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Official Organ of the Adelaide University
Students Union

O Heaven! he cried, my bleeding country save!

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EDITORIAL.

The author of "Australia" deals trenchantly with this country's educational system, a system by which the State assists clever little boys to the University, lets them graduate, and sends them back to teach other clever little boys to win bursaries.

He is too flattering. These book-learned teachers are sometimes far from clever, apt in too many cases to mislead and seduce the minds of their trusting young. We ourselves, after a flounder through primary and secondary schools, feel qualified to speak.

In our day, or ten years ago at any rate, a dictionary was unheard of in a crisis. We remember being assured that *Excelsior*, in the poem, was nothing more nor less than "a cry of grief or pain." We tried it when we next cut our finger; we tried it in the cemetery; we tried it even out at golf. Never did the word sound natural to our lips. And yet, through the kindly medium of the H.Q. educational, "The Children's Hour," that misleading statement was absorbed by hundreds of examination candidates. We are not yet decided whether it was the manifest contempt of democracy for an imperial tongue or a praiseworthy attempt on the part of the Government to make us swear politely. Give us *Ichabod* anyday.

But this is poor criticism. More iniquitous is the custom, prevalent in nearly all schools, of learning the teacher's notes by heart, thus stifling all originality.

H. L. Mencken has a theory of education. To him, whosoever presumes to teach should be afire with enthusiasm for the subject he teaches, and not pretend to a bread-and-butter zeal for half a dozen. Only thus can the student mind, catching something of the same inspiration, glow with an independent light. As it is, the mind of the unfortunate student can do no more than mirror coldly the dead ashes of disillusionment and overwork that rot in the teacher's soul.

Under such conditions what stimulus can there be to independent thought? The need is for men fit to inspire rather than to teach, and the world seems to look to Arts faculties to supply them. But an Arts student with intelligence is (at present, with his hundred per cent. memory-mind) almost a paradox. Yet a Science student, with a blow-the-fire eagerness for education, is a dream too good to be true.

To combat the manifest absurdities and malign influence of pamphlet religions, and to keep a steady eye on psychological experiments in schools, there is a positive demand for competent men in education. There is an even more urgent need for men to supply the right stimulus to crude, unthinking minds.

Women's Union At-Home.

There were features about the Women's Union At Home that pleased us (1) and it was quite a heavenly show. We were received by the Angel Mad-alean, and entertained after supper by the Cherub Mad-again, not to mention that the Lady Symon was hilariously decked with colour prints of the Madonna. Although we felt the Child looked a little pained at times, we enjoyed the quaint touch, and did our best

to compromise by sitting out in the rooms where He wasn't.

Supper was a splendid affair of sausages and bread, but we missed the lager, although we gathered the impression that the lack was more apparent than real. Pies and patties and cakes and things topped off. Even if the women, as hosts, are a little slow at filling a man's programme and coming to claim dances, they're Hort Dorg when it comes to supper. After supper, the Cherub aforesaid, with

attendant Satellite, ran a Monte Carlo dance, which was simply swiped up by Betty Leon and old Frew. Ted Dorsch was in his cups again, but seeing its taken him and the team the whole season to get there, it's really a matter for congratulation. Receive herewith.

We were pleased to notice some of the recent casualties back. Mrs. Goodall we welcomed at the Dance Club a week ago, so by now all the world knows the good news. The same goes for Roxy, who doesn't look in the least abridged or expurgated by the loss of an appendix. Messrs. Dawe and Bonnin, whom we missed last week, were also back. (What happened to them? They went to Hobart. See column three for full story. We regret to say that Mr. Sergeant has not yet put in an appearance.)

The show ended at midnight, so we retired hastily to relive the pleasures of it in dreams.

A.S.C.M.

The second conference for the year was held at Mt. Lofly last week-end. Between 60 and 70 men and women from the 'Varsity and Teachers' College were there. Mr. Frank Mitchell was chairman, and study circles were led by Miss Edna Holmes, Miss D. M. Smith, Mr. A. Johnston, Mr. Wallace Pratt (Travelling Secretary), Mr. H. P. Harris, and the Chairman.

The first address, given by Rev. W. H. Irwin, dealt with the naturalness and inevitability of faith, and the relation between faith and reason. The central thought was that in order to live at all we must have some sort of faith, and the next address, by Mr. Pratt on Christ's Faith in God, followed naturally. Since faith of some kind is essential, what is the most worth while faith to hold?

In the third address Rev. De Pledge Sykes was concerned with "The Nurture of Faith." Our faith in God will grow only as we can draw near to Him, and for this is necessary the "examined life" and the "quiet time" for realizing God's presence and power.

