

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 541

Thursday, November 27, 1958

Threepence

N.U.S. TRIUMPH

Mike Stanley elected to Executive Committee

At the Annual Council of the National Union of Students at Bangor, another honour came our way this week-end. Guild Secretary, Mike Stanley, was elected to the Executive Committee as Student Secretary. He now joins the President, John Jarvis, who is already Assistant Secretary, and thus our representation on N.U.S. will be considerable.

Mr. Stanley was proposed by George Odum, President of the Bristol Union, who, in his proposing speech, said of him: "He is an original thinker, and his wit is so sharp that it bores." Council so approved of M.J.S. that he polled twice as many votes as his rival, Mr. Moore, of Sheffield.

The present delegation was led by John Snowdon, External Affairs Chairman, and his fellows were the President, Mike Stanley, Ken Williams, Guy Rastall, and Julian Levy. Also, we had four observers, Brian Luby, Andrew Bennett, Keith Thompson and Miss Lesley Posner. The delegation arrived in Bangor at 5.15 minus Mr. Stanley, who travelled by train and arrived in the wee small hours. After registration at the Tanrallit Building they moved into the Railway Hotel. Despite several domestic setbacks there, the delegation assured us that they remained in happy frame of mind.

The Council opened with a general debate, and Mr. Jarvis seconded the motion that "The student is grossly over-privileged." Unfortunately he was not his usual forceful self, and perhaps this in some measure led to the motion being defeated somewhere in the region of 230 votes to 90.

OVERLOADED COURSES

Mr. Jarvis, however, really came to the fore in a brilliant speech for motion 36, which was tabled by University College, London. It read: "Council is concerned at reports that certain academic courses are overloaded, thus preventing students from taking part in non-academic activities which are essential to the obtaining of the full benefit of a higher education. Council urges that the relevant authorities examine where and how this situation can be remedied, and to act accordingly." The President

quoted to effect Grants and Welfare Reports as well as that of University Rectors and Vice-Principals, and undoubtedly swayed the voting. The motion was carried by 81-38.

The new proposed Vac. Work scheme, with its regional basis, was rejected by Council, and it is believed that the impracticabilities of the scheme led to its failure.

Many other motions were still up for debate at the time of going to press, and *Guild News* hopes to be able to report these in the next edition.

'UMBRELLA'

AN excellent magazine, which I felt might beguile our culture-starved readers, recently came my way. Under the name "Umbrella," it is the publication of the Umbrella Club, Coventry, which calls itself "an independent, non-political, non-profitmaking organisation for encouraging interest in art, music, literature, the theatre and kindred subjects." Certainly the publication exemplified all this.

What immediately strikes one is the look of the magazine. Originally executed with an electric typewriter, the process has been repeated in print, and the result is a most artistic and restful one. If one might make one criticism, it is that the margins are not sufficiently wide for that particular type face.

To attempt to characterise the contents is impossible—their scope is so wide—but they all have the unifying merit of clarity and informativeness. We are treated to a "professional" touch at the start when the novelist, E. M. Forster, in all too short an essay, tells us something of the Greek poet, Cavafy; but its brevity has the result of whetting the appetite for more. As a complete contrast, we later find an interesting, amusing, and enlightening work on Smedley's Hydro.

I find E. B. Greenwood's "Literature, Criticism, and Morality" really admirable and to me it seems universally valid. His thesis is that critics hold their beliefs religiously, since literature has become a religion, and he traces this from Coleridge via Carlyle, the French Symbolists, and Emerson, to Yeats and Eliot. In all he betrays wide reading. We are

bound to realise the cogency of the article which quotes Arnold's conclusion that "Poetry is at bottom a criticism of life." Our own "Mermaid" poets could well take note—criticism strictly means an evaluation and not an attack.

One other work of note in a magazine where specification of quality is invidious, is A. E. Burrows' "The Production of Shakespeare," of more than academic interest to a university which has Stratford on its doorstep. He examines the monopoly of Stratford and the Old Vic, though I am not entirely sure of his assertion that they are driving amateur performances underground. But I wholly agree that "For many producers to-day, a play by Shakespeare is quite simply a vehicle for some actors, a designer, and their own particular talents."

In all, this magazine is to be recommended to every type of reader. It is tasteful, both to read and to handle, and stimulates thought without ever falling into the trap of becoming pompous. At 2s. a bargain. (Readers wishing to hear more about club or magazine are asked to contact Myra Barrs, French, or Edward Ask, Law).

SHAMUEL.

A.G.M.

The installation of Prof. Humphrey Humphreys as Warden of the Guild was the one bright spark in a dull evening. A past president, and former Professor of Medicine, a former Vice-Chancellor and Honorary Member of the Guild of Undergraduates, Prof. Humphreys accepted the office of Warden of the Guild for the next three years. The formal "installation" consisted of the presentation of a new, and rather weighty Staff of Office, a recent gift to the Guild from Mr. R. Jones, the permanent secretary.

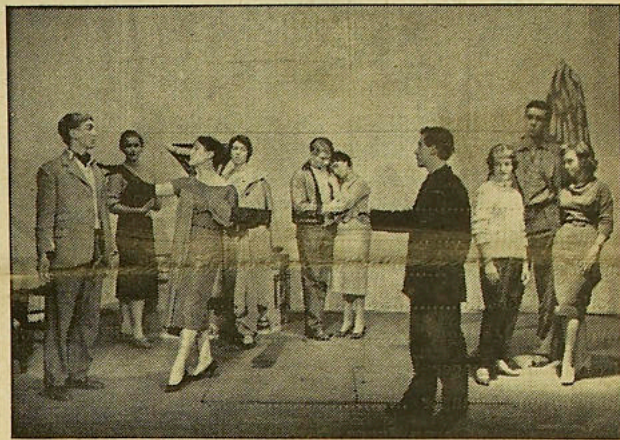
Later in the proceedings Prof. Humphreys, addressing the Guild, took the opportunity to make some timely remarks on a comparison of present day university development in the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and Britain. He gave an analysis of the number of university students in relation to the population in each of these countries. Then followed a thought-provoking and at times entertaining commentary on the standards of education reached in the respective countries.

There was little else memorable during the meeting, except on what proved to be the major motion of the evening, on whether or not Mr. Jones should read the minutes.

No further matters were raised and what had promised, only a fortnight ago, to be a lively business meeting, fizzled out into a disappointing pantomime in democracy. One is surely left thinking and fearing that the old story, that students care little for what goes on behind the scenes, where their money goes, etc.

One is also left to consider whether the A.G.M. is any longer a necessary part of Guild life. Even some Guild Councilors don't seem to think this.

SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR



Promising Productions

Pirandello is quite capable of producing the realistic, two coffee intervals and a curtain type of play. Here, however, he explores not perhaps the meaning of reality, but planes of reality. In a normal play, characters react one upon the other; each is modified by intercourse with others. Thus is developed tension and incident. To deny this form is to deny drama as we know it. It is the measure of Pirandello's greatness that he refutes this first premise and yet produces a play which holds the audience's attention and opens up for them new phrases of experience.

