



NIC

Film Soc.
 "IL TETTO"
 and
 "NAPLES THE ANONYMOUS"
 Thursday, Nov. 29th
 7.30 p.m. Mech. Eng.

REDBRICK

Deb Soc
 THIS HOUSE WOULD
 LEGALISE ABORTION
 Prop.: Prof. Unger.
 Opp.: Prof. Ninian Smart
 5.15 Thursday
 Council Chamber

No. 625/10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1962

Price 3d.

President goes down well at NUS Council

SPORTS FEDERATION GETS A POUNDING

FRESHERS GET SOCIETY GOING

THROUGH the praiseworthy efforts of several freshers, the Combined Subjects Society is on its feet again.

The Combined Subjects course is for Arts students who wish to study two subjects at the same standard throughout the degree course; this involves dividing one's time between the two subjects, and "Combined" students may feel themselves lost in both the Departments concerned. It is to bring these students together that the Combined Subjects Society exists.

For the last few years the society has been inactive, mainly, it is thought, because students were never together for any lecture. This term, however, a lecture course by Dr. Sheppes-Roe on a general topic was arranged, compulsory for "Combined" students. The freshers decided to revive the society and formed a Committee, with Mr. M. Lacey as Chairman.

TODAY

NEWS	1, 7, 9, 18
POLITICS	2
REVIEWS	4, 5
SPORT	13-17
DAVID LODGE	6

WUS RAISE £65 IN STUDENTS' WEEK

Auction the tops

EVEN though takings remained virtually unchanged, International Students' Week was described after its completion as "very successful" by the local WUS representative, Pat Sweeting.

"Although the amount collected, £65, was approximately the same as last year," she said, "we feel that we have got WUS over far better; more people have realised that we are doing something useful." The exhibition in the New Entrance Hall had been a major contributor to this.

Miss Sweeting, however, was not completely satisfied. "Even though the week has been a great success, £50 is still only 3d. a head, and this is not a great deal when one considers the needs of the overseas students."

"We must realise that disasters such as that in Chile extend far beyond the few days in which they hit the headlines. The people need money for much longer than that. WUS, unlike other charities, de-

Colleges turned down for world events

by REDBRICK reporter

THE Birmingham President, Rodney Klevan, was loudly cheered by 600 delegates and observers at the NUS conference at Margate over the weekend as he said, "The Guild would withdraw its money from the British Universities Sports Federation if we feel it is necessary as a protest against its policies."

He was speaking in a debate on an emergency motion attacking the BUSF for its policy of excluding technical and training college students from the World University Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro next year.

"Birmingham can give a lead in this way," said Mr. Klevan, "because there the Guild of Undergraduates, and not the University Authorities, put up the money for the Sports Federation."

The BUSF was strongly criticised by both Government ministers and University representatives for its action.

David Taylor, of London University, said, "If student sport is to be split on a gentleman versus players basis, we are not prepared to stand by and see it happen." He quoted a letter from Lord Hailsham who said, "It seems to me students of our bigger technological institutions should certainly be allowed to compete with University students in these events."

The retiring NUS president, Gwyn Morgan, poured scorn on the BUSF

for its "disgusting attempt to remove colleges from international sporting events." They were acting, he said, like an oligarchical university clique.

Sir Edward Boyle, the Minister of Education, said that the colleges were being treated almost like "glorified secondary modern schools."

The motion against BUSF was passed overwhelmingly. All the Birmingham delegation supported it and Mr. Klevan promised to bring the matter before Guild Council if the NUS indicate that it has been unable to reach any satisfactory agreement with BUSF.

Old ships

On Saturday a proposal was put forward from Southampton University for taking over old ships to ease the accommodation shortage among students. Mr. James MacFarland, a former merchant seaman and now President of the Southampton Union, said that one vessel he had looked at would cost £300,000.

"This would provide accommodation for 500 students," he said, "the

same amount of money is being spent in our University to provide accommodation for only 180 students."

The conference decided to hold a massive protest week in 1962 against the lack of accommodation and demand an emergency government programme to overcome what Jim Daly, the vice-president of the Union, called, "This incredible famine of lodgings."

On Monday there was overwhelming support for a motion which called upon the NUS executive to hold an enquiry into the reasons why so many people who took on Union work failed their examinations. Many speakers expressed alarm at the number of people who were coming to grief this way.

The executive is to report its findings to the next meeting of Council, which will be held at the University of Keele, next Easter.

During the Conference the Birmingham delegation gave the retiring president Gwyn Morgan, a gift as an appreciation for his very friendly relationship with this University.

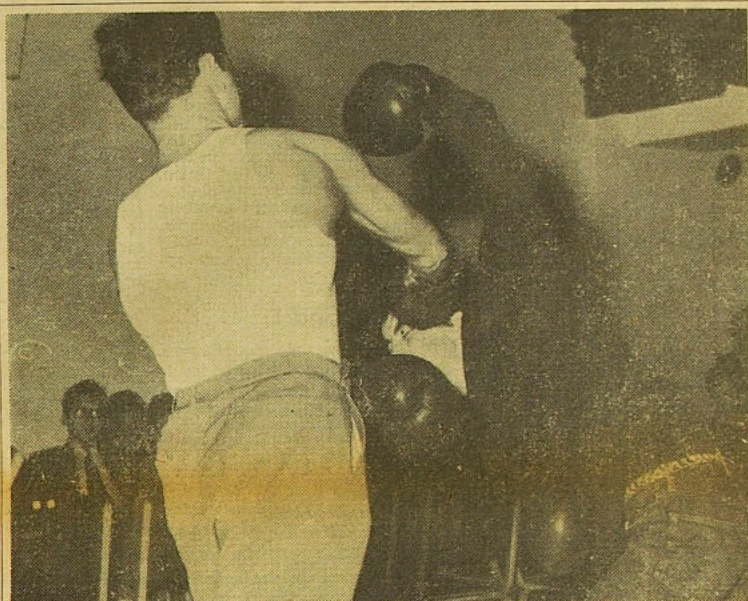


Photo: ANDREW HORNIG

● Dave and Zivko battle it out at the WUS boxing match.

DAVE GIVES AWAY THREE STONE AND WINS

WUS'S second stunt, the Boxing Match, nearly mishled. "Big Jim" (Engineering), billed to meet Zivko ("I go mad at anything in red") Jaksic (Chemistry) did not appear. Anthony Goodridge Tottle, dressed to look like an unshaven referee, thought Big Jim was still asleep. In fact, Miss Pat Sweeting refereed beautifully.

The situation was saved by an unknown contestant, "Dave." He beat Jaksic over three rounds. He kept hitting him.

Giving away three stone, Dave fought like an angry kid, going forward all the time. Style is vanity for this boy. He danced round the ring (have you seen him at hops?) elbows flapping, and hid his arms, deceptively, behind his back.

Jaksic maintained the classic boxer's "ready" pose, and never went much further than that.

MILK MACHINE FOR UNION

AT last the Union is to have a milk machine. The decision of Catering Committee was approved by Union Committee and ratified at last week's Guild Council.

The machine, after much deliberation as to siting, will be placed in the corridor leading from the Union shop to the courtyard, and the Coca-Cola machine is to be moved from its present position outside Vernon Hall to stand alongside the milk machine.

Haworth block already under repair

PART of the new Haworth Chemistry Building, only officially opened in July this year, is already in need of repair.

Cracks appeared in several ceilings in laboratories and studies, and when testing was being carried out by the builders Wilson Lovatt Ltd., to ascertain the cause of the cracks, a large portion of the plaster fell down, leaving a hole about three feet by one foot in one of the rooms.

Some ceilings were taken down and reinstated by the builders in the long vacation, but more cracks have since appeared and many of the ceilings are now being propped up by wooden poles.

Wilson Lovatt's say that the cause is due to failure to make the ceilings strong enough to carry the lighting, and also to the partial emergence of the screws holding the ceilings in place.

Although there is no immediate danger of the whole of any ceiling collapsing, they are liable to bowing in the middle and there is a constant danger that pieces of plaster will fall down.

LATE NEWS

7.45 p.m. Tuesday

Observer Mace Debate 1st round result—

Nottingham and Brum through to next round.



POLITICS CONSCIOUS

• Big crowds come to hear big names. This one was listening to Reginald Maudling last week.

A TASTE OF POLITICS

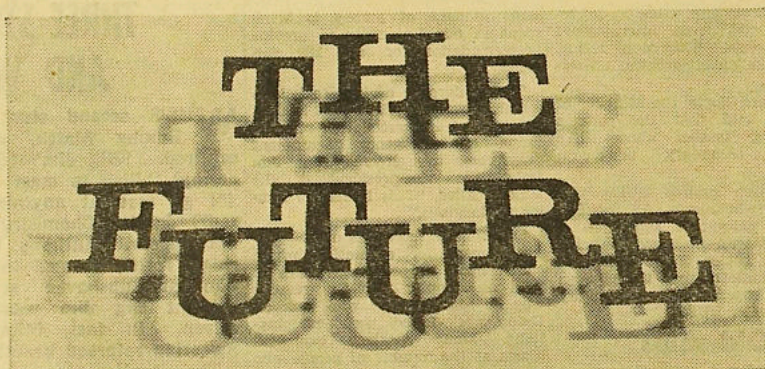
"I DON'T really know how I came to be a Conservative," said an eminent member of the University Society. One can interpret this remark as fatuous, and typical of this particular kind of political affiliation. Or one can dignify oneself with the virtues of patience and "intellectual doubt," and credit the speaker with sincerity and lack of glibness. Of course, if one feels it necessary to make any interpretation at all, it would be better to ask many more questions.

Some students readily align themselves with one or the other of the available political ideologies or parties. "Like religious affiliation, the choice is closely related to personality," claimed a sociologist. The purpose of this article is to collect some of the general attitudes towards politics that are prevalent in the Union, and to indicate the way opinions are reached. Prominent members of each of the Communist, Conservative, Liberal and Socialist Societies (alphabetical) were approached.

Short

As far as possible the students were chosen from different faculties. The answers given were short, and spontaneous. So no

While few of us wish to know the future, many hope—reasonably—to have a hand in shaping it; and this requires acquaintance with what may lie ahead. But traditional methods of probing the future are no longer in favour. Crystal-gazing has obvious limitations. Witches are prophets only of ultimate doom. So today one turns, in the first instance, to the appointments officer for the pathways to the future. We, for our part, would like to elaborate what lies along one of them—Unilever Research.



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claims can be made for providing "instant" politics, and one generalises at one's peril.

With the exception of the Conservative, whose "father is a lawyer," presumably a Conservative—they all said that their home background played little part in the brand of views they held. The Conservative (Law) had "developed his views rather than changed them."

A Liberal (Chemistry), who admitted to distaste of the Conservative, said that he had, in fact, converted from Socialism to the Liberal view.

Two sociologists, one definitely left-wing, but not Communist, the other "uncommitted," but leaning towards the left, who both came from working-class homes, claimed

that their opinions were uninfluenced by their backgrounds.

One of the sociologists said that he preferred the Socialists as people. There was "feeling and unpretentiousness" among them. The other sociologist said that she "did not like the idea of Socialism as a class party." Practically in its appeal it was; but, intellectually, it was not a class party.

The Communist (English) said that his background had influenced him, but not in the sense

Pictures and article by ANDREW HORNIG

of a prevailing social or political atmosphere to which one could conform or react against. Both the Conservative and the Liberal found it hard to isolate any sort of propaganda in British society. Rather, they viewed all the means of communication as "a platform from which a great variety of slogans and opinions were shouted." "Nothing comparable exists in Russia."

The Communist selected "that Soviet Russia as the threat to world peace" as pernicious and effective propaganda alone. "Advertising was the necessary propaganda of a capitalist society."

The Conservative had never really altered his standpoint. Neither had the Liberal nor the Communist, since they had come to the University.

The Conservative read very little outside the newspapers. He felt it more important to follow current events, than to pursue further the theoretical issues involved.

Freedom

The key phrase of the Liberal was "freedom within a framework of law, which would maintain society." He was anti-Communist on ideological grounds, "since they are against freedom and private property." At this stage, he was prepared to accept his basic principle, and would act upon it. He was already involved in Party activities, outside the University. "The Guardian" and "Telegraph" gave undistorted accounts of facts, and he enjoyed

reading books like "The Constitution of Liberty." A study of history and law, and its foundation, would help the refinement.

The Communist believed in the basic tenets of his party and also that Communism was "a total outlook, encompassing all the activities of man. At the same time it was flexible, and incomplete, and capable of development." He read the "Daily Worker," as an antidote to all other papers "which are pro-Government," and more difficult literature, for example "A Theory of Supply Values."

Fascism

One Socialist (Law) owned up to having resorted to Fascism at school, in order to avoid being a Communist. Not least amongst his reasons for his present equilibrium, was his suspicion that the Conservatives, "under Mac, had no noble ideals."

He had been attracted to Communism, at first, since it seemed to provide a panacea for all evils in an attractively logical framework. Now he found Communism based "on false assumptions, and inhuman."

The sociologists were more readily articulate about their approach to thinking about politics. Their study could not show them the ends for which society should aim. At best, the conclusion that could be reached was that a relative scale of values was required and "value judgements" must be made. Philosophy helped to illuminate the problems.

Vacuum

The University was at once an advantage and disadvantage to serious political thinking. One was free from the necessity to earn a living, but hampered by "inexperience and thinking in a vacuum." Ideals might be lost when one was forced to compromise with the world outside.

Formation of worthwhile views required "a tolerant mind, ready to face all problems, coupled with 'inexperience and thinking in a vacuum.'" Ideals might be lost when one was forced to compromise with the world outside. Formation of worthwhile views required "a tolerant mind, ready to face all problems, coupled with 'inexperience and thinking in a vacuum.'" Ideals might be lost when one was forced to compromise with the world outside.

GUILD THEATRE GROUP THE KILLER by Eugene Ionesco Translated by Donald Watson DEBATING HALL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26th to
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st

Tickets on sale in the Old Entrance Hall.

REDBRICK comment

The Birmingham University
Students' Newspaper

A farce of an election

IMAGINE a House of Commons where 200 members were unopposed, 200 seats were empty because no one would bother to contest them and only 200 of the M.P.s had to go to the great inconvenience of having to put up any sort of fight.

A farce? Of course it is. But this is a fair enough analogy with the freshers' elections to Guild Council.

Out of 22 constituencies, over a third were not contested at all and in another six only one candidate was nominated. So out of 1,200 freshers, only 500 were able to use their vote. But even where there was a contest, the voting figures were ludicrous. In Mining and Geology only six votes were cast, in Biochemistry only five people could make the effort to visit the polling booth.

The Guild authorities made every effort to get candidates. Posters were everywhere, nomination forms could easily be obtained and the Permanent Secretary did all he could personally to get people to stand.

The only explanation for such a pathetic response can be that on top of the complete disinterest of the freshers themselves, some of the Guild Councillors are not doing their duty properly. How many of them told the freshers that the elections were coming up? How many of them encouraged freshers to stand? Those who didn't failed in their duties. Those who didn't even bother when they saw in the preliminary lists that no-one was standing for their constituency are not fit to be Guild Councillors.

★ ★ ★

Bad designing

INCONVENIENCES in the old buildings of the University have to be put up with as generally they can't be helped. But in new buildings there is no excuse, everything should be as perfect as it can be.

The new Mech. Eng. extensions are a good example of lack of co-operation between the designers and the people who have to use the building. There are no lavatories, no running water and no cloak-rooms. The lecture offices can only be got at through the workshop and the only real entrance is the one that already exists in the old Mech. Eng. block.