The thought of the study circles and the addresses was summed up in the closing address on "Faith in Action." Principal Lade's main point was that the area of each man's personal life was the place for faith to issue in action. We should have such a faith that the demands of our everyday life will be rightly met as they arise.

Not only in the study circles and addresses, but in the morning and evening prayers, as well as in community singing and "stunts," the whole spirit of the Conference brought people to a more definite understanding of the essential things of life, and in what kind of living we must put our trust.

Coming Events for the Next Fortnight.

September.
Tuesday, 12th: Meeting of Tennis Club, Pennant Section, Men's Lounge, 1.20.
Commerce Students' Meeting, Refectory.
Thursday, 14th: Medical Students' Meeting and Supper.
Friday, 15th: Labour Club, Refectory, Meeting and Supper. 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 19th: SPORTS ASSOCIATION Special General Meeting, 1.15, Refectory.
Friday, 22nd: Literary, Debating and Dramatic Society, Lady Symon, 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Notes.

On August 7th, the annual plays were presented to a full house in the Lady Symon hall. The short Russian curtain-raiser was bare enough to leave the audience wondering a little. The plays themselves, Shaw's *Fascinating Foundling*, and Bell's *Thread o' Scarlet*, were not particularly first class, considering stage inconveniences, and their success was almost wholly due to the actors and producers. Keith Macdonald (Mercer) produced the *Fascinating Foundling*, and staged a realistic poker-fight with Walkley (the infant Brabizon). Ray played a charming Anastasia, and J. A. Maitland a not-too-alarming Lord Chancellor. Unfortunately, Shaw's best satirical touches were entirely lost on the audience. Corney produced an admirable second play, *Boundy and Finnis* particularly excelling themselves. Roger Angove, as landlord, deserves a line to himself. The Rev. and Mrs. H. P. Finnis and son provided, at short notice, some charming interludes of music.

The College dance was held on the following Friday, but, as our correspondent was refused a double press ticket, he could, if he wished, report only what he chose to hear, not what he saw. No one else seems able to give a trustworthy and impersonal account, so let it lapse.

With the one-time State heavyweight and the outboard champion in residence, we feel it's time to mention W. Ackland-Horman, jun. The deeds of the man "who made golf history" are recorded elsewhere in this issue. He tells me he is now getting down to real work. His hands are too big for a decent photograph, but he will sign albums.

COLLEGE GOLF.

Results: Ackland-Horman and R. L. Johnson defeated Taylor and F. Magarey, 2 and 1; Cumming and Campbell defeated Fletcher and Laffer, 4 and 3. Ackland-Horman v. Taylor, 6 and 5; Cumming v. Magarey, 1 down; Johnson v. Fletcher, 4 and 3; Campbell v. Laffer, 6 and 5. St. Marks defeated St. Andrews, 5 matches to 1.

A.U. Literary, Debating, and Dramatic Society.

On Friday, September the first, the Literary, Debating, and Dramatic Society had its first meeting for the term. There were about forty present, and owing to our President's optimism, a copious supper had been ordered. The orphans carried away quite a respectable surplus.

But before supper, Mr. Padman and Mr. Kerr gave antiphonal papers on the Pre-Raphaelite movement in art and literature.

Both papers were very interesting, but noises from behind scenes rather disturbed a moving rendering of a chapter from William Morris's "Hollow Land."

Creaks, lights, and the sound of gurgling beer promised a realistic "Thread o' Scarlet," and we were not disappointed. The St. Mark's players gave an excellent performance—Mr. Finnis's acting and Mr. Boundy's tie were especially fine.

This meeting, which was attended by only a few of the least conscientious third-term members, and a larger number of visitors than usual, broke up early, as soon as the washing up was done.

Inter-'Varsity Debates.

A debating team, consisting of Messrs. M. S. Sergeant, M. F. Bonnin, and R. S. Dawe, left Adelaide on August 12, hoping to reach Hobart in time to take part in the inter-'Varsity Debates which were scheduled to commence on August 21. In spite of some misfortunes in Melbourne, the team succeeded in reaching Hobart on Thursday, August 17.

