

THE GRYPHON

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The Journal of the University of Leeds



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JULY, 1939

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“The Gryphon”

*Souvenir Issue to mark the Opening
of the Union Buildings*

July = = 1939

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Co-opted Staff: MISS E. COWELL.
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Mr. W. RILEY SMITH.

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 publication of this issue of *The Gryphon* marks a noteworthy stage in the development of the University and the Students' Union.

For long years Authorities and Students alike have been influenced by ideas of the need for some form of corporate unity among the Students. Before the war voices were not lacking to express the desire for a building which could form a centre for student activities.

After the war it was suggested that the Students' Union Building would make a fitting memorial to those who had died in the years 1914–1918, and an attempt was made to collect funds for the erection of such a memorial. In 1926 the University organised an architectural competition for the enlargement of the University's buildings, including a building for the Students' Union. Messrs. Lanchester and Lodge, F.R.I.B.A. were awarded the first premium. Lack of funds prevented the immediate carrying out of this plan for the new Union Building, but Mr. Riley Smith, by a generous gift of £25,000, made the scheme possible, and gained the thanks of students for all time. Spurred on by this gift, the students began a series of "Appeals," to raise yet more money: and the University Grants Committee generously allotted £15,000.

The plans of Messrs. Lanchester and Lodge were re-examined and it was decided to move the site of the Union Buildings from their original position to that in Beech Grove, which was considered, for obvious reasons, to be the most central point of student life. It was arranged that Mr. John C. Procter, F.R.I.B.A., should be associated with Messrs. Lanchester and Lodge, and should be responsible for the details of the designing, and for the supervision of the actual construction. Tenders for the building were obtained, and Messrs William Nicholson and Son (Leeds) Ltd., were appointed builders.

The magnificent Union Building, whose opening we celebrate now, is the result of these notable efforts.



PRESIDENT OF THE UNION, MR. H. KNOWLSON,
CUTS THE FIRST SOD, NOVEMBER, 1937.

The History of the Union.

*Schollers must have some times of mirth to meliorate their
great sobriety.*—THOS. BASKERVILLE (1630–1720).

THE Yorkshire College of Science was founded in 1874. It is hard for us to imagine to-day how lacking it was not only in the amenities of student life, but even in the idea that they should be provided. If a college were founded to-day, it would to-morrow have common rooms, playing fields, societies, athletic clubs and an Annual Charity Rag—all the things, in short, that we know to be essential components of the idea of the student. In the 1870's that idea did not exist. In 1878, a writer on university reform expressed the fear that injudicious innovation might transform "our decent and gentlemanly undergraduates" into "swaggering *Burschen*, whose delight is in duels, who hate the respectable and scorn the *Philister*; or, still worse, into a bad imitation of the ingenuous *étudiant* of the Sorbonne, living in sweet harmony with the inevitable *grisette*." There were at that date, it is true, university students in Scotland and Ireland, in London and Manchester; but it is none the less true that the idea of the student, and so of student life, had not yet been formed in the public mind.

The development which has given us the spacious playing fields at Weetwood, with their pavilion and the palatial Union building now to be opened, is due to the even more important growth of the idea of the British student, and the traditions which embody that idea in Leeds.

* * * *

A room which the College authorities had allotted as a "students' room" in 1874 was apparently converted before long to other uses. But in 1877, when the College took over the arts lectures which had been organised by a Cambridge University Committee, it took over also the "Leeds University Extension Union"; this did not last long, but it may have stimulated the foundation, in the same session, of the Yorkshire College Students' Association, one of the three societies amalgamated in 1891 to form the ancestor of the present Union. The Association held meetings once a fortnight, at which lectures were given, specimens exhibited and poetry read; it also organised an annual *conversazione* or concert, to which members could bring their friends; and there was a College supper each winter and a College excursion each summer.

In 1884, the College removed to the present site, and the buildings there included a small, gloomy refectory, which soon gave rise to the still familiar jokes. Two years later there was also a small common room, "furnished in the rigid style of a railway general waiting room"; and in that year was formed the Students' Union, which ran the common room and aspired to federate the departmental and other sectional societies which had been founded since 1884, and were to be founded in ever-increasing numbers. The first of these were the Photographic Club (1884), "The XIX" (1884), the Debating Society (1885/6), the Society of Chemists and Colourists (1885/6), the Engineering Society (1886/7) and the Textile Society (1887).

A short-lived Cricket Club was founded in 1879 and a Football Club was in existence in 1885 ; in 1889-90, the College acquired a field in Kirkstall Lane, which the Principal described as " almost unserviceable for cricket and but ill-adapted for football." Tennis courts were laid out, on the site of the present Arts Wing, in 1886, and a club was formed.

In 1889/90, an Athletic Union was formed by the federation of the Football, Cricket, Tennis and Swimming Clubs ; in 1891 the two Unions and the Association were amalgamated under the name of the Students' Union ; and from this the present Union is directly descended. In 1898, membership was made compulsory on all students ; its subscription covered membership of the various athletic clubs and the Debating Society, which were thus placed in a position of privilege, which they have maintained ever since.

This organisation of students by themselves for social life no doubt grew up almost spontaneously, though it was no doubt prompted by what students heard and saw of affairs in other colleges, and the choice of the name " Union " was suggested by its use for rather different institutions at Oxford and Cambridge. Another kind of organisation of students, for taking corporately a place in the working of the university (a kind of organisation which had been of primary importance in some of the mediaeval universities) was started at Leeds, apparently as the result of the imitation of other places ; the first Students' Representative Council was formed at Edinburgh in 1884 on the model of the German *Studentenausschuss*, and 10 years later the students of the Leeds College of Medicine, which had become a part of the Yorkshire College in 1884, established a similar body, which, as well as supervising the Common Room at the School of Medicine, was to serve as a medium of communication between the students and the Board of the School.

