



CANTA

The Official Organ of the Students' Association
Canterbury University College



WE GOVERN OURSELVES

INTIMATE GLIMPSE III.

HERE COMES CAPPING WEEK

The Annual General Meeting of the Students' Association was held on Thursday 13th, before an attendance of about 130 (10 per cent of the student body).

OFF WITH A BANG

However, Canta does not wish to commit itself to that figure, in view of the first class row with which the proceedings opened about the validity of the Half-Yearly Meeting last August. Exec. said the attendance had been 72 (70 makes a quorum); an indignant group, headed by Messrs. Mall-Jones and Kent-Johnson, said that not more than 35 had been there. The minutes were wrong. The meeting itself had been unconstitutional. The chairman, T. E. Eggleton, throwing himself about in his seat and muttering "the ayes have it" at intervals, attempted to pour oil on the insurgents ("I think you're waffling yourself!"). In this he was aided by Mr. Badian, making the first of a long series of appearances (exceeded only by Mr. Erikson), who suggested that the meeting should indemnify Exec. and everybody else for the actions of the Half-Yearly Meeting. Mr. Drake then rose, adjusting an imaginary wig and gown, and seemed to be saying that to indemnify someone meant to render them harmless (Query?). "As it was generally felt that this was impossible, the meeting, by now fed up with the whole thing, passed a declaration to the effect that the minutes of the H-Y.M. were a true and faithful record of what had passed; and that was that.

The Annual Report was carried; so were votes of thanks to both the 1943 Presidents, R. O. I. Blick and B. J. Drake, and (amid blushes) to 1943's Exec.

The constitution of the Steeds Memorial Hut was then read in as a schedule to the Constitution of the Union, and we learnt that an official called a "guardian" is to be appointed for the hut. It was agreed that this was a nice name.

THE C.O. PROBLEM

Then the Radical Club letter on the subject of supporting Dr. Helen Simpson's attempt to resign the College Council decision on the subject of conscientious objectors was received. Mr. I. L. Holmes, seconded by Miss Bull, then moved for a declaration by the meeting of its support for Dr. Simpson. This, he said, was the first occasion on which the annual general meeting had been asked to express an opinion on an ethical matter. The reasons for their making such a request could not be better described than in Dr. Simpson's words—"it is not a question of rightness or wrongness but of resisting bias, impatience and intolerance." This meant that in proposing the present motion they were not supporting conscientious objection but defending civil liberties under the laws of the land; the Government had never supported the principle that conscientious objection rendered a man unfit for employment. In the whole University only the Canterbury College Council had taken such action. We must defend the rights of minorities.

Mr. J. K. Louissou said he wanted to present the views of returned soldiers, and of those still overseas, and to stress that these opinions must be kept in mind. The soldiers would not be enthusiastic for such a motion, since they considered that they had been fighting for freedom ("so are we in this motion," said Mr. Holmes). He thought that the motion must "in common decency" be defeated. From this point the discussion became decidedly turbulent, and feeling seemed fairly high on both sides; pacifists on the one hand,

and on the other those who insisted on regarding any support for the motion as a direct insult to the soldiers. The general case for the motion was given as the necessity to support the soldiers' fight for freedom by ensuring it at home; that against it as the undesirability of supporting those who denied the value of the soldiers' work. Ending the discussion, Mr. Holmes said that, for all our debt to them, we could not treat returned soldiers as demigods and their opinions as above criticism. The motion was then put and carried by 66 votes to 47; this a returned soldier characterised as "a stab in the back."

FEEDING THE SHEEP

Showing some signs of emotional exhaustion, the meeting went on to discuss the enlargement of the tearooms. Miss Williams, who has the onerous task of looking after them, said that the main task was to secure new tearooms as part of the proposed new Stud. Ass. building when building was possible; but in the meantime we must decide whether to enlarge the kitchen to include the present Committee Room—this would mean a short closing of the rooms—or to leave it for the present. It would almost certainly be impossible to get staff to run the tearooms under existing conditions and she moved for the enlargement. Mr. Erikson here got up and was funny about home science; we'd heard it before. Mr. Holmes moved an amendment to refer the matter to the S.U.C. as it was not suitable for a decision by the general meeting; and this was carried.

STORM AND CALM

Here Mr. Lovell-Smith announced that certain people in the corner had insulted returned soldiers and he wanted an apology. Sensation. Turmoil. Pathetic cries from perfectly respectable people who might come under the speaker's indictment. Gallant attempt by someone to speak on Dr. Helen Simpson's motion. Declaration by returned soldiers that they didn't want an apology. Subsidence of turmoil and Mr. Lovell-Smith. Then Mr. Holland moved a motion about Canta. To the surprise of those who remembered the acrimony of the Elections Meeting on this subject, the discussion became what someone called a "ruddy love-feast." Motion (to the effect that the reporting of student activities is our major responsibility) carried in a fog of compliments.

MOPPING UP

The last important business was a brisk discussion about the adequacy of student representation on the College Council. Mr. Holmes, our representative, explained that he sat with the College Committee, not the College Council, because all business that concerned him was there handled. He had a voice in discussion, but no vote. To get a vote would require a vote of Parliament. He thought there was no need for this, since a voice carried more weight than would one vote among 21. "I think 'e's wrong!" said Mr. McKenzie, who disliked the College Council; this was our College and we should run it, with two representatives, both voting. The matter was left to the incoming Exec. Mr. Erikson said his say.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of the 1944 officers and Exec. (see col. 3), and a tribute to R. C. Lawry, whose services have been lost to Exec., but who will, it is hoped, be able to serve us in another capacity.



T. E. EGGLETON
President-elect 1944.

ENTER EXEC.

