

77 DEC 1949

# UNION NEWS

## LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION



Vol. IV. No. 5.

Thursday, December 15th, 1949.

Twopence.

# CONSTITUTION TO BE CHANGED

**Proposals passed by 716 to 646**

## STAFF and STUDENT.

The annual Staff-Student Tea took place this year on Thursday, November 24th. Members of the staff, presidents and secretaries of Societies and Clubs, the U.C., and such waifs and strays as happened to be hanging about in search of something to eat were all given pretty labels (blue for staff, yellow for students, just to make sure that no embarrassing mistakes were made) and herded into the cafeteria in the first blush of having been announced by Mr. Large in the stentorian tones which he keeps for occasions such as this and 10 o'clock on a Saturday night. Having shaken hands with the President and the S.V.P., the staff went and talked to the staff and the students went and talked to the students. This state of affairs was somewhat alleviated by tea, but as far as wholesale mingling was concerned, this part of the proceedings was not a striking success.

At about half-past five, a general move in the direction of the R.S.H. was made, where the Music Society was to give an entertainment. The President prefaced this by assuring the staff that there was no ulterior motive behind this effort at co-operation, despite the proximity of exams, and stated that he would like the staff to make more use of the Union during the day. Then for half an hour members of the Music Society gave a varied programme, much of which caused the Entertainments Secretary great difficulty with pronunciation.

The idea behind such gatherings is good, but perhaps the method employed in bringing staff and students together is a little too formalised. The President's suggestion that the staff should make more use of the Union in the normal course of everyday life is probably the best way to achieve the desired objective. But students should realise that they too have a part to play. After all, some of them may be "Staff" some day.

The constitutional changes proposed by the U.C. have been agreed to by 716 votes to 646. Most opposition came from the Medical School and the Dental School, there being only one vote in favour at the latter against 144 opposing. The decision has now to be ratified at the Union A.G.M. in February.

### Discussion in Committee.

The constitutional changes were first proposed at the meeting of the Joint U.C. at the end of last summer term, when they were passed by a large majority. A Special U.C. Meeting was called on November 25th, where they were further discussed. At this meeting, Mr. Singleton proposed an entirely new system based on Faculty representation. There was a long discussion, but eventually this system was rejected unanimously.

### Information Meeting.

On Thursday, December 1st, an information meeting was called. This was the cue for the everlasting battle between Halls and Union to recommence. Mr. Singleton pointed out that though a candidate for an Open Seat would probably be elected by a block vote from his own Hall, he would be on the U.C. as a member of the Union. This would never do! The Devon representative, Mr. Lees (who at the Special U.C. meeting had, at one point, proposed that there should be 14 Open Seats and a Devon Seat) rose to defend the divine right of the Halls. The proposed changes, he thought, were of "a pernicious nature." Open Seaters, bow your heads in shame! For you "know nothing about anything" you are "lost souls" because you have no constituency, and you make the U.C. "a sordid battle-ground for persons who only have their own opinions."

Mr. Lane, of Lyddon, added to the invective, and accused U.C. of "a perverted passion for rigid logic" and Open Seaters of being elected by "general popularity or notoriety."

### The Other Side.

Previously to all this, Mr. Mahabir, who was in charge of

the information (as opposed to the incoherent) part of the meeting, had proved that Open Seaters were the flower of the U.C., as the majority of them were elected onto the Executive. Mr. Khushro declared that a representative with an open mind was preferable to one tied down to the opinion of his constituency or pressure group. Mr. Mahabir also remarked that, speaking as an old member of Devon, he knew that there was little or no interest in the election of a U.C. representative among members of a Hall, and that there was inadequate discussion between the community and its delegate. The only full consultation in Devon occurred when there was to be an increase in hostel fees.

### Faculty Representation.

An alternative proposal came from Mr. Singleton, still pressing for faculty representation. He considered that the new scheme would be as inadequate as the old. Faculty representation, he declared, would organise people in lodgings into an accessible electorate. Mr. Kelly supported him with the questionable assertion that we know all the members of our own faculty.

Mr. Mahabir doubted whether faculties would thereby display a greater interest in the Union. Faculty affairs are very rarely discussed on the U.C., and in any case, this system would only result in a division into blocks again, whereas the aim is to intergrade U.C.

The next excitement will presumably come at the Union A.G.M., when the changes come up for ratification, and when the Halls, led by Devon, will doubtless turn up in force in a last effort to maintain their rotten borough representation.

## Was it the "Dentals"?

At least we didn't think so—not a set of dentures or a skull to advertise the Bevan Boys. But perhaps we are being unfair, as the decorations were the most original seen in the Union for a long time. The entrance hall and the Riley-Smith presented a striking picture à la Continental—ah, nostalgia for gay Paree.

