

UNION NEWS



LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION

Vol. III, No. 2.

Thursday, October 21st, 1948.

Twopence.

GRANT & WELFARE PROBLEMS

Student Meeting To-day.

To-day at 1 p.m. a general meeting of the Union is to be held in the Riley Smith Hall to give members the opportunity of hearing a detailed analysis of the many current problems facing the student and the Grants and Welfare Committee. Necessarily only brief outlines of policy regarding the expansion of Higher Education, Student Health, Housing and Hardship cases, can be given here.

These matters are not merely of personal or local importance, for during the week-end delegates from Leeds to an N.U.S. Conference on Grants and Fees will be advocating the general acceptance of Welfare machinery and policy which would have a considerable effect on University life in this country.

The Grants and Welfare Sub-Committee is an integral part of Union activities, dealing not only with ex-Servicemen but every type of student. From the immediate work of investigating individual cases of student hardship, the committee has gradually concerned itself with accumulating facts which will substantiate N.U.S. policy.

Two years ago a general questionnaire was circulated and completed by over 500 students. It provided facts which were welcome in every influential quarter and established your representatives with up-to-the-minute authority. It enabled the Union Committee to put forward recommendations regarding the increasing of grants and scholarships, the need for grants to be graded according to the expenses of the different faculties, the need for a complete overhaul of the scholarship system with its present impossible variety and inequality, the extension of dependents' allowances, the anomalies existing between students in lodgings and those at home, lack of provisions for students with compulsory vocational courses, and the general administration of grants.

To-day the cost of living has risen considerably, while grants have remained stationary, even though rumours of increases encourage the Micawber spirit. Your Committee is advocating, therefore, an immediate general

questionnaire to re-assess the many material problems which confront the student. Such a questionnaire will give the committee not only the weapons to fight for every member of this University regarding grants, scholarships, housing and health, but will sustain the long term campaign of the N.U.S., whose four point policy is:—

1. The abolition of all fees.
2. Maintenance grants for all students.
3. The co-ordination of basic rates, with student representation on all the Assessment Boards.
4. A minimum entrance standard at all Universities.

All students who are interested in furthering the welfare of present and future students should attend the above meeting and seek opportunities of supporting the activities of the Grants and Welfare Sub-Committee.

HARDSHIP CASES.

A considerable number of students in the University are in need of increased allowances and it is the task of the Hardships Officers of the Grants and Welfare Committee to help them. These officers in the past have concerned themselves mainly with the needs of ex-Service students, but have also dealt with those of Scholarship and non-Scholarship students.

For ex-Servicemen, the Committee tackles the problems arising from the application of the Further Education and Training Scheme. All work is done in the closest co-operation with the Grants and Fees Committee of the National Union of Students, which has direct communication with high officials of the Ministry of Education. Here in the University we have received every help from the Vice-Chancellor, the Bursar and all University Authorities.

The Ministry have been persuaded to pay grants promptly and with a simplified procedure. Individual students have been helped in their appeals against adverse decisions and in claims for re-assessment. Work is also

★ Continued on Page 6.

Free Photography

Feckless men lost cuff-links during the last invasion of the hospital world into their own private university, but now it is to be the braces button for their service is once more required. Students served the community well on this last occasion, when the blood donor service departed with a fine quantity of good rich blood for requisite disposal and now, in this return visit, it is their chance to reward themselves (no less the community), unless, through unbecoming modesty, they fail to claim this free X-ray so gratefully offered.

One might talk of this as a unique opportunity of taking one more (easy) step towards the New Civilisation, that to meet the challenge of the brave new world duty to body must weigh next to duty to soul. Staunch words and true! But what matters if the motives be less high-falutin' if the end be reached. We know why we shall flock to bare our intellectual tummy to the ray. What woman could resist a photograph in any form? What member of the rugger team doth live and cherish not a cupboard notion that he is a secret Atlas, and would not prove himself before this all-seeing eye?

Of course there will be the Serious Few who have missed a rib (grudgingly) since the last Christie Match, or have suspected sabotage since the times of the "Great Tram Queue for Headingley and Weetwood." And the Misguided Few who hope to collect a new snap for the album—"There's one of Adelaide With Her New Bicycle—and here's one of George when they X-rayed him in '48; don't you think his breast-bone is just a little fetching in profile?"

But all will be there. Perhaps not the man upon whose dermal layer the bright sun of Bridlington wrought such havoc, but he too must be brave, not wishing to bear through life the stigma of a chest unfathomed.

International View

We were visited last Thursday, October 14th, by Dr. T. Madden, General Secretary of the International Union of Students, who spoke to an audience of students about the work of I.U.S. He stressed the need for a strong support of the I.U.S. in every university. Schemes cannot remain at top level all the time and unless students themselves become more internationally minded and give their full co-operation, the building up of an International Union is not possible.

