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ON DIT

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STUDENT UNION.

Dr. Priestly Resigns Students Lose a Friend

Not only Melbourne students, but students of all Australian universities (particularly in so far as they are interested in the N.U.A.U.S.) are losing a firm friend and a ready champion. We in Adelaide remember Dr. Priestley principally for his good wishes and the promise of support for the National Union and for his Bonython Hall address at the Universities' Conference in February. It took the form of a report on his investigations into universities overseas. He stressed the need for practical learning, but asked for balance between pure and applied research. On the subject of freedom of speech, he said, "I have been asked to what limits as regards freedom of discussion and speech the University should go. My answer is that it should go to the limits that the law permits. A nation should expect its university to be a forum for discussion of all vital aspects of human life. It is the faith of the adherent of democracy that the combined wisdom and knowledge of trained men, shaped and clarified through discussion, must be better than policies devised and rules enforced by any minority or any dictator that happens for the moment to be on top of the political heap." That was the temper of the man and his practice was ruled by his principles.

Co-operation with Students.

The editors of "Farrago" told us in June that Dr. Priestley was "the best thing that has happened in Melbourne for years." They realised his value to the university as a whole, and they appreciated the way in which he always consulted and sought out student opinion on matters which concerned them. He was in constant touch with the executive of the Students' Representative Council, he was frequently phoning or conferring with the editors of "Farrago," he made contact with the officials of leading Varsity societies. When a number of unhappy matters accumulated at the beginning of this year he met representative students in the happy and informal atmosphere of a dinner party, where free speech was the order of the evening.

The Matter of Funds.

But ever since his arrival in Melbourne Dr. Priestley has struggled to rouse public opinion from its apathetic attitude towards the University. He spent the first term vac. of this year, for instance, making three speeches a day in country towns. He has been unceasing in personal efforts in Melbourne itself. Perhaps he moved, or wanted to move, too fast for the people he had to deal with, but shock tactics were necessary. He said long ago that if he could not get funds it would not be worth the University's while to retain him. Perhaps the following article is not irrelevant:—

TAXATION BEFORE PHILANTHROPY.

Urged for Financing Universities.

Melbourne, Saturday.
Australia's complaint that she had insufficient endowment from philan-
(Continued page 3, column 2.)

WOMEN AND THE NATIONAL UNION For Democracy and Peace

Special Representation Urged

Despite the fact that men and women University students have, for many years, been officially considered as equals, only two universities sent women to the Australian Student Conference which formed the N.U.A.U.S. If the National Union is to be representative of all student opinion and interests, we feel that there should be at least one woman delegate from each State at all such future conferences.

For many reasons it was unanimously agreed that the last conference was a great success, one being that it afforded a common meeting ground for all those interested in student activities and enabled them to get to know each other. By this means, more than any other, can the universities of Australia be welded into a single unit of national importance. Half measures are always petty, and there seems to be no reason why those at the head of women students' affairs should be denied this opportunity of meeting which is extended to the men.

Those not interested in anything outside their own faculty affairs are apt to pooch-pooch the idea that any good can come from these interstate contacts, but the value of the discussions which took place between delegates to the last conference has proved itself time and time again, as in the reorganisation of our debating system and the co-operation of the editors of the University papers. Just as every Australian university has a different system of student government, so they have varying methods of organising the activities of their women students. Of those methods we, at present, are entirely ignorant, and, because of our ignorance and the youth of our University, our women students are probably missing opportunities of social and intellectual co-operation offered by those other universities. So we, in our turn, may have something of value to offer to them.

Out of the Rut.

It is so easy for us to become stuck in a rut and jog aimlessly along, when the mere interchange of ideas would serve to spur us on to new avenues of thought and practice. For example, it would be interesting to know just how women students of the other universities govern themselves, how far they make themselves responsible for the entertainment of women visitors connected with the university, and if they enter into any activities outside the actual university functions. Do women's organisations in the other universities do anything to foster an interest in debating or dramatic work? If so, how? These, and dozens of other questions immediately present themselves and the very readiness with which they spring up, proves that the women of each university should be represented at the N.U.A.U.S. conference early next year, and that the delegates should form a special sub-committee for the exchange of ideas and discussions on affairs which would not interest the men representatives but which are of vital importance in the life of women students.

We shall be fortunate to have again in our Bonython Hall, within the space of one week, two such lecturers as Pro. Wood Jones and Mr. Laurin Ziliacus. Mr. Ziliacus, the leader of the New Education delegates, quite won the meeting on Friday night with his infectious enthusiasm, his idealism, and his charming personality. His reply to His Excellency's welcome augured well, with its humor and grace, but it was only a cocktail for the fare that was to come. Democracy, Mr. Ziliacus said, was the aim and the method of the N.E.F., but he was glad that representatives of Japan and America had been invited, too, despite differences of opinions.