Ralph Wilton's production had its moments. That these moments were not more frequent was a matter for regret. Much of the play was marred by an ugliness of movement, partially destroying stage illusion. We must be persuaded that that which is happening is happening. The daughter pushes her mother away, and it is a drastic action. It should appear to us as drastic and uncouth, but not as inherently unbecoming. Overall there was an uncertainty, a confusion which, although the play is not conspicuously explicit, could have been lightened. This was due to an admirable desire to put the play over as entertainment. A little more faith in Pirandello's ability would have shown more clearly the difference between the various types of character. To merge all to one plane of naturalness is to deny Pirandello's object. However, much may be forgiven for the last few moments of the play which were striking and illuminating.

Roger Jerome has never acted better than this. He had a dignity and pathos, and a quiet assur-

ance, which gave his own performance an unlooked-for solidarity and provided the rest of the cast with a centre about which they might act. One wonders what would have become of the play had he not been there. More confidence and a knowledge or when to keep the right and gesticulating hand immobile will improve Rosemary Kernan's acting ability beyond recognition. Here, in movement and in poise, there was much to be praised and there will be much more in future.

Geoff. Hutchings' Producer was sound and well-conceived. He was handicapped by a voice too young for the part, and this detracted from his authenticity. Of the rest, all small parts, Michael Dames was outstanding. He had a clarity of concept which allowed him to differentiate between acting and actor and acting and actor acting. It was in this differentiation that the others failed. They were well established while in a particular phase of character. But when it was necessary to integrate with others, to play in fact a scene, there was a lack of confidence which only practice will bring. Margaret Oates as the Mother, for instance, was suitably distraught, but her distress was independent of that which was going on around her. Not even the actors formed a group. A gross inability on their part to mime made them look like a herd of schoolchildren released from lessons.

On the first night, the play lacked size. The material was all there, but it was not completely cogent and lost its effect in confusion. Pace and a clearing of the mists will follow, and by now this should be one of G.T.G.'s most effective productions.

K.W.R.

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PRESS POST

THE PEOPLE WISH FOR PEACE

Dear Sir,
 I was surprised that Mr. Stacey gave an exclusive interview to "Guild News" to give us the Cypriots' point of view as seen by the Government. Mr. Stacey and I both belong to the same Faculty and have been at the University for over one year. Mr. Stacey knows that my parents are Greek Cypriots. Yet not once has he approached me to discuss the Cyprus problem. If girls frighten him, then he could have spoken to the male students from Cyprus.

If he had spoken to us he would have realised that we are not "terrorised" but we would like Cyprus to be given self-government. He must know that it is not enough to hear one side of the argument, as he obviously has by listening to Mr. Profumo.

The people wish for peace, but do not want to settle down to their former life of poverty. They want to govern themselves and develop the island's industries for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Before making other statements on the wishes of the Cypriots, Mr. Stacey should first check with them to make sure that he is quoting them correctly.

Yours, etc.,
LILIA MICHAEL.

THE PULL OF APATHY

Dear Sir,
 On Monday evening last, I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Guild of Undergraduates. As a Freshman, I expected to see a great gathering of students, eager to hear the address by the new Warden—an event which the majority of students here will surely have the one chance of witnessing—and also perhaps showing some interest in the affairs of the Guild.

Instead of this, I was appalled to see that less than one quarter of the seats were taken—in all not more than eighty students were present. Surely a Guild of more than three thousand students can produce more than this number for one of the Guild's occasions of the year. As it is, Sir, I am very much afraid that the people who say, that to-day's students are apathetic are rapidly drawing me, a student, into their ranks.

Yours, etc.,

MEDIC.

[Editor's Comment: While we could not agree with you more, Sir, over this dreadful state of affairs, we feel duty bound to tell you that numbers were in the region of 150. This is remarkable, and you will recognise this when we tell you that in previous years it has been all the Guild could do to muster even a quorum of members.]

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Dear Sir,
 Mr. Lane's ideas on the rebuilding of the educational system are based on two assumptions, both of them false. The first is that all school-

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BRING IN UNITED NATIONS

SAYS
BRIAN KING
 CHAIRMAN
 BIRMINGHAM
 UNIVERSITY
 LIBERAL SOCIETY

Although I believe the problem of Cyprus to be far and away above the level of party politics, I feel bound to ask how in heaven's name we can be expected to believe such glib nonsense as appeared in "Guild News" last week.

It is all very well for us here in Britain to sit on our backsides and intellectually ruminate on the legalities, trivialities and banalities of the situation, but while we are talking, murder goes on! And the Government continues its policy of sending out more and more British civilians for cannon fodder—and supplies them with arms when they get there!

It cannot be over-emphasised that we Liberals believe in Freedom—both for ourselves and for other people. The Liberal Party is built on the concept of Individual Freedom. And, not surprisingly, that means Freedom for the Cypriots. It is **INTOLERABLE** that the Tory Government should deny the right of the Cypriot people

to self-determination. We must totally disregard the legal history of the island and deal with the situation as we find it to-day. I don't give a hoot what happened in 1878 if to-day, men, women and children are being murdered. Much of the trouble arises from the fact that the British Government is not altogether sure what we're doing in Cyprus. Are we trying to keep it for ourselves as an air base? If so, the Government is waging a war of imperialist aggression comparable with what Russia did over Hungary. Is it that we do not want Greece to have it? If this is the reason, we are inflicting our will on that of the Cypriot people, whose sole right it is to decide the future of their country.

Are we genuinely considering the well-being of the Turkish minority on the island? This last question is the only one with any foundation, for, as I have already stated, we cannot deny the Cypriot people self-determination. But we should try to ensure that there is peace between the Greeks and the Turks; and we should guarantee the Turks full minority rights.

Bearing these considerations in mind, what should the British Government do? Firstly, the Government should **PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY** for the return home of all British civilians. To continue sending them out, only to be further victims for Grivas' thugs, is nothing short of criminal folly. Secondly, we should approach the United Nations and request a light emergency Observer force, such as was obtained at the time of Suez. British

troops should then be drawn from Cyprus and the Cypriots left to elect their own Government, the United Nations Emergency Force protecting the rights of minorities and generally keeping an eye on things until such time as their continued sojourn is considered unnecessary.

There will be objections to the proposals, but let it be said that the Archbishop Makarios and the Government are in favour of being in the United Nations; furthermore, the Archbishop has stated he is prepared to agree to a period of self-government for the island. Even our own Prime Minister stated that he would not oppose an attempt by the United Nations to take a hand in the problem. Liberals believe that it is we who should take the initiative by asking for United Nations intervention. Moreover, United Nations Observer would guarantee the protection of Turkish Cypriots and would ensure that the liberties of the Turkish minority were respected. Any further guarantees that Turkey might require would be given separately. Subsequently it might even be possible to make arrangements for a British base on the island, under conditions which would satisfy both Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

It is clear, then, that a new proposal is needed for Cyprus. The Government's "get tough" policy just does not do. The people who suffer as a result of this are not the terrorists themselves but the ordinary people of Cyprus. Can we wonder that they are hostile towards us?

