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THE GRYPHON

The Journal of the University of Leeds



APRIL, 1942

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Vol. 7 Number 4

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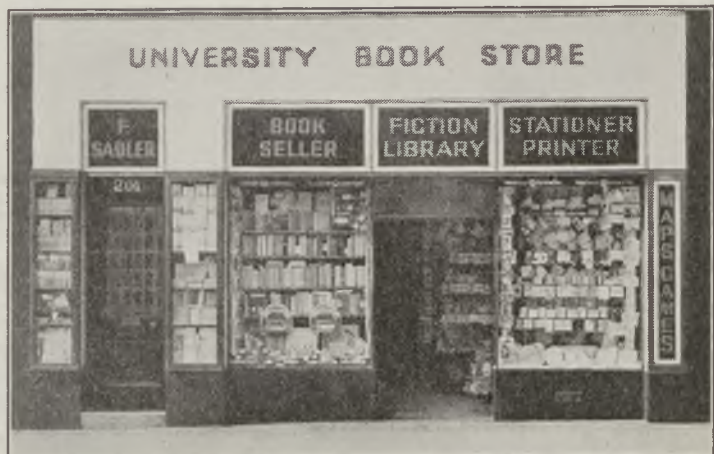
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THE GRYPHON

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 GRYPHON is feeling—ever so slightly—proud of herself ; because her last issue achieved a record sale. Whether the cause is the University's desire to see how witty some people can be at the expense of others, or whether it be due to nobler if more human motives, we would like to see this record become the normal sale. As yet we dare not rest on our laurels, or sink back with a sigh of complacent self-congratulation, for we have an ideal—a *Gryphon* which is the voice of Staff and Students, past and present, through which every aspect of University thought and experience may find expression. This ideal *Gryphon* is not only a constructive factor of contemporary University life, but a link with old Students, and a record for the guidance of future student-generations.

On the first of February, a few—far too few—enthusiasts discussed the problems which will shortly be facing the N.U.S. Congress at Birmingham. The broad issue is the attitude of Fascism to academic life, and its influence on learning in general. This is not the place to advertise the N.U.S. Congress—that has been done adequately elsewhere, with deplorably little result. The Editorial of the *Gryphon* frequently develops into a reprimand, but we consider that such reprimands are necessary. We wish those delegates who are to represent our University every success, and sincerely trust that their duties will not be so arduous as to prevent their sojourn at Birmingham from being memorable and enjoyable.

We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Muir for his article on the Political Situation, and of reminding those who, it is hoped, will follow his example, that the University is always ready to listen to their opinions on non-academic subjects with keen interest, respect, and appreciation.

Since the above Editorial was written the Editor has been informed that, because of the Supplies Order (Paper) 1942, we are to be allowed for this term only 19½% of the paper used in the corresponding period in 1939. This will enable us to print only this issue during the rest of this Session. If the same ruling applies next year we shall publish three *Gryphons* instead of the usual six. Will all readers please accept our apologies and deep regret at this occurrence, and forgive any notices which are now out-of-date as a result of the delay thus caused in preparing this issue for press.

For this reason we have to say good-bye to our readers and wonder once again at a year so quickly over. Good luck to those leaving and may "those returning make more faithful than before."



THE UNION COMMITTEE, 1942-3

(Photograph by Lonnergan)

BACK ROW (L. to R.) : J. P. Jamrin ; A. Clarkin ; G. Bott ; J. Tiplady ; D. H. Lewis.
 MIDDLE ROW (L. to R.) : F. Hambrey ; B. W. Webb ; Miss J. M. King ; Miss E. S. Cooper ;
 Miss B. Gray ; Miss D. Pratt ; Miss D. Plover ; G. S. Northcott ; L. Cohen.
 FRONT ROW (L. to R.) : Dr. H. Barton ; R. B. Booth ; Miss E. M. Loues ; P. Sugarman ; Miss
 D. Wilde ; Miss D. Howitt ; J. E. Hartley ; W. R. Gritt ; J. W. Bourn.

Notes and Comments

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

International Youth Rally.

On the 14th of March, in Salem Hall, an International Youth Rally was held; at which the University was well represented. The Vice-Chancellor sent a telegram, wishing the rally every success, and many of our non-British Students represented their respective countries. The University effort culminated in a brilliant speech by the President of the Union on behalf of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Mr. J. B. Priestley said the International Youth Movement could form a firm basis for a brotherhood of nations on which depended the only hope of world peace.

"The Secular Illusion."

We would like to thank S.C.M. for bringing the Rev. Mr. Davis to the University to speak on "The Secular Illusion," the subject of his last book. This well-known author made a brilliant speech to a large audience in the Riley Smith Hall on Monday, 2nd March. He said that it was a Utopian dream to imagine that any social system, no matter how well organised, could achieve world peace, which could only be brought about when all men were willing to live a truly Christian life.

The Red Cross Fund.

Those who watch the notice-boards in the Union will have seen that the University has contributed £29 18s. 11d. to the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund to date. The rounder sum of £30 would have looked much neater.

Slovenliness in the Cafeteria.

We have been asked to point out that the slovenly behaviour of the Students in general in the cafeteria does not relieve the pressure on the skeleton staff. Once again we must ask Students to return their dirty crockery to the kitchen, and to leave their cigarette stumps in the ash-trays provided. In passing, we might mention that if Students would leave the furniture in J.C.R. where they find it, the duties of the Union Porters would be considerably lightened.

Women's War Work.

The Women's War Work Scheme is fully organised at last. Many of the Students who attended a course of lectures on Red Cross have been successful in their examination, and those who are to man the University as a Rest Centre should the long-delayed blitz on Leeds materialise, have been instructed in anti-gas treatment. Several hundred pairs of blankets and medical supplies are now in the store room below the Riley Smith Hall. Valuable assistance is being given by women students in the organisation of Youths' Clubs in Leeds. Many correspondence courses, and individual tuition have been arranged for the education of troops. A camouflage net, established in W.C.R., is seldom idle. It is hoped that the women's war work will go on with the same conscientious cheerfulness for the duration of the war.

Rag, 1942.

Once again the rag is approaching. We are in urgent need of good script, witty sketches, moving lyrics and glamorous girls for the chorus.

So please hand in your contributions (marked "Rag" and bearing your name) to the Union Porter, as soon as possible.

Wall Newspaper.

We must apologise for the still-born condition of the Wall Newspaper, from which we had hoped such great things. We beg the University not to be discouraged by its past bedraggled lameness. In future it is to be taken over by the Executive, and we wish to stress that every student is a potential reporter. Any news which you consider is likely to be of interest to the University as a whole should be handed over for publication at the Executive Office, which you will find behind the Union Office. We still have freedom of speech—let us use it !

"Intensive."

As the *Gryphon* goes to press, the stalwarts of the S.T.C. and the A.T.C. are entering upon a strenuous course of intensive training, designated with some disgust in University circles as "Intensive." When we see khaki-clad desperadoes crawling about the Union grounds on portions of the anatomy never intended for peregrination we shall know what Napoleon's famous "an army marches on its stomach" really means.

Elections for Union Committee.

We are glad to note that more students recorded their votes for the candidates up for election to the Union Committee for the 1942-43 Session. The Medics. and Dentals succeeded in electing four of their candidates and they hold practically half of the ten open seats. The 50% poll shows a marked increase on the somewhat pathetic 30% effort of the last elections.

Medics. and the "Gryphon."

The Medics. bought ten times as many copies of the *Gryphon's* last issue as any other issue this year. We thought they might like to know that we notice these things.

* * *

Drama

Staff Play.

On March 10th and 12th we had the pleasure of seeing the latest Staff production, a three-act play, "Short Story," by Robert Morley. A much more ambitious venture than usual, the play was universally appreciated. The actors with one exception were very well cast, and the acting at times reached almost professional standard, in both dialogue and gesture. Dr. Watters and Miss Spink, as the principals, maintained a very high level of proficiency, and Miss Mattinson and Miss Jay earned the whole-hearted applause which followed their charmingly vivacious caricatures. Mr. Hemingway and Miss Hope were well fitted for their portrayal of two very different types, but many people felt that Mr. Muir was badly cast as Mark Kurt.

In a play so entirely dependent on smoothness of dialogue, a remarkably high standard was achieved, and one felt the effectiveness of the swift transitions from comedy to straight acting. The stage craft and the costumes showed evidence of much careful consideration.

"The Trojan Women."

After much harrowing deliberation the Dramatic Society carried on with its choice of the "Trojan Women," and achieved its annual production on February 10th and 12th.

Though many people were inclined to be very sceptical as to the capacity of the L.U.D.S. for Greek tragedy, the audiences on both nights were large and appreciative. General opinion, afterwards, it is true, was that the venture had been somewhat ambitious, but that surely is a good fault. Judging the play as a whole, the chief

weakness lay in the inconsistency of the stage-craft. The movements of the chorus alternated between wooden uniformity and over-exaggeration. Even the principals at times seemed uncertain as to the appropriate gestures. This somewhat marred the dignity and consistent pattern so necessary to a classical play.