Education for To-day.

To characterise "To-day," the speaker took his audience with him from Finland on the trip to Australia. From Helsingfors, with its anxiety, rearmament, social strife, over the green and pleasant land by air to Sweden, and then on to the land of the Danes, "the most charming, and delightfully and politely disrespectful people," who wisely saw it was hopeless to rearm, over the "vast military camp of Germany," whose whole life is for the soldier State, where the N.E.F. movement has been dissolved and its members stampeded out or exiled. From there to the other end of Europe is reaction, save for Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. In the west, France sitting on a volcano and Spain in strife whose outcome will be so decisive for her people's welfare; over the seas, where irregular food ships from Britain sometimes take food to the starving Spanish people. America, with steel strikes and bloodshed—a great clash of forces ever more clear—an attempt, far greater than appears on the surface, to change the social order, while opposed are circles so bitter they have to be experienced to be understood—"a great people striking its tents and preparing to march," while a question mark flares over its future. Japan, in economic and social chaos, making war upon China, greatest in population, in age, and in cultural achievements.

Is this nothing to Australia? Our isolation and aloofness is illusory. London decisions will take us into any war that comes. "Australia could not and would not keep out of the chaos and misery of another war." Nor have we, any more than most other countries, solved the problem of human economic relationships.

Obligation Upon Us.

The issue is between peaceful, ordered democratic progress and "the blind alley of dictatorship." Our old systems are cracking up, and we must call a halt to democratic retreat. But to revitalise the system we must enquire what democracy is. It is more than parliamentary government and free speech. It is a view of society carried into all practices: all must be provided with all the needs of full growth: every school, every factory, every enterprise so designed that all develop by sharing in their development. Yet how far are we short of social democracy? On those who have wealth and education is the obligation.
(Continued page 3, column 3.)

Making Pests of Ourselves

Second Phase

[This is the second of a series of articles which will apparently have to be written if something is not done to stop the rot.]

Some six weeks ago we published an editorial on student behaviour at local dinners and on intersarsity tours to the other States. A few people read it. But if the students of this University read it their teams during this last vacation can hardly be said to have given uniform heed to it.

Again we have to record behaviour, this time on the Melbourne express more particularly, which will hardly have increased the standing of the universities and their students in the eyes of those members of the public who were witnesses. It is perhaps true that the railway officials, having extracted enough money for repairs, are now prepared to regard the incident as closed. But there are also, as we have said, those who witnessed this infantile (or animal) exuberance and the damage it caused. On such an important train it is almost certain that public men were travelling. But, in any case, a trainload of citizens was travelling. They were travelling from Adelaide to Melbourne.

We are not so very flush of cash in this University, not so very well staffed, not so very well housed (have you ever sat out lectures in the Prince of Wales Theatre?), not so very loth to take the extra £10,000 subsidy on endowments made this year by Parliament, that we can afford to throw away large (or small) quantities of public opinion. In Melbourne we have the unhappy spectacle of an able and conscientious Vice-Chancellor resigning his position because the public will not take its university seriously. We see a whole faculty denuded of its professors because funds are lacking, and we see students and the student paper combining freely with the Vice-Chancellor to civilise themselves and to impress the public with the value of its university, with the balance and worthiness of its students. And no one would say that Melbourne University is a dull or puritanical place for all that. You are familiar with this theme.

But our immediate concern is, how are the right authorities going to deal with the matter? Three successive vacations have seen trouble of this or similar sorts. It dates back even longer. There was not even humor in some of it. Is it to go on until the railways refuse concessions and refuse to let teams travel as a whole? Is it to go on until at length an official complaint comes to the front office and the Council comes down like a ton of bricks? Or are we students, through the Sports Association, or through the Union, or (best of all) through ourselves, going to take a tug at things and get them well in hand before the whole public is convinced that we are utterly irresponsible. If you value and appreciate student self-government at all, if you value the University, if you value the Government grant, if you want worthwhile universities, there is only one thing to do. This is not simply a Sports Association matter, it will affect everyone in the long run.