Neither will the Macmillan proposals for a solution do! These put before all concerned three months ago, and still nothing has happened—nor is it likely to! I submit that the only possible steps to take are those I have outlined.

LET NOT ANOTHER DROP OF BLOOD BE SHED ON THE TRAGEDY-STRIKEN ISLAND, IT BRITISH, TURKISH OR GREEK

SIR DONALD WOLFIT
INTERVIEWED BY JAK

In this age of theatrical invention, over-commercialisation, and mechanisation, all theatre-goers are more than anxious to follow that small select band of actors who really believe that the drama is still the art of bringing words to life. In this case, therefore, they can be forgiven if, last week, instead of going to the Alexandra to see a play, they went to see Donald Wolfit, whom we have all come to look upon as a link with the not-so-distant past of the actor-manager.



An impressive man both on and off the stage, it was with certain trepidation that I approached Sir Donald last Friday evening. We soon were talking about the possibility of a British National Theatre, and Sir Donald was emphatic that if England wants a National Theatre it is university students who must do something about it. It is with them, he said, whether or not there will be enough call to warrant such a huge undertaking. That which he envisaged would be a company of the best performers and directors playing a repertoire of the best in international drama. It was essential that they should tour the country, playing a different play with a different cast on each day of the week.

Sir Donald had very fixed ideas on playing the same part every night of the week, and insisted that it is impossible to give of one's best continuously—if it were possible, one should play a role then rest for several days before re-interpreting it. Questioned on the changes that have occurred in the style of Shakespearean production over the last decade, Sir Donald stated that more and more emphasis was being placed on the decor, and less attention was being paid to the speaking of the verse, and even less trust was being invested in the dramatist who plants the most superb word-pictures in the whole of the theatre and who really needed no scenery.

Asked his opinion on the "Method" school of acting, Sir Donald said that he had his own method—and that was one of sincerity and thought.

I come and have a discussion over a cup of coffee with you some day—it might even be worth an article. Come to think of it, I'd prefer to one on "My Bare Lady" at the Aston

[Editor's Comment: We feel that it is necessary to point out that our roving reporter, Christopher, is NOT Christopher Collins, who wishes to dissociate himself with that article completely.]

Christopher replies:
 Oh, Mr. Wiltshire, of course you're right. How could I have watched the crude slap-dash workmanship that goes to make, say, a "Tom and Jerry" cartoon when I could have been listening enthralled to an inspired lecture, or taking part in all the civilized fun of Carnival. And Mr. Wiltshire, please—please, could

(Continued at foot of next column)

—PROFILE—

JENNY GRAHAM

With the crack of a riding whip a jodhpurred figure burst upon the G.T.G. scene, and has held a startling position ever since. Characters are all to rare these days, and though she is in every way a "perfectly normal young lady," Jenny Graham, by her very enthusiasm and vital personality, must be regarded as one of the most endearing characters of the Guild.

Everything she does, she carries lightly—even to the extent of dyeing her Lady Godiva-like tresses to a reddish hue—and one rarely sees her not smiling. The number of her friends—and here I distinguish from acquaintances—is very large, and their fellow-feeling knows no bounds. Perhaps a case in point was when, during her illness last year, a group of them trudged through the snow to visit her, only to find that she was in a merrier state than they themselves.

While never seeking that variation of fame which men call "notoriety," Jenny is sufficiently dissatisfied by the prosaic and the urbane to want to experiment with the slightly unorthodox. One remembers well, for instance, how she attended a party in her home county, Surrey, and ended up by prolonging it the same day in a caravan parked off Beachy Head. How demurely she explained, "Well, a friend of mine who had a Jaguar wanted to see if he could go all the way there without changing gear."

HER PET MATE

Her interests also, I am happy to say, extend to journalism where she has spent many a sleepless night preparing some very stylish and readable reports for *Guild News*. Perhaps for that reason she still to this day changes in *Guild News* office, (needless to say, the Editor is NOT allowed to remain!) Incidentally, she has a pet hate... "underwear or any sort"... though she realises that "One has to wear it to keep up appearances."

HER GREAT INTEREST

Her greatest interest, and consequently all her energies are usually directed in that cause, is the theatre, and she has appeared for G.T.G. on

the stage, as well as begriming her classical features in the ranks of stage staff. If she needs any ambition at all it is to play Cleopatra in Shaw's play, and the Queen in Bett's "The Queen and the Rebels"... would-be producers, take note. Yet her interests in literature are very catholic, and her confessedly favourite authors are Steinbeck and Chaucer.

Perhaps you will see her this week in "Six Characters". I hope so. If not, you may well see her in her habitual haunts... the Coffee Room and especially Founder's Room. What could be more enticing than those green eyes peeping at you from a bunny-rabbit coat.

C.P.H.

APOLOGY

We wish to apologise to readers for a cartoon which appeared by mistake in last week's edition. This was a printer's error, and was entirely beyond editorial control.

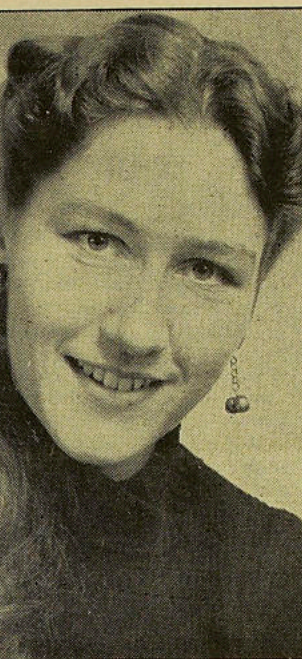


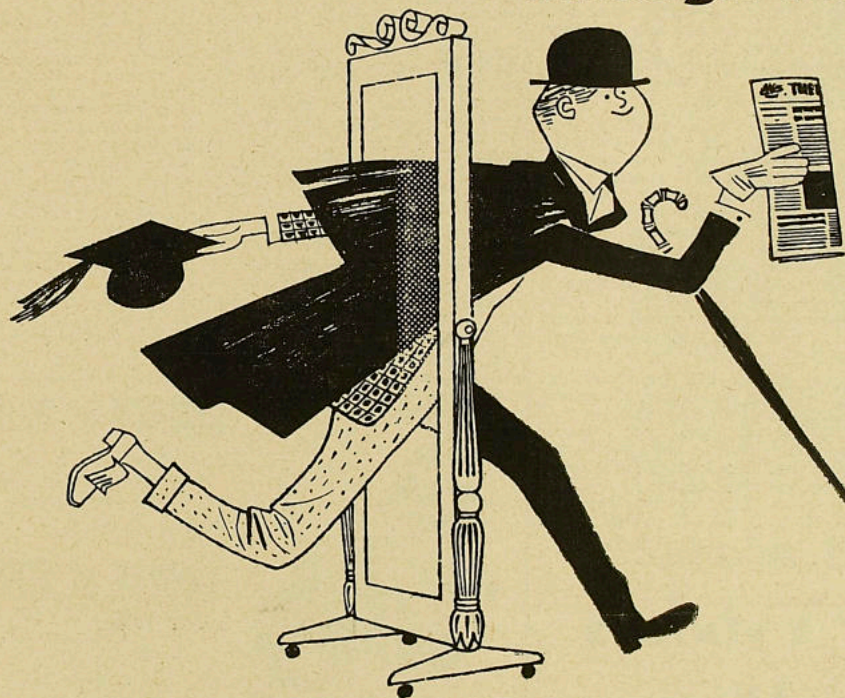
Photo: Stanley Dolphin

CRY THE BELOVED COUNTRY

"Cry the Beloved Country," the film of Alan Paton's best selling novel, is a calm and clear statement in human terms of South Africa to-day. It approaches racial problems with an intelligence, a simplicity and a compassionate sincerity which makes it an absorbing and deeply moving experience. The story is a simple one, the account of a Zulu parson's search for his delinquent son in the madroom of Johannesburg; yet every episode bears the stamp of factual truth.