A Women's Representative Council, with the same dual function, was founded in 1900 ; and the Union gradually took over the function of representing student opinion as a whole. It has never received formal recognition in the university constitution, as has happened in the Scottish Universities, Belfast and Birmingham, but it is firmly established as the appropriate body to represent the interests of students in any connection.

This is not the place to do more than mention the growth in numbers and importance of student clubs and societies ; but reference must be made to the issue, in 1897, of the first number of *The Gryphon* ; two previous College magazines had been short-lived, but since then it has not ceased to record and to influence the movement of student ideas.

This may seem a record of smooth and almost automatic progress ; it was in fact the result of hard work by a very small number of students, with the support of a few sympathetic members of the Staff, amongst whom it is not invidious, I think, to mention the names of Arthur Smithells, B. M. Connal and C. M. Gillespie.

* * * *

In 1919, the number of students was doubled by the influx of ex-Service men ; they were older and more mature than the ordinary student and, aided by the wisdom and tact of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Michael Sadler, they exercised a powerful influence for good on the life of the university. In the session 1920/21, the correspondence columns of *The Gryphon* were full of discussions, in which

the nature of university education and the working of the Union were inextricably mingled ; a new constitution was drawn up, and was adopted in 1922 at a great Annual General Meeting, which discussed everything from the policy of the Government to the colour of blazers.

In this 1922 constitution, the system of representative councils was extended to cover all students, and they were to elect the Union Committee from their own members ; the Union Committee in turn was to elect the officers. The principal later changes have been the introduction of direct voting for the presidency and a number of seats on the committee, and the addition of a woman vice-president, also elected directly. In 1930, the University agreed to allow the president and secretary a year's extension of their courses.

The framers of the constitution of 1922 hoped to establish closer contact between the committee and the general body of students, and so to enable it to draw more freely on the services of those students who, while entering freely into the life of the university, neither play games nor belong to one of the larger of the sets into which undergraduates naturally and wholesomely divide themselves. In neither point were their hopes altogether realised, but they probably did as much as can be done in a constitution, and it may be doubted if the subsequent introduction and extension of direct election has improved matters.

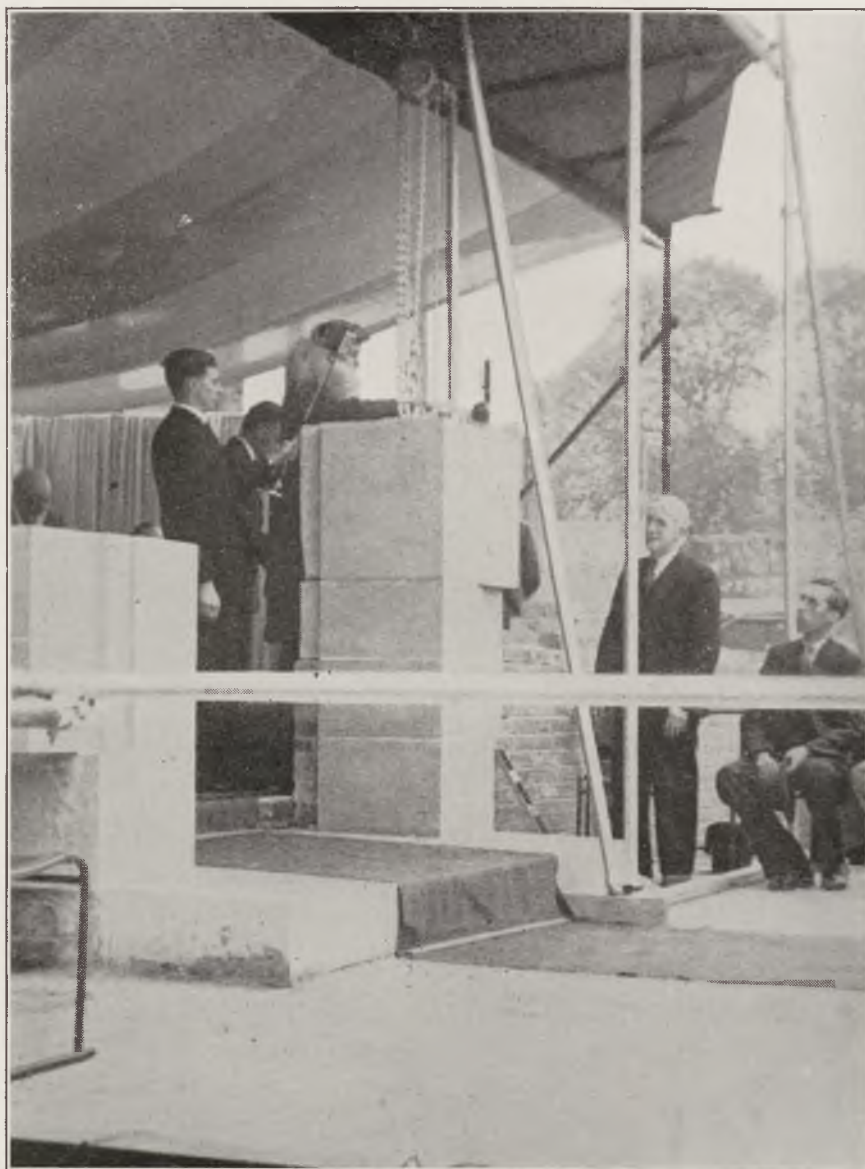
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The early common room was abandoned before long for some small rooms at the back of the Great Hall wing, including for the first time a separate room for women ; and this was later supplemented by a corrugated iron hut. In 1907, a house in Beech Grove Terrace, opposite the front of the University, was provided for women, and one in De Grey Terrace, opposite the back, for men ; in 1912, under Sir Michael Sadler's vice-chancellorship, the latter was exchanged for a more convenient house in Beech Grove Terrace, about 1919 a second house in De Grey Terrace was added, and in 1921 this again was exchanged for a second house in Beech Grove Terrace, where for the first time there was a joint common room for men and women. In 1936, when the University Library removed to the Brotherton building, the old General Library became a joint common room, and the next year the houses in Beech Grove Terrace being required for other purposes, the Union made what it may be hoped was its penultimate migration, to quarters in the former College Hall and elsewhere.