The reception by Mr. Morgan, President of the D.R.C., was soon over and dancing commenced to Gordon Young. Gordon came down to our level for the first hour, the band being in one corner of the Hall. The odd couple were to be seen on the floor (which, by the way, was for once not too highly polished for dancing), so, following the example set by the majority, a visit was paid to the Bar. Could we believe our eyes? We could, even so early in the evening. Before us, in great festoons, was the biggest herd of elephants, predominantly pink, that we have seen since leaving the Service. A gentle breeze coming through the window added to the effects, and it is perfectly true that one Dental signed the pledge towards midnight.

Returning to the dance we found Allen Bowlings Top Ten on the stage, and the two bands alternated throughout the evening. Dancing was very pleasant, as the numbers were not too many—shades of the Union Ball—but we are in vain trying to find the name of a certain Dental who was seen after midnight with a certain article of lady's underwear on the dance floor. And so, as Pepys would have it, to bed.

### FOOTNOTE.

Warning to Gate-crashers. Mr. Large was in deadly form on Friday night.



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## Union News

LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15th, 1949.

Vol. IV. No. V.

### Staff and Committee :

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### Ex-officio members :—

The Union Executive Committee  
 and the Editor of *The Gryphon*

## EDITORIAL.

We are in full agreement with the constitutional changes which were passed at the referendum held last week. Apart from the unfairness of the present system, the U.C. was too big and too unwieldy to function as efficiently as it should.

There are now two points to watch. The first is block voting, which is very strong in the Union. Naturally people will vote for the person they know best, and naturally this will often be someone from their faculty or Society. But there must be a great many people who never take the trouble to find out the merits of other candidates, and vote for a certain person simply because everybody else in their little group does so. This is more like the action of a sheep than that of a member of a supposedly intelligent community.

The second point is to make quite sure that the Halls do not defeat the ratification motion at the A.G.M. in February. That they will try to do so is fairly certain. Devonshire Hall will presumably make a great deal of noise and other Halls may follow suit. Devon has managed to defeat the motion for the cancellation of Hall representation at more than one S.G.M. Now its representative has gone to the lengths of making the preposterous proposal that there should be 14 Open Seats and one Devon seat. Oligarchic ambitions can surely go little further than that. We express a very sincere hope that there may be enough sane people at the A.G.M. to defeat such idiotic ideas, and make sure that the reformation of U.C. can at last be accomplished.

Date of next issue January 19th.

Last day for copy January 12th.

## This and That

### STAFF-STUDENT BALL.

After the Staff-Student Tea, the Staff-Student Ball. This will take place on February 3rd, and a committee has been set up (naturally) to make plans. It is hoped that the Entertainments Secretary will share the duties of M.C. with Professor Durward of the Medical School. This should make things highly entertaining even leaving out of account the amusement most students always seem to derive from seeing their elders cavorting about in an unaccustomed manner and in unaccustomed dress.

### EXEC. SPORTS.

Spies inform us that the Exec. Committee have been passing many a happy hour recently playing darts, dominoes, and shove-ha'penny in their sanctum next to the Union Office. That these reports bore at least a semblance of truth is born out by the fact that we actually saw the President and the Hon. Student Treasurer instructing the S.V.P. in the intricacies of the latter game while counting the votes on the recent referendum. However, the equipment for these games is to be placed in the bar (except, of course, a supply of ha'pennies). Although we do not really think that this will prevent the Exec. from continuing their exercise.

### MIDDAY MEALS.

Despite the increase in the price of midday meals in the Refectories last year, there was still a deficit of £1,486 over the year. On the other hand, the caf. (sorry Mr. Forster) the cafeteria, made a profit of £560 over the same period. This probably proves something very important, but the only thing we can think of at the moment is that it shows that its quicker to get your lunch in caf. than in the Refec. on emerging from a twelve o'clock lecture.

### PARKING.

The regulations regarding the parking of cars in front of the Union are to be enforced much more strictly in future. No longer will Mr. Scott-Milligan be able to leave his car where it happens to break down. No more will Mr. Currie be allowed to pick his vehicle up and deposit it where he likes. Even Mr. Fountain will have to take care where he puts his motor-cycle. But does all this mean that Mr. Large will stand on the steps of the Union and relapse into naval language such as "two points to starboard," "Avast," and "Belay"? This would indeed be a magnificent sight. Too magnificent, perhaps ever to be turned into glorious reality.

### ARCHERY & CYCLING.

Two new clubs are in process of being formed and recognised. These are the Archery Club and the Cycling Club. Where the former is going to operate we do not know as yet, but we hope that we will not have to find out by tracing the origin of odd arrows which come flying into the Union. But perhaps the two new clubs can co-operate. For instance, the cyclists could serve as moving targets for the archers; although we feel that the cyclists would not wish to do this, considering the price of tyres these days.

### ARTS FESTIVAL.

It is with regret that we announce the "The White Devil" was not one of the plays chosen for production at the Arts Festival this Christmas. The Union will, however, be contributing to the Festival by sending £32 (£1 per hundred students). While this is not a very spectacular form of contribution, it is at least a useful one. The question of subsidising Union members attending the Festival is also under consideration.

