

GUILD NEWS

No. 574

Friday, July 1, 1960

Three pence

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

80 YEARS AGO

BIRMINGHAM DAILY POST

Oct. 2nd, 1880

OPENING CEREMONY and address

by Prof. Huxley

AN important addition was yesterday made to the educational institutions of Birmingham and the neighbourhood by the formal opening of Sir Josiah Mason's College, under the most happy and promising auspices.

Although a statement of the objects of the benevolent founder and the provisions of the trust, together with a detailed description of the college building and internal arrangements have recently appeared in the Daily Post, it may not be out of place to repeat that, in accordance with the foundation deed, the college has been established to provide instruction, as far as practicable, in mathematics, abstract and applied; physics, mathematical and experimental; chemistry, theoretical, practical, and applied; the natural sciences, botany and zoology, physiology, and such other subjects as the trustees may consider may conduce to the acquisition of a sound, practical knowledge of scientific subjects, mere literary education being excluded.

The trustees, however, have power, if necessary, with the exception of some fundamental provisions, to alter the course of teaching and the arrangements of the college, while they are required to take these matters into consideration at stated periods, in order to carry out desirable revision.

In fact, Sir Josiah Mason's object is to give the inhabitants of Birmingham and the district every means of carrying on their scientific studies in their own locality as thoroughly and as completely as this can be done in the great science schools both in this country and on the Continent, being convinced that the position of England as the chief manufacturing country in the world can only be maintained by the acquisition of sound practical scientific knowledge.

Newspaper Cuttings

Birmingham Gazette

Nov. 24, 1884

THE Mason Science College was opened on the 1st day of October, 1880, since which time its operations in imparting knowledge have been worthy of such an institution, and would have received the approval of its generous founder, SIR JOSIAH MASON.

So largely have the educational advantages offered by the College been availed of that the fund which SIR JOSIAH MASON left for its maintenance has been found inadequate to provide many requirements that are indispensable to an educational institution occupying the position of Mason College.

The building, which is eminently adapted for scholastic work, was built at a cost of £60,000, and is a lasting monument to the beneficence of its donor, who also bequeathed land and money which realise an endowment of £4,250 per annum.

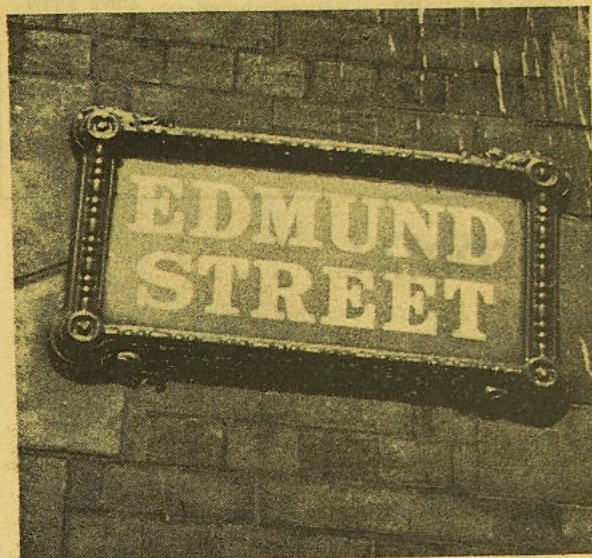
The expenses of general management amount to £2,570 annually, which leaves a balance of only £1,680 with which to pay the stipends of the Professors.

When the number of the tutorial staff and the status they occupy in the scholastic and scientific world are considered, it is apparent that this amount must be inadequate.

Besides, each year brings with it new scientific discoveries for the demonstration of which fresh apparatus and appliances are necessary if science is to be taught with accuracy. Again, to stimulate the students in the attainment of a high standard of proficiency and to reward those who distinguish themselves in their studies, scholarships and exhibitions are required.

THE LAST EDITION

FROM



The Rise and of Birmingham University 1880-1960 by Richard Jaffa

THOUGH the scoffers fail to realise it, Redbrick has just as fascinating a history as Oxbridge. The University's history is bound up with the turmoil of the Industrial Revolution and the phenomenal progress of society in the twentieth century. Birmingham was not as many imagine it a boom town of the 1850's for it boasted a population of 70,000 in 1800.

In 1781 someone had the audacity to write: "Birmingham, like the Empire to which she belongs, has been for many centuries travelling uphill, and like that rising in consequence."

Except for its Medical School, whose origins can be traced back as far as 1768, it possessed no establishments for higher education. The present form of Birmingham University can be attributed to the work of two men—Sir Josiah Mason and Joseph Chamberlain.

Mason has been described as a simple, homely, hard-working man, gifted with a serene disposition and considerable natural ability. It was due to his benefaction that Mason College was opened in 1880. Mason had laid the foundation stone five years earlier on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

In its first year the college accepted 95 day students and an equal number of evening students. The cost of courses appears ludicrously low by modern standards. One year's Applied Mathematics might cost up to five guineas.

From its opening, the College expanded rapidly. Mason's inspiration was to reach fruition in the hands of the city's most illustrious citizen, Joseph Chamberlain.

Before Chamberlain had become president in 1893, the College had already become "Mason University College." The new President favoured a larger and more comprehensive Midland University.

For several years he had campaigned and he achieved his aim when the Charter was granted on February 24th, 1900, 25 years less a day since Mason had laid the foundation stone. Until this time the College had been restricted to Edmund

the University was opened in 1907 after a considerable effort on the part of the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Beale.)

Thus the University as we know it today is roughly recognisable by 1914. Edmund Street, to the glee of its sterner critics, can truly be said not to have changed an iota.

Josiah Mason intended the building to cater principally for the sciences and since the building has had little structural alteration it is still equipped with bunsen burners and fume cupboards. The building's dimly-lit labyrinthine corridors, staircases and libraries form a welcome oasis of silence in the bustle of the City Centre. Now that rumours of demolition have been confirmed it is ironic to reflect that the official history of the University says: "Great care was taken in the erection and in the selection of materials and the building was qualified to stand for centuries."

GUILD of GRADUATES

and

GUILD of UNDERGRADUATES

present

GRADUATION BALL

in the UNION

on

FRIDAY, 15th JULY, 1960

Double Tickets: 25/- (inc. Buffet & Photo.)

DRESS FORMAL



GUILD NEWS
THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER
THE UNION, EDGBASTON
Tel. Selly Oak 1841

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EDITORIAL

ANOTHER university year has drawn to a close. The wheels of the Guild will cease to move, and the time has come for many of us to leave these sacred walls. I too, must lay down my pen and depart into a hostile world.

At the same time, Edmund Street will be closing her doors as a seat of learning and a true university campus, envisaged many years ago, will swing into action at Edgbaston.

