

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 545

Thursday, January 29, 1959

Threepence

"RUDDIGORE" ACCLAIMED

With everything that they have done this year G.T.G. have shown themselves to have "green-room" fingers. All has turned to gold, and we have been rewarded with excellent performances all round. "Ruddigore" only served to enhance the growing reputation of the opera section of the group, and the acclamation that followed at the end, though coming from an audience already well-disposed, was thoroughly sincere.

The opera had many excellences, but what stood out was the high quality of the solo singing; there was not the slightest trace of a weak link, and many rose above even their previous best. Here we must single out Olive Tunley and Jane Gilding, whose singing was flawless, and whose blossoming into a completely comedy-romantic pair has only served to show us that "The Conspirators" last year was no freak. In particular Mr. Tunley's dancing was a high-spot of the evening, and his club hornpipe was justly encored. Roger Burt gave a mature performance as Sir Despard Murgatroyd, and his diction was the most audible of the whole cast. We shall never forget his mock delicacy in the second act duet when Norma Collins, after a sensitive first act as Mad Martineau, joined him and added her inimitable stage presence to the proceedings.

But these qualities were to be expected. There were also some surprises. Michael Dyson emerged as the new patter-man, with a voice remarkably like D'Oyly Carte's Peter Pratt, and he proved himself no mean actor in a rather sympathetic portrayal of Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, a reluctant bad baronet. It was a shame, however, that he was not given the opportunity to show his ability with comic business (the fault was Gilbert's not G.T.G.'s). Another newcomer was Christine Garnforth who, as Dame Hannah, displayed the best contralto voice heard in this University for many years. We shall look forward to seeing her in longer roles, as we should also welcome more of Mike Pilling's fine bass voice.

Colourful effects

Tessa Collins, the producer, had contrived everything well, and the little first night technicalities that went amiss will soon be ironed out. The second night was better than the first, but when it was heightened by the

ghost scene, spectacularly done, and featuring the promising singing of Tony Goss. The set for this act was effective and exciting, though not so obtrusive as to outbalance the costumes. Here a tribute should be paid to Caroline Wilson and her assistant Sheila Burton. It was incredible that they had made so many excellent costumes alone, especially the male chorus' frock coats.

A new feature this year was the extensive choreography, which Norma Collins arranged. Although hampered by the limits of the stage itself, the dancers performed creditably, and the finale was particularly well done. The two choruses proved very versatile, and their singing made a pleasing sound. Ann Parker led her bridesmaids with gusto, though she and Mary Loo Baker never really struck one as "vulgar girls."

With all these theatrical qualities, we might easily forget the music, but in this case we did not. Ian Marshall directed the orchestra with firmness, and they sounded most professional. But their greatest quality lay in the fact that they were never allowed to drown the soloists. They found an even keel right from the start, and provided a perfect setting to another successful G.T.G. opera.

SHAMUEL

Motor Club visit to Dunlop

THE club has arranged a visit to Dunlop's Research Centre and "skid-pan" in Birmingham on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 4. Members should meet outside the Union at 1.30 p.m.

If club members or not are interested, you are welcome to join us for this visit. Please check our notice board beforehand so as to facilitate transport details.

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OBITUARY

G. D. H. COLE

Professor G. D. H. Cole, one of the best known of Socialist intellectuals, died last week. His immense output of books on sociology, politics, and economics have influenced students far beyond Oxford, where he was Professor of Social and Political Theory.

His first book, "The World of Labour," was published in 1913. In this and other books he spread the ideas of Guild Socialism. He clearly perceived the dangers of powerful, central control during the disastrous transfer of radical loyalties to the Soviet Union.

He was once a Parliamentary candidate, but he became disillusioned with the post-war Labour Government, and in 1951 resigned from the chairmanship of the Fabians over their support of the Korean War. He continued his criticism of the Labour Party and the Welfare State, but he also criticised the Communists. In one of his last articles, he rejects the Capitalist system as he always did and poses the central problem of our society: the creation of a community.

Not only Socialists and students of Social and Trade Union history are indebted to Professor Cole, but all who believe in social justice, human dignity, and the freedom of the individual. DAVID S. LANE.

