



# ON DIT

PRODUCED BY THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION

Of Birds and Butterflies

BY THE SOCIAL EDITRESS.

## The Truth about E.B.

From rock-proof helmets to opera hats, from dungarees to white tie and tails, from the shrill blast of the pithead whistle to soft-whispered words of love. . . . Such was the Engineers' Ball on Saturday night. It might have been described as a busmen's holiday for the engineers, and local colour was never absent. Presiding over tickets at the door was a strange individual, his headgear being designed, as he explained, to stop his being hurt by any stray bits of rock — falling from the Refectory ceiling, no doubt. Even this, however, was not quite sufficient warning of the sight that was to meet the eyes of the unwary in the Refectory. Having been received at the door by Professor Robin, we blinked our eyes and gaped. Towering from the murkiness of the room lit only by four coloured spot-lights was — well, at first sight it looked like a miniature edition of the Eiffel Tower, but it was carefully explained to the uninitiated that it was intended to represent a mine-head. And beneath this (would it be rude to say precious-looking erection?) was seated the orchestra, clad, just to add more local colour, in dungarees.

Recognizing one's friends and acquaintances in the uncertain and misleading light was difficult, to say the least of it. Doubtless the dark corners were a great boon to many, however.

After the first notes were struck, dancing began with a will, and as the crowd grew and grew, we acknowledged that the engineers' advertising manager had been well repaid for his hard and excellent work.

Between dances there was yet more opportunity to examine what engineers really do in their mysterious labours. An old aeroplane engine (of a sort), models of mine-shaft cages, etc. (that stands for the things whose names we cannot remember), and, to crown all, an anemometer (if that is how you spell it) in the middle of the Refectory lawn. Extraordinarily enough, it was hard to find engineers willing (or able?) to give details of its functions to women, ignorant but anxious to learn.

But, engineers, there is one thing that the fair sex will find it difficult to forgive you! Lighting in the supper room that turned your lipstick purple, your faces yellow, and the colours of dresses quite unrecognizable! How could you?

Doubtful notices, too, were everywhere in evidence. Faced with *Think What You're Doing, or Be Careful, the Habit Grows* — well, what was one to think? Did it refer, perhaps, to the engagement that was announced during the evening? Yes, they stage-managed everything, even to the extent of an engagement. The which was rather interesting, as the couple in question had been seen dining together in the Refectory for many nights past. Good luck to you both!

No account of the evening's entertainment would be complete without mention of the distinguished magician Flash and his able assistants. We were sorry not to see Mr. Waterman sawn in two, but, of course, we know now how it should be done.

Discretion was definitely the order of the day. All surreptitious exits were carefully barred. Naturally, they will tell you that this was to prevent the entrance of unauthorized persons, but don't you believe it. Its purpose was quite otherwise.

To single particular individuals from the huge crowd would be difficult, but one incident worthy of note came to the ears of the Social Editress. A certain young engineer, hailing from the South-East, being desirous of going to the dance and finding himself in the regrettable position of not knowing whom to ask, was advised by friends to ask a freshette who is pursuing her courses in Social Science. Taking his courage in both hands, he manfully rang her up, asked her, and the next day they met over morning tea. Rumour has it they enjoyed themselves.

As a fitting end, we offer our sincere and heartiest congratulations to all engineers for their work and ingenuity in providing a bigger, better, brighter (and any other adjective you like) dance to begin the season. Let's have some more like it.

## Pacific Struggle Imperialistic Mr. Hunter on Geishas

Surprising unanimity was reached by students at the Union Parliamentary Debate last Friday night as to the real nature of the coming struggle in the Pacific being purely Imperialistic. The dissent arose over whether the struggle was, nevertheless, worth waging, and whether Australia could keep out.

The motion, "That it was not in the interests of the people of Australia to take part in the present Imperialist rivalries in the Pacific," was moved by Miss Elizabeth Teesdale Smith as Prime Minister. Miss Smith began by drawing the attention of the House to the wording: "in the interests of the people of Australia." It was necessary for the purpose of the debate to distinguish between the interests of the people, that was to secure better living conditions, and the interests of the capitalist class, whose aim was to increase its economic control.

Miss Smith then launched forth on an erudite account of foreign investments in China, which, however, left no room for doubt that each foreign loan had materially increased foreign control over the economic and political life of China, and lead on to a clash of interests between the three principal investors, Great Britain, Japan, and the U.S.

Similarly, in the Netherlands East Indies there had formerly been a clash in interests between English and American oil interests. But the present tension was taking shape over the determination of British and American interests to keep out the attempted Japanese economic penetration of the Indies.

