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Guild News

SOCIETY GROUPS

by

Stanley Dolphin

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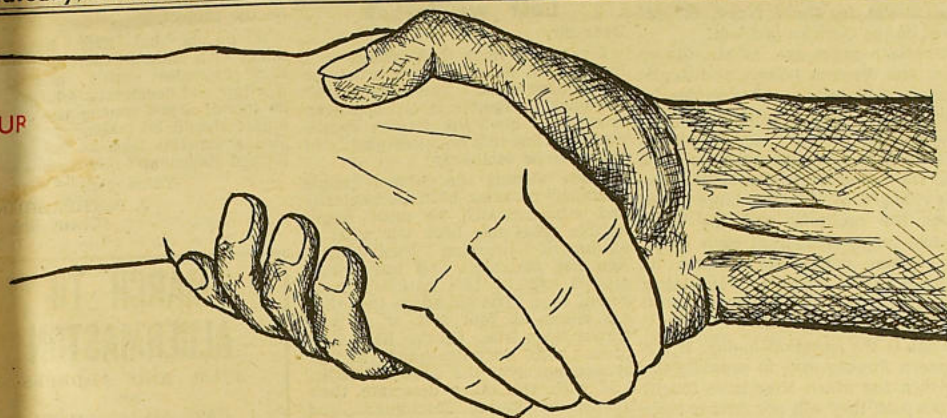
Thursday, March 5, 1959

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 550

Threepence

CUP



£1,500 NEEDED TO BEAT THAT BILL

The President's South Africa Fund has now been launched. Birmingham are joining in the nation-wide University Campaign to raise money for the South African students.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. GIVE NOW!

Birmingham are lagging behind the totals of most other universities, but with your help we will catch up.

Collections will be held frequently between now and the end of term. See to it that your society has its own collection. The major part of the money will come from small donations so don't think that anything is too small to give. JUST GIVE IT!

Don't leave it to the next bloke. He is broke as well. A few coppers from all are needed.

You are already at a university, but remember: "Until this Bill becomes law it's still possible for non-European South Africans to gain admission to the 'open' universities."

"The only thing preventing many more of these students from entering the universities is lack of money."

YOU CAN HELP

If you don't know to which Bill this refers, I suggest your education is sadly lacking so look out for the Bookstall to be started on South African Affairs.

'Guild News' 20 years ago

Ed. Street students were complaining of the condition of Guild Club. Union Committee was accused of economising on Ed. Street in order that the Union should suffer as little deprivation as possible from the general financial embarrassment of the Guild. The reply was that Guild Club was about to be demolished and that money spent on it would be in the main wasted. Conditions were described as "cramped, unattractive, and antiquated."

And last year—

"Disarm!—it is time we called a halt to the manufacture of nuclear weapons," ran the headline in bold red type. The first March edition of "Guild News" last year was the now famous "Tancock's Blood" edition. The entire front page, printed in red, was devoted to the campaign for nuclear disarmament, and there were articles inside by the three political parties, and also several letters on the subject. C.C.

SOLOMON'S COLUMN

Monkey Suits

On Friday, March 6, the new "refec-only" eating regulations will be waived for those up-and-coming ladies and gentlemen who can afford 50s. for a ticket to Guild Dinner and Ball (breakfast five bob extra). "Course, if you happen to be a Guild Councillor you get in buck-shee. This is only for the social elite, and peasants are not recommended to attend. They may enjoy their sausage and mash in the refec. as usual.

I have a smashing idea! Why not let the peasants eat in the Union and have Guild Dinner in the refec?

Benedictus benedict!

The Rebel

Down with tyranny and all that! The amazing Mr. Mike Heseltine, in last week's *Guild News*, strongly criticised Executive for withholding information from the peasants with regard to the refectory situation. Coming from one who is himself a member of the Executive, this is, to say the least, unusual. Rumour has it that Mr. Heseltine has been carpeted for daring to state what he believes to be the facts. Now, I have criticised certain of Mike's actions in this column, but on this occasion I have nothing but praise. He has every right to say what he thinks! Opposition is a healthy thing, and all this "party solidarity" gets on my nerves.

Nonny-no! etc.

Anyway, enough about Guild politics —Spring is in the air, and that means the stock of hackneyed jokes about a young man's fancy and a young lady's fancier, and lambs and students gambling on the turf. Wan, emaciated figures with coloured scarves emerge from coffee-dungeons and blink at the sunlight; and everyone gets lazy and lounges around. And primitive instincts ensure better attendances at hops.

Britain's

Concentration

Camps

Dear Sir,

OUR country is now engaged in constructing more ghastly devices than ever Hitler contemplated. I refer to our concentration camps being built on the East Coast—concentration camps by remote control.

Yesterday the first deaths occurred at the University of Mass Murder, Aldermaston.

We excused the Germans by saying that they did not know what was going on. But we do know what is being done in this country. Since 1951 eleven thousand million pounds has been spent on our behalf devising, improving and perfecting methods of human torture. In the House of Commons yesterday, while the two men were being killed at Aldermaston, ALL parties were asking for more weapons and better weapons with which to kill other men.

Also yesterday, in "Guild News," I noticed an appeal by the Society of Friends that this should cease. The same day, on notice boards, appeared a plea by the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Are we, who are going to have to live in this nightmare world our parents are building for us, going to bother to find out what these two responsible organisations have to say?

Yours, etc.,

DAVID CHANDLER.
(Social Studies).

Ladies' day

ON Saturday evening the ladies had their chance of glory at the Pre-Hop Debate, which was given over to the contest for the cup presented by Dr. McKee for the winner of the Ladies' Tournament. The four ladies speaking from the table set an exceedingly high standard, making the adjudication by Mr. Roger Bayliss (chairman of the judges), Miss K. P. Sellers, and the chairman of the Society, an unenviable task.

The motion before the House was "That the Illiterate Wife is Unworthy of her Husband." Miss Lesley Posner, proposing, had the unpleasant job of addressing a "cold" house; this she performed soberly and rationally, claiming that modern married life was an equal partnership, where, owing to greater longevity, the wife was primarily to be regarded as her husband's companion; this demanded that she be literate.

Miss Jennifer Steer-Wood, opposing, felt she might be ruining her own matrimonial chances by championing her illiterate sisters. In a well-delivered and witty speech, she made the point that once a man had chosen a woman as his wife, that woman was *inso facto* worthy of him. The House roared its approval of her asking the chairman whether he would "take this woman to be thy lawful wedded wife," though in some doubt as to which woman.

Miss Jean Birrell also delivering a speech well spiced with humour, claimed that man was the epitome of helplessness without a wife and that a wife should be literate to save him from himself more adequately. A man, claimed Miss Birrell with apparent authority, calls for understanding, and understanding calls for literacy.