Majestically gowned, 1944's Executive swept into their first meeting, preceded by the Hon. Treas. with a storm-lantern hung from a hockey-stick.

THE POWERS THAT BE

Officers for 1944:—
President: T. E. Eggleton; Women's Vice-President: Pat Williams; Men's Vice-President: P. L. Molineaux; Hon. Secretary: M. J. McGlashan; Hon. Treasurer: A. D. McKenzie; Exec.: Margaret Westmacott, Christine Bull, H. MacMillan, A. J. Henderson, P. E. Sutton, R. P. Dansey; Ass. Secretary: P. E. Sutton; Ass. Treas.: R. P. Dansey; N.Z.U.S.A. Corresponding Member: P. L. Molineaux; Students' Union Council (student members): R. C. Lawry, A. D. McKenzie, C. H. Allan; Social Committee: A. R. MacGibbon (chairman), Margaret Westmacott, Lynette Gardiner, J. Gilmour, K. A. Mackwell, D. L. Steven, J. B. Lovell-Smith; Magazines Committee: Maud Eaton (Editor Review), J. G. A. Pocock (Editor Canta), R. P. Dansey (Business Manager); Gym. Controller (also chairman of Physical Education sub-committee): H. MacMillan; Sports-ground sub-committee: T. E. Eggleton, A. D. McKenzie, R. P. Dansey; Blues Committee: R. Perkins (chairman), A. D. McKenzie (Secretary), R. S. Hounsell, W. Young, Iris Orchard, L. Loveridge; Tournament Delegates: A. D. McKenzie (senior), R. P. Dansey; Guardian of Steeds Memorial Hut: I. L. Holmes; Chairman of Open Forum Committee: Helen Hervey; Notice-Boards Sub-Committee: Jeanne Smith, Christine Bull, T. E. Eggleton, A. J. Henderson, P. E. Sutton.

Finally, motions were passed on two points which Canta thinks especially to be approved. A sub-committee of Miss Eaton, Messrs. Tait, Sutton and Henderson was set up to help in the preparation of a questionnaire on student manpower last March. It is hoped that this, by proving just how little we were needed, will help to ensure normal lecture terms in 1945.

The other motion was to recommend the College to support the appeal for release of Mr. G. T. J. Wilson, History lecturer till October, 1942, and now in the Air Force; failing such action, Exec. itself is to support the appeal. Like all who attended Mr. Wilson's lectures, your reporter heartily hopes to see him back.

The meeting then adjourned to Huck's restaurant. Headed by Mr. McKenzie, the hockey-stick and the storm-lantern, we marched in solemn procession round that hostelry; but Oo wouldn't sing. And which of the lady members was it who pinched the lantern to go home, because she hadn't got a bike-lamp?

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY—Afternoon tea, Undergrads. Photograph, Tea-Dance in College Hall.

WEDNESDAY—Dance in Men's Common Room: 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

THURSDAY—"Shipwreck" Fancy Dress Ball in College Hall, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

FRIDAY—Capping Ceremony and Diploma Ball.

ALONE THEY DID IT

Joint Capping Committee:
Chairman and Capping Controller: K. A. Mackwell; Secretary: P. E. Sutton; Treasurer: G. W. Tait; Chairman, Social Comm.: A. R. MacGibbon; Editor Capping Mag.: Miss Janet Morse; Sales Manager, Capping Mag.: Miss Christine Bull; Chairman, Collections Committee: Miss Margaret Westmacott; Advertising: J. B. Lovell-Smith; I.S.S.: Miss Pat Williams and I. L. Holmes.

I.S.S.; READ THIS

Athens lay silent on that early afternoon and in its gray streets the life that was there in seeking to live seemed to see only death ahead. Famine was everywhere and within the great university the lines of ragged emaciated students told their own story of desperate want. They were there now seeking what they could not find themselves—the means to live. Each day at this time the student canteen, run by the professors, doled out to each one a meagre 2½ ounces of olives or 5 ounces of dried fruit and as there were 10,000 to be served this pitiful ration did little to allay the hunger that stood personified in the enormous queue, hour after hour. Somehow these students went on existing, to give to the world just another example of what is happening all over Europe where hunger stalks upon the feet of the invader.

Accompanying this lack of all foods such as meat, eggs and milk is disease, and this cannot effectively be dealt with where there is no food and no medical supplies. Due to the efforts of the European Student Relief Fund 130 tubercular students of Athens University received 1 litre of milk a day for 6 months but all this could only keep them alive a little longer without further aid to finish the good work.

There were in pre-war China 108 colleges, but in two years 54 of them were destroyed. The students were forced for the most part to migrate and travel expenses have formed one of their major problems—money to reach their new centre of learning, a cave perhaps away up in the hills, money for food and shelter, for tuition and study books. To-day there are about 40,000 students and nearly half of them are dependent on aid outside their own scanty resources. Hundreds of them have lost homes and families and can only hope for material assistance to overcome the difficulties that their courage cannot.

There are supposed to be about 5,000,000 prisoners of war now, 5,000,000 men who exist behind barbed wire cut off from the rest of the world and hundreds, perhaps thousands of miles away from their own homes. Here for months or years they are forced to go on living under bad living conditions and with poor food. The danger of physical and mental deterioration is a very urgent one and it is absolutely necessary that everything possible should be done to make the monotonous lives of these men easier to bear. Lectures or some similar form of intellectual activity are absolutely necessary in a prison camp where life becomes a dreary round and other mens faces may become anathema. "For they know that those who give up attending lectures, those who do not succeed in keeping alive the flame of the spirit, become an easy prey to neurasthenia. They sink into idleness, into endless dreams, they spend hours playing bridge or reading detective novels and then, one day,

even this is over, they just lie down on their beds, having lost contact with their fellow prisoners and lost the courage to undertake anything at all."

