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The Journal of the University of Leeds



THIRD SERIES
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June 1941

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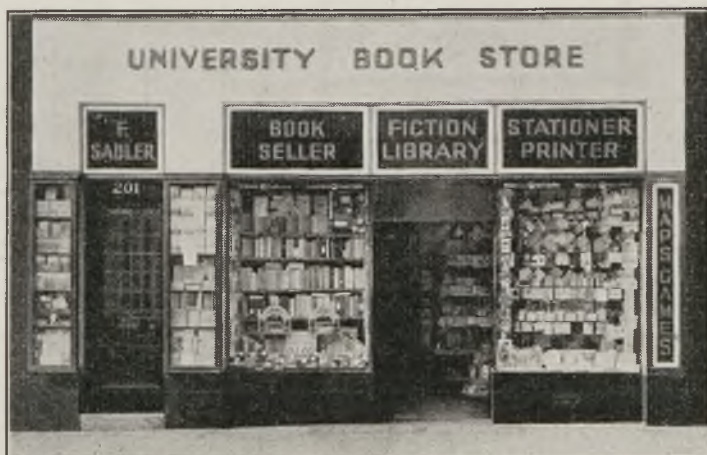
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The Gryphon

THE JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

"The Gryffon never spreadeth her wings in the sunne when she hath any sicke feathers; yet have wee ventured to present our exercises before your judgements when wee know them full well of weak matter; yielding ourselves to the curtesie which wee have ever found than to the preciseness which wee ought to feare."—LYLY

Editorial

THE long-awaited statement from the Government on Students and National Service has at last been published. We know the worst. The University Labour Federation have characteristically produced a pamphlet with, inevitably, a list of "points", some of which are quite ludicrous and unreal, making one wonder how well-versed in student and University affairs their bureaucracy is, and some of which are quite sound. N.U.S. has made more moderate and constructive suggestions—as one would expect, since it necessarily knows more about the reactions and wishes of students, and interprets them instead of inspiring them. Every student must have his own opinion on them, for they affect everyone.

In that the regulations are designed to prevent the Universities from being turned into pleasant and readily available alternatives to National Service, we welcome them. We note with shame and regret that it should have been found necessary to compel students to do what was clearly their duty in the U.T.C., Home Guard, or Civil Defence. The regulations are capable of infinite interpretations, however, and we have tried several—and we wonder when the institutions which we know as Universities will become part of the machinery of the Ministry of Supply. Our Universities must obviously be adjusted to meet war conditions; they should have been adjusted in 1939. But adjustment should not mean liquidation, and we are firmly convinced that any system which entails the virtual closure of any part of a University is quite contrary to the National interest.

We have no desire to base a bloody revolution upon the maintenance of education, neither do we advocate such maintenance just because it is against the Government's expressed policy; and we deplore and condemn organisations whose motives are so contaminated. But just as emphatically do we condemn the prostitution of our Universities which these regulations portend. In effect, they provide for the mass production of half-baked physicists—mere micrometer men, who cannot possibly claim a University standard of education. "To hell with culture" say the regulations, and our complacent society takes up the parrot cry, "There's a war on!" and fails to see that the potential effect of the Arts student on humanity is of infinitely greater value than his immediate presence in the army. No. Either our Universities must be maintained as *Universities*, or the Government must be quite honest about it and admit that it wants to turn them into third-rate technical schools.

It is a big principle, this maintenance of Universities, but what in effect does it necessitate? Actually very little; the new regulations could easily be so adapted as to admit of it. Extension of the regulations for technical students to students in non-technical faculties, and insistence on a high standard for qualification for

Continued on page 145

Notes and Comments

"A chiel's amang you, taking notes,
And faith, he'll prent it" BURNS

Rag

Details are on another page. It seems to us that at last a cure has been found for the mysterious falling-off of Rag activities and takings over the past few years. The Colleges are enthusiastic; new blood, new ideas—if the Union really puts its back into this Rag, even though it is a wartime venture, record results should be achieved. There must be crowds of enthusiastic flag and *Tyke* sellers (the side shows can safely be left to the experts), and we've got to touch £2,000.

Blurb

The *Yorkshire Evening News* recently devoted two columns and an illustration to a eulogy of the efforts of some medical women who helped in the Queen's Messengers' Food Convoys to Hull. Now we do not wish in any way to detract from their actions—it was a fine example which many of their more complacent colleagues might well follow, but we do feel that publicity such as this is in very bad taste. The girls merely did a job of work; it was not the most pleasant job in the world, but it was no more wonderful and glorious than any other form of Civil Defence, and the fact that they are medical students is quite beside the point. We are sure that they had no desire to hit the headlines; we hope that future activities of students in this direction will not be the subject of lyrical outbursts so totally lacking in perspective.

This same journal also recorded the exploits of one, O. Snow, who toured Headingley apparently semi-nude "to advertise the Rag". "*Oliver hopes to prove,*" says this highly edifying account, "*that one can be happy even in wartime, despite the killjoy attitude of some Rag critics.*" Such actions as those of Mr Snow are in shocking bad taste, and cannot have any but adverse effects upon the attitude of the public towards students. We would remind him that the Rag was deliberately "toned down" because it was felt that pre-war frivolity coming from young men of military age was quite out of place, however worthy they were of their reservation. We hope that the Rag Committee will disclaim this unfortunate "advertisement", and that Mr Snow will some day grow up and be able to appreciate his adolescent exhibitionism at its true value.

Co-operation

The Inter-College dance was a great success, and the proceeds, about £20, will be handed to I.S.S. This inter-college project must *not* die; it has great possibilities. We see that some day the Colleges of Technology, Commerce, and Art are to be housed in one building, and when that time arrives both the University and the Colleges will be pleased that they are on such intimate terms. Here is a job for next year's Union Committee—keep at the local co-operation scheme, it is invaluable.

Middlesex

In another capacity we had the privilege of attending a meeting of the Middlesex Preclippical Students' Union. It was a revelation. They do not bother with such refinements as Constitutions, and seem to get far more done in this way, mainly because no one sets out to "pull a fast one" on the chairman. We congratulate them on their enthusiasm, and hope that a large part of it will be expended on Rag activities. It was pleasant, incidentally, to see one member wearing a Leeds Union colours tie.

Initiative

The English Society are to be congratulated on arranging the visit of the Pilgrim Players on 15th May, and also for their return visit on 10th June. The performance we saw, "Murder in the Cathedral", was one of the most polished and interesting productions we have seen, certainly the finest yet produced in the Riley-Smith. We hope that there will be as good a house for "Tobias and the Angel", which is being presented next time. Good work, the English Society—students are not *all* apathetic!

Coriolanus

Frankly we were disappointed in Coriolanus; we realise that we are, in print, in a minority, but the show did not come up to our expectations. Perhaps because Shakespeare's long speeches were incompatible with the modern dress, possibly because small details of production made the play unreal—the messengers hurrying round the grand piano, revolvers on the wrong side—anyhow, it was just not a first-rate performance. Betty Thacker, as Valeria, stole one scene and was extremely good; her dress, dialogue, and deportment all fitted together—unlike that of the Tribunes, E. Hauger and W. Middlemiss, who could never get more than two of these essential attributes together at once. Leslie Sands, as Coriolanus, was good and, once or twice, excellent. The best performance, in our opinion, was that of Eric Mitchell as Menenius Agrippa. We shall look forward to seeing this production again in Rag Week; Mr Muir's very witty prologue is reproduced elsewhere in this issue, and it is well worth hearing again. We recommend anyone who has not seen this show to take the opportunity of doing so on Wednesday, June 25th.

Committee

We have often been rude about the Union Committee, and our only regret is that never once have we been taken to task by it for so doing. It has not really been inefficient, just dull and unenthusiastic, and the feeling of uncertainty and inadequacy which seems to have predominated throughout the year is quite understandable. We hope that next year's Committee will have more success—even in the dumbest Committee there are a few sound people, and it is up to them to lead and inspire their colleagues.

Vale

And so we relinquish the Editorial Chair. We ourselves have had an interesting and at times highly entertaining period of office, and if ever we have unintentionally given offence we are sincerely sorry. Deliberate criticisms (which we have always tried to keep constructive) and intentional jibes we would repeat *ad infinitum*. We have tried to make this journal as accurate a reflection as possible of the life of the Union of the University of Leeds in this second year of war; we have encouraged political controversies, for although we ourselves regard extremists with horror, we hope that others who have been swept along in their rhetorical stream will pause when this emotional flow is translated to unemotional print, and, pausing, will find out for themselves that blind acceptance of any doctrine is as dangerous as political agnosticism. We have tried to avoid hysterical outbursts and all forms of cheap exhibitionism, and we have tried to keep in mind the diverse nature of our circulation—some two thousand subscribers, of all ages and professions, in all parts of the world. How far we have succeeded it is for them to say; both we and our successors would be extremely interested to hear criticisms and suggestions for the improvement of *The Gryphon*, which will continue to be published as long as it is humanly possible to do so.