Should a clash occur in the Pacific, it would be purely Imperialistic. The Australian capitalist class had shown no sympathy for the struggles of Chinese democracy. On the contrary, it had supported the export of scrap iron to Japan at a time when the labour class was fighting to ban such export.

War in the Pacific could bring profits only to a small minority of investors; while to the mass of the people it threatened lower wages and diminishing civil rights. Australia's aim should be to stay out of a Pacific war, to build up her own defences, to establish a people's government, and to seek alliances with people's movements in all Pacific countries where such exist.

In reply Mr. R. Cotton, as Leader of the opposition, began with a quotation to the effect that Australians were brought up on the study of European conditions and civilization, yet they lived in the Pacific. There was upon them a double obligation — that of understanding both the European civilization which was their heritage, and the Eastern, upon which they geographically impinged. Mr. Cotton then went on to analyze for us the position resulting from such an impingement.

It was imperative for Australia to maintain an uninterrupted flow of goods abroad. Threatening that flow was Japan. Japan possessed all the characteristics, and might justifiably be described as a Fascist state. It was a partner in the Axis, and its task in this partnership was to divert attention to the

Pacific. Finally, it had southward expansionist policies. All these made it a menace to Australian interests, and rendered war inevitable. A war against Japan would be a war against Fascism, and essential to its interests.

Mr. Jackson, in supporting the motion, suggested that Mr. Cotton had missed the point in the debate in endeavouring to establish not that war in the Pacific was in the interests of the Australian people, but that it was in the interests of Australian capital. He then caused some surprise by taking a rather imperialist attitude himself in complaining that the present monopoly by British and American interests in the Pacific left Australia no room for finding a market for her industries.

In the main, however, Mr. Jackson, supported and amplified his leader's case for a people's government, urging in particular the nationalization of heavy industries.

Effective support for Mr. Cotton was given by Mr. P. Wells. He took the Opposition's argument that Australia build up its own defences, and proceeded to show that it would be impossible for Australia to defend herself unaided. Her defence must depend on Britain.

The Opposition had complained that monopoly was securing greater control in Australia, but this was essential for the effective conduct of the war. It was to be applauded that Essington Lewis was getting everything under his control.

Moreover, the Opposition had urged alliance with non-aggression countries in the Pacific. But who were those countries? Russia? Surely it could not be so described. Its aim was to wait till the combatants had exhausted themselves and then win them over by propaganda.

Mr. Wells then showed that internal conditions were driving Japan towards a policy of southward expansion. It was absurd to say that Australia should keep out of war. Japan, he concluded, was coming here anyhow.

Some of the best speeches of the evening, however, came from the floor of the House, notably from Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Johnston. The latter brilliantly held the floor against all attacks, and presumably carried the House. Or rather the Speaker, Mr. Matison. For it was upon his casting vote that the motion was carried. Some of the humour, and most of the interjections, were provided by Mr. Hunter, who, however, contrived to pop his tongue in and out of his cheek with such agility that it was at times a little difficult to discover exactly what were his views. I was less able to gather whether he was or was not for the war, than that he was certainly for capitalism, and presumably not averse to having geisha girls about the Refectory to brighten up the place. I admit, however, I was distracted in the middle of his arguments by hearing the strains of "D'ye ken John Peel" immediately outside the window, and observing to my amazement the hurried departure of Mr. Mellor, and his two lady friends, on a hunting expedition.

### Calling All Ears

In future, with the approval of the Publications Committee, "On Dit" will be published on Wednesday of each week instead of Tuesday. Material should reach the Editor by 9 a.m. Monday morning. The Editorial Committee is invited to attend a committee meeting in the Publications Room on Monday next at 1 p.m.

### Coming Events

TO-DAY at 1.20 p.m.

Sibelius, Second Symphony. Annotated by Philip Hargrave. Conservatorium, South Hall.

TO-NIGHT at 7.30.

Arts Association mass meeting. Followed by illustrated talk by Clive Carey on "Early English and French Songs." George Murray.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

At Teachers' College, "Gondoliers."

THURSDAY, MAY 15.

Medical Society.

FRIDAY, MAY 16.

Union Debate: "That strikes in wartime should be declared illegal."