* * * *

The rather arid chronicle of constitutional development might have been made much longer and that of make-shift quarters more harrowing ; but even as they stand they will create a false impression unless it is remembered that they were only the background before which generations have grown from fresher to old student, learning from tradition and enriching it ; and that the organisation of student life is less important than those impermanent but precious societies which organise themselves, and those more lasting friendships which cannot be organised at all,

G. WOLEDGE.



LADY BAILLIE LAYS THE
FOUNDATION STONE,

The new Union Building.

Architectural description.

THE new Union building, in the grounds of Beech Grove House, is built in brick, with a minimum of stone dressings. It covers an area of 192 ft. from east to west, with a depth of 77 ft. from north to south. The main entrance is in the centre of the North front, facing Beech Grove House.

The style of the elevations is a simple and dignified adaptation of the "Georgian."

While the building is virtually planned on three floors, the caretaker's quarters and the cinema projection room, etc., are above the main roof level and may be said to constitute a fourth. These quarters are reached by a subsidiary staircase which, starting at a private entrance at the lowest (or lower ground) floor level, gives service access in passing upwards to each floor of the building.

The planning is straightforward and direct, and the slope of the site from north to south and the placing of the main entrance on the north side means that the building is entered at upper ground floor level, or at the middle in a vertical sense. Thus from the entrance hall the main staircase leads down to the lower ground floor and up to the first floor, an arrangement which makes the absence of a passenger lift less noticeable.

On entering the building, after passing the *Union Enquiry Office*, one is in the *Main Staircase Hall*, and this gives access at the east end to the *Hall*, floored for dancing and having seating accommodation for 661, with a further 157 in a *Balcony*. The *Stage* (40 ft. wide by 24 ft. deep) is flanked by four *Dressing Rooms*, two on stage level and two below. Under the stage are "*Rag*" and *Stage Stores*.

The Hall is balanced by the *Lounge* (73 ft. by 37 ft.) at the west end of the building, a room with a pleasant and sunny outlook. The remainder of this floor and of the south front is planned as a *Tea Room* (48 ft. by 24 ft.), with french windows on to a *Balcony*, overlooking the gardens, and a *Kitchen*, from which an electric service lift serves the *Social Room* below and the *Staff and O.S.A. Room* above.

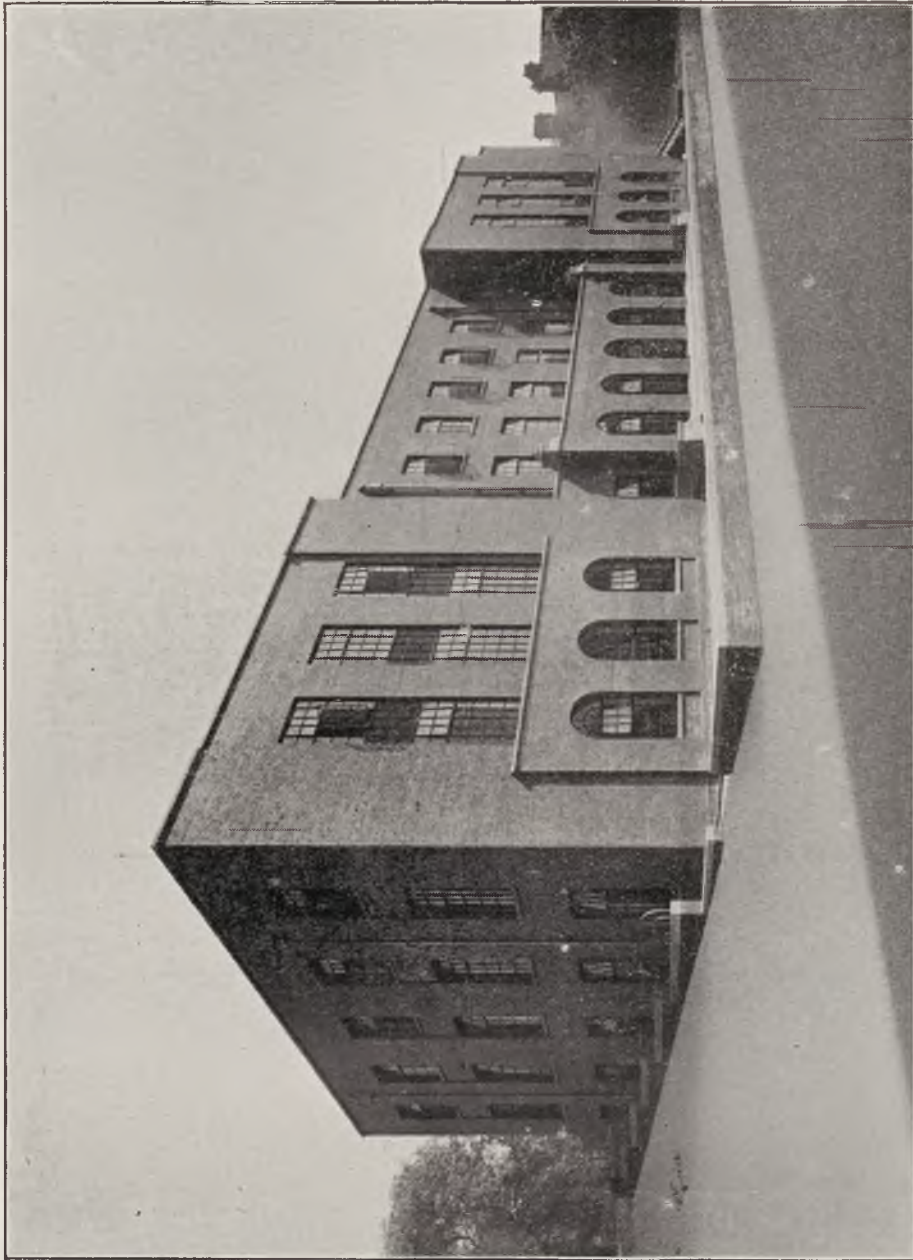
The twin flights of the Main Staircase lead down to the Lower Ground Floor, which, owing to the fall of the land, is in the nature of a basement on the north side, while on the south front the rooms are on the level of the Garden Terrace. For this reason, *Men's and Women's Coat Rooms*, *Lavatories*, *Baths*, *Showers* and a *Dark Room* are planned on the north side, while *Men's and Women's Common and Recreation Rooms* and a *Social Room* (72 ft. by 30 ft.), with dancing floor and french windows on to the Terrace, occupy the south front.