However, there were some very fine individual performances, notably Miss Leybourn as Cassandra, who played a difficult part with courage and skill, though her voice might have been improved by more frequent modulation. Miss Barker gave a dignified portrayal of Andromache and Mr. Mitchell's performance was admirable throughout. Miss M. Rivett as Hecuba rather spoilt a good conception of her part by exaggerating the monotony of her speech. The two sections of the chorus were effectively contrasted, but did not show enough variety of individual tone.

The curtain raiser by Mr. Muir was well written, but rather long drawn out, while the suppleness of his translation was universally appreciated. The production had a stimulating effect on all present, and its success must have surprised those who so doggedly opposed this choice.

* * *

Union Notes

Elections.

Ten people have already been elected for the Open Seats and M. & W.D.S. on the Union Committee. The next and the biggest elections are those for the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Union. Into the limelight also com the "Freshers," they will stand for election to four seats created by the last A.G.M. ; two of these seats are for Men and two for Women. It is very desirable that everyone should VOTE IN ALL THESE ELECTIONS.

Summer Terms brings us to the Rag. The dates now fixed are :—Tyke Day, the 20th, and Rag Day the 27th of June. As in the previous wartime Rag Days there will be no fancy dress parade, and consequently the selling of a large number of flags will have to be the main objective.

April 29th and 30th will bring the Royal Army Pay Corps to the Riley-Smith Hall to see a Revue written and presented by men from their own Unit. There will be 25 seats reserved for students at each of the shows and those who wish to attend should book at the Union Office as soon as possible.

The work of the Union Committee in the Summer Term will be in the main to keep things running smoothly and finally to wrap up all the odds and ends of business ready for a clean start by the new committee in the next Session. If any Union Members have any constructive criticism to offer as to the working of the Union now or in the future, Committee members will be only too willing to listen.

With the advent of summer sunshine and the tightening up of the waste paper regulations, it will be a pleasure to see more windows open and less haze in the Common Rooms and less waste paper in the Cafeteria and corridors. Shortage of staff makes it essential that everyone shall co-operate and help to keep the Union Building as clean and as tidy as possible.

Many thanks to all the contributors to the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund, the total amount now subscribed is about £30.

There is likely to be an acute shortage of petrol and labour at Weetwood this term and it may be that students will have to yoke themselves to cutting machines to keep the cricket pitches and grass in good condition. Shortage of water will probably tell on the Tennis Courts in hot weather, if so we shall have to "grin and bear it," all the while appreciating the good fortune which still may allow us to play at all.

University Intelligence

Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 18th March, 1942. the Pro-Chancellor (Colonel C. H. Tetley) in the Chair.

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

Mr. C. F. Ryder, a Perpetual Governor of the Yorkshire College and a Life Member of the University Court.

Sir William Bragg, Cavendish Professor of Physics in the University from 1908 to 1915, on whom the honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred in 1919.

Dr. G. S. Gordon, Professor of English Language and Literature in the University from 1913 to 1922, who received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in 1937.

Brig. General Frank Burnell-Nugent, C.B., D.S.O., who was the second Adjutant of the University's Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps.

The Council directed that a very cordial message of thanks should be sent to Mr. Charles Roberts, of Farfield House, Addingham, for his gift to the University of a collection of books numbering about 1,000 volumes and a large number of framed etchings.

The books fall mainly into three sections—specimens of fine modern printing, books on fine art, and collected editions of great writers. Of the specimens of modern printing, there are a number of productions of the Kelmscott Press. These include the most valuable book in the collection, the famous Chaucer of 1896 ; the *Golden Legend* in 3 volumes, 1892 ; William Morris's *Earthly Paradise* in 8 volumes, 1896-7 ; and his *Wood beyond the world*, 1894. There is a set of the *Bible* printed by the Dove Press in 5 volumes, 1903-5 ; some think this is the finest specimen of English printing in existence. Another important volume is Jowett's translation of Thucydides, printed at the Ashendene Press in 1930. Mr. Roberts has also 11 volumes of the Goupil series of biographies of monarchs. There are a large number of other volumes dealing with modern printing. Book illustration has also been a great interest of Mr. Roberts. A number of volumes have the illustrations of Arthur Rackham ; an edition of Bewick's *British Birds* has a letter from Bewick ; and an extra-illustrated copy of White's *Natural History of Selborne*, printed by the Bodley Head Press, has an autograph manuscript of sermons by the author. Mr. Roberts is particularly proud of a very large folio of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Latin and English of 1732. This contains splendid engravings. Other modern presses such as the First Edition Club, the Nonesuch Press, the Ricardi Press, and the Valentine Press are represented.

The books on fine art are too many to enumerate, but they contain valuable monographs on applied art such as books on silver, Sheffield plate, pottery, clocks, and so forth. There are many works dealing with modern painters ; Whistler is noteworthy. Such works as Baldwin Brown's *Glasgow School of Painters* and De Bock's *Jacob Maris* are books which the University would have found it too costly to purchase in the normal way. An interesting fact is that Mr. Roberts has preserved a large number of important sale catalogues such as the illustrated priced catalogue of the Hamilton Palace Collection of 1882.

Finally, Mr. Roberts has splendidly bound sets of important authors, such as Balzac, the Brontës, Dickens (Gadshill edition), George Eliot, Scott, Stevenson (Vailima edition), and Thackeray : there are also Lady Martin's copy of the first edition of Dicken's *Christmas Carol*, 1843 ; an extra-illustrated edition of Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*, 1843 ; Lockhart's *Memoirs of Scott*, 1839 ; and the first edition of Samuel Rogers's *Poems*, 1834.

In addition, there are a considerable number of miscellaneous books.

There are fifty-three framed etchings, largely after great French painters of the nineteenth century, although others such as Constable, Gainsborough, Titian, Crome, Westall, and Whistler are included. The University is much indebted to Mr. Roberts for this unique and valuable gift.

The following were re-appointed representatives of the University on the bodies named :—

Bradford Girls' Grammar School—Miss Hibgame.

Bridlington School—Mr. Gabriel.

Henley Secondary School—Miss Oldham.

Otley Grammar School—Professor Barbier.

Teachers' Registration Council—Professor Smith.

Yorkshire Council for Agricultural Education—Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Priestley.

Yorkshire East Riding County Agricultural Committee—Mr. H. Caley.

Mr. George Armitage, F.R.C.S., was appointed Honorary Demonstrator in Surgical Pathology, in succession to Mr. Harold Collinson.

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Court on Wednesday, the 20th May.

* * *

The Political Situation

The political situation is closely bound up with the war situation. The war has unified political opinion, in so far as almost everyone agrees that the war must be won ; but, at the same time, it has caused a deep cleavage of opinion on the way to set about winning it. This cleavage does not correspond exactly to pre-war party divisions. Many Liberals and some Conservatives have been attracted to what is virtually the left-wing, sometimes by such bodies as Acland's Forward March and Priestley's 1941 Committee.

The accession of Cripps to the government and the refusal of Beaverbrook to serve in the same cabinet has meant the strengthening of the Left. For although Cripps was called to office largely through the pressure of public opinion, and as an independent member, it is known that he was visited in Moscow by Citrine, and that there was substantial agreement about his position. Cripps takes office as a socialist, though not as a member of the Labour Party; and the people as a whole will be disappointed if he does not advocate socialist policies in the cabinet.

We have had so many disasters during the last two years, that there was a considerable danger that we should become inured to them. We were becoming as blasé as Macbeth, when he declared at the end of his career :

*"The time has been my senses would have cooled
To hear a night-shriek ; and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir
As life were in it. I have supped full of horrors.
Direness . . . cannot once start me."*

Cripps by his speech in the House demanding a new austerity of life, and still more by the moving broadcast in which he compared the total effort of the Soviet Union with our sporadic and three-quarter-hearted effort, has already done something to recall us to the greatness of our destiny.

We all want to win the war ; but many of us want to win it with as little sacrifice as possible. We enjoy Churchill's oratory, promising blood, toil, tears and sweat ; but we hope subconsciously that he is indulging in poetic hyperbole, or at least that these sacrifices will be required of our neighbours rather than of ourselves.

Some, the Black Marketeers and their fellow profiteers, are frankly trying to make what they can out of the war ; and they can only do this because this is a larger body of wealthy people who refuse to do without their luxuries. Many industrialists are manœuvring for post-war position. They hope to make then the profits they are prevented from making now. Coal-owners are said to be saving their best seams for post-war use when the profits will be higher. That example is typical of an attitude which is disastrous to the war effort.

On the other side, the workers, remembering the way they were treated between 1918 and 1939, are naturally trying to raise their own standard of living now. People who live in an acquisitive society cannot be blamed if they behave in an acquisitive way.