This outstanding film will be shown in the Debating Hall on Monday next, December 1 at 7.30 p.m.

through the looking glass...

From university
to... where?

You've soon got to take the stride!
 Naturally we would suggest
 you consider industry.

As a research man, administrator
 or production specialist.

And if you are the sort who
 gets restless with routine—
 who is his own severest critic—
 and who can grow with
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TUBERCULOSIS DOES NOT PREVENT THEM

It has long been realised that the aim of treating tuberculosis is, in the end, social: To return the patient to his occupation with the minimum delay and residual disability. Medically, treatment of the tuberculous student is that of any patient, but, socially, there is one great difference. A student's calling is such that he can do useful work while still under treatment: More so than any other, he can return to work and medical treatment can, with proper organisation, be coincident.

Ever since the 1930's British student organisations have been trying to start an institution where tuberculous students could continue with their study. Now, after the formation of the British Student Tuberculosis Foundation, established in 1952 as a result of the successful national appeal, launched the previous year by students in universities and colleges throughout the country, it has been possible to start centres for students with tuberculosis.

The foundation now administers three units, "student sanatoria" on a small scale, where students may continue their studies whilst receiving treatment for and convalescing from the disease. The first was opened at Pinewood in September, 1952, and this has now been able to take patients from diagnosis until the completion of convalescence. The second unit was opened at High Wood, in 1955, for women students. At Tor-na-Dee Sanatorium, near Aberdeen, the third one to be opened, Scottish students of both sexes are catered for.

NORMAL LIFE

Life in these units is as interesting as the Foundation can make it; even those students suffering from tuberculosis in its more acute stages, are allowed at least one tutorial a week, while later, when their condition is less serious, in the rehabilitation unit at Pinewood for example, they can enjoy a spacious, well-furnished lounge, housing the library and used for film shows, lectures, socials, etc.; a dining room, used for studies or classes in the afternoon, and for viewing television in the evening; a small study and ward kitchen. In Tor-na-Dee there is the added attraction of a recreation room, a radiogram and record library, tape recorder, and internal broadcasting set—the last

being used for two record request programmes which use records from the library and those owned by patients.

Although it is impossible for students, while ill or convalescing, to cover all aspects of their syllabus, they usually find it possible to break fresh ground in at least one aspect of their subject. This progress brings with it the satisfaction of knowing that, at least one is able to do something useful and is encouraging both for the students and the administrators.

The mainstay of the academic programme is the visiting tutor, and his classes usually resolve themselves into a combination of lecture and tutorial. The positive advantage of this system is that the student receives much more individual attention than is normally possible at college.

The academic needs of each student are carefully assessed, with help and advice from his own university or college, and he is provided with one or more tutors who are responsible for seeing him regularly and directing his work.

For those who are fit enough to spend a few hours away from the unit arrangements for laboratory work are made.

The most generally appreciated feature at Pinewood and High Wood, is the chance they provide for the student to live, under medical supervision, in the company of his own kind, with facilities to do practically as much work as the circumstances allow and to enjoy a limited social life—so those who enjoy good health, stop and consider those not so fortunate—especially those who are trying to achieve in three or four years the same degree as you.

—B.J.

ED. STREET COLUMN

Ed. Streeters (at least, one section) have been seen in the corridors, heads between the pages of a dictionary, perusal punctuated by incomprehensible articulation. There is a reason. Six Russian students entered our lofty portals this week (an addition to their list of historic buildings). Couldn't someone have removed the dust from the books in the History Library for the occasion?

By this time a deed should have been committed involving a radical colour transformation. On Friday she had dark hair; it should now be Titian-tinted. Or did courage fail? I feel I must now devote myself to a letter from a Fresher in distress, a certain "Worried Blue-Eyes." I see, my dear, that you are worried because your character has remained unchanged; you are afraid that you may remain an ordinary, decent, civilised human being instead of becoming a real student; you have never been up

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COFFEE TALK

ON TWO-STROKES

In one of those vine green, grey corners of France, where such things happen, a second Prometheus stole the secrets of internal combustion from the gods. Not to be outdone the Other One sold the blue print of a two stroke engine for the usual price of one soul, pole or perch. Oh momento mori—what is the vocative of momento? —The Screwtape letters of technology are in my possession: A blue folder of service sheets, spring clasped and holed so that there is room for more. A diabolical irony.

You remember the legends of the damned? Ixion, his wheel, and that fellow who pushed a boulder eternally uphill, only to let it roll back on the brow of the hill and brink of success? Their curse was frustration. So is mine. Look at service sheet 12. Does your magneto work like that? Well, theoretically, of course, it does. That is the subtlety of the thing. Given the illustration and the easy to follow text, the veriest baby can see that is the way a magneto works. But not mine and I guess not yours. Somewhere a complication has set in; or it may even be a simplification. But you look at your magneto. It is probably working, but even if it is not, the drawing and text will prove that it should be. The trouble is that the service sheets are so bemused by their own technology that they have forgotten the magic.

This last question was answered with the impressions we had formed during four weeks in Czechoslovakia. In general, its youth and students, when compared with their counterparts in Britain, are noticeably more interested in all spheres of the world around them. This gives them a wider general knowledge and makes them more interesting to speak with. They can converse on jazz and football just as well as on politics and painting. The main reasons for this greater awareness lie in the educational system and the cultural and recreational organisation of the entire population.

EDUCATION—A COMPARISON

Firstly, a brief outline of education in Czechoslovakia. Education, at all stages and for all sections of

the population, regardless of age, is free. Between the ages of six and fourteen, the "eight-year" school gives a basic general education. The early school-leaving age of 14 may seem unfortunate, as many as 40 per cent. of children pass to the nearest equivalent of a grammar school, which provides further three-year unspecialised course to matriculation. There are two alternatives to the grammar school: the vocational school, providing technical, commercial, agricultural or teacher-training, and industrial apprenticeship training school. For the minority of children who enter employment directly, 14 education does not stop. For 2-3 years they work a 35-hour week, which includes some time in the classroom.