The Editor alone is responsible for opinions expressed in the Editorial and Notes and Comments, and these must not be regarded as necessarily representative of any official organisation.

Union Notes

Summer Vacation

The opinion of the Union Committee that the long summer vacation might well be used for a fourth term of University lectures and classes, so enabling all reserved students to obtain their degrees earlier, and others to get nearer to theirs before being called up, was brought to the notice of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

The Senate considered the matter and it has been finally announced that for the Honours Physics students, and for a small number of other students, a summer term will be instituted. There will be no such term in the faculties of Arts or Medicine. *It was due to the keenness of the first year (pre-registration) medics that the matter was first raised at the U.C.* The science laboratories will, however, remain open throughout the summer vacation, no extra fee being payable for the use of these laboratories during that time.

Civil Defence Work

All students who are willing to help the civil authorities in any capacity if needed after an air raid on the city are asked to give their names in at the Union Office, where a register is being formed. The register is being formed in various categories, e.g. persons able to drive motor vehicles, persons willing to act as billeting officers, etc.; 40-50 members of the Engineering Society have gone into training as members of Rescue Squads. The number of names on the register is, to date, very small; it is hoped that this indicates that most members of the Union are already members of some defence organisation, rather than that they are bluffing themselves that "it can't happen here".

Academic Dress

A request to the Authorities, that the rule forbidding the attendance of girls at lectures unless wearing stockings, should not be enforced this year, has been refused. Apparently the Union Committee has been misinformed *re* the difficulty of obtaining "this article of feminine apparel".

Honorary Degrees

The Riley-Smith Hall was lent to the Congregation of the University on May 29th, on the occasion of the conferment of Honorary Degrees upon Emeritus Professors Paul Barbier, John William Cobb, and Alexander Hamilton Thompson.

Cafetéria

It has been found impossible to obtain adequate paid staff for the cafetéria. Students have earned the gratitude of their exhausted and hungry colleagues by giving their services gratuitously—monetarily—in the dispensing of refreshments and helping in the mysterious rites which go on behind the scenes in the kitchen. Without this voluntary help there could have been no cafetéria service.

Union Committee

The successful candidates for the ten open seats on the Union Committee for 1941-42 are as under—Mr A. Clarkson, Miss E. S. Cooper, Mr L. Cohen, Mr G. Filderman, Mr F. Hambrey, Mr C. L. Lewis, Miss E. M. Lowes, Miss D. Plows, Mr J. Tiplady, Mr J. O. Wolstenholme. Votes cast at—Medical School 126, Dental School 33, Remainder 353; Total 512 = 33% of electorate.

University Intelligence

Meeting of the Council, Wednesday, 21st May 1941. The Pro-Chancellor (Colonel C. H. Tetley), in the chair.

The Council recorded its deep regret at the loss by death of—

Lord Stamp, an honorary graduate of the University;

Mr G. R. Brench, an honorary graduate, who retired from the office of Accountant in 1924 after 42 years' service in the University.

Mr V. H. Rhodes, Assistant Lecturer in Music.

The following gifts to the Library were gratefully acknowledged—

200 Volumes on church architecture and antiquities, English history, and topography, from Mr G. Herbert Peake, of Bawtry Hall.

Twenty-three cookery books, presented by Lady Chatterjee, of Weybridge.

A set of ten illustrated volumes, *Elizabethan England*, by E. M. Tenison, presented by the Pilgrim Trustees.

The Council received with pleasure and gratitude the gift by Mr W. Balmforth Haley, of Ravensthorpe, of a valuable collection of fruits and seeds gathered from all parts of the world. The collection, to be known as the W. Balmforth Haley Collection, will be housed in the Herbarium of the Botany Department.

Mr R. A. Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., was appointed Junior Surgical Tutor.

* * *

Health Weapons Week

The Rag this year is to take the form of a "Health Weapons Week" June 21st-28th that is, an attempt to make the public "health conscious" and more generous towards the hospitals. This is to be a combined effort by all the Leeds students, who, it is hoped, will turn out in full force.

Tyke Day is on the 21st June; on **Rag Day**, 28th June, flags will be sold and the treasure auction will be held somewhere in the city. The **Rag Revue** will be presented at the Odeon Cinema from 23rd-28th of June; the **Dramatic Society** is to restage "Coriolanus" in the Riley-Smith Hall on 25th June. This year there will be three **Rag Dances** during the week—Tuesday, at the **Town Hall**; Thursday, at **The Capitol, Meanwood**; Saturday, in the **Riley-Smith Hall** of the Union. The latter, for students only, will be **free to all Rag Day Collectors**. Throughout the week cookery demonstrations of wartime dishes, mannequin parades, and an exhibition will serve as a reminder to the public. Leeds citizens held the first War Weapons Week, Leeds students will hold the first Health Weapons Week.

YOU

can make this a successful effort by giving your wholehearted support.

H. BARRETT WADE

Honorary Secretary Leeds Students' Charity Rag

Editorial—continued from page 141

degrees, would meet the case. Neither would admission of arts students in numbers sufficient to keep their departments alive adversely affect in any way the size or efficiency of the fighting forces. It is useless, however, to rely upon favourable interpretations of regulations; there must be uniformity in their application, and we hope that the Government will make it clear that it does not intend, even in the greatest crisis in history, to sell the soul and body of British culture for the doubtful advantages of half-trained technicians and infinitesimal increases in the armed forces.

In Defence of "Thorough"

DESPITE much lip-service paid to the adage that to try without succeeding is better than to succeed without trying, the general tendency is to exalt him who spots and backs the winner (if only with words or wealth) above him who lays down life and fortune in a losing cause. Seldom has this ignoble attitude been more clearly shown than in May this year when the tercentenary of a great Yorkshireman's death was almost ignored not only by the nation as a whole, but even by his own county. Yet we must look far in the annals of our history to find a truer representative of his county or a more devoted servant of his country than Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. It is evident that although the day is passing when the historian was content to dismiss this greatest of seventeenth-century statesmen as an ambitious careerist, he still lives in the popular imagination as a kind of English Bismarck, inspired by ideals utterly alien to a liberty-loving people.

While it is small wonder that the apostles of "enlightened self-interest" had no sympathy with a philosophy founded on self-sacrifice, and that the advocates of *laissez-faire* viewed as pure tyranny the attempted control of private enterprise and limitation of profits in the common interest, we who are faced with the results of their victory may judge more fairly of this great man's work. Nor need we be surprised that a character such as Strafford's provoked in his lifetime bitter enmity as well as deathless friendship. A Yorkshireman to the bone, outspoken, high-handed and incurably hot-tempered, he never stooped to flatter the pride of the great or the vanity of the small. Moreover, it is the lot of every reformer to alarm and enrage reactionaries and revolutionaries alike, the former by recognising discontent, the latter by removing it.

Strafford's creed is a challenge, his work an answer to the Emersons and Eldons who assume that conservatism and reform are incompatible. His desire was that Englishmen, "running in the worn, wonted channels, treading the ancient bounds", should work together for the happiness of the people, unhindered by revolution, war and party strife. Confident in "the wisdom of our ancestors who have so fixed the pillars of this monarchy that each of them keeps a dual proportion and measure with other", averse both to despotism and to supreme power vested in an assembly representing only the propertied classes, he fiercely resisted any encroachment by the Crown on the rights of Parliament, or by Parliament on the royal prerogative. Above all, he wished for such mutual trust between Monarchy and People that each might be more zealous for the other's rights than for its own. Surely, this is a truer idealism than the doctrine which makes the upholding of personal rights the first duty of every citizen and assumes that those who assert themselves most are the worthiest of help and notice? It is a measure of the grandeur of Strafford's creed that his voluntary surrender of life was no more than its logical fulfilment. If the safety of throne and commonwealth, "things infinitely before any private man's interest", demanded his death, he could not withhold the offer. But how many whom history has rewarded with the name of Patriot would have written, "To a willing man there is no injury done"?