Naturally a considerable area of the first floor is occupied by the upper part of the Hall and its Balcony.

Of the remaining space, that on the north is used for a suite of four small *Committee Rooms*, two large *Committee Rooms* and the *Staff and O.S.A. Room* occupy the centre of the south front. A *Billiard Room* (four tables), *Chess* and *Card Rooms* and a *Library* account for the remainder of this floor.

The Hall is panelled to a height of 7 ft. 0 in. with Austrian and Queensland Silky Oak, and the Library has an arrangement of dwarf bookcases in oak and teak.

The Architects for the building are : Messrs. Lanchester & Lodge, F.R.I.B.A., and Mr. John C. Procter, M.C., F.R.I.B.A.



FRONT ELEVATION.

(Manby).

Some Reminiscences.

THE opening of the Union Building is a great event for us all. Fifty years ago such a building was only thought of by a few old men who saw visions and the young men who dreamed dreams. That to-day it is no longer "the baseless fabric of a vision," but a solid and splendid reality, is in largest measure due to the generosity of one who had not only the imagination to conceive, but also the will and the power to execute.

As one of the old men who dreamed dreams when they were young, I have been asked to contribute to the Special Number a few reminiscences of the Union in its early days. Unhappily, as with Mark Twain, my memory is not what it was when I was younger; then I could remember anything, whether it happened or not, now I chiefly remember what didn't happen.

My first recollection of the Union is of being asked for a subscription of half a crown to what was then called either the Students' Association or the Students' Union. In 1890 a reconstruction took place and a Union was formed with the advice and assistance of Professor Smithells, always interested and active as he was in Students' concerns. At his instigation I was appointed Treasurer, and for 30 years the Union was doomed to carry its Old Man of the Sea. The subscription was fixed at seven and sixpence, but was still voluntary, and various members of the committee spent much time and effort in collecting the wherewithal to carry on. After two or three years of cumulative deficits the Council of the College was persuaded to introduce the principle of the Conscription of Wealth, and the subscription was made compulsory. From that time the Union has been able to balance its accounts, the only changes necessary being successive increases in the amount of the subscription.

The Chairman of the Union was Professor Smithells, who occupied the Chair for a good many years and rendered inestimable service, until it was decided that the time had come for complete self-government, and the "Chairman" was replaced by a President, that President being a student. The name of the student organization was changed from time to time, until from being an "Athletic Union" and a "Student Union" it settled down, after the foundation of the University, as the Leeds University Union, to which be all honour and prosperity!

One of the earliest events of great importance was the purchase by the College of an athletic ground of some five acres on the other side of the N.E.R. bridge beyond the present Leeds Rugby League Football Ground. To raise funds for levelling this ground and making it fit for Cricket and Football, the Great Bazaar was held in 1895, in the newly-erected Great Hall of the College. Miss Agnes Talbot, daughter of Mr. Grosvenor Talbot, was induced by Professor Smithells, to undertake the organization, which she carried out with distinguished success. Much of the donkey work, particularly among the students, was done by Claude Barber, then Secretary of the Union. Mr. C. F. Tetley was Treasurer, and some of the linen bags used to collect the takings are still preserved and in use. Professor Stroud wrote an "Extravaganza" called "Ploughed," and himself played the principal part, that of a professor who with malicious glee "ploughed" his own ambitious wife; Dr. Perkin (afterwards Professor Perkin) ran a Shooting Gallery; there was a Palmist and a Handwriting interpreter and all manner of side shows; Mrs. John Barran, with a numerous band of young ladies, organized and supplied refreshments on a noble scale, and many of the people did many other things. The result was that the sum of over two thousand pounds was raised. The field was levelled and the first Gymnasium built.