FLATS — REVISION

At its meeting last Wednesday, the University Lodgings Committee reconsidered the question of undergraduates occupying flats. The present regulation is that any student who is over the age of 21 and of at least one year's standing in the University is permitted to take flat accommodation, provided the Lodgings Warden gives her approval.

APOLOGY

A misunderstanding after a meeting of Lodgings Committee last session led many to believe that if they were 21 or of one year's standing they could occupy a flat. Since both of these conditions had to be fulfilled many students who fulfilled only one requirement have been asked to return to approved lodgings. For this confusion the committee expressed its sincere regret.

RECONSIDERATION

In these circumstances, the committee consented to re-consider the situation. The Lodgings Warden gave statistics demonstrating the very small number of flats that were available, but it was generally agreed that the availability of flat accommodation did not alter the principle. It is unreasonable to expect that everyone who fulfils the conditions should be provided with a flat. Nevertheless, granting a suitable flat, that is, one where there is a resident householder, students who fulfil the conditions should be allowed to occupy. To this extent the flat regulations are permissive.

NEXT SESSION

It was finally decided by the committee to recommend to the University Council as from the beginning of next session, students who are over 20 years of age and of at least one

Dear Sir,

THE public outcry caused by the removal of the evening meals service from the Union seems to have subsided somewhat but I would like to remind the powers-that-be that the question is still not satisfactorily settled. At the beginning of term several members of the Geography Dept. submitted a petition to the Catering Committee which was then passed on to the President. Although the situation has changed slightly our major complaints are still valid.

One of our main complaints was at having to walk across an ill-lit building site to get our evening meal, only to find at the end of it that we were expected to eat in a Victorian hall with conditions of indescribable filth about us. Around the pillars at a height of six feet or so there was a tidemark which apparently represented the limit of human endeavour with a wet rag. Surely we are not wrong to expect something better of a University dining hall?

In addition it makes it seem hardly worth while to stay on in the Union in the evenings if it entails a cold walk to get a hot meal. One of the main reasons given for the change was that Time and Motion studies revealed that the Refectory was more efficient but since the changeover there appears to be no noticeable difference in speed of service. We were told that queues in the Union at the beginning of the Session were too long and people had to wait an hour for their meal, a figure I would dispute. I maintain that this overcrowding was due to the influx of Freshers finding their feet. As soon as these people found when the slacker times occurred they adjusted their eating time accordingly and by the end of last term the overcrowding only occurred for a short while at the peak period of just after five o'clock—the problem had solved itself.

It seems to be an eventual aim that there should be a higher class evening meals service in the Union. This seems to be a good idea for those who want, and can afford, the extra costs which waitress service inevitably involves. Since the waitress service has been inaugurated the maximum number it has served in an evening has been 23, the minimum has been none, and the average lies at about ten or a dozen. Surely this reflects the limited need for such a service and could not Lesser Hall be used to cope with this demand instead of evicting the 500 people who Mr. Luby tells us use the Refectory? We do not object to the principle of waitress service and if it could provide us with a three-course meal for 28. 6d as it does at the Union Society, Oxford, I am sure that there would be no complaints and it would be well patronised.

Last term we were urged to use the Union more in the evenings and we would willingly do so if we had not been deprived of the meals service which the majority of us want and which once provided our incentive to stay on in the Union in the evenings. I hope that this will serve as a reminder that although the hubbub seems to have died down we are still far from satisfied with the present state of affairs.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN C. BAYFIELD.



Don't worry, Mr. Humbolt, he'll have to come down and eat somewhere in the end

SOLOMON'S COLUMN

Come and get it!

The Union of an evening is coming more and more to resemble an animated mortuary. Students who once upon a time enjoyed their nocturnal repasts in the blissful surroundings of the Vernon and Priestley Halls are now obliged to traipse across to the University Refectory. The object of this reform is apparently to introduce high class catering facilities in the Union, so that we lucky students may champ among chandeliers, serviettes and waitresses.

Enter lady student (cash grant £200 p.a.).

Waitress: "What will modom have?"