Strafford's work perished with him, but his memorial—and he would have asked no better—was the fidelity with which the counties he had ruled supported the Royal cause. Northerners did not easily forget that while he had demanded much of them, he had also done his best to save them from a virtual occupation by the Scottish army, imposed with natural cheerfulness by a Parliament at Westminster. But it was only by degrees that the tragedy of Strafford's failure appeared. Not

until authority had become identified with wealth, until poverty had degenerated into a crime, the slums grown up unchecked, and a free peasantry been turned into "hands", was the cry again raised in favour of the State as the protector of society and the guardian of the poor. If this cry, backed by the unreasoning force of human misery, should ever result in the replacement of our historic institutions by a centralised and uniform tyranny, we may the better appreciate Strafford's wisdom in trying to associate an ancient and lawful authority with a new and greater justice. If we would escape so harsh a lesson, we must follow in the steps of one who, distinguished alike as a servant of the Crown and as a leader of Parliament, indifferent to theories and catchwords and careless of unpopularity, ever strove to ensure that "joint and individual of the King and his people" which was his ideal. A policy formed for the seventeenth-century cannot be transplanted in its entirety into the twentieth, but Strafford's watchword "Thorough", misused as it has been and is to denote a policy of tyranny and terror, still retains its ancient meaning, its call to duty and to sacrifice. It is our privilege to fight against the lawless violence and oppression of the weak that were Strafford's bane. It is for us, the youth of England—and above all of Yorkshire—to establish that "fair but bounded liberty" that "protection of the poor and innocent" for which this noblest of English statesmen lived and died.

* * *

A. E. C.

Hope

If this were all our life, existence here,
Why were we given feelings, passions, hopes?
Why joy and fear, tenderness, urge to rear
Castles intangible, unperfected?
Why not machines to perish in the void
Oblivion? But no, the radiant sunset,
Gold-gleaming, wakes within a sense of awe,
Of joy, of faith. Therefore life cannot die.

A silent pool; vast amphitheatre
Of harsh-hewn hills, reflected round its edge;
Deep-hearted bluebells, flanked by sword-
sharp leaves,
Say great and small must prove Eternity.

The sad unfinished phrases of a bird,
A perfect voice, now cracked with creeping
age;

The numbing climax of a symphony
Sinking to commonplace among the din,
The empty, raving babble bursting forth;
The unattained surcease of Chopin's heart;
These are the great beginnings, mighty
symbols

Of everlasting perfect harmony.

Brave love itself, all-potent, all-absorbing,
Lives for to-morrow, though to-day be sweet;
Lives for an ideal, deep, unfathomable,
Of Permanency. All is transient,
Joyous, but never free from lasting pain
Of fitting happiness. Our hope must be
That worthy aspiration, purest love
Finds complement eternal. Else great God
Has ceased at nearly perfect, incomplete.

FABIOLA

* * *

On page 153 we have reproduced the "Recital by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in commemoration of Benefactors" spoken on Founders' Day, 29th May 1941

Students and Military Service

Statement of Policy issued by the Executive Committee of the National Union of Students

The National Union of Students has always consistently maintained that the Universities and Training Colleges of this country have a function of unique importance in the training of doctors, teachers, scientists, and administrators, and that every effort should be made to enable them to fulfil this function, particularly in critical times such as the present. The Union, by resolution of its Council, has frequently recorded its opinion that although students have clear obligations of service undenied by any, the Universities should not be regarded as serving merely wartime needs. It also feels strongly that the provision of technical education alone is not the full contribution which the Universities can make to the training of a generation for responsible educational, social, and administrative work.

In the light of this policy the Executive Committee of the N.U.S. has carefully examined the new regulations on the calling-up of students, issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service. It sees in the official statement evidence of a new conception of University education involving other than academic factors, and considers that certain amendments and clarifications are required if these new regulations are not to risk transforming the Universities from centres of enlightenment and constructive thought to technical colleges or military academies. With particular reference to military training, the Executive welcomes the statement of opinion of Sir Hector Hetherington, Principal of the University of Glasgow, as published in the Press on 1st May 1941. **"The military part of their training here must be kept in place and perspective, for if it were otherwise we should defeat the very purposes which the maintenance of the Universities is intended to serve"**.

The Executive feels that among the possible dangers which may arise are—*(a)* an over-emphasis on military training at the expense of academic work or the extra-curricular activity which is an integral part of a University education; *(b)* a drastic decline in the arts and non-technical faculties, having as its consequence a country impoverished in lawyers, teachers, social workers, administrators; *(c)* the use of the Universities by some young men as a quick road to army commissions (in view of compulsory service in Senior Training Corps); *(d)* emphasis being laid on "powers of leadership" which may operate in favour of public schoolboys or in other ways lead to a subjective assessment of the worth of any student.

To prevent these possible dangers from being realised in fact, the Executive urges the following amendments in the regulations—

- 1—Entry into the University should be determined by academic qualifications only.
- 2—The Reviewing Board should be composed of academic representatives only.
- 3—The Reviewing Board should be unaware of the school, parentage, or social status of the prospective students interviewed.
- 4—Students in the Arts and other non-technical faculties, and in the Training Colleges, should receive the same treatment as those in the technical faculties as regards the conditions under which they may finish their courses, provided that they take part in S.T.C., A.T.C., Home Guard, Observer Corps, or other approved form of service and training.
- 5—A specific guarantee should be made that the Arts Faculties will be maintained.
- 6—There should be no one-year courses in the Arts faculty.
- 7—Military training should not be instituted in such proportions as to prejudice academic work.
- 8—Decision as to whether any student shall be allowed to continue at the University should be based on examination results only, and not on any one person's opinion of his progress or suitability.
- 9—The position of prospective women students should be made quite clear.

Continued at foot of next page

Leeds and the National Union

DURING the past year, the Leeds Union has been an unenthusiastic and rather passive member of N.U.S., in spite of having acted as host to an Education Conference and to a Council. In a large Union like Leeds, the circulation of *Student News* has never risen above 150 copies, though when someone who was really interested in selling this journal took over the job, the entire issue (which was not outstandingly good) was sold out in two hours. Perusal of Council Minutes (they are always available in the Union Office) shows that Leeds delegates seldom make any contribution to discussions, and the N.U.S. report on the Union Committee is regarded as a dreadful bore. Leeds has only just paid its subscription.

The National Union, for its part, has at last passed the "cross roads" which have so often confronted it—rather like *Alice*, the harder it tried to get past the further away they became, and when no attempt was made, it suddenly dawned on everyone that the Union was again on the high road. Faculty work is, and must remain, the signpost; witness the successful Faculty Conferences, and the success of the National Congress when it was organised on "Faculty" lines. If the Union Committee is too torpid to interest itself in N.U.S., it is the duty of the faculty societies to do so; if the societies are just not interested, Leeds might as well withdraw from the Union and admit itself complacent and apathetic.

Other University Unions, though carrying on under much greater difficulties than those of Leeds, support N.U.S. activities; the Training Colleges, especially, are giving their senior brethren practical demonstrations of interest and efficiency. N.U.S. can do much to help students to get a great deal more out of a University training than academic qualifications alone, but it must be actively supported. Its financial condition is parlous and it cannot afford sleeping partners. Leeds is not the only one, but it is the worst, and must, for its own sake, overcome the terrible inertia under which it is labouring.

Practical suggestions? Well, the inertia in the National Union direction may be overcome from above downwards by energising the Leeds delegates to Council, the Union Committee which hears* the N.U.S. report, and the faculty societies. Or it may be overcome from below upwards, by students who are right outside the bureaucratic hierarchy but who take a lively interest in the subject. Look at Miss Cooper's efforts with *Student News*; she has nothing whatever to do with the "ruling classes", but she gave them such an object lesson as would shame a less paralysed collection of morons.

Watch the notice boards and ask at the office for details of N.U.S. Vacation Work. There is plenty being arranged—farming, forestry, care of evacuated children, etc. Don't go to sleep just because the Union Committee likes it better that way.

P.R.

* A euphemism.—Editor.

Students and Military Service—continued from previous page

The Executive has the impression that the general tone of the new regulations is one of discouragement to go to a University. It feels that on the contrary **boys and girls should be officially encouraged** to become students and that financial obstacles should not be allowed to stand in the way of the best possible students coming up to the University.

* * *

"... I find on inquiry that there is no difficulty about obtaining stockings."
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

The Bomb

IT had taken him a long time to make up his mind, but now he had absolutely decided. He smiled grimly as he said goodnight to the bus conductor, and turned off along Chestnut Avenue towards number 42. All these people didn't know about it, naturally. But they'd read it in the papers and revel in it, probably. It just couldn't go on any longer; he wasn't as blind as she seemed to think. They'd been married four years. "For better or for worse"—well, it had turned out to be for worse. He wasn't to blame. They all said he was the steadiest chap in the office—"stick-in-the-mud" they liked to call him. It showed their lack of originality.