The International Student Service has already offered help to student prisoners and refugees throughout every country in the world, being impartial in its attitude towards nationality. Its mission is to help every student who has become a victim of this war; a German from Strassbourg University who is interned in Canada; an Austrian refugee in London, a New Zealander in Germany, or a Chinese student who is hunted in his own country. To all of them it brings the feeling that someone is looking after them and is interested in their future. It is an organisation that promotes world unity and from that aspect alone is deserving of every possible support. The proceeds of Capping Week are mainly for the benefit of I.S.S. and the celebrations, etc., should receive the whole-hearted backing of all of us.

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The International Student Service has now operated with distinction during two wars. It is a world wide movement, governed by representatives of organisations such as the League of Red Cross Societies, World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.'s and the World Student Christian Federation, with its centre at Geneva. Its essential function is assistance to students. It is therefore the direct concern of all University students and University authorities. At Canterbury College it has been well known and well supported in the past. For the present and near future, when the difficulties of many students are particularly acute, it fully merits and will, I hope receive, even stronger support.

A. H. TOCKER,

Rector.

1943'S EFFORT

In 1943 C.U.C. raised £374 for I.S.S. Of this £150 represented half the proceeds from Revue, £100 was a donation from the Drama Society and £90 was raised from the Work Day.

The Dominion total for 1943 was £1,645. Of this O.U. contributed £500 and A.U.C. £390.

This money has provided Chinese students with books and medical supplies, Greek students with food, prisoners of war in Germany and Italy with text books and writing materials, and the Geneva and Stockholm offices with money to maintain their world wide connections.

BIG SCOOP TONIGHT

Mr. Silcock's visit to Christchurch just before Capping Week is a very timely one. At a time when students, their interest aroused, are seeking information about I.S.S. here arrives a man with first hand information.

The route to New Zealand from Chungking, China's war-time capital, is through India and Australia. Mr. Silcock has just made that journey. Tonight he is to tell us of the students he has but recently left, students that depend urgently on the work of I.S.S.

Mr. Harry T. Silcock is an M.A. of Oxford; sometime Dean of the Faculty of Education, West China Union University, Changtu; Chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with China in England and a joint Secretary of the Friends Service Council. He has been 16 years in China and knows personally many of the leading figures in that country. To all of which it may be added that he is reported to be a damn fine speaker. College Hall, 8 p.m. tonight.

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Do You Know?

That Dr. Allan defined a volcano as an overflow of saliva from the Vatican?

That Mr. Morris says he saw Sir Joseph Ward in the Post Office, reading CANTA and looking sad?

"Yes," said the gentleman from V.U.O., "Wilzek, I've heard of him. Does he drink?"

That the list of wants for the Steeds Hut has been reduced by: glasses, a bread knife, some tea towels, two or three mattresses and a generous donation for furniture?

That Rex Barrell has been lowering the tone and raising the note of the History Department?

That Ken Tocker's inaudibility in public speeches is probably due to the confidential nature of his private conversations?

Heard at a club meeting:

Chairman: "Now there by the door is our treasurer, Miss—. If any of you don't know her I can assure you you'll be much more familiar with her when you've paid your subscriptions. If you pay at the door now it might save you much embarrassment later."

CANTA

Editor: J. G. A. Pocock.
Sales Manager: Pearl West.
Business Manager: R. P. Dansey.
Sports Editor: M. L. McGlashan.
Artist: Pearl West.

RETURNED SOLDIERS & C.U.C.

We print elsewhere in this issue a report of the debate at the Annual General Meeting on the position of conscientious objectors. There is no need here to look into the rights and wrongs of the discussion; but the debate has nevertheless brought into the light what may prove a major problem in University life for some time to come. The peculiar animation and even emotion of that part of the meeting was undoubtedly caused by the fact that returned soldiers of this war took the lead in opposing the motion for the reinstatement of conscientious objectors on the staff; and especially by their repeatedly-expressed belief that the opinion expressed by the meeting on this motion would also be an opinion on their work and that of their comrades as soldiers for the general cause. This was put most bluntly by the speaker who declared that by the vote in favour of the motion the soldiers had been "stabbed in the back."

It was clear at the meeting, and it has been clear since, that there was considerable feeling and even antagonism on both sides. It has been thrust on our notice that the mutual adjustment, made necessary by the return of men from three or four years' war to University life, may have considerable psychological problems in store for us. It is not very likely that such problems as the "conscientious objectors motion," bringing about such direct opposition between returned men (and their sympathisers) and the rest of the student body, will often recur; but the danger of mutual resentment is a real one. Returned men must not be made to feel that students under-rate their efforts; students must not run away with the idea that all returned men are militaristic or brutalised by the horrors of war, or any idea equally silly. In the meantime, it seems possible that there will be further difficulties. The period of transition, of settling in, is a critical one, because it is then that extremism and intolerance can do the greatest harm. It may be that our chief responsibility in the near future is to avoid doing that harm, or it may be that the matter will adjust itself without becoming critical; but there is no harm in proceeding with caution.

MISS MARSH'S ADDRESS

The following is a summary (necessarily too short) of the presidential address delivered by Miss Ngaio Marsh to the first 1944 meeting of the Drama Society on Sunday 16th. Though her main subject was the difficulties facing a student dramatic group, she began with a brief reference to the Group Theatre project; this, she said, was not yet a fait accompli. Much of the impetus behind such a movement should come from the University, and the past record of C.U.C. made it especially fitted for such an association.