We heard of some student conditions overseas, in China for instance, where student scholarships are only sufficient to buy 20 newspapers a month, the cost being a million Chinese dollars monthly, and student organisations which in every case demand the cessation of war, have been outlawed; nevertheless they manage to maintain activity. In Palestine it is estimated that a third of the students have already been killed fighting. These are only some of the examples Dr. Madden quoted.

The I.U.S. has many projects for the coming year, and individual national organisations, including our own N.U.S., are holding conferences on Student needs and Welfare during the Winter term, with a full co-ordinating International Student Conference in Copenhagen next Spring. Faculty Bureaux are being set up to discuss common problems and aims, as at the International Clinical Conference of Medical Students held in London last Summer. A Conference of Architectural Students is to be held at Christmas; a model farm is planned for the Agric. students; there will also be a conference for student journalists and writers.

We are celebrating International Students' Week here in Leeds in November. Let us attempt to make it a successful start to an International year. Leeds has a great reputation already in our International Union of Students and the International field provides wide scope for more achievement.

As Dr. Madden pointed out, it is up to us to play our part in the great work which the I.U.S. is performing to get students interested in each other and to further the maintenance of world peace.

Union News

LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21st,
1948.
Vol. III. - No. 2.

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and the Editor of *The Gryphon*.

Reporters :

Stan. Berwin, Una Jackson,
R. L. Gordon, Shirley Levin,
C. West, R. Skelton, J. G. Laurence.

EDITORIAL.

A considerable part of this edition has been given to the Grants and Welfare and British Legion Committees to put forward your problems on grants, health, housing and higher education and to suggest possible solutions. These problems are continuous and are being dealt with daily by a few members of these committees; but at the student meeting to-day the Grants and Welfare and British Legion representatives want to know your opinions.

Grants and scholarships do not affect merely a small minority of students now as they did before the war when — per cent. received help. Now the vast majority of students are dependent on some form of financial aid, ranging from F.E.T.S. grants to faculty scholarships. It is therefore the concern of all students.

The position of students under the new health scheme is still far from clear. It is hoped to clarify the position and also discuss the student health scheme, which among other suggestions proposes the appointment of a full-time medical officer at each university.

A national meeting is being held in London on Saturday to discuss these problems. The representatives to this meeting from Leeds have their own opinions, but they are anxious to be able to put forward the ideas of the whole student body, not of a few individuals. A meeting has therefore been arranged at lunch-time to-day at which we are anxious to gain as wide a view as possible of the problems and ideas of Leeds students. Do not be apathetic about the matter, even if your grant has come through safely this time. We still need your views on the whole situation.

The Editor welcomes letters and articles. Correspondents are reminded that all letters and articles must be signed, although names will only be disclosed if the contributor so wishes.

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UNION NOTICE.

For call box number in Union, 236911, given on page 162 of the Union Handbook.
Please read : 239611.

This and That

QUEUES OR CLUES.

Perhaps we know now why the Executive members of the Union Committee wore such frowns of furious concentration as we saw them pacing through the Union on those days before the sale of Union Ball tickets. Apparently they were trying to find some way of enabling everyone who so wished to attend the Union Ball. That of course would have necessitated more than 350 double tickets and consequently demanded more dancing room and more eating space. After great investigations the Exec. had, with reluctance, to confess themselves beaten and confine numbers to 700. As to the method of the sale of tickets, the Exec. again developed a mutual headache. Some were for slyly putting a notice up in the Porter's Office on a particular day, unknown to everyone, stating simply that U.B. tickets were now on sale. Others suggested selection based on seniority and all manner of intricate devices & questionnaires. Eventually it was decided, again with reluctance, that the old-fashioned habit of queuing must prevail. We still feel there should have been a midnight treasure hunt, with tickets hidden in the Union Grounds.

CIRCLE OR STALLS.

What a pity the Riley Smith Hall cannot have all the seating capacity upstairs in balcony form! Students seem to fight shy of sitting downstairs. At the free film show last week, when "Brief Encounter" and a useful documentary on aircraft production were shown, the balcony soon filled up. Only with difficulty could students be persuaded to sit downstairs. When to run further shows and how much to charge will have to be decided soon if a good programme of representative films is to be selected. Whether lunch-times (with its constant interruptions from late diners), afternoons (when many lectures and labs. take place), or evenings (when many students do not wish to return to the Union from homes or lodgings), is the best time, must prove a difficult problem to decide. We suggest evening showings, with an occasional try-out in the afternoon, when art students will have had time to wake up from the morning lecture.

LOCKERS.

Enquiries have been made about lockers by students who travel from afar. We understand that the University authorities are hoping to be able to instal these in the new block in readiness for the next session. At the moment of course, all available ones have been hired. The Union Committee have discussed this problem now

for the past few years, but it would be impossible to fit any into our already crowded space. Likewise any selection imposed by the University Porters when allotting lockers would lead to excessive administrative difficulties and cause disappointment to many.