He felt a strange twinge of uneasiness as he let himself in, and gave her a forced smile as she came towards him.

"Good evening, James!" She kissed him, lightly. "Hard day?"

"Not very." He wondered if she would detect the hard note in his voice. Evidently not. He'd given her credit for far more sharpness. She was looking very attractive to-night; but then, she always did.

They had dinner, and talked spasmodically. Birmingham had caught it last night; grim sort of war—couldn't last for ever. Had she got his cigarettes? No, he didn't expect so. Of course, he forgave her.

Afterwards they sat before the fire, cosily. The firelight played on the walls a symphony of crimson and brown shadows. They were very quiet until the news.

"... and enemy bombers are known to have crossed the coast to-night in several places ..."

"Shut the radio off". He sounded faintly angry.

"Isobel!" No, she had been mistaken. His voice was quite soft and gentle. It was impossible that he should suspect anything. They had always been so careful.

"Yes, dear?"

"There was something I wanted to ask you. Put the light out, will you? The black-out isn't too good, and the fire lights up the room quite well."

His face was expressionless in the warm glow.

"Have you seen George lately?"

"Why, no, James. Not since they came to our bridge session. Gosh! What a night! The place isn't anywhere near tidy yet. Why?"

"You're lying, Isobel". His voice was too soft. "It's no use covering up any longer. I know all about it. Yes, you're quite right, I *have* followed you—oh, several times. Pity I was always left out of things—I began to feel quite the gooseberry. I suppose it's natural; my best friend—once,—young, charming, plenty of money, good-looking. But it's all over now, Isobel. You won't see him any more. In fact, you won't be seeing anybody after to-night. Why? Because I'm taking a hand in matters, my dear. Nobody will hear you if you scream, you know. The sirens will drown your little row completely. Besides, George would like to think you had been brave—afterwards."

His fingers tightened on her throat. A strange feeling of joy welled up inside him. Power! He'd never expected he would feel so good. Now he understood why there were so many murderers. Oh, yes, it was certainly pleasant—and so easy. Lord! She was putting up a regular fight. What on earth was that droning? She should be hearing funny noises, not he.

Her gasps were weakening now. One last effort would finish her off. He braced himself—then there was a queer howling that forced its way into the innermost recesses of his consciousness, and the opposite wall came forward to meet him . . .

* * *

Isobel opened her eyes to find a steel-helmeted warden bathing her forehead.

Continued at foot of next page

Correspondence

To the Editor of *The Gryphon*
Sir

DEVONSHIRE HALL
LEEDS

Mr Fletcher, in his last article on the People's Convention, is careful to show that he thinks little of what he calls the "intellectuals" and their academic minds. But is Mr Fletcher himself so far removed from this class? Even assuming we agree with his proposals (i.e. those of the People's Convention), let us examine them to see if they are measures capable of practical fulfilment. We must establish a people's government in this country and make Britain a democracy worthy of the name; whereupon the German people will immediately realise what a heavenly paradise on earth a true democracy is, overthrow Hitler, and establish their own people's government to make peace with us. Now is this really a practical programme or just another dream by those "intellectuals" whom Mr Fletcher dislikes so much?

Do the supporters of the People's Convention sincerely believe that the most critical stage of a total war is exactly the best time for an internal political revolution in this country, for revolution is what it would have to be? Is it really so easy to establish in a week or two that perfect democracy they desire, merely by overthrowing the present Government and changing the constitution? Some of the leaders of the People's Convention movement do not altogether commend themselves to the democratic spirit—Mr Pritt, for instance, who refuses to resign his seat in Parliament at the express wish of his constituency. An internal political revolution, moreover, is exactly what Hitler desires in this country at the present moment—witness the open support for the People's Convention on the Berlin radio.

Let us assume, however, that a People's Government is established in Britain; how, then, does Mr Fletcher think that the Germans are to be made aware of the fact that Britain is now the perfect democracy? Britain, in the eyes of the German, is exactly what the German leaders desire him to think it is; perhaps Mr Fletcher has more faith than the writer in the B.B.C. broadcasts to Germany and the effectiveness of dropping pamphlets. Nor would the granting of Indian independence be interpreted in Germany as other than the convenient disposal of an embarrassment.

It would not be right to conclude an article about the People's Convention without mentioning Russia. It has long been held by the Communists that Russia will refuse to assist Britain as long as the war is a "capitalist ramp". But why, then, does Russia so materially assist China in her struggle against Japan? Russia knows where her interests lie—she views the exhaustion of Europe, if not with satisfaction, with cynical calm, and a People's Government in this country would not change that attitude in the least.

Yours sincerely JOHN S. SCRUTON

The Bomb—*continued from previous page*

Her left arm was pretty badly smashed up, but they had fixed the splints whilst she was unconscious.

She could only mutter feebly. Her throat felt like a piece of white-hot iron; she knew it must be horribly swollen.

"Where's my —"

"I'm sorry, Mrs Richards". The warden's voice was unsteady. "I'm afraid we were too late to do anything for him. It had to be one of you, and we thought . . . Try not to think about it now".

He turned to his companion as she fainted.

"The bloody swine! We'll pay 'em back for all this. What harm had this poor kid done?"

The sky was quiet again.

S.

Prologue to Coriolanus

Some of you, if your faces are a guide,
Come to our play to-night with conscious pride,
Expecting to be bored, but glad at heart
To pay with yawns your lip-service to art.
Others there are whose pedantry supplies
What Germans call *Ersatz* for being wise:
They want the Bard unaltered, and are vex't
At any slight departure from the text.
(To tell the truth, we're in a horrid fright
Lest Shakespeare's skeleton rotate to-night!)
Others again view Amateurs with pity,
And bought their tickets only to be witty
At our expense—with such as these, we feel,
Our task of pleasing will be *difficile*;
For sure, he must have more than mortal skill
Who would please anyone against his will.
We chose this play because, although it's good,
You have less chance to see it than you should;
In Modern Dress, so that you all may see
Shakespeare's remarkable modernity—
The problem of the Dole, the Unemployed,
The hero's Ædipus Complex *à la Freud*;
The noble lord, who plots against the state,
Dishonoured in an ecstasy of hate;
Than Quisling or Laval he's nobler far,
Who chose the open treachery of war,
While they in noisome alleys turn and twist,
To earn the title of Fifth Columnist;
O may our Guilty Men from Marcius' fate
Learn to retreat, before it be too late!
Now, while before our valiant Wavell's thrust,
Another Roman Empire meets the dust,
Declines and Falls so swiftly that we see
Our Gibbons puffing after breathlessly;
Now when Benito's bubble starts to burst—
A name to all succeeding ages curst—
Behold this fatal tragedy of pride!
Can Adolf live, when Coriolanus died?
And may all those, who other men despise,
Who steal their rights, and blinker them with lies,
The blind and crooked leaders of the blind,
Who into Slaves and Masters split mankind,
Denying all the birthright of the free,
And mocking at divine Equality,
Find (when the recompense, though long delayed,
In God's good time, by human will is made)
Forgiveness from mankind they have betrayed.
Only the Just, who overcome their hate,
Can build a world to ride the storms of fate,
And only Mercy makes a nation great. KENNETH MUIR

In Commemoration of Benefactors

TO-DAY we hold in pious remembrance the Founders and Benefactors of the University of Leeds. We commemorate their high resolve; we recall their munificence; and we honour their steadfast endeavour. More especially do we venerate the faith which impelled them to set up in this City a home of learning, to the end that we, being partakers of such an inheritance, might increase in knowledge and be established in truth. Aspiring to be their successors in spirit, we claim kinship with this distinguished family of the dead and the living, and we gratefully acknowledge the trust they have reposed in us. Fortified by their example, and enriched by their bounty, we are determined to link our purpose straitly to theirs; to foster sound learning; to conserve the wisdom of the past; to defend the freedom of the mind; to harness zeal to criticism; to make discovery the reward of humble inquiry; and thereby to equip men and women in greater measure for their service to this nation and to the world. Thus by our labours in this place we may justify the intention of those who went before us and, in due season, pass on to our own posterity the heritage of their hope.

Review

IN retrospect, the session just ending presents itself at first glance as a dull and uninteresting succession of unimportant details. Nothing has happened; there has been a constant yelping, or rather a monotonous chanting of "Apathy!" "Complacency!" "Inertia!" from the intelligentsia—a theme which has been deliberately excluded, as such, from the pages of *The Gryphon*. Let us look, therefore, at the two principal records of the Union's existence—*The Gryphon* files and the Union Committee minutes.