Turning to her main subject, Miss Marsh said that a student dramatic society faced many difficulties peculiar to its nature. Its membership was fluctuating; which was probably a good thing, since it should not be hagridden by a small group ("Pronounced click," said someone sotto voce). Having no assets but enthusiasm, it must attempt to achieve a finished production immediately; there could be no period of slow growth. On the other hand, it could usually count on an equal ignorance in its audience.

In the matter of choice, being unhampered by any false modesty, a student group would probably attempt the most difficult of plays with blithe confidence. More serious than this, however, was the tendency, especially pronounced in New Zealand, for students to judge a play by its conformance to their preconceived ideas—political, sociological, ethical. As an example, consider the film "In Which We Serve." Many with strong Left opinions would refuse to see any virtue of any kind in a film with such a subject; and yet, said Miss Marsh, change the uniforms from those of the British Navy to those of the Red Fleet, and the very sentiments which such critics had denounced they would then admire. (Here we noticed our film-reviewer jumping up and down in his seat in an ecstasy of appreciation). Again, change the Russian general in a remote part of Siberia, in the rightly-admired play "Distant Point," to a British general in some outpost of empire, and the Left would sweep out of the theatre, muttering.

This weakness was also shown in the desire to be rebellious and shock established conventions. Incest, prostitution, and social diseases in this light had achieved a sort of sanctity. "Last year," said Miss Marsh, "when I first suggested doing Othello, I had a very tepid reception, until I happened to mention that the part of the prostitute was a very hard one to cast. Their faces immediately lit up and they went away murmuring that they really must read Othello." The warning of this was: by all means perform plays that present your ideological con-

victions, but be sure that they have other claims to admiration.

The time a play should remain in rehearsal was a knotty point. To the great Russian producers—Stanislovsky, Meierhold—it was not unusual to work 12 hours a day for two years. In England, four weeks was a long period for a West End production; students, who had to start from scratch, should allow themselves 8 weeks.

It had been suggested that student drama should be more thoroughly integrated with the teaching side, especially in English and classics. There were dangers in this idea, but in a time like the present, with the prospects of a dramatic renaissance in N.Z., it should be discussed.

Dr. F. WHITE ON THE C.S.I.R.

Canta was recently afforded an interview with Dr. Frederick White, who was on the staff of the Physics Department till 1941, when he left to do war work in Australia. His work has taken Dr. White to various interesting parts of the world, but (whether through modesty or security) he declined to be interviewed on this subject and preferred to tell us about the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Australian counterpart of the D.S.I.R. The work of this body, he said, had at first been concerned almost entirely with primary production; but as greater emphasis had come on to secondary and industrial matters, it had split up into various more or less autonomous departments, dealing with forestry, wheat research, radio-physics, and so on.

Dr. White said that the most interesting thing about the history of the C.S.I.R. was the light thrown on the relations between research and the practical worker, manufacturer or farmer. Ad hoc research, he said, i.e., research carried out on demand from some industry for light on a particular problem, was much to be avoided; research must be left free. The ideal was to accumulate a pool of all the known data on the various matters with which the research council was concerned; from this pool of information could be passed out to those in need of it, while research to expand the data was carried on. However, the practical worker was not normally in direct touch with the research worker; rather the two stood at each end of a chain; the interval being filled by intermediate and educative organisations, such as Lincoln College in the agricultural branch.

Dr. White thought that the maintenance of the various links in this chain was an important task for the future, as all were equally important. The dangerous tendency in New Zealand was to concentrate on the practical or applied aspect at the expense of originality and research.

MISS MITCHELL

Over the vacation the College suffered a severe loss with the departure from the staff of Miss Mitchell, Assistant Lecturer in Botany. Born in the Midlands, near Tamworth, she graduated at Birmingham University with a double degree in Botany and Biochemistry, later specialising in Algae for her M.Sc. She came to Canterbury University College in 1939 from a post in the London University on a teachers' exchange basis.

Her cheerful, friendly manner won the confidence of the students, despite her carefree nature with regard to many things which she considered unimportant (e.g., returning library books). Of more moment than her mere irreplacability is that great sense of personal loss which all those who were privileged to know and work with her now feel. Few people, especially in New Zealand, have ever demonstrated greater interest in so many diverse matters, chief amongst which were the scientific attitude, modern writing, social welfare, world affairs, progressive politics and the latest biological developments as well as her own special line of study as an algologist. An outstanding champion of women's rights to independence, her radical views presented an outspoken challenge to all conservatives and were a constant source of stimulating discussion. Her nature was a most remarkable combination of a genuine spirit of scientific enquiry, yet abstinence from cynicism; optimism, yet never so extreme as to impair her sound judgment; together with an amazing zest for life.

Miss Mitchell's influence on the students was very great indeed, but began largely where the formal classroom ended—in other words she tried to help her students to become good citizens, and not merely scientific recluses.

FILM REVIEW

The new Duvivier film "Flesh and Fantasy" is, like its predecessor "Tales of Manhattan," one of the very few films which could be described as a work of art. It makes full use of the aesthetic possibilities of the cinema by exploiting those qualities and seeking those effects which are possible on the screen alone, and cannot be successfully, or easily, conveyed by a stage-play or novel. The stage-play is still the best medium for inspired acting. The novel is still the best medium for continuous narrative and psychological analysis. The true art of the cinema lies in a different sphere, where conversation is reduced to a minimum, where atmosphere is heightened, and where the aesthetic effect is achieved through the perfect blending of photography, acting and direction.

"Flesh and Fantasy" is also an example of superb camera work. By an inspired use of lighting, shots from unusual angles, filming people half-length instead of relying on full-length shots and facial close-ups, he creates what is almost a new world of looming figures and fading shadows.