The tragedy is that people will have to put up with these conditions for a hundred years. The designers should get their share of curses during that time.

Editor - Mike Coe
Assistant Editor - Celia Layzell
Business Manager - Roger Griffiths

the union,
the university,
edgbaston,
birmingham 15.



PRESS POST

OVERWORK, NOT UNDERWORK

SIR,—May I supplement your interesting lead story on the Freshmen's residential course held at Ross-on-Wye by the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science?

The course was an experiment in bringing new students together in friendly groups for the purpose of academic and intellectual discussion among themselves, with older undergraduate and graduate students, and teaching members of the Faculty. The academic value of the exercise has still to be assessed. As a means of promoting friendliness and ending isolation among newcomers, and of stimulating intellectual interests, the experiment was an undoubted success. Many students are voluntarily keeping alive the discussion groups, formed at Ross.

Some students have encountered difficulties in getting grants for the course from local education authorities, but I have heard of no case of outright refusal when the Registry has explained to the authority the character of this requirement.

The behaviour of our students at Ross was excellent. We have testimony of this from several townspeople, and the hotelkeepers who put us up have asked us to come again. If I have any criticism of the programme at Ross it is this: too much work was required of the students and they were allowed too little time for informal and unorganised discussion. I know that I listened to one lecture illustrated with slides which lasted for 100 minutes. But it is always better to overwork than underwork, particularly when one is an undergraduate.

Yours, etc.,
PROF. H. S. FERNS,
Dean of the Faculty.

IT WASN'T ME, I TELL YOU

SIR,—One sympathises deeply (between outbursts of hysterical laughter) with the disastrous predicament of Hairy (Nov. 21st) but may I make a point?

His pseudonym could hardly have been less fortunate, since his letter appeared, those of us with a modicum of hair on the chest have suffered deeply from curious glances, and "Was it you, in...?" etc.

On behalf of the hirsute, may I plead, NO, it wasn't. Mind you, to have heard what he heard must surely have been worth a lengthy sojourn in such a place.

Yours etc.,
EVEN HAIRIER.

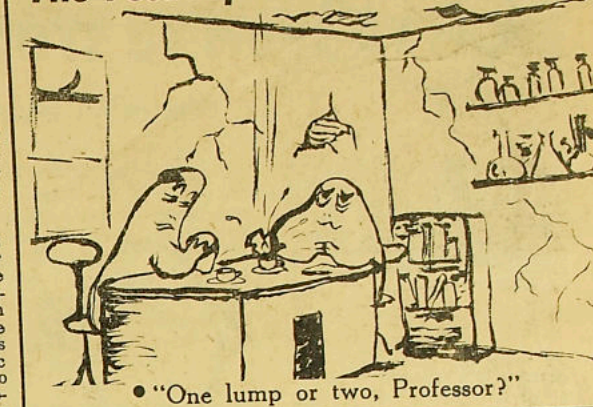
GET UP AND CHEER

SIR,—With regard to the front-page article on the Ross-on-Wye experiment I feel that there are several points which need further clarification.

Many may ask: "Why was the course held at Ross, away from University premises?" Apart from being the most suitable headquarters from which the new steel works at Llanwern, the coalfields of the Forest of Dean and the new town of Cwmbran could be reached, it provided the means of bringing all the first-year students together. Thus, without the many distractions that the University has to offer, it was possible to compress into the short space of a week a series of lectures and visits which endeavoured to make the student, and this is the impor-

The Pseudopods

by 292



• "One lump or two, Professor?"

tant point, aware of the close inter-relationships between the individual subjects into which Commerce and Social Science are divided.

One of the most successful features of the week was the discussion groups. Small groups of eight people met once a day to discuss the lectures given the previous day, but there was enough flexibility on the part of the group leaders, third-year students or post-graduates, to allow the discussion of a wide range of subjects relevant to the social sciences.

Summing-up

Finally, those students who listened carefully to Dr. Eversley's summing-up lecture, and most of them did, were treated to what was perhaps the best lecture of the week. The warm-hearted applause with which it was greeted conveyed not only appreciation of an interesting and thought-provoking hour, but also, thanks for the preparatory work done in large measure by Dr. Eversley, which enabled the Ross course to take place.

One student who, when asked for his opinion of the last lecture, said: "I felt like jumping up on my chair and cheering!" This, I thought, described the inspired feeling with which most students returned to Birmingham.

Yours, etc.,
ROY BUNN.

CENSORSHIP, GOOD AND PROPER

SIR,—It would give me great pleasure to reply to the main criticisms in Messrs. Lee and Webber's first letter, but I am unable to do so, since I cannot find them. What the letter said was, that the two gentlemen were disgusted by and did find amusing, a certain article of "Wall," no reasons for this distaste being given.

The only answer to this is that no one else amongst those that I have consulted by the item mentioned. (Not many were particularly amused either, but this is immaterial.) Future editions will be submitted to the Lord's Day Observance Society, "The Daily Express" and South Africa House for censorship before publishing.

Yours etc.,
D. VINE, BIRMINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Offered
Believing that Dr. Cadbury would have wished this, and in order to assist the Islamic Society, the St. Francis Hall Committee has for many years offered hospitality on an ad hoc basis to the Society for its Friday prayers. No room can be made available for the exclusive use of any society, Christian or otherwise, under the terms of the Hall's foundation.

Perhaps suitable premises will be made available close to the University for the sole use of the Society, in the way in which other Christian-Jewish centres operate. There will be many like myself, who will give every encouragement to such a venture to provide adequate facilities for Islamic prayer worship.

Yours etc.,
KEITH WILKES.

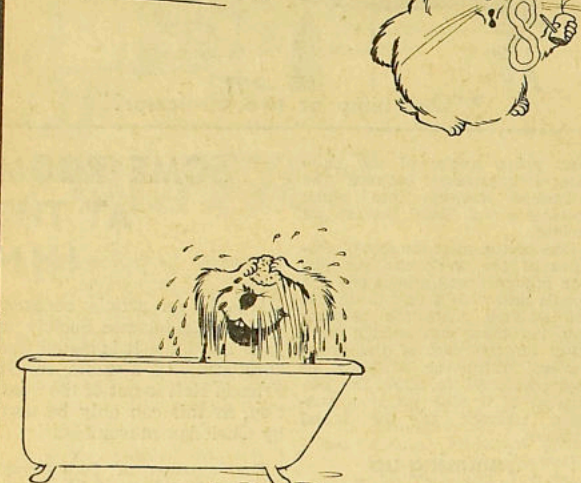
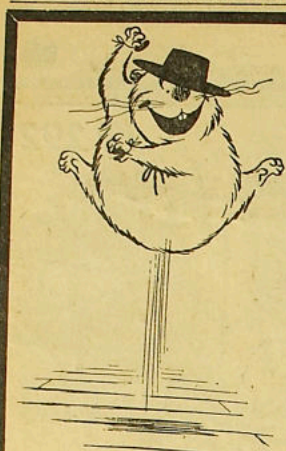
Correspondents are reminded that the editor must be supplied with their full names.



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• Some views of Max, Giovannetti's internationally known cartoon character.

Books

THE NOVEL IS A LIE

Malcolm Bradbury

THE theme of the lost paradise, the idea that somewhere we have left behind us a great, good past, is a recurrent one in twentieth century fiction, even among writers we think of as radical, modern and advanced. Though often represented by liberal-minded students (one said to me, eight years her senior, apropos of "The Waste Land"; "He seems to think that the past was better than the present, and it wasn't—was it, Mr. Bradbury?") it is a theme of imaginative truth and artistic importance, and often co-exists with a highly advanced aesthetic and an experimental attitude towards form.

The great period of international experimentalism and enquiry in art, which produced Joyce, Proust, Mann, Eliot, manifests the spirit repeatedly, and it is in this tradition that one would want to place Vladimir

Nabokov, whose new novel "Pale Fire" (Wiedenfeld and Nicolson, 21/-), has just appeared.

Nabokov's novels are full of exiles, emigrés, refugees from a now closed paradise. It is on the one hand pre-revolutionary Russia, Liberal but not Marxist. But it is also a world of art, art as a solid centre of value, and a world of childhood innocence. The pervasive symbol for all this is the butterfly, or the dead young lover, or the lost country; and the important thing about these figures is their fleetingness or unreality.

Word-games

In one way, Nabokov's novels are about perception. In both "Invitation" and "Pale Fire," all the other characters are perceived through the eyes of the narrator. The chief secondary character in "Invitation" is Dolores Haze, in "Pale Fire" John Shade, while in each case the narrator turns out to be a madman or potential liar. Both books start out with the objective truth of the method of scholarly discourse, but unreality quickly breaks in.

Nabokov's point is in fact that art is not reality. Novels are

just words, and become in fact word-games. The names of the characters are puns or anagrams or emblems, while the book develops by acrostics and word-games. "Pale Fire" is at the extreme of the aesthetic novel; the book itself is a butterfly, a fleeting and unobtainable experience to take pleasure in only for itself. There are critics who find this trifling, my own view is that it is in fact enormously significant. In our own century, the novel has moved from objective to subjective truth; now here it becomes no truth at all.

The novel is a lie, but it offers all the reality that a novel can genuinely offer. Like Beckett, whom he resembles, Nabokov is a comic novelist, a splendidly comic one, concerned with nothing less than the absurdity of reality and our perception of it, and so with the absurdity of the novel of the novel form itself. And yet the faith in art remains. It is like the lost paradise, something from which we are alienated but which because of its distance from us has a kind of assertive truth, stolen from reality, just as the moon steals its pale fire from the sun.

and by a more honest exploration of the psychological impact of parental desertion, which could have made a first-class play.

In this respect, indeed, the play was ultimately inarticulate. Another annoying artistic defect was the author's attempt to point the moral. Thus, heavily-loaded remarks ("I was always brought up to think it was wicked, so don't take any notice of me!"—the grandmother to the daughter), formed an anxiously rich and corny diet for the viewer's sympathies.

The final, tear-jerking reconciliation scene between mother and daughter was similarly obtuse, psychologically unsound, and an embarrassingly obvious "deus-ex-machina" ending to an exhausted play.

There were occasional touches of close realism: "Marg," the helpful, earthy rough-diamond, was very well drawn; but, on the whole, the play was over-anxious, badly written, and rather carelessly produced.

REVIEWS

John Sheppard

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Films

THE screenplay of "Advise and Consent" (Odeon) was written by Wendell Mayer from a novel by Alan Drury. The film reveals the political machinations which follow a President of the United States' nomination of a new Secretary of State. The nominee (Henry Fonda) is called to answer the cross-examination of a Senate sub-committee. The chairman, a young senator who is radically opposed to Leefingworth, becomes the focus of all the pressure groups within the Senate.

Bolster

The dying President desperately needs Leefingworth to bolster his party's morale and carry on his foreign policy which he has instituted during his term of office. The right-wing faction of the Senate fears that Leefingworth will be soft over Communism. They also fear he will follow a policy of appeasement if a crisis occurs rather than defend the rights of free democratic society by attacking the enemy before Communism storms the citadel of the American home.

An old wily senator from South Carolina, Zeke Couly (Charles Laughton) launches a vicious campaign against the egg-head from Chicago, Leefingworth. A mixture of truth, mud, lies and exaggeration is ground into an obnoxious paste and smeared down the white-fronted ideals of the prospective Secretary of State.

Couly brings a witness before the committee who testifies that Leefingworth was once a member of a communist cell. The neo-McCarthyists lick their lips and visualise a nice pile of dry wood. But Leefingworth denies the charge and shows that the witness is a victim of America's society, having attended one of her mental institutions, thus nullifying his testimony.

However, behind the scenes Leefingworth admits to the President that he was young and searching for an ideal. When the politics of the communist cell failed to satiate his intellectual requirements he dropped out and one is left to assume that he found his ideal in the world of federal chicanery.

Mailed

The factor which is so pleasing about this film is that the faction which is for the President's nominee is shown to entertain the same brand of dirty politics and underhand dealings as the one led by Couly. They dig deep into the dirt, which accumulates around every individual during his life, and find that the chairman slept with one of his fellow soldiers during the war.

A letter and a photograph are mailed to the chairman's wife, urging her to bring her influence to bear so that the committee's approval of the nominee can be rapidly finalised. The thought of political and domestic disaster is too shattering and the chairman steals quietly into his office and cuts his throat.

Zeke Couly and the leader of

the majority do a deal. Zeke agrees to keep his mouth shut about the deeper implications of Leefingworth's former leftish tendencies, if the leader sways the Senate. This leaves the individual members of his party have given him and that they are free to vote on the President's nominee regardless of party ties.

Platitudes

Up to now Otto Preminger has produced and directed the film past all the obstacles of clichés and platitudes which abound in an adaptation such as this. He now introduces an ironic twist which unfortunately is too theatrical to be acceptable. The Senate meets and casts its votes, 57 for, 57 against. This leaves the President of the Senate, who is the Vice-President of America, with the casting vote.

He is a powerless little man, caught half-way between the Senate and the White House, who has no desire to reach the lonely heights of power should the President die. During the count he receives a telegram containing the news that his fears have been substantiated. He refuses to select his own Secretary of State. The reasons for this are complex, personal ones. No doubt he is savouring his first taste of power and perhaps he is revenging himself on all his former colleagues for their continual rebuffs and indifference.

Frigid

The camera-work, unlike the direction, was frigid and dull. Preminger has mastered a complex story and portrayed it with realism. The acting was generally efficient with Charles Laughton giving an excellent performance.

The film ends with the new President walking quietly out of the Senate, shoulders bent under his tremendous responsibility which he will never face.

Cartoons

MAX RAMPANT

Dave Winnett

THREE varied cartoonists have just been published in Penguins. Of the three, by far the best was a volume of Max, drawn by Max, with some help from Giovannetti. To see this active monster (?) in a variety of situations is to spend half an hour with a continual smile and, very frequently, a broad grin on your face.

The subtlety of expression of Max's face has to be seen to be believed. However, after the first few pages, there is a certain inevitability about what will happen to him as he eats spaghetti, tries skiing or has a bath. But the subtlety and the occasional surprise remain, which make the book worth reading a few times.

The second tome is the "Penguin Charles Addams," Addams is a cartoonist in the "New

Yorker"—in one word, his humour can best be described as sick. One starts by laughing, but finishes with a sneer or a grunt. But his cartoons are admirably funny and sometimes he makes a moving comment, as in the last cartoon.

Any subject is good meat for him—religion, masochism, sadism and normal everyday events gone sour.

Sniggers

The third book is "The Lovers" by Raymond Peynet. Underneath a childish front lurks something far from innocent. I am not at all sure that I liked the tenor of this book. There were very few cartoons which brought more than a smile, and some produced a snigger. I quite failed to get the point of many of the cartoons, and some of those that I did follow I found distasteful.

Four shillings and sixpence is more than most would be prepared to pay for a few laughs.

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE

"THE BELLS"

By LEOPOLD LEWIS

Evening 7.15. Matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2.30.

Now booking for the Christmas production, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" (19th December for eight weeks). Box office open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mid 2471. Special rates for students on certain nights.



Photo ARTHUR BURGESS

• Jim Duckett as Berenger in the throes of his 20-minute final speech.

Music

MUSIC PLAGUED WITH GRIEF

Alan Smith

TRAGEDY and comedy are combined in tomorrow night's CBSO concert, at which Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder" will be sung by Norma Proctor. From childhood days to a late, unhappy marriage, Mahler's life was entirely tragic, a feature which was manifested in his symphonies and song-cycles; in this work, his preoccupation with death is acknowledged in the words, which were written by an equally tragic artist, the poet Rückert.