"Ale have caviare, followed by lobster salad with chopped brunch and french fried, then for dessert"—(you mustn't say "afters" here)—"ale have lyches and fresh cream. And a white wine."

"Thank yew, modom. The cost is 37s. 6d. Will you pay by cheque, hire-purchase or banker's order?"

Passengers alight for Lyons Corner House, Edgbaston Park Road.

What very excellent catering facilities!

Red Tape

It is now naughty to put up posters in Guild Club unless signed by a member of Exec! This brilliant(?) idea has been imported from the Union, where, it seems, one must now ask permission to breathe from a member of the Exec! Same goes for Tannoy Announcements, you know. What a wonderful thing it is to have an Exec, who knows what's best for us!

And what a wonderful thing to have a Guild Club Secretary like Mr. Heseltine!



EDITORIAL

Guild News

Number
545THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
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1841

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SPACE prevents us this week dealing with all that we should wish to cover. We must apologise, therefore, to all those contributors whose work has not appeared this week. Last week, the printers found themselves having to cut a considerable amount, due to no fault of theirs or ours, and as a result one or two articles were too short.

With regard to our Council report last week, it should be pointed out that the 80 per cent. intake of students supposed to have withdrawn because of Carnival should have read, of course, eight per cent. Also, the Vice-Chancellor's statement was not his considered opinion, but rather it could have been a contributory factor.

Christian and Communist

The long-prepared Christian Evangelistic Mission will soon be working in the University. Its activities will bring about desirable discussions between believers and non-believers, the latter including Communist students.

We Communists are opposed to Christianity because we believe it to be a philosophy of the past, outgrown by man's ascent from the depths of ignorance and mysticism to the heights of modern scientific achievement, and his political awareness of the realities of the world about him.

We uphold the morality which Christianity preaches, and strive to implement it on a sound theoretical and practical basis. However, we are opposed to the use of Christianity to deceive the people. When John Wycliffe and the Taborites fought for social justice, they were persecuted by the religious hierarchy whose interest was the defence of feudalism. Religion has always been used by the ruling class as an instrument for maintaining itself in power.

To-day, the anti-Communist campaign of the Anglican and Catholic Churches is used to protect the privileges of the ruling class, and maintain a capitalist system.

PRESS POST

True, Christians, like Communists, desire justice, truth and happiness. But these things are not in heaven; they are to be fought for here on earth. The only means of realising Christian Social ideals is an active struggle in co-operation with Socialists and Communists. Marxism proclaims the tremendous potential of man to improve his lot and enrich the human spirit.

Thus in the spheres of justice, peace, and the elevation of the lives of the people, Christians and Communists have a common cause, and a co-operative struggle will most rapidly bring the rich rewards.

Yours, etc.,
TONY WAKELING
(Secretary, Birmingham Students' Branch of Communist Party)

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BEN COWLEY, the Editor of "Mermaid," is anxious that it should be a literary and financial success. The cost of 6d. should ensure good circulation, and some of the contributions, too, are well worth reading. The Editorial recommends the Essay as a form to future contributors, and the two essays in this number justify its appearance.

Professor Leownstein's article, "Charles Darwin and the Concept of Organic Evolution," is admirable and particularly to be welcomed not only because it is a short, clear exposition for the general reader, but also because the Editor in his foreword promises a series of articles encouraging discussion and the furthering of knowledge of the Victorian reader," carrying us away from severe gentlemen in mutton-chop whiskers.

The second essay is Ian Rolfe's "From Single Vision":

Ed. Street column

IT has long been the Editor's ambition to write Ed. Street Column, and last week I decided to let him at least help me. Hence, disguised in a coat of plaster of Birmingham he has, during the course of the last week, been reposing in the German library. Dr. Thomas Precious Heslop surrendered his stand for a warmer clime to save his marble from permanently remaining blue, while Constance Nader, a cold, stern lady, perched on "Songs and Sonnets of Springtime," "The Elbow of Life," and "A Modern Apostle," was at hand to supplement the information.