September

In *The Gryphon* we find mention of the Medical Students' Emergency Scheme, a spontaneous demonstration by the Medics. that they were not content to sit on their backsides when everyone else was doing something "constructive". We also find the first (and last) "Spotlight" which caused such a furore that ensuing ones, planned to pick out anomalies in Hostels, Lodgings, the Rag, and other traditional University rackets were abandoned. The Infirmary common-room is relatively palatial now, though. The Union Committee lent £1,000 interest free to the Government. This money, which accrued through the swimming bath not being built, will be paid into the bath fund after the war. Club levies, a traditional sixpenny extortion, were abolished; the Union was opened to H.M. Forces; there was a report on the critical N.U.S. Council at Sheffield; the Rhythm Club and the Methodist Society were approved.

November

The Gryphon records the first Bar to be established in the Union, the coming-of-age of the Boat Club, the arrival of the Middlesex preclinicals, and it makes the first of a long series of gibes at the Union Committee. This august body at its penultimate 1940 meeting decided to black-out the Gym. and to appoint Miss Wilde Honorary Secretary, N. B. Belshaw having been called up.

December

The Union Committee did not trouble to meet this month. *The Gryphon*, however, records the success of the Blood Transfusion scheme, and announces the University of London Union's scheme for vacation work in Stepney. An account of the Annual Council of N.U.S. reports the burying of many hatchets, and the election of a past-president of Leeds to the Presidency. There is another gibe at the Union Committee's torpidity.

January 1941

The Union Committee, after over two months' recess, met and expressed its confidence in its delegates to the N.U.S. Council, who had used their own judgment and not followed the letter of their instructions. The Medical School was trying to have fire-watching made compulsory. C. L. Lewis had been appointed Honorary Secretary in place of Miss Wilde.

February

Both *The Gryphon* and the Union Committee discuss inoculation, and the latter takes steps to make the service available to all students. It also lends the Committee room for an exhibition of Old Masters, and alters its bye-laws to enable it to discharge inefficient officers. Approval of and moral support for *The Gryphon's* "Co-operation" scheme is expressed, the Air Squadron is formed, and Middlesex is represented on the Union Committee, which again comes in for adverse criticism from this journal.

March

The Union Committee recommends that the summer vac. be reduced, that women students be not compelled to wear stockings, and that it be allowed to pay its own employees as it sees fit. The U.A.U. rejects the Leeds G.A.S.'s plan for smoother working, which is, however, adopted by W.I.V.A.B.

April

At the April meeting of the Union Committee, the Secretary reported his inability to communicate with the Town Clerk on the subject of students' assistance in emergency work; the Riley-Smith Hall was lent to the Leeds Concert Society, which had been bombed out of the Museum; it was recommended that the long vacation be shortened, and, again, that the University regulation about stockingless women be relaxed.

May

The May *Gryphon* records the change in the Constitution which permits of a woman being elected President, and Miss Wilde's election to that post. It commented on the N.U.S. Congress, which seventeen Leeds students attended, on the success of its own local co-operation scheme, on the forthcoming Rag, and on the Rockefeller scheme for Anglo-American exchange of Medical Students.

Outstanding Advances and Achievements

The Medical Emergency Scheme. The Club Licence. The U.L.U. "Blitzed Areas" scheme. Local co-operation. N.U.S. Congress. D. D. Haw's energy in arranging an exceptionally interesting exhibition of locally-owned Old Masters, and also the visit of the Pilgrim Players. The Barbier-Richardson revision of the Constitution, which, unfortunately, hung fire. E. Heaton's organisation of fire-watchers. G. Bott's election to the N.U.S. Education Committee, and the election of a Leeds man to the Presidency. Miss Wilde's election as the first woman President of the Union.

* * *

From this necessarily brief review, what salient features emerge? First, that a great many things *have* been done, but that they have been done in a half-hearted manner; that many potentially progressive schemes have been allowed to stagnate; that more energy and initiative has been displayed by non-members than by members of the Union Committee, which never once rebuked the Editor for being rude about it. In short, lack of interest and enthusiasm on the Union Committee, and absence of encouragement by officials of individual enterprise which flourished in spite of, rather than because of, official recognition.

In spite of this grey survey, one would not prophesy a completely bleak and futile future. Enthusiasm does exist. Those who possess it must see to it that it is not allowed to die because those who ought to canalise it are falling down in their duty, and officials must differentiate clearly between Tolerance and Indolence—the latter being a vicious perversion of the former with an excess of its characteristic *laissez faire* and none of its critically constructive idealism.

P.A.H.R.

* * *

Procrastination may be the thief of time, but "never do to-day that which can be put off till to-morrow" is more sound as a practical dictum. The fact that we must die some time is no reason why we should all die as soon as possible.

Dress Rehearsal

FROM an indescribable tumult of hammering, excited conversation, maltreated scenery, snatches of gramophone music and sundry scrubblings and sweepings at the back of the village hall, there emerges the piping voice of the village schoolmistress somewhat ineffectually calling for silence. This is the moment which has been anticipated by the members of the local dramatic society with varying degrees of eagerness or apprehension according to the confidence of each individual performer.

The schoolmistress steps to the fore and assumes all the authority of producer. She is almost immediately deflated by the stage manager who is perched precariously on top of a tall step ladder puffing mournfully at his pipe and nursing some antlers. Wearing a slouch hat, and jacketless, he presents a sad picture as he motions dismally in an attempt to convey to the producer that her treasured notion of fixing antlers over the doorway in the country house scene might conceivably result in their descent upon some unfortunate person's skull. Reluctantly she abandons the project and contents herself with having only the brass warming pan hanging on the wall. But the difficulties have just begun. The inevitable producer's watch must inevitably go wrong. Someone must be sent out to beg, borrow, or steal a watch for her, and everyone must wait until they can be timed accurately. When all such major difficulties have been overcome and everyone is waiting breathlessly to begin, all kinds of minor difficulties appear. The pewter tankards from the local inn have not arrived, someone has torn his trousers, the lights have fused, or one of the ladies has lost her fan. All sorts of people have to be sent dashing hither and thither bringing this or doing that before everybody is finally satisfied.

Last-minute arrangements are being made with the stage manager, who will be reminded when to lower the curtain by a call boy. The bright young man under the stage who is going to be responsible for playing the incidental music on the gramophone asserts that he will be sure to know when to start and stop by listening to the sounds above.

Everything starts well. Rossini's overture "The Silken Ladder" blares out from the gramophone and dies away obediently as the curtain rises to reveal the country house scene—*without* the antlers over the door—for the first act. There is the usual round of forgotten lines, missed cues and general inaudibility, not to mention the fact that the servant drops a glass when he brings in the wine. In true professional style the stage manager orders the scene to be "struck" towards the end of the act; but, much to the surprise of the producer who is watching from the back of the hall, the inexperienced scene-shifters almost drown the actors' voices, moving about noisily and allowing whole walls to lurch violently backwards and forwards. The curtain goes down on Act 1 and there is a confusion of scene-shifters and ropes whilst the gentleman up in the flies, whom nobody has ever seen but whom everybody has heard grunting and cursing, hoists up the country house and lowers a London street.

Meanwhile, the incidental music, this time Boccherini's "Minuet", is competing in vain with the tumult caused by the life-and-death struggle raging behind the curtain which eventually rises to reveal a young man who looks as if he would like to soliloquise if only the music would stop. Someone rushes off to tell the gramophone operator what a blundering fool he is, the music breaks off abruptly, and the now somewhat overstrained actor begins to speak. The actors are certainly beginning to warm up now and the second act is a decided improvement on the first until the call boy reminds the stage manager that the curtain must be lowered after the words "Tell him to come back at once!". Of course he forgets to mention that the same

words occur ten lines before the end of the speech, with the result that the curtain is lowered in the middle of the last speech of Act 2 giving the unfortunate impression that the actor, who is bellowing from behind the curtain, has been censored.

Once more the scene is changed, this time to the accompaniment of Schubert's "Marche Militaire" and the curtain rises to reveal the scene for Act 3—the country house, where the now exhausted cast are expected to work out the somewhat exacting *dénouement* as convincingly as possible. The curtain descends.

The producer steps forward and mutters the usual speech about the play being "quite satisfactory except for one or two minor points", by which are meant such things as lurching walls, dropped glasses, and forgotten lines, and thus yet another play has been produced whose first performance will really be a dress rehearsal.

