

Film Soc.

"MEIN KAMPF"
"L'ANDANANE"

Thursday, 7.30:
Mech. Eng.

REDBRICK

Deb Soc

"This house prefers the 3rd
Channel to the 4th estate"
BAMBER GASCOIGNE
NOEL PICARDA
Thursday, 5.15:
Council Chamber.

No. 633/18

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6th, 1963

Price 3d.



Photo: ATV Studios.

John Freeman

MULTI-STOREY PARK FOR CAMPUS

THE latest University development plan (see Page Eight) holds out the possibility of multi-storey car-parks on the campus, if money can be found for the scheme.

One will lie across the Union tennis courts and South Car Park and will be built to the height of the terrace outside the Concourse Lounge. The top will be laid as new tennis courts. Students will have access to lower levels from Edgbaston Park Road, but staff access will be from the new ring road.

New deal for Medics

SEVEN wary members of the Executive went on their annual pilgrimage to the Medical School to learn of the troubles afflicting the Medics. As a result of the barrage of questions and comments from the twelve interested students, a new committee will be set up to consider the relationships of Medics to the Guild.

PHILOSOPHERS SWEEP BOARD IN DEBATING TOURNAMENT

THE Debating Society Open Debating Tournament was won in convincing style on Thursday by Mr. Andrew Allen (Philosophy) who last term walked away with the fresher's title. Placed second of the four finalists was another Philosopher, Mr. D. Wyndham Mears.

The presiding judge, Professor Hood-Phillips, Dean of the Law Faculty, thought the standard "pretty high, and the speeches both relevant and amusing." The motion that "This house considers that policemen are nasty, brutish and tall" was "quite debatable" he said, and Mr. Allen had debated it best.

Miss Ann Doran proposed the motion in a more fiery and interest-holding style than usual, taking the line that policemen are "interested only in one's failings." They were the very epitome of the undeniable authority figure. But Mr. Allen had overheard her singing, "I want to be

Bobby's girl." Grinning with cheerful confidence he assured the House that our policemen are wonderful: "Indeed they are doing a grand job." Undoubtedly Mr. Allen's impressive style of delivery won him the day, for his material was not up to its usual high standard.

Mr. Mears' redoubtable logic stood him in good stead, if only as a source of amusement for the House. "Policemen are a medicine

for society, all medicine is nasty, hence policemen are nasty." He would not like to hear a "midnight knocking on the door."

Mr. David Hugill did not appear to have prepared a speech, but devoted his time to a systematic demolition of Mr. Mear's argument—a difficult task, ably accomplished. If he had not stumbled somewhat at the outset Mr. Hugill could well have been more favoured in the judge's eyes.

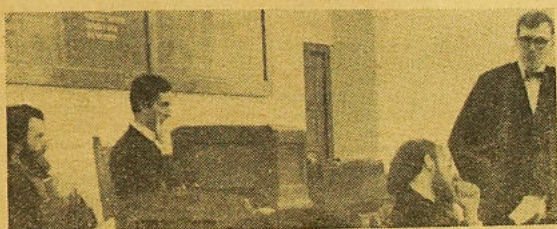


Photo: Andrew Hornig.

Andrew Allen develops his ideas on the police force.

Programme "the best ever"

SUMMER FESTIVAL DRAWS BIG NAMES

by REDBRICK reporter

BIG names and Union Societies combine in this year's Academic Festival, claimed by its promoters to be the best ever. To be held between June 18th and 28th, the Festival will include lectures from top people in all walks of learning, plus the biggest contribution from student bodies since its inception.

Guild Relations Officer, Bob Bootle, said, "This year's programme is probably the best ever. There is no unifying theme to the Festival. The subjects should be of interest to any live student audience."

"Look who we have got coming. Professor Bondi will speak on "Why it is dark at night." George Woodcock will talk on Trade Unions. Nobel Prize Winner Sir George Thomson will discuss scientific method; and then Dr. Stafford-Clarke of TV fame will talk on "Hysteria and Hypnosis."

"These are just the first week's events. Last year these lectures proved too popular. This year we are hoping to arrange to use the Council Chamber as an overspill room, linked to the Debating Hall by closed circuit TV.

"In the second week, John Freeman will discuss the various Mass Media, and Gilbert Ryle is to talk on "Thought and Feeling." Dr. Rowe, of Adelaide University, who has some original ideas for University reform and Hugh Hunt an ex-member of the Old Vic will also be speaking."

"What is really interesting this year," he continued, "is the important role that Union Societies are to play. The Motor Club are to arrange an exhibition of cars in the Union forecourt, dating from 1910 to the present day. The '56 Society and the Photographic Club will also be staging exhibitions.

"We have got an evening of music and poetry, a late-night jam session, a talk on Musique Concrete and a week of Asian films; a night of silent films accompanied on a honky-tonk piano has been arranged. When the films are over, Jim Duckett's late night revue will take the stage. There

will also be a special production of readings from Oscar Wilde.

"Sports fans are catered for too. Athletic Union are putting on a special afternoon of judo, gymnastics and fencing, demonstrated by experts. Peter Robbins will talk about rugby and there will be Festival Cricket.

"This is great. All we want now is some reasonable weather."

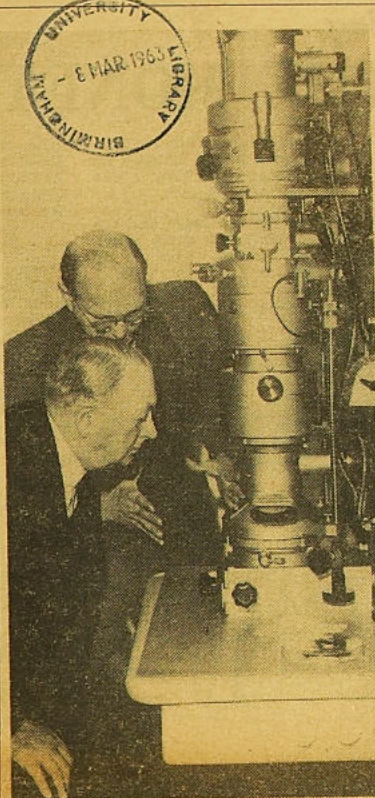


Photo: B'ham Post & Mail.

Money offered for research

THE dependence of a great deal of medical research upon gifts of money by local business is becoming increasingly obvious.

Mr. F. Sparkes, a company director, last week offered to buy £2,000 of equipment to assist the cancer research group. He said, "Money from the Government in this direction instead of the expenditure of millions pushing British cultural matters overseas would be a much more sensible proposition."

Earlier in the week, Mr. Hugh Sumner, who gave a cheque for £50,000 to aid rheumatism research, examined the above electron microscope bought with his gift. "The machinery completely mystifies me," he said, "but what I have seen is quite wonderful."

COMMENT

STICKING TO THEIR PRINCIPALS

ON MONDAY the University announced slashing reforms in the Birmingham administrative structure, changes which are designed to rationalise the whole top-heavy bureaucratic system.