Entrance to the universities from the "grammar" and vocational schools. With a population of 13½ million, Czechoslovakia has about 80,000 full-time university students. More than 60 per cent. of students receive scholarships, which are graded according to the parents' incomes. Parents continue to receive a family allowance for students up to the age of 25; 48 pence a month for two children and 48 pence for three children. The average monthly scholarship is £8 for 12 months a year. This seems small by our British standards, but the cost of student accommodation is only 10 shillings per month and the maximum price of a meal in the refectory is 1s. 4d. Also, all students enjoy reduced fares and concessions on tickets for cinemas, theatres, sports, etc. and holidays in winter and summer for nominal charges. (To be concluded next week).

One day, I hope, with the increasing facilities in technical education, which the government promise, the magic of two strokes will receive full recognition and attention. Until that time, I would recommend all prospective scooter owners to buy a car. Then at least, they will be OK with the OK powers.

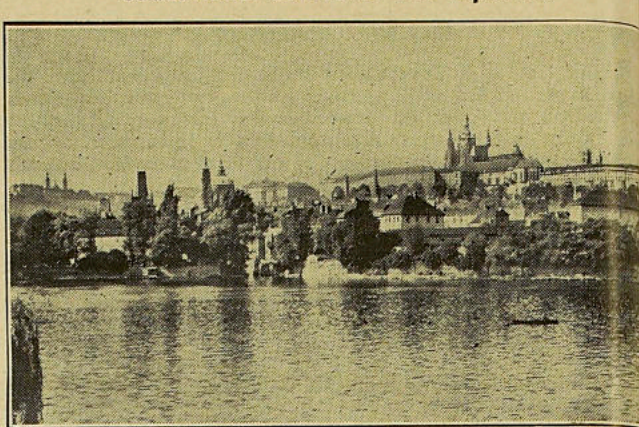
SCATICUS.

Nybda's Diary

Despite the short time that Ed. Street has to run in his chequered career, Mike Heseltine wants to brighten it with a mural. It is to be hoped that Mike Dames will repeat, with different design, his excellent work in the Union. Suggestions please for a design: it must be for line sketches alone.

The other day our music critic interviewed the great Luigi Zutteri, one of Europe's foremost conductors. He is in this country to conduct several of his own works already known in his own country. After a whirlwind tour of London, the maestro said: "I admire your great halls and orchestras... even Tin Pan Alley is interesting; but Sir Malcolm Sargent is not to my taste." Signor Zutteri is a man of discernment.

St. Vitus' Cathedral and the long facade of Prague Castle above the River Ultova—Capital city and educational centre of the republic.



CZECHOSLOVAKIA (2)

"The Englishman is very polite. He always says, 'Good day', 'Good morning' when you meet him. He always opens the door for you and he always gives his seat to a lady on the bus or tram."

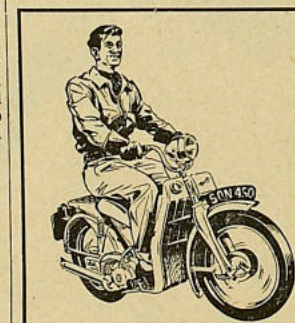
Thus opens the first chapter of the English tutor at the Gottwaldov, Moravia, Philology Institute.

One evening we visited this institute and had the privilege of speaking to an audience of about 50 students of English. Among other things we put the textbooks of appraisal of the Englishman into better perspective. Not all English men are quite so polite as this.

Their questions to us were many and varied: on literature from Milton and Scott to Sean O'Casey, Grahame Green and John Osborne. "Do you drink Scotch whisky?" "Can you speak Cockney?" "Is there really any difference between the British Labour Party and the Conservative Party?" "What do you think of Czechoslovak youth and students?"

This last question was answered with the impressions we had formed during four weeks in Czechoslovakia. In general, its youth and students, when compared with their counterparts in Britain, are noticeably more interested in all spheres of the world around them. This gives them a wider general knowledge and makes them more interesting to speak with. They can converse on jazz and football just as well as on politics and painting. The main reasons for this greater awareness lie in the educational system and the cultural and recreational organisation of the entire population.

Entrance to the universities from the "grammar" and vocational schools. With a population of 13½ million, Czechoslovakia has about 80,000 full-time university students. More than 60 per cent. of students receive scholarships, which are graded according to the parents' incomes. Parents continue to receive a family allowance for students up to the age of 25; 48 pence a month for two children and 48 pence for three children. The average monthly scholarship is £8 for 12 months a year. This seems small by our British standards, but the cost of student accommodation is only 10 shillings per month and the maximum price of a meal in the refectory is 1s. 4d. Also, all students enjoy reduced fares and concessions on tickets for cinemas, theatres, sports, etc. and holidays in winter and summer for nominal charges. (To be concluded next week).



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RECORD REVIEW

Brahms: Violin Concerto.
Menuhin, Kempe, Berlin
Philharmonic, 12in. H.M.V.

Performance: Good.

Yehudi Menuhin delivers a wonderfully impassioned lyrical performance. On the strength of this disc and his superb performances at the Edinburgh Festival, he seems to have emerged from his "growing pain" difficulties into a great, mature violinist. Unfortunately here, Kempe gives only fair support and the recording is a muddle, greatly favouring the soloist in terms of balance. Recommended for Menuhin enthusiasts, but these would do well to compare with the recordings by Heifetz and Oistrakh.

Sibelius: Karelia Suite.

Jensen, Danish State Radio
Orch. 7in. Decca CEP 542.

Performance: Sympathetic.

Recording: Good.

The beautiful and rhythmic Karelia Suite is, along with "Finlandia" and "Valse Triste," one of Sibelius' most accessible scores. Thomas Jensen leads this fine orchestra in a sympathetic, authoritative account, although it could have been a little more dynamic. The recording, made in the early '50s, is still quite good.

Schubert: Symphony No. 9 in C.

12in. Cleveland Orchestra

22in. Fontana.

Performance and Recording: Very Good.

Some wonderful sounds from Severance Hall have recently been caught by the skilled Phillips engineers. To his notable recordings of such orchestral staples as Beethoven's "Eroica" and "Fifth," Schubert's "Unfinished" and Brahms' First Symphonies, Szell now challenges only by the Toscanini record. Szell is properly sensitive in the slow movement, but elsewhere generates wonderful power and drive. The recorded sound is very good with richness, excellent balance, and near-perfect base response. Only occasionally does the texture become a bit muddy and lack definition but this is a minor imperfection on an otherwise outstanding disc.

—R.R.J.

CONCERT DIARY

Harold Gray's performance of Dvorak's 7th Symphony last Thursday, showed yet again what an honest musician he is. This was not an epoch-making performance, yet he viewed the work as a whole, propelling it forward with a complete regard for tempo, and moulding some fine climaxes. Only the scherzo was less than good. Dvorak's Slavonic sparkle having an almost Sibelian chilliness about it. What matters, however, is that despite orchestral lapses, Harold Gray obtained a reading which was that elusive thing, an interpretation. I have called this work the 7th Symphony (it was billed as the 2nd) in the hope that a latter day Koehel will come forward and straighten out the chaos which exists in the numbering of Dvorak's symphonies.