DONATIONS

towards the cost of the
UNION BUILDINGS

	£
Mr. W. Riley Smith	25,000
From Old Students, Staff, Undergraduates and other Subscribers }	4,473
Amount raised by Students' Activities	1,302
Grant from University Grants Committee	15,000

The latter was of wood, roofed with corrugated iron, and one of my recollections of those days is that of spending some hours of a sunny day with our faithful groundsman, Hodgkinson, and a tar bucket, on the roof, attempting to cover it with tar. (In the end an expert had to be called in, so that our effort at economy was not so successful as it deserved to be!). Many will remember how the building had eventually to be shored up with wooden props to prevent it from collapsing or being blown away. Still, it served its purpose for many years and has been happily replaced by the present Gymnasium, which was opened by the late Lord Hawke.

As for the playing field, that was levelled and put in order, but there was no money for a pavilion. However, the College Council lent us what was necessary; Members of the Council and Staff and other friends became "Honorary Members" of the Union and contributed generous subscriptions for many years till the debt was more than repaid. The pavilion was frequently broken into and burgled, and I have some curious memories connected with the old ground. One groundsman made a moonlight flit, leaving behind (and this should be remembered to his credit) the club cricket bag in safe custody with a neighbour. Some time after his departure I had a visit from two detective officers, who reported that they had discovered a roller which he had borrowed from a neighbouring gardener for use on our cricket pitch, and had then sold to someone else. I also heard that he had borrowed a horse and cart for use on the ground, and that the owner had met them being driven away from the ground by someone to whom our friend had sold them! As the aggrieved victim remarked, he would have sold the ground if he could have found someone to take it away!

As the ground could not accommodate any games except Cricket or Rugby Football, it became necessary to obtain a larger domain, especially after the College had become a University, and a new ground was bought by the Council, consisting of some 20 acres or more on the North side of what is now New Adel Lane. It was to have been opened in 1914, but the War intervened. When the War was over a large army hut was purchased and adapted for the purposes of a pavilion. Then came the purchase by the University of the Weetwood Estate, and the laying-out of grounds for all kinds of games, including the magnificent Athletic Sports ground, with its unique 220 yards straight track.

But all these developments and the other things that have since been achieved, notably the munificent gift of the fine pavilion by that generous friend of the students, the late Mr. Charles Tetley, are they not written in the chronicles of my successors and of others who have been more intimately associated with them than I have been.

Social intercourse was a matter which concerned many of us greatly. I remember how we organized Smoking Concerts which by the grace of Professor Miall were held in the old Biological Laboratory. Professor Rogers, a first-rate musician, provided the high-brow element, while others contributed lighter entertainment, such as Dickens readings and the songs of Albert Chevalier. The great social event of the year was the *Conversazione*, for which the Hall was profusely decorated to disguise it and give it a gay and festive appearance. There was no dancing except for a furtive half-hour or so after the Authorities had taken their departure. After the War the *Conversazione* was dropped, and the hectic era of the tango and the fox trot and the after-midnight revels set in and has continued till the present time, though there are said to be some welcome signs that its virulence is abating. Perhaps the new building and its amenities will bring with them fresh inspiration!

B. M. CONNAL.



THE UNION COMMITTEE, 1938-39.

Sport in the University.

SPORT is of paramount importance in the present day life of University students. The advantages which it offers are manifold, extending from the maintenance of physical fitness to the furtherance of the sense of co-operation, besides being a great asset to the would be school teachers.

Without adequate facilities sport is almost impossible. Leeds has the largest and best equipped athletic grounds among, at least, the provincial universities. For these we owe our thanks to the University Council and the Unemployment Grants Committee, by whose generous aid the grounds have been extended from an area of 6 acres in 1889 to their present size of almost 100 acres. Although the grounds at present appear adequate, further extensions are possible if the necessity arises. First class pitches are available for all the University first teams, and good second class ones for the subsidiary sides. The number of pitches totals 17, of which five are for rugby, four for soccer, six for hockey and two for lacrosse. In addition there are two netball pitches and ten hard tennis courts. There is also a cinder running track with a straight 220 yards independent of the 440 yards.

A long felt need was satisfied in 1933 when owing to the generosity of Dr. C. F. Tetley, a splendid pavilion was erected. This was only for men, however, and it is hoped in the near future to be able to improve the existing changing facilities for women, either by erecting a new pavilion or by renovating the existing changing rooms.

The boathouse, opened in October, 1937, is second to none among University boathouses, whilst the gymnasium, although very good at present, is to be extended and a swimming bath built with the aid of money from the University Grants Committee and other generous donors.

Conditions are now such that, owing to the high standard of facilities, every encouragement is given to students to participate in games and all these advantages are within the reach of every student.

We at present run 24 men's teams and 15 women's teams in the various spheres of sport during the course of a session and it is estimated that some 500-600 students represent the University per year. In addition to these there are many others who take advantage of the facilities in inter-departmental matches and solely for the purpose of keeping fit.

Whilst many of the games played are well established, we are constantly endeavouring to stimulate interest and encourage the development of younger and more recent games such as fencing and badminton, and it is gratifying to notice the increased numbers participating. The most recent innovation is basket ball, which is well patronised even though as yet there is no University side.

The appointment of a Director of Physical Education has been very popular, and though the "keep fit" are as yet not as well attended as hoped for, it is expected that in time voluntary classes will be in progress throughout the day.



STAGE IN "RILEY SMITH" HALL.

[Marilyn]

The Leeds University Union is fully affiliated to the Universities Athletic Union and to the Women's Inter-Varsity Athletic Board.