J. E. WILLIAMS

* * *

Lasciate ogni Sperenza

Life, I have sought for thee where boldly
stretch

Tall terraces of stone along the street;

I thought to find some pity for a wretch

Walking on pavements, ringing with heel's
beat;

I thought 'neath lofty columns of men's art
To find some ease for a tormented heart.

I find thee not. Hemmed in on every side

By stone, by stone, by artifice of men,

I find no life. Be the street ne'er so wide,

The builded row so noble, even then

No heart ease, nothing but the feeble dreams

Of beings seeking glory in all their schemes.

Now when we see the newly-risen town,

With brave new citadels and spacious walks,

And every man is swelled with self-renown,

Even now, among them crumbling ruin
stalks;

And they, though life is scurrying all around,

Are wasted, desolate, a dusty mound.

D. A. R.

* * *

Dream

I have seen him, my gipsy one, my very dear,

Half-way over a hill, beside a linden tree,

And my heart was twisted tight with a
foreign fear,

For his eyes were witchery.

O could I still the world, and the round
bright skies,

Enchant all souls in charmed tranquillity,

Hushed he would stand for ever more, his eyes

The only life, the fettered mystery.

IDES

* * *

Boat Club please note—

No solid or liquid sewage may be discharged into a stream; no polluting matter from a factory or mine may be discharged into a stream; and no solid matter, rubbish, cinders, etc. may be discharged into a stream if it is likely to interfere with its flow.

Rivers Pollution Act, 1896



"You cannot seek to bribe or twist
Thank God, the British journalist;
But seeing what the man will do
Unbribed, there's no occasion to."

Ogden Nash.

This was our Valentine, which modesty prevented us from publishing at the time.

* * *

"... only two furnaces went out after the students started stoking themselves."

H.O.R. Notes.

Is this a parable—a euphemistic way of saying that since the students took over the cooking, so far only two have succumbed? Or is it a case of dereliction of duty—a midnight orgy instead of tending the boilers? Anyway, the mental picture of H.O.R. shovelling coals into burning fiery furnaces lends itself to infinite elaboration.

* * *

"... I wish we could get hold of more University students for this work."—*Mrs Austyn Barran, referring to Canteen and Food Convoy work.* Cannot someone co-ordinate something somewhere? (*vide* previous Gryphons, Union Committee Minutes, N.U.S. Circulars, etc.).

* * *

"For many years I, and others, have maintained that the conception of punishment is not of our time but a survival from the far past, and that it is our business to replace it by a more modern conception of the Protection of Society by the appropriate treatment, to the end of reformation, of those who offend against Society."

Havelock Ellis, 1914.

* * *

"... this the final treason

The right action—for the wrong reason!"—*Murder in the Cathedral.*

Communist support for the maintenance of the Universities, for instance?


* * *

"Paranoia, or systematised delusional insanity, is a mental disorder in which the patient, starting from vague ideas, develops a delusion, then builds upon it until he develops it into an elaborate system."—*S. Smith.*

We derived great amusement from the practical application of this definition, and reproduce it here for the benefit of our readers—but please remember the laws of libel!

YOUR pal is hurt—can't see a joke
Offer TOM LONG 'twill "end in smoke".

CHARITY RAG



*All
readers of "The Gryphon"
are invited to help
with this year's Rag*

**PRESENT
STUDENTS**

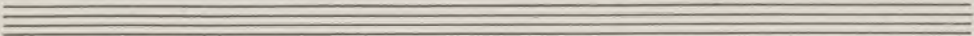
By active support of
the Rag activities

OTHERS

By sending contribu-
tions to the fund; cash,
donations, or gifts in
kind to be auctioned

EVERYONE

Please help to make
this a record Rag—no
gift, no help, is too
small to be of value



The Conversion

THE man on the rack moaned and drank greedily of the water that was offered him, his teeth clashing on the rim of the beaker. Then, apparently recalled to his stubbornness by the earthy taste of the vessel, he jerked his head away again in a gesture of abjuration, and his lips shaped a feeble but instinctive "No".

The Inquisitor, whose cowed head had been bent in strained attention over his victim's lips, looked up to sign to his minions, and thus the glow from the attendant brazier shone full on his features. They were a mask of fanatical obsessions, made terrifying by the conviction of rectitude in his courses that gave purpose and shape to the Inquisitor's existence. His cheeks were hollow and morbidly pale, and the dungeon shadows upon them accentuated their high bony ridges; in his mind raged a conflict between truth and heresy which haunted him unceasingly like a waking nightmare. He, as well as the hapless prisoner on the rack, was undergoing torture unspeakable.

In obedience to their master's gesture, the tormentors once more bent their glistening backs over their machine. They were perfectly trained, as silent and efficient as the wheels and pulleys they operated. In the red-suffused atmosphere of the cellar, their muscles glowed hard and metallic as copper. The Inquisitor's breathing grew ever more laboured, the creaking of the rack grew ever more sinister, until it seemed to absorb every other sound in the cellar and make it into a shriek of pain. The orgy was reaching its height; soon truth would be gloriously vindicated and a broken, twisted body be thrust out into the streets to bear witness to the manner of it.

There was a sudden agonised expulsion of breath from the prisoner as the torment became too great for his limbs to bear. He lifted his body convulsively from the hips, his eyes roaming from one face to the other.

"Yes, my son?" whispered the Inquisitor, hoarsely.

"Abjure my heresy" muttered the prisoner, ". . . . bosom of Mother Church burn my books" His voice died away as he fainted, a scream choking in his throat.

Silence fell. The Inquisitor stretched his legs forward, pushed back his cowl, and held out his chilled hands to the brazier. As the warmth crept through him, the hard lines of his face became softened and the feverish glitter passed from his eyes. A strangely comforting glow of pity pervaded his whole being. "Poor devil!" he murmured, and looked down at the new convert with a rueful sigh.

DONALD N. MITCHELL

(*Department of Modern Languages*)

* * *

Imitation

of a stanza-form in Confucius' "Book of Odes"

Winter night,
Moonlight and snow,
Starlight and snow;
Church-shadows cut
Shapes in the white.

Old men sit
Watching the fire,
Stroking the fire,
Fearing it dies;
No candles lit.

Child asleep,
Mother beside,
Nodding beside;
Over the snow
Horse-sledges sweep.

E. G. H.

“Falls the Shadow”

The libations of the thrush
Drip down
From the shining leaves;
The comments of the stream
Bubble up;
And their elixir pours
Through the winter-thirsted ear.

In spring a young man's fancy
Turns to thoughts
Of tennis shorts,
And last year's whites,
Seaside resorts,
And sundeck sports,
And dance-floor nights.

Aspiring poplars could step out
And crush the week-end cars with closed roofs
Against the sharp, soul-chastening rain,
Like the proud housewife in first horror
At cockroaches on her clean kitchen floor.

The bread is cut
And the paste all spread,
And the flask corked up,
And the cups all packed,
And the gas turned off,
And the key next door,
And the car warmed up—
Yet should we go?

Let's go to church instead;
I know you don't approve,
But I'm so tired, my dear;
See Irene's new young man
And Wilfred's in the choir.

O God! Let's wreck it all and break away for
half a day.

Don't the birds sing sweet,
My, the view's a treat;
What we got to eat?
What a darling stream;
Herbert, won't it seem
Like a lovely dream
When we get back home
But I'm glad we've come
'Cos it's not humdrum.

And the hills crouched with ears pricked up,
Trees stared with folded arms,
Ripples on the lake rushed to the shore
To catch a glimpse, then ran back protesting.

E. G. H.

* * *

“The [Democratic] Testament involved certain basic beliefs — that the person-
ality was sacrosanct, which was the meaning of liberty; that policy should
be settled by free discussion; that normally a minority should be ready to yield
to a majority, which in turn should respect a minority's sacred things. It seemed
to me that democracy had in the past been too narrowly defined, and had been
identified illogically with some political or economic system, such as *laissez faire*
or British parliamentaryism. I could imagine a democracy which was largely
collectivist and which had not our constitutional pattern.”

From the autobiography of Lord Tweedsmuir.

Love is Wise

(A Roundel)

Call it a fool, a loveless thing; and yet a tree
 In springtime when the fields are fresh, and
 playful airs are cool,
 Attends the season, troubling not that some,
 like me,
 Call it a fool.
 For I, who chide, have blood for sap and
 know the rule
 Full seven times as well as that which does
 not see
 My maiden's raptured eyes, and hills, and
 sunlight on a pool.
 Swift summer comes, and swifter yet doth flee,
 And pauses not in autumn's shady vestibule,
 And springborn love is dying whilst the leaves
 uncaringly
 Call it a fool.