PETE.

## Ain't Science Wonderful.

Doubtless, many readers have brooded long over the weird hieroglyphics to be found adorning caf. furniture. **Union News** is now in a position to report the results of one set of the aforementioned squiggles. We reached this position by stepping gingerly among untold heaps of broken crockery and singing minstrel groups, eventually coming across a small group of Intro. Chemistry wallahs who were at that time engaged in formulating a new thesis. And this is it—Cooks Law. In full, Cooks Law states that all results of practical experiments differ from those results which are theoretically obtained. The degree of deviation, for each experiment, varies according to the co-efficient of cooking required to reconcile the two sets of results.

We feel that when this Law has been given its due publicity it will become a boon to all students. Surely science should keep its eye on this group. Who knows what other gems they may plant on its wide field? Observing their results to date, we think we know the answer.

## CORRECTIONS.

In our report of the general meeting concerning N.U.S. — I.U.S. relations in our last issue, we stated that Mr. Salaman spoke on behalf of the Conservative Association. We have since received a letter from the Conservative Association pointing out that Mr. Salaman is not a member, and did not speak on their behalf. We have also been informed that the group which includes Mr. Salaman is not concerned with the Conservative Association, nor with any political party, but that its members are linked together only by a common determination to fight both Communism and Fascism wherever they may be found. We apologise for any embarrassment we may have caused to any person or Society concerned.

In our report of the U.C. meeting in our last issue, it was stated that a fee of five shillings would be charged for registration with the Vacation Work Sub-Committee. This was due to a misunderstanding, and we now wish to state that no such fee will be charged.

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# N.U.S. Council

Council was in session for over 25 hours—and a lot of business can be transacted in that time! This report is therefore bound to be incomplete and, to some extent, selective, but I hope that it will give some idea of the range of N.U.S. activity carried on your behalf, and that it will illustrate the importance of sending properly mandated delegates. The following are some of the main items discussed.

## Student Health.

Mr. W. Foster, Leeds Executive member, outlined the Health Committee's plan for a Student Sanatorium in England. A fund is to be launched to raise money for this purpose, and as an interim measure, N.U.S. will press, through its Health Committee, for the allocation of wards in existing Sanatoria to meet the special needs of students.

## Student Travel.

General satisfaction was expressed with the success of the Travel Dept.'s arrangements. The report showed that more and more students were availing themselves of the opportunities for long distance travel offered by the N.U.S. and although there was some detailed criticism, the feeling was that the Dept. was providing cheap travel under the best possible conditions.

## N.U.S. Hostel.

One delegate uncharitably referred to the Hostel as "a third-rate doss-house at first-rate doss-house prices." The Executive promised a full investigation of criticisms and agreed that reform was necessary.

## International Correspondence

On a motion by Mr. Johnson, I.C.E. were allowed to arrange individual correspondence contacts with students in Spain, although it was stressed that N.U.S. still held the same opinion about contacts with official organisations in Franco Spain as hitherto.

## International Affairs.

As usual, the International Debate provided plenty of fireworks. Mr. Walter Davis was censured for his action in organising a wreath-laying ceremony in Budapest, against the wishes of the N.U.S. delegation.

Many foreign delegates participated in the discussion on I.U.S., including Joza Grohman, I.U.S. President, and the Australian, American and Scottish fraternal delegates. The majority report of N.U.S. delegates to Sofia was upheld and by a majority of 108 to 23 it was decided to remain in I.U.S.

Mr. Grohman criticised the delegates' report because it left out the main resolution, and made scanty reference to the constructive work of I.U.S. He mentioned in particular the following:—Sport, I.U.S. Sanatorium, Colonial Students' Scholarships, Relief, the Architectural Conference in London, and the work of the Intellectual Co-operation Dept. With reference to World Student Games in Budapest, delegates were satisfied that N.U.S. and U.A.U. could have taken part, and concern was expressed that the Foreign Office should have advised U.A.U., on their request for advice, not to participate.

N.U.S. decided, despite I.U.S. advice to the contrary, to call a London Conference of Organisations not yet affiliated to I.U.S.

## Arts Festival.

It appears that a loss on the Arts Festival must be anticipated and constituent Unions are asked to subsidise the Festival to the extent of £1 per 100 members.

## Grants and Welfare.

The emphasis in Grants and Welfare work is changing from ex-service students to non-F.E.T.S. students. Among items in the programme were provision for mature students to attend University, the extension of grants to cover students of architecture, art and drama. The department is also negotiating with the Ministry of Education on the question of final vacation allowances, vacation course grants, and state scholarships; and with the Ministry of National Insurance to secure an improvement in the position of students under the National Insurance Act. It was agreed to conduct a survey of the local authority awards throughout the country.

## I. S. W. Result

Income .. ..	£40 approx.
Expenditure ..	£10 approx.
Amount estimated for I.S.S.	
	£30 approx.

