departmental Cup.

A new venture is to be tried whereby departmental soccer and rugby sides will have financed away trips to colleges, R.A.F. bases and other university departments, so that not only will the pitch shortage be eased but a team spirit developed. It is hoped that most departments will have at least one trip.

The leading teams last term were:

Rugby: Elec. Engineering.
Soccer: Chemistry and Physics.
Basketball: Staff.
Badminton: Chemistry.
Netball: Education.

In the other sports (table tennis, hockey and squash), results were not sufficient to truly judge the leading teams.

The rugby (seven a side), soccer (six a side), basketball and table tennis (three a side), knock-out tournaments will take place this term. Any department or society can enter, the last day for entry being February 1.

R. J. HEITZMAN.

editorial

MOST teams playing outdoor sports have remained idle so far this term. Frost and snow have turned the playing-fields into empty white wastes. Only the football teams managed to struggle through on Saturday, but if conditions do not deteriorate further most sides should be able to show their paces on Wednesday.

Towards the end of last term, certain of our ladies were covering themselves with honour in London. There were a series of trial matches at Moots Park from which the W.I.V.A.B. and Combined Universities representative teams were chosen.

As a result, Kathleen Cunningham and Val Catliffe gained places in the W.I.V.A.B. hockey team and Kath was again selected along with Rita Thompson to play for Combined Universities. Margaret Sillock and Mo Mannall were also successful gaining places in both W.I.V.A.B. and Combined Universities teams. Margaret is to be especially congratulated on being chosen to captain both those sides.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

VICTORY IN THE SLUSH

BIRMINGHAM U. 3, NORTH STAFFS 2

Birmingham were eager to avenge last term's defeat by North Staffs, and despite a treacherous slippery pitch they kicked off and immediately attacked strongly. Constructive football kept the visitors' defence at full stretch but they resisted stubbornly and it was left to wing-half Youles to put Birmingham ahead when his drive from outside the penalty area was deflected just under the bar.

North Staffs tackled tenaciously while attempting to work the ball and levelled the score from a break-away. Roper and Fleming were both dangerous and the former was unlucky not to score after a brilliant diagonal run from the left wing, beating three men before shooting narrowly wide.

Centre forward Westwood spun a corner into the net with "Laker-like" skill, but once again North Staffs equalised when Fay was dispossessed

D.F.G.

M & B
It's
Marvellous
Beer

Finding
the
job
that fits
the man

This year, as before, many leading industrial and commercial companies are making full-page announcements in The Guardian describing the opportunities they have for school-leavers and graduates. They offer openings for arts and science students alike.

Perhaps this series will provide the starting point for your career. Perhaps too you will start another long association — that of a lively mind with a lively paper. The series began on January 18th and is continuing each day for several weeks. It may have just what you are looking for.

THE
GUARDIAN

Why
should we be
interested
in you...?

Only you can answer that.

For ourselves, we prefer to work with bright people rather than morons, because that's the only way we know of keeping ahead in the game.

Just how far ahead in the game are we?

Enough to be making one new car in four on Britain's roads today. Enough to have made 30.5% of last year's total overseas sales for the entire industry. Enough to be adding £50,000,000 to the £75,000,000 already spent on pulling this far ahead. Enough to have set ourselves a new challenge — one car in three at home and supremacy as exporters.

What about men?

A firm is as strong as its men — no stronger. So we look for those with brains and personality above even university average. Specifically, we want:

ARTS GRADUATES for marketing, purchasing and specialist staffs. Scientists too, if they want such careers.

ECONOMICS GRADUATES for financial administration, costing and market research.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATES for design, development and research.

We pay and train them well. They are encouraged to steer for the brow of the hill.

Your turn to talk!

If you want to answer our first question, please see your Appointments Board soon. They will give you particulars of

a career with **FORD**

SO NEAR - - - - - G.T.G. runner up at N.U.S.