RUTH

* * *

The Editor wishes to acknowledge, with apologies for any omissions, the receipt of the following publications—

The Journal of Education. The Nonesuch. Arrows. The Inter-Varsity Magazine. The Gong. The Student Movement. The Lister Journal. Leeds Girls High School Magazine. The Morleian. The Mitre—the Journal of Bishop's University, Canada. Glasgow University Magazine. Tamesis. The Technical Journal. The Torch. The Limit. Student News. The Fulcrum—University of Witwatersrand. The Northerner. The New Northman. Surgo. Shell.

* * *

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* * *

The National Union of South African Students has asked us to send them back copies of this year's "Gryphon". As most of the issues have been sold out we have only been able to preserve file copies, and should therefore welcome any copies of the September, November, December, and February numbers which readers may be able to spare.—EDITOR

Society Notes

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Dramatic Society has now one more successful annual production to its credit—this year a presentation of "Coriolanus" in modern dress. The venture laboured under many difficulties, for in the first place members were very slow in coming forward to take part; then many of those who did, later developed cold feet about the examinations and left the producer in the lurch, whilst Daphne Wilde's illness was a final setback. Mr Muir, however, battled valiantly against such obstacles, and, with the aid of Middlesex Hospital men in particular, the play was presented after one postponement.

The somewhat ambitious project proved a great success, although the audiences were regrettably sparse. We should like to congratulate Leslie Sands on his outstanding performance and to thank Mr Muir for his magnificent work as producer. The Society also wishes to thank Miss Beatty, the stage-manager, Miss Rayner and Miss Mattinson, the make-up experts, as well as all the others who expended so much of their time, talent, and energy, especially Miss Spink, who filled the part of Volumnia so admirably at the very last moment. **Those who missed the play or are eager to see it again will be pleased to hear that it is to be repeated shortly in connection with the Rag effort.**

The Society welcomed the recent visit of the Pilgrim Players in their polished version of "Murder in the Cathedral", and is looking forward to their return visit, after the examinations, when they will present Bridie's "Tobias and the Angel".

BETTY THACKER

ENGLISH SOCIETY

The small number of meetings held this term has been compensated for by the success of those which did take place. The munificence of the Wardens of the two women's Hostels has enabled us to meet amid pleasant surroundings, and a highly successful debate, "That the best things in life are free", took place at Oxley.

Mr Allam has lectured to us, with his usual fascination, on "If music and sweet poetry agree", and Mr Copley delighted a (regrettably) small meeting with a talk on the Augustans and Music. Our joint hike with the German Society proved one of the best ever.

As these notes go to Press we are planning to hold our Summer Play Reading at Weetwood Hall, thanks to the generosity of Mrs King.

E. SAIGH *President*

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Approaching the end of our season, we can say that we have enjoyed a very pleasant set of meetings and outings. Beside those meetings previously mentioned, we were able to make two very interesting visits last term, the first to the X-ray Department of the Leeds General Infirmary and the second to the offices of the *Yorkshire Post*, to see the manufacture of "blocks" for printing photographs. We are very grateful to those people by whose kindness we were able to make these visits.

This term, we have managed to stage our Annual Exhibition, which, though receiving less support than in previous years, proved to be quite a success. Seventy-four prints were submitted for competition, and these were augmented by a collection of fifty prints loaned by Messrs. Johnson & Sons, Hendon, being prize-winners from their series of competitions. Also we were able to show a set of prints taken from past exhibitions at the University of Sheffield, so that the show as staged in the Riley-Smith Hall of the Union, on May 6th, 7th, and 8th, presented a very attractive collection, and deservedly drew a large number of visitors.

The A.G.M. will be held about June 10th, when we must have a good attendance; on the whole our meetings have been very sparingly supported, and I would like to appeal to members, in conclusion, to give a little more support to the committee and the lecturers it manages to secure.

H. G. WHITE *Honorary Secretary*

B.P. SCOUT CLUB

The Scout Club cannot look back on the session without feeling great misgivings for the future. Even when allowance has been made for U.T.C. training, it is surely a very grave reflection on the keenness of the many men—Scouts, Rovers, and Scouters—present in the University, when the session has seen only two new members attending meetings. A very full and extremely interesting programme had been arranged for the session, but activities were limited by the number of members.

This question of numbers was fully discussed at the A.G.M. and it is hoped that many more will take advantage of the opportunities of swapping ideas and experiences afforded by the Scout Club. Honorary Scouts are equally welcome. What about it, Scouts?

R. H. M.

CORIOLANUS — JUNE 18th — BOOK EARLY

Athletic Notes

MEN'S ATHLETICS CLUB

Interest in athletics has this year been very low, and the record of the University Athletics Club is not what it should be. It is far too easy to gain a place in the team, and there is not the healthy competition for places which should keep every member of the Club tuned up to the highest pitch. We know there's a war on, but this is no reason why athletic records should not be broken.

If you are shy of competing against members of the team, although I assure you there is no need for this, come up to the Decathlon Competition, to be held at Weetwood on June 9th and 10th. In a Decathlon Competition all the events of a full athletics meeting are contested and each competitor must compete in ten events. Points are scored on the merit of each performance and not on a place basis. It has been decided to hold the competition in the evening so that there will be no interference with your lectures or exams.

Watching an athletics match on a fine summer's afternoon is a very enjoyable way in which to spend your spare time, so what about coming up to Weetwood some of you non-competitors? Here is the fixture list for June—

June 9th and 10th (evenings)	Decathlon	...	...	<i>Home</i>
June 14th	...	...	...	<i>Away</i>
June 18th	...	...	...	<i>Home</i>
June 21st	...	...	...	<i>Away</i>
	Nottingham University			
	Sheffield University			
	Manchester University			

To members of the Club—watch the notice board in the Men's Common Room for all announcements, especially the end-of-term dinner and A.G.M.

A. B. WADE

Publicity Manager and Honorary Treasurer

BOAT CLUB

The "Bulls" on the Boat Club exchange have received sharp inflations during the month now recorded as history. **The Third Crew beat St. John's College, York, Second Crew by a good margin**, whilst the Second Crew from Leeds was—according to their account—proceeding with "mopping up" operations, when the York boat decided to develop a base malady, and in spite of two further attempts, the race was postponed. The Second Crew beat a Bradford A.R.C. crew by six or seven lengths—according to the version—and so our season has received a good rowing start.

Fixtures are developing slowly but surely, and there is prospect of a "wet season" for all, even coxes. Those who are at all interested in rowing should watch the notice board and spend a pleasant afternoon reading the Captain's notices; and if there is a possibility of giving us support, please do so; a few supporters on the bank are the equivalent of an extra man in the boat, so come down and exercise those voices in the fastness of the hills at Swillington.

The maiden crews, incidentally, are reminded that though other maidens are bashful, we shall have fixtures and training must carry on at least twice a week, and not once every flood.

K. ELLIS

Honorary Secretary

CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB

Despite such minor disturbing factors as illness, injuries, and U.T.C. training, the Cross-Country Club enjoyed a very successful season. The First Team won the Christie Cup for the fourth time in five years, and was very successful in all its other fixtures. The great keenness of the few Second Team runners available deserved more chances of expression than the fixture list would allow, though it must be stated that we will arrange the fixtures if we can have sufficient support to be sure of a regular Second Team. Everyone is welcome to join in this, the most natural of sports.

As for individual performances, **F. E. Aaron** ran unbeaten throughout the season; he represented the U.A.U. with equal success and rounded off the season by winning easily the Yorkshire and Leeds and District Cross-country Championships. Very good form was shown by **G. E. Cree** and **M. B. Peace**, who were both selected for the U.A.U. races, and **R. Spink**, selected as a reserve.

R. H. M.

We wish sincerely to apologise to all members of the Cross Country Club for an entirely unintentional slight on their achievements in the Valentine "Gryphon". Through a technical error, an Editorial comment was printed in the wrong place in the Athletic Notes, making it appear as though the Boat Club alone had something worth recording. Such was not our intention. We regret that more Club Secretaries do not take an interest in placing on permanent record the prowess of their Clubs, and take this opportunity of congratulating the C.C.C. both on its record and the efficiency of its officers.—EDITOR

Hostel Notes

HOSTEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Cigarettes are scarce; there isn't much tobacco; and as for chocolate, we haven't seen any for many a moon, but what is that to us, we still have our spirits; not only from the Tonbridge either, but they are born, bred and brewed in H.O.R. itself. In other words, we consider that the spirit of the Hostel has not decreased; in fact, the added difficulties of life seem to have increased it. In a previous "Gryphon" we were likened to buttercups and daisies, **and this flowery freshness so beautifully expressed in that complimentary valentine is still, we venture to assert, in our midst.**

The students have now taken on the duties of the boiler house, and really we haven't done too badly, because the furnace has only gone out once or twice since the beginning of last term when we started stoking ourselves.