UNION LIBRARY.

Cataloguing is in progress at the moment as 60 new books have to be indexed. Churchill's War Memoirs will soon swell this collection, on which the Union is expending time, thought and money. Students are recommended to patronise this source, which can often supply a book unobtainable elsewhere. A questionnaire is to be handed out to users of the Library to find out what magazines receive their support and reading attention and any additions which it is felt should be made to the subscription list.

COFFEE A LA CAF.

Denizens of the cafeteria are used to the ubiquitous presence of coffee. True, vessels are provided to hold the revivifying liquid, but only a small number of tyros expect to find their coffee in these vessels. A combination of lack of space and wide-flung arms ensures that a great deal is distributed on all sides, particularly on table tops, and one advantage of the Winter terms is that they allow one to wear a raincoat in caf. without appearing too fussy.

However the mere trickles which flow from cups soon become part of one's daily life and a judicious disposition of books and elbows allows one to escape most of the humidity. But recently a better way of ensuring adequate distribution has been discovered. Last week a complete urn was released from its moorings on the counter and coffee streamed in all directions. Surprisingly there was no queue; a better bag is expected at the next attempt.

FAMOUS ACTOR TO SPEAK.

Auditions over, Theatre Group has now begun serious rehearsal for its Autumn production of "Timon of Athens." Meanwhile we have persuaded Mr. Donald Wolfit, the famous actor (who will be appearing at the Grand in Ibsen's "Master Builder" and a modern play based on Swift's life and called "The Silent Lover") to give a talk on some aspect of the theatre. This is fully in line with the Group's policy of maintaining and stimulating interest in all matters concerning drama and the theatre. Mr. Wolfit's talk will be given on Monday, 25th October, at lunch-time. Notices giving further details will be published.

SAVOIR.

No Mutiny About This Bounty.

Over 400 guineas is to be paid out to members of the University Training Corps at the beginning of November and will represent the T.A. Bounties for the Training Year 1947/48.

To celebrate this occasion, and to increase the Mess profits, the bar will be opened as the first Ten Guineas is passed over the pay table.

During Bazaar Week over 30 new members joined the Corps, bringing the total strength to over 90 members.

We are now the best recruited T.A. Unit in Yorkshire, but even so, we need another 200 volunteers.

You know where our Headquarters are, and so we would like you to call in and find out more about the Training before you dismiss the U.T.C. from your mind. Should you find the walk to 41 University Road more than usually exhausting, you may revive your spirits at the bar.

We need 20 more Engineers for the Sapper Troop in order that we can carry out some practical Dry and Wet Bridging work at week-ends.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Week-end 23/24th October.

Firing Annual Range Course at Hawksworth Range.

29th October.

Officers and M.E.C. Dinner.

21th October.

9st November.

1st November.

Pay. Contingent Lecture by Professor Spaul.

The Extra 400.

What giddy, swirling, swollen race are these,

All girded up and groaning to the flood?

What centrifuge has dispossessed my knees,

That I should share with ten where one has stood?

I wish I were where Helen lies, But she is under half a cafeteria queue,

Two raspberry tarts that were her eyes . . .

Poor Nell! My arm is fast, alas — I cannot wave adieu.

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YOUR VOICE OR YOUR VOTE.

The University Union is perhaps the best club in Leeds, affording as it does many relaxations and pursuits for the student. There are over 80 societies and clubs, each catering for specialist groups; the Debates Society, of which every undergraduate automatically becomes a member when he receives his Union card, is the only club incorporating all student interests.

Its meetings give all students an opportunity to air their opinions on the varied subjects which are presented to the "House"; enables them to gain a balanced view on conflicting topics and affords them an opportunity to meet members of other faculties. One does not need to be a second Winston Churchill or a budding Emanuel Shinwell before attending its meetings; remember that your vote is as influential as that of the most verbose speaker, and if you have nothing you want to say on a particular subject your vote may be the deciding factor.

Debates are often labelled as dull and boring—it is hoped that this year's programme will provide not only witty discussion but serious and provocative thought for the entertainment and interest of the student. Attend the debates before you condemn them. The Debates Committee is always ready to hear your ideas on future subjects for discussion.

To lead off debates, popular personalities and eminent authorities have been invited to the Union. Among the list of prominent speakers we have invited are Prof. W. D. Brogan and Sir A. P. Herbert, M.P., to speak on the motion that "This House regrets the discovery of America," on November 2nd.

Lunch-time debates will be arranged during the term for the discussion of current controversial topics and the Annual Inter-Varsity Debate this year will embrace all Universities.

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INTELLECTUAL ADVENTURE.

The importance of an inner urge to acquire knowledge was the theme of the Medical Inaugural Lecture on "Intellectual Adventure" given by Prof. W. E. Le Gros Clark in the Riley-Smith Hall on October 11th. Prof. Clark said that the disproportion between the number of places available to students and the number of applications received made the problem of selection very important. Many methods were advocated, but on the whole the most important thing was the interest of the student in his work.