The first half of the concert consisted of Weber's "Ruler of the Spirits," played with plenty of brio by all players except the horns who played with plenty of something else. Peter Katin then gave us an unusually steeple performance of Rachmaninoff's 2nd, playing down that C minor nostalgia which can either enrapture or enrage, according to your point of view. Finally Mr. Gray, brave man that he is, drove the orchestra through "La Valse." Brilliantly orchestrated, the swooning waltz alternates with passages of amazing acerbity. Not half as gemutlich as Strauss would have had it, but very well played indeed.

K.T.

THEATRE

"WHEN WE ARE MARRIED (Rep.)."

I thought at first that this production had gone wrong. All the principals, except Nancy Jackson, were geying the good people they represented. This is unnecessary—the exaggerated humour lies in caricature, and even that is not marked. Nancy Jackson and Thelma Barlow were much nearer Priestley's notions. They played realistically, allowing the laughter to grow naturally, for these people are real. However, the play settled down to its conventional comedy course.

This is Miss Jackson's first appearance in the present season; I had not realised how much she had been missed. There is about her a professional solidarity, a competence which, not unnaturally, is lacking in this inexperienced company. Would that we had Jack May or Albert Finney, too.

If Thelma Barlow shines so brilliantly in many more roles, she is going to become the bane of her profession. The part of maid to Alderman Helliwell's household is not the usual "Yes 'um, no 'um," but it has not the prominence Miss Barlow gave it. There was a scarcely suppressed vitality in her that kept the audience on tenterhooks at any moment she might swamp the stage. I do not know from where Miss Barlow hails, but she never learned to move like this in drama school. Her flopping stride and shoulder swing are the very essence of a young girl used to waking up the uneven, steep streets of Bradford. Her laugh, her turn of phrase, came so naturally, fresh as clean linen, I was reminded of such a girl with whom I "went steady" ten years ago in such a Yorkshire town. This is a happy play, and provided a merry evening.

"THE STRANGER," produced in House last week, is a monologue with reaction, and demands a talent which no amateur can supply. The

JAZZ FEDERATION

A committee meeting of the Inter-University Jazz Federation was held in Birmingham on Saturday, November 15. The dates of the finals and semi-finals of the Inter-Varsity Jazz Contest were decided. They are: Northern Semi-final, February 11 at Leeds. Southern Semi-final, February 4 at Oxford.

The finals will be held at Birmingham on March 4.

The judges provisionally decided upon are: For the Southern Semi-final Steve Race, Ken Syghora and George Webb; for the Northern Semi-final Derek Moore, Ken Rattenbury and Rex Harris; for the modern section of the contest Johnny Dankworth, Alan Morgan and Harry Klein. For the benefit of Birmingham bands wishing to enter the contest it was ruled that all musicians must be full-time students and unsalaried.

JAZZ NOTES

Yet another jazz club opened its doors for the first time last Wednesday. It is the Circle Jazz Club, and it will be meeting at the Brendon Cross Hotel in Stirling every Wednesday from now until further notice.

The music was provided by an all-coloured group led by Tenorist Roy Harding. Outstanding musician of the band was to my mind trumpeter Hubert Dickson who added a lyrical touch to the band's virile brand of rhythm and blues. The music is both easy to listen and dance to and once this haunt becomes known to the jazz club going public it should prove to be very popular indeed.

J.A.K.

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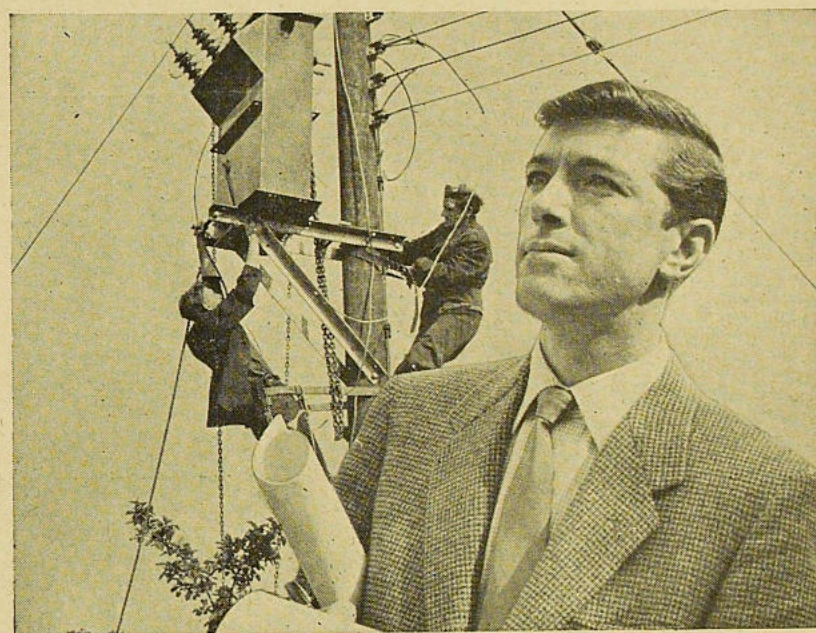
MED. SCHOOL COLUMN

This week in the Canteen, both students and staff were assaulted by the high-powered sales-talk of a gentleman distributing the B.M.S.A. Magazine.

This same enthusiast scrawled huge notices on the blackboards of all lecture theatres exhorting us to attend a showing of films on "The History of the Tubercle" during Thursday lunch hour. Those who acceded to his request were regaled with two (rather gruesome) films on "The Treatment of Lymphoedema" and "Lymphangiography." Even final year students have not so far been able to puzzle out the connection.

And what of the preclinical world? Second year are beginning to experience the feeling of elation which one has after passing vivas it is a game of considerable skill, the object of which is to trick the examiner into asking questions on subjects about which he knows less than the examinee (and in some cases this is not so difficult!). Meanwhile the third year is learning that interesting as Anatomy was, Physiology is proving even more fascinating (you can read it in their excited, happy faces at meal times). At the moment they are engaged in performing instructive experiments on defenceless amphibians which have been stealthily removed from the pool at Winterbourne in the dead of night.

—B.J.C.



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Sport in brief

Rugby Football:
University 1st XV v. Loughborough—LOST 39pts.—3pts.
Chemists v. Metallurgists—LOST 8pts.—nil.
Chancellor's Hall v. Miners—LOST 16pts.—nil.

Basketball:
University 2nd Team v. Bristol—WON 26—16.

Hockey, Women:
University 3rd XI v. Nottingham 3rd XI—DRAW 1—1.

Soccer:
University 1st XI v. Bristol—LOST 2—1.
Chemists v. Maths—WON 7—1.

Netball:
University 1st VII v. North Staffs.—WON 26—20.
University 2nd XI v. North Staffs.—WON 16—6.

Swimming:
University v. King's College, London—WON 50—36.

Polo:
University v. King's College, London—WON 5—1.

Lacrosse:
University XII v. Nottingham—WON 35—3.