Edmund Street will be forever in the minds of those who have worked and studied there. She will be hard to forget. But, if the university is to play its proper part in the academic upsurge of this country, it must be prepared to expand.

At Edgbaston, the walls have been filled to capacity for many years, and there is little room for expansion. Edgbaston would appear to be the answer to the proposed increase in size. The student population will, however, be severing yet another vital link with the City. The student should be ever conscious of the people around him. Carnival will virtually be the only contact with the City in the future.

Edmund Street has seen many changes over the past 80 years. I hope that the numerous incidents recorded in these pages will be a permanent record of the glory that was once hers. I intend in no way to provide a pitted history, but merely to present a list of memories, which follow no chronological pattern.

Finally, I should like to thank my staff for the many hours they have devoted to this publication, and to thank the readers (however few!) for their unfailing support. I wish my successor a promising year; a year which will undoubtedly produce more changes than have been witnessed during the entire history of Birmingham University. I am proud to have been part of that history.

MARK SEAWARD.

ANOTHER HONOUR FOR VICE-CHANCELLOR

YET another honour has been bestowed upon the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Robert Aitken. Earlier this month he was awarded a knighthood in the Birthday Honours List.

Last week he was one of a small and select band who received honorary degrees from the hand of the new Chancellor of Oxford University, Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury. The recipients of the degrees were all personally selected by the Chancellor and it is a fine reflection on the prestige of the

University of Birmingham that our Vice-Chancellor was one of a band that included the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, and the Earl of Home. The local Press were quick to realise the extent of this honour as regards the University, but William Hickey didn't mention us!

Justiciar.

M & B
It's
Marvellous Beer

PRESS POST

MERMAID CONTRIBUTION

Sir,

The latest issue of "Mermaid" contains an OZ poem, as well as a prescription for writing such a poem. This is, of course, a challenge to write one's own, and in response we wish to present the following OZ poem, dedicated to Mother:

Halfway 'twixt Worcester and Birmingham
weep the anonymous automobiles,
gear-changing, back-firing, mystifying the corpulent publican.
* * * fell from the lips of a breasty barfly.
Spread some butter on the bread, Fred, and masticate.
"A bird, a whale," said Horace, revving up the Morris,
eating a cigarette with some aplomb
(much as one would eat an atom bomb)
"Feel that dish-rag," cried a wag.

While I'm alive, think anything of me,
But when I die, think only this of me:
the telegraph poles are rotting at the base;
my seventh child is dying to birth,
one for every deadly sin.
O for the wings of a dragon, and to see the dawn
come up like dandelions in the lawn.
Where is bastardy?
Not in Picardy.
Blood birth.
After-birth,
mirth.

One should be allowed, I think, to make the comment that at the time of writing, there were but seven deadly sins.

Yours faithfully,

AVRIL BRUTEN.
MICK BROWN.

ED. STREET ASUNDER ?

We shall shortly leave the city
For alas it is a pity
But our very walls are crumbling at the base:
Look your last on things unlovely,
Can you see amid the debris
What a noble structure rears its ugly face?

For it's rambling and it's roomy
If its corridors are gloomy
There's no doubt about it we have got the space:
If you care to stroll for pleasure
You can saunter at your leisure
But you'll grope your way in darkness round the place.

Should you ultimately weary
Of a decor dark and dreary,
Take a bench, collapse, relax and meditate:
There's enough accommodation
If it lacks in variation
And does little more than take your body's weight.

Rotting rafters thread the ceiling,
On the walls the plaster's peeling,
And the scattered rubble litters up the floor:
Edmund Street is surely falling
And conditions are appalling,
Renovation isn't in it, there's no cure.

Basement life is just as hideous:
For the few that are fastidious,
Facilities are better left ungraced:
'Tis a work of conscious cunning
Just to get the water running,
Then we filter it before we taste.

Let them expedite decay
In the customary way,
Detonate a high explosive underground:
We'll evacuate the city
For a spot that's far more pretty,
Swell the scientific settlers out of town.

We'll assemble on the plains
And forsake her sad remains,
Carry culture to a climate where she'll thrive:
But in passing shed a tear
And compassionate appear
As is suitably fitting for the grave.

BLOODY MARY.

THE N.U.S.

CRAMMED somewhere among the variety of notices on the walls of union corridors are the letters N.U.S. Standing for National Union of Students they are probably the most important single group of letters in the student world.

The N.U.S. was formed as a national organisation for the benefit of students in 1922. Since then it has established itself by championing student rights in the field of grants and welfare and by providing services to students. These include a vacation job department, a national Debating Tournament, an Annual Drama Festival, a National Student Journalist Conference and helpful publications such as the careers guide, the Guide to London and Student News—the only national student newspaper.

In addition favourable concession rates for students have been arranged with many firms and a 20 per cent discount can often be obtained for necessary articles ranging from kettles to engagement rings. Concessions both in England and on the Continent are obtainable on production of the International Student Identity Card—only the college N.U.S. representative can issue this.

Members find a useful service in the Travel Bureau which caters for student groups travelling for holidays and summer and winter sports. During the Easter and long vacations the Bureau runs special low-cost charter flights. These link up with charter flights run by the national unions of other countries to form a network of services across the Continent. They are the cheapest fast means of travel for students during vacations.

An ancillary service is the Hostel at 4 Gordon St. W.C.1. Overnight student accommodation can be had at comparatively short notice though summer-time crowding makes it advisable to book early.

Many services requires early The operation of these formation of policy and efficiency in its execution.

Policy is laid down by delegates from affiliated colleges meeting together in April and November Councils and is carried out by an elected executive with the help of a staff of 40 working at headquarters offices in 3 Endsleigh Street, London. W.C.1. Further information on any aspect of the above may be obtained from this address.