The standard of living of all the upper and most of the middle classes is still too high for total war. But the dependents of many soldiers have too little to keep them in reasonable health. Nothing undermines *morale* more seriously than the shameful gulf between military and civilian pay. The ideal solution would obviously be for soldiers and civilians to be put on an equal footing, both with regard to pay and to discipline. But those who make proposals of this kind fail to realise that they could not be carried through in a class society. The wealthy (with some honourable exceptions) would not consent to such an enormous sacrifice. The workers would likewise refuse unless they had complete guarantees that they were working for the country and not to fill the pockets of their employers.

The class nature of our society is also the chief obstacle to maximum production. Each class is suspicious of the other. The Upper Class blames the workers for absenteeism—as Bevin has shown, there has been very little of it—and for drawing enormous wages, though the average wage is still low. Those who work twelve hours a day deserve their £15 a week far more than those who, drawing dividends of twice that amount, criticise the rapacity of the workers.

Owners blame the civil service for holding up production by dilatory methods. Workers, on the other hand, complain of the nepotism of owners, of the inefficiency of managers, of the fact that owners are more concerned with profits than with the winning of the war ; and many workers complain, too, that they are often paid for standing idle. As they have no say in the management of the factory, they suspect inefficiency if not sabotage.

This mutual suspicion, whether justified or not, is the natural condition of a class society. The only way of overcoming it is by the nationalisation of the essential industries and by the conscription of wealth. This will be the main political issue of the coming months. I need only add that the red-tapishness of the civil service is not a real argument against nationalisation. Efficient managers under the present system could be retained under the new.

The next great issue is India. Churchill has always been blind on this question, and his blindness has only been equalled by Amery's. The loss of Singapore and Rangoon was perhaps militarily inevitable ; but these disasters might have been postponed, if not averted, had we been able to rely on the full co-operation of the people of Malaya and Burma. We are paying now for the backwardness of our colonial policy.

It is too late for us to make a generous gesture towards India. But though it is too late for generosity, it can never be too late for justice ; and apart from the question of justice, self-interest requires that we should promise dominion status to India within a definite time-limit. Nothing else will convince the Indian people of our sincerity. One need not minimise, as the Left Wing usually does, the difficulties of the Indian problem ; but questions of race and religion are subordinated in the minds of the vast majority of Indian people to the desire for self-government. By the time *The Gryphon* appears, we shall know from the government statement in the second week of March, how far Churchill has been moved by the pressure of events.

The third issue is that of our propaganda to Germany. We laugh at Goebbels for telling British workers that England is becoming more and more reactionary on the same day as he tells the American people that Britain is going communist, and that Cripps is Stalin's agent. But our broadcasts to Germany attempt to combine two incompatible lines.

On the one hand we state that we have no quarrel with the German people, and we attempt to mobilise the V army in Germany and Austria as well as in the conquered territories. On the other hand we threaten the dismemberment of Germany and appeal merely to the fear of retribution. The Minister of Information did his best to undo the effectiveness of our appeal to the German people by insinuating in the House of Commons that our broadcasts were Machiavellian, and not a reflection of our actual policy.

But effective propaganda must be a reflection of policy. Lies are boomerangs. We can only succeed in our propaganda with Germany if it is consistent in itself, and consistent with Soviet propaganda. This means that we must recognise that there are many people in Germany who have never supported the Nazi regime, and who would gladly see it overthrown. The one thing which can unite the German people behind Hitler is the threat to punish not only the Nazis and Quislings but the ordinary Germans, many of whom risked death and torture at the same time as some of our rulers were hunting boars with Goering, feasting with Ribbentrop, or having tea with Hitler.

We can only solve the problem of Germany by making certain that the wrong people never again achieve power. Ultimately, this means, I believe, that the problem can only be solved in a Socialist Europe. In any case, propaganda depends very largely on the publication of war aims.

The Atlantic Charter was a step in the right direction, but it was too vague. "Access on equal terms to the trade and raw materials of the world" is qualified by the phrase "with due respect for their existing obligations." The qualification renders the guarantee almost meaningless. Is it any longer possible to believe that we can achieve "improved labour standards, economic advancement, and social security" without the abolition of the profit-making system? Do we really hope to see "sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them?" Do we really respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live? What if they choose Fascism?

Hitler claimed on January 30th that the German people were defending the need for a united Europe, in opposition to the British, who were fighting for the Balance of Power. The Germans (he said) were therefore fighting for and defending the cause of mankind. Hitler declared that if Roosevelt would only open his eyes he would see in Germany already that freedom from the fear of unemployment he was so keen to promise men after the war. If Churchill would look at the record of Nazi Germany, he would see social achievements, for which there was no sort of parallel in his own British record.

It was such passages as these which aroused the real cheers from the Berlin audience on January 30th. We know how far Hitler was distorting the real truth; but the fact remains that nothing can beat this appeal by Hitler to people's desire for a new world, and to their instinctive knowledge that a New Order is inevitable, except convincing proof that the same knowledge is shared by us, and that we have the desire and the intention to build a new world order, in the name of humanity as a whole, and not for the benefit of a master-race.

As I have written elsewhere: "Hitler's strength lies in the fact that he has learnt to prostitute to his own ends that need for community and equality which is the very essence of human nature, in spite of its alienation from its true self. It is significant that Hitler should find it necessary, in the stress of to-day's war situation, to modify his usual claim that the dominant role of Germany is his sole concern, by the statement that he was also standing for the cause of all mankind."

The last important issue confronting us to-day is that of the efficiency of our own High Command. Granted our initial unpreparedness, and granted our lack of tanks and aeroplanes, there is still some reason to believe that the High Command has exhibited a lack of foresight and an unwillingness to learn from experience. This is a question which laymen are hardly competent to discuss. It is easy to be a great general in theory. Nevertheless, it is apparent that there will be a political crisis on this issue in the near future ; and as Churchill's own prestige is very much involved, his position may be more shaken on this issue than on the other questions which have been discussed in this article.

We can afford the disasters in the Far East only if the Russian Front holds during the present year ; and it is to be presumed that Cripps' appointment symbolised the necessity for giving the utmost help to the Soviet Union, and for collaboration with them now and after the war.

The political situation is therefore bound up with our answers to the two questions : Are we really prepared to wage a total war ? What measures should we adopt to wage that war with the maximum efficiency ?

KENNETH MUIR.

* * *

Storm in Spring

Wildness of the hills has invaded the plain
And the wind sweeps down,
Gone is the dust and the dirt ;
Over the empty vanities
Windflowers are grown,
Frail, dark-veined, flaunting the blast ;

Hope look up to the hills,
Proud in the toss of papery petals ;
Sane while amid the flashing colours :
Colours of madness come from the hills.

Purple from heather and edges of thunder-clouds
Stifflingly close ;
Red blood from the dying sun
Paling to rose.

Brown from the heath-root,
Black from the earth,
Potent poisons distilled
And cooled with ice that chilled the mountain's heart ;

Thunder rolls down to the plain,
Grass leaps to meet the rain,
Madness has gone ;
Sane white lifting and tossing,
Frail, storm-resisting peace ;
Tense calm remains,

The plain waits in expectation,
Thunder crouches on the hills.

GANYMEDE.



Even at this stage of the year, some "Freshers" are woefully ignorant of the places and personalities of the University. Said Miss X, apropos of the Leather Department:—"So nice for the Staff to get their shoes mended for nothing."—*Gryphon*, Feb., 1922.

Said Miss A, apropos of the President of the Union:—"I believe I have seen that woman somewhere before."—*Cafeteria*, 1942.

* * *

For Your Information.

"Love is a spider, dropped into the luscious chalice of life, transsubstantiating it to poison."—*Edmund Gosse on Shakespeare*.

* * *

Definition.

"IT" is that quality which can be contemplated with pleasure, but not investigated with decorum."

* * *

"Nemesis."

The *Gryphon* tentatively suggests that Edward Lyndoe of the *People* be invited to abandon political prophecy, as the Japanese and Germans don't play fair anyhow, for the more congenial and incomparably more important task of question-spotting for June.

And we think it might be a good idea if some sort of seat-booking system be introduced, to cope with the ever-increasing crowds in the Brotherton Library.



(Photo by courtesy of "The Yorkshire Evening Post")

Leeds Students Broadcast to the Empire

On March 17th at 8-30 a.m. and 7-20 p.m., on the B.B.C. short wave service to the Empire, the programme "On Young Shoulders" was given by five Leeds University students. This programme originated in a request last November for the B.B.C. to allow the University to exchange views with an American University via the short wave radio, in order to foster more directly the friendship between the U.S.A. and Great Britain. This request was eventually taken up by the Empire Talks Department, and it was decided to accept their offer of one of the series entitled "On Young Shoulders," of which the general theme has been the presentation of a cross-section of the thought and activity of the young people of Great Britain. An informal committee was convened by the President and Mr. Filderman, with the approval of the Union Committee. After many weeks of conferences with the North Region producer, and voice-auditions, the script was written, approved by the Vice-Chancellor, and by the B.B.C. censorship, and the speakers chosen. The programme was recorded to London on March 6th, and as a result a second programme in the same series is now being compiled on the theme of "Reconstruction." Efforts were made to inform all students and staff of this new venture, and criticisms are invited. The University M.P.'s were informed, the N.U.S., together with all University Unions. It is believed that this small beginning may be developed into a national scheme for the communication between the young people of this country and those of other countries, and particularly of the U.S.A.