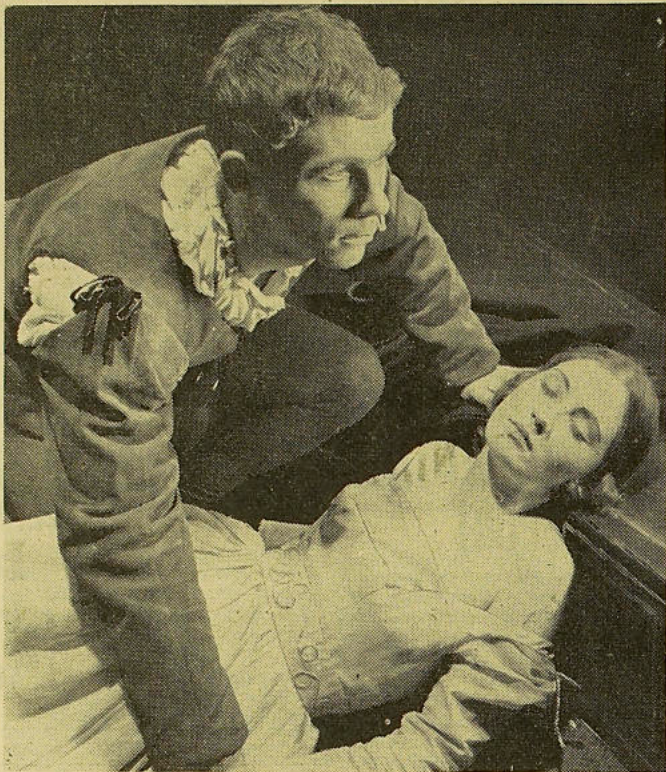
THE Fifth N.U.S. Drama Festival ended just after mid-day on Saturday, January 9, with Harold Hobson's adjudication.

The contest for the "Sunday Times" Trophy had been so close between the Durham Colleges' Dramatic Society and G.T.G. that he offered only one reason for awarding the trophy to the former's production of the modern "The Sport of My Mad Mother"—namely, that he liked the experiment. Three of the plays chosen to appear in the finals—"Hamlet," "Coriolanus" and "The Duchess of Malfi"—were written within the space of 15 years.

It is unlikely, had the fourth play been of the same period, that "The Duchess" would have been beaten. John Brown's production was very much praised and admired, especially for its high standard of verse speaking. Mr. Hobson wrote—"Mr. Brown accomplished what Peter Hall has promised he will do this year at Stratford. That is, he persuaded, cajoled, or bullied his cast into speaking much noble verse nobly."

To be fair to our producer, we must deny that he ever bullied. Rarely in fact did his seemingly infinite patience fail, and, he, and everyone concerned, is to be congratulated on an outstanding effort.

Our actors again brought home the laurels, for Rosemary Kernan and Geoff Hutchings were voted the best actress and actor of the Festival, a choice confirmed by Mr. Hobson, who said that Rosemary's had been the finest performance of the week. We also earned recognition from the B.B.C., who gave us almost "Rave" notice on the Third



Geoff Hutchings (Bosola) and Rosemary Kernan (The Duchess), the best actor and actress of the Festival, in "The Duchess of Malfi."

Programme on January 7, having shown our stage preparations on the newsreel the previous night.

This year's festival was considered the best to have been held so far, in the variety and standard of productions, in the intensity of discussions, and in the quality of lectures arranged. It was greatly helped by

being held in Oxford, where the theatre and halls used were all within easy walking distance of each other. (The same convenience should be experienced in Cambridge next year). The programme of events was most varied, with plays ranging from Greek farce to the ultra-contemporary lectures; and extremely lively discussions at which most productions were torn to shreds. Most unenviable was the position of a producer whose play was not well received! John Brown had not to suffer this, for "The Duchess" kept the standard set by Ralph Wilton's production of "Six Characters in Search of an Author" last year, flying high. As a result, the Guild Theatre Group is one of the foremost student theatre groups in the country. Luckily this position is recognised by our "home" supporters. Our one regret over "The Duchess" was that we had to turn away some prospective members of the audience through lack of space. There are two more productions being staged by the group in the near future—"The Bartered Bride" (January 25-30) and a double bill of "Moderns" Miller's "The Memory of Two Mondays," and Genet's "The Maids" (February 29-March 3). We hope that we will not have to disappoint anyone this term on either side of the footlights. What does this mean? Allow us to explain. An expansion programme is being planned starting this term, to give more opportunity for budding producers, actors, etc. This will take the form of the production of various scenes, which will be seen and criticised by a leading producer in the professional theatre. No one can know what latent talents he has until they are put to the test. So would anyone interested in producing or acting please watch the notice boards for further details of this plan, and for the audition notices for the One Act plays to be performed during the last week of term.

K. W. HUDDLESTON,
N. R. COLLINS.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
INDIAN STUDENTS' SOCIETY
REPUBLIC DAY
CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY, JAN. 24 at 4 p.m.
in the UNION, EDGBASTON
Tickets 3s. 6d., incl. refreshments

SAME MEAT Different gravy

THESE past weeks there has been singularly little of interest showing in the cinemas of Birmingham. Bergman's pot-boiler "The Face" is a glorious piece of hocus-pocus in which Bergman sets up his usual symbols and examines the occult and the mysterious. But having so many loose ends in the plot and in the range of possible interpretations of his aim it is impossible to think that the film is anything but a laugh at the expense of the audience, though Bergman's laugh is concealed up a sleeve of enthralling characteristics. Horror, then, au Bergman.