The changes are: the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Rhodes University is to become the Deputy-Principal of Birmingham University. The Vice-Principal of Birmingham University will now become the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal, subordinate to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

The Deputy-Principal will occupy a senior position to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who should not be confused with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, or the Pro-Chancellor, or the Deputy-Pro-Chancellor. Thus, it appears that while the position of Vice-Principal is being downgraded under that of Deputy-Principal, it is simultaneously being upgraded over that of the Deputy-Principal by being combined with that of Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Both these positions are combined in one man. All these elevated officers, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal, the Deputy Principal, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, the Pro-Chancellor, and the Deputy-Pro-Chancellor come under the Chancellor, the Earl of Avon... who, of course, is never here.

NEW MAN

DR. ALTY, the retiring Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, South Africa, has been appointed the new Deputy Principal of the University as from May 8th of this year.

Dr. Alty has followed a very distinguished career, being appointed to the Chair of Physics at Saskatchewan University, holding this post until 1932, when he was appointed Research Professor of Physics at the same university.

From the date of his appointment as Deputy Principal, the office of Vice-Principal will be known as the office of Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal.

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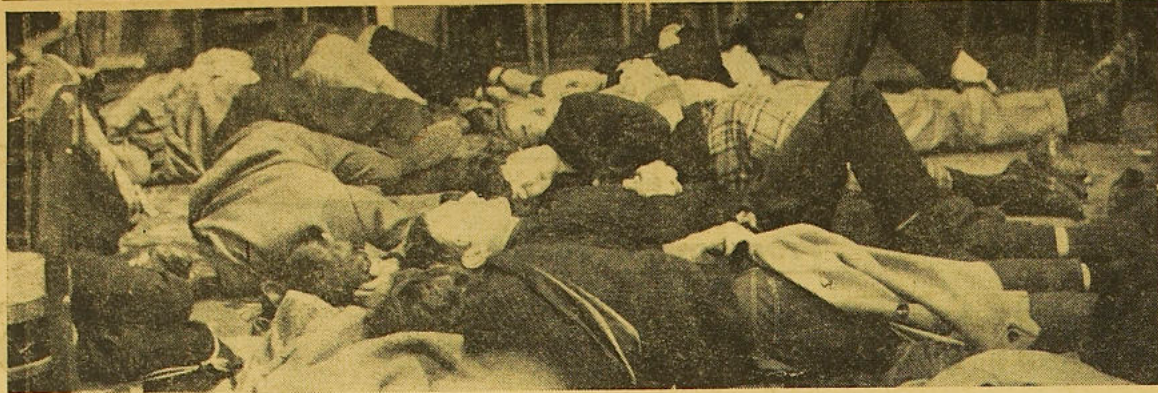
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music, arts, entertainment.
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Carnival is coming

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

THE proceeds from the last two Carnivals, £8,700, was distributed last week. The largest donation, £4,000, went to the Sunfield Homes, at Clent, for children in need of special care. The money will be used for building a therapeutic swimming-pool, as part of a larger development plan. The other large donation, £1,100, went to the Elizabeth Hadley Home, in Selly Park, for old people. The rest of the money was shared among the other Birmingham charities helped by Carnival.

Checkpoints

For the pre-Carnival enthusiasts who are still enthused after the Tortoise and Bogle stroll two weeks ago, a hitch-hiking rally will be held on Saturday, March 10th. The course will be Birmingham, Watford, Greenford, Oxford, Gloucester, Birmingham. "There will be checkpoints at these places," said "Trog" Girdlestone, chairman of Carnival Committee. "They have been chosen because there will be adequate refreshment available at these points. Entrants will not have to exist on bread and water."

The course is 265 miles and entrants will be given 12 hours to cover the distance. Points will be awarded for section time-keeping and overall time-keeping. A nominal entrance fee will be

charged and the total divided between the winners. "There's no skill in this," said Trog. "It's purely a game of chance."

Have you got a large and ornate bed which you don't want? Mr. Ron Brooks, who is in charge of Carnival stunts is looking for one. "Last year we had a big national stunt with TOTO

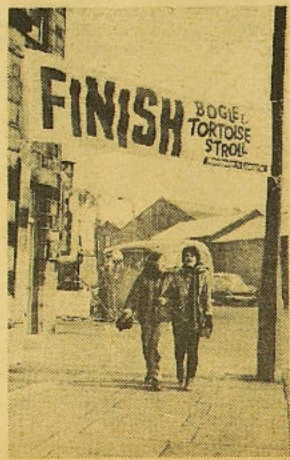


Photo: Peter Bond.

Some of the lucky few who reached the finishing line in the Tortoise and Bogle Stroll, at Lancaster.

Oh, where are the ad-men the ad-men of Birmingham?

NO GUINNESS TANKARDS WON YET

It's a funny thing but whereas Guinness frequently receive kindly criticism of their advertising, and ideas for advertisements, from university students, the competition for amateur ad-men that has been appearing in this and other student papers has not yet produced any copywriters, ideas-men or artists of real merit. We think that lights are being hidden under bushels. In the words of the typical dominie you can do better! There are a number of handsome name-engraved tankards waiting to be won. One of these tankards could be yours. We are looking forward to publishing some ingenious prize-winning entries in this magazine. Don't forget, the contest closes on March 31st next. Ideas should be sent to Arthur Guinness Son & Co. (Park Royal) Ltd., Advertising Dept. (Press Section) 8 Baker Street, London, W.1.

(the tandem that crossed the English Channel). This year we'd like to motorise a bed from John O'Groats during Carnival Week for publicity."

BRISTOL Rag has already taken place. Amongst other stunts, one student had a cheque written on his chest and a twopenny stamp affixed. He was taken to a local bank and after some deliberation the cashier cashed the cheque.

Cardiff too can count a successful stunt, much to the chagrin of London police. Their Rag activities reached Westminster, where, having avoided hordes of policemen, they managed to drape Boadicea's Chariot with a Cardiff banner. The banner has since been removed.

THE NEW CARETAKER

PROFESSOR LANCELOT HOGGEN, former Professor of Medical Statistics, has been named as the first Vice-Chancellor of the new University of British Guiana. He has, however, only accepted the appointment as a short-term one.

"I have expressed my willingness to go there," he said, "but only on a caretaker basis for six months to help them get the University started."

Professor Hoggen will be advising in both scientific and academic matters and hopes to be able to attract people to the University. He did a similar job sometime ago in Ghana. His six month period in British Guiana will probably start in October, when the University is expected to open.

He is well known to many students as the author of "Mathematics for the Millions," a Penguin book introducing the concept of mathematics to laymen.

OXFORD STUDENTS MOVED ON

SELLERS of "Peace News" are in trouble again. Last week in Oxford, five undergraduates were fined for obstructing the pavement, whilst selling the paper. However, it seems that a compromise between the members of CND and the Oxford police has been reached. They have now been given a site on the corner of Carfax, where they will be able to sell "Peace News" without interference.

HULL is having a "Return the Spoon" week. At the end of last term, three-quarters of the new pattern

Not a massacre of rioting undergraduates, but tired students resting after the Tortoise and Bogle Stroll.

Photo: Peter Bond.

spoons issued to the Refectory disappeared, and this term, most of the remainder have also vanished. A box has been placed in the Refectory in the hope that conscience-stricken students will return the missing cutlery.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Bangor, looks like becoming top of the University newspaper stakes. It already has two and may soon have a third. The chaos started when an undergraduate started a "fearless, frank and forthright" anti-Union paper, following a disagreement with Bangor Executive members. One of the things printed was a picture of the Union President being sick after a ball.