The U.A.U. was founded in 1919, with Leeds as one of the original members. By its means University sports are encouraged and co-ordinated. The athletic side of our University life is now so highly evolved that we take part in all spheres of sport recognised by the U.A.U. These include soccer, athletics, boxing, cricket, cross country running, hockey, lacrosse, rowing, rifle shooting, rugby, swimming, tennis, water polo and fencing. By arranging representative matches against strong teams, some of almost international standard, the high standing of University sport is now being recognised and improved. It is a great honour to be chosen for these sides and Leeds must feel proud of its athletic ability, having had players selected for soccer, rugger, hockey, athletics, fencing, cricket and cross country running, and has in fact provided captains for several of these. In the inter-'Varsity Championships Leeds has at one time or another succeeded in almost every sport.

The W.I.V.A.B. first came into being as an independent organisation in 1923, having originated in 1921 as a somewhat sickly offshoot of the U.A.U., or inter-Varsity Athletic Board as it was then. By 1935 thirteen Universities were members and inter-Varsity Championships were held in athletics, hockey, netball and swimming. Since that time membership has increased and the inter-'Varsity Championships now include badminton, cricket, fencing, lacrosse and tennis, in addition to those above. Since then the women of this University have seven times held the Championship in athletics, six times in netball and swimming and once in cricket and lacrosse. Curiously enough, however, neither the tennis or hockey have come our way so far.

Due almost entirely to the enormous improvements in late years of both the number and quality of our pitches, there has been, of recent years, a spate of county and even international honours in some of the clubs. County standard has been reached by members of the cricket, netball and lacrosse clubs. The athletic club has ascended to the dizzy heights of Olympia and has produced full blown internationals, and between them the swimming and athletic clubs have supplied representatives for the International Student Games on every occasion since women's events were first included in 1933.

Interest in athletic pastimes hitherto monopolised by the men, such as rowing, golf, and even rifle shooting seems to be gradually awakening, and it seems possible that in the course of the next few years such clubs may come into being along with the revival of the women's gymnastic club, which faded into oblivion three or four years ago.

It will be obvious that it will be very difficult for sport to develop much further, such a high standard has it now reached. However, it is the heritage of students to keep striving and at least maintain the present standing, in due fairness to the people whose hard work has made the present position possible.

K. I. CONNAL.

W. H. GOLIGHTLY.



GALLERY AND HALL.

(Marsden).

L.U.O.S.A.

THE opening of the new Union Building is a major event in the lives of Old Students as well as in the lives of present Students—indeed, to many of them, when they behold the amenities offered to the Student of the future, it may well seem that a miracle has been performed! The “Freshers” of 1939-40 and succeeding years will probably take it for granted, for they will know nothing of the limited accommodation in Beech Grove Terrace before even the acquisition of the J.C.R., but generations of Old Students who went down before 1939 will wish they had their college days still to come when they inspect the new building.

In this Commemorative Issue of *The Gryphon* it is not inappropriate that the *raison d'être* of the Leeds University Old Students' Association should be given a place.

It was in December, 1924, that Professor Gillespie, in a foreword to the first year-book of the O.S.A.—then only 18 months' old—said that the issue of that year-book was a symbol that the alumni of the University were recognising that to retain contact with it was a privilege not to be lightly valued.

In their report on the growth of the movement the Hon. Secretaries said: “Best of all, it is good to feel that the spirit pervading the whole Association is a desire not that the individual member may benefit by the Association but that the individual member may be able, through the Association, to offer something to the University which has given to us so much of what we value most.”

The L.U.O.S.A. was inaugurated on the 5th January, 1923, with the objects of keeping former students in touch with University affairs and of extending beyond student days loyalty to the University and that spirit of friendliness of which Leeds has always been justly proud.

Of course we are all familiar with the words: “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” but those who strengthen the Association by joining its ranks do receive concrete advantages as well as those which cannot be expressed in material terms. Here are some of them:—

Members receive—(1) A copy of every issue of *The Gryphon*.

(2) The O.S.A. Year Book.

(3) Notices of Branch activities.

(4) (On application to the Hon. Secretaries).

Particulars of special terms available to our members for Life Insurance with one of the leading Life Assurance Companies.

Then there is the Annual Christmas Dinner, General Meeting and Dance (usually held on the last Saturday before Christmas); an Annual Summer Function, of which particulars are given in the May issue of *The Gryphon*; Badminton and Tennis for those who can get to the University Gym. and Oxley Hall, not to mention the Meetings of the Branches in their respective areas.



CORRIDOR.

(Manby).

From its earliest days the Association has received the most kindly encouragement and much generous help from the University. In 1924 we were given the use of the house adjoining the old Union in Beech Grove Terrace, and we enjoyed the advantage of those Headquarters (for it included an office) until the end of 1937, when the University found that it needed the premises. That was not the end of our H.Q. however, for in exchange we were given far better accommodation at 38, University Road, and next session we shall be able to hold meetings of a social nature in the Old Students' room in the Union Building, so we shall become even more closely bound to the Union.

Past and Present Students will be interested to know that we have been invited to send a representative to the Advisory Committee for the Management of the Union Building.

DOROTHY G. TUNBRIDGE,	} <i>Joint</i>
ARTHUR E. FERGUSON,	

The National Union of Students.

THE N.U.S. Committee of any University is its Foreign Office; the N.U.S. itself is the collection of all these committees, and the Central Office at London is the Clearing House of all its activities. The N.U.S. is not an organisation to which universities can belong, it is a union of certain universities for certain purposes and activities which they could not perform individually. If this idea is grasped the N.U.S. needs no further apology, but only explanation of these activities.