Miss Margaret Righton had examined the definitions of the root-words of literate, which she claimed to be "litter" or "litre" and found that they did not help her. She also accused the proposition of adding to the worried looks of the men's faces by trying to persuade them that they were not qualified to choose their wives without female aid.

Mr. Bayliss promptly announced that Miss Steer-Wood was deemed the winner of the contest, presented her with the cup and made a few apt remarks about the speeches. The standard achieved by these ladies augurs well for the future; one is left regretting the fact that none of them entered the Open Tournament earlier this term, for they would all have given a good account of themselves on this showing.

R.J.W.

NEWS IN BRIEF

LAST Friday, Chancellor's Hall forsook its scarves and took to marine decor for its dance. Dancing was both orthodox and unorthodox, and a general good time ensued.

FOUNDER'S Room suddenly found itself decorated with South Sea Island murals last week. Ed. Streeters immediately basked in the warmth of the over-heated radiators, but were irate at the non-returnability of their carpet. Bare floors are driving even Spartan Edgbastonsians away.

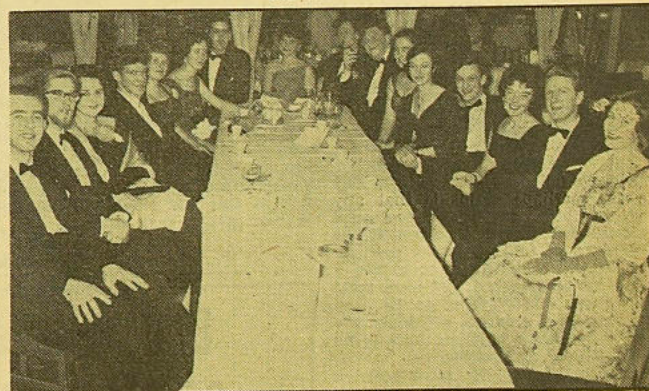
FILM SOCIETY begins its revival with a showing of "The Grapes of Wrath." After a year's absence, the most notable society of the Guild is reappearing, and members will watch its progress with interest. Let us hope that its financial affairs will be handled more efficiently than before.

TONY FAY HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE BRITISH UNIVERSITIES AT SOCCER AGAINST THE GERMAN UNIVERSITIES AT MARBURG ON MARCH 18. HE WILL BE PLAYING AT CENTRE-HALF.

"No eyes has an earthworm; one fell elision!

For, eyeless, an earthworm can't watch tel

evision." RUARIDH.



ALL PALS FOR ONCE

for **UNIVERSITY COLOURS**
THE MAN'S SHOP OF THE MIDLANDS
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Thrussells

10 MAR 1959

EDITORIAL

Guild News

Number
550



THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

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Still they come . . .

Dear Sir,
A great deal has been said and written about the evening meal service since it was transferred, the latest being the two articles in your last issue, one a statement of "fact" and the other a letter. A careful study of both articles shows that there is direct contradiction of fact as well as the feeling that both writers suffer to a varying degree from a very serious error—that of allowing their own present ideas to influence their thoughts and so creep into their arguing, which in one case is supposed to be fact.

The contradiction is this: Mr. Luby states that Priestley Hall is in use nearly every night of the week; Mr. Heseltine says that the use of Priestley Hall for special functions is not a frequent occurrence. Now just who is right or wrong and who or what is the student to believe?

Mr. Luby says that members had protested at the overcrowding, which is true, but was their protesting expressly made in order to bring about a move or "was it just the usual student grouse." If the latter, then this reason cannot be put forward to support the idea of the service in the Refectory for though many of us did grumble we now grumble far more at having to eat in the Refectory.

In reviewing the idea of using the two halls in the Union, Mr. Luby completely leaves out the possibilities of using the Lesser Hall for Society functions or the possibility of some agreement being reached between catering committee and the organisers of Society functions on this matter of rooms. He even goes as far as to make it appear that the choice lies between the devil and the deep blue sea, i.e., once we use two halls that's the end of all Society functions. This is not so. The possibility of a compromise could be looked into.

One small point in Mr. Heseltine's letter. He states (to use his words) "that the evening meal service has obviously failed." How? Financially so far, perhaps. But is that any criterion of whether it is successful or not? In every other aspect it has not failed. It fulfils a proper need for the student who wishes to obtain a more interesting and elaborate meal than usual. It remains to be seen whether more students will make use of the Service now that there is no necessity for notification.

One final point. We have heard a lot about the increase in numbers over the next two or three years. But we must not forget that the University is at last attempting to get more Halls of Residence built which if completed in time, i.e., the next year or two (very unlikely?) would mean that the numbers eating in the evening may not increase much if at all. It is quite likely also, that more students may turn to eating in their lodgings if the present service is continued. Finally, one would like to see a little more co-operation among members of Exec. Yours, etc.,
P. J. ROY.

Preserve of a minority . . .

Dear Sir,
In his letter to *Guild News* last week, criticising the evening meal facilities, Mr. Heseltine's main complaint seemed to be that the number of people using the Union in the evening has decreased.

But, sir, if the students who previously ate in the Union dining-hall now eat in the Coffee Room, how can the Union have become the "preserve of a minority in the evenings?" As far as I can ascertain, attendances at Society meetings in the Union have not decreased this term, and hence fears that the Union has "ceased to exist in the evenings," is unfounded. The reasons for the failure of the waitress service is, surely, the fact that students prefer to collect their meals themselves and pay 2s. 6d., rather than have it brought to them for 3s. 6d.

As to the future? Well, we can, of course, return to evening meal service to the Union. But this is a short-sighted policy and can only be a temporary one, since the Ed. Street invasion will resist all present facilities.

Finally, if the matter is discussed at an open Council Meeting, may I urge all interested members of the Guild to attend. Thereby they can satisfy themselves as to whether Council is acting irresponsibly in this matter or not. They can then also decide whether Council is as ineffective and apathetic as Editorials in *Guild News* would have us believe. Yours, etc.,
D. B. E. STROUD,
(Chem.)

Jazz stop

Dear Sir,
I noticed in a letter from Mr. B. Seeley earlier this term that he reaffirmed his view that jazz has reached its end and can go no further. It was presumably with this in mind that he "changed over" at the Hop last Saturday and began rattling beans for Mr. Allan Ayres. Let him stick at this and leave the development of jazz to real jazzmen. Yours, etc.,
M.B.R.

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G.D. not O.D.

Dear Sir,
Mr. D. Evans' letter urging G.D. students to support the proposed Ordinary Degree Society unfortunately gave an impression only too common within the University. The Degree of B.A. in General Subjects is an honour's degree of the same standing as those of special schools. Why then should G.D. students have been invited in preference to others? Especially as we have a G.D. Society for those who feel "the departmental societies cater too much for the specialist."

Yours, etc.,
ENID BURROWS (G.D. III.)