AS WE PLEASE

"THE FRUSTRATION OF SCIENCE"

A REVIEW

One pleasing result of the economic slump and the political crises that have crowded on us is the growing interest scientific men take in the social consequences of their activities. Discussions bearing on this subject figure in the reports of the learned societies; and now we have this book, a symposium by a half a dozen eminent men, which might well be sub-titled "The Prostitution of Science, or Science in the Hands of Capitalism." A bitter sense of futility, of efforts bent to anti-social ends, inspires its contributors. An American Professor of Agriculture writes: "Ten million acres of cotton and some thousands of tobacco have been ploughed under . . . five million pigs and 200,000 prospective mother sows slaughtered. If this will bring national prosperity I have wasted my life."

There can be no doubt whatsoever that it lies within the immediate capacity of science to solve completely the material technical problems of human existence. Disease can be practically banished; good food and sufficient can be produced for all; comfortable homes, security, leisure and the means to use it could be made possible for the poorest. But on the contrary, what do we find? Preventable diseases abound; 68 per cent of army recruits are rejected as unfit—mal-nutrition and bad environment have damned their physique since childhood; poverty and the danger of war make cultured life impossible.

Science could change all this were it in the right hands. What is physically possible should be economically possible. Science is not now developed for human welfare, but to increase profits in industry or military superiority. Production is not determined by the known minimal requirements of the population, but by the profits that must be made. If the prodigality of science threatens to lower prices, producers cut down production to raise them again. The social and economic structure of our western world is clearly of such a kind that we are unable at present to take full advantage of the technical progress we have already achieved.

Paradoxically, plant pathologists labor to conquer diseases which will double the yield of wheat, while the government limits the acreage and maintains the old high prices; chemists, who could be tackling a host of industrial problems, are paid to produce gases fatal to man at excessively small dilutions; bacteriologists, equipped to attack our present afflictions, must bend their efforts to producing epidemics among men. This is "The Frustration of Science," the saddest feature of our civilisation. Men, whose gifts could secure for us comfort and happiness beyond avarice, are abused and neglected in a shameful way.

As society is now organised science cannot realise its possibilities. If it is to help humanity, then it must find a new master.

While the tone of the whole book is cool and level—almost scientifically neutral—it constitutes a dreadful indictment of Capitalism. A system which depends for its maintenance upon an artificial shortage of essential needs, and which encourages talented men to leave undone work of social value and engage in the task of manufacturing atrocities, has outlived its usefulness.—E.H.M.

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"On Dit"

Editors: HELEN WIGHTON, FINLAY CRISP.
Editorial Staff: Misses IRWIN, WARD, and RICHARDSON; D. C. MENZIES.
Business Manager: E. F. JOHNSTON.

Tuesday, 7th September, 1937

"Adieu, adieu kind friends, adieu, adieu, adieu, We can no longer stay with you, stay with you."

Without, perforce, hanging our hearts on weeping willow trees, we find that the time has arrived to bid you adieu—by which we mean that the Union Committee says we have spent all the money they will allow us. The marching order comes at the dictate, not of the heart, for we are loth to lay down the insignia of our office, but of two forces which are beyond our control, namely, finance and a conscience stricken almost to the point of passing out at the thought of the approaching exams.

You will, no doubt, find that parts of this, in our last issue for 1937 (with the possible exception of a Special After-Examination Celebration Number) is reminiscent of an address "On Leaving School" made to wearers of the school tie by an earnest head (-master or -mistress). While not wishing to be considered in the same category as the aforementioned sermonizer, we would commend you all to take heed of the warnings in the columns especially dedicated to the purpose of inspiring moral uplift among students.

Contributions throughout the year have ebbed and flowed—indeed, our personal column ("Varsity Guyed") has rarely failed to overflow. For all those, both of the staff and students, who have helped to fill our columns—especially the regular contributors—we give thanks, and piously pray that next year's Editor will receive even more material to edit than we have had. The real hero of the year is our Business Manager—baiting councils is nothing to asking Big Business Men for the ads. which are our life blood. Special blue-ribbon thanks are due to our President and Chairman of the Finance Committee, who have given us their helpful co-operation throughout the year, and to our Poet Nauseate, whose printable verses have enlivened many a page of our paper.

We bless rather than attempt to thank our advertisers who have helped to make "On Dit" possible, and also our printers, who, week by week, have turned it out.

Finally, since we ourselves prefer the swift departure of a train to the long, lingering awkwardness of boat farewells, we will take a last opportunity of wishing you all good hunting, fishing, and shooting during the next ten weeks, and then, with no more ado, quietly pass out.

Fortunately (?) our train was not an express, for we find that we cannot depart in peace without invoking the Muse to write our epitaph on your hearts in the glorious, but bitter, words of one who has gone before:

"What have you done," St. Peter asked,
"That I should admit you here?"
"I ran a paper," the Editor said,
"Of my 'Varsity, one long year."
St. Peter pityingly shook his head
And gravely touched the bell.
"Come in, poor thing, select a harp,
You've had your share of hell."