Now the enterprising student has left Bangor but refuses to hand over the control of his first paper. He is threatening to start yet another newspaper, and put the first two out of business.

FINISHED AT TWENTY-ONE

"I NO longer enjoy playing unless I'm winning." This was Bill Slater, Wolves and England centre-half and assistant head of the Phys. Ed. Department, explaining his attitude to top sport at last week's Open Lecture.

Mr. Slater's lecture on "Breaking Records—for Better or for Worse," turned in effect into an expose of strains at the top of professional sport. "Sport becomes more than a hobby," he said, "it's a way of life. Once you've got to the top there's a need to stay there whatever happens."

Another point on which he clearly feels very strongly is the forcing of young people into sport, especially football, at a very early age, when they have not had, and will not have, any chance to train to any other career. Talking after the lecture, he said: "Only a fraction of these will ever reach the top. The rest will either be finished at 21, with nothing in front of them, or find themselves at 30 able to do nothing once they have become too old for football."

He would not, he said, want to put any young people off football if they felt it was the one thing they really wanted in life. "Better perhaps, that they should look back at 30 and feel they've done one worthwhile thing than that they should think that they've completely wasted their lives." But there was still a need for a concurrent training course outside football so that all these potential stars would not be on the scrapheap in their early thirties.

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MARIUS GORING

WHEN WILL THE CUCKOO SPRING?

THERE is no sign as yet of the first reported cuckoo sighting from Retired Colonel (Tooting) and the temperature at night is still ten below, but we now have it on reliable evidence that spring is here. First the "Daily Mail" found the first cuckoo, and enthused at revelling length over it, and last Thursday the man from the BBC was around the Union, asking members what they thought of in spring.

Funnily enough, no-one was thinking of anticipating spring for about another couple of months, but that hadn't seemed to occur to them. To the Midland Region, spring had already arrived, and Barney Bamford was here to prove it.

"Be as outrageous as you like," said Mr. Bamford. "Mention me if you like." Most people obligingly did. "I'm not supposed to be here, actually. I'm supposed to be in the street somewhere doing these interviews, but as you can get out of them, I don't know really, so I said b----- and came up here."

The item, presented in a candy-floss montage of sprightly sounds, may not have proved a great deal, but one hopes that at least it will appease Miss Susan Perl, who complained in Press Post a couple of weeks ago that the same Exec-dominated clique appeared on radio and TV every time. Miss Perl was heard on the programme.

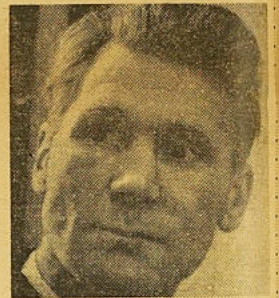


Photo: Pete Murray.

Bill Slater.

in life. "Better perhaps, that they should look back at 30 and feel they've done one worthwhile thing than that they should think that they've completely wasted their lives." But there was still a need for a concurrent training course outside football so that all these potential stars would not be on the scrapheap in their early thirties.

Press Post

REVIEWERS

MUST NOT WAFFLE

SIR.—Sophistical repetition is no substitute for argument substantiated by reference to facts and examples. William Orwin must certainly have been hard put to it to pad out his waffle about David Holbrook in last week's REDBRICK.

Of course enthusiasm for one's subject is not the same thing as sound teaching, but without the first, the second would be quite impossible, as anyone will testify who has been "taught" by an interested teacher.

And of course it would be dangerous to let loose on children to do this sort of work, people with no qualifications at all other than that of having survived three years in the English Dept. Mr. Holbrook would not suggest otherwise.

Mr. Orwin invokes "experience" to back up his point. Whose experience? What is it? Come, Mr. Orwin, unblurb your edges.

And what's more, there's no question of the children being

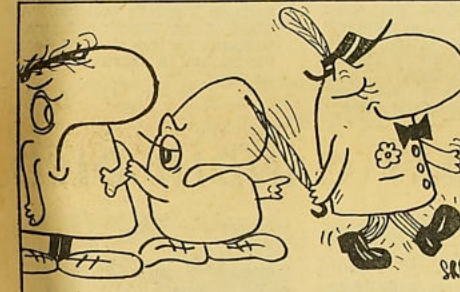
CHRISTIANS, TACT AND CHARITY

SIR.—We must apologise that our letter in last week's issue of REDBRICK gave the impression that the Chaplains of St. Francis Hall failed to appreciate the work of the Christian Societies, and appeared to some to be devoid of either tact or charity. The gravity of a situation in which Christians, far from being deeply involved in University life, are tending to contract out, seemed to us to call out for outspokenness and the need for a major reappraisal by all concerned.

We have been greatly encouraged by the response of many people in the Guild, Christian and non-Christian, to our attempt to draw attention to a situation affecting possibly all the Christian groups, including that of St. Francis Hall, and we hope that when emotion has given place to reason, more people will come to share our concern that Christians should accept the tremendous opportunities and demands of the University, and be prepared, in honesty, to take seriously a God who is active in this world where we have been placed.

Yours, etc.,

MARIE ISAACS,
KEITH WILKES.



VINCENT AND THE WITCHES

SIR.—I am sorry that Mr. Ranson's interesting article on witchcraft should be based on the fallacy that the cult is not basically evil. Evidently your contributor has been convinced by such books as Dr. Gerald Gardner's "Witchcraft Today," which sets out the case for the euphemistically-called "white witch."

It would be unfortunate indeed if this belief gained general currency; whether or not one believes in the power of witchcraft, there is no doubt that

much evil is done in its name, and the fictional stories of Mr. Dennis Wheatley are based on well-documented accounts ranging from medieval treatises to the modern works of the late Montague Summers. The duty of Christians in this matter is quite clear, for the Biblical adage must still hold good for those who practise traditional Christian beliefs: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"—even if the witchcraft laws in this country have been mistakenly repealed.

Yours, etc.,
VINCENT POWELL-SMITH.

I LIKE THE BACKING

SIR.—I am no longer surprised by the number of thoughtless people in this University, but I must confess that I have not yet overcome my annoyance at many of their activities.

The objects of my present wrath are the peasants who persist in playing records of amorphous conglomerations of blatantly rhythmic noise at peak volume. It is not when these noises waft through the windows of the lavatories on the second floor, for then they may have a salutary effect.

However, when I am playing records of real music I would prefer not to suffer a backing like the periodic dropping of a load of bricks upon the toe of some unfortunate, and his ensuing ejaculations.

If these people must have such a quantity of noise could they not play their records twice at half the volume?

Yours, etc.,
ROBIN D. R. KYD.

SORE ALL ROUND

SIR.—We feel that some word of gratitude is due to the organisers and sponsors of the Bogle and Tortoise Stroll from Manchester to Lancaster. Their thoughtfulness in providing us with a comfortable floor on which to stand for two hours before we started was typical of the entirely competent and efficient manner in which the operation was conducted.

Having fought our way out of Manchester Union, we strolled confidently towards check point one where 400 portions of soup had thoughtfully been provided for about 1,800 walkers. Unfortunately 401 had arrived there before us. However, by check point six things had improved and we were able to refresh ourselves with good dry bread and even cold water.