JUDO CLUB

On Wednesday, November 12, the Judo Club sent both Men's and Women's teams to play Nottingham. Unfortunately, Nottingham had crossed their fixtures and had only part of a team available. However, good contest experience was gained in the general randori which replaced the team contests.

On Wednesday, November 19, our team found themselves outgraded throughout by Loughborough, whom we beat last year when they were even better. They got their own back on Wednesday, but not without a struggle, when Allan Cox scored a point before being demolished by a judoka three grades higher than himself and Alan Scott forced a creditable draw against the Loughborough yellow belt. Other memories include the look of utter disbelief on our beginner's face as he sailed through the air from a stomach throw (tomoeage).

Match result: Loughborough 4, Birmingham 1.

Several of our beginners are now showing promise, and it should not be too long before we have a match-worthy second team. It is to be hoped that our series of week-end courses with W. Stepto, 3rd Dan (fresh from training in Japan), will quickly raise the standard of Judo in the club.

Golfers unbeaten

Due to the efforts of R. A. Jowle, S. Cohen, Mr. Stockwell, D. Lifton and R. McD. Tait, the University Linksman managed a 3—3 draw with Gay Hill Golf Club. A dubious point arose when Stockwell and Cohen were forced to accept a one-up victory when their match was halted by nightfall.

Coach Jowle appeared to regain his old form by beating his two opponents without a partner!

VICTORY OVER NOTTINGHAM

On Wednesday the First XI did not have a match because of the Southern Universities' trials which were attended by eight of the nine players originally nominated. This proved to be a most successful visit to Reading for six players, Annabel Thompson, Rita Thompson, Verona Bolan, Kathleen Cunningham, Anne Edgington and Jean Roberts were selected for the first team, and Susan Harrison and Beverley Macaulay as reserves.

The First XI maintained their unbeaten record by defeating Nottingham University 3—1 in their last match of the Midland Division of the W.I.V.A.B. Championship on Saturday.

From the outset play was fast and although Birmingham did most of the attacking, Nottingham scored first. Nottingham held on

to their lead until just before half-time when Verona Bolan eluded two defence marking her and scored. After the interval Birmingham attacked almost continuously but, despite being awarded several corners, could not score. Although Birmingham's centre-forward was closely marked by the Nottingham defence, Rita Thompson at centre-half was more than equal to the situation and her able distribution of the ball to the wings enabled Birmingham to keep on the attack. Eventually this policy proved successful and Valerie Catcliffe, who played well throughout the match, scored twice to give Birmingham another victory.

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UNIVERSITIES BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BIRMINGHAM

LONDON AND CAMBRIDGE DOMINATE PLAY

For the third successive year the U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. Individual Badminton Championships were held in the University Great Hall on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22. There was a record entry of over 80 competitors coming from universities as far afield as Hull and Southampton. Thanks are due to Maurice Robinson, the Warwick's county player, and D. J. Collins, of B.U.B.C., who organised the event with great success.

The championships were dominated by the London and Cambridge contingents. Cambridge, led by the Oon brothers, H. H. Heah, and B. K. Wong won three finals and London, led by the Lim brothers, Miss J. Charles and Miss S. Scholes, the other two. The Mixed Doubles event was the deciding final.

The men's doubles final was superb. Oon Choong tek, over whom everyone enthused last year, was here again and this time his younger brother Oon Choong jin, a fresher at Cambridge, came with him, tek played with H. H. Heah and jin with B. K. Wong, both pairs being seeded and both reaching the final without losing a set. The final began in such a friendly carefree manner that one might have thought they were playing an exhibition, but it became clear, especially in the third game that it was a tight for every point. The smashing of the Oons, the superb defensive play of Wong, and the delicate placing of Heah made this game by far the most interesting in the whole tourney.

Oon Choong tek beat his younger brother in three games in the singles' event for men, but it was obvious he could have won when he wanted and that he was just giving the hundred or so spectators an exhibition.

Just as the men's events had been dominated by Cambridge, so were the ladies' by London. Miss J. Charles, a very powerful as well as an accurate player, got through to all three finals. In the singles she beat Miss J. L. Barnes of Southampton, chiefly by virtue of her greater range of forceful strokes. Miss Barnes had some very nice shots, but unlike Miss Charles, was not powerful enough to hit herself out of poor positions. Miss Charles, partnered by Miss Scholes, won the doubles against the second London pair, and by the time it came to the mixed final, she was obviously tired and this possibly swung the balance in the favour of the Cambridge pair.

The Birmingham team, consisting of Miss A. Deith, Miss M. James, G. Laurie, P. Young C. L. Tilling and J. Harrison, did not cover itself with glory but we must congratulate G. Laurie on his performance in the singles, and also Anne Deith, who partnered him in another excellent mixed doubles effort. They beat the Leeds pair convincingly in the first round and went on to take the very strong London pair, Miss S. Scholes and K. Parmer, to three games in the quarter-finals.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-finals: C. T. Oon (Cambridge) beat K. H. Khoo (Bristol), walkover; C. J. Oon (Cambridge) beat K. Parmer (London) 15-9, 15-7; Final: C. T. Oon (Cambridge) beat C. J. Oon (Cambridge) 9-15, 15-4, 15-7.

LADIES' SINGLES

Semi-finals: J. Charles (London) beat R. Lind (Hull) 11-4, 11-2; J. L. Barnes (South-

ampton) beat R. Cunningham (Nottingham) 11-9, 11-7; Final: J. Charles (London) beat J. L. Barnes (Southampton) 15-8, 15-6.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-finals: C. J. Oon and M. H. Heah (Cambridge) beat C. K. Lim and K. H. Yeoh (London) 17-15, 15-12; C. J. Oon and B. K. Wong (Cambridge) beat C. O. Lim and K. H. Yeoh (London) 15-8, 15-6; Final: C. J. Oon and M. H. Heah beat C. J. Oon and B. K. Wong, 15-10, 6-15, 15-11.

LADIES' DOUBLES

Semi-finals: A. Waller and A. Turner (London) beat K. Hindle and R. Gooder (Leeds) 15-9, 18-17; S. Scholes and J. Charles (London) beat J. Parr and R. Cunningham (Nottingham) 15-8, 15-6; Final: S. Scholes and J. Charles (London) beat A. Waller and A. Turner (London) 15-10, 15-7.

MIXED DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Miss H. Tippet and C. J. Oon (Cambridge) beat Miss A. Waller and C. K. Lim (London) 15-6, 15-13; Miss J. Charles and K. H. Yeoh (London) beat Miss Scholes and K. Parmer (London) 15-12, 15-8; Final: Miss H. Tippet and C. J. Oon beat Miss J. Charles and K. H. Yeoh, 15-10, 17-15.

SOCCER

Reading 1, Birmingham 3

On Saturday the Soccer Club travelled to Reading who were somewhat of an unknown quantity. M. Jones was introduced for his first game at inside-right and J. Westwood continued at inside-left.

University started well and might have scored in the early stages when several good attempts were saved or just wide. It was encouraging to see the forward line settle down to play the best football so far this term, and University deservedly went ahead when Openshaw scored with a well-placed header.