CULTURE

University music has always been cursed by the echo in the Elder Hall. Now we have the Bonython Hall, which is acoustically excellent, but so far the only music heard there has been relayed through loud speakers from the Elder Hall, where the echo had already muddled it somewhat.

A pity to have a Great Hall
Without any echo at all,
Where music is banned
Unless it is canned
And pumped through a hole in the wall!

KULTUR,

Or

What Would Beethoven Do?

General Goering has quite seriously laid down the lines on which German Art must develop!

On meeting the king, it is said,
Beet. crammed his hat hard on his head;

Imagine him caring
One Goddam for Goering,
Except p'raps to strike the fool dead.

A big legal noise from the States
Might have helped us a lot in debates,
But the premature praise
For his changed lecture ways.
We retract, because still he dictates.

From Mr. Salter Davies on Libraries

"Australia is the most backward of all the British dominions in its provision of libraries. . . . Manchester alone, which has three-quarters of the population of Sydney, spends more on libraries than the whole of Australia."

"I have even heard of teachers who have told students not to indulge in wider reading, but to confine themselves to the text-books of the course." (So have we!)

"Leisure is a thing which we regard as extraordinarily good for ourselves but extraordinarily dangerous for others. This won't do." (Opponents of the 40-hour week, please note.)

The New Terror.

The lowest-brow members of the Women's Union who clatter past the open doors of the Lady Symon Hall during lunch-hour addresses with penetrating cries of, "My dear, d'you know what he did?", "I must finish casting off before 2 o'clock," "Didn't she look peculiar last night," know better than to do so now on Tuesdays. With timid looks they slink past the doors where "Dictator Horner" and his party pursue their serious vocal activities with hymns and whatnots, and retire to the lower regions until the coast is cleared of beetling brows and menacing looks at 2 p.m.

'VARSITY GUYED

What Does This Mean?

We hear that the red dust on the plains around Parachilna was very trying to the Geology excursion there this vacation—especially to the two in the back of the buckboard.

She: "Look at the dust around your mouth—you must have been messy with that orange."

He (heatedly): "It wasn't the orange, it was your lanoline . . ."

These remarks, overheard from members of the Glee Club, may explain the difficulty of Mr. Horner last Tuesday—he noticed the altos were very shy.

"Contralto is a low sort of music that only women sing."

Also: "Syncopation is emphasis on a note that is not in the piece."

Did you see the newsreel at the Mayfair last week? A town crier in England was announcing the latest triumph: ". . . Quads have been born to hus—God bless the King."

Section 92.

Bunty Laybourne-Smith braved the perils of a visit to Melbourne in the vacation. It must have been a relief to her friends when, instead of coming home with infantile paralysis, she brought home an engagement ring. Our hearty congratulations.

"Yes, My Dear, He . . ."

It is still evident that for travelling distances in quick time there is nothing to touch lipstick. Yes, the tongues have been wagging continuously lately, telling incidents which took place in the last vacation.

There was a party of Art students who went out to shoot rabbits, but being unrewarded after much effort, fell upon the scheme of pouring boiling water down their holes. Quite mediaeval.

The football team evidently went into the question of paralytic infants (and adults) over in Melbourne. So far nobody has seized up.

Then there was the girl who ventured far afield to find out why they called a certain tract of country the "Never, Never." When she got there she realised; it is a No Man's Land.

Engineers at Sea.

Engineers' interest while in their Common Room is divided between working out the daily crossword puzzle and reading the dirt column in that excellent periodical—"The Excavator."

Those fortunate ones who made the "Gulp Trip" on the "Moonta" with the B.H.P. came to the conclusion that it must be all the lead at Port Pirie that makes the drinking heavy up there.

The students were labelled "Not wanted on voyage," and had their quarters in the hold. Some added their own labels, "Glass, with care," but found the atmosphere of new paint in the hold a little disquieting, and unostentatiously fed the marine life.

Is this a product of the Engineers' recent boat trip?

"There was a young girl named Bianca,

Who retired while the ship was at anchor,

But awoke with dismay when she heard the mate say:

'Let's pull up the top-sheet and spanker.'

Correspondence.

A letter from an irate Engineer: "Dear Madame Huey,—May I point out that the Engineers' annual automobile classic is not called the Wowsler Cup, but the Bowser Cup, after that famous man (God rest his Spirit) who first sold Shell from pumps. It was he who, after this, first made barmaids pump conscious. He was buried, Madame Huey, with a handle in his hand. So we to-day perpetuate his name by holding this unique race.