The script of the first broadcast describing the effect of the war on our University is printed by kind permission of the B.B.C. After the announcement, the script read as follows :—

D. WILDE : "The war has changed University life very much, although I don't think it has altered the basic principles. Many of the men students have been called up, staff taken for government work, courses curtailed, and, at first, student life seemed to be dislocated. Then, gradually, it regained its balance. The University was recognised by the Government as a training centre for doctors and dentists, teachers, administrators, social workers, technicians, and research students. There are still 1,500 students in all departments, from philosophy and languages, to radio-location and scientific research, from medicine to social science. Apart from certain exemptions, all the men students are now engaged in military training in the Training Corps or the University Air Squadron. The women students were so keen to take up National Service that they voluntarily began a scheme of social service of their own. I think the effect of this on us as students, has been to make us realise more clearly and directly than ever before, the real principles underlying University life. Primarily our job as students

to-day, is to follow the traditions of learning, and to equip ourselves for our future service to the community. Some people said at first, and some are still saying it, that we are wasting our time, but personally, I believe that we fight Fascism just as much with the preservation of free thought and learning, as with tanks and planes.

It seems to me that a University like ours can be an ideal democracy—a fitting place for the preservation of the democratic tradition. There are no distinctions of race, class, or wealth—the only criterion is a certain standard of mental ability.

Our students are drawn from all parts of the world—from Australia, South Africa, India, Jamaica, Egypt, China, and from many of the European countries now under Nazi rule. They meet here on terms of complete equality and good will.

Here perhaps more than in the older Universities, we are in close touch with all sides of the life going on around us. This is an industrial area, and our many scientific research departments are working on the problems of industry.

A few words now about our University Union. This is a self-governing society, with a committee elected by and from the whole body of students, covering all kinds of activities, such as sport, debates, social functions, and societies representing different interests, such as the International Society, the Economics, Education, and so on. Those of us who are elected to serve on the Union Committees are gaining experience in handling the kind of problems that we shall be called upon to face later on. Speaking for myself, when my course is over, I hope to go on to a lecturing or teaching post. But I am quite prepared, if I am advised to do so, to use my training in administration or the Services. If it means breaking my career, that is no more than has been required of many young people inside the Universities and without. But even in war-time, education must go on.

Freedom of speech, freedom of thought, freedom of enquiry and learning—all these are the fundamental principles of University education, and they make up the traditional heritage of freedom for which we are fighting."

D. HOWITT : "The Debating Society, of which I am secretary, is one of the most flourishing societies in the Union. It is recognised as a clearing house for student thought and opinion and interchange of ideas. Not only do we hold regular debates in the Union, but we have inter-University debates with students from all over Great Britain, and with various units of the Forces stationed in this area. I think the choice of subject over the last two and a half years is significant because it shows the trend of interest among students. At first our subjects related directly to the war and its implications. For example, in a University debate in 1939, the motion was 'That the whole principles of democracy are being threatened by the imprisonment of the Left-Wing Deputies in France.'

Then for a time the pendulum swung in the other direction—towards less serious subjects. Early in 1940, we found ourselves debating such subjects as 'The modern young gentleman is too much given to Wine, Women and Song.'

But as the country went more deeply into the war, interest returned again to the issues for which we are fighting, and especially the value and nature of democracy. In January, 1942, there was a lively and vital discussion of the motion 'That Democracy is the Opiate of the People.' No one who listened to that debate could fail to realise that for all of us, though democracy may have failed in some measure in the past, true democracy is the hope that guides us towards the New World which will be ours to build."

L. COHEN : "If you go into the Union, you will notice that many of the men students are in the uniform of the Senior Training Corps, to which I belong. Time is divided between the use of arms, map-reading, field tactics and drill.

This is my final year of a Mathematics Honours Course, to which has been added advanced radio lectures in preparation for Radiolocation in the Forces. We have many State Bursaries in Radio, Chemistry, and Engineering. This is a war-time measure which has made the Universities more democratic, but it has still only touched the fringe of talent in our youth.

You can see that much time is taken up in practical activity, but as Secretary of the Socialist Society, I feel that without a conscious direction and purpose, the value of all this activity will not be fully realised. Besides providing technical personnel and administrative leaders, the Universities, with their knowledge and culture, must be made available to the people. I think they must draw their members from a still wider circle—from all the young men and women of promise in the nation—before the fullest expression of the democratic spirit can be attained."

J. LISTER : "We women spend a certain number of hours a week on National Service. We can choose between a number of occupations—Red Cross Lectures, First Aid Work, Canteen Work, helping at Youth Clubs and Play Centres, making camouflage netting, and ambulance driving. I spend one evening a week at a Play Centre which has just been started in the city, where children from 2 years old to 14 can be left while their mothers are busy, or on warwork. Some of us take up temporary work in the vacations, usually in the Civil Service—sorting letters, and acting as post-women, for example—or working on the land. Personally, I find it cuts into my leisure, though it doesn't hamper my academic work to any great extent. I'm hoping to be a teacher and therefore I shall not be called up, and I think this is the least I can do for the war effort until I'm fully trained."

M. S. WANG : "There are a good number of overseas students too; especially in the research departments of the University. Research is carried on in all the scientific departments. An American and an Australian are working, for example, in textile research. There are Yugoslavs and Poles working with me in the Metallurgical Department.

I came to England from China eight years ago, and took a course in metallurgy at Sheffield University, and I spent part of my time in foundries and steel works. I came to Leeds to carry on research in ferrous metallurgy, in which I am investigating some of the problems in connection with the embrittlement of steel. After the war I intend to return to China, where there should be a great opening for specialised knowledge of this kind."

(Slight alterations were made to this script in rehearsal.)

DAPHNE WILDE, President L.U.U.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Gryphon* has received a letter from Gnr. H. Pearson, a previous graduate of the University, mentioning the following points in connection with Mr. Mitchell's article in the February issue. He condemns the writer's attitude as "adolescent exhibitionism"; and considers the article a waste of space. He suggests that the University Union should organize a series of courses on complacency, and snobbery, and the existence of the war, to convince Mr. Mitchell that the people he calls "cows" are working, fighting, and suffering to win the war.

NOTE.—The Editor would like to suggest to Gnr. Pearson that the article in question referred not so much to the Soviet Union as to some of its more misguided supporters.

Elegy for T.S.E.

Once you were only half-dead,
And you ran round the prickly pear
With a free bitterness.
Seeing you taught,
And the misty light of the times grew
Grew clearer, with a surgical newness ;

'Twas at a Boston tea-party
You gave your heart away
" Living or partly living "
What was it you used to say ?

" O Thomas Archbishop, pray for us ! "
Sigh no more ladies, sigh no more ;
Adoration to the death-bringer ;
He served the greater cause and sinned in doing good ;

We hollow men will bear your bier,
And your epitaph shall say
He is blind with the light of the Nicene Creed,
It has stolen his heart away.

S.S.

* * *

Effigy of an Unknown Knight

To the casual visitor, he is merely an unusually fine piece of thirteenth century stone-work ; to me he represents, in an undefinable way, the spirit of my home.

As a child, I have crouched beside him in the soft blue glow of the fourteenth century window above, staring until I knew that if I put out my hand, the stony folds of his surcoat would slip in a sinuous cascade of crimson satin through my reverent fingers, and the linked chain mail icy to the touch, would shoot forth steely gleams. Another moment, and the gauntleted hands, piously crossed in prayer, might seize the chargeless shield, and the long mailed feet, pointed and spurred, rouse with the rough gesture of martial habit, the sleeping mastiff which supports them. The crossed legs would swing over on to the stone floor of the aisle, and the forbidding brows bound in their mail coif wrinkle in bewilderment at the strange spectacle of one small, terrified twentieth century child.

But the spell was always broken by the entrance of chattering groups of visitors, and Sir Robert (if such was his name) would retire into his mysterious aloofness. No one can be quite certain of his identity ; his shield bears no heraldic device, his tomb no arms. Marmion, Fitzhugh, St. Quentin, Grey de Rotherfield . . . they lie around him, glorious in their historical records—the first Sir John Marmion, with his canopied recess and mutilated arrogance—the pious Maud at his side, resplendent with wrought metal brooches and delicate coronet—the Amazonian ladies of the Fitzhughs with their amazingly grotesque headdresses. Then, pride of the local antiquaries, the second Sir

John on his opulent tomb, staring concentratedly into his iron hearse, indifferent to the meek, wealthy Elizabeth and her countryfied cherubs. But the unknown knight seems to say "I was here before these moderns were born." Like Dominic Cervoni, he seems to have been born with an "extremely experienced soul." Dreary decades spent outside in the open churchyard have weathered his formidable features; the wind and the rain have smoothed the athletic lines of his iron-clad body, giving him an intrinsic grace, and a conscious pride in his defiance of time and the elements. He was the first monument to grace the original tiny sanctuary. He has watched the pageant of mutability for nearly seven hundred years—delicate grey wisps of incense curling to that lost valuted roof, the low chanting of nuns from the neighbouring chantry, the harsh inrush of Henry VIII's desecrating hordes. Then long lonely years outside the shattered walls of his shrine, until the clinging tendrils of pink convolvulus were scraped from his crossed knees, and the nest of young blackbirds plucked from beneath his shield, and himself reinstated in the transformed church. Now with an air of patient resignation he wears his Christmas garlands of bright holly and dull musky scented ivy. Gay strings of hips and haws threaded by generations of school children entwine his folded hands and broken sword. Looking at him, I am reassured of

"Oft that same time when no more change shall be
But steadfast rest of all things, firmly stay'd
Upon the pillours of Eternity. . . ."