We now know, for instance, what goes on when the light grows dim, and all but one or two (usually two) forsake the paraffin burner. We have discovered what the elite section who frequent the window table find so amusing . . . but we dare not print it! Miss Nader has expressed her dismay at what she calls "the pigmentation of the female nether regions"—the subterfugal use of coloured articles to cover up wintry legs. She also reveals that these are deceptive, creating an impression, which is not always fulfilled.

Happily the Editor is now deplastered (no comment) and was able to go for a walk on his lead into Guild Club. In this connection we suggest that a role of students be drawn up to relieve Mr. Walker and Alf (whose rustic garb will soon be changed for a stabler one) of the onerous duties of taking Angus for his evening "walkies."

Outside with Angus, we were shocked to note the extraordinary increase in the forces of bulky constabulary posted about . . . and they were not all sticking little tabs on cars. Is this a reflection on the characters who constitute our number, or are they really trying to protect the interests of the fountain's seemingly faulty plumbing.

Rhythm Club

Dear Sir,

In reply to the jazz article last week, "Apathy," may I reiterate my views? I did not dare show the portrait to Mum lest she deduce from it that I frequented billiard halls or drinking dens. On the contrary, I have been known to read books, and even visit concert halls.

Indeed, I am not apathetic about jazz. I even endeavour to perform it occasionally, even though my self-expression may be hampered by lack of technique, range, and musical knowledge. But I must repeat that: (a) Jazz is an inferior art form, if one at all, (b) it has gone as far as it can go; (c) I like it very much.

Because, however, I do not wear odd clothes and a large bushy beard, and further do not speak of a relatively unimportant affair as "sacred," I am apathetic. Unfortunately, your critic is that most distressing musical entity, the non-playing fan/critic. I shall, however, continue in my erring ways with the comforting thought that although I have reached years of musical discretion, your correspondent evidently has not.

Yours, etc.,
CHAIRMAN, U.B.R.C.

Mermaid

"May God us keep

From single vision, and Newton's sleep."

Mr. Rolfe has something to say which to him, and it should be to us, is of great importance. His theme is the "social decadence of the West" which he links with the "loss of perception or sensitivity to surroundings." He wants us to be shocked into reaction to art—he gives as an instance "musique concrete"—so that we feel before we can analyse, and thus Uri-son does not kill all feeling. Blake, William Morris, Le Corbusier, in all of them Mr. Rolfe finds a support in his battle against the false limitation of art which results in contempt for design, and in keeping beauty out of our lives. It is the truly reactionary society which keeps to this false limitation, and for us to be healthy such a society must be superseded. Perhaps Mr. Rolfe may be attacked for advocating the impracticable, but he may well stimulate a few readers.

Of the other prose, apart from the book reviews, little can be said. These two short stories would be a credit to most school magazines, but in spite of the Editor's attempt to disarm criticism, they are not really good enough standard for "Mermaid." Mrs. Diamond strives in her story for a flatness that will make the end stand out in relief, but the final effect is of flatness alone. Mr. Jones' fantasy of the divided world finding a happy capitalist solution amuses at moments, but it runs over well-worn ground; no sudden insights or twists surprise us.

Uneven verse

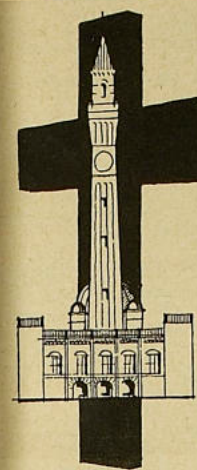
The poetry is uneven, varying imitations of 18th Century poets. David Hurst and Raymond Chas. (surely it is possible to use tight verse form without the language?), to Mr. Cotter's reminiscences of Eliot. Things "Nocturnal noises tell me not stay" should never be published. G. Sharp's poem has the error of trying to foist feeling on a phrase which, by itself has emotive power.

'Our nuclear power'

Our half-made thoughts are great (weep or welcome?) when come.