We must report an interesting scientific discovery. Due perhaps to relativistic effects, Lancastrian time is four hours in advance of that in the rest of the country. At 2 p.m. GMT the six o'clock coaches left promptly. Those who arrived at 10 p.m. Lancastrian time were somewhat

The Pseudopods

by 292



"And you being a Highway and Traffic graduate doesn't help any more either!"

put out (50 miles out).

A final word of praise for the no doubt high quality of food served in the Manchester Union on Saturday night. It was, perhaps a shame that none of us could afford the entrance fee to the dance which was the only place it was being served.

Yours etc.

SIXTEEN IDIOTS,
From Maths 1.

DOWN WITH THE BARRIERS

SIR.—The building of a graduate Common-room must be regarded as a retrograde step, since one of the functions of a university is surely the integration of gra-

duate and undergraduate students.

Yours etc.,
ANDREW BARROW.

IS OUR ARMY ILL?

SIR.—After the announcement by Sir Keith Joseph (Housing Minister) of his intention to transfer various Government departments away from Whitehall, it has been concluded that Sir Solly Zuckerman has moved the Ministry of Defence to the Medical School, since a large group of army "Top Brass" were last seen entering the said building on Saturday morning last.

Yours etc.,

T. VARLEY,
V. BOLTON,
M. KLASS.

A career is what it's worth

If you divide the population into two groups—those who take THE TIMES and those who don't—you find this: those who *don't* take THE TIMES are in the great majority. Those who *do* are either at the top in their careers, or are confidently headed there.

THE TIMES both by its seniority in experience and by its incomparable prowess as a modern newspaper, naturally commends itself to successful people. There is no high level conference, no board meeting, no top executive's private office into which THE TIMES is not apt to be taken.

This choice of a newspaper by people who get on is indisputable.* In which of the two groups do you place yourself?

Read THE TIMES

* STUDENTS AND THE TIMES: As a student you can have THE TIMES for 21d. Write for details to the Circulation Manager, THE TIMES, London, E.C.4.

personal column

£10 REWARD. A reward of £10 will be paid for information leading to, or for the recovery of, a 1-length double-breasted "tan" Moss Bros. sheepskin coat. It was removed from the refectory cloakroom last Wednesday between 11.50 and 12.0. It has sheepskin cuffs and an acid stain on the left elbow. HELP! HITCHING PARTNER to Leeds or area this Friday or Saturday? Apply: Jean Stephenson (Eng. 1).

RHYTHM CLUB members and Friends! Don't forget the Excelsior J.B. at the Bournebrook this Monday.

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

GUILD THEATRE GROUP.

"Arms and the Man" continuing until March 9th. Tickets now on sale in the Box Office in the Old Entrance Hall.

GUILD THEATRE GROUP. "Arms and the Man" continuing until March 9th. Tickets now on sale in the Box Office, Old Entrance Hall.

Methodist Society Professor C. A. COULSON, FRs speaks on

CHRIST AND THE ATOM Sunday, 10th March, 4 p.m. All Welcome.

ROVER SCOUTS. University Crew organising orienteering course Saturday, March 9th.

Persons who are interested meet at Halesowen Athletic Club, 2.30 p.m. Bring cross-country kit, map of area and compass if possible.

BIRMINGHAM HF Group invite

External Ads. 4d. a word. Internal Ads. 1d. a word. Insertions up to mid-day Tuesday. REDBRICK accepts no responsibility for non-insertion or mistakes in adverts.

All HF members to come along to the National Jubilee Spring Reunion in Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, March 9th. Dancing and Film Shows from 6.30 p.m.

HOUSE and Manor JCR's present "The Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder at the Manor House on March 12th, 13th & 14th at 7.45 p.m. Programmes 2/6 from members of either Hall.

EXCELLENT Bedsitter to Let for female over Eastern, Bristol Road, all conveniences.—Contact via Union Pigeon-holes: Miss J. Edwards.

TALKS on the Catholic Church. (i) "The Church and Authority." Thur., 7th March, 7.30 p.m. at the Chaplaincy, 65 Upland Road, Selly Park. All welcome.



Photo: F. W. Rushton

CUT AND DRIED

DESPITE his prominence in the literary scene of the twenties, and the fact that he was in the running for the post of Poet Laureate, little is now-
adays heard of the work of John Drinkwater, co-founder of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

An exhibition to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his death was held in the Heslop room of the library last week. Apart from at least one copy each of his published works it included photographs of himself

and Sir Barry Jackson at the time of the founding of the Rep., the original of a caricature by Max Beerbohm and some personal belongings.

If one is interested in Drinkwater and his particular brand of romantic patriotism, which is unlikely, then this exhibition leaves little to be desired. The exhibits are clearly labelled, and the chronological layout enables one easily to follow the prolific career of this notable Midlands poet, playwright, critic and actor.

David Vine

PREJUDICE KILLS THE INTELLECT

Malcolm Bradbury

THE rapid social change of the post-war years has brought with it a bout of intellectual speculation on the condition-of-England question unlike anything we have seen for a very long time. In the early years of the century most speculation of this sort was dominated by a vision of the good society realisable on this earth, in England, in fact.

In many ways it already existed; but it depended to a degree not until lately realised on Britain's international and imperial power. England's loss

of nerve following upon the decline of empire, which involves not simply a reduction of our national power, but perhaps in the long run more important, our national purpose, is the subject of Anthony Hartley's most stimulating and intelligent book, "A State of England" (Hutchinson, 25/-).

After giving his extended analysis of the world-political picture today, in which Britain has a much diminished place, Mr. Hartley tackles, with both common sense and subtlety (his tone is nicely reassuring), the intelligentsia, in detail, and their two primary interests, culture and education.

He says categorically what is

surely true, but what has been insistently denied by many intellectuals themselves—that the intelligentsia occupies a middle-class position in society, and must accept responsibility for the past and future of that society.

A lack of Olympian fairness, a willingness to flatter an age group or a social class at the expense of others, is all too evident in their present conduct. The widespread failure among them of bold, realistic and genuinely impartial thinking is particularly dangerous at a time when all that remains to inform our national community is "the disconnected fragments of nineteenth-century humanism."

Mr. Hartley both respects the possibilities of the intellectual role, and distrusts many of the present incumbents. Interesting and pretty much right.

The latest permutation

MONDAY evening's BBC "Suspense" play, "Project Survival" was pretty insipid, especially when you tagged on to the attempt at a microcosm-macrocsm allegory. Apart from the rather cliché fraying-of-nerves situation arising from the self-imposed claustrophobia of living in an underground fall-out shelter, there was really very little to merit the "Suspense" label.

Of course, it might have been the chap with precognitive perception who looked about as sinister as a maiden aunt, but who apparently succeeded in driving everybody up the wall.

But we did have the clever psychological bit towards the end when each character confessed his particular skeleton-in-the-cupboard in an aura of self-willed catharsis. We must find some more material for this wretched drama machine or we shall have to admit that its regurgitations are more watery than the Billy Cotton Band Show.