German rearmament

Dear Sir,
I wish to make a few comments on the article in *Guild News*, of last week on the German problem.

Fourteen years ago, as Mr. Stacey says, the Western Powers and Russia were united in "the destruction of the monster of German militarism." However, by 20th century standards, a long time has elapsed since 1945, and the whole international situation has changed. We find two large power blocs, the capitalist and the Communist, arrayed against each other, the former trying to maintain its position in the world, and the latter trying to increase its already powerful hold on many countries.

That is the situation to-day. If the Western Powers wish to preserve the freedom for which they have fought in the past, they will not further their aims by backing away from an ever-advancing Russia.

Now what of Germany in particular? It would be very difficult to prove that the two World Wars were completely the fault of the German people, and not of their over-ambitious leaders. Even if this were so, it would not necessarily mean that Germany would start another World War. I say this because, in the present situation, a strong Germany would tend to join the Western Powers rather than Russia. Unfortunately, because of this, there seems to be no chance of a united Germany since Russia realises full well that it would be to her disadvantage to agree to this.

It might be argued that since Germany attacked on both her Eastern and Western frontiers during the Second World War, she would do so again. In 1940 Russia was only a shadow of the country we see facing us to-day, and the ideological struggle between capitalism and Communism has not achieved the importance it holds at the moment in international politics.

If we leave West Berlin, the last possible chance of a united Germany would disappear, and Russia would have won yet one more victory in the cold war. We cannot allow the Russians to occupy Berlin in order to ask them if they would mind taking their troops out of Hungary, because they would not do this. Similarly, any disarmament pact would be a mere scrap of paper. Mr. Krushchev has shown his attitude towards negotiation by his disgusting behaviour during his talks with Mr. Macmillan.

We live, unfortunately, in an age where all the old standards of fair play and decency have gone by the board; promises are broken without the slightest hesitation, and the meaning of such words as honesty and sincerity has been distorted out of all recognition. We are faced with

PRESS POST

ruthless opponents, who will resort to whatever means are available to satisfy their ambitions, and the only way for us to meet their threat is to be firm, and take our stand on the fact that ours is the better way of life.

Yours, etc.,
J. M. STANSFIELD

Lest we forget

Dear Sir,
I can only hope that readers took note of Mr. Brian Stacey's article on Berlin last week. The facts are all too quickly forgotten by a people ever-anxious to show its British sportsmanship, but this so-called quality of ours can be foolhardy.

While wishing the German people a healthy progress, both economically and ethnologically, we must forget neither what has been nor what is at present happening. Nazi infiltration has increased, and war crimes glossed over by this naturally belligerent race. The old adage that they are either at your feet or at your throat rings true. On one hand they press, with contrite hand, a new synagogue upon the Jews in Berlin, and with the other desecrate their graves in Essen, Dortmund, and Stuttgart. Perhaps this is but a beginning—they are already cutting our throats on the commercial market together with their fellow conquered, the Japanese; the future may see them enacting this in hostile reality. It is too much to hope that Lord Russell of Liverpool will not be alone in the intellectual world in risking his career and reputation to goad the national remembrance.

I have no love for the Russians but I am tempted to be glib in history in this. As Ralph Waldo said in a broadcast last year, "I fought two World Wars with Germans this century—on occasions the Russians have been allies, despite their political differences. Germany has sinned against mankind, and her present danger but one facet of her punishment." Yours, etc.,
PETER J.

Not in touch

Dear Sir,
What are we to believe of the matter of the evening meal service? Last week's *Guild News* surveyed the confusion existing among Exec., when two of its members wrote completely conflicting views on the subject.

It means that Exec. has touched with undergraduate opinion on this particular matter, and if a fair and democratic solution is to be found, a poll among the members should be taken. This would give a valuable lead, so that a formed judgment could be taken. Yours, etc.,
J. PETHERICK
(Chem.)

MARCH TO ALDERMASTON

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7 p.m.
FRIENDS MEET AT HOUSE
BULL STREET, BIRMINGHAM
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This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED MARCH 5)

WILL DEMOCRACY PREVAIL?

(on the political future of West Africa)

Aidan Crawley

AVOIDING FAILURE IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Nicolas Malleon

RIISING PROSPERITY IN RUSSIA

Thomas Barman

SYMPATHY AND IMAGINATION

(on Adam Smith's theory of Conscience)

D. D. Raphael

BELA BARTOK—THE SOLITARY COMPOSER

Yehudi Menuhin

MICROBES TO THE MOON

Kenneth Bisset

THE PHANTOM MAJOR

(the story of David Stirling and The Special Air Service)

General Sir Brian Horrocks

and other features

A BBC PUBLICATION

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6

VOLLARD'S VILLAGE IDIOT

"... as critics' critics have been seen in a nobler light at the Open Lecture given by Professor George Hamilton, of Yale University, under the title "Cezanne and his Critics."

The Professor rapidly dealt with the painter's early work—to be labelled "Impressionist" in Le Charivari, after his and others associated with Monet's painting. "Impressionism" in the 1874 Exhibition—showed his emergence as one of the three great leaders of Post-Impressionism, together with Gauguin and Van Gogh. That Cezanne paved the way for the Cubist revolution has long been recognised, but Professor Hamilton showed slides of some interesting recent analytical work which further revealed the artist's originality in condensing the maximum amount of visual data on one canvas.

Philosophically, the Professor considered Cezanne's work to be very closely bound up with Hegelian metaphysical dialectics and the vitalism of Bergson, but little mention was made of the essential Bohemianism and his place in the "Art for Art's Sake" movement of Baudelaire and Gautier. The importance of this movement, as Gauguin has shown, as a force opposing the bourgeois destruction of values is today more easily recognised in that sensitive indicator—architecture.

"La sensation"—the vicious yet serene vitality which Cezanne derived from his view of life—was brought out very strongly by the Professor, visually aided by a brilliant battery of coloured slides.

Some of the lecturer's "asides" were of the greatest interest, and highlighted the differences between

the educational systems (or lack of) in American and British University Art education. He stressed the point that works of art implying great mental efforts on the part of the artist could not be "seen" in a thirty-second glance. Every picture demands an effort on the part of the observer. Naturally enough, this infers living with pictures, not visiting them like sick, far-removed relatives. The American museums of art encourage this view—a few pictures are displayed in carefully thought-out and adaptable surroundings, and changed frequently. Perhaps the nearest we get to this system in Birmingham is the Peasey Galleries, although these too suffer from a rather classically British over-crowding. Our own Barber Institute's galleries are in many ways nearer the mark—they are certainly more humane.

This was a very fine lecture: many of us felt very shoddily equipped to comment on such an array of ideas. But here we are up against the old problem of Art education for technocrats. Perhaps we could learn from the American system; probably the trouble lies deeper . . . W.D.I.R.