To describe "Flesh and Fantasy" as a work of art, however, does not mean that there are no flaws in the production. There are quite a few—a rather confused central theme around which three stories are supposed to hang, the usual Hollywood conventions about Great Loves, Great Sacrifices and Everyone Living Happily Ever After, and an unsatisfactory humorous ending which clashes badly with the drama of a few shots before. Yet such is the authentic quality of this film that these, and other sentimental lapses, are readily forgiven and soon forgotten.

"Flesh and Fantasy" is three stories based on the single theme of man's responsibility for his own actions.

The third story is the weakest. The suspense is skilfully sustained and Charles Boyer gives his usual picturesque performance, but the mediocre plot with its Hollywood trappings does not give Duvivier the opportunities he needs. Because of poor material like this, overseas critics never tire of telling us that Duvivier's American films are infinitely inferior to his French ones. Nevertheless "Flesh and Fantasy" like "Tales of Manhattan," is a work of art, and as such in a different category to other Hollywood products.

M. S. E.

HARMONY WANTED

Sir, "Dear, dear!" said I to myself, still troubled after many moons with distant reverberations of thunder—"I thought the thunder would have died down long ago. But still it goes on, and it's spoiling everything, and preventing us from getting on with so many interesting jobs that are well worth while. And it's all caused by the loyalty of my old friend Anthony Adverse to his friend Frederick Finger-Skill, whom I admire so much—and whom he thought I had attacked! Well, perhaps the only way to stop it is to dispel the conflicting clouds of misunderstanding"—so here goes!

One frosty night last year the C.U.C. Choral Society decided that if they were to raise their voices effectively as a student society they must have more students to swell the song. They put their heads together and someone suggested "What better medium for interesting students could you find than Canta?" So I was deputed to write a few paragraphs for Canta with this object in view. I tried to show what had been done in the past and what might be done in the future, and, limited by the exigencies of space, mentioned only the concerts fairly recently given in the College Hall, omitting a very interesting one, which I myself had enjoyed, given by Mr. Page in the Students' Reading Room, as well as those given under the conductorship, I am told, of Mr. Thompson before Dr. Bradshaw's Choral Society came into being.

My paragraphs also suffered rather severely from the editorial pen, in matters of addition as well as subtraction—but far be it from me to curb the enthusiasm of the youthful editor. I bow always to her superior wisdom.

It appears, however, from the magnetic storm developed in a letter in answer to my innocent adjurations, that I was misunderstood. I feel that I owe it to my good friends on both sides of the water to assure them that nothing could be further from my thoughts than to cast aspersions on anyone who has given his time and energies and abilities for the good of the College. The cause of the College Choral Society is a fine one. Can we not all pull together, now we are on the threshold of another year, to bring it a step further forward?

Yours, quite impersonally and very sincerely,
MURIEL A. INNES.

SCI-SOC.

At the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Scientific Society held in the Chemistry lecture room on Thursday, 20th April, the following officers were elected:—

Patron: Dr. W. P. Evans; President: Dr. R. S. Allan, Prof. W. Sandler; Chairman: Mr. E. Wilzek; Hon. Sec.: Mr. R. H. Hopgood; Hon. Treas.: Miss B. Jowett; Committee: Misses P. Glasgow, H. Jobberns, Messrs. M. McGlashan, B. P. Hill, R. H. Stonyer, B. W. Jackson.

BASKETBALL

The Basketball Club held its first practice of the season on Tuesday, April 19th, at which 19 members attended. Two teams were chosen from this practice to play on Saturday in the Competition Matches, but members are reminded that these are tentative teams only, and may be changed when the coach has further opportunities of seeing how members play.

The following were elected to the Basketball Club Committee for Sec.-Treas.: Jeannie Smith; Committee: Joan Paul, Joan Gardner, Lynette Gardiner.

OPTICIANS



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GROUP THEATRE R.I.P.

Through no fault of its own, the New Zealand Group Theatre, whose aims and birth were reported in the last edition of Canta, has been semi-permanently liquidated. As it was found impossible to come to satisfactory terms with Messrs. J. C. Williamson Ltd., who control every theatre in the land, the project has been dropped—temporarily at least, possibly for all time. You may be sure that all efforts are being made to give New Zealand a theatre of its own. It is hoped that a new scheme can be evolved, making us independent of the theatres by touring the country with a tent or a fit-up. Further developments, if any, in Canta.
A. J. H.

NON-RES. WOMEN'S CLUB

The Non-Residential Women's Club was originally founded in 1940 and existed over a period of three years; it eventually became defunct owing to the plea of many students that they lacked time. The object held in mind by the foundation members was to form within the College one club in which non-residential women students of all faculties could meet together and take a common interest in college affairs, since it had been noticed that outside the hostel dwellers there was a large section of students who, beyond attending lectures, maintained an apathetic attitude to college activities.

Evening meetings were held every three or four weeks, and courses of lectures were delivered while the members busied themselves with knitting for the merchant navy. From time to time picture parties and dances were organised and Non-Residential women's teams challenged other College Societies.

It has now been proposed that the Non-Residential Women's Club should be revived, with similar objects in mind, but in particular that of fostering an integrating spirit among students of different faculties. This, it is hoped, could be furthered by social teas every four weeks, and followed by brief talks; the subject of these is yet to be decided, but it will be one of interest to students following all courses of study. It has been remarked that as all must eat, no one could make serious complaint about the sacrifice of one tea hour per month. Also it is intended once again to organise Dances, Picture Parties, and challenge matches, and, if possible, once more to take up knitting for the forces.

In particular this invitation is extended to Freshers—come along to the meeting which will be held during the last week of the term. Take advantage of an opportunity to meet your fellow students, and take your part in what is hoped will be an active, interesting and happy society.