### NEXT WEDNESDAY

in the

GEORGE MURRAY HALL at 1.20

### The Debating Society

"Religion is the Opiate of the People"

Con: Miss Clark, I. R. Robertson, R. M. Butterfield

Pro: M. H. Harris, I. G. Pavy, R. M. Hamilton

### Clive Carey To-night

TO ADDRESS ARTS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Clive Carey is justly famed for his interpretations of English folk song and his work on the folk song generally. But over and above this, Mr. Carey is a truly delightful speaker on his special subject, amply illustrating his remarks with songs rendered with vitality and faithfulness. Lately he sang at the Cathedral — the St. Matthew's Passion — but his reputation is more than local. Before returning to Australia he was a prominent figure in the London musical world.

The student body generally will have its first opportunity of hearing Clive Carey sing and talk next Tuesday night (to-night), for the Arts Association was fortunate enough to get Mr. Carey to come along to its meeting in the George Murray.

All students of whatever faculty will be welcome at this meeting, and we assure them they have in store something really excellent.

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# CORRESPONDENCE

## Diatribes against "On Dit"

Sir,  
In view of the nation's shortage of paper and the recognition of the equal intellectual and other rights to do, as well as to die, of both sexes, I am doubtful of the wisdom of using "On Dit" as a medium for the exhibitionist literary displays of rude and immature persons.

Is it really of any interest whatsoever to anyone outside the narrow circle which would see itself in any sort of limelight? Surely there are a few old walls still left to receive the outpourings of this particular sort of psychological misfit!

In my, and many others', opinion the peevish piffle a propos the constitutionally elected President of the Union scarcely conforms with either good taste or the ideals for which the real people are co-operating to-day.—I am, sir, etc.,  
"The Gentleman with a Duster."

## American Capitalism

The Editor.

Dear Sir,  
Pertinax last week showed pretty clearly the power and growing profits of the monopolists in Australia. The American monopolists are also finding the defence of the democracies a very profitable venture.

Corporate profits in the United States during 1940 totalled 5,000,000,000 dollars, which is an increase of twenty-five per cent. over 1939 and the highest since 1929.

The major increases can be traced to manufacturing and mining industries, the net income of which rose by thirty per cent.

In the last nine months of 1940 General Electric made a profit of 37,094,776 dollars; Bethlehem Steel 34,160,745, an increase of 202 per cent.; Texas Corporation 33,692,712 dollars; Union Carbide and Carbon 30,976,728 dollars; United States Steel 69,418,070 (an increase of 460 per cent. over the previous year).

Not only are the monopolists making huge profits, but they have, being unable to suppress the rising working class movement, resorted to force.

On April 3, 1941, it is reported that in Milwaukee a police armoured car went into action against strikers outside the Allis-Chalmers plant. Fifteen thousand pickets were dispersed by gas bombs and picket hoses. The Governor, Mr. Julius Keil, advised President Roosevelt of the shutting down of the Allis-Chalmers plant to avoid bloodshed and possible loss of life. At the same time he requested the presence of Federal troops. At least twenty-five men were injured, two seriously, in a melee which lasted an hour.

Again let me quote the La Follette Civil Liberties on the Bethlehem (Little Steel) strike:

"Violence during the strike, which caused nearly a score of deaths, cannot be attributed to any concerted campaign of violence on part of the unions. . . . Of the serious riots occurring during the course of the strike the committee took exhaustive evidence. The origin of these riots can be traced to the biased or intemperate conduct of the local law enforcement authorities and a clamour directed against the strike by company officials and citizens' committees. It is noteworthy that all the fatalities in these riots were on the side of the strikers."

Are the police authorities and company officials put on trial for murder? No!

Instead the so-called "Democratic" Congress representative introduces into Congress a bill which aims to put strikes in defence industries in the category of treason, punishable by twenty-five years' imprisonment or by death if a strike caused fatalities. A clamour is raised by the bosses for the strengthening of the Home Guard for use in labour troubles, and even for the use of bombing planes as a "demonstration" against strikers.

Both America and Australia are capitalist countries. Can this resorting to force happen here? It is happening and will happen.

WUF WUF.

ARTS ASSOCIATION

CLIVE CAREY

George Murray TO-NIGHT

## In Defence of Nietzsche!

Dear Sir,

Although I was not present at the lectures of Dr. Schechner, yet if the write-ups given to his talks in your paper be faithful and just accounts, then I cannot but feel that Dr. Schechner on many scores is a woolly and rationalizing thinker. If it is merely bad reporting, then my apologies to Dr. Schechner.

Dr. Schechner rightly stresses the dominating importance of Romanticism in formulating modern political ideologies. At least he is assured on these points:

(1) "But the greatest influence on Nazi philosophy was that of Romanticism . . . which gave Nazi philosophy its more important tenets."