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JAZZ NOTES

Traditionalism revisited

(With many apologies to Bob Brookmeyer and by force of circumstance, a nameless record company).
THE simulators were at the Town Hall in force, last Friday night, at the British Traditional Jazz Festival. The word festival, I think, was misused, for it implies that this event was a celebration, and the only thing that I could detect to be celebrated was the death of Traditional Jazz as an art form.

SCOTLAND BEWARE

A GROUP of about 20 undergraduate members of Birmingham University Biological Society will leave at the beginning of July for Aviemore in the Eastern Highlands of Scotland to undertake a programme of field work in the Cairngorm mountains.

The expedition which will survey the area is under the leadership of a representative committee and is composed mainly of botany and zoology students. Members of the expedition will hitch-hike to Aviemore; equipment being transported by means of a Land Rover and a car belonging to the party. The expedition will live under canvas and the vehicles will be used for fetching supplies from Aviemore, the nearest town.

The botanists and zoologists of the party each have their own programme of field work. The botanists hope to carry out a quantitative survey of upland vegetation, and at the same time collecting examples of as many common mountain species as possible for the Botanical Department Herbarium. Work on pre-deceous soil fungi will be complementary to that carried out by the graduate expedition to Lapland.

The zoologists intend to survey the distribution of birds and small mammals in the area, and also of the isolated mountain insect fauna, with particular reference to those species surviving from the Ice Age. This expedition is entirely a student venture, the first of its kind to be undertaken by the Biological Society.

The proceedings opened with the bleating and gutty blowings of the Graham Stewart Seven, a group that needs to be seen to be believed. The gymnastic manoeuvres performed by the leader, while others soloed, rivalled the most dire moments of the delirium tremens. His trombone playing was not in the class of the idolised Barber but it did show that he had at least mastered the basic slide positions and conventional chord sequences.

Vocal rumblings

Apart from his throaty vocal rumblings in the so-called blues numbers, clarinetist-leader Terry Lightfoot played some listenable jazz, his solos at times rising to Bechet lyricism.

Now to the Bilk Band, always some of my favourites, they produced a polished brand of jazz and their stage presentation showed a studied simplicity which is so often lacking in traditional groups.

I like humour

I like humour with my jazz and that is the reason why I stand for the fancy dress of this band without finching as I do at the sight of a modernist in dark glasses, for here the costumes are original and eye-catching and in keeping with their brand of jazz whereas in the other case the modernist disguise is just pure imitation. From the striped waistcoats to the slightly Risqué musical quotations and verbal announcements the motive of this band is quite clear, it is to preserve the "Louis" convictions—that jazz grew up hand in hand with minstrelsy and Sambo jokes.

PERSONAL COLUMN

You may advertise personal adverts or Society notices in this column. Rates: 1s. per 12 words and 3d. every additional 5 words, (internal); 2s. 6d. per 12 words and 3d. every additional 5 words, (for external adverts). Apply: The Adverts Manager, "Guild News," The Union.

U.F.A.W. EASTER CONGRESS is to be held this year in Lupton Hall, Leeds University, from March 23 to 26. For further details apply to Mark R. D. Seaward via the pigeon holes.
HOUSE PLAY: Performances of "Treasure on Pelican" will now take place on Thursday, March 5, at 7.30 p.m. EAT without fear. Apply University Refectory Management Committee.
DIG THIS! Chance of a Lifetime! Monteverdi Vespers (1610). Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall. Tickets 3s. 6d. Performed by Musical Society and Guest Soloists.

BOLTON, WIGAN: Live within twelve miles? Does your personality and intelligence justify a T.A. Commission? No previous military experience now needed. Our training tailored to fit your spare time. A tough hobby—but social and paid. No obligation. Write now for details before you come down.—Adjutant, 253 Field Regiment R.A., Bolton, Lancs.
SMITH-GORONA Portable Silent Typewriter for sale, with case, £22. Completely reconditioned. Cost when new (1954), £36. Contact: Arthur Conning, Elec. Eng. Research.

FESTIVAL WEEK-END

THE University Arab Society held their Annual Festival last week-end, when they entertained Arab students from all over England. The week-end was successfully launched by the Festival Dance on the Friday evening, when the students from this University performed sketches and gave a very entertaining exhibition of Arabic singing and dancing. The remainder of the week-end was devoted to a variety of sporting and social activities. A.R.B.

THEATRE

THERE is nothing quite like "Hamlet" in the whole of English drama, nor for that matter anything in the theatre quite like an audience for "Hamlet". The piece is treated as a rope made for spinning, in the sure belief that an audience will appreciate each trick and new deceit. It has the added advantage that it is the only known rope with which an actor cannot hang himself. At first I thought that Ian Richardson had succeeded where all others had failed, and that he had indeed built his gallows high, but by the first interval I was persuaded otherwise.

To play Hamlet as an adolescent is grotesquely justifiable. Those pliant lines fit this interpretation admirably and Ian Richardson gave credence to a lad who might at any moment burst into tears. Give us a Hamlet at eighteen, fresh from his first term at the university, kill his father and marry off his mother incestuously and you have created a problem.

You would then turn round to the audience and say this means that Hamlet will become a Teddy Boy, rape Ophelia and generally provide work for the probation officer. Exaggeration? Of course. But by playing Hamlet juvenile the tension of the whole play is relaxed and magnanimity is denied to the hero. Magnanimity meaning not only greatness of heart, but also wholeness of manhood. To have magnanimity means that a quality is shared with the gods. Here Hamlet becomes a case not a tragic hero.

The irony of this production is that it is textually brilliant. It solved so many problems—and the audience appreciated it. They seized on every footnote with a whoop of self adulation—and yet it was not a tragedy.

I cannot leave this production alone. It fascinates me. Here we had the modern interpretation of the romantic Hamlet. The Hamlet of Goethe and Coleridge, the young man clutching a lily as he goes down Piccadilly. And with it all we had an illuminatingly ineffectual Ophelia. Thelma Barlowe could have played this part in any way she chose, but from somewhere came this distillation of Victorian/Edwardian niceness. Is this the way Miss O'Neil, Helen Faucit, Ellen Terry played the part. When Beerbohm Tree played Hamlet against an infinity of changing sets, is this the way Ophelia was played. And if so, is this how Tree or Irving played Hamlet? How much, in fact, is this Sir Barry Jackson remembering the pre-Pilgrim Player days, and how much is Bernard Hepton's production.

Food for thought, so much food. This was not a tragedy. It was viled mounted, with bits parts shabbily played, but as a production in that never ceasing game of what can we do next with Hamlet, it scored heavily on originality and not too lightly on effectiveness.

K.W.R.