William Orwin

G.T.G. SUCCESS WITH SHAVIAN SATIRE

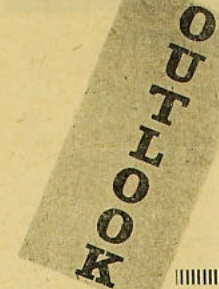
Jean Register

"ARMS AND THE MAN" is a splendid play and G.T.G.'s current production does justice to it. Shaw has written here a skit on Romantic comedy, on its soldier heroes and its ethereal values. He is, as ever, witty; and here much of the usual, ponderous weightiness that now seems to mar his work is absent. Yet despite its title—an Anti-Romantic comedy—it is Romantic comedy but with an unconventional ending.

Paul Harman's production has seen the vital point about the play. It has been staged in a setting, which though at times reminiscent of a student's digs—the only concession to the spirit of the age seems to be a Louis XV bedside table—nonetheless conveys the idea of a dull Bulgarian provincial town aping its betters. Too much flush red perhaps, but then, this is detail.

The actors seemed, with one exception, to have grasped the nature of their parts: Sergius (Graham Davis) is suitably pompous; Petkoff (Michael Silvester) is vulgar; Catherine (Diane Hill) is impressive. . . . The only fault seems to be that they do not round off the edges of their characterisation a little more, and there seems to be a certain lack of emphasis. Raina (Linda Dickson) should not take her romantic flights of fancy as if they were merely a pose, and Graham Davis must not mar an otherwise excellent performance by slow slurring of speech in more than one accent.

Chris Holliday's Bluntschli is disappointing: a trifle colourless and negative. Perhaps he is not really suited to such an eminently Shavian part. Bluntschli is cynical, romantically uninspiring but with a sensible charm of his own. Martin Swale's Russian officer really has got into the spirit of the thing as he swaggers petulantly across the stage. It was a pity the others did not add a similar dash of individuality to their otherwise accurate portrayals of character.



Such criticisms of detail do not alter the fact that this production deserves to be seen. There is no dullness here, and it does make a change to hear good human voices at a time when imitations of famous actors are so current.

Look out for . . .

MUSIC

On Sunday, the University Musical Society, with the School of Music chorus and orchestra, conducted by Professor Lewis, will perform Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" in the Town Hall. On Tuesday the City choir and orchestra perform Tippett's oratorio, "Child of Our Time": a dramatization of a true story of terror, and a masterpiece of its type.

THE GREEKS ARE PROVED RIGHT

Where a million means nothing

THE progress of astronomy has been tremendous in this century but much of this progress has been proving things the Greeks were saying more than 2,000 years ago. People like Thales of Miletus, Pythagoras, Anaxagoras, Aristarchus and Hipparchus. These men recorded the position of the stars and saw that the earth's axis had a slow top-like motion relative to the fixed stars. They even speculated that light travelled with a finite velocity and the celestial bodies, including the earth were spherical—facts that were not generally accepted or proved for centuries.

But although Aristarchus had proposed the heliocentric system it was the Ptolemaic system that came to be generally accepted. Under this system the sun and planets were supposed to rotate around the earth and their motions were represented by a complex system of circles turning on other circles. The stars were supposed to be fixed on the boundary of the universe which in turn rotated about the earth—a kind of celestial wall paper for a geocentric universe!

After Ptolemy the scientific spirit of observation and reason ebbed in the Western world to be replaced by sterile disciplines. By the end of the middle ages the geocentric concept of the universe had become firmly entrenched because of the tremendous influence of St. Thomas Aquinas. But the simple picture was being undermined by one of the most momentous revolutions in the history of thinking.

In 1543 Copernicus, an obscure Polish cleric, working on the edge of Christendom, proposed on purely theoretical grounds a heliocentric system. This in itself did not increase greatly our ideas concerning the stars, but it was one of the greatest observations of Tycho Brahe and Kepler and the brilliant theories of Newton.

Newton's genius lay in the fact that he recognised that laws governing terrestrial phenomena were universal and his mathematical theory enabled nearly all the motions of the solar system to be solved.

Indeed, the applicability (and limitations) of his laws have been demonstrated by stellar motions.

The first significant advance concerning our concept of the universe, as distinct from the dynamics of the solar system, was due to William Herschel, who lived from 1738-1832 and was one of the greatest observational astronomers of all time. This professional musician suc-

Science & Life

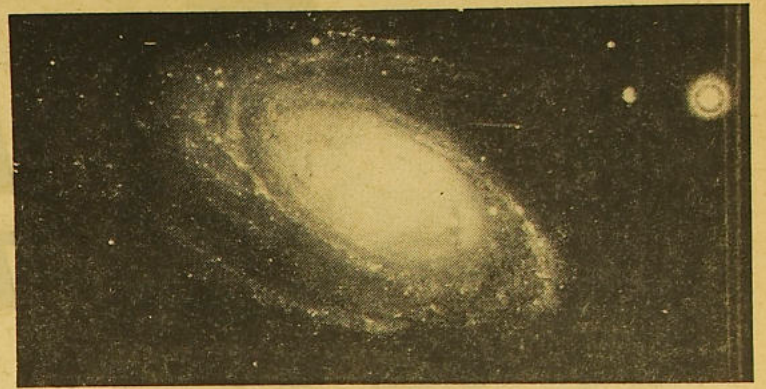
ceeded in building his telescope only after 200 attempts. His great contribution was to focus attention on the stars, rather than on the solar system. He found that the solar system was in no way unique—in fact it was an insignificantly small part of an immense starry aggregate which is now called the galaxy.

This led to a fantastic increase in the horizon of astronomy. Whereas distances in the solar system were typically in the order of 100,000,000 miles, galactic distances may be in the 1,000,000,000,000,000 miles range. To avoid embarrassing the printer (except ours!) with

18 noughts we write this 10/18 miles.

Subsequent observations were painstakingly assembled—(Kaptein, for example, with the help of a few Dutch convicts, examined half a million stars which had been photographed in the southern hemisphere) has shown that these stars lie in a plane (the galactic plane or the Milky Way). Perpendicular to the plane are found large clusters of stars sometimes known as galactic nebulae or preferably globular clusters. These clusters, which are the building blocks of the galaxy, feature prominently in recent theories concerning the evolution of the galaxy.

- Spiral nebula in Ursa Major seen from a 200in. telescope.
- One of the known wonders of the Universe.



with velocities proportional to their distances away. This in turn limits the range of our observations, and therefore the extent of the observable universe. At sufficiently large distances the galaxies are receding with a speed approaching that of light. At these distances the energy of the light is decreased (the Doppler effect) and ultimately the receding nebulae are unobservable.

What lies beyond? Perhaps we should remember what Pascal said four centuries ago. "But if our view be arrested there let our imagination pass beyond." He has been proved right in the past, and no doubt will be again.

Tegid Wyn Jones

We apologise to Mr. Jones for a distortion in his last article. The last paragraph was altered owing to editing.

MAT GOES WRESTLING

Where beauties meet beasts

A ROLL of pre-recorded drums from heavenly loudspeakers and Mangle McKay enters the arena closely followed by his manager, his trainer and his scriptwriter. The Mangle wears a kilt, Gauleiter boots with huge hobnails and a ferocious glare which he bestows liberally upon the rows of old ladies who sit, knitting placidly, around the ring.