TRAMPERS REPORT

In spite of travel restrictions the Tramping Club has been able to carry out its activities in the Pass region and to date two trips have been held to the head of the Waimakariri.

About the middle of March, six members accompanied two members of the N.Z. Alpine Club to the bivvy site above the Waimak Falls. The object of the trip was to give some help to the Alpine Club in transporting material to the site and this was carried out successfully. A few members again went to the bivvy at Easter and it is now completed.

At Easter the club once more tempted "Old Man Norwester" by going to the main divide where norwesters have made conditions hopeless for the last four Easters. However, this year we were lucky and except for quite a bit of misty weather, conditions were very good.

Twelve members went out and followed the Three Pass Route as far as Park-Murpeth Hut at the head of the Wilberforce River. From here they went down the Wilberforce to Harper Crossing at the head of Lake Coleridge where a truck took us to the Power Station. From here they reached Christchurch by Midland Bus.

It is unfortunate that the first trip of the year has had to be the major one for the year as it has not given freshers time to find their feet on Sunday and weekend trips. However, we hope to see many new members out on these foothills trips in the near future.

EDUCATION REPORT

Symptomatic of the renewed interest in education and the increasing recognition that something must be done, is the report on the Post-Primary school curriculum, which aims at correcting some of the absurdities under which we who are at the University now once suffered.

More specifically the Report has been framed to set out the requirements demanded by the School Certificate, which is to take the place of the academically stifling Matriculation for the ordinary secondary school pupil. For pupils who wish to enter the University, and whose work has been satisfactory, Matriculation will still be accredited in the year following the completion of the School Certificate course.

Stated briefly the Report envisages that the School Certificate will be a three or four year course composed of several compulsory core subjects and normally three options. The core subjects comprise English and Social Studies, General Science and Elementary Mathematics, Music, Art or Craft (including Home Crafts for girls) and Physical Education. There are 32 options from which theoretically the pupil can choose, grouped under the broad headings of Social Studies (i.e., History and Geography), Mathematics, Aesthetic Subjects (e.g., Drawing), Agricultural Subjects, Commercial Subjects, Subjects related to the Home (e.g., Clothing), Natural Science (e.g., Biology and Chemistry) and Technological Subjects. The pupil will be required to sit an external examination on one section of the English and the three options. The other core subjects may be accredited.

ENGLISH

Perhaps even more significant are the new attitudes the report reveals. Particularly noteworthy is its approach to English. It is at last officially recognised that the study of English, for most people, is only valuable in so far as it enables them to communicate and appreciate ideas. The conventional literary approach which sees English purely as a vehicle for essay writing is, the report insists, as destructive of sincerity as it is wasteful of time. For most pupils it would probably be better if English were taught more in connection with Social Studies and other subjects. It can be freed from the stranglehold of literature, because English prose can be appreciated in a travel book or an historical work just as easily as in the Victorian novel. Pupils must still of course be given the opportunity to appreciate literature, and, for this and other purposes, instruction in the use of libraries is most essential, but the main emphasis should not be entirely thrown on literature. Nor, on the other hand, should it be thrown on formal grammar which again should really be taught by way of what is after all the fundamental task, that of communicating and expressing ideas.

HEALTH AND MATHS

Another great improvement is the treatment of physical education which, the report rightly emphasises, is more than a matter of physical exercises. There should be a thorough-going health education course to cover such topics as the structure and functions of the body, health and the community, world health problems, the nature of health and disease and some simple bacteriology. At the same time an efficient recording system should be inaugurated to cover the pupil's health history throughout his school years. The report also envisages a more practical approach to mathematics. Only elementary mathematics is to be demanded of the ordinary pupils, and, as it points out, "much of the arithmetic should be of a social and informational character." Examples could be concerned with "the savings bank, National Savings Certificates, life insurance, social security contributions and benefits." (Incidentally an interesting contrast to German propaganda methods which frame arithmetic examples around armaments, population calculations, air raid damage, etc.)

These three examples serve to illustrate what is probably the report's most valuable feature—its attempt to relate education to the realities and requirements of everyday life from which it has only too often strayed.

Occasionally, however, the authors of the report seem to fail in their application of this, their fundamental aim. Take, for instance, their treatment of the subject of Social Studies which is a core subject for all pupils.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In latter years it has been thrust more and more on everyone's attention that the school cannot ignore some of the most important features of a man or woman's life. If people are to vote intelligently and bring pressure on parliament to adopt the right policies in regard to such vitally important issues as war, social legislation, or unemployment problems, they need to know something about these matters. And it is surely the school's function to assist in the formation of an enlightened public opinion. The report recognises this, although it couches most of its arguments round the rather vague term "citizenship." Unfortunately, however, it seems unlikely that its provisions for Social Studies will do much to remedy the position. It speaks, for the most part, about a new "integration" or synthesis of history and geography which is to comprise the major part of the social studies course. Even excluding the very relevant consideration that books, and still less text-books, are not written in this fashion and that few teachers are equipped with both subjects, one is forced to wonder whether this is quite the right way to approach the problem. Might not a judicious and simplified description of the chief political and economic systems and institutions and a mention of relevant problems be more to the point? Such matters are, it is true, mentioned in passing, but the main emphasis is very much on a rather vague integration of history and geography. It would probably be advantageous to connect these two subjects; but this does not mean that they can be assumed to cover most of the ground comprised by the term "social studies."

INCOMPLETE BUT GOOD

Apart from these relatively minor criticisms there remains the very real fear that many of the admirable features of this far-sighted report may remain pious hopes unless there is very careful planning. It seems regrettable that the committee had deliberately to restrict itself to curricula considerations and barely mentions the almost inseparable problem of whether its recommendations are practicable.