"I am, yours truly,
"JNO. PEARBODY."

Secondary Education For All

Dr. Boyd Scotches Dragons.

Dr. Boyd contrasted the United States leaving age of 16 (it was as high as 18 in Ohio and some States a few years back) with conditions here and in England, where the National Government has raised it to 15 "with a rather miserable reservation" about exemptions. ("We are going to beat that—by refusing exemptions.") He pointed out that the present structure of secondary education, particularly in the public schools, was a survival of feudal days of the few educated rich. He made a vigorous attack on the pedantic teaching of languages—particularly Latin (apologies for which he characterised as "eyewash"). And so it is with maths—the higher maths for mathematicians is all very well, but maths, such as most of what is taught at school, is, for the ordinary man, "highly useless stuff" with no soul and no meaning. What is the answer to the alternative: Domestic Science or Latin for Girls? The Arts (e.g., music, "the universal language of the soul," for which Australian schools do so little) or maths for boys? Integrated social studies or a little arid history and a little geography on a very shaky foundation?

Dr. Boyd concluded with a fine home truth: The basis of learning is not sitting in a seat and listening—it is discussion. (Lecturers, please note.)

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Why U.S.A. Clamored for Payment of War Debts

Prof. Brunner on Adult Education.

Professor Brunner (America) explained to the New Education Conference that the "Come on across we want our money back" attitude of the American people after the war was largely due to lack of understanding. The situation in America was being aggravated by an agricultural depression and the fury of a presidential election campaign, when the people heard that Germany had agreed to pay billions and billions of marks to the victors. Having no idea how these matters are regulated, nor of Germany's hopeless inability to pay, they demanded immediate payment. This, said Professor Brunner, might probably have been avoided if the people of U.S.A. (especially the farmers) had had discussion groups, such as are now being established, to help them to understand the issues at stake and to be able to discriminate between them.

There are far too many changes to-day for us to rely on secondary school education, and, if we are to have real democracy, education must go on indefinitely. It is in the country that the main problem occurs, as the people have no opportunity of visiting museums, libraries, and other such organisations, and, to overcome this difficulty, the agricultural instructors sent out by the colleges of agriculture are making themselves responsible for the extended education of the farmers.

Professor Brunner paid a tribute to the educational programme provided for employees by Broken Hill Proprietary, which, he said, was the best he has met since leaving home.

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N.E.F. CONFERENCE REPORTS

TAXATION BEFORE PHILANTHROPY.

(Continued from page 1.)

thropists to maintain her universities on the American scale was described as an alibi or excuse by Dr. F. W. Hart, Professor of Education in California, in advocating the finance of universities by taxation in a lecture to the New Education Conference to-day.

He expressed the view that universities should be financed by taxation, saying "My attitude to that excuse, is—

"If high education is worth having for any society, it is worth being paid for by that society through taxation, and not by so-called public philanthropists.

"Although Rockefeller and Carnegie endowed institutions have done much good throughout the world, I cannot help feeling that Mr. Rockefeller was a sort of private tax collector, and gave the money collected whenever and wherever he saw fit.

"Surely it is better for an intelligent society to collect its own taxes and apply the money as it wishes, not according to the whims of philanthropists.

"It comes to this: When Mr. Rockefeller wanted to build a church he had only to raise the price of 'gas' half a cent, and the church was paid for.

"It is unfortunate in some ways that we have gifts. I would be prepared to sacrifice the Greek Theatre at California University campus in order to get rid of the plate on the wall bearing in letters 6 ft. high the name William Randolph Hearst.

"Education comes first with the American public, even ahead of the needs of the army and navy. In California the first claim against the general budget is education.

"It is almost a fanatical faith that America has in education.

"It is free—and I mean free. Any child in the country, black or white, and regardless of all considerations except ability, can go through all education courses to graduation with a degree, free."

"News," 28/8/37.

FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE.

(Continued from page 1.)

tion to move on to real and full democracy. Democracy means a sense of worth of the individual linked with work towards the world society of common aims (or else there is war).

—And Upon Education.

Though on the urgency of the case it might seem a feeble measure to turn to, education must be the means—we may lose the first lap—but even after a next war there will be survivors. The dictatorships have shown us how education can logically follow upon the political system: at present we are muddled in our education: but it must be a logical training for democracy—real democracy. If we must be bludgeoned into things, mankind is not a solvent, going concern. Taught how to cherish the individual at the same time as society, we will develop all round. Citizenship must be awakened for social justice, and towards that end educational practice is turning. It must be pushed back from the child to the young parent and forward to the adult. Democratic education must be for all ages in at least some degree.