Introspective

Although Mahler was unmarried when he set these five poems "upon the death of children," this idea of painful grief constantly plagued him, until his music itself thrives on sudden contrasts of mood, with the tragic uppermost.

This song-cycle, like much of his music, is introspective and, like his other songs, may give an insight into the motive behind his massive symphonic works. Indeed, the transforma-

tion of motives, often associated with the symphony is prevalent here—the tempestuous chromatic opening of the last song, for instance, is miraculously transformed into a closing lullaby. This is only one of the many astounding transformations which abound in this cycle.

Mahler was extremely forward-looking and "modern," not an outdated romanticist, as his critics believe. Similarly, Brahms was not an outdated classicist, despite his conventional use of "classical" forms. His Second Symphony may rightly be condemned for its conservative approach but, viewed in its context as a relief after the pathos of the First, it holds a place of equal importance. The freshness of the first movement with its jovial horn opening, a cheeky scherzo-like third movement and exuberant finale, forms a relief in this programme to the Mahler.

Likewise, Strauss's tone-poem "Don Juan" is comedy of the highest order. Unlike Elgar's "Falstaff," performed last week, a note on the programme is essential, or some of the episodes will appear as an excuse merely for another outburst of mellifluous melodies. The tone of the

work is set with the initial flourish on full orchestra, after which an almost superfluity of rollicking tunes flow from the score. There is little symphonic development, however, which tends to isolate each episode from its environment, though perhaps the subject does not demand too serious a treatment.

Comedy

Comedy and gaiety are factors in the Bach Choir concert in the Cathedral on Saturday. Purcell's anthem, "My heart is inditing," for the coronation of James II, is one of his finest for Westminster Abbey. The elaborate eight-part vocal writing is enhanced by the string accompaniment, especially in the finale, when voices and instruments answer each other in joyful antiphony.

Britten's cantata, "St. Nicholas," in which he uses boys' voices, is equally jolly, though this does not mean that the work is of little musical value. Such magical moments as the assumption of boyhood into manhood, with the change from treble to tenor solo, could stem only from an acute ear for the qualities of the human voice, an asset which Britten shares with his spiritual predecessor, Purcell.

REVIEWS

Theatre

MOVE BY MOVE BY MOVE

Dave Winnett

IONESCO baffles with moments of brilliance amongst some mediocrity. There is much to interest and enthrall one in "The Killer," presented by GTG, and there is much to annoy one. The stage directions that Ionesco included in the play have been adhered to in their entirety. They are, in some parts, uninspired, and, this being so, the literal-mindedness of Brian Gatward, the producer, did not even out the irregularities of the play.

This is, to all intents and purposes, a one-man show with Jim Duckett (Berenger) as the one man. Without someone of his stage presence, the play would collapse into chaos. All the time he holds the audience and only occasionally does he flag in this strenuous part.

Unfortunately, the whole play, that is Jim Duckett, has been produced on a single level of tension. This is all right for so long, but after some time it wears on one and one is left regretting the absence of defined climaxes. Berenger is in continual motion, here and there on the stage. In the moments when he is still and quiet we see a remarkable and welcome change.

Gripped

The last twenty minutes or so are devoted entirely to Berenger, with no-one else speaking. It is here that the audience is most gripped. It is in this last section that we are presented with the most variety.

Fails

In his directions, Ionesco says of the end of the play—"the text should be interpreted in such a way as to bring out the gradual breaking down of Berenger, his falling apart and the vacuity of his rather commonplace morality, which collapses like a leaking balloon." Jim Duckett carries this spirit over to the audience with considerable finesse and economy.

Mr. Duckett has a tendency to over-use his hands. He has a

great variety of hand movements but a lot of meaning is lost by such continual use. In the part of the first act where he is making rapid circuits of the architect's desk, less use is made of these expressions, and when they are used, they are magnificent.

Static

The production was somewhat static. In the first act, we have Berenger exploring every corner of the stage, while the Architect remains stationary. There is reason in this case, because it is on the spot that he is that the killer finally stands. David Bird (Architect) gave a very creditable performance, with some superb facial expressions—this, apart from his voice, was his sole means of expression due to the style of the production. He provides the right contrast with Berenger throughout the act.

The beginning of the second act tends to be boring. The off-stage conversations do not come over well. Ionesco himself says that if this section does not seem effective enough, then part of it can be cut. Mr. Gatward should have taken the author's advice with regard to this.

The play indicates that the number of the audience should identify himself with Berenger, but this is difficult, even with the number of facets of Berenger offered, from "a smiling face in a smiling world" to moments of despair. The character was made unreal for me in the first act in particular, with the result that some of the effect of the last act was lost because much of the personal identification with Berenger was lost.

Fails

I have attempted to explain why the play fails in part, but I cannot fully explain some of my points without revealing too much of the plot which would spoil the play for those who have yet to see it. In essence this is a mystery tale.

The supporting cast behind Jim Duckett is in the main very good. Well worthy of mention are Paul Bentley (Edouard), Linda Dickson (Mother Peep) and Graham Davis (Man in Top Hat and Tails).

Theatre

THE BELLS! THE BELLS!

John Rogister

"THE BELLS!" Its dread name alone evokes crude melodrama fit only for 'ham' Victorian actors. Never was there a play which was so bound up with the personality of the actor who first took the lead in 1871—Henry Irving.

"It is I," says Mathias, the secret murderer as he makes his entrance, and from that very moment Sir Henry "nailed glue to the stage" in a way his contemporaries could apparently never forget. The Repertory Theatre's current production shows us that Leopold Lewis's famous play is not just a period-piece, and that it has suffered by being associated with Irving's vanished art.

Perhaps the bells that come to haunt Mathias in his guilt do ring in our ears with excessive frequency, for the Victorians liked their thrills to be concentrated, yet without such overemphasis the play could conceivably have been written by a young Ibsen. The idea of inner guilt, the loaded dialogue, and the sense of nervous restlessness are all there.

John Harrison's treatment of the play is hardly Victorian. Under his direction our kind of realism has replaced melodramatic bombast, while at the

same time no attempt is made to draw laughs (although the French did turn it into a musical once). Paul Carson who took over the part of Mathias at short notice does a successful "four de force"; I liked his quiet delivery of the burgomaster's more confident soliloquies and his rendition of apologetic death.

The sets are by Diana Dewes, and those for the last act with the judges who appear to Mathias in his dream swaying

momentously over his head in the scarlet glow of their robes are the most impressive. With all its faults "The Bells" reappears as a fascinating play.

So too is the curtain-raiser, Alfred Sutro's bitter-sweet dialogue "A Marriage Has Been Arranged" which is neatly despatched by Lesley Nunnery and Desmond Gill, who are only two of the "Rep's" actors who have to play several parts in this lively production.



• Paul Carson, centre (Mathias), who stood in for the leading actor in the Rep's production of "The Bells" at 24 hours' notice.

Photo: BHAM POST & MAIL

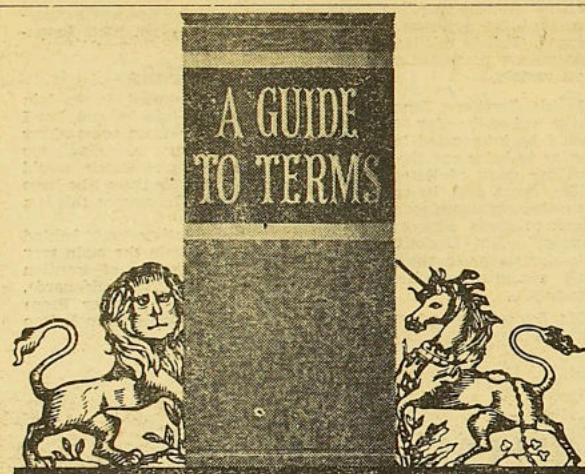
A Catholic writer faces a non-Catholic public



by Celia Layzell

From Ghoulies
And Ghosties
And
Long-Leggetty Beasties
And Things That Go
BUMP
In The Night
Good Lord Deliver Us!

MERMAID
OUT SOON



(besides the three compulsory ones)

WITH IT To be up to date. To be hip. To read The Observer (It.)

WAY OUT To be in. To be with it. To be hip. To read The Observer (out on Sundays, in seven days a week).

HIP The thing that stops your leg falling off. See also with it. See also The Observer.

READING THE OBSERVER Knowing what gives. Reading a square-shaped paper with a rounded outlook. Being with it. Which is where we came in. Which is where you go out. And make it to a news vendor. And make it now.

THE
OBSERVER

The paradox of a writer . . .

I TOYED with the idea of calling my first novel "Saturday night and Sunday morning" but unfortunately someone else had the same idea. It was eventually published under the title 'The Picturegoers.'

David Lodge, who recently published his second novel, "Ginger You're Barmy," has been a lecturer in the English Department for two years. Before this he studied at University College, London, and spent two rather reluctant years doing his National Service.

"There was a kind of paradox involved. I detested the army and resented the waste of time, but as a writer it gave me valuable experience. The academic profession is fairly comfortable, and like any other is circumscribed.

"In the army I met all kinds of people from all walks of life. However, this did not make me grateful to the army, or to National Service. It was an unpleasant experience, but it seems that most good writing comes out of unhappiness."

Mr. Lodge's second novel deals with the reactions of two young men who do their National Service after graduating. He shows the impact of this on an educated person, who belonged, by virtue of his education to the officer class, but by background and sympathy, did not belong to the army at all.

Of necessity, a novelist must base his work on his personal experience, and in Mr. Lodge's case it would be difficult to write a serious novel which did not reveal that he was a Catholic.

"Catholicism is the kind of religion which eats deeply into you

and affects everything. It presents much fascinating material for a novelist. One can invoke a system of imagery about Heaven and Hell and religious dogma. However, on the whole, Catholic authors have been referred to as members of the Pope's literary brass band.

"There are problems, however, in that one is not writing for a Catholic audience. When one is writing for the general public, one may be communicating a system of dogma which is repulsive to them. An audience's objection can be anticipated, and information about Catholicism can be filtered through a character unsympathetic to it."

Influenced

When asked which writers had influenced him most, Mr. Lodge almost inevitably named modern novelists, who were in the main Catholic.

"I like to think that Joyce has influenced me, and also Graham Greene. I admire Waugh, but feel that I have little kinship with his general view of life, and his general brand of Catholicism with its myth of the Catholic aristocracy. In particular I respond to Greene's urban seediness.

In reply to the criticism that "The Picturegoers" was all sex and Catholicism, Mr. Lodge said that it was largely written in 1957, when he was 22. "There was a certain amount of uncontrolled interest in sexuality as one might expect at that age."

Mr. Lodge had little to say about his student days. Apart from editing a literary magazine he did not become too involved with the usual student activities. When asked to contrast London with Birmingham he said, "Professional culture in London is such that University culture is lost to get forgotten. For the student in Birmingham there are more opportunities to develop their interests.

Miss

"I miss the professional culture of London, but the life of a teacher in Birmingham is pleasanter than in London—especially socially. I also like not having to commute. If I had to move, Lon-

WHY
ORD?

"The army was detestable"

don is the only place I'd want to move to. The country always makes me feel curiously depressed, as I like to be within reach of large numbers of people."

Cockney characters often feature in Mr. Lodge's novels. "I admire the tough resilience of the Cockney, Doreen, the usherette in 'The Picturegoers,' I imagined as a young girl totally conditioned by corsetry advertisements and beauty articles, but she developed into something stronger.

"As for my political views, I have no firm political leanings. I could never be a Conservative, because they don't conserve anything. I am generally on the side of social equity. At the last General Election I abstained from voting, and voted Labour in the local election."

Asked about his future plans as an author, Mr. Lodge revealed that he had an idea for a new novel, but that he did not intend to start it until he had finished his present work, which is a book of literary criticism dealing with novelists' use of language. As Mr. Lodge uses his personal experience as the basis for his novels, perhaps Birmingham might contribute something to the next.

TWO MEN IN A BOAT

STUDENTS who have not suffered the rigours of a two-year National Service stretch will find David Lodge's latest novel both illuminating and depressing.

"Ginger You're Barmy" deals with the life of sordid stupidity which faces two ex-students in the Army. Jonathan and Mike represent two contradictory responses to their surroundings. Jonathan has made more of a success of his life in the conventional manner and, although thoroughly discontented and cynical, seems all set for a comfortable, academic career, while Mike is wild, irrational, deeply religious, and rebellious.

Their basic training follows an artificially brutal and exhausting pattern until the course of their lives changes when an unhappy friend is shot. Mike characteristically plunges into a campaign which leads him to a court-martial and prison, while Jonathan is able to take over Mike's girl-friend and complete his sex-education.

The structure of the novel is complex, but the sense of unity is

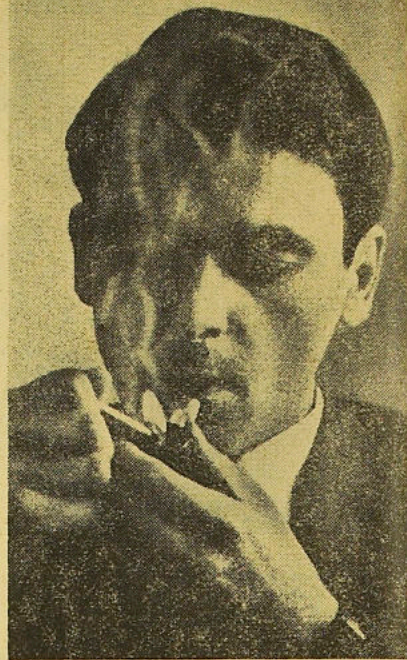


Photo: PETER MURRAY
A thoughtful moment as David Lodge contemplates . . .



Photo: PETER MURRAY
... his next novel?

SOCIETIES

Conservatives

MAUDLING STOPS DAWDLING

FOLLOWING his unimpressive performance at Llandudno, we now know the Chancellor of the Exchequer as "Stop Dawdling" Maudling. His speech on Friday to an open meeting of the Conservative Association was anything but a dawdling affair. He is reputed to have two speeds of speaking. As he had to leave early to give the same address elsewhere we were addressed at the faster speed normally reserved for "Thank-you-for-letting-me-lay-this-foundation-stone" speeches.

Mr. Maudling, a tall, well-built man with an extremely youthful face, gave a general but full account of recent economic events and of his future plans, in roughly half-an-hour, to a packed Council Chamber. The main object of his policy is to obtain a rapid and steady growth of the economy, for both domestic and foreign reasons.

Addressing one of the most idealist audiences a Chancellor can face, Mr. Maudling mentioned the urgent need to increase our already heavy burden of aid to developing countries.

At Rome

At home economic events in the recent past had not been too promising. Productivity had fallen and profit margins with it. Investment had been hindered. Costs had increased mainly because of rises in incomes, which had in turn been largely offset by an increase in prices, especially of vegetables. Further, people were now saving more and the total drop in purchasing power had had a considerable effect. The situation had had to be remedied.

Growth could only come with an increase in productivity. Mr. Maudling, the sixth Tory Chancellor in eleven years, admitted that the "stop-go" policies of his predecessors could not support steady growth, but argued that they were the only policies practical at the time. Recently, however, production

flexibility of the system and a greater build-up of reserves. Inflation could only be overcome by voluntary planning and restraint. It would be necessary to adopt the incomes policy worked out by the NIC. Incomes could not be allowed to rise on average faster than productivity, and profits and dividends would have to be similarly restrained.