This interest arises from the desire of the student for new knowledge, the basis of which is natural curiosity. This is best seen in the spontaneous questioning of authority in the child at the age of three or four; but this usually dies out when school is started. Various reasons have been given for this decline, but the curiosity only lies latent, for it re-appears at the school-leaving age, and thus becomes important for the selection of university students.

Professor Clark stressed that all university students should possess this urge for intellectual adventure. It is what differentiates them from technological students. But the difficulty arises of the

methods by which this characteristic is to be assessed.

It would be a good idea if all students were to have a year in some civil occupation connected with their future work before they came to the university. This would give them an opportunity to mature, test whether they really wanted to enter the career on which they had decided, and avoid the abrupt break between school and university. Also it would enable them to widen their horizon of knowledge.

Another test of intellectual adventure is to find out how far the student will put himself out to follow up the new discoveries in science. Professor Clark urged all students to do this, especially as, at the present time, scientific discoveries are being made of great importance on all sides. He gave examples of this, finally producing from his pocket an ankle bone belonging to one of a group of fossilised apes 20 million years old—"an extraordinarily interesting thing to have."

Finally, Professor Clark mentioned intellectual stamina, which enables the student to keep on with subjects which are necessary but in which he is not particularly interested.

FIRST SESSION.

Once again Union Committee returned to a lengthy session in its first meeting of this term. Discussion ranged from the price of tickets for socials to whether or not Grants and Welfare should remove from the Union and take up rooms kindly lent by the University.

On the latter point, after many, many views had been given, it was finally decided that they should remain where they were. The possibility that these rooms in Osborne Terrace lent by the University, could be used by the various societies to hold their committee meetings was raised; but as the House Secretary observed, every society would be responsible for locking the room, seeing to the lights and returning the key to the Union. Mr. Foster, however, has a very high opinion of students and considers them capable of such a task, even to the extent of putting out the cat.

Rag.

One of the most interesting points under discussion concerned recommendations for the Rag. It was decided that every effort should be made to hold the Rag in the Lent Term in future. The uncertainty of having good weather presented no problem to the President, who is just as pessimistic on this subject in June as in March.

It was also decided to give the proceeds of the Rag to one specific charity year by year as previously the small sums given to various charities were hopelessly inadequate.

The final recommendation, that Rag activities should be confined to Rag and Tyke Days, with the exclusion of dances and competitions, was discussed fully, their coming to no decision, but leaving the matter open to the next Rag Committee. Mr. Berwin considered that although Rag and Tyke Day brought in the most money, the spirit of Rag was missing without dances, etc., which brought the students together in this tremendous effort.

This was warmly approved by the G.A.S.

Higher Price of Socials.

The recommendations of the Executive regarding society socials were adopted. In future, the maximum price of tickets for socials will be 1/9 instead of 1/-, and will include suppers.

The S.R.C., D.R.C. and various sub-committee reports were adopted. In the House Sec.'s Report, the important question of allowing external bodies the use of the Union Buildings was introduced, followed by an interesting and lively discussion. The most significant factors in its disfavour pointed out were that the nominal fee does not cover the cost of rooms, wear and tear, and lighting, and the use of rooms by external organisations excludes the use by our own societies.

It seemed fairly generally agreed that only those organisations of an educational nature should be allowed the use of the Union Buildings; but the whole question is to be discussed more fully later, after careful consideration.

Brief Chronicles.

They tell me that there are more than 3,300 students here at the moment. Judging by the queues I should have thought this number was underestimated. The daddy of all queues, of course, was that long and patient collection of impecunious grant-gatherers which stretched last Friday week all down the steps of the Great Hall and finally wound itself into University Road. *I had not thought that dearth had undone so many.....*

Rescue.

Sketching Society, I understand, has fallen on evil days. Its total membership is seven and faced by such lack of interest the Society is considering dissolving. In any case, its plans are now very hazy. It would, I think, be a great pity if the Society were to dissolve. From such a large student body as ours there must be more than seven people interested in its aims. If finances are such a problem it is possible that Union Committee might consider giving the Society a room and a small grant for equipment. In return the Society might set up a "Poster Service" for the use of the many Union Societies, who are for ever needing posters. But a greater interest than is now shown would be necessary before U.C. could help.

Bang!

The Professor was lecturing on the nitrogen halides.

On the bench before him he had an anvil, a hammer and some nitrogen iodide. After pointing out just how explosive this tricky compound was, he struck it with the hammer. Nothing happened. The Professor blinked sadly and tried once more. Not a sound. "Gentlemen," he said, "we will try again to-morrow." And so he did. He clouted the halide with the hammer... there was a deafening explosion. From the back of the lecture-room came a dry: "Your bird, sir," from a student joyously waving a bedraggled partridge. INCA.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Dear Madam,

Admirable though the principle of "Plain Living and High Thinking" may be, one cannot help but think that the first half of the aphorism is carried out far too literally by those responsible for the catering in the Refectories and the Cafeteria. The food is plain—too plain, and in the old refec' at least, the quantities are too mean to satisfy a normal masculine (or feminine) appetite.