The first duty of the N.U.S. is to represent the student point of view nationally. In order to do this it has representation on the committees of many youth organisations, and it is always prepared to give evidence to such bodies on matters of student interest. On such occasions as may be necessary it endeavours to interest the public in its case, both by writing to the papers and by getting articles written by eminent men for publication. Internationally it represents the English and Welsh Universities on the various committees that try to get some co-operation between the Youth and Student Movements in different countries. The Hospitality and Student Travel departments, both of them very flourishing, are also run by the N.U.S. for this purpose, and they are regarded as a very important side of its work. The Hospitality Department arranges for students from other countries, who wish to visit this country, either individually or in groups, homes where they may stay, itineraries, introductions, and generally tries to make their stay as comfortable and as useful as possible. The Travel Department arranges tours for students going abroad, usually at a cost much lower than the commercial firm. Some of these tours are expensive and ambitious, others will tempt the most meagre pocket. The organisation is first-class and a student group usually provides itself with plenty of fun.



LOUNGE.

Marby).

Many problems have presented themselves to the universities, which they could never have hoped to solve individually, which have been tackled by the N.U.S. and, if not yet solved, have been thoroughly investigated and the remedies indicated. These enquiries have covered hostel organisation, refectories, charity rags, the lecture system, student health and graduate employment. The N.U.S. would be the last to claim that any of these problems are solved, but it can claim that it has made both the Authorities and the students aware of their existence, and the first is far easier to arouse. None of these problems can be tackled unless there is available plenty of accurate information on the different subjects. Both the N.U.S. and the constituent organisations have collected such information from time to time and much of this has been published by the N.U.S. in pamphlet form. Other problems that have faced the N.U.S. have been of a more specialized nature, and these have been dealt with in various Faculty Committees. These committees investigate the problems which especially concern them and, if they decide to press for any reforms, the whole weight of the organisation can be used if it is felt that they are good.

Leeds was one of the original members of the Union when it was formed in 1922. In 1932 it was decided to secede as there were no tangible results to show for membership. This has always been a handicap to the N.U.S., but it was soon realised that it was impossible for such work to be put down on paper like a balance sheet, and in 1936 Leeds re-applied for admission to the Union. This break of four years has meant that we are still some way behind the other universities in utilising the benefits of the N.U.S. Very few of our students use the Tours; except for the official representatives no students attend the valuable annual congresses, which take some aspect of university life for their subject. Much of the more valuable work of the N.U.S. is done at these congresses. Leeds has still to realise the benefits that are to be gained from active participation in the Faculty Committee.

Finally, the N.U.S. publishes a magazine three times a term which contains a host of articles and material on all sides of student life. This is the *New University* and is well worth the two pennies asked for it.

At present most of the value of the N.U.S. is lost because the ordinary student does not realise or make use of the facilities and information that may be had for the asking. Neither the Union Committee nor the N.U.S. Committee can give this information if it is not asked for. Do come and ask.

H.

Leeds University Union Library.

The Hon. Secretary acknowledges with thanks gifts of books from the undermentioned :—

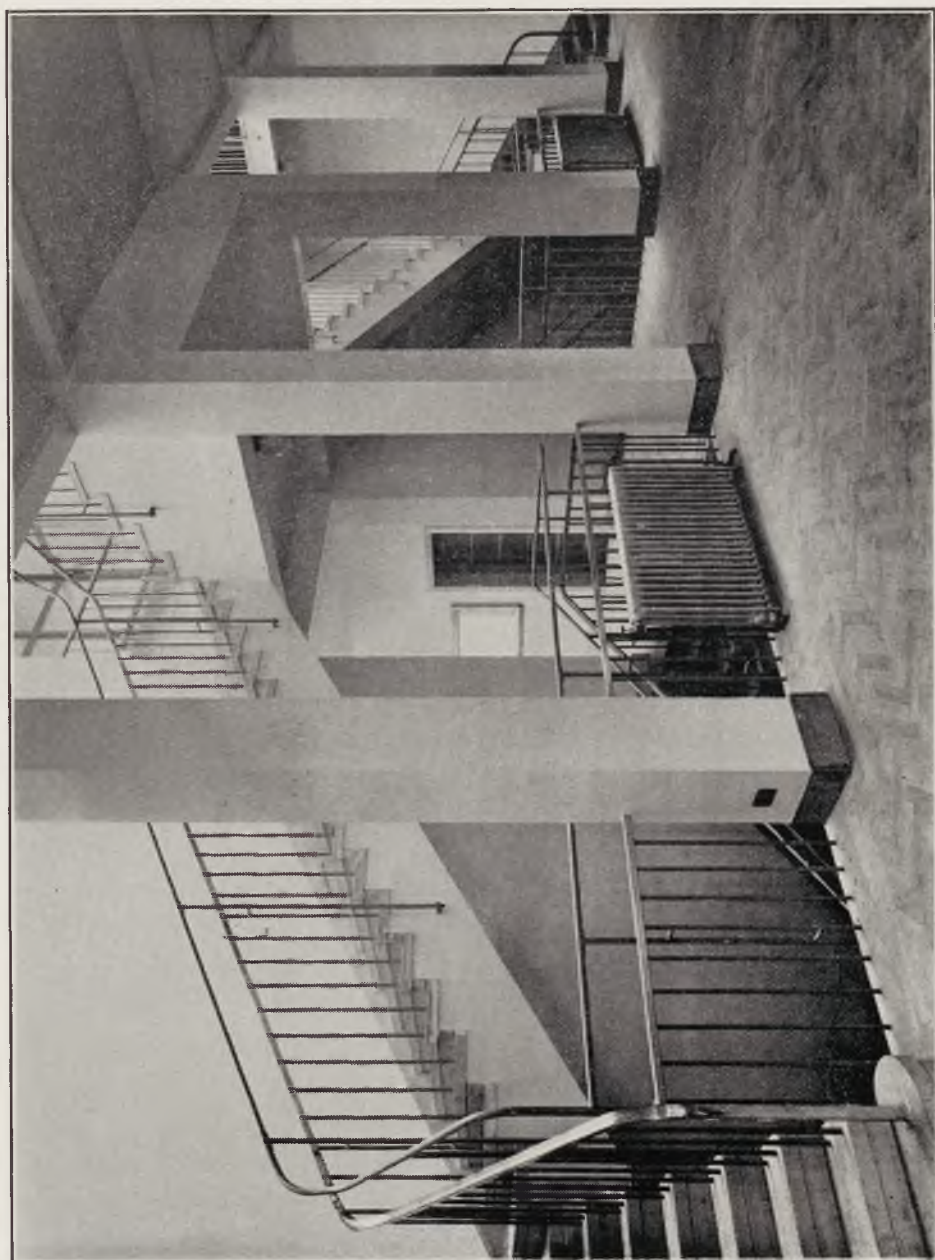
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Mr. G. Beaumont.