He is followed by Kid Mauleverer (alias Jim Smith from Brixton)—pigmy-like by comparison with the Mangle—a youth of Adonisian good looks. Hearts throb as he climbs into the ring alongside the Mangle who has by now shed his dressing-gown, his boots and his kilt, causing the old ladies to lean forward, eager with unsatisfied anticipation. The Mangle tears great handfuls of hair from his chest and throws them into the audience.

The bell sounds, the contest is on. In rapid succession the Mangle applies Boston crabs, hammer locks, back-breakers, half-nelsons and rabbit-punches to the apparently plastic form of the Kid. By the third round the audience is in the desired fury of frustrated rage. The Mangle flattens the Kid and bounces happily up and down on his kidneys, until restrained by the referee, one Israel Giardino.

But look! The Kid has got the Mangle off the ground! The old ladies drop several stitches in succession and the noise of crunching popcorn ceases abruptly as after three rapid turns, the Kid gives a massive heave and the Mangle flies like some mighty buzzard into the surrounding darkness.

The crowd goes mad. A kipper flies through the air and lands on the timekeeper and the girl on whose lap the recumbent Mangle rests, removes her stiletto heeled shoe and beats a furious tattoo on his head with it.

Strong men choke on their powerful cigars as the Mangle slowly hauls himself back into the ring, mouth open, and the old ladies gasp as the Kid un-awares as he flexes his muscles at a brunette in the second row.

There are a series of sharp cracks as each one of the Kid's fingers is pulled out of joint by his infuriated opponent. Even Israel bows down in worship. No he doesn't! He's looking to see if the Kid's shoulders are touching the canvas.

With a dexterous twist the Kid seizes the Mangle in a scissors and, with his dislocated fingers flapping loosely (what superb actors these boys are!) rolls him into a submission.

Virtue triumphs again. The audience shambles happily out into the night, all its inner tensions worked off on the valiant Kid and Mangle; those two heroes go back to the Railway Hotel with their scriptwriters to plan the next contest, at Accrington.

- Globular Star Cluster in Hercules.

This week in The Listener

ISSUE DATED MARCH 7

"HOW THE MOSCOW-PEKING SCHISM DEVELOPED"

G. F. Hudson, Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford, reviews the history of the Soviet and Chinese Communist parties and suggests some lessons to be drawn from it. This is the first of four talks by different speakers on Russian-Chinese differences.

"EUROPE'S RECONSTRUCTED CITIES"

Ian Nairn takes Rotterdam as his subject in the second talk of a current series.

"THE SATELLITES OF MARS"

Another talk in the series "The Sky at Night" by Patrick Moore.

"WHAT IS A PATENTABLE INVENTION?"

A Barrister gives his elucidation of the question in a talk in the series "Law in Action."

and other features

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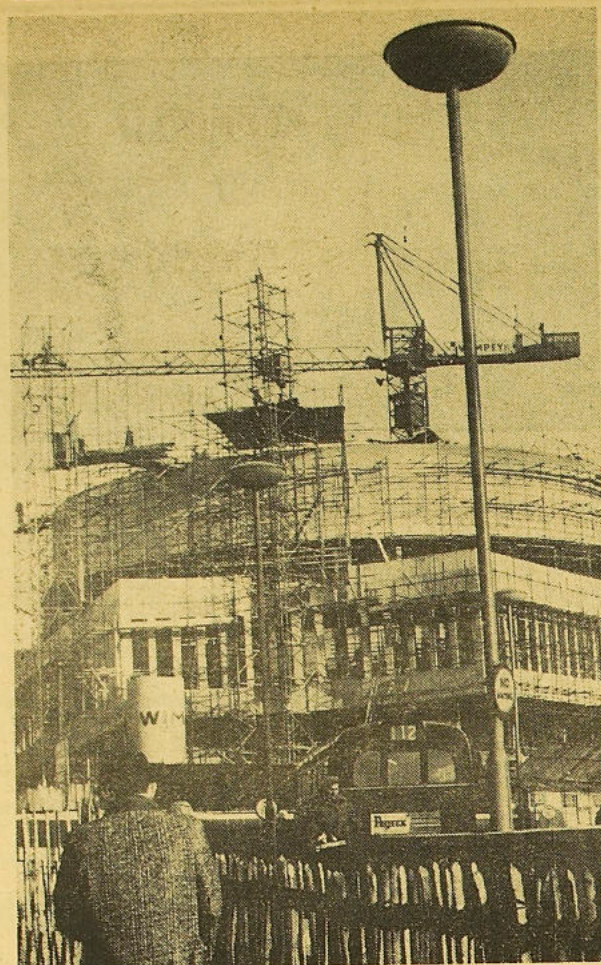


Photo: B'ham. Post & Mail

Britain's cities have been strangled for decades by bad planning or, more to the point, lack of any planning at all. A few brave attempts have been made since the war, notably the New Towns and the re-building of Coventry. In the past few years planning has become vague and all the major cities in Britain have produced vast schemes for reorganising their centres.

Birmingham has taken a lead in this field and Nigel Harris takes a close look at the Bull Ring — a £500,000 project taking two-and-a-half years to build — Mary Bergman examines the plans for the Market area. Their reports are intense and provocative.

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RAPIDLY BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST GO-AHEAD CITIES, IT'S A C

DRAGGING BIRMINGHAM INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

OUT of the all-enveloping mass of demolition, which is rapidly gaining Birmingham the reputation of being the city the Bomb needn't bother with, is rising what is claimed to be the greatest advance in shopping since the advent of the multiple store. In November the Bull Ring cometh, complete with intensive prestige advertising, a potential market of 3½ million people, and a three-page consecration by the "Financial Times."

Calculated to replace New Street as Birmingham's main shopping centre, the Bull Ring, site of the open-air markets since the twelfth century and traditional haunt of Brums' The End is Nigh merchants, will retain these symbols of its past, with the market stalls in permanent glass-fibre kiosks and the Bible-thumpers shut away from the traffic. Both traditions seem likely to fade—the stall-keepers find the rents too high and the orators just aren't turning up—and the new centre will, it appears, mark a complete break from the previous history of the area.

Rethink

Currently causing a massive rethink in the property development world, the basic idea behind the Bull Ring stems from the need to adapt the sprawling "one-stop" shopping centres common in the USA to a 3½-acre site between St. Martin's Church and New Street Station, straddling the new Inner Ring Road. The problem of not having thousands of square miles to spread in, common to cities throughout the country, has been solved by planning, under one roof, a complex of 140 shops, plus markets and department stores, which takes full advantage of the changes of level over the smallish site to pour an architectural quart into a pint-sized ground area.

The main body of the Centre is contained within a half-circle formed by Smallbrook Ringway, the Inner Ring Road and St. Martin's Churchyard; there are two extensions via broad shopping bridges over the Ring Road. Although for reasons of space built with a vertical emphasis, the Bull ring does not commit London's error of building up for up's sake. The two higher structures, a ten-storey office/flat block and a multi-storey car park, are set off against the generally lower, flatter lines of the main shopping areas to produce, as architects jargon would have it, a studied irregularity of block layout, the chunkiness of the former contrasting with the lesser stature of the latter.