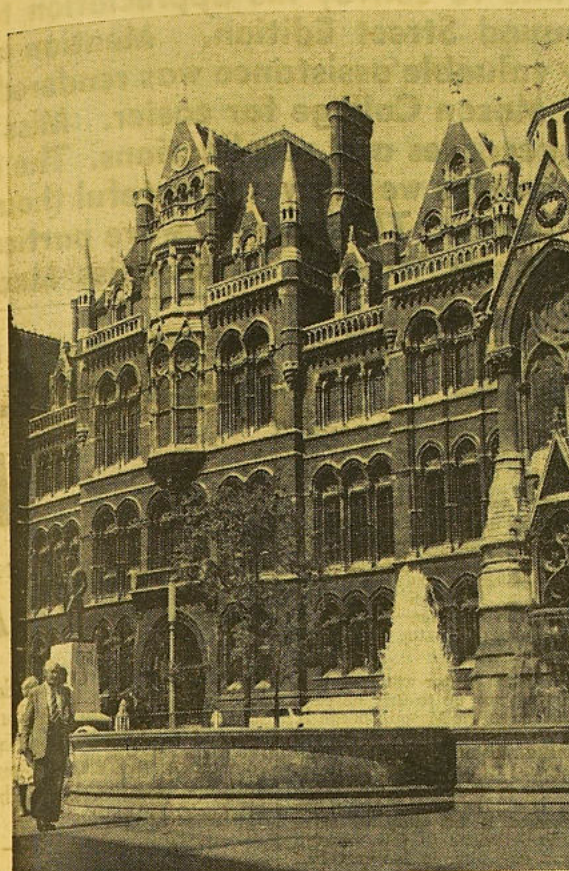
LIBERATED

EARLY publications "draw attention to what is, to strangers, perhaps the most striking feature of the Mason College, namely, that within its walls male and female students mingle on terms of perfect equality," although "in certain branches of physiology separate classes are, if necessary, temporarily formed."

"In no direction, indeed, is anything restricted to the separate use of either sex, excepting the students' common room alone."

(Continued on Page Six)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOLPHIN IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED



Mason College is built in the 13th century style, of deep red brick from Kingswinford, with stone from Portland, Bath, and Bolton Wood for the windows. "The lofty central gable, against which the upper part of the oriel abuts, is terminated by a mermaid—the crest of the generous founder of the institution, Sir Josiah Mason—at a height of 122 feet above the pavement."

ANATOMICAL THEATRE

The Old Anatomical Theatre; this was situated above the present Mason Theatre and was burnt out by a German oil bomb in the early stages of the 1939-45 War.

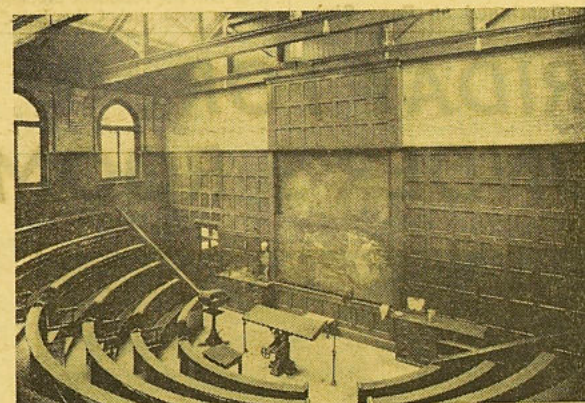


Photo: Bedford Lemere (1897)

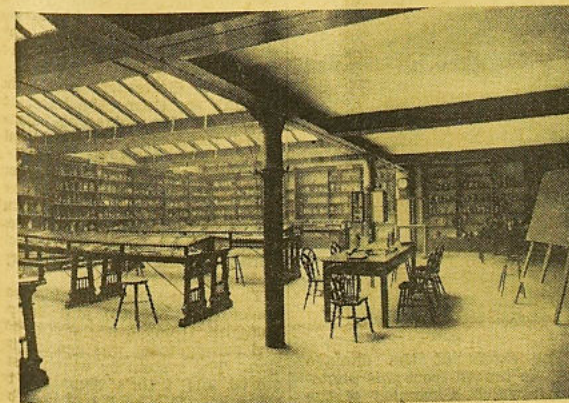


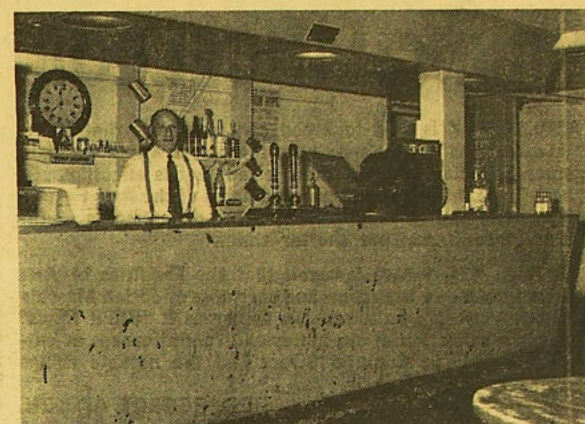
Photo: Bedford Lemere (1897)

PATHOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Pathological Museum, which in its modern (?) guise forms the History Library, it having fulfilled this function since 1945.

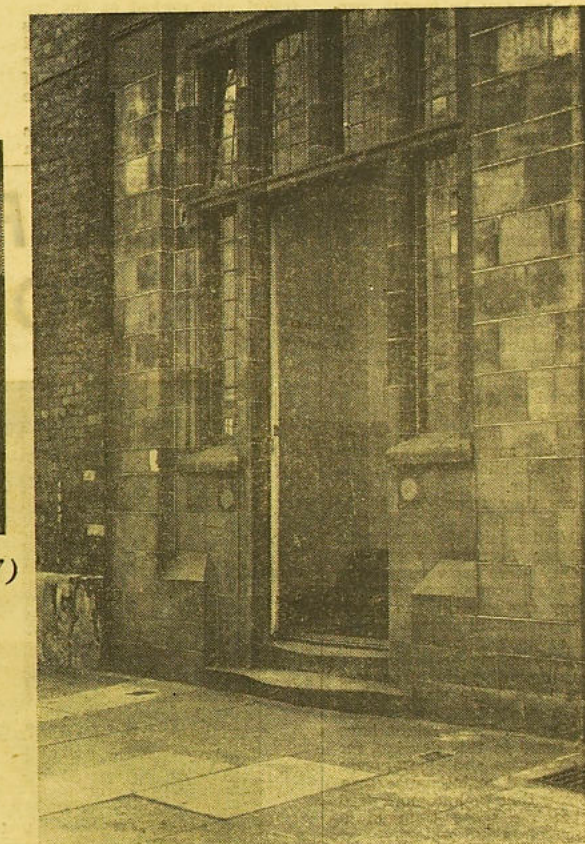
MERMAID TAVERN

Possibly the best-known institution of Edmund Street, the "Mermaid Tavern," was opened on the 21st February, 1950. Its genial barman, Arthur (right) will be performing similar operations at the Union next term.



FOUNDER'S ROOM

Founders' Room, the glory-hole of Ed. Streeters, in one of its less crowded and untidy moments.



The familiar entrance to the Guild Club. Unlike most of Edmund Street, the buildings on the Great Charles Street side will continue to be used by the Education Department for a further twelve months.