COMEDY FOR SPRING MAJOR

Next week G.T.G. present as their Spring Major Production John Whiting's gentle comedy A Penny for a Song. This play is just the thing to chase away the last vestiges of winter, for it is acted in sunshine and draws to a close at the end of a summer's day. During that day much has happened: a fading dandy and a blind soldier have found themselves in a Dorset garden, which is presided over by two eccentric and amiable old men and guarded by a tree bound look-out and a formidable housewife. The blind soldier naturally falls in love with the daughter of the house, while her father and uncle pursue their own courses, one fighting fires, the other the French. For this is the summer of 1804 and Napoleons invasion is a daily dread. When a local military exercise is mistaken for the real thing, chaos breaks forth in a riot of comedy, and the dandy has the good taste to inform no-one of the mistake.

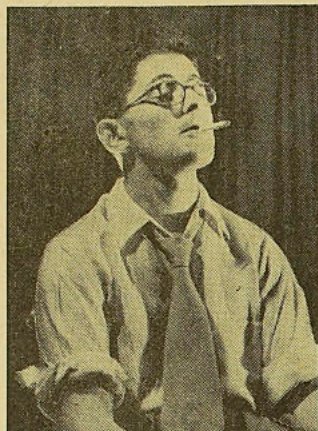
If the play has a message, it is that war is absurd, and if it has a theme, it is that of a young girl growing to womanhood, without rebellion, but not without a touch of wistfulness. That she loves and must be left adds to the play a mist of melancholy, which only heightens the comedy, making it more enjoyable and more real.

Kay Moulton plays Dorcas, the young girl and Valerie Jones, her mother. John Basely is the Dandy, who finds again something of humanity in this crazy and beautiful garden. Ken Huddleston takes the part of the blind soldier, whilst Ralph Wilton, producer of Six Characters, and Geoff Hutchings, who played the producer in Six Characters, add the zest of comedy as the two eccentric old men.

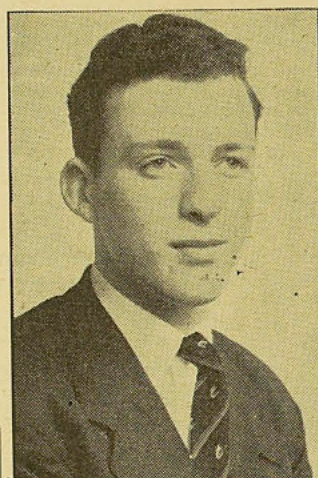
Jewish Society is presenting Christopher Fry's "The Firstborn" on Saturday and Sunday, March 7 and 8, at 8 p.m., at Greenmore College.

Priory Road. Tickets are obtainable from any Society member.

Jewish Society Theatre



Maurice Kelman—Pharoah in "The Firstborn"



Stuart Sanders—He plays Moses

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MID 2671

PAGE FOUR SPORTS

Polo revival continues

Swimming match report

ON Saturday, the club took part in a mammoth gala organised by Lucas S.C. This consisted of forty-seven events, a programme which, knowing the normal organisation of such matches, we expected to last 'til about midnight. However, the gala was marvellously well run and it was over by 10 p.m. Teams from the University, Lucas S.C., Swansea U.C., Aberystwyth U.C., and Loughborough took part, Loughborough's part in the women's match being taken by Coventry Godiva Ladies' S.C.

Birmingham placed second in both the men's and women's fixtures, losing to Loughborough in the men's match and to Godiva in the ladies, but were well ahead of the other teams. The best performance by a University swimmer was the win by R. Wheatley over U.A.U. champion, C. Hardy, in the backstroke event. Raz, a guest swimmer from Coventry, also gave us a slight lead in the medley relay in which the team swam magnificently to hold Loughborough to the closest of finishes. This race only served to underline the University's real need for a good backstroke.

Some sign of an improvement in this event was shown later on in the same gala when B. Shrimpton managed to win the second team two lengths, and it is hoped that, with training, he may develop into a competent performer.

Unexpected talent was also a feature of this gala. A diving competition was held, and Jack Richardson, one of our better freestylers and polo players, won the second team event with some beautifully controlled dives.

The polo was in the form of a knock-out competition with Lucas and Loughborough both entering first and second teams. The University side lost in the first round by 1-0 to the Loughborough second team. The match was hard fought throughout, and we were unlucky not to score, one shot hitting the crossbar and another going in but being disallowed. The Loughborough second team then went on to beat Lucas first team and to draw with the Loughborough first team in the final, which was an exciting though somewhat robust game. The improvement in our team is obvious when it is realised that we lost by the tremendous score of 21-0 against this team earlier on in the year.

SHORTS

Golfers halve match

The University was well entertained at Stourbridge on Saturday, and halved a match 3½ points all. Jowle, Roy Duff and Tait were victorious and Stockwell was unlucky and did better than half his against their captain.

R. A. Jowle beat M. D. dell, 5/4.

D. Liffon lost to D. Shilley, 5/4.

R. McD. Tait beat R. Hayes, 5/4.

R. Duff beat R. G. Stevenson, 5/4.

M. Stockwell halved with J. Clendinning lost to Clark, 1 up.

J. M. Beck lost to F. Wedgby, 5/3.

Third judo course

Last Saturday 18 members of the Judo Club attended the third Judo course of the year.

The afternoon commenced with a revision of the throws, including Osoto and harigoshi, which were later joined together to form a combination and although this throw proved difficult, it was very effective.

After considerable amount of practice, the judoka were warned with a light spell of rain (moving practice) which was then followed by instruction in basic groundwork. Two of the new ground holds were: Makura Kesagata and Ushiro Kesagata.

In the grading that followed, several judoka "warmed up" with a light spell of rain (moving practice) which was then followed by instruction in basic groundwork. Two of the new ground holds were: Makura Kesagata and Ushiro Kesagata.

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL DINNER WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 28TH. DETAILS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE CLUB NOTICE BOARD.

Fencing Club

After their defeat by strong Oxford Assassins 20-7, the club had two able successes.

When the team travelled to Sheffield last Saturday, they won by the handsome total of 18 fights. This was without assistance of Neil Howarth, who was indisposed. Most credit to the victory was due to J. Hoffman, who was on form, winning eight of nine fights. Martin Warner took seven out of ten fights, also gave a very good performance.

Ron Naylor won one fight each weapon and, although not of the class of the shotest match.

Birmingham opened the scoring in the first few minutes of the game when Jean Roberts made a beautiful shot which completely baffled the goalkeeper. Play continued at a fast pace with several promising attacks by the Birmingham forwards being foiled by the Bristol goalkeeper whose anticipation and good judgment could not be faulted. However, Bristol soon scored the equaliser. Both teams then scored once more before half-time.

The second half started off with several minor fouls, but play soon settled down although it was apparent that both teams were over-eager to score and were unable to score again despite the forward of several corners. The standard of forward play was very high throughout, and had the defence been able to give more support to the forwards, more goals might have been scored. Of the Birmingham defence, the goalkeeper played really well. The score remained at 2-2 until a few minutes from the end when Bristol shot a winner. Further Birmingham attacks proved fruitless and the match ended in Bristol's favour.