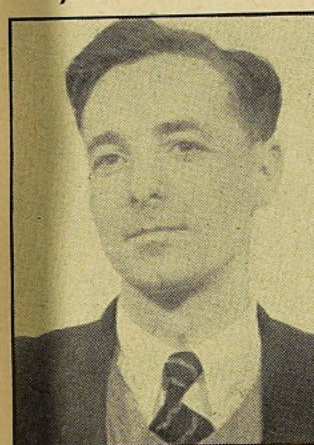
S. J. Shauld uses his technique effectively in "Skull." "Slide" is abominably wordy. Ever. D. A. Craig's "Elegy for a mer" begins well, but falls in development. Miss Roberts is near hysteria in "Methusalem," I do not understand, but at least has something to say (Mr. Cowley). "Salop Days" is an amusing parody. R. F. Willets and Mrs. H. son both provide pleasant, accomplished poems, but they are members of staff. I hope indeed that it is maturity which is at the root of deficiencies of the undergraduate poets—they are those which I have criticised most severely. That the poem in "Mermaid" is poor is not Cowley's fault, but the small number of excellences in a magazine writing from a University of this is a criticism of ourselves.

E. M. SH.



The team

JACK MONGAR



ANOTHER nautical member of the team is JACK MONGAR, who is at present receiving part-time education from his children in the joys of sailing and camping. (Wayfarers please take note). Jack completed his earlier education in the war years. He studied Chemistry at Birkbeck College, London, and afterwards worked in industry for some years before retiring to University College to take a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry. Since then he has turned to medical research and is now a reader in Chemical Pharmacology. Jack became a Quaker during the war—and a pacifist after August, '45.

DR. VERONICA THRES

DR. VERONICA THRES suffered her medical training at Bristol University, and won a scholarship for training in America. On returning to this country she became house surgeon at Chelmsford Hospital. Her missionary training was done here in Birmingham at the College of the Ascension, Selly Oak, and then she sailed for Ovamboland. Unfortunately because of poor health Dr. Thres had to come home, and she took up a general practice in this country. She has recently been appointed Medical Missions Secretary and Physician to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Dr. Thres will spend most of the Mission Week among the "Medics" and will introduce the film "Strong to Heal" which is being shown in the Medical School at 5 p.m. on Friday.

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A FAITH FOR TO-DAY

My dear Wormwood,

GET over to Birmingham right away Some of your patients at the University are organising a Mission. I want you to look after one of our followers who is reading chemistry. His name is Blowbroth. In his sixth form he was a regular atheist but now I see distressing signs of interest in the Enemy's propaganda. Get him back. Properly handled, my boy, he will give you a great deal of amusement. Here are a few ideas:

Keep things general. At all costs avoid this faith they talk about coming home to him personally. You will find this easy, because there is nothing Blowbroth likes better than arguing about a subject until the cows come home. He rarely reaches any definite conclusions and if he does, nothing practical comes of it. For instance, he will talk in a lordly way about what ought to be done in the "underdeveloped countries," but if you suggested that he might send half-a-crown a week to help some hospital in India, he'd think you were mad. The Enemy knows about this. If I remember aright, when he was here he said he preferred those who would do the things he said to those who merely called him "Lord, Lord."

Keep turning him away from anything personal or practical. "Faith in God" is beginning to sound quite attractive to him but it can mean nothing at all. We have managed to build up in human minds a very vague idea of God. If students don't know their Bibles (and most of them do not), their idea of God will be based on the poems of Shelley or the views of those odd clergymen who write in "The Observer"—but never on theology. In other words, they will think of God, not as the source of Life and everything that is real, but as a "first cause,"—something so far away that it has no possible claims on them. Faith of this sort is just what we're looking for!

You must keep Blowbroth away from the subject of faith in the Son of our dreaded Enemy. This is liable

**And as the Mission starts,
here is advice from our old
friend Screwtape**

to mean something more definite to him—like believing in his human friends. You will find that he has rather more idea of the nasty things the Son stood for.

Lean heavily on his intellectual pride. Impress on him that it is not respectable for intelligent people to take things on trust. (You will find our agents in some of their Guild societies very helpful here). Tell him that it would be intellectual suicide to believe unless he is given a really logical proof of the Enemy's existence.

Of course you must encourage Blowbroth to forget how much he does take on trust without thinking twice. No one these days questions a statement made by a scientist. We have made sure that human minds are rarely logical. They go by fashions. At present it is fashionable (and lucrative) to worship science.