DEGREE DAY PORTRAITURE

(ATTENDANCE AT ALL CONGREGATIONS)

BY

STANLEY DOLPHIN

IN THE MEN'S LOUNGE, THE UNION

INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

FAMILIARITY is said to breed contempt, but that is not always true. Familiarity with the places where we work together and play together more often breeds affection. So it has been with Edmund Street, the home of the Arts Faculty for 60 years, and of many of the other departments of the University for somewhat shorter times.

It is an affectionate farewell that the Faculties of Arts and Law now bid to the rooms and corridors of Josiah Mason's ambitious Victorian building. To celebrate it "Guild News" has made a collection of anecdotes and reminiscences of outstanding people in Edmund Street and the notable things they did.

DR. ROBERT AITKEN.

WAR AND PEACE AT EDMUND ST.

by MISS N.
MACFARLANE

(Senior Women Tutor)

REMINISCENCES of twenty-eight years of Edmund Street—"You must borrow me Gargantua's mouth first," and "Was it fifty lines or so the Editor suggested?"

Memories come in all shapes and sizes, and as one sifts through them one memory pulls another with it out of the chaos, and changes the pattern one was beginning to arrange. How is one to pin them down?

Edmund Street in 1932: the spartan—less politely one could say slum-like; the cloakroom with no hot water; the tutor's room, ten feet by twenty, perhaps shared for fourteen years with a colleague, yet still, miraculously, a friend (but after all it was one up on the curtailed-off landing which was all another colleague had).

We could close our door—though the partition didn't go up to the ceiling and it was necessary to warn students in the corridor below that they were to all intents and purposes in the same room, and should therefore not exchange too loudly comment and criticism not intended for our ears.

Then there was the plain living of the women's refectory: meat and two veg. and sweet for a shilling, tasting much as you would expect for the price; but seasoned by the conversation of the women Medics, still with us. In the yard outside lived a few hardy but sooty hens, with the shabby but knowing look of the city dweller.

Were they something to do with the histologists who then inhabited a sort of annexe near Professor Spencer's room; or did they serve some purpose of nutritional experiment for the Biology students in the "two-year" Education course which then existed? When they went, either by enemy action or academic decree, their place was taken by a large static water-tank erected by the National Fire Service. This might have been there to this day but for the enterprise and elbow-grease of the head maintenance man who saw that we had more need of parking space than of a stretch of inland water.

With the reorganisation of the refectories in the mid-thirties, both became mixed; the women's room downstairs for coffee and snacks, the men's

now the Guild Club canteen, for waitress-service meals. One remembers the first shy entrance of some women lecturers and a few women students into the former male sanctum, and the ensuing courteous, rather than enthusiastic, reception by the male habitués.

My next memory is of the war years—the morning when a friend who worked at the top of the Norwich Union buildings rang up to say, "Is that tall building in the middle of the block yours? Well, the top of it isn't there!"—the end of the Anatomical Theatre.

There was an A.R.P. warden's post where the Senior Common

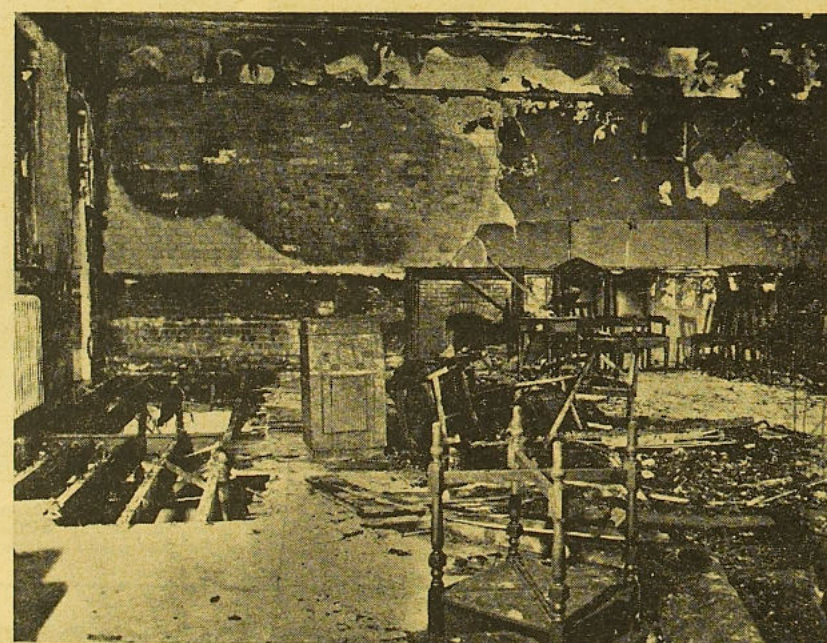
Room is now; women fire-watchers' camp—beds were stacked in the Women's Staff Room, which was situated at the blitzed Great Charles Street end of the building.

We had been all set for day-time raids, with routes to the shelters posted in every classroom and first-aid given to the women staff and students by Mr. Sarsons, a seasoned ambulance man from the Medical School.

Was there ever a sterner test of fortitude than to be carried down the main staircase by four staggering amateur stretcher-bearers, for the stone steps looked unfriendly and a long way down?

(Continued on Page Six)

BLACK FRIDAY FOR FOUNDER'S ROOM



IN the early hours of Friday, December 20th, 1957, Mr. Walker, then Head Steward at Guild Club, made his final inspection of the premises and all appeared to be well. At 2.45 a.m., however, his flat above Founder's Room became a little warm, and closer in-

vestigation revealed that the source of the heat was Founder's Room itself.

Mr. Walker just missed being trapped by what could have well developed into an inferno. The Fire Brigade was called, and by 8 a.m. the fire was under control, damage being restricted to the room itself.

The extent of the damage may be judged from this photograph which a member of the Library Staff took in the smouldering atmosphere. During the time that Founder's Room was out of commission, the Reading and Writing Room and the Guild of Dominies Common Room were used for all the traditional activities of this room.

EPITAPH TO ED. STREET

The Editor would like to convey his appreciation to members of the University and Guild who contributed to the special Edmund Street Edition. Mention must be made of the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar, Dr. Templeman. Very valuable assistance was rendered by the University and Mason College far easier. Miss Taylor, Miss Randall and Miss Tyndall at Ed. St. contributed many interesting anecdotes and recollections. The amount of written material was overwhelming in its quality and quantity, and for this we are very grateful though we only have eight pages. Those which were particularly useful were those by Messrs. Keegan and Evans and by the Senior Woman Tutor, Miss Macfarlane, Mrs. Hutton and Miss Cheetham.

ASCENDING THE HEIGHTS

"The Birmingham Medical School," by B. C. A. Windle and W. Hill-house (1890), p.18, states that:

"The basement is largely occupied by the Engineering Department, while the highest part of the building is occupied by the extensive geological collection. This latter, by its weight, presumably serves the useful function of a pinnacle, and keeps the rest of the building steady."