These complaints about the food come up every year, and each time the Catering Committee promises to do something. But each year nothing happens; either the Committee is too lazy to do more than give in to the inertia of the Catering Staff or it accepts too easily the glib explanation that shortages of one sort or another are to blame.

Surely it is high time that something was done in this matter. There is absolutely no reason why appetising and adequate meals cannot be served at the current prices; after all, many works' canteens find no difficulty in doing this. An energetic Catering Committee working in co-operation with a conscientious Catering Staff should find no insuperable difficulties in ensuring that imagination and hard work combine to produce meals that are both satisfying and pleasant. A.G.

APPRECIATION.

Dear Madam,

While we appreciate the initiative shown in the new form of *The Gryphon* we are bound to deprecate the length of at least two of the articles. For the first time in our own memory however there does appear to be some unity of tone which compares very formidably with that attempted last year. The introduction of photographs put it in the category of the small commercial magazine with which we are all familiar. This alone would warrant a rise in price, but when we consider also that the number of pages has been almost doubled and the whole appearance enhanced by the easy-to-read, easy-to-look-at type face any desire to return to the old price and format seems entirely unjustifiable. PRO BONO.

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GRANTS and WELFARE

STUDENT HOUSING.

The present organisation for the allocation of student lodgings is vested in the Wardens of Non-Resident Students, who are responsible for dealing with such applications as are received by the University at the beginning of each session.

No reliable information is available on the question of the number of students in lodgings who do not come under the jurisdiction of the Wardens, although the number must amount to several hundreds. This session some 800 applications for lodgings have been received and accommodation has been offered in every case. The number of students in Halls is roughly 450, giving a total of 1,250 accommodated in University Halls or approved lodgings. It has been proposed that a minimum of two years be spent in residence and, to enable this to be carried out, further accommodation must be found for at least 1,000 students. At present the accommodation offered varies greatly in comfort and convenience and there is no student body which can take up the question of unsatisfactory lodgings.

A difficult problem is presented by the married student. To meet this need the University branch of the British Legion leased a private house, which was divided into flats and sub-let to married ex-Servicemen. In March, 1947, this matter was discussed with the Vice-Chancellor, who promised that any suitable property would be investigated and if acquired could be used in this way, but so far no further property has become available.

It is now proposed that a Housing Section of the Grants and Welfare Sub-Committee be formed to deal with the problems of student accommodation. Representatives of Day Students in Lodgings have already been selected to the Union Committee and other members of the proposed new Section could be drawn from the University Hostels, the British Legion and the Grants and Welfare Committee.

STUDENT HEALTH.

The question of student health is important because physical and mental well-being are interdependent and the student needs to be fit to do his work efficiently. This is a serious problem as our own Leeds Health Survey in 1946 showed that in one term 35% of students had up to one week's absence, 12% two to three weeks' absence and 4% over three weeks' absence for illness, and less than 50% had full attendance for the whole term. The conditions of work and the environment in which the student lives is conducive to this state of sub-health and indicates the necessity for a comprehensive student health scheme.

The Student Health Service should not be concerned with definite medical or surgical problems for which means of treatment exist, but the standard of student health should be improved by the provision of:—

1. The appointment of a full-time Medical Officer, to be responsible for the general health of all students.
2. All students should have a medical examination on entry to the University, including an X-ray.
3. Provision of "Sick Bay" accommodation for the treatment of minor ailments; this is particularly necessary for students in lodgings.
4. Increased efficiency of ancillary services:—(a) adequate facilities for physical recreation—for the average player as well as the expert athlete; (b) ensurance of good living conditions through the efficient supervision of standard of lodgings.

The Grants and Welfare Committee in conjunction with the Senate Student Health Committee are working to have these recommendations, and further long-term plans, put into effect. All students can help by reporting to Grants and Welfare Committee cases of bad living conditions, e.g., inadequate lighting and heating, poor food, overcrowding and any general health problems.

Freshers' Reception.

Two precedents were created at this year's Freshers Reception, the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, himself a "Fresher," and the fact that owing to the unusually large number of Freshers the Reception took place in the Great Hall. After the usual awe-inspiring ceremony of presentation, which to the first-comers seemed unending, the Vice-Chancellor, the President, the Director of Physical Education and the Executive Committee, (hardly recognisable under an aura of respectability), took their places on the platform.

The President as chairman of the meeting opened proceedings by welcoming the Vice-Chancellor—Mr. C. R. Morris. He went on to say that in the Hall were assembled the future leaders of the Union which is a self-governing body. After introducing the Executive Committee he called upon the V.C. to speak. Mr. Morris began by saying that to each Fresher University life had a different aspect. To the ex-Servicemen it appeared full of restrictions, whereas the boy or girl straight from school finds it much too free. He stressed the need for each student to find his or her medium, to work neither too hard nor too little and always to make time for Union activities, which often counted more in after life than mere intellectual achievement.