(2) "Romanticism originated as a reaction against Rationalism, so Nazism, the outrageous child of Romanticism, was a rebellion against the neglect of spiritual values."

Although Schechner is hunting on the right track, it seems obvious he is foggy and almost out to the count when he tries to make clear what Romanticism is. It is almost certain that he has failed successfully to digest that great forerunner of psycho-analysis, Friedrich Nietzsche, except along the conventional Uebermensch lines. At least he didn't take his definition of Romanticism from his thoughts, or he would not have said so glibly, "It is not a question of how much remains as scientific truth of Darwinism and Marxism."

The distinctive fundamental to Romanticism is that of the different polarizations of an identical impulse of the mind. Characteristic of all Romanticism, good or bad, is a primary regressive orientation of the mind. It is what Nietzsche called "reaction." This regression can take many forms—with the artist it can be a spiritual orientation into past literary forms and ideals, with the psychologist it can be a plunge into the anti-rational, deeper, inexplicable powers of the human mental organization—Bergsen and Croce are Romantic aestheticians, Freudianism is a purely romantic psychology, while Nazism is an historical regression into past ideals, past social forms and conditions glorified and reinstated for their own sake. But there is a difference in the directional tendencies of the governing impulse. When what he called "this obscure, ecstatic, retrograde spirit" is exercised as a good in itself, the result is that "the main general German tendency was directed against enlightenments and against those social revolutions which by a gross misunderstanding were mistaken for consequences of enlightenment." Hence the Germanic "enmity against enlightenment," the "placing of knowledge altogether below feeling under the appearance of an entire and definitive acquaintance with the past."

But, and here is where Schechner is grossly at fault, at length this force of the romantic impulse proves itself adjunct of this enlightenment against which they were first evoked—this same romantic tendency of the mind serves an orientation towards the future, and "this to such a degree that Romanticism may be regarded as the most revolutionary and most radical of genuine cultural movements" (Thomas Mann). In fact, we begin to see "reaction as progress" and not "reaction as reaction." Romanticism, we find, subserves social revolutionary writers—the great "Novalis," the English Romantics, the Surrealists, the English Communist School. Yet would not Schechner have us believe what Thomas Mann says is a "downright error," that Marxism and Nazism are identical regressions, prodigious offspring. But Marxism, though emanating from a Romantic impulse rightly enough, "is the will turned towards the future and towards what Novalis has called the essentially better world."

Let me sum up the distinction Schechner has missed when toying with Marxism:

"The movements back to" a sacred past and fruitful death is opposed to the idealism and optimism of the cult of the future and Apollonian light. By this movement the powerlessness of the spirit is contrasted with the dynamism of passion, of the irrational, of the unconscious, and these are defended with militant devotion. The tendency to favour romantic anti-political trends is directed against social revolution and "future and novel" aim, "and under the appearance of entire and definitive acquaintance with

knowledge and placing knowledge below feeling and then turning speculatively to a cult of "feeling in place of a cult of reason," thus furnishing scientific support to the "obscure, ecstatic, retrogressive forces."

But Schechner cannot see the force of Apollonian light emanating from the same impulse. He has made the undergraduate error of confusing the method of an ideal with the ideal of itself. The method is reaction or regression, the ideal progress—there you see Marxism less in a false light.

I leave the subject, however, open to the enlightened masses of your S.C.M.—Yours,

STINKPOT.

## More about Monopoly

The Editor.

The figures supplied by your correspondent "Pertinax" in the last issue are interesting and important. But in so far as they relate only to the heavy industries they are misleading in that they fail to draw attention to the general trend towards monopoly control. It is startling enough to quote facts from the metal industries, such as the dividends for 1937 of North Broken Hill 105%, Broken Hill South 70%, Zinc Corporation 85%, but the full social and economic significance of these facts is only to be seen against the general development of monopoly in all industries.

Everywhere it has been found that the period of free competition within capitalism is transitory, and soon leads on to a period where the smaller and weaker concerns are forced out of business and where the few large undertakings realize that it is in their best interests to merge or to reach an agreement as to prices. This is a perfectly natural development which in Australia has reached in some industries a very high stage. B.H.P. reached the monopoly position by buying out Australian Iron and Steel; the brewing industry is monopolized almost completely, e.g., the recent merger of Walkerville and West End, the giant Victorian merger which gave Carlton United Breweries control; Tooths in Sydney; Imperial Tobacco has recently bought out Carreras, thus gaining complete mastery of Australian markets; sugar is, of course, a complete monopoly.