At once the problems of the effective deployment of skilled manpower and the comparability of wages and jobs came to mind. In the past the pay pause, a blunt, haphazard, but necessary emergency measure, had led to discontent. Under it several groups of workers such as the railwaymen had lost their comparability and some just means must be found to cater for these exceptions.

Comparability

The Chancellor emphasised the importance of NEDC in organising our long-term economic planning. One major problem would be the difficulty of ironing out pockets of local unemployment. Conditions which mean full employment in Scotland and the North would mean raging over-employment in the Midlands. It would be vital to overcome poor labour relations and restrictive practices and persuade people to accept the changes necessary to ensure steady growth.

Brisk

For the remaining thirty-five minutes, Mr. Maudling dealt smoothly and briskly with twenty-five very varied questions. He dismissed the by-election results as better than he expected "on the whole." Questions on the Common Market, British Railways and the cost of British H-bombs received the standard Tory replies.

When faced with more unusual questions, Mr. Maudling showed a quick mind and had a ready answer. He earned a round of ap-



Photo: ANDREW HORNIG

Official secrets—daily newspapers—all the same."

plause when answering a question on the supersonic airliner, by urging the audience to forgive his caution in answering because he read so many documents that often he could not remember whether the important information had been in a Cabinet secret paper or in a newspaper.

Anarchists

NEW SOCIETY FIGHTS OUT 'INDIVIDUALITY'

THAT "The individual is more important than the State" was one of the fundamental dicta of Anarchy agreed upon by all those present at the first meeting last week of the newly-formed Anarchist Society.

Discussion at the meeting was based upon a short paper on Anarchism, and the main objections which are normally levelled against it. The possibilities of abolishing the authoritarian structures pervading our society were explored, but the argument was really concerned to define in precise terms the justifiable limits of liberty.

The differing conceptions of human nature were felt to be axiomatic in either proving the inevitability of Anarchism or completely refuting it. The conclusion of the meeting was that Anarchism cannot be interpreted in the strict sense that every individual should be completely free to do as he likes. A distinction between "self-re-



Photo: B'MAM POST & MAIL

Reginald Maudling, M.P., talks to P. J. Lindley before addressing last Friday's meeting.

WUS

President sold for a fiver

SHIRT buttons or suspenders, rather than halfpennies, was the ruling of David Hugill, auctioneer the President at the opening of the WUS International Students' Week last Monday.

With the help of a long wooden stick, a menacing voice and the President, £4 15s. was raised. The bidding started at a penny, and was brisk due to various original interpretations of bidding on the part of the auctioneer and President.

Someone taking a photograph sent the bidding up by 3d., and leaving the hall meant a bid of 1/- for those unfortunate enough to be known by name to the President, silence was interpreted in terms of shillings.

The wooden stick was used to keep up the pace when the auctioneer flourished it eloquently at the tardy group standing at the back of the hall.

At 30/- the Vice-president was

brought on to the stage. Some hopeful bidder offered his room-mate, but after a brief discussion, it was decided by the President and auctioneer that the only rate of exchange should be camels.

There was a cry from the Vice-president as she disappeared behind the stage curtains, and to prevent anyone coming to her aid, the safety curtain came down. The bidding continued, occasionally interrupted by yells from Miss Salisbury.

Minutes later the auctioneer produced a nylon stocking, which he waved about on his stick to entice further bidding; then the Vice-president reappeared, looking somewhat dishevelled.

The bidding stopped at £20 12/5. The discrepancy between this figure and the £4 15s. raised, is accounted for by the auctioneers' enthusiasm to raise the bidding.

At 30/- the Vice-president was

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Angling

CLUB MAY BE REVIVED

RESPONSE to David Vine's Small Ad. for those interested in forming an Angling Club, has made it likely that a club will be formed within the Guild, and that it will be associated with the British Angling Association.

Until two years ago there was an Angling Club which was affiliated with the B.A.A. but last year, interest waned.

There are probably many anglers in the University who are unable to pursue this pastime owing to Public Transport difficulties and not knowing where to go.

The prime interest of the club would be to arrange trips to various fishing places near Birmingham, and to occasionally invite speakers to the club.

Lloyd George was the first ranker to become Prime Minister. In the Open Lecture last week, A. J. P. Taylor described his life.

They were dominated by him, and hated him

A. J. P. TAYLOR, as he himself admits, "a very special sort of historian," describes David Lloyd George as "the most remarkable political figure of this century."

A comparison of the two men, prompted by Alan Taylor's deliberate revelation of a mutual taste for romantic westerns at the Open Lecture last week, reveals some interesting similarities.

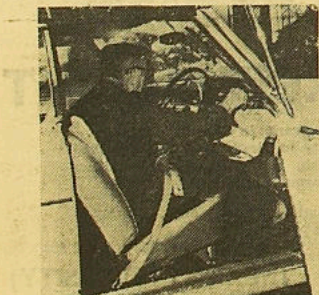
Both were born in Lancashire, Taylor at Birkdale, Lloyd George at Manchester. Physically small, with the same taste in comfortable clothes and hence baggy suits, each has married twice. Lloyd George was blessed with a "crown" of flowing white hair and cursed with a fat body perched on top of short legs. By sheer force of personality and by judicious and liberal use of the available means of publicity Lloyd George became the outstanding English figure in politics; by similar means A. J. P. Taylor has become the country's best-known historian.

Lloyd George stood defiantly outside the ruling élite of the political system. Alan Taylor has made himself one of the most controversial figures on the fringe of the Establishment. The Welsh "Wingard" was the most unreliable politician of his time as the élite saw it; Taylor is hardly likely to be chosen as a candidate for any of the political parties, unless Lord Beaverbrook should gain power. Common to both is a commanding use of words and an ability to entertain with serious matters.

Humble

One hundred years ago, come January, Lloyd George was born. Elected Liberal M.P. for Caernarvon Borough in 1890, his tremendous powers of oratory soon made him the most popular speaker of his time. He could win and excite a great public meeting with his arguments. He made politics vital to ordinary people and also entertaining.

Being of humble origin he knew how to play with people, and he



Richer

"Further he could never be described as a gentleman, or as one of 'Nature's' gentleman, or as a gentleman of any sort." With this brief and tantalising comment Mr. Taylor skipped over the private life of his subject. A private life that, even by the rumbustious

• Into his car and off to another appointment.
Photo: ANDREW HORNIG

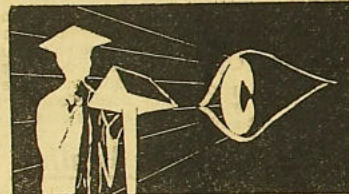
was an artist at it. His meeting began with revivalist hymns; "it is a little difficult now to see how 'Lead Kindly Light' lead people to vote for Lloyd George." Having "warmed up" his audience he "lead kindly light" led people to would open slowly and try and gauge the mood of his audience. Having done so he would play on that feeling and use it for his own ends.

Power

The business and organisation of politics, the management of people and parties, the search for power, these were his delight and the whole of his life.

He stood alone, outside the basic political system. He had no friends, no equals; there were only people willing to co-operate for some practical purpose. People were dominated by him and hated him. As he himself said "There is no friendship at the top."

In his early years he practised as a solicitor, having obtained a Welsh law degree. He represented Caernarvon Borough for 51 years until 1931. He saw Campbell-Bannerman attain in 1906 the greatest ever victory of the Liberals and between 1905 and 1916 he played a major role in the golden period of that party.



ANDY BARROW
ON THE LECTURE
by
A. J. P. TAYLOR

After 1922, he fell never to return and ended as one of the three members of the Lloyd George Party.

"He was also the architect of the ruin of the Liberal Party. It was probably on its way out as society changed, but he imposed upon it a radicalism it could not support. His ideas and his personality introduced conflicts that broke the party."

"He was also the first Prime Minister since Walpole to emerge from office richer than he entered; and like many of the nouveau riche developed a fondness for the South of France. He had to make his own fortune for he could not rely upon the system to supply a fat sinecure in return for services rendered. Today there is an even greater abundance of sinecures than ever, and anyone who does the Establishment a favour, such as a trade union secretary who betrays his members, can be sure of getting one."

Trickster

"People saw him as a trickster and a rogue, which was unfortunate for we can see the importance of many of his ideas expressed after 1922. His programme of 1929 'We can conquer unemployment' was twenty years ahead of his time, but it was all his own."

"His last great act was to ensure the overthrow of Chamberlain, whom he described as a pinhead—a tolerable gentleman of Birmingham in an off year." He dwindled away and died shortly after the system, ironically recognising his services, gave him a Viscounty."

Taylor. One is the historian-cum-television personality with an acute flair for self promotion. The second is the political journalist of the "Sunday Express" who adds a touch of class to Lord Beaverbrook's otherwise arid prose. The third is entirely different from the first two and is the political book reviewer of the "New Statesman," whose articles bring comments such as "grave misrepresentation" and "hysterical incomprehension."

His achievements were tremendous and no-one ranks with him. He was responsible for the greatest social transformation of the early years. He was the first man to put into practice the concept that society is responsible for the care of the individual.

"This laid the basis of the Welfare State; and he did it alone. It was a momentous event because it was the first and only time in this century that the Treasury officials did not decide economic policy and were told what to do." With both the Tory and Liberal parties claiming that they laid the basis of the Welfare State, it was refreshing to hear such an authoritative historian as A. J. P. Taylor explaining that it was the work of one man.

Peace

"The way he ended the war and made peace earned a great deal of adverse public opinion. Now we can see exactly how constructive and far-sighted his attitude was. He ensured that reparations were manageable, that the loss of German lands were controlled, and that chances of reconciliation were offered."

"After the war he solved the Irish problem, which had baffled English politicians for seven hundred years."

He was incomparable. Why was his downfall so complete? Basically he was unreliable. He gave an impression of subtlety, adaptability and an easy comprehension. With these qualities he did wonderful things, where reliable people blundered. He could be relied upon because people never knew his real opinions until too late.

Trickster

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This then was the picture of the subject of the lecture. An extremely interesting and revealing picture; no doubt the articles and talks we will be inundated with next year will serve to balance up that picture. What did we learn from it of the lecturer?

There are four apparently quite distinct Alan John Percival

write pungent reviews on people's history books for "Observer," and shows us the his own excellence. Last Tuesday we were honoured by the first Alan Taylor, supremely competent professional historian. On top of his knowing the right words, the way to say them, and the anecdotes, we witnessed a superb performance. He has truly said what will probably be his epitaph "I am a very special kind of historian."



Clearly, no one in his senses would use chewing gum at a time and place such as this.

However, there are times and places where the use of chewing gum can be most beneficial; in fact its discreet use is a mark of tact and consideration for others, as it is a definite aid to oral hygiene.

Bubblemint chewing gum is especially made for such people. Its ingredients are carefully selected throughout, even its flavour has been triple distilled; in fact, as its name implies, Bubblemint is bubble good and give you bubble benefits in many ways.

Try some at the right time and in the right place and see for yourself.

Longboats, barges and monkey-boats are common sights on many Continental rivers but Britain, which was the first country with a canal system, seems to be the first to let its canals pass out of commercial usage.

UP THE ARTIFICIAL CREEK WITH GEORGE AND MARTHA

CANALS are redundant strips of dark oily water, mixed liberally with mud and sewage, and surrounded, in towns at least, by grimy brick walls. Very probably you have one within two hundred yards of you where you live. Ubiquity is the great advantage of Britain's canals: they are everywhere, but they are also, unfortunately, virtually empty of boats.

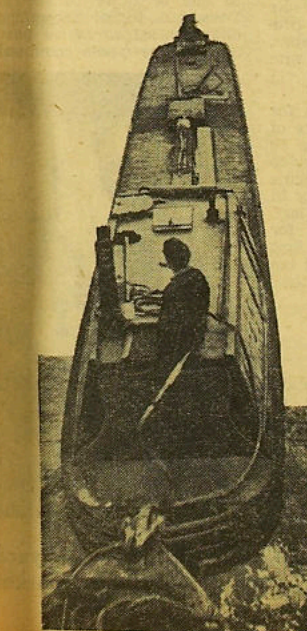
Old George is among the last of a dying breed of longboatmen who work out their lives on the narrow canals of the Midlands, together with their wives and children. They are not being replaced; you will find no recruiting campaigns for longboatmen. Their sons are headed for the glamour of the big cities.

George and his wife Martha have approximately six children—"Not many really—chap down at Stourport has nineteen"—and they live together in two tiny 10ft. x 7ft. cabins of the boats entrusted to them by the commercial carrying firm. In this space they live, sleep, eat, cook and after a fashion, live.

The rear end of these rather ancient diesel-driven longboats—"Don't call the blasted thing a barge, it's not!" he said, shifting a great boathook significantly to his right hand—is distinctly like a gypsy caravan.

Gay

The paintwork is bright and gay, despite the canal grime, the crenellated chimney-cum-funnel belches smoke into the air and dirty young faces glower through hatches into the open air.



• George's mate: "course they'll never get rid of the longboats!"

The children, who have a tendency to crawl all over one another, are grubby, virtually illiterate and happy. They will never experience the rigours of shore life, such as going to school. "Me and the missus went to school. We'll teach them all they'll need." George left school at eleven to go on the canals, his wife even earlier. He is justifiably proud of being able to read and write, this being a considerable distinction in longboatmen's circles.

Steering the seventy-foot boats through the narrow locks is too much for any man on his own, and Martha does her fair share of the work. Between screaming profanities at her beloved every time a collision occurs. This need for masculinity explains the two-inch growth on her chin which can only be described as a beard.

George was quick to assert his authority. He was the only breadwinner in the family, earning the quite considerable wage of £19 for two trips a week between Stourport and Birmingham. Not, of course, that they have much outlay.

There is no rent to pay, their lighting is provided by the company, and they have a useful habit of throwing a bucket over the side when passing a coal barge, so that cooking and heating also constitute no drain on their resources. Their only major expenditure, therefore, is on food, which Martha gets off to buy wherever they happen to stop.

Decreasing

Life, despite outward appearances, can hardly be described as being at subsistence level with so much money available. In fact the only modern comfort that George admitted to coveting was television, and even this, he remarked with a sly grin, could be enjoyed without charge at lock-keepers' cottages.

WHY, then, are longboatmen steadily decreasing in number?

British Waterways have a complicated and not entirely convincing explanation. The wholesale decline of inland water transport is due to various economic factors, some of which indicate that canals cannot really compete with

road and rail in the days of fast communications.

As Mr. V. O. Gregory, the Birmingham District Traffic Controller, pointed out, the slowness of barges is their greatest drawback, while their old advantage of being able to carry relatively huge cargoes has been destroyed by the introduction of heavier lorries on to the roads. Great weight is also attached to the fact that canals are inflexible, so that factories need to be right on the canal banks in order to avoid the high costs of double handling.

George, however, was less subtle: "It's all British Waterways' fault." This cry is echoed by many concerned with the canals: British Waterways are blamed for restrictive practices, refusing to take advantage of opportunities offered, economic pigheadedness and just about anything else you care to mention.

Despite official denials, it is widely held that British Waterways, when they become independent from the Transport Commission at the turn of the year, will adopt a Beeching-type policy of closures. Mr. Gregory, however, speaking in an unofficial capacity, believes that the waterways will be kept open whether they are economic or not.

The blame could then, of course, be laid at the door of Mr. Marples. But, sin of sins, when asked what he thought of Mr. Ernest Marples? George replied: "Marples? Who the hell is he?" amidst shrieks of laughter from Martha, who, in her deafness, could hardly have heard what was said. George, encouraged by this reaction, could hardly be contained, and began to rant up and down the deck brandishing his boathook to the obvious consternation of all present. "Politicians? Hang the bloody lot of them. Let's have a parliament of boatmen!"