Mr. Zilliacus touched upon a wide range of new democratic educational aims and methods.

Particularly interesting were his remarks upon education for the emotional side of democratic citizenship, so that people might grow up healthily and happily, but with decent reactions to the conditions of others. "Schools are places where democracy should become conscious of itself." This required indoctrination—we have certain fundamental views, and these should be taught—love of truth, and the social obligation to build a better state of affairs as a result of being taught to think out solutions and to choose reasonably between protagonists. This ability and a questioning attitude must be built into the new generation. But it must come from the teachers themselves—they must have a sense of it and a devotion to it. If they are moved by the insufficiency, and the misery, and the want of many people, they will hand on the spark to the children.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Professor Hart's Delightful Talk.

The subject of Professor Hart's talk was "Creative Administration." But, as we look over our notes, the most interesting impression is that of aspects of American democracy (short of social democracy), which we have never seen in political text-books. The whole trend of administration in American education is towards the recognition and cultivation of talent—seniority ("or senility, as it frequently is") is at a discount. The young man gets his chance and society reaps the benefit. But at the same time, wise administrators impress on the community the value of its teachers in democratic development: they seek to give the teacher social standing. Professor Hart is particularly hostile to discrimination—financial or social—against the primary school teacher. And the realisation by the community of the value of its education system is a function of the people's sense of its ownership of that system. We refer you to the report of a former speech of Professor Hart, reproduced elsewhere in this paper.

Of Professor Hart himself, we can only say how much we enjoyed his lecture—the frequent jokes, the light humor, the well-knit structure (he spoke for an hour and a half without a note)—was just another object-lesson in the technique of the game.

MILITARY NOTES.

Although no word of our activities has appeared in "On Dit" for some time, we have not been idle. Classes are now being held for aspiring non-commissioned officers. The examination will be held on September 13. There are several vacancies for N.C.O.s, and as the class is large the standard should be high.

We had a dinner on August 8 at the Victoria Hotel. Captain Place presided, while Lt.-Colonel Best, Major Verrier, the Adjutant (Lieut. Trounson), the R.S.M. (Mr. Allichin), and approximately 23 members of the Company were present. The C.O. graciously gave the skipper the temporary rank of Colonel for the evening (in deference, no doubt, to

FRENCH NOTE.

M. Karagheusian, Senior Lecturer in French in the University of Melbourne, will address past and present students of French in the Mineralogy Lecture Room, at 9.30 on Saturday, September 11. All past students of the department are invited.

the alleged cigar which the skipper smoked), and then told us of his early days as engineer in the A.I.F. The Major was very enthusiastic about dinners in general, while the Adjutant told us of adventures in the navy and at the coronation. The R.S.M. gave us a short discourse on Eastern tribes. Pte. Vic Ryan welcomed the guests, who all spoke in reply at different stages of the evening, while Lieut. K. T. Hamilton and Pte. George Barnfield sang most delightfully, Sgt. Syd Smith gave a charming little reading, and Ptes. Nancarrow and B. Ward added the Greek chorus parts to all speeches.

The dinner, and even the subsequent speeches, were voted a great success.

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- Get your Stationery at the W.E.A. BOOKROOM.

They deserve well of you. See to it!

It has come to our ears that a woman student of musical inclinations and who recently returned from a trip to W.A., has been seen in one of Adelaide's night haunts with a conductor.

The President of the Republic of the Philippines has, during the visit on its world tour of the Australian Universities' Debating Team, presented a silver cup for Australian Inter-Varsity Debates. Thanks to the President and to Chester Wilmot and Benjamin for the gift.

The Rifle Club

The Rifle Club fired the last stage of the championship and handicap events over the 900 yard range on Saturday. Visibility was poor at times and the wind needed careful watching as its direction was never steady. The honors went to R. E. Allen, who finished five points in front of E. G. Robinson. The handicap event was won by R. C. Bills, who was equal with R. E. Allen.

Dr. Dengler on 'Varsities

Dr. Dengler (Vienna) told of his old University, where police could not enter in, when the old Universities had their own gaols. Where students flitted from 'Varsity to 'Varsity, where some took their degrees without even having attended lectures, where they stamped, cheered, and whistled as the lecturer impressed them, and where they even threw out their professors. There was the professor who, examining an Imperial Prince, who had failed to attend lectures, said, "You will some day rule Austria; I cannot hinder that—but I can perhaps postpone it." Or the tactful professor, examining another Prince in front of a crowd, including his mother, who made the comment: "There are two ways to answer my question—but your Imperial Highness has chosen a third." But to-day the totalitarian States have made the 'Varsities a part of the political mobilisation machinery of the State. And at Dr. Dengler's old University the police stand armed outside the lecture rooms they could not formerly approach.