# CROSSWORD COMPANIONS

What has influenced you most during your student days? Plato? Shakespeare? Caf. food? Don't you believe it! It is the Crossword Puzzle.

It changes the whole of your social behaviour. You see a group of old friends in a closely packed heap. They ignore you, or give you a piercing stare and ask you what size shoes the Queen of Sheba wore. As usual, you come into Caf. for a chat and a cigarette but now you are expected to sit and meditate deeply while no-one dreams of giving you a light. At lunchtime you must stare at your food and think of Pegasus or Timbuktu. (Perhaps its just as well!)

So you enter into the prevailing social spirit. Unable to leave the burning questions you miss a lecture and enter into profound speculations and discussion. Then a god-like personage peeps over your shoulder, thinks for two seconds, and tells you the answer.

Crossword fiends tell me it keeps the mind alert and teaches new words and meanings. So it does indeed! The great unsolved riddles of the world become perfectly straightforward, "What is heaven?" "Eva swallowed feet first by a domestic fowl." "What is poetry?" "Edgar Allen scoring at Rugger."

A certain circle at Devonshire Hall has realised the value of this method of thought and is at present making an experimental practice of talking in anagrams.

An increasingly large number of people are graduating to the Times Crossword, which demands hours of constant application. May we then hope for the Union

of a future generation to be a Thinking Shop full of strong, silent, pseudo-intellectuals? Do not be misled. Thinking it is well-known, weakens you. It makes you drink caf. coffee in large quantities—which poisons the digestion. It makes you smoke innumerable cigarettes—which furs up the lungs. Periods of tense silence must have their reaction. The discovery of one obscure clue causes a fever of excitement and severe blood-pressure.

But Crossword compilers have no respect for arty theorising. Pseudo-intellectualism will disappear. The "Gryphon" will be transformed. May we then wish the new crossword movement every success?

# VACATION WORK

Work during the coming vacation is as usual roughly divided between the Post Office and the Railways, with just a few jobs in the hospitals. We have been unable to arrange work during this vacation for people living outside Leeds—and nearly all the vacancies here have now been filled. We can still accept applications, but cannot guarantee to find employment before the end of term.

We are now ready to accept applications for the Easter vac.

# STUDENT SONGS No. 4.

What's a student? Who is he  
That all the brains defend him?  
Holy, fair and wise is he?—  
(Or doth this much offend him?)  
Is he kind, or doth he swear?—  
For oaths are often learned.  
And doth he to the Muse repair,  
Or is all musing spurned?  
This is he then, this is he,  
Not ragged (quite) but ragging.  
Of mischief the epitome  
And bravest in his bragging.  
He the path of dalliance treads,  
Women, not wisdom, winning.  
And though the masters are his  
lead,  
Original his sinning.

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## " . . . . About It, and About "

*We regret that due to limitations of space we have not been able to print all the letters we have received for this issue.*

Dear Sir,

The students who hoisted a shirt on the Parkinson Building have done the prestige of the University far more harm than good.

The rag, joke, or whatever it was supposed to be was a mere cheap imitation of the London policeman's helmet episode. The ridicule poured on the perpetrators of this "highly amusing" escapade by the **Evening Post** must surely reflect on all members of the Union.

If you want to rag, do it in style and make it original.

Yours faithfully,  
L.C.R.

Sir,

It is obvious to me and to others, that the Union is deficient in dignity, and one might have expected that the **Union News**, which has set itself firmly against certain regrettable features of Leeds student life, would have endeavoured to raise the standard of Union dignity by castigating the attitude of mind which tends to the lowering of that standard. Unfortunately the reverse is true, for the **Union News** often fails to reach a degree of quality consistent with its position as an organ of a University Union. I find the last edition marred by the expressions "couldn't care less," "suckers" and "what the heck it was all about," whilst your contributor "Pete" pays tribute to the petty, false god of informality by continually referring to the cafeteria as "caf." Other barbarisms have appeared previously, and one can detect a tendency to applaud extravagant and even unmannerly, behaviour.

Colloquialisms, however useful in speech, are repulsive in print, and I submit that their constant appearance in a University Union journal is most reprehensible. The **Union News**, by eschewing the use of these products of stunted mentalities, could do much to inculcate a sense of that dignity which, as I contend, is so desirable.

Yours, etc.,  
GORDON C. F. FORSTER.

(We profoundly regret having offended Mr. Forster's sense of decorum with our colloquial vocabulary. We shall endeavour in future to interlard our journalistic verbiage with an erudite sesquipedalianism more compatible with our dignified position.—Ed.).

Dear Sir,

In your editorial of the issue of the **Union News** dated Nov. 24th, you deplore the apathy of the Union members to the I.U.S.—N.U.S. vote, the International Students' Week Rally, and the lack of interest in the need for "active participation of the community in which we live." I personally agree with you, but, with

all due respect to our elected U.C., could I suggest that the U.C. itself is "a little apathetic."