"As the visitor will find, it is a long way up to this museum. Young as the Mason College is, a few jokes which time will make historic, already cling around it; and one of them is to the effect that the only President of the Council who has deemed it his duty to make periodic visits to this museum was one who, in his day, had been a famous alpine climber, Mr. William Mathews, M.A."

"We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement, since according to the Trust Deeds, a periodic inspection of every part of the building has to be made by two members of the Council; and, whether he likes it or not, the President probably has to form one of this pair."

EDMUND ST. 1920 to 1960

by Miss Taylor, formerly Secretary
to Sir Raymond Priestley

1920-1940—a quickly-growing university and a period that saw the completion of Science's removal to Edgbaston and the re-housing on the new site of Commerce and Medicine. Even in the 1920's the remark was often made, "When we are all out at Edgbaston . . ." not with any particular date in mind, but in the confident belief that the final move would occur in the foreseeable future. The women students by this time had their own refectory (the present refectory), a pleasant room with small tables covered with linen tablecloths.

Women members of staff also had their own table in this refectory. One of the chief social occasions during this period of the Women's Club was the Leavies' Supper, held in the Refectory at the end of the summer term and attended by the women graduands; the number of the first-year students were given the honour of being allowed to act as waitresses.

An innovation that followed the end of the first war was the allocation of a Committee Room (now the Senior Common Room) for "the use of men and women officials of Student Societies"; and soon afterwards there was a plea for a second room at Edmund St. for use as a Joint Common Room for men and women students.

It was during the 1920-1930 period that the Guild of Undergraduates, newly a corporate body including both the men and women students, petitioned Senate that laboratories should be closed and no lectures held in any Department in the University on Wednesday afternoons.

In those days dress for both students and staff was plainer and more formal than it is today. Professors and lecturers wore gowns for all their classes, and it was rule, which remained in force until clothing coupons created difficulties during the 1939-45 war, that students must wear gowns for examinations. One bought one's gown second-hand, almost as automatically as one bought one's second-hand books on entering the University.

1940-1960: Again Edmund Street faced a period of war, but this time was in actual danger. Probably at no time in the building's history had so many of its inmates known so much about the geography of this rabbit warren.

Three first-aid posts were set up in various parts of the basement and the whole of the basement was made available for lectures and classes to adjourn to when an air-raid warning was sounded—an event that fortunately did not happen very often during teaching hours.

At night the building was manned by firewatchers and there was also a Home Guard post in the Strong Room in the basement.

One emerged thankfully from it at 7.30 a.m., feeling even after a quiet night the worse for wear, and made one's way out to breakfast, filling one's lungs with the comparatively fresh air of New Street.

The firewatching was shared by staff and students, with their Warden's Post in the present Senior Common Room.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Raymond Priestley, took more than his share of duty, and with typical generosity furnished a library for the Warden's Post. There were sure "incidents," the worst of which was the oil bomb that fell one night on the room above the Mason Theatre, formerly the Dissection Room and at that time the home of the Geography Department.

It burnt its way through to the Mason Theatre, and it was only the stout efforts of the fire-watchers, headed by the Vice-Chancellor and the Head Porter, Mr. Haytree, that kept the fire from devouring more of the building.

Next morning we came into a flooded centre corridor, with hoses snaking their way down its length, and an impressive skyscape reminiscent of the ruins of Tintern Abbey on view from various back windows. Mr. Haytree, unruffled as ever, was an example of "business as usual."

The war brought pleasant as well as unpleasant things. One of the more interesting memories is of a group of some 20 refugee students from Poland, France and Belgium, for whom a special course was laid on, and who added to the life of Edmund Street.

The war also completed the fusion of the men's and women's refectories. Probably because of the difficulty in buying food, it was decreed that the men's refectory (now Guild Club) should serve cooked lunches to both men and women students and staff, and that the women's refectory should confine itself to tea, coffee and light refreshments.

This arrangement, for various reasons, did not continue, but it served to establish the principle that men and women should take their meals together.

It is not possible to think of the war and post-war period without thinking of Sir Raymond Priestley, the third of the four Vice-Chancellors to use Edmund Street as their headquarters.

So far as the students were concerned he was probably the best-known of our Vice-Chancellors and is remembered with

Received from the Registry

Mr. Editor,
I first climbed up the steps of Mason College on the 2nd of October, 1931, as a very young student come to read history. Years later I came back to teach there, and, in the early part of the last war, I stood for many nights on the roof near the Examination Hall to watch the City burning all round.

We thought that Mason College would be consumed in that holocaust, but its fabric proved unexpectedly tough, and it survived to house more teachers and students than it had ever housed before.

Mason College of my student days came to an end when the Faculty of Medicine moved to Edgbaston in 1939 and medical students departed from the Founder's room.

However, I was only really convinced that the days of the place were numbered, when G. L. Haytree, Head Porter for many years, retired a little time ago. He had sat in his box there as long as I could remember, and he did me the great kindness, although the door had long been shut, of letting me in late one Black Friday to see what kind of degree I had managed to achieve. I felt that Mason College could not survive long without him, and it seems that I was right.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY TEMPLEMAN
(Registrar)

POYNTING F.R.S.



PROFESSOR J. H. Poynting, M.Sc., Sc.D., F.R.S., was the first Dean of the Faculty of Science, occupying the Chair from 1900 to 1913. One of his greatest contributions to scientific progress was the accurate weighing of the Earth.

This was accomplished in the most humble surroundings, namely a wooden lean-to in the yard, below the students' cloakroom in Edmund Street, a structure used in recent years as a carpenter's shop.

This experiment is best described in Poynting's own words in his book "The Earth", published in 1922.

He "saw the possibility of using the common balance to measure the attraction between two masses and made some preliminary trials which ultimately led to an experiment, which was carried out at Birmingham.

The balance was of the type used at mints to weigh out bullion. It had a specially strong beam four feet long. It was supported on two brick pillars.

In order to prevent the vibrations due to street traffic and to the shutting of doors in the building, one course of brickwork in each pillar was replaced by a number of indiarubber blocks.

M.R.D.S.
R.H.J.

'MERMAID'

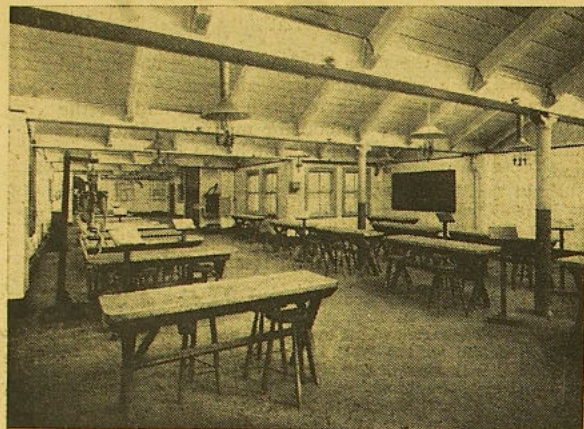
will be on sale
NEXT WEEK.