Cutting

Not that this has not meant a certain amount of cutting round the edges. Some of smaller shops, particularly the open-air market, have an air rarely found outside the less successful new towns—Cwmbran, for instance. They remind me somewhat of the "toy" shops common in such places as holiday camps. "We're not trying to make money," they seem to say. "We're only playing at the consumer game." Outside, they're just as deceptive as those at Butlin's, until one finds out the dreadful secret: they're not in it for their health.

Paradise

The main structure, a three storey building with a vast central well, contains a £3 m. consumers' paradise, with hanging gardens of Baylon type foliage and Muzak (canned music psychologically calculated to take all the strain out of buying more than you can afford) pouring from a thousand loudspeakers. True to the principles of the US one-stop, no kind of need, from bread to bars, is knowingly going to remain frustrated. Imagine any other three shopping centres rolled into one, bent into a two-tier square, and roofed over, and there you have it; this, at least, is the rosy-coloured image being put out by the admen. Ambitious plans are made for the future of the Centre which entail it becoming far more than just a glorified shopping concourse. Birmingham, it is said, has no recognised centre; the

Bull Ring will fill the gap and act as a convenient meeting place and centre for the presentation of displays and exhibitions. These will be staged by the Association of Bull Ring Merchants at such times of the year as Christmas and Easter, when the West Midlands will be invited to dig deeper into their pockets for the good cause of the Association of Bull Ring Merchants.

Blurb

Many features included in the scheme, however, make the claims made of it as being a "town under one roof" and "the world's most advanced shopping centre" seem a little less like second rate advertising blurb and a little more like reality. Besides the 140 individual shop units and supermarkets, it is to include two department stores—including one of the biggest Woolworths in Europe, already open and doing a roaring trade, which augurs well for the future of the centre—a 30,000 square feet general retail market and a fish market coyly described as

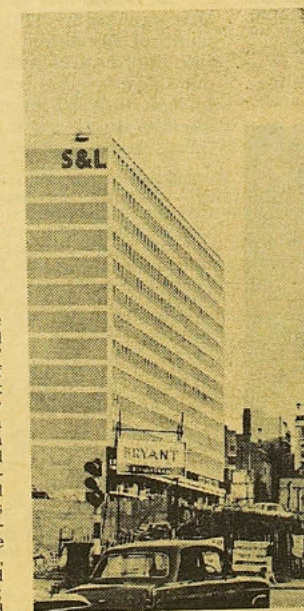


Photo: B'ham. Post & Mail

• The new shadows over the old, near Snow Hill Station.

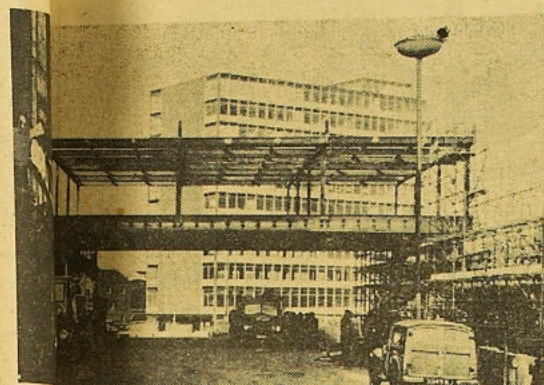


Photo: B'ham. Post & Mail

all of the Bull Ring Bridge, a common sight whichrenches itself from nineteenth-century twentieth-century consumer's paradise.

"independently venturing Brum to do their shop-keeping centres inadequate, keeping normal life rather and a 2000-seat bus to towns like Coventry. The Centre will stay to pride themselves on facilities.

Pedestrians

All forms of transport, if, after Coventry, the scheme is to put all shops under one roof, with only pedestrian access. Birmingham's bus terminus, cumulated underneath the new area, providing a real public pouring straight into the shops. The plan of New Street envisages entrances to the station concourse in the West Midlands in decide to come in on transport routes on day. designed to act as a catch those people who

erous subways to surrounding city streets, and 58 escalators and lifts between the third-floor balcony shops and the ground-floor department stores and supermarkets, to ease the strain after having parked the car a mile and a half away and walked into the centre, because there wasn't an inch of parking space nearer.

The Bull Ring Centre will cost £5 million and has taken only 2½ years to build, which is an achievement in itself. Planned as a unit, it has yet not been planned in isolation. It forms an integral part of the overall development plan for the city centre, designed to at last, take Birmingham out of the industrial revolution and into the twentieth century, in the process of renovating the tarnished image of the nuts and bolts city. Contrary to popular impression, this does not necessarily entail knocking down the Town Hall, attractive though this idea may be.

MARY GETS A FACE LIFT THE PLANNERS

WITH the move and new together

One well-known trouble to undergo a change of face to go to, not a site munity of shanty towns with its bustle and beloved of marketeers and shoppers. The new enclosed site of the new market is "carousal" stalls and dependable. The fixtures, in contrast to the state, when this is a good thing. "folded their tent" in the night market-square for thirty who wholeheartedly the new arrangements and Pillinger. He has his former prices, the marketeers gospel dear at any price. If it myself, I won't sell

More

The convention may look at the new approve, and transfer elsewhere. But who holder, who is more there?

When he is particularly busy his stall turns over to self-service, and this could be "A Bad Thing"—but no, declares Mr. Pillinger—he notices that the customers do not take advantage of it.

In the foreseeable future the bond between St. Martin's Church and the Bull Ring will be strengthened by the removal of the boundary wall—a step that will convert the whole area into one precinct.

Ascending ever higher on the sky-line is the new retail Market Hall, now almost completed. This hall will conform to the "quiet working" rule. There will be no riotous behaviour, no haranguing for custom.

The new market will retain its former courtesy, affability, diplomacy and humour; not forgetting the original attraction—value for money.

Next week sees the start of a new REDBRICK series about historical mysteries, the first article concerns the Pitt-down man.

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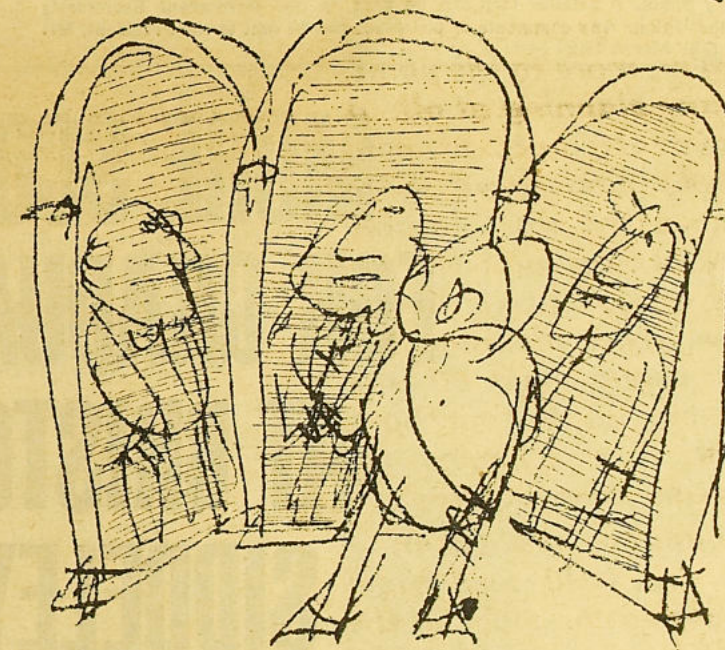
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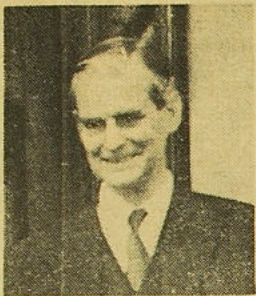
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SANDWICH COURSES AT BREAKFAST



• Sir Robert Aitken.