E.A.

* * *

The Editor wishes to acknowledge the receipt of three pamphlets from the Oxford University Press: "The Torch"; "The New Phineas"; "The Clare, the Market Review"; "The Leeds Girls' High School"; "The Student Movement"; a "Report from the Fuel and Gas Industries"; the "British Farming"; and the "Medicine and Socialism." We sincerely apologise for any omissions.

* * *

Hostel Notes

WEETWOOD HALL.

Under the able direction of the Entertainment Secretary, Hostel this term has kept up its agreeable round of social events. Members of the Dramatic Society co-operated nobly in a Saturday evening playing-reading of "Outward Bound," which was enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. The Freshers provided the customary hilarious evening for the Seniors, who, in return in spite of the vigorous satire of the traditional critical verses, gained considerable amusement from a well-played programme of games and plays, treasure-hunting and community singing.

Thanks to the kindness of the Warden, we were able to invite the English Society up to Weetwood. After tea, Professor Hamilton-Thompson gave a diverting and very interesting lecture on the "Bab Ballads" to a large gathering.

We hope that the Hostel Debate which is to take place shortly, will be equally successful. The subject—"Christianity offers no solution of World Problems"—should prove stimulating, and a lively discussion is anticipated.

Looking back over the two winter terms, Hostel has reason to credit itself on its activities. Having proved the advantages of self-amusement, the idea has probably come to stay, and all members hope that the splendid programme of this year may be happily repeated in the coming session.

OXLEY HALL.

The general atmosphere in Hostel these days seems to be a busy one. Over and above academic work, and apart from the normal run of meetings, and the time given over specifically to national service, students are undertaking more domestic work in hostel, and have, consequently, "time to stand and stare."

Social life has not lagged, however, and we have had a full programme of musical evenings and socials, the most recent being the Women's Social, which consisted of a performance of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" and the Fresher's Social with its masterly presentation of "Pride and Prejudice." We are grateful to the Debating and Dramatic Societies for two interesting meetings this term.

At our last general meeting we send and partially finance a representative to the N.U.S. Congress at Easter. No doubt we shall have heard her report before this appears in print.

Many guests have been welcomed to Oxley this year, amongst them a number of the University Staff. Two stimulating visits have been those of Miss Phyllis Bentley, who told us something of her experiences in America—alas, all too briefly, and two Polish officers who completely won Hostel over to their cause. As a result of their visit a large pile of clothing has been collected and will be sent to destitute Poles. Many students are also busy knitting for the troops and knitting vests for the Leeds Babies' Welfare Association.

May the summer term find us still as busy, and to our finalists especially we say "Good Luck!"

DEVONSHIRE HALL.

War-time exigencies have had a more marked effect on our social activities during this term, than ever before. The annual engagements on the sports field between Hulme Hall and ourselves had to be postponed, owing to the lack of reasonable transport facilities. For the first time in its history the Hall Dramatic Society was unable to put on its annual product, its members being fully engaged on more urgent pursuits.

The annual debate in Hall, which raised the problem "Is the English gentleman worth his upbringing?" resolved itself as usual into an entertaining if somewhat bewildering discussion as to the correct interpretation of the motion. The Common Room again provided opportunities for men to air their views and went their feelings on many topics. The Dramatic Society has in its readings, perhaps, under present circumstances, appropriately, inclined towards the lighter side of drama. Some slight compensation for the unfortunate absence of the annual production was provided by a reading of the "Ghost Train" in which several ladies from Weetwood nobly participated.

Of all the arts, music is the only one which can truly be said to have flourished under war-time conditions. This at all events is true of Devonshire Hall, for the Sunday evening gramophone concerts have steadily increased in popularity since their inception at the beginning of the session. The musical affairs of Hall are now in the hands of a fully organised Music Society.

As a postscript our gardening efforts are calculated to yield twice as much produce as last year.

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Society Notes

"CERCLE FRANCAIS."

The aim of the C.F. is to induce the timid and reluctant members to speak the language they presumably came to study, in an atmosphere more cordial than that of academic circles. Not only are they persuaded to speak it, but to sing it, recite it, and distort it into amusing charades and competitions and to declaim it dramatically. Monsieur Inebnit gives us some very enjoyable talks, and we have had a series of interesting lectures provided by the Association "Des Amis des Volontaires Francais," one of these being by Mr. Townroe of the British Institute in Paris, who revealed the state of affairs in Alsace-Lorraine. He spoke of the pseudo-efficiency of the German administration there, and of the brave spirit of this province gallantly struggling through its third war under the oppression of foreign occupation. Professor Douglas gave a spirited and witty lecture on our two countries, and spoke of the undercurrent of sincere friendship and sympathy with France. Professor Arnold told us of her greatness in literature and art, and played us some magnificent records of Debussy's exquisite rendering of Verlaine. Since she came to Leeds, Madame Decveus has several times enlivened us with her stimulating interesting interpretation of French poets, for instance Verhaeren.

We value, too, our co-operation with the "Forces Francaises Libres," established through the kindness of Mrs. Gilliat, to whom we owe the pleasure of a very fine French film. Much of our spare time is spent in a laudable attempt to provide these troops with gloves, pullovers, scarves, and mittens, industriously knitted for their comfort.

Our programme last term included dramatic productions. These hilarious occasions are traditional in our "Cercle," and are indeed a feature no member is ever likely to miss. We initiate our First Year Members into the secret of entertaining us, and applaud their "Boite à Surprises," which generally indicates the vitality and originality of our Department.

Co-operation with other societies provides an essential link with University social life, and resulted last term in the establishment of the Arts Ball.

The organ of our Cercle, the "C.F.," flourishes, too, with a greater number of contributions last issue than in any previous issue, and a variety of interest unattained hitherto.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The Society has had a full programme this term, and hopes to continue its activities well into the summer term. The Annual Production, "The Trojan Women" in Kenneth Muir's translation, was a remarkable success, especially considering the necessarily limited appeal of Greek plays. In addition, there were readings of "The Master Builder" by Ibsen, "Juno and the Paycock" by O'Casey, "Berkeley Square" by Balderstone, and a reading in Oxley Hall of "Escape" by Galsworthy. The standard of reading usually merits a larger audience, and we would remind members of the Union that visitors are always welcome at our meetings. A party of members visited the Unity Theatre to see the production of "Comrade Enemy," and more theatre-visits are planned.

Finally, we intend to produce a light play in aid of the Rag Effort in June. Any suggestions will be welcomed by the Secretaries.

BETTY THACKER, HOWELL WITT.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION.

The Union dates its official existence at Leeds from 1929. It was known as the Evangelical Union from 1929 to September, 1941. It was at first under the auspices of Dr. C. H. Douglas Clark, as President, and Mr. H. Whitaker as Honorary President, both then as now on the staff of the Chemistry Department. The Union obtained affiliation with the Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Evangelical Unions (I.V.F.) in May, 1930, and in June was recognised as a society of the Union. Membership has increased from about five to nearly thirty.

The aims of the Christian are :—

1. To witness the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to seek to lead fellow-students to a personal faith in Him.
2. To deepen the spiritual life by devotional study of the Bible and by prayer.
3. To encourage such study of the Bible as will enable the truth of the Bible to be upheld.

A meeting is held every Friday, 5.15—6.0 p.m. in the Union Rooms. First Term Members studied the Parable. One missionary meeting is held each term, at which a missionary addresses the Union, and each member is responsible to the Union for a knowledge of the missionary work in a particular country.

Although we are always very pleased to welcome non-members at our meetings, a special effort is made once every term to interest others, a well known speaker being invited on these occasions. This term Mr. H. Redwood, author of "God in the Slums," is expected at one of these Open Meetings.

Prayer Meetings are held in English House on Mondays and Tuesdays at 5.10 p.m.

A ramble is arranged for the first Saturday of each month, and a hearty invitation is extended to all University Students to join the rambles.

In conclusion it might be stated that the C.U. is interdominational, and unites those who are trying to live a Christian life.

"I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The L.U.P.S. was formed principally to encourage a wider interest in physics than may be obtained from the normal lecture course, and to develop the social life of the Department.