The Editor also invites contributions for next term's edition as soon as possible.



BIRMINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

PRIOR TO REINCARNATION



The dissecting room. Certain sections of this room partitioned off now form part of the Guild Club. This photograph was taken in 1897. Photo: Bedford Lemere

Today, on every hand, discovery and development bring the promise of better living. But it is production that makes reality of that promise. I.C.I., for example, spent £5,000,000 on developing 'Terylene' polyester fibre—and will soon have expended ten times that sum on building and equipping plants to make it. Only investment on this scale could ensure that test-tube ounces of 'Terylene' were quickly translated into plant tonnages—to make crease-resisting, shrink-proof, long-lasting 'Terylene' dresses, skirts, suits, blouses, shirts; attractive and durable 'Terylene' curtains and furnishing materials; and conveyor belting, ropes, hoses, sails and fishing-nets. I.C.I.'s investment in 'Terylene' is only part of the Company's £375,000,000 post-war expansion programme that has done much to promote the booming vitality of life in the mid-20th century.

LIFE IS BOOMING...



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Something in the Campus
by Summon

IN the past quarter various groups of shareholders have been meeting to elect their new boards for the next session. At all those I attended the constantly recurring theme was—the new merger—Edmund Street and Edgbaston, a shot-gun marriage brought about by higher authority. This enforced union is viewed with mixed feelings by those who have so long reigned supreme in local business and executive circles. All alike acknowledge the great organisational economies now possible and hope the larger union thus created will help to increase the output of the main product. Nevertheless there are obvious emotional twinges behind the intellectual acceptance of this fait accompli and we might well speculate on the reasons why.

Traditional ways and attitudes die hard on both sides, and one can see certain difficulties such as relations between the long-haired and

aesthetic and the empirical and strictly functional.

We can compare the crammed queues and hourly in-flow and out-flow like academic locks with the semi-permanent residence of less-regulated literary life. There is bound to be an increase in coffee consumption and also in cigarette ash returns and tannoy usage whilst in another field of scarce resources—females.

They have always been a scarce commodity and the Social Studies Department is considering how best to meet this challenge where they have hitherto been supreme.

Others see it as no challenge at all and rather dread the influx of reputedly poor-quality finish femininity which will greatly add to the crush without improving the scenery.

Equally hotly this is denied by those more intimately associated with the Edmund Street branch who see a distinct improvement in relationships and communications as a result of the merger.

Debate has been long and fierce in some quarters, pessimistic and resigned in others. Over long pints in board meetings the various implications have been turned over and possibilities discussed. The bridge specialists foresee greater competition for provisions as their less-lectured arts counterparts can establish earlier claims to the facilities. There is some mention of partitioning to avoid difficulty, or separate legislation to allow each to develop separately within their own particular cultural tradition.

A well-known but little-respected observer of the campus scene was heard muttering in his beard about the event "providing an excellent opportunity for the increased inter-communication of intellectuals across the barriers of various departmental disciplines." He also hoped the new situation would be mutually beneficial; he was sure we had a lot to learn from each other. His parting comment was something about not treading the fog ash into the carpet and the need to be more tidy and considerate because of the crush which was bound to develop.

For myself, I am impressed by the way in which this newer and yet more established larger unit is preparing to receive the evacuees from that uneconomic and rotting pile of Ed. St. Scarcely anyone seems to believe it will just happen; most are anticipating difficulties and laying plans. Edmund St. may have had a warmth and intimacy peculiarly its own, but it was old-fashioned, poorly-designed and uneconomical, and in this twentieth century of efficiency and progress the fresher air of a more objective, scientific Edgbaston must prevail.

Its vast new buildings, well laid out, strictly functional and trimmed for economy, are a great example of what the new arrivals are coming into. It will be for them to fit into this new mould and try to make the humanities breathe again in a new community.

WAR AND PEACE

(Continued from page 4)

But can any of us who spent the war years here (and the years just after it, which were in some ways even more austere as numbers grew and restrictions remained harsh), fail to think also of the indomitable people not usually mentioned in the academic records who saw us through them?

"Elsie", Mrs. Jones, the refectory caterer, the latter untrained, unorthodox, odd in many of her ideas, but never defeated, unsparing of her own time and effort, and somehow inspiring her staff to be the same, went her own way to ensure that her patrons were fed as well as conditions would allow. It was no fault of hers if the sausage was mainly soap-flour and the steak whalemeat. If anything was to be got, she got it (rumour had it that when there was word of something "off the ration" to be had, Elsie would have the entire domestic staff, porters included, queuing up to secure the pound or so allowed to each customer. Come weather or blitz, broken gas and water mains, sleepless nights and interrupted bus services, the old hands of the domestic staff never let us down.

Elsie, Florrie and Edith, Haytree and Bridgewater, and all your fellows and successors who have seen generations of staff and students come and go, old and faithful friends in war and peace; let us salute you, for you also were a part, and that not the least, of Edmund Street.

COMMENT

ALTHOUGH many will rejoice at the closing of Ed. St. an era dies with it and a great tradition will be lost to posterity. We will be accused of sentiment and anti-progressive, but this is more than a romantic illusion to which we are clinging.

The loss of Ed. St. represents the passing of a particular kind of education. Beautiful buildings are not the sole criteria of an educational establishment.

The well-tried methods of our elders deserve more credit than they are usually given. For this reason we now spotlight the history of this University and some of the events which have given it its present ranking importance. Few people ever consider these facts which in the three-year resident seem insignificant, but history is greater than all of us and we are a part of it.

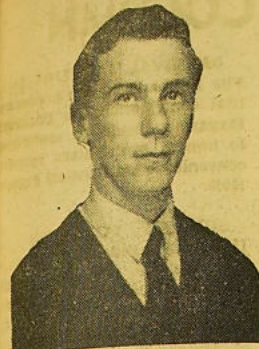
LIBERATED

(Continued from Page Two)

"The Mason College was the first institution of importance in which the experiment of mixed education was given a fair trial, and the bitterest opponent of the system cannot in this case deny its success."

These quaint facts at least disprove that we sadly misjudge the Victorians on certain occasions. We are indebted for these quotations to "The Birmingham Medical School", published in 1890.