The ramifications of monopoly are incredible. New South Wales produces five-sixths of Australia's coal—the twenty-seven most important mines in N.S.W. are directly or indirectly controlled by the inevitable B.H.P. (B.H.P. owns four mines and controls five through Australian Iron and Steel, which it also owns), and three shipping companies, Huddart Parker, Adelaide Steamship, and Howard Smith. Everywhere it is the same story—press, chemicals, cement, shipping, investment, and the great banking and pastoral monopolies, to which three-quarters of the farmers are bound hand and foot.

The banking monopoly is an interesting one, since it is found that as monopoly develops the dominant position of industrial capital passes into the hands of the banks and the great financial institutions—into the hands of those who control finance-capital and to which the smaller industrial undertakings are rendered subservient by the harsh realities of overdraft. An examination of banking directorates shows that those who control the banks are drawn from those who control the industrial monopolies, which thus gain a financial stranglehold over existing or potential rivals.

The existence of such minority-controlled monopolies as this represents a standing threat to the mass of the people. Their power is enormous. The shareholders of Commonwealth Sugar Refineries have subscribed £2,425,000 for their shares. They have received back in cash bonuses this amount and a free gift of £1,475,000, in bonus shares £11,700,000 (face value, market value varying between twenty-five and thirty-two millions), and in addition good regular dividends. These monstrous profits have been gained from a Government-maintained monopoly, while the Australian people have paid an absurd price for an essential commodity. In 1900 monopoly had scarcely appeared in Australia, in 1920 it was an "underlying process, now it is the main feature of our economic structure." Monopoly control means control in the interests of a small minority; monopoly control must be destroyed and replaced by public control. IMPERTINAX.

## Editorial

BY THE SPORTING EDITOR.

## 'Varsity Sport in War-Time

At this time it is felt that no emphasis at all should be laid on the joys and glories of sport. We are continuing, uninterrupted despite the war, in our efforts to get our degrees because the Government feels that it is the best war effort we can make. The holiday spirit that existed before the war regarding sport cannot be encouraged under any circumstances, but, if we are to be of any use when we graduate, we must be in perfect physical condition for the encounter of any strain or stress we may endure in the fighting forces after we are through. We cannot attain to this state by merely walking to the 'Varsity in the mornings. We are faced then with two facts:

- (1) We cannot, with a clear conscience, much as many of us may so desire, enlist in the fighting forces.
- (2) We must maintain ourselves at the highest level of physical efficiency that we are able.

We can become fit by undergoing a dreary and lengthy course of physical jerks under a drill instructor. This type of exercise does not develop judgment, courage, resource, initiative, or speed of decision; all qualities which we as future soldiers and, in many cases, officers, must have or fail to carry out properly any duties we may have in the army. Besides these qualities that sport very definitely develops, there is a feeling of good fellowship and mutual support amongst members of sporting teams. Add to this the idea of the small units of one man for the large unit of a team, which sport teaches, and the spirit of unselfishness that develops with this idea; and the outstanding things that distinguish a first-rate fighting unit in the army from the second-rate are seen.

Sport offers all these things which we at the 'Varsity have unique opportunities of developing. It behoves us to play sport hard, not to waste the small amount of time we spend at it in a few leisurely trots around the oval, but to employ that time to the best possible use in building up our physique for the encounter after we are through. One respect in which this war differs from the last is that many men who, in the last war, would have been the first to volunteer their services for the fighting forces, are compelled, because of the essential nature of their occupation, to remain at home. These men are doing their best towards the winning of the war and it is right that they should be allowed to continue in the vigorous pursuit of sport, in the same way as the men in the army are encouraged to do.

Sport for the purpose of having a jolly good time and holiday, as was the case with some inter-'Varsities, is both a waste of money and time. Sport taken seriously, by which I mean men taking care with their diet and hours and attending practice regularly, is most beneficial to the individual men of this university and, through them collectively, to the university as a whole. The university should produce, and does produce mainly from its sporting element, men who are practical and co-operative in their dealings with other people, and have the courage to uphold their own opinions and the judgment, drive, and initiative to make concrete things from their ideas; not people who, stuffed with theories and wrapped in their own conceit, are more suited for the armchair, the round of theatres, and gentle games of mixed doubles than for the rigours of a modern campaign. The percentage of this type of person can be kept down by an active interest in sport by the university, and if this page can do something towards the stimulating of that interest, then it has performed its function.