The Society arranges fortnightly meetings at which papers are given by students, members of the staff, and outside speakers on a wide variety of topics broadly connected with physics. A most interesting account of University education on the Continent before and after the rise of Hitler was given this session by two students with first hand knowledge of the subject, and we are looking forward to a paper to be given shortly by Mr. Gilham. From time to time the Society holds joint meetings with other University Societies, such as the Chemical Society.

Equal importance is attached to the social side of our activities. Tea is served before each meeting and this provides an excellent opportunity for informal meeting of visitors, staff, and students. In normal times visits are made to places of interest to physicists—factories, a transmitting station, coal mines, and so on. Occasionally theatre visits are arranged. The high spot of the year is the Annual Physics Dinner, at which past and present members of the Department, and members of staff join in a pleasant social evening.

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Club Notes

CHESS CLUB.

The Chess Club has been revived this year after a period of hibernation. The influx of a number of Freshers of a high playing standard has allowed us to compete our fixture list with some success. We tied with Liverpool University for the Robinson Cup.

We defeated Manchester in both matches, but were narrowly beaten by Liverpool. As we aimed high a match was arranged with Bradford Chess Club, but unfortunately we were severely handicapped by the absence of our best players. It was not surprising, therefore, that a heavy 6—2 defeat resulted.

Our second team have twice engaged Leeds Grammar School in matches, but without much success—securing only a 3—3 draw and a 4—2 defeat.

This term Mr. Allam, of the Music Department, gave a simultaneous display in lieu of proposed Staff Match, which had to be postponed. Mr. Allam showed himself to be a first-class player, and keenly contested games were played on all nine boards.

Meetings throughout this year has been held regularly, and the Ladder Competition has done much to maintain a regular system of grading and to stimulate enthusiasm, in addition a Club Championship Competition is to be arranged.

K. WILKINSON (*Hon. Secretary*).

ATHLETIC CLUB.

The coming season holds excellent prospects for the Club. Many of last year's team are still available and we have every hope of having a trainer before the competitive season begins.

Once again we are going to receive valuable co-operation from Middlesex Hospital, who are now represented on the Committee.

Freshers! The Club extends a hearty welcome to you—we need your support. The Christie Team is chosen on the results of the Inter-Faculty Sports, so train and support your Faculty on April 25th!

Finally, remember the Joint Athletics Clubs Social on Friday, April 24th, when you will have an opportunity of meeting the officials of the Club.

J. R. JOLLY (*Publicity Manager L.U.A.C.*)

UNIVERSITY CADET COMPANY.

Some years ago a Guide Club was formed to provide some opportunity for those who wished to carry on active Guide work at University. Discussion of problems and interchange of ideas proved valuable. Hikes were held, and before the war members were able to enjoy a week or week-end in camp. Activities were arranged in conjunction with the Scout Club—these included hikes, lectures, and camp-fires. At the end of last year it was decided that members would find wider scope for service to the movement as Cadets. Therefore a Cadet Company was formed, with Mrs. Mason as Captain, and we were able to make a temporary division into three patrols owing to an influx of recruits.

Meetings were held once a fortnight, and our first aim was to pass the Cadet Test. As we were at different stages this involved beginning at the first principles of Guiding for some people, though others were able to carry on where they left off at school. At the last meeting for the winter term the District Commissioner visited us, to enrol several recruits, and after the ceremony patrol leaders and seconds were elected for the patrols, which we decided to call Green, Maroon, and White. The Guide Club emblem the Sphinx is retained.

Meanwhile, to gain practical experience as Guiders, we arranged for members to attend meetings of local Brownie Packs, Guide and Ranger Companies as extra Guiders. This system proves very helpful and interesting. We also continue the work begun by the Guide Company in connection with the Weetwood Rest Centre. We are prepared to go there after a blitz to help to deal with mothers and children who may have to be evacuated from the city. We keep everything ready for an emergency. We knit blankets and face-cloths, and provide old books, toys, and clothes for children.

We regard it as a special duty in war-time to "Be Prepared" in the widest sense, for anything that may happen, and for any calls that may be made upon us. In particular, we should keep a high standard in morse and first aid. We should make full use of opportunities for training and being trained, so that the youth of the country may not lack leaders after the war, and the message of Baden-Powell may be passed on through the ages.

SOCIAL DIPLOMA LUNCHEON CLUB.

Two years have not yet elapsed since the S.D.L.C. was formed. It was the intention of the Club to invite to each meeting a speaker representing a section of the social workers. So far it has been a great pleasure to have with us Miss Baumgartner from the Personal Service and Citizens' Advice Bureau, who gave us an account of her experiences as a policewoman during the last war; Miss Blackburn, of the Education Department, who has visited America, came to tell us of her travels; Mr. W. L. Andrews has spoken on the War and the Press; while Miss Findlay gave a talk on Mental Health Work. The meetings during the Session 1940-1941 ended with Professor

F. Smith giving us his ideas of the attitude the Social Worker should assume with regard to her work and her motives of approach.

Mr. Shimmin opened the Session 1941-42 by giving a presidential address which all members of the Society enjoyed. Our last speaker was Miss Edwards Rees, Country Youth Organizer of the West Riding County Council, who gave an account of the club work and showed how necessary it is that there should be well organised and well equipped Youth Centres for the boys and girls who leave school at the early age of fourteen.

LUCY WATERHOUSE (*Hon. Secretary*).

* * *

"Macbeth"

Those students who were fortunate enough to be in Leeds flocked to see John Gielgud's production of "Macbeth" at the Grand Theatre.

Gielgud himself was magnificent. He made no attempt to idealise Shakespeare's presentation of the character, and towards the close of his career he was as bloodthirsty and wantonly cruel as a man could be, but he never allowed his audience to forget the terrible mental torture that drove Macbeth to such lengths. In his weaker moments, Gielgud showed him to be great, and his every word held unplumbed depths of despair which those who heard him will never forget.

"Life's a tale told by an idiot

Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

The same imagination, creative, yet subordinated to the spirit of Shakespeare, was evident in the stage-craft. During the last fight with Macduff there were three bodies on the stage, and yet it looked like a battlefield littered with dead.

Those who went to see "Gielgud—as Macbeth" must have been disappointed, because no prominence was given to the hero. Gwen Ffangcon-Davies' presentation of Lady Macbeth was stimulating, and the way she became quieter, more feminine and dependent as the strain sapped even her courage and vigour proves her a great actress. In spite of her handling of the sleep-walking scene, the high-light of her performance came at the moment when, having defended Macbeth through the ordeal of the banquet, she sinks exhausted on a bench, too weary even to respond to his outstretched hand.

It is impossible in so brief a space to do justice to the fine acting of the rest of the cast, but George Woodbridge as the Porter aroused a very genuine affection in the audience, and Leon Quartermaine was extremely attractive as the living Banger and completely convincing as his ghost. M.T.

* * *

"Dr. Faustus"

The opportunity of seeing a play like Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus" occurs all too rarely in our provincial towns. We are therefore doubly grateful to the Adelfi Players for their very fine presentation of a great play by a great poet, at the Friends' Meeting House on Monday, March 16th, and take this opportunity of expressing our admiration for this little group of players whose passionate love of great drama has led them to become a wandering troupe such as Hamlet welcomed at Elsinore. Mr. R. H. Ward's sensitive portrayal of Faustus contrasted strongly with the demoniac cunning and savagery of Mephistopheles, as presented by Mr. J. Boyd Brent. The magnificent rolling periods of "Marlowe's Mighty Line" boomed like distant thunder, making the staccato Americanism of our modern speech seem dwarfish and inadequate. M.T.

De Profundis

I walk along the strange mechanical streets
In the half-dark of my soul, clutching wildly
At the face, the inexpressible face into nothing
Vanishing. Thought against thought I pit in vain,
Searching the far recesses of the garden
For the pearl whose price till now I have lightly,
Lightly, too lightly, paid. There is no escape
From the Atlantean burden of doubt, the hollow
Emptiness, the rending of inmost fibres.
Agonised cries not take away the insistence
Of the callous legions who swarm with grim, set faces
To overcome the weak imaginings
Thrown up to curb them. There is nothing, nothing.
The flowers are all faded, the delicate filigree
Of the brave creation is stale, a paltry thing.
There is no delight now that the soul is empty.
O where shall I find you, peace, you who hide from me ?

I long for you ; O, how express my longing ?
But the cold imaginings which fly like chaff
Before that army leave me little hope.
I seek to build my kingdom on the four-square
Basis of reason, but he grins and gives a twist
To the spear in my heart and the noble edifice
Melts into nothing and leaves a mouldering pile
Of dust for memory. There is nothing to do
But declare the heavens are empty. What death worse ?
What, suicide ? O, no, not that sweet heavens !

Yes, now you lie there in dark intensity,
Weeping in the stark depths of your soul,
But soon you will wander in chill oblivion,
A lifeless, loveless copy of the rest,
Your deathly tears forgotten, gone the pain
That now clings to your very smallest action,
The pain of death or life. Shall death bring life
Again more abundant ? Shall this broken dream
Die into life or shall it stiffen like stone,
A death in life ?