I don't suppose they realise it, but this all goes back to one of our early successes. You will find a garbled version of what we did in that vile book of theirs, Genesis, chapter 11. I think. Unfortunately things got out of hand, but we have managed to make some recent capital out of this same confusion of tongues. Students of chemistry never read history and the linguists themselves can't understand a word of physics. This is most profitable for us. We are working towards the day when each group will know almost all about nearly nothing, and no group will understand any other. (Their "liberal education" idea is intended to combat this; it makes me laugh like anything!). What they call Christian theology will then be the study of one isolated group and looked on as a fairy story by all the others. Don't let them remember that the Enemy said, He came to bring a way of life—even life itself. Concentrate on "The Bible as Literature"—old literature. We have made a start—but I must be off. I smell something burning.

Infernally yours,

SCREWTAPE.

"The Screwtape Letters," by C. S. Lewis. Cheap edition at 2s. on the Bookstall.

RICHARD AND VERONICA TAYLOR

RICHARD TAYLOR was born in Birmingham and graduated from this University with a First in Chem. Eng. Although he had decided to train for the Congregational ministry, he took a year off from student life to work as a labourer in a Sheffield steel works. At Oxford, he took a Theology degree and rowed for St. Catherine's. Since 1956, he has been Industrial Secretary for S.C.M. Richard Taylor thinks it much better to travel than arrive and can recommend hitch-hiking in the Balkans or branch lines—anywhere. He will be speaking on Tuesday in the Chem. Eng. Dept. at 5.15 p.m. and on Friday to the Metallurgical Society at 4 p.m. on: "The Christian Contribution to Industrial Relationships."

MRS. VERONICA TAYLOR's first experience of Birmingham consisted of a two-year course at Westhill College, where she took a Diploma in Education. Her earlier intentions (unfulfilled) had been medicine and the organ. She spent some time in settlement work in the East End of London and later selling books in Foyles, from where she says she was sacked: "like a great many others." In 1952, Veronica Taylor went to King's College, London, to read for a Theology degree, she worked for S.C.M. for three years afterwards and is now a full-time housewife. She

INFORMAL DISCUSSION

During the Mission Week, Canon Fison and his team will speak at many full-scale meetings. You are invited, with a few of your friends, to meet one of these people informally—over coffee or at a meal time—to discuss with him some of the questions arising from the Mission.

Details will be available in Mission Week from the Mission Office (Committee Room 2, the Union) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Canon J. E. Fison

The leadership of the Mission

THE leader of the Mission will be CANON J. E. FISON of Truro, who is well acquainted with students and university life. After graduating from Oxford, "Joe" Fison taught for three years in a school in Cairo and then returned to Oxford as a tutor at Wycliffe Hall. Service as a chaplain in the Army during the war took him to Egypt and Palestine. In 1956 he went on a lecture tour in the United States and has recently taken part in Missions at Exeter and Bristol Universities. At Easter, Canon Fison will be taking up an appointment as Canon and Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral. During next week, he can be heard at Edgbaston at 12.0 p.m. each day and at Edmund Street at 4.20 p.m. each day, excepting Wednesday. His theme at Edgbaston will be: "A Faith for To-day" while at Edmund Street he will be speaking on: "The Christian Outlook."

ROGER PILKINGTON

ROGER PILKINGTON will no doubt be known to many, either as an author or a broadcaster. Educated at Rugby and Oxford, afterwards he swallowed his pride and went to that comparatively modern university, Cambridge, where he did research in genetics. His books are not restricted to genetics or allied topics but include such diverse subjects as religion and science, and inland waterways—he has his own launch and is also a member of the Inland Waterways Association.

The only "open" meeting which Dr. Pilkington will address is in S.F.H. on Monday, at 6.15. He will talk about Sex and Marriage. He will, however, be giving two talks on Tuesday, the first at 5 p.m. in S.F.H. when his subject is "Truth—Religious and Scientific" — directed mainly towards the Biologists, the second at 7.45 p.m. in the Barling Room, University House. This meeting is principally for the Medics, and is entitled "The Doctor and His Patients' Marriages."