• George takes a long look at the canal receding in the distance behind the longboat.
Photo: PETER MURRAY

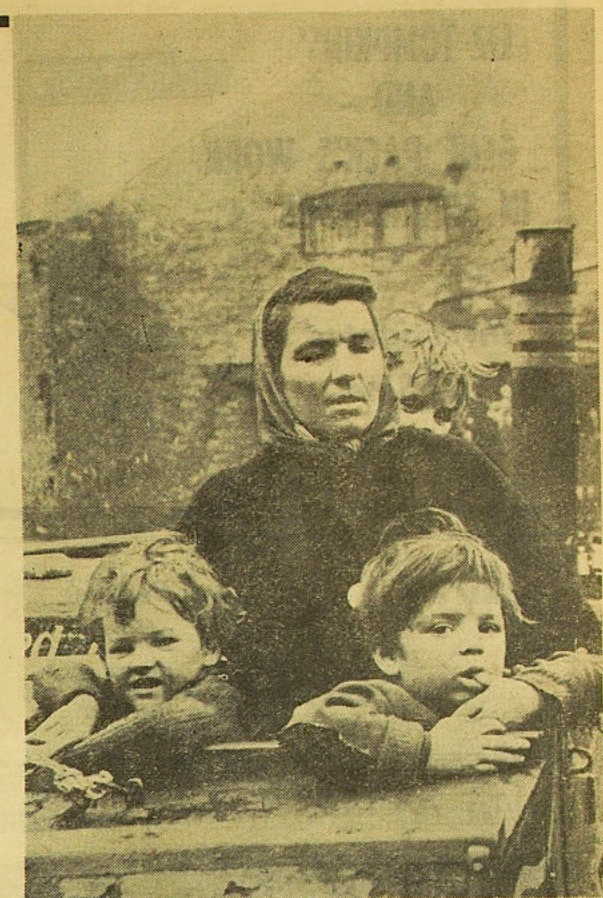


Photo: PETER MURRAY
• Martha with three of the children.

ENGLAND'S ODD CANAL SYSTEM

In 1902 there were 6,000 barges on English canals.

In 1952 there were 1,000 . . .

And in 1962 there are 500.

In the last ten years the staff on the canals has been halved . . .

And the office staff has been doubled.

Barges on British canals carry from 25 to 30 tons each . . .

Those in Europe over 1,000 tons.

LIZ TOMPKINS' AND GENE PACK'S WORK IN SPARKBROOK

Investigated by Sine MacLennan



WHY

ORD?

Because other people matter

Highland fling in North-East India



When the occasion calls for celebrations at Gomia, in the Indian state of Bihar, Scottish reels sometimes alternate with stately classical dances. For this remote tract of jungle, where leopards prowl and the summer shade temperature reaches a shimmering 110°F., contains India's first blasting explosives factory—designed and set in operation by experts from I.C.I.'s explosives factories in Scotland, who have helped to train the Indian operatives.

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The influence of I.C.I. research and production is felt today in every corner of the globe

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TWILIGHT TOWN IS HOME

A WALK THROUGH SPARKBROOK is a depressing experience even for those used to large industrial towns. From the slate grey of the pavement setts to the dull November sky above, all is dark and brooding. Broken window panes and peeling paintwork relieve the monotony of the grimy brickwork, and at night there is a sudden harsh glare of a patch of light as a bare lamp bulb glares out through a gap in the curtains stretched across a window.

The interiors of the houses are even more disheartening than the exteriors. The normal situation is for one family to live in one room, which in the large Victorian houses of Sparkbrook often means nine or ten families sharing one kitchen, one stove and one sink. Usually there is a communal toilet, but the bath is nearly always removed in order to accommodate another family.

The houses which are let out in 'lodgings' in this way are owned mostly by Pakistani or English landlords. Many of these fully exploit the shortage of adequate housing, but they work individually rather than in syndicates. The norm is for one landlord, probably himself living in Edgbaston or Moseley, to own one house which he lets out as furnished rooms. Rents vary between £2/10/- and £3/10/- for a furnished room which will probably contain at the most, a double and a single bed, a table and a couple of chairs.

The people of Sparkbrook are not "lazy good for nothings." They do not choose to live there, but for various reasons are almost forced to it. European minorities, some West Indians, Indians and Pakistanis, and those among the English who are socially unacceptable elsewhere... these are the people you will find in Sparkbrook. The discharged prisoner, or the man who, perhaps through some mental disability cannot hold down a steady job, these are the people who find it difficult to live anywhere else. So they move into this wretched area where at least there will be a roof over their heads, even though it will leak on stormy nights.

Prejudice

The lack of colour prejudice in the area is accounted for by the presence of a group of Irish tinkers, on whom all aggression is turned. Although they have sold their caravans, these people are quite unused to living in houses, and often crowd 22 people in a room; this is not for the purposes of a party, but for eating, sleeping and living. A pathetic anecdote about this anti-social group tells how the women often go to collect their children from school an hour or so early, as they cannot even tell the time.

About two years ago, several doctors and clergy who worked in Sparkbrook started a movement to try and alleviate some of the suffering in the area. The eventual result was the formation, by local people and interested businessmen, of the Sparkbrook Association.

This is a voluntary organisation of those who live and work in the area. Hoping to lead "towards a fuller and happier life" (to quote their motto) the association provides a system of group activities, where the able can help those who are less fortunate.

One of the first needs was for a trained sociologist. Members of the Association were willing to club together and pay a salary to make this possible. Liz Tompkins graduated from this University in Social Science the year before last. Since then she has worked for the Association, although at first they rejected her: "They told me I was far too young, and they needed a man anyway!"

House

Although it was an innovation Liz found that the people of Sparkbrook needed no persuasion to accept her, or the Association's work. "They just came and knocked on the door." Dealing with people who fit in between the Statutory Services, much of their work is preventive: the Probation Officer will often refer a child to the Association's workers when he thinks they may help the child to keep its probation, or

Life and in Birmingham's racial melting pot



Photo: LEWIS

Instruction for small friends of 'blow' from Humphrey Lyttelton

give it guidance after a completed a probationary period. The Association has acquired a house which they use as a headquarters for the principal workers. The house has been redecorated by the Association and is now full of excitement as the various groups and individuals who have been formed for the past few weeks before Guy Fawkes night are gradually growing larger. The Baby Club, the Yodas, however all was well and their own coffee but around their bonfire as Thursday Club for the sky. mental patients. It is a fact that the intake of all-time Play Leader has been appointed by the Association to two thirds of his salary, brook is double that of any city area.

Active

Before the acquisition of house, clubs and groups meet where ever they can. So, different clubs, brother and friend to based in different parts of the brook, which meant that to help them when required, in different areas were to one or other of the. Thus, this initial accompaniment led to active participation by the whole community.



Photo: GENE PACK

A back in Sparkbrook's playground in

used in the past to being let down, the insecure children have to test this professed love in every way they know: by rudeness, punching and apparent hatred. Luckily the Association has found someone who understands children to this extent, and who realises that one fit of temper can undo all the good done in weeks of patient work. However, there is no relief from the job, and it seems that the Association is expecting a superhuman task to be done by one mere mortal.

Housing

A situation such as exists in Sparkbrook at the moment could probably be prevented from recurring by the provision of adequate housing. However, Sparkbrook is not due for re-development for another 10-15 years. In the meantime the Association hopes to buy houses in the area, redecorate them and equip them with adequate facilities for decent living. They will then be let in lodgings as before, in order to provide sufficient accommodation. It is hoped that this can be done and still maintain a low-level, but economic rent.

Asked what the Association had achieved since its emergence, Liz Tompkins replied: "If we have done nothing else, we have at least raised morale in Sparkbrook."

"We have shown the people who live there that there is someone else who cares about them."

It's later than they think

"STONE me!" said St. Paul. "It cannot be." "Nonsense," said the Recording Angel, rising to the occasion. "Tripe! It's no use being philosophical at a time like this. We must act."

"Oh dear," sang St. Cecilia, sitting on a harpy, "what can the matter be?" (She too was being mindfully philosophical).

"Look!" shrieked the Recording Angel. "Somehow, we've lost 57 people, 57 souls. I could have sworn we had taken the lot."

"It would take us no time at all to have a recount," said St. Paul (jokingly).

"What about another trump?" St. Cecilia quavered. "I'm not doing another trump for you nor anyone else. Anyway, I couldn't hope to repeat the glory of the last one."

Clearly something had to be done. So the Chief of Communications, Sunovman, himself, was summoned from the Troika headquarters. "I am, therefore I am," he said, and in a flash his shadow was speeding over the waters of the world followed by a squad of heavenly Omega-cars.

The world was still a bit smelly; whiffs of ancient mouldy fleshy smells stank in their nostrils, but grass was starting to grow again

an allegory by Oblivon

in the Pacific Valley, and they were well satisfied.

It did not take them long, however, to find where the missing people must be. Waves were gently lapping round the base of the only building left, a portentous redbricked erection which, although it would have looked apt and impressive in Red Square, was set in the middle of the sea which was once England.

Posted

Sunovman posted two angels outside and went in the door and 3.7 seconds later came out again. He looked surprised. "Funny," he said, "I can't get in. This is where I started from." He tried again, pushing against the glass door, walked round for a bit and caught a glimpse of two young women and a balding young man behind a semi-circular desk, but was soon hit on his backside by another glass door and around he went.

"Third time lucky..." This time he escaped after half a revolution. He went to the counter.

"Yes?" enquired one of the women, proudly leaning forward and revealing a neck blotched with love-bites but not taking her eyes off "Woman's Own."

"Did you hear the Last Trump?" asked he.

"Wirelesses aren't allowed," said she, sadly. "What was it like?"

"Nothing on earth."

"Silence is the rule," smiled the

ballding, fair young man, "And our walls are five feet thick. What do you want?"

"I've come to the end of the Book of Life. Consummatum est." "The Book of what, sir?" "Life, life. You know—life!" "Life? Never heard of it, sir. When was it taken out?"

"Ages ago." The librarian thrilled. This would be his biggest fine. "What's your name?" "Sunovman, J. C."

"I can't even find your ticket." "I'm not registered." "Good heavens, Miss Shark, he's not—" Words failed him. He backed away, full of awe-struck terror. Someone was not registered. All his life he had suspected, vaguely, there must be someone not on the register—and here he was, a Creature from another world.

Register

"And you've taken a book out so long ago you can't remember? Well—I'll have to see the Chief Librarian about your not registering, sir. Meanwhile, you could go to the Rare Book Room."

"Why?" "You might find something in there to interest you."

"No thank you."

The librarian knelt. "Oh please try the Rare Book Room. Please go into the Rare Book Room."

His eyes filled with tears. "Please,

please go into the Rare Book Room—no-one ever does..." And then, for the first time, he looked up at the Man who Hadn't Registered, the naked stranger, and went very red.

"Good God!" screamed the balding young man. The two young women looked up from their magazines and their eyes shone like stars on the day of creation and there were terrible thunderings.

Angels were swarming all over the place, touching people awake and dragging ancient skeletons from the stack into life. The building split in twain and up rose the unaccounted souls like a little cloud of bees, up, up to the heavens.

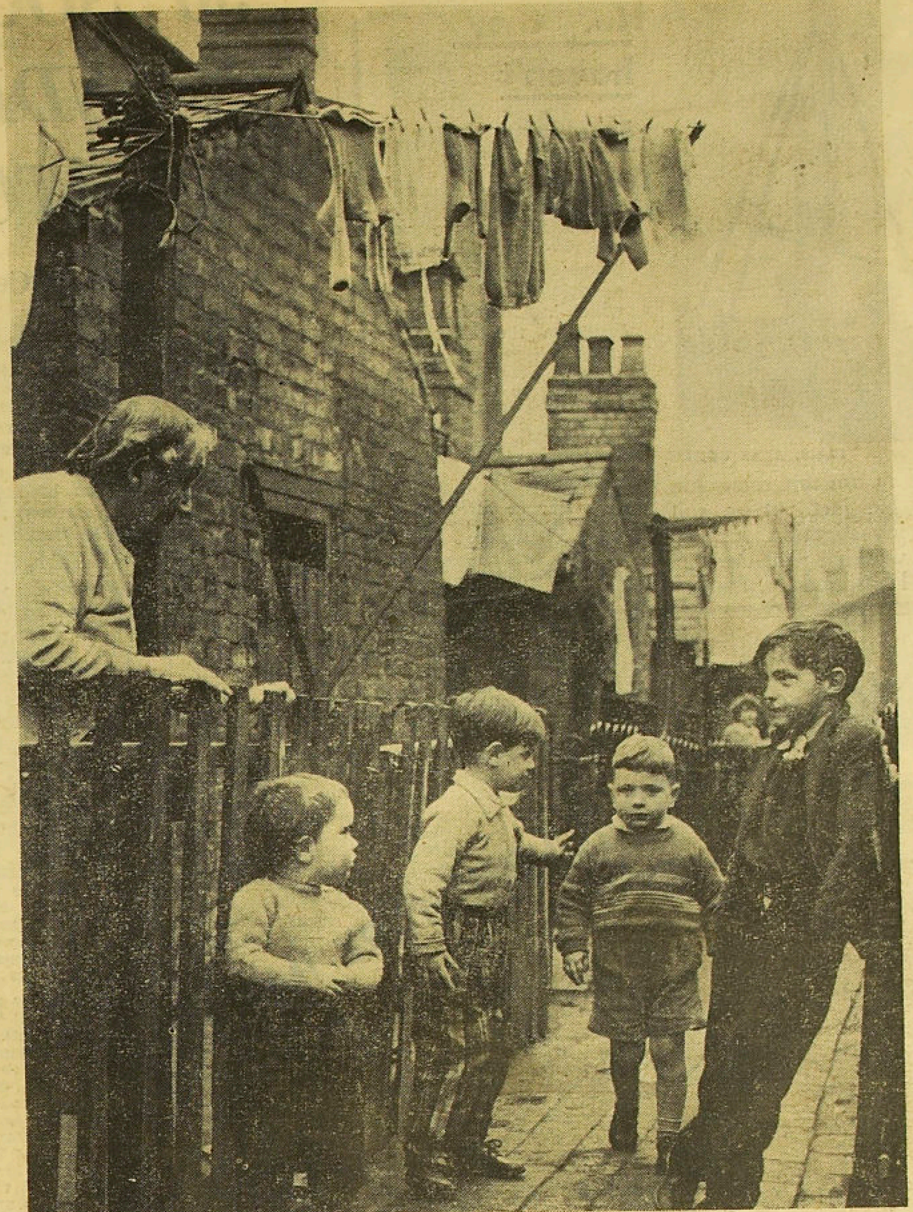
The librarians found it difficult to ascend and were left miles behind. They began to slow down. The rest went into the pearly gates.

"We're stopping," shouted the Chief Librarian. But they didn't stop. Half-an-hour later, they stood before the pearl-covered gates. They heard a voice from behind the wall: "Come in."

And the Librarians, glad at heart, rejoiced at their reward and went in and 3.7 seconds later came out again. They looked surprised. They tried again, and after a full revolution came out where they started from, but not before catching a glimpse of golden light, flowery fields and fountains and revels where the kissing never stopped.

They tried again. And again. And again.

And they never got in. Not ever.