I could have searched for ever,
Tried to stifle thought in vain with thought,
Longed, hoped, despaired and died.
But who would have thought the hand from above
Would have given what I could not find ? The strange
Tenacity of the mind will conquer doubt
By a gift not of self, by an elixir
Trampling down the walls which once made the garden

Impenetrable to thought, making the tree bloom
With a vigour not its own. What need to struggle
With the callous army, for they are taken away,
Not overcome ! It is not I have conquered.
The mist is blown away, is vanished ; I see
Clearly again. No more shall its yellow damp
Jealously cover with doubt the abyss of light,
For it is gone for ever as a dream.

D.A.R.

* * *

Behind the walls of mind a surging question
Violates the flesh.
Hands clutching at a light unseen,
Feet fumbling for a shadowed nothingness,
A trough of why and whither, where
Orgies of masochism blind,
And still the blue flower beckons while the essence blooms unheeded ;

Come, let us rest,
And I will seek the curve of life ;
Joy without beginning,
Motion lacking ending,
Lieder ohne Worten—
Life that asks no purpose ;

The pattern curve lives yet,
And must we justify the flower ?

S.S.

* * *

Ego

Eyeless, the sleepless city crumbles out of life ;
As darkness falls, those eyes black lids enclose,
And sightless, blinded to the care and strife
Without, war-weary men within the dwellings doze.
A few brief hours—upon despairing souls there grows
The glimmer of a dawning light : 'tis but the day
Whence toil and sweat and more despair outflows ;
Like Midgard's serpent, as around the world it lay,
Writhing, endless, hopeless, always on itself a prey.
And in this blood-drenched circle men still fight
And eye for an eye—blind fools ! who will not pray
That God's creation pass not into blackest night.
Self, first sin, the cause of all our strife,
When wilt thou die and give us everlasting life ?

G.

Past and Present

It has often been borne in upon me how the past is always standing beside the present, but I was never able to surprise it until one night, not long ago.

When I went to fill the kettle for supper there was no water, so I took the pails and went out to the well. There was a full moon, so I was able to find my way along the nettlebordered path that led to the well, a gleaming square of water that lies (unmoved) night and day behind the Little John apple tree in the orchard. It lies so still, that when you bend above it your reflection bends to meet you, and if you dip your pail very gently so as hardly to break the surface, you can catch yourself in the pail, and carry up to the house and boil yourself in the big black kettle that swings above the logs.

I bent, and dipped, and as I stood up again, a faint sigh seemed to draft slowly by. I put my pails down and listened. There it came again—the past sighing, as though the night were breathing; hesitantly; not sure whether to live or die. Then a steady rhythmical creaking sounded from beyond the orchard wall; I went to look, and there on the green, where the signpost was in my lifetime, was a gibbet, with a skeleton in chains, swinging gently.

"Poor devil," I thought, and climbing the low wall I went across and took him down. A nice job it was, too, because the chains had rusted and eaten into the bone.

"Thanks, pal!" he said, gratefully.

"Oh, don't mention it! Any time—"

"I'm Bob Metcalfe," he announced with pride. "Hanged for murder, 1812."

"Murder?" I said. "Not sheepstealing?"

"Sheep stealing? Pah!"

"Congratulations," I murmured suitably.

We sat down on the grass, the murderer's skeleton and I. I scraped up a couple of Woodbines, and he found flint and tinder.

"How's the war?" he enquired casually, not because he was interested really, but by way of starting a conversation.

"Oh! the war. Well, of course, everyone knows he'll never get out of Russia."

"Just what I said from the start!" he exclaimed, slapping where his thigh had been. I settled down more comfortably. The conversation was following the conventional lines.

"Napoleon made a mess," I ventured, diffidently.

"He has, that!" swore my companion vehemently. "He has that!"

We puffed away in silence. The blue smoke rose vague, and friendly, in the clear night.

"How did you get up there?"

"Sheer bad luck!" he said. "It was like this. When Blind Jack built the York-Harrogate Road he ruined me. Cousin o' mind he was, too, not that I'd tell everybody that, mind, but then every family has its skeleton in the Cupboard. Yes, well, as I was saying, farming isn't what it was in my young days. Big farms, and capitalists, and rushing stuff off to market at cut prices, what with that new-fangled canal at Borough-bridge, and this new-fangled road here, opening up the countryside and ruining local

trade. And income-tax. Income tax ! I put up a good fight, but I lost money steadily. The stagecoach finished me off, and I grew desperate, and when a man gets desperate he gets bitter. 'Revenge' ! I thought, 'Revenge ! ' So I sold up all but Darkie and turned highwayman. I only meant to get together sufficient to emigrate on, so help me, God ! Anyway, a highwayman's life isn't all beer and skittles ; waiting hours on a cold, wet, dark night, and then doing no business because the damned coach was stuck in a rut ; hiding in corners ; sleeping in straw ; and me used to my own feather-bed and warming-pan But there is a certain excitement ! God ! They used to scream like rabbits. 'Stand and deliver ! ' I used to catch them just before the toll-bar, you know ? "

" I know. The mounting-block's still there—just by our yard gate."

" That's it ! Well, one might I knew there would be a full coach, because it was Martinmass Hirings at York. So I waited at West Lodge ; they were always easiest to get on a dangerous corner."

" A red M.G. crashed there last week."

He nodded. " It was a dark night, foggy ; ideal for the job. Jingling and rattling up the North Road they came ; the horses pawing and snorting, the great lumbering coach jolting and pitching. It was so black that I couldn't even see Darkie's ears twitching, but she was trembling. Temperamental, she was, but a heart of gold ! Well, I challenged him, as he came round the corner, but the fool didn't stop. Instead, he drove straight at me in a furious gallop. Darkie sprang aside, and there was a spurt of firing. I swung round to ride him down. We came along that road like hell ! The coach lurched between the elms, swinging from side to side. I fired at the coachman's head, visible above the framework, but, as I said, I am a man of peace, and firing from a galloping mare at a moving target on a foggy night isn't easy. I missed repeatedly, but my last bullet got him. He seemed to jump into the air ; his hands sawed ; and he fell, tangled in the reins. The wheels went over him. The reins snapped. The horses, madly and completely out of control, failed to take the bend, though the rise checked them a bit. The coach stopped in its wild career, swung heavily, crashed down the bank into Young's Pond. The passengers were trapped, the harness held the horses under, I heard bubbles. I took to the forest, but they rooted me out with bloodhounds. I never killed anybody ; I wounded the coachman and the devil did the rest. The devil, aye ! but they hanged me ! "

" Sheer bad luck " I said, and as I spoke I glanced at him for the first time since he began his story. The white moonlight fell harshly across his tragic young face. I judged him to be about thirty. I suppose he was a handsome man, and his strength looked strangely out of place beside my own bare white bones. Without surprise, without bitterness, I comprehended that he is reality, and I was the ghost ; that as soon as the story ended, I would disappear again, because nothing can attain to reality except imagination.

M.T.

We need your copy for the next "Gryphon" now!

Leeds University

OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Notes from Headquarters

REST CENTRE.

Members interested in the proposed establishment of a Rest Centre in the Union Building will be glad to know that the scheme is going ahead. Details of the O.S.A.'s contribution to this effort will appear in the next issue of the *Gryphon*.

L.U.O.S.A. AND MEMBERS OF SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS.

Following up the proposal, adopted by the A.G.M., to extend the amenities we ourselves enjoy to members of similar Associations who are living in, or within reach of, Leeds, a letter has been sent to the Hon. Secretaries of the Old Students' Associations of all the Universities and University Colleges of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, asking them to make the matter known to their members. We have already received a number of appreciative replies, including the promise of a hearty welcome to any L.U.O.S.A. members from the Queen's University Association, Belfast. A preliminary meeting has been fixed for 6-30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 29th APRIL, 1942, in O.S.A. HOUSE, 38, University Road. All members who can possibly come, if only for a short while, are urged to come along to greet the strangers in our midst and substantiate the old claim of Leeds to be the "Friendliest University."

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

West Riding Branch Letter

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
THE UNIVERSITY,
LEEDS, 2.

Unfortunately we were not able to have a "radio and television" evening on February 25th, as advertised, because neither the microphone nor the films were available at the last minute. However, we spent an enjoyable evening talking and playing games.

The attention of Branch Members is called to the Associates' Meeting called for Wednesday, April 29th, at 6-30 p.m., and it is hoped that as many as possible will be there to help to entertain our guests from other Universities. Details will be found in the letter from H.Q.

The Branch Meeting for next term will be arranged later, and advertised in the *Gryphon*.

KATHLEEN M. MATTINSON.

Hull and East Riding Branch

The Committee of the Branch have decided tentatively to hold a social gathering of its members to take the form of a LUNCHEON or TEA during the early part of MAY. There will be plenty of time afterwards for talks and games, etc. The proposed venue will be either HULL or GRIMSBY, dependent on the number of applicants from each quarter. As this will be the first official gathering since the war began, will members please make every effort to be present.