During the Easter vacation a number of our students remained at Hostel for fire-watching; the vac. was divided into three periods and sufficient volunteers came forward to make it possible to have twelve up here at a time. A similar arrangement is now being prepared for the long summer vacation, and that will be a rather more difficult proposition. We still send a squad over to University when the "alert" sounds and, of course, our own services, including roof-spotters, go into action.

An epidemic of mumps prevented the usual celebrations connected with Collop Monday, but we were able to present our play to some of the University staff, and it was repeated at Oxley Hall with a mixed cast.

Congratulations to **G. Northcott**, who is our representative on the Union Committee for next session; and to **H. B. Martin**, who has been elected President of S.C.M. Also to the four members who received full colour awards for University winter club activities.

And so another Session is ending and still it seems possible that there will be students at H.O.R. again next year. May it be so. J. N. P.

WEETWOOD HALL

Quite a number of Weetwood students took part in the Women's Sports this year. We congratulate them on their achievements, especially **Mary Wilson**, who won the Youth Cup. At the kind invitation of the Warden, the Athletic Club and members of the staff were afterwards entertained to tea in Hostel.

The English Society paid us a visit on Thursday, May 15th, when **Mr Copley** gave a very interesting talk on "Music in the Augustan Age". We expect to entertain the Society again, in June. Students were disappointed to hear that plans for a Summer Hostel Dance or Garden Party had to be abandoned, owing to catering difficulties.

Most people, at the moment, are concentrating on Exams. Best wishes to everybody for easy papers and brilliant results! J. K.

Appointments Board

Students who are going down at the end of this Session may find it helpful to discuss with Mr W. R. Grist, Secretary of the Appointments Board, matters relating to the employment they hope to take up, apart altogether from obligatory military service. In any case it would be advisable for them to register with the Appointments Board so that when they are available for normal employment, the Board may be in a position to give them some assistance. The Appointments Board keeps a detailed register of all students who enrol and is in touch with the Universities Bureau, the Federation of British Industries, all Government Departments, and a large number of business firms and Education Authorities.

* * *

With regard to the text reproduced on p 152 of the Prologue to the Modern Dress version of "Coriolanus", performed by the Leeds University Dramatic Society at the end of April, Mr. Muir writes "It will be noticed that some changes were made for the actual performance, owing to the alteration of the military situation in Libya after the writing of the Prologue. Acknowledgments are due to Messrs Dryden and Congreve for one or two good lines".

LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Old Students Association

News from Headquarters

We hear little, these busy days, from our members far and near, many of whom, we fear, must have been seriously affected by the times in which we live. To these, less fortunate than ourselves, we offer our sincere sympathy.

PRISONERS OF WAR

It would be absurd to suppose that, as a result of operations in many parts of the world, none of our members had become Prisoners of War. There must be quite a number in this unenviable position whose plight is unknown to many of their friends who would be only too glad to write them a cheery letter with news from home. If you know any Old Student who is a P.O.W. will you *please* send us his name and the address to which letters, etc. must be sent. We propose to publish them in *The Gryphon* as we receive them, so that members who know them will be able to copy the details into their diaries or address books ready for action. Don't hesitate to send in details of any case because you think we must have heard already—we should prefer to be told a hundred times rather than not at all.

MARJORIE SLEDGE } *Joint*
A. E. FERGUSON } *Honorary Secretaries*

News of Interest to Old Students

CARRUTHERS—The Symons Memorial Lecture for 1941 was delivered before the Royal Meteorological Society on April 16th by Dr James N. Carruthers, D.Sc. (Geology, 1914-15, 1918-20, M.Sc., 1921). Dr Carruthers, who is engaged on war-time work at the Admiralty, took as his subject, "Some inter-relationships of meteorology and oceanography".

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced between JOHN HAROLD THOMPSON (Physics 1934-38) and HILDA BARNSHAW (Physics 1935-38).

HARDY-ALTMAN—The engagement is announced between J. I. Hardy (Dental 1936-41) and Mona Altman. Jack Hardy is familiar both in the Dental School and the University as Editor of *The Tyke* and Sub-Editor of *The Gryphon*.

MARRIAGES

BENN-HOLMES—James Edwin Benn (Zoology 1931-34), R.A.F., of Leeds, to Marjorie Holmes, on May 19th, at Trinity Methodist Church, Tempest Road, Leeds.

EGGLESTON-SHAW—Arthur S. Eggleston (History 1926-29) to Nellie Shaw, on 8th February 1941, at Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne.

RILEY-BUCKLE—Dr Norman Riley, Flying Officer, R.A.F., of Leeds Road, Bradford, to Susan Buckle, at Selby Abbey, on Saturday, May 24th.

ROLLIN-ECKERSLEY—Pilot Officer Denys W. Rollin, R.A.F.V.R. (Economics 1936-39), to Eleanor Eckersley (History 1936-39), on March 15th, at St. Matthew's Church, Burnley, Lancashire. Address—56 Rossetti Avenue, Glen View, Burnley.

STEPHENS-SALMON—Harold North Stephens, of Eastleigh, Southampton, to Minna Salmon (Arts 1935-39), on January 4th, at Trysull, Wolverhampton.

BIRTHS

BENTLEY—To Alan C. (Science 1925-28) and Mrs Bentley, at 27 Ayresome Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds 8, on Sunday, 18th May, a daughter.

FLETCHER—To Bernard G. (Arts 1913-16) and Mrs Fletcher, of 4 Hollin Crescent, Headingley, Leeds 6, on Monday, 19th May, a son.

DEATHS

BRENCH—News has been received of the death of George Robinson Brench, formerly Accountant of the University. Mr Brench was a devoted servant of the University for many years, and in recognition of his services the honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him in 1924, when he retired from office. One of the younger generation can but vaguely remember this venerable figure of the older school; it is curious that one's only abiding memory of him is of the gentle trot (did anyone ever see him merely walk ?) which marked his progress down "College Road" to the tram. I believe that in his day he had not had the easiest of times, and on occasion had to perform missions of delicacy requiring the patience of Job and the wisdom of the serpent. He was originally assistant to Husband, the Registrar, and was certainly in the service of the College by 1890. His was a sterling character; his care and meticulousness were almost too sincere. "It appeared to give Brench acute pain to pay anything out." But it was only on the foundations laid by such men that the present generation could build. May his soul now rest in peace!

HODGSON—Flight-Lieutenant Thomas Reilly Hodgson, R.A.F., has been reported missing, believed to be killed, and there can be little doubt as to his death. He was one of the most promising of Leeds graduates. After taking a brilliant First in English Literature, he was able by means of the Vaughan Scholarship, an Exhibition at St. John's College, and a grant from Leeds City, to go to Cambridge, where he was reading for a Ph.D. when the war broke out. He unhesitatingly joined the Royal Air Force, and in due course obtained his wings and his commission.

Those who knew him will remember him for his fine qualities of mind, his refusal to accept the second-rate, or to make the easy compromise. They will remember his scorn for any hypocrisy, any meretriciousness of thought, or mental cowardice, as they will his gentleness and his candour; those who knew him little will think first, perhaps, of his reserve. "To fight without hope is to fight with grace", and he took up combatant work without illusions, regarding the war as a task to be undertaken without hope of reward or expectation of glamour. Offered a post as instructor, he refused it; for, looking upon bombing as a brutal job, though a necessary one, his sense of responsibility made him prefer to do it himself, rather than to instruct others how to carry it out. He was one of those who would have helped to build a saner world.

B.D.

* * *

To Going-Down Students

We know you will be very busy, even busier than we were on a similar occasion, between now and the end of term, but *do* join the L.U.O.S.A. *before* you go down. Perhaps the only advantage of membership which you will be able to enjoy for some time will be to receive each issue of *The Gryphon*, with its news of present and past students, as it appears, but that alone is worth much more than the subscription. Apply to any of the following for particulars—

- (1) The Honorary Treasurer, L.U.O.S.A., 38 University Road
- (2) The O.S.A. Clerk, O.S.A. Office, 38 University Road
- (3) The Hall Porter, who has a supply of forms which you can complete at your leisure (if any) before taking to the Honorary Treasurer.

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