At the November 8th meeting of the U.C., I heard such comments from our most respected and active committee members as "We as students cannot do anything as a body to further the aims of peace, we can only do it as individuals," and "we are wasting our time playing at politicians—we cannot do anything about banning the atom-bomb." They opposed the formation of a non-partisan sub-committee to arrange discussions on the most critical of the problems of our community—lasting peace. Then look at the vote—15 against 6, and 11 (I say again 11) abstentions! Are we to presume that these U.C. members were either incapable of coming to a decision on a perfectly simple issue, or that they "couldn't care less," or what? Personally, I should have preferred the 11 to vote with the 15—it would have indicated a little interest in the issue at any rate.

Apathy is a bad thing—but our leaders must give a lead in helping to stop it by their own actions.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF RHODES.

Dear Sir,

On October 11th, the President of the Union made a statement to the effect that there would be an informative meeting to discuss the proposed constitutional changes on the Union Committee on November 29th. This statement was ratified by the President at a Special Union Committee Meeting on Nov. 25th. On the night of Nov. 28th, the President and the Hon. Sec. of the Union decided to alter the date of the informative meeting to December 1st, owing to lack of publicity.

Are members of the Union aware that the decision to alter the date of the meeting was purely arbitrary? Surely the President should not have given his ratification to the original statement concerning the date of the meeting on November 25th if he was of the opinion that

there was not enough publicity.

Members of the U.C. who have constituencies acted on the faith of the President's statement of ratification, and were thus only given a morning's notice of the alteration of the date.

I wish, therefore, on behalf of all fair-minded members of the Union, to condemn the arbitrary action of the President and the Hon. Sec. to change the date of the informative meeting at such short notice. Furthermore, I hope in the future that the President and the Hon. Sec. will not make such capricious changes of decision, but will abide by their original statements concerning Union affairs.

Yours faithfully,  
C. NORMAN LEES.

(Official explanation is that the meeting was deferred at short notice owing to administrative difficulties.—Ed.).

## FIRST NIGHT FIASCO.

The first night performance of "The White Devil" was memorable. It began twenty minutes late, and ended at five to eleven, long after most of the audience had gone home. Due to various mishaps backstage the intervals between the scenes were as long, or longer, than the official Interval which occurred at nine-thirty. During these pauses we were subjected to record upon record of inappropriate music. Even when the scenes got under way the lighting was incompetent. The make-up also was poor. I understand that there had been no full dress rehearsal, and that the stage crew had not been properly "briefed" before the performance.

As a result of the long intervals the play never really achieved dramatic power until the last act, when no musical interludes interfered with the progress of the action. Then we saw what the play might have been. The superlative acting of Jacqueline Heywood, Frederick May, and Derrick Metcalfe excited a depleted audience to applause. Cornelia's mad scene, with its echoes of Ophelia, was both terrifying and moving, and Brachiano's death was played with all the virtuosity that its frenetic nature demanded. Flamenco was a perpetual delight.

Apart from the wooden incompetence of Dr. Julio, The Conjuror, and Hortensio, the acting of the rest of the cast was of a respectable standard. The leisurely progress of the play, however, nullified its effect.

On the whole, "The White Devil" was a failure. In spite of much good acting and occasional hints of intelligent production it was all rather dull. Theatre Group has a reputation to lose. Another first night like this and it will have been lost "most irrecoverably." Our irritation is increased by the realisation that two of the major parts, the production, and the decor were undertaken, not by our own students, but by Staff and Art School helpers. While we are grateful to them for their hard work and interest, we would like to stress our own personal belief that Theatre Group should be more of a student affair. Let us by all means be ambitious, but let us also remember that ours is not a commercial theatre. We would far sooner have seen an equally poor production of as difficult and exciting a play as this by students with an all student cast, however dull the decor, than be subjected to all the hullabaloo of a "Major Production," and feel that even the failure was not really our own.

R.S.

## STOP PRESS.

Will the person or persons who removed the pink elephants from the bar at the Dentals Ball please return them to the Dental School.

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## SOCIETY NEWS.

With this issue Society News, in its new format and style, is seven weeks old. It appears, further, to have your approval—that is, no one has yet beaten Socrites about the head with a blunt instrument, nor organised a ballot (in which no one votes) to have him silenced, nor announced publicly that he will discontinue his post subscription—so we still need three postal wrappers per issue. With one glorious exception, however, co-operation from Society Secretaries has been equally negligible—and the exception, the Agric. Soc. (who informed us of a special meeting) had to be neglected owing to some work.... Our apologies to their Secretary; but we do need your co-operation, all Soc. Secs. If you have an interesting meeting, let the Editor, **Union News**, know; we'll do the rest. In particular, please, plans for next term, for the first issue in January.