Having discovered their temporary homes, the team proceeded on a round of some three clubs, of which they had been made honorary members. It was ascertained that the Tasmanians have a beverage known as Cascade, and it is a tribute to the purity of this liquid that Tuesday night found the team in a fit state to meet Melbourne. The subject—rather an apt one—was: "That we view the past with regret, and the future with apprehension." Mr. Sergeant made a quiet and altogether unobjectionable speech dealing with the political aspect of the subject. He was followed by the Melbourne leader, Mr. Nicholls, who, after some unwarranted references to the Brisbane trip of the previous year, and scathing personal attacks, made what he called a realistic speech in most romantic words. Mr. Bonnin spoke in sepulchral tones of the shocking condition of the world with regard to economics. His speech was brightened by touches of humour, which was a characteristic of all the speakers on that night. Mr. Thirkell stepped into the breach made by Mr. Bonnin, and announced that he was taking a synoptic view of the subject. Perceiving that few of the audience understood the meaning of "synoptic," Mr. Thirkell proceeded to baffle and convince them by using it no less than eleven times.

As neither Mr. Dawe nor his colleagues could translate synoptic, the former was unable to attack Mr. Thirkell's view, so he fired a broadside of humour which annihilated the effect of everything serious that had been uttered. It was unfortunate that Mr. Dawe was so overwhelmed by his effect on the audience that he lost the serious portion of his speech. Reminiscent of the Charge of the Light Brigade was the compelling rhetoric of Mr. Willmot. The audience, still weak from laughing at Mr. Dawe, was in no state to resist the thundering tones and frantic gesticulations of the aforesaid Willmot. Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Sergeant then summed up—not in unison, but very similarly—in that each continued to cast mud at his opponents. After a careful survey of both teams, the Adjudicators decided that Adelaide were more mud-bespattered than Melbourne, and awarded the Debate to the latter.

Other results were: Tasmania defeated Sydney; Queensland defeated Western Australia; Queensland defeated Melbourne. Final: Tasmania defeated Queensland.

All the teams were lavishly entertained by the Tasmanian University. Trips were arranged to various beauty spots (including the Cascade brewery), the final one being a climb up Mt. Wellington—no mean performance after the dinner held the night before.

On Monday, 28th, having tried to thank the Tasmanians for the excellent time they had given us, the team departed for Adelaide, home, and duty.

Floreat Debator.

University Rover Crew.

The meeting for third term was held in the Men's Lounge at 7.30 on Tuesday, 5th September.

After welcoming Mr. Henry Rymill, the Rover Commissioner, Viner Smith cast a shadow upon the happy gathering of prospective hikers by proposing that, in view of the possible demise of White, a Hike Second should be elected. Cowan, Game, Magarey, and Bonnin in turn impressed upon the audience the unrivalled powers of leadership and perambulation possessed by the other three; but Cowan was elected.

White then outlined his plans for the Hike to be held on September 23rd and 24th, and gave a list of the gear and provisions which he considered necessary to keep a man alive for two days.

Henry Rymill delivered a fine address upon the Tenderfoot Tests as applied to Rover Scouting, stressing the fact that the fundamental idea of all scouting is to teach men to "play the game all along the line." After some discussion, mainly about flags (called "ens'ns" by all the best naval members), Cowan gave a detailed description of the Tenderfoot Tests. The roars of laughter which greeted his remarks serve only to show what a vast ignorance still prevails in respect of some of the finer points of Scout-craft.

Viner Smith made a successful appeal for volunteers to go on a Christmas cruise, and said that he hoped some of the members would be able to help at the Rover camp for 100 selected non-scouts to be held during the long vacation. Mr. Rymill gave us the full details of this camp, followed by a short talk on the ceremony of investiture. After this, C. A. P. Boundy and J. B. Mills were solemnly invested as Rovers.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

WHY

*Don't the men propose, mama,
Why don't the men propose?*

To-morrow, Wednesday, September 13th, Mr. E. Warner, a leading speaker of the Douglas Credit Movement in N.S.W., will give a lunch-hour address on the Douglas Proposals. He made the Association's official reply to the report of Mr. Waites, the N.S.W. Government Statistician.

He will be in Adelaide on a lecture tour, culminating in a meeting at the Town Hall on September 26th, when Mr. David Robertson, the well-known Melbourne business man, will also speak.

Cricket Club.

The annual general meeting of the Cricket Club was held in the Lady Symon hall on Monday, September 4th. Mr. L. T. Ewens took the chair until Dr. Jose arrived. Results of elections for the coming season: President, Dr. L. C. Lindon; Practice Captain, L. T. Ewens; Secretary, R. S. Whittington; Assistant Secretary, J. Ray; B's Secretary, G. Holland; C's Secretary, L. W. Hunwick; D's Secretary, R. L. Badenoch.

At the conclusion of the meeting the fielding cup, presented by Dr. Jose, was awarded to J. Ray ('keeper) for one year.