PROFILE



GEOFF HUTCHINGS

THE end of Ed. Street is near, but the memory of its bizarre character will live on in the minds of the thousands who have studied, drunk, chatted and argued within its now dilapidated frame.

How many of those thousands will be remembered as long as Ed. Street itself? I somehow feel that Geoff Hutchings—who leaves Birmingham at the end of this term to go as a lecturer in English to the University of Montpellier—will be one of the few who WILL be remembered. For, diminutive Geoff, a man of many parts and many moods, has left a mark it will take long to erase from the memories of those who have come into contact with him during his three years in Birmingham.

But how can one analyse the mark he has made? To most people, he must appear as the irresistible clown, with his bubbling, overflowing humour and that rubbery face which can produce such an inexhaustible range of expressions.

Yes, Geoff will probably be remembered by many people, because he made them double up with laughter far more than any one else.

From a more impersonal point of view, he will certainly be remembered for his telling performances for G.T.G. and the Cercle Français, in such parts as Tartuffe, La Fieche ("L'Avare"), Bosola, ("Duchess of Malfi"), Doctor Chasuble, ("The Importance of Being Earnest"). Sir Tim Bellboys ("Penny for a Song"), and the Producer ("Six Characters in Search of an Author").

And then there are those who will remember him as Geoff the pole-vaulter, in his high-flying role for the Athletics Club. In fact he has participated successfully in many spheres of Guild activity—showing the versatility and dedicated application which characterises his whole outlook.

But behind this glittering facade of seemingly unlimited

success and popularity, there is a different Geoff. And one becomes more and more tempted, as time goes by, to believe that this is the real person. Not the wit, the actor or the tumbling clown—but in reality, a quiet, pensive young man with a brow which is often furrowed, and eyes which, when they do not flash with impish humour, have a distant yet intensely questioning look about them.

Perhaps that is why, to those who know him a little better than most, he is a person of many moods—ebullient one moment, dejected the next, and nothing makes him more dejected than those people who only seem to want him around for a laugh. Often he is frustrated by the part he plays, wishing instead to be accepted simply for himself and not for his ability to act the "Court Jester."

Be that as it may, the theatre seems to offer tremendous opportunities for Geoff. He was elected the Best Actor at the recent N.U.S. Drama Festival sponsored by "The Sunday Times," and several knowledgeable people have strongly urged him to take the plunge and make the theatre his life.

Geoff is the only one who doubts his own abilities, and at the moment he feels unable to take the step which could mean so much to him.

Geoff Hutchings remains an enigma to those with the possibility of a brilliant future, but who has not the self-confidence to fully recognise his own ability.

SORE POINT

—A LOCAL STORY WITH A WORLD OF MEANING

THE other day I met a girl friend of mine looking rather sad and tearful. It took a long time to explain, but it was a simple story. She is one of those twice-blessed girls who is quite attractive and yet manages to be friendly with all sorts of people without breaking too many hearts. Her friendships extended to many nationalities and this was where the difficulties had begun, not for her, but for some of her acquaintances who saw something vaguely suspicious or immoral in the fact that she went to a few dances with a non-white student—and so the stories began to circulate, until eventually she heard them.

This is not an unusual story except in the clarity with which it shows on the local level, the changing world situation and the difficulties of adjustment as the countries of the world are forced closer together. Today the boundaries of race and nationality are becoming blurred and for the first time we are having to learn to live with a new dimension in our relationships, that of multiracialism.

For some it is relatively easy to accept those of another nationality or colour into their circle of friends; for others it is more difficult, usually either because of lack of knowledge about the other's background or origin or because of fear. This fear is less of the new-comer than of oneself; it is a lack of self-confidence, an inability to relax and respond easily and makes people blame the object rather than the source.

S.C.A.R.S. is the newly-formed Student Campaign Against Racial Segregation which held its inaugural meeting on June 15 to discuss ways and means of promoting racial tolerance wherever and whenever possible. A small temporary com-

mittee was elected to prepare the ground, collect ideas and report back to a meeting on July 4 in the Lesser Hall when the new committee and policy will be decided.

The change from an insular and all-white Great Britain to a country with a large coloured minority is still taking place and is the inevitable result of past developments. There are bound to be tensions and difficulties; there always are when strangers have to learn to live together. It is the aim of S.C.A.R.S. to try to ease this transition by gathering and spreading information and actively helping in whatever ways possible in the building up of mutual knowledge and trust between races. If you are interested in this venture, with all its future potential, then come along and give your support on July 4.

The meeting will be preceded at 12 noon by a Special General Meeting of the Presidents' South Africa Society when it will be proposed to merge the Society with the new S.C.A.R.S. group. The wider appeal of the new body will include within it the needs of South African students. For further details in the meantime, contact Malcolm Sweetman (B. Comm. II) or Ahmed Mohammed (Social Science I).

KIM.

BRIDGE COLUMN ANSWER TO LAST PROBLEM:

It must be assumed that the Jack of Clubs is singleton and that East will make a trump trick. Many players would immediately take the heart finesse and bewail their bad luck when it proved unsuccessful. However, Six Clubs can be made by careful end-play.

The first trick is taken in dummy and declarer plays off two rounds of spades, discarding a heart. He plays a third round of spades and ruffs (East's best defence is to discard) and then takes his three top diamonds (discarding three hearts) and the Ace of Hearts. Declarer then ruffs the three of Diamonds with the King of Clubs and the position is as follows:

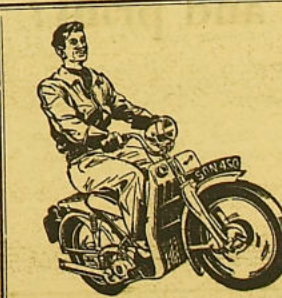
North		East	
S	5, 4.	S	7
H	Q	H	7
D	A	D	10, 8, 7
C	A	C	10, 8, 7
South		West	
S	5	S	Q, 10
H	5	H	K
D	9, 5, 4	D	J
C	9, 5, 4	C	10

Declarer plays a spade from table. If East ruffs with the ten declarer discards the heart. If East discards or ruffs low, South ruffs the over-ruffs. He returns to table on the Ace of Clubs and plays the other spade. If East has discarded on the previous trick he is left with ten and eight of clubs and can only make one trick. Similarly, if East has ruffed low on the previous trick he only makes the ten and South has made Six Clubs.