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STAFF - STUDENT RELATIONS

Staff-student relations in the Redbrick Universities have always been unnecessarily strained—perhaps because so many of their students are fresh from school. Of late, this has been a widely discussed problem in Birmingham, and the Metallurgical Society is doing its part in bringing staff-student relationships away from the lecture room and into more convivial surroundings.

Towards the close of last term, the Society-staff, research men and undergraduates—met over coffee to tackle this problem. In fact the first stage in the solution came accidentally. The general topic of conversation veered round to the University and its function.

At a second meeting Professor Raynor spoke of the development of the modern university, and from this historical survey he showed that the most important aspect of the University is the relationship between student and student (student meaning all things from Head of Department to Freshman). The University should fit a person for a useful and civilised life by allowing him to mature and to develop his critical faculties. The popular misconception that Universities should give instruction was wrong—its real purpose was to enable the student to think and use his judgment.

Professor Raynor said that the undergraduate must not think himself the focal point of the University, but stressed the importance of research. He strongly condemned those students—all too many of them—who come up to the University with the sole intention of being given a vocational training. It was wrong for the Government to exert pressure on the Universities to produce more scientists and technologists, since these made the senior student-junior student relationship more difficult to sustain.

After some discussion from the floor, the meeting adjourned for refreshment, and look on a more informal pattern, with small groups gathering to talk over the points made by Professor Raynor, as well as other matters of interest. Perhaps other departments will follow. J.M.L.

JAZZ NOTES

The venue was the same, and most of the audience too, but what a difference in the music! I am, of course, referring to the two traditional jazz concerts that took place this week-end, namely the George Lewis and the Chris Barber bands.

The Lewis band is a group of elderly negro musicians playing a music that they have known and loved for a lifetime. They produced such a lusty, bawdy sound that the Barber band, regarded by many as the best traditional band in Europe, sounded pallid and lifeless in comparison.

The most obvious difference was, naturally, the rhythm section, always a sore point in non-negro bands; in the Lewis group it swung along as if all the devils in the voodoo world were chasing it; but in the case of the Barber group it just ran for the appointed time without any governing compunction.

The soloists in the Barber group were tasteful and competent, especially clarinetist Monty Sunshine, whereas Lewis was truly inspired—soaring to crescendos and lilting to the depths of pathos with equal dexterity.

Trumpeter Kid Howard was a life-line pumping a vital zest and unrestrained fervour into the whole band, the same being true of trombonist Jim Robinson.

It has been said that none of this band have any theoretical knowledge of the music they play; if that is in fact the case, then it does not matter in the least, for I am of the opinion that the sound they naturally produce could not be improved upon one iota.

OTTILIE PATTERSON

Miss Patterson invited me to share a cheese roll and told me of her life

in Ireland. She was born in Comber, County Down, the fourth child in her family, but she remembered little of them as by the time she was six they were all in the Forces. She mentioned her brother, John "Paddy" Patterson, who will be well known to members of the mechanical engineering department. She said that he was her best-remembered brother, probably as "he used to take me for walks on his leaves from the Middle East."

Questioned on her scholastic achievements, she said that although she won a scholarship to Queen's, she had preferred to haggle for a grant to go to Art College. After four years there she taught at the Ballymena Technical College but, during a holiday in London, she persuaded the Barber band to let her sing with them. They liked her so much that they offered her the position of "blues" singer with them.

Miss Patterson added that she would probably return to teaching when she had worked the jazz-bug out of her system, but at present she intended to prove to herself that she could be a good singer. After that she would be very happy to stay that way for some ten or so years. Then she would go back to teaching. "It's not that I love teaching less, but that I love jazz more," she parodied.

JAK.

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Hillel House

The problem of finding lodgings has always been acute for Jewish students, but the problem is now eased with the opening of Hillel House, which will serve as a hall of residence for Jewish students. Situated in Somerset Road, it at present takes about ten students, but this number will be increased next session. The concept of a Hillel House is an import from America, where, through the assistance of a lodge known as the B'nei Brith (Children of the Covenant), a hall of residence for Jewish students was established on every university and college campus. This hall is named after Hillel, a famous Rabbi who lived at the beginning of the Christian era.