Mr. H. Parker, Secretary L.U.U., then gave an outline of Union activities and their organisation, laying stress on the fact that all Union societies are run by students.

The Director of Physical Education, Mr. R. E. Morgan emphasised the need for some physical recreation in the life of a student. It is easy to acquire a sedentary frame of mind and it is the purpose of the Union Athletics Clubs to counteract this, while providing healthy and satisfying enjoyment.

The President after some remarks on the social life of the Union, closed the meeting and all adjourned to the cafeteria for the usual bun-fight. To those Freshers who did not have sufficient to eat we extend our apologies.

Immediately after tea dancing was announced in the Riley-Smith Hall—an improvement on previous Freshers' Socials, when there has been a long, very empty interval between tea and dancing.

Thanks to our very able Entertainments Secretary, the social went with a swing. Incidentally 900 people sitting on the floor singing and performing "One finger, one thumb keep moving," is a very amusing sight, especially when viewed from the precincts of the balcony.

LOST.—White carved ivory brooch. In or around the Union Building. Great sentimental value. Will the finder please return to Union News Office.

This space is reserved for

**CONSERVATIVE
POLITICAL CENTRE.**

The KNOWN.

Interviewing Mr. J.W. Bourn, Clerk to the Union, is rather difficult. This is not Mr. Bourn's fault, except in so far as he has made himself so indispensable that every conversation with him is bound to be interrupted by all sorts of people who want advice on all sorts of subjects. And he always knows the answer. This not only makes him of the greatest importance in Union affairs, it also enables him to keep the Union Executive Committee in order.

Mr. Bourn answered the alarming array of questions very readily. The first alteration he would like to see in the University is the extension of the buildings. Next, he would like to see a decrease in the political activity in the Union and a greater interest in social affairs. He praised the "Union News" highly, saying that it fulfilled what had been a long-felt want, that it was topical and well produced, and that it caters for all tastes. On the other hand, he was "not enamoured" of *The Gryphon*, feeling that it tends to be more academic than necessary.

Mr. Bourn's main hobby is gardening, but he lacks the time to do much about it. His favourite composer is Tchaikovsky, and he considers that the best show in Leeds at the moment is "Hamlet". Asked whom he considers to be the greatest comedian of the age, Mr. Bourn declared that he does not like comedians as a rule, but that Edgar Bergen and Will Hay are his favourites. His most admired public figure is Mr. Churchill and his favourite meal is roast beef "and the accessories."

Asked to describe his ideal woman, Mr. Bourn hesitated, said that he was a bit beyond women, but finally admitted that he prefers the athletic type and those who have an interest in social studies and welfare work.

The question "What is your worst vice?" was received with perfect equanimity and turned out to be cigarettes (even in these hard times). At least, this is the worst vice that Mr. Bourn feels that he can admit to publicly.

Mr. Bourn confesses that he is not fond of children. He has been, but he considers that they have too much of their own way and looks upon them rather as necessary evils. The minimum amount on which a student in lodgings can live and also perform his functions as a citizen is, in Mr. Bourn's estimation, four pounds a week.

Mr. Bourn's plans for the future are to retire to a quiet place where there are no radios, go for long walks and grow carnations and chrysanthemums. And, to the question: "What would you do if you knew that an atom bomb was going to fall next week, Mr. Bourn gave the eminently sensible idea "Grin and bear it."

Society Notes

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

In the last edition of the *Union News* it was announced that a series of talks would be held on "Life at Foreign Universities."

Actually a series of critical discussions will be held, dealing with the study of Chemistry in Universities at home and abroad, with special reference to the wider academic and social background of the studies.

H. L. KOOL,
Student President.

ENGLISH SOCIETY.

English Society has recently been the subject of some controversy. At its Freshers' Social (Monday, 11th October), its Student President, Bill Jones, outlined the programme for the coming Session and emphasised that students will provide most of the material. The first of its meetings was a talk by W. L. Andrews, Esq., Editor of *The Yorkshire Post*, "On Writing for the Press." Would be journalists found much to interest and perhaps horrify them at this meeting which was on Monday, 18th October. The following Monday allowed all critics of *The Gryphon* full opportunity to have their say at a discussion led by Alan Over and called "Opinion on *The Gryphon*."

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY.

It is important, at the present time, for everyone to become acquainted with people of other lands and to learn their ways of life and to endeavour to understand their problems. By joining the International Society you are provided with the opportunity of fulfilling this since at all meetings you are brought into contact with people from most of the countries of the world.

The programme for the present term is full and varies from a reception for Overseas Students to-day to a meeting on Nov. 4th, at which each of the political parties will present and discuss their "Policy for Britain."