### Old Socrites'

#### Practical Poets.

English Soc. held a symposium on Modern Poetry on Oct. 20th. Socrites sent his Scientist half—he is like Gaul divided into three parts, Scientist, Artist and Beer-drinker—to see if there's sense in Spender and to reduce Auden to order.

There were four speakers; two members of the English Dept. staff and two students. Mr. Kenneth Muir led off with a preliminary informative blurb, which emphasised the importance in modern verse of the image, apparently disconnected and generally personal to the poet, and its link with the emotions colouring it. Mr. Jefferson took Auden as a particular case, revealing (by accident)? that Auden had written **some** comprehensible stuff, e.g., the Ballades (? sp.) with their most grim humour. Mr. Hodges (of **The Gryphon**, Ltd) then proceeded to undo all the good work previously done by discussing Thomas in terms which were, to your Snoop at any rate, not only incomprehensible but much more so than Thomas himself. Which didn't seem to worry anyone else, so Socrites recalled his role of interloper and tried to look intelligent....

Mr. Robin Skelton produced a neat miniature anthology to finish the meeting; pity, however, that the Editor of *Our Esteemed Contemporary* should begin his remarks with a split infinitive: "to deliberately anthologise." He found some delightful verse, and read it with (as usual) his hair in his eyes, which apparently made no difference.

On the whole a most interesting evening. Alpha minus.

### Long may your Bannock Burn.

Roused from this state of intellectual tranquillity by weird

and eldritch whoops proceeding from the Social Room, Socrites ventured in to see what cooked. His curiosity was satisfied by the sight of several devotees of the Caledonian equivalent of Terpsichore trippin' the light fanmac-tastic with varying degress of skill. This ritual was explained to your Snoop as the eightsome reel, a rider being added to the effect that it is a very **noisy** and **energetic** dance, and claims much in sweat and bruised toes.

The dance came to an abrupt stop. M. Ivan MacSermonski demonstrated the next one, the Gay Gordons. A wide range of noises applauded his efforts, not the least of these being the mac-panatrope which set everyone on, if not their toes, at least everyone else's. The Gay Gordons is an attractive dance, and Socrites was positively entranced by the lissom lassies who not only boobed—bobbed up and down whilst rotating about a vertical axis but also progressed at the same time. It is, however, a very **noisy** and **energetic** dance, and claims much in sweat and bruised toes.

Further marvels of human endurance followed, with muckle fecht and din. Your Snoop noticed that though much steam was being let off, accuracy was the first aim—another being to induce him to mention in This Column (caps., printer—thank YOU) the Scot. Danc. Soc. Social on January 18th. In fact, if the Editor refuses to co-operate, Socrites will have to account for half a pint of mild.

### Why are We Here?

We are **us**—Students. Here is **here**—this University. And the Society attempting to answer this philosophical question was, surprisingly, the Maths. Club. Socrites learned that this was a departure from the Club's usual type of specialised lecture, and approved the tendency greatly. The speaker, Dr. Barrett, of the Maths. Dept., had clearly thought much on the point; his only trouble was that, naturally, he hadn't finished thinking when he delivered his talk, and, unfortunately, continued to do so throughout. Which meant that his lecture lost in clarity of exposition. It did, however, gain in the insight into Dr. Barrett's mind which we obtained. This would have been uninteresting in a lesser man, but proved in the event fascinating—but unreplicable, so that Socrites must content himself with saying that Dr. Barrett, like Socrites and Mr. Philip Taylor who wrote in our columns two issues ago (as also our last "Talking Point" author), would like each member of the University to have a much clearer picture of the whole field of human thought, as exemplified indeed in the University itself.

Which is a profound thought to finish with.

SOCRITES.

## TALKING POINT III.

### CLUBS, SOCIETIES, AND FINANCE.

The allocation of money from the Union to athletic clubs and Union Societies has recently been the subject of much discussion everywhere from the rarified atmosphere of the Exec. to the anything-but-rarified atmosphere of the cafeteria. Both sides think that they are not getting enough money; both sides advance various reasons for why they should be considered before their opponents.

#### The Clubs.

The main argument of the athletic clubs seems to be that they represent the Union far more widely than any other organisation, and they should therefore have more funds than anybody else to carry out this task worthily. They also claim that nearly everybody in the Union is a member of some athletic club, so that their funds benefit nearly all Union members.

#### The Societies.

The societies also claim that nearly everybody is a member of

some society. And they declare that the part they play in Union life is every bit as important as that of the clubs, and that therefore there should be a more equitable distribution of funds. Theatre Group in particular is somewhat irate, since, they claim, much of the reputation of the Union in the town depends on them.

#### The Present Position.

At the moment, 55% of the Union funds has been allocated to the athletic clubs, either as grants, rail fares, or in the upkeep of the playing fields. The total amount is a little under £6,500. Societies have been allocated £150, but it must be remembered that they have the profits from socials.

This is the present position, and it is not the business of the writer of this article (who is not a member of any club nor any society) to pass any judgment. This article only sets out to state the facts. It is up to readers to make up their minds what their opinion is.