For instance, it is very soon obvious to anyone reading the report that no pupil at any school will have a choice of thirty-two options. Schools must inevitably specialise, and, in consequence, the pupil cannot have much choice. However, if there is careful planning, it is possible that, in large towns at any rate, the different High Schools can cater for different options. This means that the pupil can get his choice of option by way of his choice of school. But in country schools and small towns this is hardly possible; and it is only with careful planning that large towns will be in a better position.

However, it seems hardly fair to criticise the report for omissions which its writers have declared outside their scope. The report puts on paper what the more enlightened teachers have been thinking for years and is recognised as a great advance in New Zealand education. It is moreover, a great advance on the Spens and Norwood Reports and the White Paper on education in England (where they are still tied to compulsory foreign languages and religious education and are still reluctant to admit social studies). One can only hope that equally qualified and efficient authors will one day present us with a long over-due report on University Curricula.
M. S. E.

Heard in the Chemistry Cloak Room:—Male Fresher: Oh, this isn't "Ladies Only" or anything is it?

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ENGINEERS, RADICALS AND R.H.

"That man whose unit of mass is the pound instead of the poundal"—as stated by the physicist, or "The gentleman who indulges in promiscuous approximation" as so aptly described by the mathematician, has sallied forth this year in greater number than before, so that the polished floors of the Engineering School resound with the crash of many feet, T-squares, and theodolites.

As a result, we have quite a large membership of the Engineering Society this year, and the Society has already had several good meetings. On the 15th March, at the Opening Meeting, Mr. T. M. Stanton gave an address on "Engineering Aspects of Town-Planning" to an audience of about 60 members. Besides a very interesting and instructive lecture, the speaker showed the Society a film on Town-Planning which depicted the chaotic conditions in some of the world's big cities, and the effect of a well-planned city on the conditions of living.

At the Annual General Meeting on the 29th March, the following officers were elected:—President: Professor Powell; Patron: Mr. J. R. Templin; Vice-President: Messrs. Calvert, Campbell, Bird, Hitchcock, Lush, Neale, Stanton, Tonkin, and Professor Steele; Chairman: D. W. C. Bebbington; Secretary: R. G. Norman; Treas.: B. Forbes; Committee: Messrs. Cockerell, Clapp, Holmes, McIntyre, Sanders.

This year we intend to hold a conversazione or Lab. Night, so that the Christchurch Public, and the University in particular, will be able to SEE MORE OF THE ENGINEER. (All right, don't think it.) The School of Engineering will be thrown open one evening, with its labs and machines in full action (going flat-out, in fact), so that the public may get an idea of exactly what goes on behind those dark walls. Those who will be interested and will come along (meaning everybody) are warned:—

(1) To wipe their feet carefully on the mats provided and not drop cigarette ash on the floor.

(2) To refrain from profanity within the precincts of the school.

(3) Not to "rat" anything from the Engineering School—it may only be a lump of old iron or something, but who knows—it might be indispensable for the running of the School.

(4) To BEWARE OF MACHINERY IN MOTION AND ELECTRIC CURRENTS.

By the way, for the benefit of the social butterflies, caterpillars, etc., we ARE, after all, having our Annual Ball next Friday night in the College Hall, and we'll be most terribly "tore-up" if you can't find your way to come along. After all it IS the best hop of the year (except for Dale Carnegie).

BOOK REVIEW

Proceedings, Vol. 19, C.U.C. Engineering Society:

Ten papers is an unfortunately restricted selection from three years' activities of a very much alive Society. Recent members of the Society will remember many excellent papers that do not appear in "Proceedings." Nevertheless such enforced selection has resulted in the printed papers being all of a uniformly high standard of interest and presentation. Particularly interesting are the student papers, which suffer nothing in comparison with those of the more mature engineers.

If in contents this last volume of "Proceedings" compares favourably with the "Annual Reports" of pre-depression years, in format it is greatly in advance. Caxton Press are to be congratulated on the excellent job they have made of this, a technical magazine.

Probably what will make this volume of "Proceedings" most valuable to members of the Engineering Profession is the very complete list of old students of the School which is appended. Some 600 names are listed together with professional qualifications and the most recent known addresses. Such a list has not been published in any form since 1931.

Practically all Engineering papers of importance are first published in periodicals. Consequently engineering periodicals have become a first line of reference for practising engineers. Local engineers could well accept the Engineering Society Proceedings in that category.

To those who remember the sanctuaries of ardour which attended the inaugural meeting(s) of the Radical Club in 1943, the annual general meeting for 1944 could not seem other than somnolent. Some 26 persons—at least two of whom appeared to be dead—trickled in and made themselves comfortable; Messrs. McKenzie and Gormack enlivened proceedings a little by winding a skein of violent-colour-wool. The Chairman, Mr. C. V. Walter, was delayed by an unexpected visitor, but finally arrived (without visitor) and matters proceeded. The interminable minutes of last year's noisy general meeting were taken as read, we proceeded briskly through the minutes of the extraordinary general meeting in February (see first CANTA); then to the Annual Report. This, I fancy, was the work of Bernard Newman and bore many traces of last year's enthusiasm. The Radical Club, it said, had made itself a vital force in student life. Here Mr. McKenzie went to sleep.

Various letters were received; one urged us to attend a meeting of the Post-War Reconstruction Society, which unhappily was being simultaneously held; another, from a lady who signed herself "Yours fraternally," announced the imminent formation of a lending library at the Co-op Book Shop and solicited our aid for this laudable object.

We then went on to what the chairman called "emotions affecting the constitution." These were chiefly concerned with the end of the financial year, now March 31. Miss Anderson said something about "financial members carrying on from one year to another."