Can I flatter Bob next time I see him? Liz

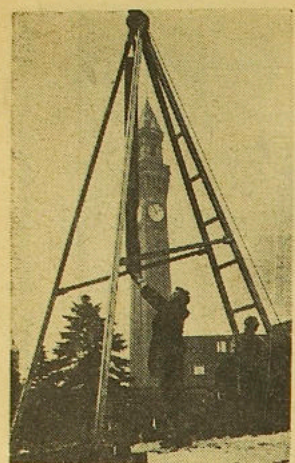


Photo: ALAN COHEN

• They are not removing Joe just yet—a soil investigation unit working near the Physics department.

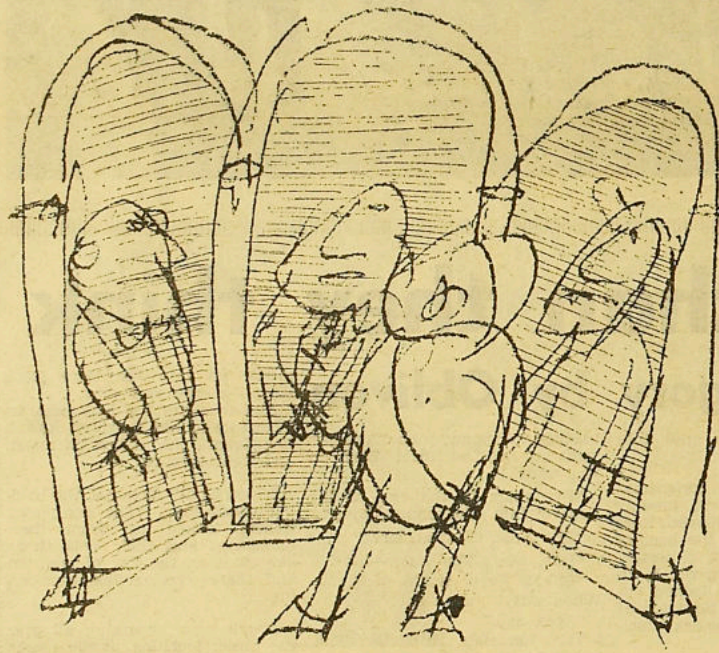
No, they haven't struck oil yet

RUMOURS have run rife recently on the purpose of a mysterious derrick-like structure which has reared its ugly head on the University campus.

Passing close beneath Joe, students have often noticed the precarious angle at which he leans. So delicate is this that the angle varies even with the direction from which one views him. Some dark night night the poor fellow may be lifted bodily and carried off to Harvard.

No-one believes the official line that soil samples and building foundations are being tested.

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'56 SOCIETY DAMN SPENDING ON THE CARTOON

by Pat McCullough

PERHAPS we are not such philistines as the result of the '56 Society Debate might lead us to believe.

The debate last Wednesday, deploring the Government's spending of £200,000 on the Leonardo cartoon of the "Mother and Child" was quite lively. The Royal Academy, "that reprehensible institution," came in for disapproval from Professor Smart, proposing the motion, because of its "blackmailing" of the Government into the cartoon, and for its "stiffness," a description supported by Dr. Horne, who spoke for the opposition.

Professor Smart was careful to point out that he didn't disapprove of the Government buying works of art, but that the circumstances of this particular case showed that there were limits to this expenditure.

The Americans, who obtain a tax relief on the works of art they buy, inflate prices, while he found it depressing that there were more rich Americans than Britons, which might have possible effect of our losing many important works to America. His remedy was the suggestion that the Royal Academy should be nationalised, and that the Government should adopt a planned, rational policy in buying works of art.

Impoverished

This last suggestion was immediately taken up by Dr. Horne, who could not see how there could be a planned policy on spending where works of art were concerned. He regarded Professor Smart's argument as a narrow one, and went on to illustrate how important it was for a State to defend its cultural values.

As an example of this view, he cited Austria, who refused huge sums offered by the Americans for her works of art at a time when the nation was impoverished, yet the nation had supported this decision.

Mr. John Register could not agree with this, but regarded the

25% FAILED TO GET PLACES

OVER 25 per cent of those who qualified for university this year failed to obtain places. These figures were disclosed in a survey of 1,362 sixth forms made by the Association of University Teachers and published this week.

The total of 5,289 was principally composed of those with medium 'A' level passes; girls were far worse off than boys. Few cases of highly-qualified students failing to get university places were reported, and those who did fail constituted "a reserve of medium ability." Most of this was being channelled off into jobs far below their capacity, or were staying on at school to clog up the next year's sixth form.

The AUT described this as an injustice to the sixth forms and a waste of the country's brains, and called for much greater university expansion, and higher salaries for university teachers.



Photo: PETER MURRELL

• Prof Smart who suggested nationalisation of the Royal Academy at the '56 debate.

State's interference in this case as showing a "crass hypocritical philistinism," and "State snobbery." After a number of fairly pertinent comments from the floor, a vote was taken, with 18 voting for the motion and 14 against. There was only one abstention.

TOP MEN SPEAK AT CONGRESS

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will be amongst those speaking at the Third Student Christian Congress, to be held at Bristol from January 1st to 6th next year. Other speakers include the Chairman of the Moscow Peace Conference, Professor J. D. Burnal, and a doctor from Southern India.

The theme of the Congress is "Jesus the Servant." Bible studies will be led by Hans Ruedi Weber, who has worked for some time amongst the Muslims in India, but is now Director of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland.

There will be participants from many countries including the USSR and East Germany, whilst universities and training colleges will be represented by 1,400 student delegates from the UK. Other student delegations are expected from the USA, Holland, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

The Congress has been organised by the SCM for the whole student population of this country. Applications can be made through the SCM or the Guild Chaplain.

NEW SOCIETY RECOGNISED

A NEW Society has been formed within the Guild, to initiate increased contact between those engaged in research. Called the Research Society, anyone interested in it should consult Mrs. Claire Ashton (English) for further details.

New Howarth film soc flops

A FILM Society for the Technical Staff of the University—the proposed Howarth Film Society—now appears unlikely to be launched, for the time being at least.

The posters advertising the Society, which recently appeared in various parts of the University buildings, have been removed as permission to use the Howarth Lecture Theatre has been neither sought nor given.

The Society, which was to provide a fortnightly programme of the more popular type of film, was the idea of a group of technicians in the Chemistry Department and was not intended for undergraduates.

Tim Austin talks to Midlanders involved in:

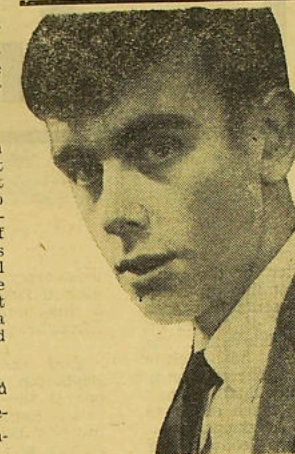
THE SPORTING LIFE

ONE of the Midlands' leading personalities in the world of Rugby football is Peter Robbins, the Coventry, Warwickshire and England wing-forward who, during the week, teaches Modern Languages at King Edward's School, Birmingham, just across the road from the University Union.

He started playing rugby when he was at school, and continued it fairly seriously in the RAF, but it was not until he went up to Oxford in 1954, that he really became interested in the science of the game. Here he says he was fortunate in that his first trial was very successful. "One of those days when everything goes right for you"—and that there were a number of vacancies in the Oxford XV that year.

BE that as it may, he secured a place in the team immediately, and his play began to improve every game; "one became good suddenly." His Oxford days were rich in experience. In 1954-55 he toured Canada and America with the University side, and as captain of Oxford in 1957, he led them to a brilliant shock victory over Cambridge in the varsity match, a game he still remembers as his biggest thrill and his best-ever performance.

Since then he has enjoyed many experiences as a top-class rugby player. He has travelled in South America, East Africa, and Europe, represented England 19 times, played many times for Warwickshire, and turned out for Moseley



• Tim Austin.

and Coventry more times than he cares to remember.

Top-level club rugby, he says, "taken very seriously indeed." At Coventry, one of the country's top three teams, there are twice-weekly training sessions, though Robbins keeps himself fit by training with his school team, "always setting myself something to do, some definite objective. Rugby entails an enormous amount of hard work."

On the other hand, the social side of rugby is "half the game," and he is all in favour of the teams congregating traditionally in the bar after a match. As he



Black Country side out of the red

DESPITE being surrounded on all sides by powerful Football League Clubs, Halesowen Town (of the West Midlands League) are, for the first time in many years, out of debt.

Secretary-manager Harry Rudge, a local J.P., was jubilant as he described how the club's 'Daily Dip' competition, inaugurated only last season, was now bringing in about £130 a week. In contrast, gate money received at each first-team match amounts to only £25, so that in effect the club is dependent almost entirely on the gambling competition organised by the Supporters' Association.

Both Mr. Rudge and Club President Mr. C. Siviter deplored the fact that in a Borough of 48,000 people, only 500 took any interest in the Town football team. "It's a disgrace for a place of this size," said Mr. Siviter. "We could not possibly exist on the gate-takings alone."

All the first-teamers, I was told, are part-time professionals. During the week, most work in factories; a variety of jobs included a turner, an apprentice tool-maker, a foreman tool-setter, a boiler engineer, plus a window-fitter and "a little Irishman that no-one can understand." Mr. Coley told me that everybody plays

reasonably observed, "most clubs depend on the bar for their income," and he thought that drinking moderately did not harm one's playing ability.

One year at Oxford the captain had enforced a strict diet and rest programme for his team for weeks before the "varsity match"; the players went out feeling tensed up, and Cambridge won. Another year, the captains had said, "Go out and get drunk as much as you like, smoke as much as you like, have as much fun as you like." Everyone did, and Oxford won!

Robbins maintains that the social side of the game does not intrude too much, even in an Extra "B" XV, "the coarse stuff" as he described it, people play partly to keep in good physical condition and partly to meet other people. Surely there is nothing wrong in that? He went on, "Rugby is basically a pastime—it's still very amateur, you know."

On this principle he is opposed to a national league programme for Rugby Union, for he considers that there is "enough going on at present." He cited the example of the French RU League system. Here, he believes the constant struggle for points leads to a blood-bath, and too much professionalism.

The great ball-players of the French national team result from the emphasis on ball-handling games at school (volleyball and basketball, besides rugby) rather than any intrinsic merits of a league system.

THE mention of school games prompted me to ask if he thought schoolboys should be allowed to choose between rugby and soccer, and not be forced into one or the other. "Ideally, they should be allowed to choose," he replied. "But it's really a question of facilities. Rugby exercises 30 whereas soccer exercises only 22, and I think this is why more and more schools are coming out in favour of the handling code."

Though he has put so much into the game and taken so much from it, Robbins reckons that he

• Top-class Rugby gets many players from universities.

primarily for enjoyment, and "if there's a bit of money in it, so much the better."

Within the ground there is a shelter built for the Sons of Rest, and here I was led to meet two venerable gentlemen who had played for Halesowen at the turn of the century, and who were convinced that Halesowen were the greatest club Britain has ever known. They pointed out that Halesowen is, in fact, the second oldest affiliated football club in the country, founded in 1873 and older than any other club but Notts. County.

ONE of the veterans, whose pipe resembled a back-firing flamethrower, told me at great length about the various players who had been transferred from Halesowen to Football League Clubs throughout the country. He also proudly related how he had once won a bet of four golden sovereigns by scoring four goals against a Works team in Oldbury, and lamented that the only people who had money these days were the youth of the country.

Having demanded payment for answering so many questions, he was staggered to learn that REDBRICK staff do not, in fact, get paid. "You must be mad, doing this for nothing," he said. "You ought to be put in gaol." I agreed and left.

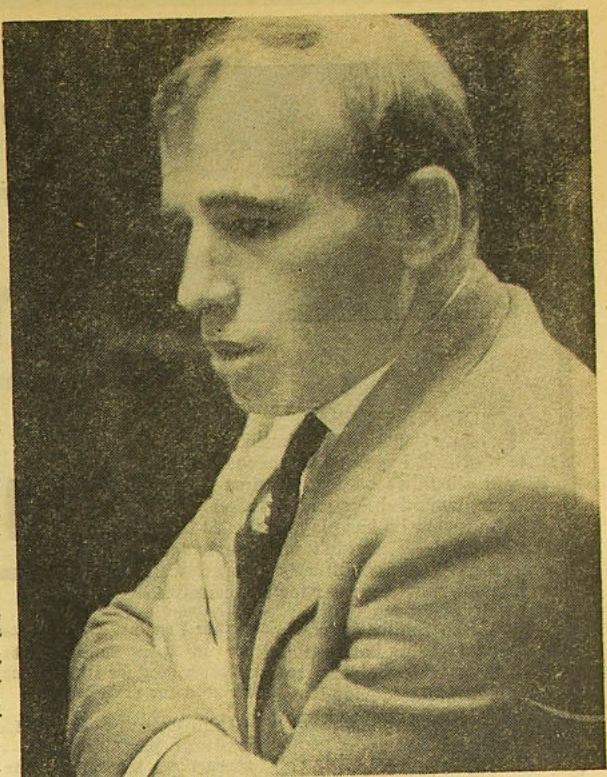
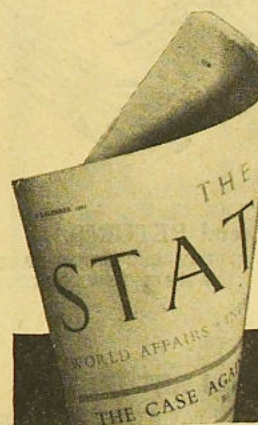


Photo: ANDREW HORNIG.

• Peter Robbins:

"Rugby is basically a pastime—it's still very amateur, you know."

This amateurism helps to form Mr. Robbins' carefree attitude towards his sport.



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THE SPORTING LIFE

"Feeling fed up? Then clear out," says Mike Smith

"COUNTY CRICKET," said Warwickshire Captain Mike Smith, "is a way of life. If you ever feel fed up with it, you shouldn't be in the game at all." This single-mindedness and devotion is typical of a man who has played over 20 times for England—"I couldn't tell you exactly how many"—and habitually scores well over 2,000 runs a season for his county.

For Mike Smith is one of England's leading batsmen and close-in leg-side fielders, both of which skills demand continual practice and concentration.

And this dedication to the game is not confined to the field of play, for Smith has recently taken up the post of assistant secretary at Edgbaston, a job that keeps him fully occupied with cricket administration throughout the winter.

But obviously, it is during the summer that Smith really comes into his own. Playing County Cricket six days a week (with the possibility of a benefit match on the seventh) leaves little time for anything else. The cricketer's training, after a few weeks' loosening up before the start of the season, is in match-play itself, plus the occasional net practice.

This invalidates Pirie's recent

outburst against the MCC tourists, for as Mike Smith points out, "What is good for athletics may not be good for cricketers."

Until recently, Smith himself used to play first-class rugby throughout the winter (he has once represented England at Rugby Union), and he did a good deal of training which made him, fit for Rugby, but not for cricket. "Anyhow," he added, "a cricketer's never tired if he's making runs!"

In this constant six-day-a-week activity for four and a half consecutive months, the player's biggest danger is in becoming stale. The edge goes out of his game and concentration lapses, but Smith believes that the best solution for the established player is to let him play himself out of the bad patch. "No-one can be on top of his form all the time."

His whole attitude is quietly philosophical, whether he is talk-

ing about himself as a cricketer, or the game of cricket as a whole. He does not find captaincy an added strain, though it presents him with a mental challenge in the duel of tactics on the field; he feels responsible for the men under him, but, as he rightly observes, "while we must try and play as a team, cricket is still very much an individual's game." Reasonably enough, he finds it much easier to make a correct decision if he is skipping a successful side, and this in turn leads to far greater personal satisfaction.