From November 13th to Saturday, November 20th, is International Students' Week, and besides a series of lectures, discussions and film shows during the week, there will be a "Peace Exhibition." It is hoped that every member of the Union will visit this Exhibition at least once. For information about meetings, look at the notice boards or contact the Joint Secretaries, Mr. Rottmann and Mr. Mulhim.

THE RIDING CLUB.

The Riding Club extends a welcome to all new members.

Continuing the strenuous efforts of last year, the Riding Club is going ahead with an interesting programme for the coming session. We hope to give everyone an

opportunity of increasing their knowledge and proficiency in equitation.

As we are unable, at the moment, to mount all our members, our President, in his capacity as Director of Physical Education, has organised instructional rides.

We propose to have films as well as talks on equitation and, if the support is forthcoming, we intend organising long rides. This latter part of the programme was started last session and this year we hope to consolidate it.

THE SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

The Socialist Society, affiliated to the Student Labour Federation and, through S.I.F., to International Youth and Student Bodies, is a non-party organisation. There is no bar on membership because of party affiliation and no obligation to accept any policy. Whatever your opinions on the best road to Socialism, there is room for you in Soc. Soc.

Meetings and discussions on questions of interest to Socialists are only part of our activities. Equally important are campaigns on that vital student questions on which there is broad agreement among Socialists—grants, hostel conditions, Higher Education plans, student rights, etc.

The success of the Society depends on its members—all of them, and not merely on the Committee. We invite your active co-operation during the coming year. Join Soc. Soc.

ARAB STUDENT SOCIETY.

The primary aims of this Society are to cultivate a mutual affiliation between Arab-speaking students; and to foster good relationship and deep understanding between them and their fellow students. To fulfil that, the Society is publishing a bulletin called the "Arab News." We hope it will receive your support. The secretary is ready also to supply you with pamphlets and bulletins about Arab affairs.

Last year East met West in the Arab Students' Society Social. We hope to hold an equally enjoyable social this term. There is also an idea of having a social for a humanitarian purpose, namely, to help the destitute Arab refugees in Palestine.

Its success depends on your support.

THE UNION BAND.

Fresh from his second successful season in the Isle of Man, George Allen was back on the bandstand on Saturday night fronting his New Look Clubmen, with Stan Collier. A new style of music has meant a reshuffling of personnel. The band can be heard at the Union on October 22nd and 29th, when many of its new arrangements will be featured.

The UNKNOWN.

(For this we are indebted to a Freshet picked at random, who gave us this interview.—ED.)

Margaret Long: fair, slight, attractive, wears glasses. Born Leeds, 1929, and came to us from Leeds Girls' High. Now takes Chemistry and wishes to be a chemist, but this does not hinder dancing as a hobby (others are cycling and tennis), in fact among Ideal Man's sterling qualities must be dancing. He must also be tall, dark, athletic-rather-than-intellectual, family man, must speak well and have good manners—beyond this her tastes seem lenient. Ideal Man note her worst vice—getting up late in the morning. Fond of children, but against the Only - One System (she is from a larger family herself). Views on marriage, by the way, are mid-twentieth century, viz.: no girl should marry before 25 as future partner (two years older) must by then be in an established position. Ideal Men withdraw—the coffee-bar is open. Margaret, living at home, has no views on minimum income to be a satisfactory student-plus-citizen, but a suggested £210 p.a. sounded grim to her, especially in view of the price of books. No views on what she will do in old age, but at present hates the 87 steps up to the Maths. Dept., and her twelve-till-one lectures, which keep her from mid-day hops. She reads readable-looking articles in *Gryphon*, leaves the rest. Liked the article on Leeds in last issue, but thought the Brit. Restaurant might have been mentioned as good in times of financial famine. Likes the *Union News* vaguely, as it is more trivial and takes less time to read. Favourite piece of music, *Clair de Lune*; author, Brontës, reads no poetry. Admires most in public life—Royal Family. Humour declining all round, but comedian-of-the-age possibly Robertson Hare. Best show in town, she thinks, is *Hamlet*, but too-impersonal voice of ghost is goggle-making. If atom-bomb were to drop near her, forewarned, she would try to get out of the way by train or any other means of locomotion.

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★ SPORT ★

The Women's Boat Club.

After the first few hectic days of term the club held a very successful inaugural outing on October 10th. We had a very good turn-up of enthusiastic new members and hope to have even more in succeeding weeks.

The Freshers were highly entertained by a gentleman of the Boat Club who thoughtfully fell into the river in good view of everyone! Apart from this trifling incident the afternoon proceeded smoothly.

After tea, which was provided by the club, Miss Ashcroft (Capt. L.U.W.B.C.) made a speech of welcome, in which she gave a brief outline of the club's history and stressed the value of enthusiasm. She pointed out that the support of every member was just as necessary when rowing a race as the actual crew competing.