One feature of films which seems illogical is the way in which some critics use their interpretations of a director's films in order to write a childish psychoanalysis of that director. Bergman has suffered from this approach; one journalist was surprised when Bergman told him that relations with his mother were pleasant and harmonious. The illogicality of this feature, apart from its over-generalised nature, is that it is applied only to those directors who have caught the popular fancy. What of other directors?

Showing last week in Birmingham was a minor film entitled "Five Gates to Hell," a story of a French hospital and its nurses during the early years of the Indo-Chinese War. The nurses are carried off by a local guerilla band to attend to the injuries, received in a very peculiar manner, of the warlord. The excess nurses having been shared out among the guerilla band, with running repairs carried out by two surgeons, the lieutenant, a gentle psychopath, is left with the only fine, full-blooded, anti-Communist nurse—the American blonde. Finally, the denouement; the six nurses and a nun escape from the warlord's citadel, carrying off machine guns, grenades, pistols and rifles, with an inexhaustible supply of ammunition and then proceed to wipe out their pursuers, the guerilla band headed by the resurrected lieutenant, killed twice already, in groups of six at a time.

The intricacies of the plot are boring, except insofar as they reveal the mind of the producer-director-screenplay writer, one James Clavell. Rather amazing is the mind of James Clavell; something of a misogynist, though he puts great faith in women when barbarity replaces civility. But here the women are ranged against the men, the male helpers of the women having failed them, and they come out on top too. I suppose its one way to visualise the ultimate conflict. Added to this are rape and general slaughter brought in with such an emotional intensity that the subject material is only of interest to students of the grotesque. It's all in the mind, you know.

K.R.C.

Personal Column

SCHOLARSHIPS ABROAD, 1960-61. Apply immediately to the British Council, 65, Davies Street, London W.1.

DO YOU SPEAK PROPER? Mr. H. C. Honeybone will tell you (and Deb. Soc.) how at 5.15 p.m. to-day in the Women's Common Room, at the Union.

THE STONES CRY OUT. THE LATEST FACT AND FAITH FILM, SHOWING SUNDAY NEXT AT 8.30 p.m. AT CHAD HILL COTTAGE. ALL WELCOME.

PHOTOGRAPHY. Any subject considered; reasonable charges. Apply to J. H. GUNN via Union Pigeon Holes.

ICELAND, E. GERMANY, AUSTRIA: W.U.S. has vac. courses there and elsewhere during the long vac., 1960. Further details from Miss Juliet Humphries, W.U.S. Secretary, via Union Pigeon Holes.

WANTED URGENTLY... Muzzle to fit Police Dog. Please contact Chancellor's Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS, Anita and John on your engagement—Sandra.

EDITOR REQUIRES plastic bucket, reinforced paper bags urgently.

WHETHER YOU'RE SHORT OR WHETHER YOU'RE TALL DON'T FORGET GUILD DINNER AND BALL.

UNION LIBRARY. Open Monday to Thursday 12.30 p.m.—2 p.m., Friday 4 p.m.—5 p.m. is constantly buying new books of general interest.

A Special GENERAL MEETING

OF THE GUILD OF
UNDERGRADUATES

will be held on

TUESDAY, JAN. 26, 1960
in

THE DEBATING HALL

at 5.15 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 1959.

2. Consideration of the following motion:

"That this General Meeting of the Guild of Undergraduates of the University of Birmingham:

(a) Protests against the action of the South African Government in its policy of segregation in higher education.

(b) Regards a boycott of South African goods as a means of expressing its disapproval.

(c) Urges Guild Members to participate in such a boycott.

(d) Urges the Guild to refrain from buying those goods listed by the National Union of Students.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY JEWISH SOCIETY present THE HAMLET OF STEPNEY GREEN

A sad comedy by BERNARD KOPF

on

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 and

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

in the

DEBATING HALL at the UNION

Tickets available in Union and

Guild Club each lunch time.

Miss Edith Pitt, O.B.E., M.P.

will address the

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

on

SOCIAL SECURITY.

IS IT NECESSARY?

Men's Lounge, 5.15 p.m., Jan. 22

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BIRMINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

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The idea that having an account with a nation-wide bank like the Midland is something reserved for people of substantial means is a fallacy. So also is the belief that banks are interested only in those who are older and already established. The Midland Bank is interested in YOU—and all young people like you. You would find a bank account extremely useful and with the Midland's Personal Cheques the cost is only 6d. a cheque—5/- for a book of 10. There are no other charges of any kind. If you require more than Cheque Book service—and there are many other Midland Bank services—ask for a Current Account. You cannot be far away from any of our 2,230 branches. Call in next time you're passing; you'll be very welcome. This is an open invitation.



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