We went on to talk about cricket as a whole, and here again Smith is quietly progressive, completely fair in his assessments and never sensational or dogmatic. He thinks that next season's county knockout competition is "definitely a good idea," and that paying spectators will attend originally out of interest and a sense of novelty but that later they will support for more positive reasons—the fascination of speed in modern sport, and how this concept will apply to the subtleties of cricketing technique.

At the same time, he admits that county cricket on its own is not a financial proposition and probably never will be. Although he says "it's obviously nicer to play in front of a big crowd," Smith acknowledges that most people simply cannot afford the time off work to come and watch county cricket in mid-week. Consequently, the game is forced to depend on football pools and other sources for most of its revenue. In the old days, cricket was subsidised heavily by various patrons—usually members of the sporting aristocracy—and now these have been replaced by football pools, but the same principle is involved in both.

At Edgbaston, the revenue is boosted by the splendid facilities for social events afforded by the luxurious Pavilion Suite, where dances, dinners or private parties are held all

most every night of the year. This prevents the ground from standing idle for eight months at a time, and enables the capital to be utilised throughout the year.

More and more buildings are going up at Edgbaston every season, so that it is by now one of the three or four best cricket grounds in the country. His winter a new stand, including new headquarters for the Supporters' Association and more covered accommodation for spectators, is being constructed, and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for next year's West Indies Test match. The indoor nets, too, are some of the best in England, and there are two sets of practice areas out-of-doors.

Cricket has afforded Mike Smith many opportunities for foreign travel which, like most sportsmen, he enjoys immensely. He has been to the West Indies, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Rhodesia, South Africa and Denmark, but despite the pleasure that he derives from visiting all of these countries, he affirmed that he did not really wish that he was in Australia at the present moment.

He said this not out of any sense of "sour grapes" or frustration (in fact, he had stated he would be unavailable before the Tour party was picked, and anyway believes that "England must have a good chance" of winning back the Ashes), but because domestic reasons require his presence in England this winter. This is typical of the Warwickshire captain. For him, cricket is a way of life, but it is never an obsession.

Judging from the performance of the touring team in Australia, they might well wish that Mike Smith was out there with them. With the Test starting on Friday, the team are in the unenviable position of having been beaten by two State sides. They have hitherto had virtually no answer to the threat of Benard's leg spin, and the outlook cannot be described as healthy.

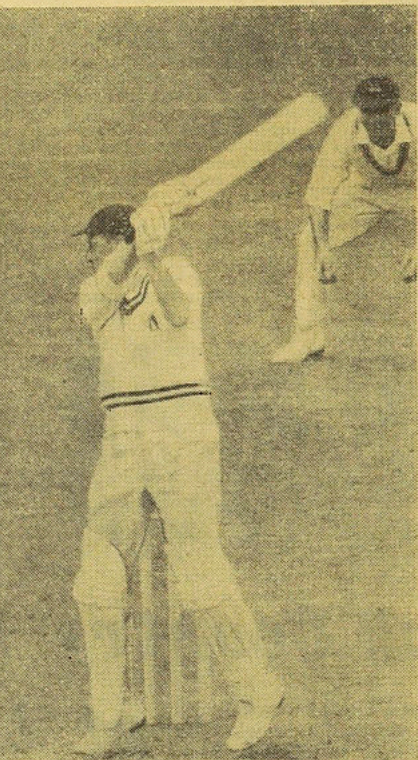


Photo: B'HAM POST.

**A FORCEFUL SHOT
BY MIKE SMITH.
HE SCORES OVER
2,000 RUNS EVERY
SEASON.**

Buy MERMAID Out Shortly



Photo: EVENING DESPATCH

"THE world wants winners. It's no good playing attractive football if you can't win," said Joe Mercer, manager of Aston Villa, as he relaxed in his office at Villa Park after a hard morning's training with the players. In these words, Mr. Mercer summed up the intensive efforts, organisation, and ambition of all the players, managers, and officials in the highly competitive business of First Division Football.

But while there is no room for inefficiency or idleness, the game has its human side too. West Bromwich Albion manager Archie Macaulay, a distinguished-looking, well-spoken Scotsman, admitted in his soft Scottish accent that one of his biggest problems was looking after the players, seeing that they were happy with their "digs," allowing them a few days' leave if they were homesick, and paying attention to a youngster's character as much as his technical ability.

Sometimes, of course, this "human element" can be abused by the Press. Birmingham City manager Gil Merrick related how his centre-forward, Jimmy Harris, had a few days previously, casually remarked to some acquaintances that he was so dissatisfied with the way he was playing that he might as well go and get a job elsewhere.

A day or two later, a prominent national "daily" carried a story with big headlines proclaiming "Harris May Quit." "It's a load of tripe," said Mr. Merrick, contemptuously throwing the paper back on his desk.

Nevertheless, a football manager must be happy if his club is to benefit fully from his services. "If a player has something on his mind, it will show up during the game on a Saturday afternoon," stated Mr. Macaulay. Consequently, it is to the club's advantage that all its staff is contented, and it is with this end in view that the "best of everything" treatment is applied.

When playing away from home, all Div. I sides travel in luxurious comfort (usually in their private team-coach, or otherwise First-Class on the railways) and stay at the best hotels, where the players are served with whatever food they fancy. Most footballers have a particular dish immediately before a match (steak or chicken appear to be the most popular), though one player always has a poached egg! But for the rest of the time, they stick to no vigorous diet.

BUT despite the first-class conditions, a number of players said that they do not enjoy travelling. Tommy Ewing, Villa's Scottish international winger, admitted that he suffers from travel sickness, so that he has to take tablets before every away match; Albion skipper Don Howe prefers train-travel to coach-travel—"you can get up and stretch your legs"; Bertie Auld, the Birmingham winger who has played for Scotland five times said he didn't like travelling, and thought most of his colleagues were of the same opinion.

Nevertheless, everyone was agreed about the foreign tours undertaken by so many of the clubs these days. "They're a great experience—one of the highlights of the game," said Bloomfield. Auld, since he joined Birmingham 18 months ago, has been with them to Spain, Canada, and the United States, "getting paid for it, too." The Villa men delighted in everything but the Club's Russian tour in 1961, and at the Albion, wing-half Bobby Cram pointed out that

FIRST DIVISION SOCCER

not many men of his age (25) have enjoyed a month long tour of Canada with full wages and expenses.

All in all, professional footballers seem to be very happy in their work, and the general opinion was summed up by Tony Millington, the Albion and Wales goalkeeper, who affirmed "I wouldn't change it for anything." Howe, a man of wit and experience who (like Bloomfield) seems well equipped for the responsibilities of captaincy, said that he would like to play till he was 65, but didn't really expect to.

SUCCESS does not go to the players' heads. One of the quietest men it would be possible to meet is Mike Hellowell, Birmingham's England outside-right. The red-haired Yorkshireman's amazing bursts of speed have been one of the features of First Division soccer this year.

Modest and unassuming, he was (like all the well-established stars), only too willing to talk at length about his life and the game as a whole. The greatest ambition of most men was to play for their country (if they had not already done so), and the biggest thrill of their career was usually to have played in the national team, or in Don Howe's case, to have played Brazil "in front of 180,000 screaming natives!"

Managing a First Division club is also a position of great responsibility and authority. Messrs. Merrick, Mercer and Macaulay all agreed that they liked the life, but, as Mr. Mercer observed, "It's no substitute for playing."

He saw his main problem as trying to instil confidence into a side with great potential but no faith in themselves: injuries and loss of form inevitably come together, causing the manager endless worry.

When the team is going through a bad spell, the manager is forever asking himself, "Am I doing the right thing?"—unqualified people flood him with suggestions, and supporters name dozens of players that the Club should sign, but they all forget the vital question: "will a player want to join a struggling club?" Mr. Merrick was very concerned about strengthening his staff, but meanwhile he was thrilled at the progress three of his current players—Withers, Hennessey, and Hellowell, had made this season.

All the managers agreed that the local press is more accurate in its reports of transfer dealings and rumours than the national press. The latter tend to invent stories to provide sensation with the morning's toast and marmalade. All agreed too that professional soccer is a wonderful career for a young man with the necessary ability.

Though tactics are a useful framework, the game must be played spontaneously, off the cuff, and the players must play naturally, within their own capabilities and temperaments. This is how Mr. Mercer has tried to develop the present Villa side, who should be at their peak "in another two years perhaps."

Mr. Mercer believes that one of the biggest dangers of being a Football Club Manager is a tendency to become hardened to adverse criticism, and unless care is taken, too hardened. Consequently, angry letters have ceased to bother him: "I don't read the local papers," he said, "though my directors say I should, since I'm the biggest contributor!"

THE TWO FACES OF FOOTBALL

LEFT:
The office side: Manager Joe Mercer on the telephone at Villa Park. "The manager's chief task," he says, "is to synchronise the various jobs."

RIGHT:
The playing side: Tim Austin talks to Birmingham City's Bertie Auld during a training session at St. Andrew's.



Photo: JIM EVANS.

This week in The Listener

ISSUE DATED NOVEMBER 29th

CHRISTMAS BOOK NUMBER

New books reviewed by distinguished critics, including—

Max Bialoff
Maurice Cranston
Martin Esslin
T. R. Fyfe
Edward Lucie-Smith
Lucy Mair
Dermot Morrah
Herbert Read

Talks to be printed include—

"MARINER TO VENUS"

In this article from the series "The Sky at Night," Patrick Moore discusses the journey to Venus of the American space craft, Mariner II, and what it may reveal about the planet.

"VICISSITUDES OF ADOLESCENCE"

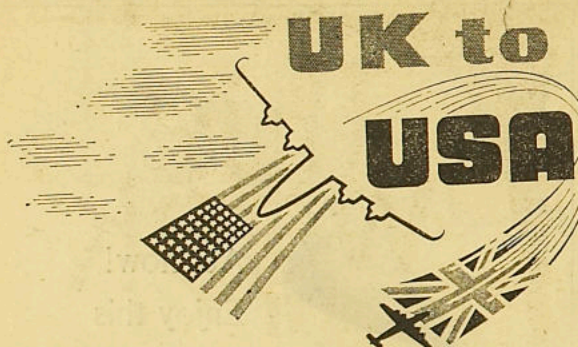
The problems of adolescent behaviour are seen by Professor G. M. Carstairs as both reflecting and anticipating changes in adult social behaviour. This is number three in the Reith Lecture Series.

and other features

The Listener
and BBC Television Review

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Results improving at last

by Dave Depledge

NOW that the rugby season is well under way, it is an appropriate moment to review the performance of the Rugby Club so far. In the season as a whole, the First XV has won five matches, lost seven and drawn one, which does not indicate any outstanding success.

However, since the first five matches there has been a steady improvement. In the first few weeks, several difficult problems had to be faced: the most experienced players had left, the newcomers had to be blended into the team and such formidable opposition as Moseley, Old Edwardians and Birmingham had to be encountered. Not surprisingly a string of defeats resulted.

Scrum-half

Probably the outstanding feature of the season has been the introduction of Collins at scrum-half. With splendid tackling, running and passing, Collins has been the complete scrum-half, and is one of the principal try scorers. Jenkins, as brilliant as ever at fly-half, has revelled in Collins' excellent service, and the result has been a really valuable partnership. Equally impressive has been the defensive work of Shaw and Evans. The two centres have, in match after match, tackled so

Men's Hockey

Harborne fight back

Harborne 2, Birmingham U. 1

CONSIDERING the weather of the past week, the pitch remained firm until late in the second half and both teams were able to play good hockey.

The University forwards got into their stride immediately and gave Harborne's defence a good deal to think about. There were several excellent moves and the University forwards were unlucky not to

the main objectives for the team must be to recapture this liveliness in every match.

Loyalty

No review of the season would be complete without a mention of that much-discussed subject, the competition of rich, outside clubs for the services of outstanding players. It is indeed a pity that these clubs, who have ample resources, should find it necessary to tempt the sense of loyalty of these players whose value to the University side would be so great.

Photo: PETER MURRAY

• Rugby Secretary, Brian Wright (left), and Captain, Pete Mills, inspect the Bournbrook pitch before calling last week's game off.



Weightlifting

STRONG B.A.I. WIN

ON Friday, 23rd November, the University lifted an away match in the Birmingham and District Olympics League against the "A" and "B" teams of the Birmingham Athletic Institute.

The "A" team was found to be very much stronger this year due to the introduction to the team of L. Kohestani, who has broken the British snatch record as a featherweight and ranks as one of the best lifters in the country.

Halfway through the match, the University team hit a bad patch when B. Jones, suffering from a recent back injury, performed his second snatch badly and was unable to take his third lift. He recovered sufficiently for the jerk, however, and managed to complete his three lifts at 30 lbs. below his best. The outstanding performance of the evening came from Kohestani who, at a bodyweight of 135 lbs., snatched 205 lbs. and jerked 255 lbs.

The final team totals were: BAI "A" 1,785 lbs.; University 1,465 lbs.; and BAI "B" 1,414 lbs.

GET FIT, OR DIE!

BY
DR. MIKE HAYES

THE British Medical Association have recently put forward the hypothesis that a lack of physical exercise during youth can be a contributory cause of thrombosis at attacks later in life. No statistics are available, but since the advent of industrial mechanisation and various forms of automation, heart diseases do seem to be on the increase.

University students, on the whole, are basically healthy and in little danger of suffering from heart diseases for many years to come. But with due consideration to the above hypothesis, far too few are taking the simple precautions which might help to keep them alive a bit longer.

British universities are well aware of their responsibility to provide the country with men and women, well trained in their own particular fields, but also physically fit. The bigger universities are all well equipped with gyms and playing-fields and our own Department of Physical Education with its splendid programme and conveniently placed playing-fields is the envy of its rivals.

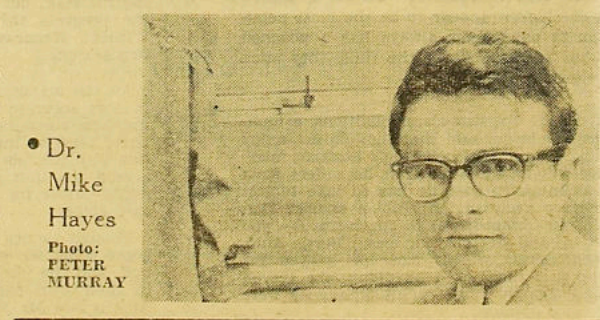
Unfortunately students themselves do not always take full advantage of the facilities offered. They produce numerous excuses for not taking part in sporting activities—afternoon laboratory classes and early nightfall during winter. But such excuses should

not stop the student from taking part in individual sports, such as cross-country and track events and swimming, which are probably the best sports for students, as training can be fitted in according to individual timetables.

Perhaps what is needed in British universities is an "academic-physical" system, where the daily academic work is accompanied by daily athletic exercise. These two together will help to produce clear, well-balanced minds

and will certainly ensure strong, healthy bodies. Graduates of such a system are needed to maintain a balance in the present-day world of automation and artificiality.

Women students have now no longer any fears of Amazonian situations if they hurl weights or practise track events. Names like Dorothy Hyman and Wilma Rudolph are known and appreciated all over the world. The rewards to be gained from athletics are easily available to all students.