University went further ahead immediately after half-time, when Horton scored with a fine cross shot. The third goal followed a clever passing movement between the forwards and the ball finally reached Jones, who calmly shot into the corner of the net.

The light was now beginning to fail and reading shots brought two fine saves from Tipples. Reading's inside-right scored a consolation goal towards the end.

TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis Team has more than fulfilled its early season promise. In the U.A.U. matches Birmingham has remained unbeaten. Their most noteworthy victory was without doubt at Leicester, where a very strong Leicester team was beaten 9—6. Backhouse, Saeed and Bolton between them winning seven of the nine sets. This win was followed by a convincing 12—3 victory over a depleted Nottingham side, and a 14—1 win against North Staffs.

With one remaining game Birmingham appear virtually certain of winning the Midland section. Most of the credit should go to Saeed, Bolton and Backhouse, the latter having won all his games. Cleal and Brown, often out of form, having failed to pull their weight sufficiently in the team, although winning 50 per cent. of their games.

BASKETBALL VICTORIES

Birmingham ... 74
Nottingham ... 37

This week the University met the Nottingham and Bristol University teams at home for a triangular match. The first match which was a U.A.U. fixture was played against Nottingham, and after the first few minutes our team's good form was obvious. In the first half the score, the score increased evenly and at half-time it was 27—25 in our favour. During the second half we saw one of the liveliest performances of our team; the good ball handling of Derek Winslow and Bob Mettlan

and fine passes from Dave Geldard providing good chances which were made the most of by Bob Kempson, Omid Imre and J. Souka. Bob Kempson and Bob Mettlan had the highest share of the points, 23 and 22 respectively.

Birmingham ... 66
Bristol ... 55

In the match against Bristol our team faced a strong side and the score again increased evenly. After five minutes in the second half when our captain took time out to change tactics the score was 41—35 in favour of Bristol. The new full court man-to-man defence proved to be very effective and enabled us to end the match with another victory.

BUSY BLUE SAILS

On November 15 the University sailed two matches, being narrowly beaten by Newcastle but decisively beating Bangor. John Keen once again distinguished himself. In a friendly match at Edgbaston the following day, Dave Alderslade sailed very well to finish second out of 15 boats.

The B.S.S.A. Regatta postponed from November 2, was held on Sunday last, in very difficult conditions including almost continuous rain. In the morning the University team was narrowly beaten into 2nd place by the College of Technology, only four seconds in over an hour deciding the fate of the Frobitte Trophy. A close race in the afternoon gave the college its second victory when it also won the Empire Trophy. This was a disappointment, following as it did an easy victory over our old rivals Bristol. In this latter event John Keen and John Welsh shared the day's honours.

Altogether a busy fortnight if not a particularly successful one.

"A" TEAM v. ST. EDMUNDS HALL, OXFORD

A small team of runners enjoyed an afternoon of mud in their annual fixture with St. Edmunds Hall. Despite the presence of Montague who was running for an extra team from Balliol, Birmingham dominated the match. After five miles of flat, muddy terrain, D. Piddes and P. Roy came in second equal, followed closely by B. Spiby and D. Royle. With five counting in the final score Birmingham's total was 24, giving them a comfortable victory over St. Edmunds Hall with 47 points.

THE "LONDON MATCH"

On Saturday with a full coach of runners, spectators and nondescripts, the annual London match commenced at 8.32 a.m. and ended very successfully at 3.40 on Sunday. Because of misjudgment and heavy London traffic we arrived at Mitcham at about 1.30.

The race was fast and soon it was obvious that the London Colleges were not going to win. Dave Piddes and Peter Roy were well up with "the usuals" at the start but the latter, thinking that there was only a mile to go, dropped back ignominiously half-way down the field when he heard an opponent gasp that there were still 2½ miles more.

The final team placings were Birmingham 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13,

giving Birmingham a very convincing win. The individual winner was Shaw with D. Fiddes making a debut in the first team by finishing eighth.

Result: 1, Birmingham 23
2, King's College 18
3, University College 9

ATHLETIC CLUB'S NEW ENTERPRISE

UNIVERSITY'S FIRST DECATHLON

The University Athletic Club organised their first ever Decathlon contest on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9. This event receives very little publicity in England, and Birmingham is, as far as we know, only the second university to hold a competition of this nature.

Five events are held in a specific order on each day. Scoring is on a world record basis, each world record being worth a certain number of points and the athlete's performance in each event is graded accordingly; for example, the world long jump record of 26ft. 8½in. is worth 1,329 points; a jump of 20ft. gains 535 points and one of 18ft. 395 points. International tables for all events are used in the scoring.

At the end of the first day, Medhurst had amassed 2,601 points and had a narrow lead over Ward (2,502) and Payne (2,456). There was a reversal of form on the second day however, and Ward by virtue of his superior vaulting ability won the contest with the very respectable total of 4,585 points. Payne and Medhurst had a very close tussle for second and third positions and Hutchings was a creditable fourth.

Results were as follows:

1. **WARD:** Total 4,585 points—100m: 12.4 (505); Long Jump: 20ft. 3ins. (555); Shot: 32ft. 7½in. (417); High Jump: 5ft. 4ins. (580); 400m: 56.7 (445); 110m hurdles: 17.2 (398); Discus: 101ft. 4ins. (596); Pole Vault: 13ft. (726); Javelin: 130ft. 8ins. (354); 1500m: 5mins. 8.4 (209).

2. **H. PAYNE:** Total 4,054 points—100m: 12.8 (424); L.J.: 18ft. 2ins. (406); Shot: 43ft. 7½in. (699); H.J.: 5ft. 3ins. (555); 400m: 58.5 (372); 110m.h.: 18.8 (208); Discus: 135ft. 3ins. (644); P.V.: 8ft. 6ins. (190); Jav.: 134ft. 2½in. (371); 1500m: 5mins. 12.6 (185).

3. **J. MEDHURST:** Total 3,984 points—100m: 12.5 (484); L.J.: 20ft. 0ins. (540); Shot: 40ft. (599); H.J.: 5ft. 5ins. (606); 400m: 58.5 (372); 110m.h.: 19.1 (200); Discus: 114ft. 7ins. (492); P.V.: 7ft. (56); Jav.: 155ft. 9ins. (383); 1500m: 4mins. 58.5 (272).

4. **G. HUTCHINGS:** Total 3,392 points—100m: 12.4 (505); L.J.: 19ft. 1½in. (468); Shot: 29ft. (539); H.J.: 4ft. 9ins. (424); 400m: 56.8 (440); 110m.h.: 19.3 (162); Discus: 71ft. 6ins. (197); P.V.: 10ft. 2ins. (363); Jav.: 107ft. (339); 1500m: 5mins. 1.0 (255).

For comparison with these results it might be noted that in the A.A.A.s Decathlon, where Medhurst finished 11th, the winner scored 5,113 points. However, the fact that Johnson scored 8,299 points in a new world record earlier this year only serves to underline our weakness in this all-rounders event.

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