FINALS ARE HARD GAMES

LADIES ACQUIT THEMSELVES WELL!

THREE W.I.V.A.B. finals were held on Saturday, with Birmingham ladies' teams participating in each of them. Two of these three teams were victorious in close matches and the other lost narrowly after being on top for most of the match. The Lacrosse and Netball Clubs are to be congratulated on their wins, and together with the Ladies' Hockey Club, for performances that will enhance our University's prestige in the sporting world.

NETBALL SUCCESSFUL SEASON CROWNED

The successful season that the Netball Club has enjoyed this year culminated on Saturday when the team regained the W.I.V.A.B. Championship at Reading against a strong Manchester University team. As had been anticipated the match was very close, and resulted in a 18-15 win for us.

The match was not without incident, several minor stoppages occurring due to injuries caused by over-enthusiasm of the players. Birmingham were able to obtain an early lead, which they were able to maintain throughout the match in the face of repeated Manchester attacks.

The atmosphere was tense throughout and several mistakes were made in the heat of the moment. However these were usually remedied by renewed vigour in the team. No individual player could be singled out for mention as the players are essentially a team, and it is in this combination that the Birmingham team's strength lies.

The team was: G. Dunn (G.S.), M. Silcock (A.), R. De'ath (G.A.), G. Duckham (C.), G. Ogburn (C.D.), M. Mannall (D.), A. Solomons (G.K.).

VICTORIOUS AT LAST

The W.I.V.A.B. Lacrosse Cup came into existence in 1927. Birmingham University gained possession of it for the first time, when the team beat Manchester University by 10-9 on Saturday, February 28.

The match on Saturday was in itself a disappointing one and the standard of play was very much lower than it should have been. This was mainly due to the tense atmosphere in which the final matches are often played. The ball travelled rapidly from one end of the pitch to the other, but was then lost in a general scramble in front of goal. Birmingham lead in goals throughout the game, but the score was always a close one. SUSAN ANDREWS must be congratulated on her determined and accurate shooting.

It is probably true to say that Birmingham's success was mainly due to a surer attacking movement in comparison with the more lambling tactics of Manchester. It was unfortunate that Manchester was unable to bring its ideal team but Birmingham itself was certainly not on top form. Despite these criticisms Birmingham deserved to win. It is probably true to say that her team is better than that of Manchester. She showed her superiority by beating Bristol in the semi-finals, the team which has won the cup for nine years in succession except for the year 1954.

Goals were shot by S. Andrews, J. P. Sampson, 3. Other players were: G. McMullen, E. McLaren, J. Shaw, V. Mustard, G. Folland, I. O'Halloran, R. Hillier, G. Griffiths, R. Allpress and S. Ward.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

ON Wednesday, the Men's Hockey Team lost by 2-1 to the Gloucester County "A" XI. The match was quite even for most of the game, and the defence held their own. However, the University play as a whole fell considerably below the standard shown in the previous week; attacks foundering again and again, and the players showing a marked lack of team work. The defence was also a little too slow getting rid of the ball. The Gloucestershire goals came from a penalty bully against Flood, and a breakthrough where Flood had no chance of saving the shot. Phillips scored for the University with a fine shot from the top of the circle.

On Saturday the first XI repeated their previous success over Rugby B.T.H., when they won by 1-0. The University's play improved in this game, and while the forwards did not work perfectly, the defence was quicker in both tackling and passing the ball. Lewis was the University scorer, when he followed up a shot from Sood, which had rebounded from the goalkeeper's pads. Herbert had a good game at right-back, and Hurst was prominent putting some fine centres across.

Birmingham was unlucky to miss two goals, one of which hit the bar and was cleared by the B.T.H. defence.

LATE DECIDER

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CROSS-COUNTRY REDEEMED

From the rigours of the country, the club, on Saturday, turned to the road when the Imperial College Eleventh Annual Invitation Hyde Park Relay was staged.

The heat of an early-spring sun made running exhausting, but this did not deter 60 teams, drawn from Universities and Colleges throughout England and Wales, from attempting this six-man relay.

As a result of the Universities' Championships result, the Birmingham team, skippered by Dave Shaw, had doubts as to the outcome of the race. However, early nervousness gave way to very good running to bring the team home in fourth place (84 mins. 09secs.) behind Manchester (82-41), Durham (83-25) and Leeds (83-49).

Being placed at the back of the starting grid made it difficult for Colin Clarke to obtain a good position at the start, but he ran well to bring Birmingham into 26th position at the end of the first leg. Dave Shaw took over and began to overtake, our excitement mounting as we watched Birmingham leap into the picture.

The British Universities Champion ran magnificently to give Birmingham a 20-yard lead at the end of the second lap. Our hopes were high as Dave Spence took over; increasing his lead somewhat, Spence completed his leg having run probably his best race this season. On his own all the way, he became the second fastest runner over from Birmingham to complete the Hyde Park circuit. Mike Down and Dai Davies took fourth and fifth legs and both ran well to give us fourth place after five laps. Brian Spiby ran true to form to maintain that position to the finish. We shall miss his consistency next year.

In this effort we were victorious over old rivals Imperial College, Southampton, Bristol and Loughborough and 53 other teams.

WEAKENED TEAM LOSES

Bangor U.C. 6

Birmingham University 3

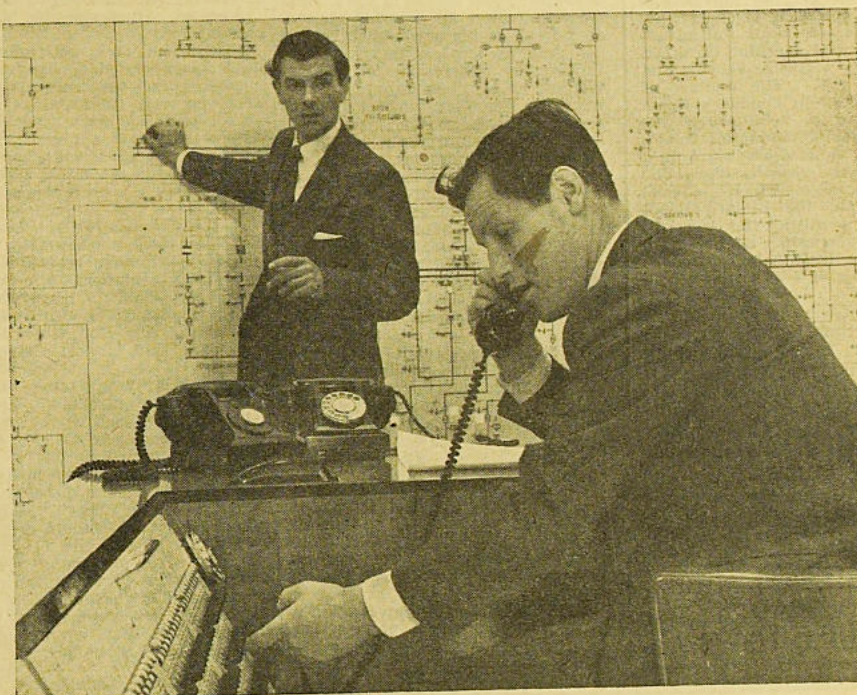
On Saturday 28th, the soccer first XI travelled to Bangor. Despite the fact that seven first team men were unavailable for this away fixture the University put up a better show than the score might suggest.