Elections of officers followed. President: Mr. H. Winston Rhodes (unopposed); Chairman: Miss Elsa Flavell (unopposed); Secretary: Miss Enid Thelning (unopposed); Corresponding Secretary: Miss J. St. John (unopposed); Treasurer: Mr. Erikson (unopposed); Auditor: Miss U. Powell (unopposed). Note: this isn't clique, it's just apathy; Committee: Messrs. Tony Curnow and M. L. McGlashan.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up by the reports of the delegates to the Easter Youth Conference in Wellington. From Miss Flavell's remarks we learnt that many praiseworthy resolutions had been passed. Mr. Erikson, however was disappointed and said that nothing whatever had been done and no national organisation had been set up.

And so home. Perhaps the uninspiring nature of the evening was caused by the simultaneous meeting of the Scientific Society; but it would seem that considerably more student interest is needed if the Radical Club is not to roar as gently as any sucking dove.

TRUE-LIFE STORY

The air was heavy with the hum of conversation and tobacco smoke. Shrill and raucous bursts of laughter punctuated the continuous vibration of chatter, while spirals of blue smoke from innumerable cigarettes drifted casually upward to the ceiling to add to a mounting haze, hanging, unmolested in the lack of ventilation. Sprawled in indifferent attitudes around small tables littered with dishes and cigarette ash, groups of young men and women were talking, discussing, arguing, gesticulating, all with an enthusiasm peculiar to their type. Almost everybody in the room had something to say.

However one man, sitting alone, seemed to find the atmosphere oppressive, for with a quick glance around the room he pushed back his chair, stood up from the table, thrust his hands in his coat pockets, and without looking to left or right, strode resolutely to the swinging doors. Only one or two distant stares greeted his movements, but as he turned to pass through the doors a pretty girl detached herself from a group and made a move in his direction. The man caught the movement from the corner of his eye but before he could move, there was a sudden cry and the girl fell sprawling at his heels. For an instant a dreadful hush choked the room. Spinning round he darted to the girl's side.

"Jeannie. What's happened?" His question was the prelude to an uproar as Jeannie looked up. "It's O.K.," she grinned. "I just slipped on a damned buttered scone."

TEAPOT.

(Any resemblance to actual persons in the above is purely accidental; we think.—Ed.)

With every room full and over 70 men in the House R.H. looks forward confidently to 1944.

Initiation was as usual a fine time, at least for the old men, and though the annual visit to Cannon Hall was marred somewhat by a downpour which the young ladies of that institution insist to have been a shower of rain but which we rather suspect to have originated from the stirrup pump on the top balcony. The ceremony rose to a climax in a brilliant address to freshmen by Mr. Knight who offered advice gained from bitter experience on the evils of wine and women.

At the Annual Meeting of the House Mr. W. C. Colee of the Hostels' Committee, installed Mr. R. P. Dansey as president for 1944. Other officers elected were:—vice-Pres.: Mr. Bebbington; Sec.: Mr. Cockerell; Treas.: Mr. McIntyre; Council: Mr. Dickison, Mr. Tyrnbul and Mr. Bullick.

A debate was held on Sunday last in which one side attempted to prove that religion was a good thing and the other to prove that it was not. Lively discussion resulted and more debates are to be enough to challenge C.H. and H.C.H.

We held a dance, too, last Friday week in the Men's Common Room and in spite of a migratory tendency on the part of certain couples it was still a good dance when it finished at 1 a.m. Highlights of the evening were Chopin interpreted beautifully as an interlude by Gavin Bartlett, Bob Norman's entrance clad in pyjamas, and the announcement that Cannon Hall had invited us to a dance on the following Friday.

This dance was even better and to the Committee and students of Cannon Hall we extend our grateful thanks for the splendid time they gave us—we only hope that we made a sufficiently good impression to have the invitation repeated some day.

For the first time for many years the house is well represented on Stud. Ass. Exec. with three seats. We extend our congratulations to Peter Gilmour on his marriage—even though he didn't risk inviting any of us to the ceremony.

Among the changing faces:—Ross Julian has left us for the Air Force; Bill Duncan and John Gillies separately paid us flying visits at the beginning of the year before they entered their new positions in life. Now comes the news that Steve Wills is going to the Air Force. He will be missed at the House.

FOOTBALL RESULTS (Tut, tut)

Senior v. Technical-Linwood Lost 25-14.
Junior v. Albion-Southern-Merivale—Won 5-4.
Third Grade A v. B.H.S. 1st XV Lost 45-3.
Third Grade B v. C.C. 1st XV Lost 53-0.

POET'S PUB PILLARS OF SOCIETY

I'm a pseudo-intellectual
With morals ineffectual,
And I really cannot see
What all the ruddy fuss is,
Why I get all the cusses,
Why it all comes back to me.
I only get with all my friends
And discuss the latest trends.
The reforms we want to bring in
Are always sensible and just:
I can't see why some people must
Think we're washing dirty linen.
I'm told I'm member of a clique
*And will stoop to every trick
To gain my paltry ends:
I say I only want to see
Right management at C.U.C.
Not just what Heaven sends.
*Alternatively: And will not hesitate
to squeak.

FESTE.

(We suspect this of being a belated election address.—Ed.)

CANDID FRIEND

The writers of comic verse
Get worse and worse.
I flatly refuse to sing Ho
For W.H.O.;
Feste
Is a peste;
The writer of anonymous rhyme
Is a perambulating chryme.
Likewise the contributors in prose
Get up my nose;
Why did the universe hatch
Satch?
But do not think that there anta
Kind word in my vocabulary for
Canta;
And those who talk about cliques
Are tiques.

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