Although the idea of the Hillel Foundation has long been established in the U.S.A., it is a recent innovation here. In fact, up till two years ago there was only one in England, that being in London, near the N.U.S. Hostel. This serves as a resting place for Jewish students passing through the city, and as a cultural centre for those in London University. It enables them to meet on the Sabbath and festivals, and to lead a full Jewish life together with a full university life.

Five years ago, Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester Universities began planning their own Hillel Houses, and three years ago Birmingham approached the local Jewish community and, with the help of the local B'nei Brith, started a campaign for their House. Excellent premises were obtained, and thus Birmingham's is among the first Hillel Houses in the country. Although this is for male residents, it is hoped to open a similar House for women students.

FRENCH CRITICISM
OF SHAKESPEARE

Speaking to a very large audience which included nearly all the staff of the French Department, Professor Spencer of the English Department, addressed the Cercle Français on "French Criticism of Shakespeare." During the short time that he has been at this University, Professor Spencer has established a reputation for being a very amusing, as well as highly interesting lecturer, and his talk justified and enhanced this reputation.

In his opening remarks, Professor Spencer stated that although it is interesting to read French opinions of Shakespeare, the English can learn nothing from them. He went on to divide French criticism into three periods. During the first, covering the 18th and 19th Century, only poor editions of the works were available to the French, who could not recognise his qualities or genius. Voltaire attacked him scathingly, as did Chateaubriand and Victor Hugo, then at the beginning of their careers as critics.

But a new period was born when, from 1820 onwards, the French became increasingly interested in Shakespeare, and the triumphant performance of "Othello" in Paris in 1827 brought about a surge of enthusiasm amongst the French for the hitherto maligned English poet. This new enthusiasm was to lead Hugo and Chateaubriand to retract their earlier condemnations and to transform them into florid praise, praise which was to be re-echoed by Taine and others. However, it was pointed out to us, in an extremely amusing fashion, care must be taken when considering these effusive and apparently profound criticisms as many of them are, in fact, adaptations or even paraphrases of opinions on Shakespeare expressed by such eminent English critics as Pope and Sir Walter Scott.

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The Democratic Union

RARELY does a new society come into being amid so much opposition. Guild Council has been a battleground over it, and Miss Lesley Posner, one of the leaders, will soon produce her arguments in print.

In fact the aims of this Society are: (i) To preserve the essential conditions of this civilisation, these being the rule of law, political democracy (dependent on the supremacy of parliament, universal suffrage and responsible government) and the maxi-

mum of individual freedom compatible with the performance of duties and respect for the rights of others.

(ii) To propagate democratic principles by means of public meetings within the Guild, i.e. to bring to and discuss doctrines, parties, movements in so far as they support or oppose these principles.

These aims show that the Society is uniting members of the Guild are proud of the institutions on their society is built. These have provided our nation with the essence of spiritual well-being which we and wish to maintain.

Democracy depends upon appreciation of his rights and ignorance of these leaves it vulnerable to small active groups who to destroy it. Consider the state trade unions in Britain to-day. Communists, always a minority, gain important positions solely because few trade unionists use their Man only appreciates something he is without it.

The effect of apathy is also seen in the field of local government. Ignorance of these leaves it vulnerable to small active groups who to destroy it. Consider the state trade unions in Britain to-day. Communists, always a minority, gain important positions solely because few trade unionists use their Man only appreciates something he is without it.

Our opposition's main point is we are an "anti" society. We fact aim to lead people to democracy and guard against totalitarianism. Every society standing on defined principles must be logical, opposed to some other principle. It is especially true of political movements.

Miss Posner is a medical student, her aim to fight and prevent disease. A democratic state, like the human body, is prone to disease, needs treatment when totalitarianism in. Surely, if those who oppose aims respect our democratic institutions, they must realise the importance of protecting them from bugs as Bolshevism and bureaucracy. Miss Posner realises the value of being in fighting diseases. So much all learn about our institutions what we must do to maintain the

The first meeting was on Monday January 26, when Dr. C. A. S. spoke on "Soviet Communism and Marxist Theory." B. G.

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