Mr. R. F. Linsell.



STAIRWAY.

(Manby).

Epilogue.

WHEN it comes to the last page, articles with such imposing titles as "The History of the Union," "Some Reminiscences" and "Architectural Description of the new Union Building," having gone before, it is somewhat difficult to take up one's pen with reasonable hope of writing an appropriate article.

The excellent "History of the Union," written by Mr. Woledge, shows the difficulties which faced students in the past, and the effort which was needed to overcome them. That we are privileged to be present at the University on the great day when the Union Building is to be opened, is due to the efforts of those who have gone before us. Old men were not content merely to see "visions," nor the young to "dream dreams," but they, by their efforts, have made it possible for this dream to be realised. They strove to attain an object, knowing full well that if it were attained, they themselves would not be there to benefit by it. They were not guided by any selfish motive, but worked in an effort to see that the generations of students to follow would have a fuller University life than they themselves had.

If we who are now students are wise, there is a lesson to be learned from those who preceded us. The tradition of service for others, so nobly carried on by them, must be carried on by us, and handed down to the generations which will follow. It might be assumed that we can now rest content, having attained the object which has been most prominently before students for years past. Not for one moment, however, must we rest from our labours, but press ever forward and ever upwards. Even now, with a new Union Building, and the promised Swimming Bath, Squash and Fives Courts, and the extension to the Gymnasium, there comes to the mind almost immediately, things within the University which can be—and eventually must be—improved upon from the student point of view.

But we must not only think of the improvement in accommodation for the students to follow. We all, whether we like it or not, have a responsibility to our country, and, more important, to humanity. To use an oft-quoted phrase, University students represent the intellectual cream of society, and it is our duty to train ourselves as good citizens, and to make our contribution towards the solving of the difficult problems confronting the world, thereby aiding the cause of peace. Students should make it their business to know something of the fundamental political problems of the day—the interdependence of the whole world, the problem of the backward states, the possibility of banishing poverty and unemployment, and the conflict of dictatorship versus democracy. If the University does not provide the means by general lectures, etc., then the student societies should. Moreover we should make every attempt to try to understand the minds of the youth outside the University, and for this reason alone, the Youth Parliament held recently was of immense value. This work, once begun, should be continued by the organisation of local Youth Parliaments, so that we may join with the entire youth of the nation in the pursuance of those things which are vital to all of us. In this connection, the Leeds University Working Men's Institute should be mentioned. This could be a valuable means of students maintaining their contact with those people outside the University, and the exchange of opinions and discussion of problems would be of value to all—but at present, and for some years past, only a comparatively small number of students have taken any interest in, or indeed even heard of the Working Men's Institute.



BACK ASPECT.

(Manby).

We should mix more with the students from overseas who have honoured us by spending a few years amongst us, so that we may be better able to understand the problems peculiar to the countries to which they belong. By this means we can find out what the youth of other nations is thinking, come to some decision as to how we should set about our common aims, and help to promote the friendly, international spirit upon which the lasting peace of the world ultimately depends.

These are some of the ways in which we should continue. If we do, then we will have done a little towards enlarging the outlook of the Union, and in making it possible for students, through the Union, to obtain a broader outlook on life and to live richer and more useful lives.

The life of Leeds University Union has been short, but in this short period the tradition which has risen around it is one of which we can justifiably feel proud, *but only if we do our bit to maintain it.* The Union has developed from, at first, a means of social intercourse, to now, an essential part of and a power and force in University life. As Mr. Ramsay Muir, Litt.D., said at the last N.U.S. Congress: "Students must, by their own demands, set the pace of progress." See to it that your demands are justifiable and in the right direction.

* * *

Finally, it is most appropriate that all those people who have so generously contributed to the cost of this Union Building, and the furnishing of it, should be mentioned at the end of this Souvenir Edition of *The Gryphon*. Especially should be mentioned Mr. W. Riley-Smith, whose thought and generosity have largely made a new Union Building possible. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Union, to place on record our everlasting and most sincere thanks.

T. H. HENRY, *President 1938-39,*
Leeds University Union.



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