"WIDESPREAD in society," said Sir Robert Aitken, "is a desire to get hold of a prestige label for oneself. This is obviously hollow, as it is not the label but the performance that counts." The Vice-Chancellor was speaking, after breakfast at the Anglican Chaplaincy, on the "Problems of Higher Education."

The Main problem discussed by Sir Robert was that of granting university status to CATs, technical colleges and training colleges. He saw no harm in CATs shedding their lower level of teaching and working at the same intellectual levels as in universities. It would not mean a mere replica of the present engineering degree courses, as sandwich courses are a distinctive characteristic of the approach of Colleges of Advanced Technology.

Altering the status of ordinary technical colleges would prove more difficult and the question of training colleges produced "a very knotty problem."

"To what institutions should we extend the degree and university status?" asked Sir Robert. At this point he presented the aims of a university.

Here, teaching and research are developed, hand in hand, by the same people. "Therefore," he said, "undergraduates do study in departments with an atmosphere of advancing knowledge as well as collecting and passing it on."

Intimacy

There is an intimacy between teachers and taught. Sir Robert made a contrast with the Continental attitude which is "Here is learning—take it or leave it." The aim of the British university was to have friends and partners in common enterprise, and the Vice-Chancellor doubted how far and how fast this could be extended to the new institutions.

The third and not-so-important characteristic of the university was its self-governing position. The question arose as to whether this could be applied to training colleges with their necessary intimate relation with the education system.

Short-sighted

Sir Robert saw the higher educational problem as connected with class structure in society. There is not merely a desire for the same opportunities but for the same label. He saw the latter as being short-sighted in worrying about the outward status without being sufficiently concerned about the inner realities.

The Vice-Chancellor's talk promoted discussion. It was suggested that Oxford and Cambridge



Photo: Andrew Hornig.

• Richard Hoggart.

RUSSIAN GETS A DEGREE FROM BRUM

FOR the first time, Birmingham University is giving a Russian scientist an honorary degree. He is Academician Sergeevich Nemichov, a member of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

A University spokesman said: "It appears that he will be the first Russian scientist to join the University's roll of honorary graduates."

Not only is Academician Nemichov the first Russian Scientist to be honoured in this way by Birmingham, he is also the first scientist from Eastern Europe to

be honoured since 1913, when Mme Marie Curie received the Degree of Doctor of Law.

Mr. Nemichov, who is 69, held the Chair of Statistics at Moscow University from 1928 to 1948, when he gave it up to become the Chairman of the Council for the Study of Natural Resources of the U.S.S.R.

"I was an eleven-plus failure"

"IT was a cold March day. My shoes didn't fit very well and I did badly," admitted Richard Hoggart, explaining that he had failed his Grammar School Entrance exam. This was equivalent to the eleven-plus.

"I would not have got into a grammar school if my headmaster had not asked for the essay I had written to be re-read. Then again, I was an orphan and the Leeds Board of Guardians kept an eye on me, and paid for my further education."

Professor Hoggart had been speaking at a Manchester meeting of the Campaign for Education, and felt that things were better now. "Luck, conditions, money, the attitude of parents: all used to play a greater part than intelligence."

"At school I was struck by the number of people with intelligence who did not get on. What a waste of talent."

NEWS DESK

Redbrick, March 6th, 1963



• Dame Edith Pitt being "confident" about the next election.

LOOK AT THE RECORD

"WE are being criticised quite a bit these days but people really ought to look at the record," Dame Edith Pitt, M.P. for Edgely, was addressing a meeting of the Conservative Association on the subject of the Welfare State.

After a "not very good" by the Socialists, she maintained, the Conservatives really got social services working basis. There never been so much equality in Britain, but we must not forget that "Basic Principles of Conservative Philosophy" (a memorable phrase)—"providing for people in need without demolishing self-help."

Dame Edith was "confident" about the next election.

Avoid cynicism of old

"IT is the bounden duty of young men and women to create a new world of tolerance, understanding and international co-operation," Mr. Chagla, the High Commissioner for India on his visit to the University last Wednesday, went on to say that should cultivate high ideals among their elders. "Most of your stay at university cultivate greater understanding between the British and students for the greater good of the whole world."

All stops out for radiation safety

THE ever-open hand of the University has just been refilled by a gift of up to £31,000 from the Wellcome Trust which will enable it to build and equip a whole body radiation unit. The unit should be working by the end of the year.

Twelve inch thick sheet steel will be used to construct a "house" just large enough to accommodate a human body lying at full-length which will be connected to the outside world by a two-way radio. Special lighting and ventilation arrangements are also provided to eliminate that feeling of "getting away from it all."

The 26 tons of steel used in the building, shield the body from cosmic radiation and other rays emanating from the soil; this enables very accurate counts to be made of the radioactivity present in the human body from natural or artificial sources.

Large and very expensive sodium iodide crystals which emit small flashes of light when penetrated, for example, by gamma rays, are used to detect the radio activity and the nature of the flashes indicates the elements in the body which are to be analysed.

By the use of tracer elements the path and movements of proteins within the body can be studied with a corresponding gain in medical knowledge.

The unit will be located in the Clinical Research Annex of the Medical School alongside the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and will be used chiefly by the Postgraduate Students in Radiobiology, a course carried on by the departments of Science and Medicine for the last four years.

LOOK ROUND

MICHAEL SHANKS gave a review of his book, "The Stagnant Society" to last week's Commerce Conference. He outlined the conditions necessary for economic growth and spent some time discussing trade unions in Sweden.

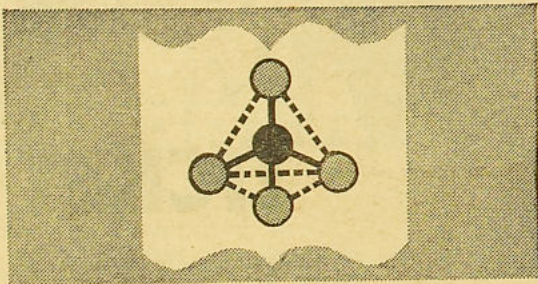
His talk was supplemented with sarcastic cracks at the public schools, the Treasury and Selwyn (a subtle Machiavellian character) Lloyd.

PETER CRAIG WOOD, of Commerce hopes to form a Go-Kart Club, and will be delighted to hear from anyone interested. "I have contacted several people who already have their own machines," he said.

HOP-HATERS GET HEP

ARE you sick of the Hop? Couples, untroubled by the necessity of finding a partner, who have long since lost that spirit of adventure which makes battle on the dance-floor and in the bar an exhilarating experience, will find a refuge in the calm atmosphere of the Guild Dance in the Refectory Avon Room.

There is a continuous buffet, and for only 7/6 a double ticket, you can dance to top local bands and drink in comparative peace until 10.30 p.m. You can't wait to get there? Then come to the next Guild Dance this Saturday.



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