COUNTY

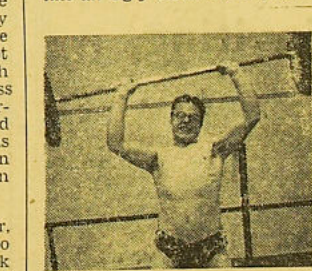
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SCOOTERS
MOTOR-CYCLES
BUBBLE CARS

on the very best of terms
266 BROAD ST. (Mid. 6508)
and 266 STRATFORD ROAD,
SHIRLEY



Weightlifting

Weightlifting may be a Cinderella sport in England, but here Bill Forshaw looks more like an Ugly Sister as he presses



150lb. above his head at the Birmingham University Health studio, a disused and now scarred Squash court attached to the Gymnasium.

Anyone can come and train with weights, either for sport (like Howard Payne, the 200lb. hammer-thrower), general fitness or competitive weightlifting. The latter is an Olympic sport, incidentally.

A. B. Wigginton.

Abstracts aside, however, one can only hope that not too many Ed. Streeters have to ask the way to the Union, and not too many set out with the firm intention of bringing Culture to the Coffee Room. After all, the conversation in Founders' Room has never been over-intellectual. It may be that once we are released from our gloomy pseudo-Gothic seat of learning, we may wake up to the fact that this is 1960, and we may do as much good to the scientists as they will undoubtedly do to us.

Maureen Jones (English I.)

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GUILD COUNCIL

The Final Meeting of Guild Council for session 1959/60 will be held in the Council Room, the Union, Edgbaston, on **MONDAY NEXT, 4th JULY, 1960, 5.15 p.m.**

It is essential, repeat, essential, that all members of Council make every effort to be present at this most important meeting. The last two convened meetings had to be abandoned as Council was inquorate, and it is hoped that there will be no recurrence of this unfortunate incident.

To be discussed at the meeting are a number of reports including the reports of the Guild Treasurer and Guild Secretary. Under consideration will be the first report of the Ad Hoc Committee and reports of all the Guild Standing Committees and all the other trappings of Guild Council.

Don't miss the Stanley-Betteridge swan-song!

J.S.G.

How's your moral fibre?
Pretty resolute?
Undaunted by the fell
clutch of whatsit?
Hard gemlike thingummy?

Or is the only thing that
will get you out of
bed on Sunday morning
the knowledge that
THE OBSERVER
is lying there, fat and inviting,
with its crisp congruities
of words and print?

Moment—A New Magazine

BIRMINGHAM University, as compared with many other Universities, has relatively few publications to its credit, therefore it is of considerable interest that a new magazine is starting production.

"Moment", as its editorial states, "sets out to be a journal of religion and culture" aimed at all sections of the University community and, judging by the titles of the articles in this edition, there should be something to interest everyone who has any regard for other people and their problems of life.

The form of the editorial is somewhat strange for a new magazine in that it is divided into three short sections of

which only the first (and shortest) deals with the magazine itself. The other two sections, although interesting in themselves, do not really come under would have been preferable to have made full-length articles out of one or both of them.

Kenneth Garlick's article on some of the lesser known Italian paintings in the Barber Institute will remind many people that we have a fine collection of paintings on our doorstep. Perhaps one of the reasons why so few students take any interest in the Barber Institute is that they know so little about what it contains: this article may help remedy the situation.

The real "meat" of the magazine from the point of view of bringing forth ideas for discussion is contained in the articles by Geoffrey Ostergaard and Keith Wilkes.

The first article is concerned with the "Beatniks" and the Beat Generation". Ostergaard claims that the so-called "Beatniks" reject the morals and politics of Western society because they cannot stomach the rottenness of Western civilisation and that their way of life is a form of religious quest, a "striving towards the sense of ultimate enlightenment." Although bringing forward some interesting ideas as to why there are "Beatniks", the author offers no solution to the problem of re-integrating these people back into society: perhaps this will come in another edition.

In the last article, "The Truth God", the Rev. Keith Wilkes puts forward the Christian point of view on the nature of truth. He equates truth with God and argues that it is "God the Truth that enables us to recognise reality"; that he alone can help us to lead better lives. Although to my non-Christian mind, little of what is contained in the article can seriously be believed, the Christian point of view is competently expressed.

"Moment" is quite well presented for a duplicated magazine apart from a few obvious minor faults and one looks forward to an even better second edition.

J. H. Gunn.

PERSONAL COLUMN

CARNIVAL MAGAZINE, 1961. The Editor wishes to announce that contributions for Carnival Magazine should be submitted to him at contributors' earliest convenience via Carnival Pigeon Hole.

SUMMER CONGRESS of Universities Federation for Animal Welfare will be held at Cuiham College, Abingdon, Berks., from September 16th to 22nd, 1960. Reduced rates for students. Further details may be obtained from Mark R. D. Seaward via "Guild News" pigeon hole.

MANY OF YOU will be leaving us this year (either voluntarily or otherwise). May we take this opportunity of reminding you to take out at least one year's subscription of "Guild News". Ten shillings per annum including postage, or terms.

GUILD SERVICES. Sunday, July 3rd, 6.30 p.m., Going Down Service (preacher, The Chaplain); Tuesday, July 5th, 7.45 a.m. Holy Communion; Thursday, July 7th, 12.15 p.m., Holy Communion; Daily Prayer, 9.30 a.m. and 5.10 p.m.

"BIRMINGHAM POST" POETRY PRIZE, 1959-60

The Prize has been awarded to Mr. D. L. W. Gill, a post-graduate student in the Department of Education.

The entries submitted by Miss Avril Bruten, a second-year student in the Department of English; by Miss Fay Friend, a second-year Medical student, and by Mr. L. M. Brown, a post-graduate student in the Department of Physical Metallurgy, were commended.

The anonymity of other entries has been preserved. Entrants may collect their manuscripts from the Faculty Office, The University, Edmund Street.

AIR SQUADRON'S SUMMER VACATION

NINE members of the Squadron's Airfield Construction Flight will be flying to Cyprus on the 18th July, 1960, for a stay of a fortnight.

They will be based at Akrotiri on the South side of the Island, where we hear that the bathing is superb but, in addition to the delights of a Mediterranean Holiday, there will be a serious side to the expedition. This will not be so ambitious as the construction of a new airfield, but will consist of reconnoitring and surveying an area for a new airfield site, as well as more mundane tasks such as earth moving and soil testing.

Other Squadron members will be nearer at home undergoing a concentrated course on Civil Engineering Plant Operation.

This course takes place at Wellesbourne Mountford, and includes the servicing and operation of excavators, bulldozers, graders, scrapers, and ditchers.

Last year flying members spent a fortnight at the Battle of Britain airfield at Tang-

mere. This year the pilots go to Martlesham Heath, near Ipswich, in August and early September. It is hoped to interrupt the intensive flying programme which is planned, in order to get across to the nearby Wattisham Airfield to fly in Hunters belonging to the world famous No. 111 Squadron.

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