The Inter-Faculty regatta will be held at the end of November. The actual date will be announced in the next issue of *Union News*. Meanwhile we commend this event to all at the University even remotely interested in the sport.

If any Fresher has not yet visited our headquarters and would like to do so, club officials will gladly give information.

Boat Club.

The first two Saturdays of term again saw large numbers of new members at the Boat House. After a short talk and instruction on the "do's and don't's" of rowing, the new would-be oarsmen, with their hearts in their mouths, had their first outing. As yet, it is pleasing to report, that no newcomer to the Club has had the pleasure of passing the swimming test *in situ*, but it has been rumoured that one or two old members persisted in showing their capacity to pass the test.

The Inter-Faculty races will be held towards the end of this term and by that time we hope to have trained our new members into being quite capable oarsmen. To those who have not yet visited the Club we extend a hearty welcome to come out any Wednesday or Saturday to the Boat House, Swillington Bridge.

Boxing Club.

With the able assistance of Mike Sunderland, our trainer, and a nucleus of last year's Northern Universities Champions, we are forming a very strong team. Our first fight this season is with King's College, Newcastle, during their Charity Rag Week, although our greatest test will be against Oxford on November 4th.

For our first home fight, all enthusiasts of the noble art, in and outside the University, are asked to help us on our way to victory by giving their support in our fight against Birmingham on November 11th.

A great loss was suffered by the club when Ken Sloman, our light heavy weight, who battled his way through to the finals of the U.A.U. Championship last year, left to take up duties with H.M. Forces. We all wish him the best of luck and a speedy return to the ring.

Men's Hockey Club.

In their first game of the season, at Weetwood, on October 16th, the 1st XI defeated Sandal H.C. 1st XI by 2 goals to 1.

The score was not a true representation of the game, in which two-thirds of the play was in the Sandal half. However, it was a good opening to the season and

Soccer Club.

Once more in the throng of competitive league football the three University teams are finding progress difficult, as evidenced by last Saturday's results when all teams finished with a draw. However, it seems that the losing run before the beginning of term has been arrested. The first eleven in the County Amateur League having won two games, the second eleven, in the West Yorkshire League, one. The third eleven is still without a win, but have recorded two draw.

Results of last Saturday's games:

- Leeds University, 2 ; Guiseley, 2.
- Leeds University Reserves, 2 ; Otley, 2.
- Leeds University "A," 4 ; Huddersfield Tech., 4.

one which promised well once the team has settled down.

The 2nd XI has played two games. Their first, a home game against Leeds City Police on October 13th, ended in a draw, 1-1. In their second game, at Sandal on October 16th, they dictated the play throughout the game and finally won, 4-0.

Cross-Country Club.

The season has opened with practice runs and trials, at which the attendance has been larger than in recent seasons. First matches are on Saturday, 16th October, the First Team visiting Loughborough and the Second at home to S. John's College, York.

Still more members are wanted, however, especially any who are experienced runners.

Rugger Club.

The Rugger Club has started well this season, with over 120 members, amongst whom we have many promising newcomers. A wonderful spirit of enthusiasm is only too evident and the selection of teams is proving very difficult.

In place of the 7-a-side trials originally planned, an experimental side was fielded against Bradford Technical College; the club side however was never fully tested and managed a comfortable win. The 1st XV "Derby" match with the "Medics" proved as usual a much tougher proposition and it was only by hard work and with the superiority mainly in the backs that we managed to win, with points in hand. The "A" XV celebrated their first match with a win over the Medics "A," but the "B" team lost to Crossley and Porters away by one point. All three teams were victorious on Saturday against Metrovick, although the 1st XV were disappointing in the second half.

Dangerous as it is to prophesy future prospects, if the present keenness holds, it is not unreasonable to expect quite a successful season.

N.B.—The Club is starting a Supporters' Club—are you interested?

Watch the Club notice board.

Results to Date.

1st XV.	
Bradford Tech. Coll.	W 57-3
Medics.	W 16-3
Metrovick	W 19-8
"A" XV.	
Medics "A"	W
Metrovick "A"	W
"B" XV.	
Crossley & Porter	L
Metrovick "B"	W

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★ Continued from Page 1.

going ahead regarding cases of collective hardship, such as articulated law students who, though being unable to earn money by vacation work, receive considerably less than any other students. Honours students spending a term in foreign Universities were in difficulties due to the arrangements for the payment of their grants. Due to vigorous representations by N.U.S., however, students going to German universities received an increased instalment on arrival.

We have been able to obtain in certain cases a liberal interpretation of regulations as set down in the Ministry of Labour's pamphlet. Students who had been refused a grant, due to their eligibility being in question, have received favourable re-consideration which was directly the result of the advice and representation of this Committee. In the case of scholarship and non-scholarship students in grave hardship, successful applications have been made to various Educational Trusts and the University Scholarship Committee's fund.

SEE ALSO PAGE 4.

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