## Yugoslav Students

The appearance in the Union of two Yugoslavs, Mr. Rajko Tomovitch and Mr. Vlado Chestan, roused the curiosity of a large number of students on November 24th, and their declaration of independence won the enthusiastic approval of the audience. They are determined that Yugoslavia will not be exploited by any powerful nation and they refuse to be dominated by the Cominform. Complete religious freedom, they insisted, exists for all sects, and they are anxious to welcome and encourage foreign visitors not only to work camps, but as tourists as well.

There were several queries about travel restrictions and the refusal of visas to certain students. Mr. Chestan thought that these stories were due to malicious attacks in the press directed against the Yugoslav government and was sure that no-one was thrown out of the country without reason. However, one got the impression that the people are not adequately informed as to the workings of their government to enable them to explain its motives with any certainty.

Mr. Tomovitch stated that Yugoslav students have more or less taken a vow to work in a united effort, not only to rebuild their universities but to help in the reconstruction of the country as well. The number of universities has grown from three (17,000 students) to five (56,000), and each specialises in the

## Bar Bar Black Sheep

Rarely does the **Union News** get a reforming bee in its bonnet. But have you been in the bar on a Saturday evening? What do you think of the character of the singing? Some vocal efforts are quite good as vocal efforts go (and many have gone). But, although the **Union News** staff makes no claims for entrance to the realms of angels, it is nauseated by certain songs. These emanate chiefly from a bearded monster and his gang of satellites. Such compositions may be fit for Rugger trips but when there are ladies present (and sometimes there are) they become taboo. Mr. Large may be accused of an N.C.O. complex, but there is scope for his talent here. Ye gods and little fish queues, such conduct would not be tolerated in a public house, so why should it be allowed in this enlightened community.

While this reforming zeal lasts, what of the writhing mass of humanity at the bar itself? It has been said that the Union would sell more drink if they filled the glasses, but certainly more beverage would reach its intended destination if it survived its passage through the said w.m. of h. How we hate trampling on tradition, but a barrier and a queue would be an improvement.

culture of its particular Yugoslav State. We appreciated warmly the spirit of the Engineering students who have formed their own Philharmonic Orchestra.



### WEIGHT-LIFTING CLUB.

The Club now has a membership of over 30, and has joined the London Viking Bar-bell Club, one of the foremost physical culture clubs in the country. A financial contribution to the Club by the Union has been invested in new equipment, and with these assets we have organised our first Weight-lifting Contest, to be held in the Gym. on the 16th of December. Any new members will be warmly welcomed.

### RAMSDEN TROPHY.

This Trophy, as we said in our last issue, is a Cup, presented by Brigadier Ramsden for Basketball, to be competed for twice a year by the various Inter-departmental teams. The first of these two competitions is now reaching its closing stages, and the two teams who are the "favourites" are Lyddon Hall "A" and the Medics "A" team. The final will be played off in the Gymnasium on Friday, Dec. 16th (last day of term), commencing at 5-15 p.m. It is hoped that Brigadier Ramsden will be able to attend to present the trophy to the winning team.

### WOMEN'S BOAT CLUB.

Inter-faculty crews battled for supremacy both with the elements and each other on Saturday, December 3rd. The weather was appalling—as it has been for the majority of the term, but this did not deter the competitors and both they and the officials stuck gamely to their tasks. Several closely contested races heightened the enthusiasm, and the final was a grimly fought struggle, the lead changing all the time, and the result was declared a dead-heat.

#### Results.

Round 1.  
Science I beat Medics and Arts,  $\frac{1}{2}$  length.  
Contemporary Arts—Bye.  
Medics & Dentals beat Science II, Easily.  
Arts II beat Modern Arts, 3 lengths.  
Semi-finals.  
Science I beat Contemp'y Arts, Easily.  
Medics & Dentals beat Arts II,  $\frac{1}{2}$  length.  
Finals.  
Science I dead-heat  
Medics & Dentals.

**BEER !**

**TETLEY  
LEADS**

**THE BREWERY  
LEEDS**

## \*SPORTS NOTES

### EDITORIAL.

First of all, apologies to those Clubs who have not had their reports included in this copy. As you can see, we are rather cramped for space this week, and it is our policy to give every Club a fair share of space.

Another of the Clubs is out of the "Christie" this week—the Rugger Club this time. They put up a good fight, but lost to worthy opponents. It seems strange, however, that most University teams seem to win their Saturday games against Club sides, but never put up the same show against other Universities. This is worth thinking over.

A future item that will be well worth watching will be the finals of the Inter-Departmental Basket-ball, competing for the Ramsden Trophy on the last day of term.