SPECTATOR'S GUIDE

Basketball—Wed. 28th. Home v. Birmingham T.C.
Badminton—Mon. 26th. Home v. Pipe Hayes.
Badminton—Wed. 28th. Home v. St. Peter and St. Johns.
Men's Hockey—Sat. 1st. Home v. Edgbaston.
Fencing—Wed. 28th. Home v. Loughborough.
NOTE—The Rugby and Soccer Teams are both playing away this week.

Badminton

Lee dominates championships

London tops the list

LEE, of London University, strolled through the British Universities' Individual Badminton Championships and collected three titles while doing so. He completely dominated this event held in the Great Hall last weekend. London were far and away the strongest team, having representatives in all five finals, but they lost to Scotland in both the ladies' sections.

All the Birmingham team were knocked out before the third round except Miss Chan and Miss Blaine in the ladies' doubles. They found Miss Scholes and Miss Hanson of London too powerful in the semi-finals but they put up a tremendous fight and took the second set.

The first final played on Saturday was the ladies' singles between Miss Quinn (Glasgow) and Miss Scholes (London). Miss Quinn was altogether superior to the London player and was never really troubled in winning 11-5, 11-2 in only twelve minutes.

Strength

Next Lee and Parmer (London) played Woolhouse and Hill (Cambridge) for the men's doubles title. The Cambridge pair relied on strength and were outplayed by the more subtle Malaysians. Parmer used a unique short service and

Snooker

YOU are reminded that all First Round Snooker matches MUST be played by NEXT SATURDAY evening, December 1st. The draw for the Second Round will be made next Sunday, and will be posted in the Billiards Room by Monday.

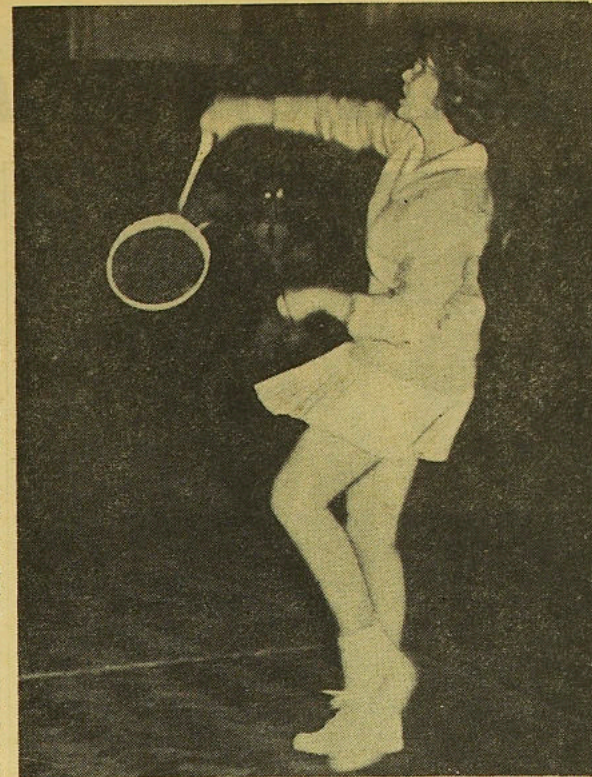
Lee's net shots were uncanny. Despite a game rally in the second set the Cambridge team went down 15-9, 15-10.

The ladies' doubles between Scholes and Hanson (London) and Beath and Kingham (St. Andrews) was a much slower and more deliberate affair. The Scottish pair played well as a team and never gave the Londoners a chance. The score was 15-6, 15-7.

The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the men's singles final between Lee and Parmer. Lee walked away with the first set 15-5 but Parmer showed that he was agile and fast despite his apparent bulk. Lee is slight though well-proportioned but he manages to get every ounce of his weight behind his shots. He could not be called a stylish player but his speed and timing were phenomenal.

Lee seemed to relax in the second set and Parmer took his opportunity and played superbly to win it 15-10. Parmer took the first five points of the final set but Lee slipped into top gear once again. He began to use his highest service which was perfect despite the re-entry problem. Try as he might, Parmer could not get the shuttle down and after some magnificent rallies had to yield 15-6.

Without leaving the court Lee went on to win the mixed doubles. He was partnered by Miss March against Mackenzie and Miss Quinn (Glasgow). The London team won 15-9, 15-10.



• Birmingham's Heather Blaine in action at the Badminton Championships in the Great Hall last weekend.

Photo: ALAN COHEN

Motoring

FOG TAKES HEAVY TOLL IN NOVEMBER RALLY

Only nine finish

FOG hit the Motor Club's November Rally hard last Sunday. Of the 30 starters only nine managed to complete the course in the 30-minute late period permissible.

Starting at 3.30 from the Union, the competitors had a comparatively easy run to Worcester, the only incident being when one competitor had an argument with a tree. The trouble started over the next sections when bad fog was encountered. "Without the fog the route would have been considerably easier," commented one of the organising committee.

One section was a climb up Ankerdine Hill, which only one cleared, while the marshal made B.T.D. and one car came into the control the wrong way—a right for all concerned.

As it was only one competitor

Cross-country

BROWN RUNS WELL FOR CLUB

LAST Saturday, the Cross-Country Club ran their second Birmingham League match of the season and finished fifth in a field of ten teams and 140 runners. Birmingham's outstanding performer was Brown, who ran magnificently throughout, and finished third after a close struggle in the final sprint.

Though he started slowly, Gardner stepped up his pace and did well to come in 11th. Yale finished 23rd and Milne (who lost a shoe early in the race) 25th; Birmingham's scoring was completed by Walmsley (39th) and Wrighton (53rd).

Results (leading positions):—
Cheltenham H. . . 134 pts.
Halesowen H. . . 135 pts.
AET Rugby . . . 135 pts.
Bilston . . . 145 pts.
Birmingham U. . . 157 pts.

**sporting
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Soccer

FINISHING LETS DOWN BRUM

Birmingham U. 0
Old Wulfrunians 1

AS the First XI were without a fixture last Saturday they were able to play off one of the Second XI's outstanding games. Once again, they lost a Birmingham League game to a much inferior team, but this game emphasises how much more brute force and ignorance triumph over football skill in this amateur league.

The University fielded their entire first team, though one would not have thought so in the opening ten minutes of the game.

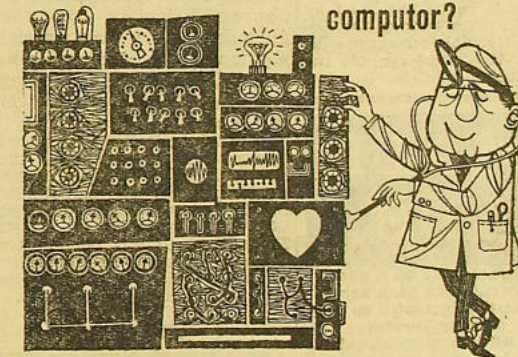
Old Wulfs held the initiative in the opening spell, but this was soon swept aside as Birmingham tried to open the game up. The small pitch often cramped Birmingham's movements so that the University attacks petered out in front of the opponents' goal.

The only goal of the game came some time after the start, when lack of calling between Johnson and Woods let in the Wulfs centre-forward to score an easy goal.

After this gift, the University dominated the game to such an extent that the Wulfs lost most of their drive. Mitchell and Wright hit the woodwork, while Randall and Rosser missed seemingly easy opportunities. It was a game of missed chances by an otherwise competent University team.

The University Soccer Club is having a raffle this Christmas to correct its falling bank-balance. Agents of the club will accost you during this week to give everyone a chance to help one of the University's major clubs. The prizes include a turkey, bottles of liquor and a hamper of fruit.

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NEWS DESK

SUB AQUA CLUB IN ICY WATER

FOUR members of the University Sub-Aqua Club braved the icy waters of a canal lock at Toll End, Tipton, last week in an effort to free the lock gates. They were taking part in an expedition organised by members of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Societies, to right locks between Toll End and Tipton, which were not in working order.

The University team spent most of their time removing bricks from the bottom of the lock, but after half-a-dozen barrow-loads of bricks had been raised, the lock gates remained firmly shut.

Eventually, they decided that the operation was more one for the summertime, and the attempt had to be abandoned. One member of the team said later: "It was extremely cold!"

APPEAL TOPS £60,000

THE appeal for a new building for the Department of Production Engineering has so far realised a total of over £60,000," said Dr. E. N. Corbett of the University Production Engineering Department.

The Appeal was launched by the Institution of Production Engineers whose President, Mr. Harold Burke, feels that the appeal is a matter for the Institution and for production engineers themselves rather than for the general public, and donations have so far resulted mainly from the personal approaches of Institution members to industry and from the many private subscriptions given by the members themselves.

Mr. Burke feels that industry will, in fact, be helping itself by donating, as the work of the Department is mainly concerned with studying the problems of the manufacturing industry.

SMALL ADS

External Ads.: 4d. a word.
Internal Ads.: 1d. a word.
Insertions accepted up to
mid-day Tuesday.

YOU ARE invited to attend the third Student Christian Congress at Bristol, 1st-6th Jan., 1963, where the theme "Jesus the Servant" will be expounded by a number of distinguished speakers in relation to the many aspects of the world's need. Free accommodation for participants. Further information from Elizabeth Taylor, Soc Sci III or from the chaplain of St. Francis Hall.

A MEETING of those interested in the proposed Angling Society will be held in Publications Office 2 on Thursday, November 29th at 5.30 p.m. Would those interested, but unable to attend, please indicate this to D. Vine, Maths III to give some idea of numbers.

CONFIDENTIAL typing, neatly typed at reasonable terms.—Apply to Mrs. A. Roberts, 15 Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

BANDS for your Socials. Why not try the Rhythm Club.—Contact D. Wheeler via pigeon hole.

Election muddle causes new poll

Placed on lists after
nominations closed

by REDBRICK reporter

THE by-election held last week for the second member of Council from Commerce, has been declared void as a misunderstanding caused one of the candidates, Brian Hancher, to be struck off the election lists. He has since objected and the elections must be held again.

Mr. Hancher, who transferred from Chem. Eng. at the end of last session and who is now in Commerce 1, was nominated for the by-election in Commerce. On the final lists he was placed as a freshers' candidate. When he objected to this, Mr. Faraday, the Returning Officer, put his name on the by-election lists.

Objection

Members of the constituency, including Roger Humphreys, Union Secretary, and Gordon Marjoram, member for Commerce, went to see the Returning Officer about the change. "We were informed that he had filled in a fresher's form instead of a by-election form and this was why his name had been changed on the lists. We objected on the grounds that he had been put on the lists after nominations had closed," said Roger Humphreys.

Mr. Faraday then withdrew the candidate's name and he was excluded from the ballot. However, half-way through the voting on Thursday, it was discovered that Hancher had filled in the correct form and should therefore have been on the by-election lists from the beginning.

"If we had known that he had filled in the correct form, of course we should not have objected," said Roger Humphreys. The election will be held sometime in the next two weeks and the whole matter is to come up at the next Council meeting.

Fresher elections disappoint

OVER a third of the freshers will have no representatives on Guild Council this year. This is because there have been no nominations in eight out of the 22 constituencies.

ACCOMMODATION SURVEY OUT

THE Student Committee on Accommodation is not to carry out any detailed investigation this year, as the cost would be too high for the Guild, which is having an economy year.

However, the Committee is to conduct a survey on "Student Preferences," with "special reference to accommodation." This will not put an excessive strain on Guild finances, and will be valuable as a basis for future discussions and work.

Doing it themselves

UNDERGRADUATES at an Oxford women's college, St. Hugh's, are to be given the chance to redecorate their college rooms—at the college's expense. The main reason for this, according to the Principal, is to give the students an opportunity to brighten their rooms and to express their artistic abilities. The college also hopes to gain, however, because at the moment they cannot afford to have the rooms decorated. Some rooms have not been redecorated since before the war.

Wild, unduly "artistic" schemes are out. The college will not pay for the materials until an inspection has been made of the results, and students will pay their own bills if the Principal does not approve. St. Anne's College, Oxford has had a comparable scheme for some years.



• "6d., bid up now, one lovely president for sale; 7d., any more bids please." WUS auction the President to raise funds.

Photo: PETER MURRAY

Hughes addresses WUS Council

EQUALITY in gaining access to Universities and an increased number of grants and loans were two of the matters discussed at the World University Service annual council held in Brighton.

Mr. A. R. Hughes, in his opening address on "The Changing Face of WUS," said that the terms of reference include an assurance that there should be no discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, social position, or political or religious views for people seeking entrance to, and participation in, University life.

Birmingham University students were responsible for £276 of the £250,000 handled by the British branch of WUS last year. During the Council it was reported that WUS gave financial aid to 42 Hungarian students who were made refugees by the Hungarian revolution and could not otherwise have continued their education.

Loans

Besides grants, last year £480 was spent on loans to students who met with unforeseen financial difficulties through no fault of their own. A loan of up to £50 is made to tide the student over until a trustee can be found to finance his study. The Council passed a resolution asking the Executive Committee to investigate the possibility of increasing grants and loans, since some academically qualified students are being deprived of their education through lack of money.

Mr. Hughes congratulated WUS on initiating research into student mental health. Discussion showed delegates were concerned with this problem and attention was drawn

to the stress of exams and choice of career, and the lack of suitably qualified doctors.

Tours

The Education and Welfare Secretary reported last year's study tours.

"The Emerging Nation—Challenge and Personality" is the subject of the 1963 International Summer University, sponsored by WUS and UNSA which will be held in Finland. Sites in Yugoslavia and Poland will be explored in future years.

Mr. G. Morgan reviewed WUS projects now under way. These include:

Basutoland—the construction of a library and Arts Block at Pius XII College.

Chile—Donation towards reconstruction after earthquake.

Rhodesia—Scholarships for non-white students.

Korea—Donation towards hostel accommodation.

Miss C. Biraben and Pat Sweeting, of Birmingham University, were elected to the new Executive. WUS needs support both financially and in local WUS activities.

The medics will have no representation, as there is no-one willing to stand for either Medicine or Dentistry. The other constituencies without fresher representatives are Physics, Civil Engineering, Honours English, Arts (Honours) and Combined Subjects.

In seven other constituencies there has been a walkover.

Mr. R. T. Jones, the Permanent Secretary of the Guild said: "There's no excuse for this, there's been more publicity than usual, and every Guild Councillor has had a letter about the elections."

Rodney Klevan, the Guild President, commented: "I am very disappointed with this. It may be simply apathy. I only hope that Guild Councillors have done their duty in bringing the elections to the notice of their freshmen constituents."

PRESCRIBED FOR CRIMINALS

THE Guild Open Lecture on Thursday, given by Professor Webster, Professor of Forensic Medicine, was aptly entitled "Chatter" and consisted mainly of anecdotes. There was, however, buried among the levity, some attempt to describe the beginnings of forensic medicine as a separate recognised science in this country.

One of the pioneers in this field, Professor Webster was especially well qualified to speak on this subject, and his complete grasp of his subject matter as well as a very entertaining style of speech, made the poor attendance at this lecture even more regrettable than usual.

Having described how one doctor appeared in court three times in one day, to give evidence in three different cases, first as a gynaecologist, second as a pathologist, and thirdly as an ear-nose-and-throat specialist, he went on to illustrate the scope of modern forensic medicine.

Using slides, which were notably unsensational, and which for the most part had an interesting case history attached, he demonstrated some of the methods of forensic medicine.

Ashes from match-heads and notes, minute drops of molten metal caught in the fibres of suit fabric, diatoms, algae and mosses on a person's shoes, all these have been found and used by forensic experts as evidence against various persons, most of whom have been finally proved guilty by means of this evidence.

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