Sea of mud

As so often happens in North Wales it was raining and the pitch was in a sea of mud, making defensive errors understandable and goallining much more probable than on a dry pitch. Bangor were the better side inasmuch as they played football more suited to the conditions and moved well as a team.

Bangor scored first

Bangor scored first after 10 minutes' play, but inside-right Williams soon put Birmingham on level terms with a well taken goal. By half-time the home side had established a 2-1 lead, but Birmingham proceeded to get on top, prompted by right-half Youles, who had a great game. Evans made it 2-3 with a penalty, but then Bangor scored a lucky goal against the run of the play and thus seemed to take some of the fire out of the University side. Bangor came back to score two more goals thus winning comfortably.



Cloudburst crisis

Place: London. Time: Two-thirty p.m. Weather: Cloudburst. Result: Sky dark as night, every light and drainage pump turned on—and a suddenly soaring demand for electricity.

More power is needed fast, but this need has been foreseen. At Thames North Control an Assistant Control Engineer, aged 28, makes a decision, gets on to Norwich Generating Station. Within minutes extra power is being transferred to London. This is the kind of responsibility he likes, the reason for which he joined the Electricity Supply Industry, as a Graduate Trainee, five years ago.

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You can join as a student apprentice from the science sixth form of your school, or you can join as a graduate with an engineering degree. For full details, please write to the address below; tell us your age and what exams you've passed—that will help us to give you advice that's really personal.

The Education and Training Officer, The Electricity Council, 112 Winsley Street, London W.1.

Young men get on, in Electricity

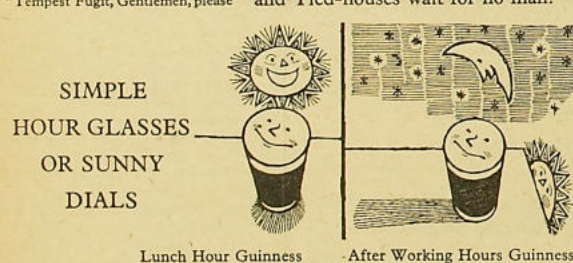
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Hands off the clock

The immutability of L.C.T.



"Tempest Fugit, Gentlemen, please"



Lunch Hour Guinness After Working Hours Guinness

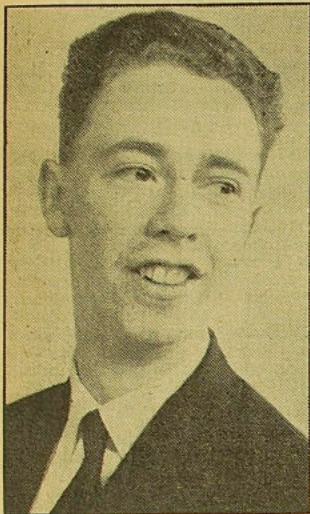
In the mean time (at Greenwich and elsewhere)

GUINNESS is good for the Pip-Pip-Pip

G.E.31.49.G

GUINNESS IS AVAILABLE IN BOTTLES, IN CANS OR ON DRAUGHT

EDITORS ELECT



MARK SEAWARD
"Guild News"

Photo: Dolphin

Ed. Street column

AS the sun filtered through the concentrated mass of cloud and fog over the city centre and cast a shadow over my spaghetti on toast (and what better thing to cast a shadow over?), I heard tell of strange occurrences on alien ground. Gymnastic feats outside the Hall of Memory seem to be an ideal way of expending one's after-lunch energy, provided by the millions of calories in Guild Club menu, and the occasional vitamin scraped from the fungi on the knives and forks. Speaking of energy, Ed. Streeters are taking full advantage of that sunshine breakfast promising vitalising benefits and a free gift. The number of people seen in Founder's Room practising the noble art of producing sound and motion from a piece of rounded cardboard on a string is considerable. The various scapes which materialised from the Billiard Room corridor to fill up the cracks in our framework might have gained a little balance from a floor-covering — such as a carpet?

One of the few radiators we possess has had its purposes deviated by heat-absorbing impedimenta. Of course, if convenience requires that the same form an impenetrable mass outside the library, how can one do anything but retreat?

Be in the
swim
READ

"GUILD NEWS"

THE night was dark, but suddenly it was lit up by a pair of fluorescent yellow socks moving out of the obscurity, and over them hovered a pallid banner bearing the legend "Guild News On Sale To-day."

As they approached I stared—could it be? No. But I was wrong. Indeed, those socks were cross-gartered with bands of tape inscribed "U.F.A.W." Like a veritable Malvolio, M.R.D.S. was (in his sleepwalking) living the part of greatness that had been thrust upon him. To be saddled with *Guild News* (otherwise known as the representative journal of the 200-odd students who form the Guild of Undergraduates of Birmingham University) at the tender age of 20 is a hard thrust of fate indeed. But Mark Richard David Seaward (better known as Ned) has shouldered his responsibility with the same fortitude that he uses to fob off the hordes of inmates of Nuffield House who continually siege to his affections. He lists his hobbies as nurses, botany, nurses, music, nurses, sport, nurses, and . . . er . . . nurses.

For nigh on a year he has lived, breathed, eaten and slept "G.N." in sickness or in health, for better or for worse.

He has faced the kicks that have come from the unenlightened and unsympathetic, and has, from his misery, cleverly delegated his worries to the Editor, who now looks upon him as a Jeremiah of the first water. That he knows the paper is beyond question, and it is this knowledge added to his wide connections, not only in the University, but elsewhere too, that will enable him to carry it forward.

His interests are manifold, and despite it being said that a prophet is despised in his own land, he is the pride of the botanists of his native Lincolnshire, as well as of the County Museum (where he probably appears as a freak in his own right). During his year as local secretary of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (a body, he hastens to add, which is scientific and not sentimental), he has boosted membership to a record number. He is a keen athlete and, moreover, turns out regularly for departmental hockey and soccer teams.

He is interested and informed in Guild affairs. He has a regard for Exec.—in fact, he worships the ground which is coming to them. He is fond of G.T.G., and looks forward to reporting its successes. One thing, however, he deprecates, like the present Editor, he cannot bear the cult of the personality which is prevalent in Guild affairs: to him the work is all important — the individual (on the political side) is not. We wish him a happy year of editing.