Owing to the cost of postage and the shortage of paper, no individual notices will be sent out. It is requested that all those good members intending to be present should please drop me a line not later than the 1ST MAY, stating preference for either Hull or Grimsby. Replies will then be forwarded without delay.

So please consider this invitation and decide straight away.

E. C. FROW, *Hon. Sec.*,
c/o 227 Park Avenue, Hull.

News of Interest to Old Students

CONNAL.—We are informed that Catherine Connal has been mentioned in despatches.

GOUGH.—Dr. Gough is now in temporary charge of the Department of German at University College, Exeter. In a letter to Mr. Ferguson he sends his good wishes to the Association, and adds that he would be very glad to see any of his old students who happen to be down Exeter way. His address is North Lodge, Newton Road, Torquay.

HEPPENSTALL : YOUNG.—L/Bombdr. Rayner Heppenstall (Eng. Lit. 1931-1934) and L/Cpl. C. K. Young (Eng. Lit. 1934-1938) appear in Kheidrych Rhys' new collection "Poems from the Forces" (Routledge), just published. L/Cpl. Young broadcast the B.B.C. talk on new books on November 27th, and has other engagements with the B.B.C. He is also engaged on writing a book on his experiences as a Despatch Rider with the B.E.F. in France.

HOLROYD.—G. H. Holroyd (M.A.) is the author of "Education for Leisure" just published by E. J. Arnold of Leeds, at 7/6; he is also joint author of a pamphlet issued by the same firm, a "Course of Basic Maths. for A.T.C. Cadets," with or without answers.

MILLER.—An anthology of 162 poems, entitled "Thudding Drums, an Anthology for South African Schools," has been compiled by G. M. Miller and is announced for publication by Hodder & Stoughton.

PEACOCK.—The J. G. Robertson prize granted by the University of London for the best published work on German literature over a period of three years, has been awarded to Prof. Ronald Peacock for his book on Holderlin, reviewed in this journal in December, 1938.

SPALDING.—Arthur Spalding has been appointed Deputy Director of Education in Bradford. Mr. Spalding came up to the University from the Salt's High School and after graduation had long teaching experience in London and the West Riding.

BIRTHS.

FIELDING.—To L.A.C. J. A. (German, 1930-33) and Mrs. Fielding (formerly Short, Latin, 1931-34), at the Parkside Nursing Home, Bolton, on December 29th, 1941, a daughter, Anne Christine.

FIRTH.—On January 19th, 1942, at Enfield, Baidon, to Peggy, wife of Capt. G. E. Firth, A.D. Corps (Dental 1928-33), a son.

GIRDLER.—To Major A. Hilsden (R.A.) and Mrs. Eirene Girdler (née Hemingway) on February 23rd, 1942, a son.

RUSSEL-JONES.—To Mr. and Mrs. S. Russel-Jones (née Whitehead, Arts 1932-36), at Farnley Hall, Otley, July 4th, 1941, a daughter, Susan Karin.

WOODWARK.—To George (Fuel, 1935-38) and Mrs. Woodwark (formerly Maude Beebe, Maths., 1934-38), on October 13th, 1941, a daughter.

ENGAGEMENT.

The engagement is announced between Robert Heaney, of Edinburgh, and Margaret P. Haswell (French, 1935-38), of 52 Prince Regent Lane, Plaistow, London.

MARRIAGES.

BERRY—INGLE.—On February 14th, 1942, at Dewsbury Road Methodist Church, Leeds, Jack Berry (B.A., 1939) to Winifred Mary Ingle.

WRAGG—GARBURY.—Rev. W. H. Wragg (B.A., 1940), formerly of Rawdon College, to Regina Garbury, of Horsforth, on January 28th, 1942, at Beeston Hill Baptist Church, Leeds.

DEATHS.

BRAGG.—Sir William Henry Bragg died on March 12th, 1942. We briefly note here (as the *Gryphon* had already gone to press) that Sir William came from Adelaide to Leeds in 1908 to succeed the late Dr. Stroud as Cavendish Professor of Physics. This chair he held until 1915 (his services to the government during the last war are well known) and his next professorship was held at London. In 1919 the University honoured him by conferring upon him the degree of D.Sc. *honoris causa*. Lengthier and more competent obituaries will be found in the scientific journals.

GORDON.—Dr. George Stuart Gordon died on the same day as Sir William Bragg (see above). He was, as his name betrays, a Scot, and his distinguished academic career began at Glasgow University, was continued at Oxford, embraced an all too short period at Leeds, and culminated in his final twenty years' tenure of office at Oxford again. It is difficult for one who was not in his department as a student to speak in any detail of his reign at Leeds. For one thing, that epoch (he left Leeds in 1922) seems to the younger generation so near and yet so far away. But from external observation, so to speak, a joyous atmosphere must have prevailed among his pupils, for one remembers with affection and amusement the nest of singing birds in the old English seminar. And was there not also an old exercise book wherein each member of the class was expected to play the sedulous ape by giving a precis of his lecture in the manner of one or other of the English classics?

At one time it was thought that he might return from Oxford to become Vice-Chancellor at Leeds; but he did not, and was eventually elected to that office at Oxford. To the non-academic world he had become a figure widely known in recent years through his activities on the selection Committee of a well-known book club, but partly also through his position in English society as the much publicised head of a University whose ceremonial occasions still rank among the more important of ancient English customs and institutions. His own literary productivity was not really very large; his early editions of Shakespeare and Peacham will be remembered among students, but his numerous special lectures and articles testify that he was much more an occasional writer. The University conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.Litt. in 1937. Those who are fortunate in possessing the special volume of Sam Cohen's cartoons published by the *Gryphon* nearly thirty years ago, may like to take the volume from their shelves and have another look at "Professor Gordon realising the inadequacy of examinations."

MILNE.—Geoffrey Milne, whose death at the age of forty-three is reported from Nairobi on January 16th of this year, graduated in 1921 and took his M.Sc. degree in 1924. His training was that of a chemist, but he went on to specialise in the scientific aspects of agriculture, and after a brief stay in Leeds as Lecturer in the Department of Agriculture, he left for Amani in 1928. There, doubtless with the help of his wife, an expert in scientific geography, he had built up a considerable reputation. An appreciation of his important work in Africa will be found in *Nature* for February 14th. His loss is great, and to his widow (whom former students of the Department of Geography will perhaps remember better as Miss M. K. Morgan) and the two sons he has left, we would offer on behalf of the Association the most sincere expression of our deep sympathy. His brother is Professor E. A. Milne, the Oxford mathematician.

SETON.—It is sad to have to chronicle the death of an eminent fellow agriculturalist at the same time. Emeritus Professor Robert Seton died on January 13th at the age of seventy-four. When he retired in 1932 he had been head for thirty-two years of a Department of the University which had expanded to dimensions which may be called enormous compared with its original quarters. After he had gone, it was for a time difficult to imagine that the Department was the same without his presence; he had always been there, no detail had seemed to escape his eye, he had lived for his work and had not spared himself. Dr. Comber, who succeeded him as head of the Department, has contributed a brief memoir to *Nature* of February 21st, and to this obituary notice as reader is referred for details of his professional career. As a man,

Professor Seton was unmistakably a Scot. For myself, I made a more than casual acquaintance with him only after he had retired from office and his life's work was almost over. Latterly he had spent much of his time in one or other of the libraries of Leeds, and there, showing his old relish for the relentless investigation of a problem until a solution was reached, he would pursue, note-book in hand, this problem and that, now the meaning of a dialect word, now some obscure point in theology. About his predecessors he could tell a few pleasant stories that are not likely to form part of an official history of the Yorkshire College. One could not help but like him, once he was really known; and in one library at least his gentle, unobtrusive and dignified presence will be greatly missed. To his widow and his sons, I am sure the Association would wish me to extend its deepest sympathy in their loss.

WILSON.—Dr. Kathleen Wilson died on January 26th at the age of fifty-six at a Leeds nursing home. She had had an active career. After school, she trained for a time with the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education and then left for America, whence she returned to serve in France for some months. She came to Leeds to study medicine in 1916 and qualified M.B., Ch.B. in 1921; in 1924 she took up general practice. She was well known in Leeds in musical and social as well as in medical circles.

PRISONER OF WAR

HYMAN.—Captain Eric Hyman, R.A.M.C., is reported prisoner of war in Libya. He came up to the Medical School from Leeds Grammar School, and after a short stay as medical officer at the Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, joined the forces in June, 1940.

STOP PRESS.

Owing to limitation of paper supplies, this issue is the last for the session. The Association appeals to O.S. to continue their support (although it is impossible to say when the next *Gryphon* will appear) not merely for the benefit of the O.S.A. itself, but in order to preserve those filial ties with the *alma mater* which can be so easily broken in times of stress. The Association will do its best to supply news of interest and University intelligence.

Rest Centre.—Volunteers are invited to attend at the Union immediately after an all-clear has sounded.

And here's to the next time!

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