Correspondence

Dear Sirs,—Your issue of last week contained an appeal by Mr. G. L. Amos to Arts students to take more interest in the Independent Playhouse, as well as a review of the Playhouse's last production. I heartily agree with Mr. Amos that the Independent Playhouse deserves support, because it is trying to do something that is not elsewhere attempted in Adelaide, and I agree, too, that Arts students, myself included, have not supported it as they ought to have done. I suggest, however, that there are several people who would be glad to offer themselves for a part in the Playhouse productions if they could find the time.

Unfortunately, "Much Ado" is the only Playhouse production I have yet seen, but with this admittedly limited knowledge, I cannot agree with Mr. Amos' contention that "the work lacks neither skill in direction nor merit in performance," nor with the too generous praise of your critic, nor with the vague fulsomeness of the press notices. There is no need to dwell on the inadequacy of the acting of nearly all the cast; I am more interested in the questions of costume and stage. With great respect for Miss Dobson's courage and ability, I think that the experiment of modern dress was a failure. What is the object of presenting Shakespeare in modern dress? Presumably, to give a modern audience an impression corresponding to that which Shakespeare gave his. If this is so, why did Miss Dobson dress her soldiers in uniforms seen only in comic operas or brass bands, and her clowns in clothes apparently invented for the occasion? The last thing I want to do is to sneer at the efforts of an amateur group handicapped by lack of funds, but it does seem to me that to make a success of Shakespeare in modern dress you must do it properly; if you cannot afford this, it is better to stick to the conventional mummies' array from the costume shop, in which Shakespeare has been well produced for centuries. Wisely, Miss Dobson had very little scenery; but how much better it would have been if she had had none! Among other advantages, this would not have necessitated the same garden scene for the whole action, which Shakespeare clearly did not intend.

Actually, I think it is impossible to put Shakespeare's plays, at least his comedies, into modern dress; modern people in modern surroundings simply do not talk like Beatrice and Benedick. It seems to me that the future of Shakespearian production lies in a much more formal technique, with conventional costumes and the arrangements of the Elizabethan stage. A modern treatment runs the risk of going too far from the effect intended to be conveyed by the actual lines of the play; it can be equivalent to tinkering with the lines, which is, in my opinion, rarely, if ever, justifiable. It is for this reason that the forthcoming "version" of Aeschylus' "rather primitive" trilogy, as Mr. Amos provocatively calls it, is at the very start deeply suspect, though I have no doubt Miss Dobson has arranged it very skilfully. Three plays are, I understand, to be reduced to one!

I hope I have made it clear that I write this simply in answer to Mr. Amos' appeal and to the invitation expressed at the end of his letter. For Miss Dobson, her company, and her efforts, I have the greatest respect.—

R. A. BLACKBURN.

Dear Sirs,—It is reported that "A Bright Bloke's" suggestion has been wildly and enthusiastically acclaimed by the lecturers in the Faculty of Law, and it has been decided to nominate a team immediately. The personnel of the team, selected only with great difficulty, as nearly all the lecturers attain to the same standard, is enclosed in a sealed envelope, but for the benefit of your readers it has been decided to supply the following particulars of this team.

The leader is the proud possessor of a sere and tattered note-book, which fits into his breast pocket. The leaves are all loose, and must be handled with such care that it is felt that only he has the skill necessary to handle and smooth them out without destroying them. A proposal that this famous note-book, or, rather, collection of loose leaves, should be deposited in the Archives as a specimen of 1895 handwriting, is under consideration. Our leader is the exponent of a unique method, known as verbal exposition, which is reputed to bear superficial resemblance to the methods of English Universities where law students are full-time students. The second speaker is also the proud possessor of a note-book of many years' standing, and he is renowned as one of the greatest dictators of all time. Our third orator has achieved the remarkable feat, by a rapid dictation of somebody else's carefully prepared notes, of taking a large class through two branches of the law, which took centuries to evolve, in the space of a term and a half, and there is no doubt that his class thoroughly comprehends all the principles involved. Anyway, he should be worth going a long way to hear.

On the question of emergencies, two excellent understudies to the above were nominated, and it is understood that the voting was close, as both are considered experts at dictation.