### RUGBY CLUB.

Since the last report the Rugby Club has had two eventful matches. The first was the "A" XV's outstanding victory of 53—3 over York St. John's. It is a long time since a University team has played with such a will, and longer still since a three-quarter line played to such purpose. The match of the season to date was the game against Morley, a really grand game to watch, even though the participants seem to have other ideas. In a good robust game in which no quarter was given or asked, we finally lost 18—6. This was no doubt due to Morley's ability to make the most of their ground. The first try of the match came our way, and was a beautiful movement, after a quick heel, and straight out to the wing. The half-time score was 6—5 in our favour, but with the wind, Morley pressed, and found gaps in the Leeds defence.

It would perhaps be better to draw a discreet veil over the "Christie" against Liverpool on Wednesday. Whether it was the reaction from Saturday or not there was no doubt that Leeds had an off day, and had to yield superiority in every position on the field.

### BOAT CLUB.

The "Wheeler Cup," a closed race for sculls was rowed off on November 19th, with many surprises. J. B. Spencer did very well to reach the final, and his falling in during the re-row of the final was very unfortunate. D. R. Crockatt, the winner, rowed very strongly and steered uncannily. We hope that both men keep this standard up—Leeds has need of scullers of this calibre.

Mr. Crockatt was duly presented with the Cup, suitably filled, at the Annual Dinner that same night. The next day the "Eight" rowed some 2½ miles upstream, only facilitated by the exceptional depth of the water. It is a noticeable fact, however, that the standard drops in the crew when the coach is not on the tow-path. This is one of the worst features of the crew and must be cut out. The blade work, however, is improving, and uniformity—at which Coach is aiming this term—is beginning to be evident. Keep it up crew.

The Inter-faculty crews are showing great promise. Next terms races should be well worth watching and the University crews will be hotly contested throughout the Club. Coaching this term has been done very largely by senior members, but unfortunately, as most of them are members of the eight, the coaching has been patchy. We have seen what effect it can have, however. Coaches must do their utmost to get their crew out on every possible occasion.

### SWIMMING CLUB.

In two consecutive weeks Leeds University water-polo team has been defeated by Liverpool, 6—1, 6—0. These scores are not a disgrace by any means, as the plucky Leeds side held up this powerful combination in both games until the closing stages. As it now seems unlikely that the Club will be able to share in the U.A.U. and Christie water-polo honours, it is left to the swimmers to recapture some trophies this year. We are arranging a swimming gala at Becketts Park early next term, and so the swimmers will have a chance of showing their prowess. Anybody desirous of joining the Club will be welcome at the practices next term.

### RIFLE CLUB.

On Saturday, December 3rd, at Leeds the University Rifle Team had its first defeat this year in shooting against Manchester University Men's and Women's teams. Leeds men lost to Manchester by 3 points and Leeds women lost to the visiting women's team by 5 points.

Special credit is due to our women's team as this was their first experience of a shoulder to shoulder match, whereas Manchester's women's team has been in existence several years.

It is pleasing also to note that John L. Collinson has been selected to shoot for Leeds by the Association of Leeds and District Rifle Clubs. The first round of the contest is against a team from the West of Scotland.

### BOXING CLUB.

The third fixture this term was again held at Leeds against Birmingham University who, due to injuries, were only able to bring a team of five fighting members.

R. Jones of Leeds lost on points, boxing against last seasons welterweight champion of the U.A.U., and could have won had he been up to his usual form. Had he taken his seconds advice, he would have almost certainly knocked his opponent out in the second round.

A. Nugent, the captain, boxing welterweight, scored a first-class points win, with some displays of fine boxing. J. Ramell, with great determination, K.O.'d his opponent in the third round.

Last, but by no means least, came the featherweight bout. D. Holden, the Leeds flyweight champion, gave a very good display of hard hitting and after only 27 seconds was back in his corner, the winner by a K.O. If Holden keeps this form up he will most certainly re-win his title.

### LEEDS UNIVERSITY

LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE, Wednesday, December 14th, in the Gym.

### WOMEN'S BASKET-BALL. Beauty, Brawn and Bruises.

Basket-ball, according to the *Yorkshire Post*, is no game for ladies. After watching the match between Birmingham and Leeds on Saturday, November 26th, we feel that this is correct. The Leeds team began with a broken thumb, to which Birmingham added a stiff jaw—Leeds retaliated with a sprained ankle and a bruised hip, and even the referee pushed an accurate elbow into the eye of a Leeds guard. Bodies and score mounted proportionately, the extent of the injuries is not yet ascertained, but the score at the end of the battle was: Birmingham 37—Leeds 34.

Healthy women students, if any there be, are welcomed at the Thursday evening matches. Miss Hunter, of the P.E. Dept., gives coaching in the Gym. at 5 p.m. on Thursdays and 9 a.m. on Mondays. There are places in the University team for anyone willing to risk it.

### SPORTS & GAMES

FOOTBALL  
HOCKEY  
BADMINTON  
SPORTS CLOTHES  
and  
FOOTWEAR  
SKATES

*Thorntons*  
Briggate, Leeds, 1.