NYBDA.

D. J. Andrew

"Forceps." "Forceps." "Thread." "Thread." "Needle." "Needle." "Mermaid." "Mermaid?" "Of course, Mermaid. And why not . . . I'm the Editor."

Thus might run the conversation in the operating theatre at the Q.E. next year when David Andrew gets to work amputating the rubbish that



DAVID ANDREW
"Mermaid"

has cluttered our literary magazine for years, and attends to the birth of a new "Mermaid," child of Ben Cowley's excellent creation.

David has literary learnings; in fact, he positively leant over backwards to tell us about the novel he is writing on university life. It will doubtless be very reactionary, for he confesses quite openly to being "an unusual Medic." His hobbies range from sex to speleology, in fact he has been known to combine the two on more than one occasion. He is also keen on music, specialising in obscure Beethoven Sonatas, and from the time he spends in the music room with a well-known member of our staff, he also has aspirations to rule the fashion world. Come to think of it, he does rather resemble Yves St. Laurent.

Though he does not indulge in blood sports, he does like walking; expansive on the subject of his vices, he says that he reads too much, anything from Westerns to Wittgenstein, talks too much, doesn't listen enough, and smokes too much. David is far too modest to talk about his virtues . . . or perhaps merely prudent.

Next year will be an active one for the Editor-elect of "Mermaid," as he intends to "indulge in G.T.G." and has an appointment on Carnival Committee. Though he edited the Liberal magazine, "Bournebrook," he did this only for the literary experience, and is not interested in politics.

He agrees with some of the improvements introduced by the present Editor, such as the insertion of a wider variety of articles, change of format, and lowering of price. There will be no change made here. But he would like to dispel the idea held by many that "Mermaid" material is either obscure or pseudo. To counteract this, he is going to carry out a vigorous search for more contributors. He wishes particularly to interest Edgbastonites so that "Mermaid" will become more widely representative than at present. We wish him the best of luck.

MEG.

A TIME TO STRIKE

By COURTESY

NATIONALISATION has been in the news recently with a hue and cry if not hasty assessment of the nation's feelings about the prospect of the re-nationalisation of the steel industry. We believe that important work remains to be done before such problems need be faced. We advocate the nationalisation of the M.C.C.

This organisation appears to be failing to achieve its objectives. The production of runs and wickets has declined to an abysmally low standard and the contract with Australia for the present series of Tests has not been won. The firm, it is blatantly obvious, is motivated solely by the private pleasure and profit motives. It is a capitalist enterprise providing free holidays in the Antipodes for its directors under the pretence of looking for some ashes, believed to be of national value. While it remains under the guidance of private management we cannot hope for the recovery of these ashes. If we establish the national value of these ashes then it

is the duty of the Government to over this enterprise. That these are of supreme importance in maintaining the national morale is obvious to anyone who travels on the early in the morning after lunch to the latest news bulletin from Australia.

If we are to nationalise the problem will be deciding who to take the responsibility for efficiency. We suggest that the schism which has existed between Church and State since the death of Henry VIII (God fill his shoes) should be brought to an end and temporal affairs of the M.C.C. brought under ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Under the leadership of Good Shepherd the M.C.C. will again be able to go out into the world in search of the silver cup, "the Grail," containing the ashes of the Australian lamb will go down on its knees—"O'Neill to sacrifice the true man!" The triumph of the M.C.C. will return singing such as "Lock, of ages, out by tea, we win the victory."

CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM

THE Chemical Society held its symposium on "The Chemist's Contribution to the World's Future Food Supply" in the departmental lecture theatre on February 24, with Professor M. Stacey in the chair.

The symposium proved to be the most successful or any held within recent years, due to the quality of the three speakers and the quantity of discussion they provoked.

First to speak was Mr. Ward, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Department, who described the difficulties involved in feeding the rapidly increasing world population. The amount of food per head is higher than ever before, and yet the paradox exists in that many people face starvation daily. This is partly due to the surplus of food produced by larger countries, which, for economic reasons, cannot be distributed to poorer countries. After paying tribute to the work of the U.N., the speaker concluded with optimism for the feeding of all in the future.

Dr. Wilkinson, of Unilever, described the history and methods of food preservation. The methods are threefold: canning, freezing and dehydration, the latter two being recent inventions. Food preservation really starts, though, in the successful protection of the growing plant against insect, animal, and bacterial attack, and it is here that the chemist's contribution is most marked. He mentioned the possibility of producing chemically synthetic foodstuffs, such as mutton, that has never seen a sheep, or pork that has never seen a pig.

The last speaker, Mr. Moule, of the Nature Cure Association, threw a hefty spanner in the chemical works, claiming that any chemical processing of food is detrimental to human health. On the principle that natural food is the healthiest, he advocated a diet of fruit juice, salad, a minimum of meat, and no alcohol. This provoked vigorous discussion.

In the evening following, the annual dinner was held at which Professor E. J. Bourne was the principal guest. Needless to say, Mr. Moule's diet was not adopted.

D.B.E.S.

Vice-Chancellor night

Vice-Chancellor's night was at the Manor House on Thursday, February 26, and proved to be an enjoyable and pleasant evening. Vice-Chancellor and several members of the Senior Common Room and the 150 members of the Common Room on roast turkey, a full menu in the best tradition of the Manor House.

Dr. C. E. Harrold, the Vice-Chancellor, gave the loyal toast, and the toast to the guests. With Vice-Chancellor he also welcomed Professor S. G. Ward, Professor B. Spencer, Mr. J. T. Allanson, Mr. M. A. Screech, and carried to enliven proceedings with charmingly irrelevant story to set the port decanters down. Returning to the Manor House, Vice-Chancellor congratulated the House on reaching its full maturity status, and in thanking President for his remarks about this busy man" drew a comparison between his position as Vice-Chancellor here, and the position of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jamaica. He gave an interesting account of this University College.

After dinner, the evening proceeded with its customary vigorous succession of amusing little episodes. The bar was well used (if it gave any indication) and showed how useful an asset it is to the House by being able to accommodate a half of the members at one time.

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JOINT MEETING OF UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETIES —

On Friday, February 20, eight members of Birmingham Congregational Society set out to attend the 1959 Joint Meetings of the Universities' Congregational Societies, held in Mansfield College, Oxford. They joined some 200 students drawn from most universities in the British Isles. The possibility of holding the Joint Meetings in Birmingham in 1961 or 1962 is to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting of our own Congregational Society to-day, March 5.

R.P., J.M.D. and B.B.

Designed and produced by Industrial News Service, 192, Corporation Street, Birmingham 4, Central 5154, for the Guild of Undergraduates, Birmingham University. Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers Ltd., Bond Gate, Nuneaton.

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