One proposal, which was not so well received, was that the taxpayers might be allowed to send a representative to the trial debates to learn how portion of their money, which is voted annually by Parliament, is being spent, but it was decided to allow this matter to lapse.—Yours faithfully,

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Peace Group

Just as "On Dit" closes our busy time begins. On Sunday, after hearing Dr. Dengler, of Austria, on "Danger Zones of Central Europe," the full group met to decide what is to be done. We hope that the schools will hear some more of us. We hope to bring to the University soon Adelaide people who go to Melbourne for the Australian Peace Congress (of September 16-19) that we can hear what happens there. A country tour in the near north has been arranged for a week-end after the exams. It is also hoped to have a one day's conference at the time of the S.C.M. conference here in January.

The Group looks forward particularly to the Australian Peace Congress in Melbourne the next fortnight. Work will prevent our going, but we hope that the press will not leave us uninformed, and that we shall have plenty of news and views from others who do make the trip.

As it is hoped to have a lunch-hour address to-day, the Glee Club has kindly consented to give the tonsils a rest until to-morrow at 1.20.

INDEPENDENT THEATRE

AGNES DOBSON presents an adaptation of Aeschylus' Trilogy,

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SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

On August 9 the Science Association met to hear Mr. Rogers speak on "Some Aspects of Forestry." In the absence of the president, the vice-president, Miss Mawson, introduced Mr. Rogers. He admitted that this was his first return to the University since he graduated here in 1914. Mr. Rogers sketched the history of forestry as a science and showed that it began with destruction, and in 1913, when restriction in cutting was seen to be necessary, war, as usual, prevented progress and it was not until 1918 that authorities turned their attention to this science. There are two usual methods of clearing, either clear felling and their regeneration over the whole area, or the selection system where there are patches of regeneration between old trees. Both methods are practised now for different species, e.g., the latter for trees needing shelter.

In some countries there is a minimum girth restriction—no longer in force in South Australia—protecting young trees. South Australia has beaten U.S.A. to it and can grow a large hardwood tree in a shorter time than any other country. Even in science fashion plays an influential part—one year red cedar is the right thing and next year it's maple.

Thinning, protection from fires and afforestation are all important in forestry—and the latter is becoming increasingly necessary as deforestation progresses.

It was unfortunate that so few members were able to avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing an interesting account of one of Australia's primary industries.

GEOLOGY EXCURSION

On Saturday, August 14, a visitor might have thought the Geology department was preparing for a stay-in-strike and taking no risk of starvation. The proceedings were being directed by Professor Mawson, and his intention was no more serious than packing geological equipment, bedding, tents, and a fortnight's food into the utility truck. This remarkable feat was accomplished, with many helping hands, by 10.30, and loud were the cheers as it started out for the Flinders Range. Owing to a regrettable mismanagement of celestial water tanks, there were three rains in the fortnight the excursion of five spent in the north. The first necessitated a halt at Carrieton (charming township of two pubs and a church) until creeks crossing the road became passable; the second caused a hasty retreat in the night from a creek bed; and the third hastened their homeward journey.

On Saturday, 14th, seventeen loaves of bread were bought at Ororoo—the fifteenth was eaten on Saturday, 28th, and I believe the Professor is now dealing with offers for the remaining two from Mrs. Goodall and the Museum.

Notwithstanding the rains, the truck only got bogged twice, and the truck crew rose to the occasion and surmounted all difficulties. On one occasion the ladies unwillingly provided the weight on a log used as a lever; the other time, after two hours of gargantuan labor, the party constructed a Roman road across the mud and resolved to send in a bill to road authorities—next time you go north be sure to go this way and use the best paved ford north of Carrieton.

One of the most depressing features of this country is the decadence of the townships—deserted ruins and closed hotels. Parachilna, for instance, is going the way of some of the once famous cities of Assyria; the encroaching sand held up the truck in the main street—fortunately this happened outside the only hotel.

A Sport of Nature.

Three cooks, all with their own methods, brought variety into the food—ask Miss Warhurst her recipe for cooking strawberry jam, honey, buns and butter—in a billy. After the evening meal a certain amount of splashing and chatter marked the day's plunge in a kerosene tin, and then followed the serious ritual of digging "hippers" under the ladies' sleeping bags. Now, hip holes are unaccountable things—one night is spent falling into a chasm and climbing out, but the next night the desirable depression on the hard ground cannot be found. By the second week sleeping under canvas was regarded as savoring too much of civilisation, and henceforth the party slept under the stars, to wake at sunrise and shake the white frost from their blankets.

TO-DAY.

Mr. Laurin Ziliacus:
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