## DON'T TALK! THE ENEMY LISTENS.

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# SCHECHNER on NAZISM

## "NOT REAL GERMAN ZEITGEIST"

In his last lecture Dr. Schechner showed how the Nazi Bible, "The Myth of the Twentieth Century," by Alfred Rosenberg, was a concoction of all the ingredients mentioned in the previous lectures. As there is an Aryan race, Rosenberg deduces that the Germans are its highest branch, because in the Germans is to be seen the highest conception of the freedom of the soul, of morality, of religion, and of beauty. To him the Christian churches are a prodigious falsification; Christian charity and pity have done the greatest harm to the Germans. He repudiates the democratic, raceless "human right" because it has no root in a national conception of honour; European society has evolved into the guardian of the inferior, the sick, and the corrupt. The spirit of Christianity is the bitterest enemy of the Germanic conception of nature. On political grounds, Rosenberg asks for the creation of a new Germany as the central European power — France is to have no place at all, Great Britain must have a renaissance of the British national church and may then be a guardian of the West and overseas and of the coloured races! Following Reimer's ideas — the adjacent countries to Germany are to be made vassals "by persuasion."

Two main ideas run through all the utterances of Rosenberg and Hitler — the idea of the race, and a common "Weltanschauung" or conception of life based on "honour and heroism." So we find the whole Nazi system concentrated in two dogmas: the dogma of the race which states that there is an Aryan race, its creative branch par excellence being the Nordic race, the will and soul of this race being peculiar to its blood; and secondly, the dogma of the party which includes all the other necessary notions. The Nazi Party, which represents the political conscience, conception, and will of the nation, the members of which are united by a common "Weltanschauung," is the incarnation of the very idea of the German Fuhrer state. All Nazi actions and Nazi institutions can be traced back to and find their hold upon these two dogmas. This new conception of life

penetrates into all spheres — art, law, science, economics, agriculture, the army, and religion. Hitler's word about the aim of education of the youth is characteristic: "Youth is to be swift as a greyhound, tough as leather, and as hard as Krupp's steel, with minds no longer crammed with a mass of scientific knowledge, but educated in the glory of the race, and trained in a fanatical devotion to the national cause."

In his criticism of these dogmas, Dr. Schechner showed that, up to now, the attempt to prove the existence of an Aryan race on linguistic, anthropological, or anthropo-sociological grounds, has ended in confusion and failure. The second dogma of a Weltanschauung based on honour and heroism, has not the slightest foundation in the only documents which contain records of the ancient Germans — the "Germania," by Tacitus, and the "Nibelungenlied." The situation changed, as by a magic stroke, when Christianity with its idea of love as the basis of human fellowship and of the taming of one's passions, opened up a realm in which the German spirit, with its undoubted propensity for attacking transcendental matters, could freely unfold itself, unrestricted by the Hitler-Hegel "Zeitgeist" (spirit of the times) and create immortal works in architecture, poetry, art, science, and music. The real German spirit is found in Schiller, Goethe, Haydn, Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart.

Nazism is not the expression of the real German "Zeitgeist"; this is to be found in the church opposition to Nazism, represented by the "Antithesis of the Rengsdorf Theses" of Karl Barth, by the spirit and actions of the "Pastors' Emergency League," by the Bethel Confession in which, under the leadership of Pastor Niemöller, the members of the "Confessional Church" repudiated the compromise of the "German Christians" with Nazism.

In closing Dr. Schechner indicated that he saw the way out of the European tragedy in the separation of Prussia from South Germany, the disarmament of Prussia, whose frontiers would, however,

be guaranteed; and an invitation from Britain to the South German Confederation to become an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of nations. This policy is not only in line with the historic development of Central Europe, but would also be a genuinely Christian solution.

The defeat of Hitler will only be a defeat of Nazism when the real teaching of Christ — "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" — replaces a church Christianity that, misconceiving "agape" love, elevated "eros" love to patriotic love, helped to detach Christian ethics from Christian faith, and tried to "christianize" materialistic trends by an acceptance of humanitarian ideals.

## Religion an Opiate

To the Editor.

I have read with attention the articles by Dr. Schechner in the last two issues of "On Dit," and I am yet unable to discover what are those Christian valuations to which Dr. Schechner attaches such importance, and which inspire his attack on rationalism, Darwinism, and Marxism.

As a Materialist these are of some interest to me. Although I am unable to see how, without denying the validity of Marxism, Dr. Schechner is yet apparently able to reject it, he implies, I think, that Marxism is a denial of spiritual values and of Christian valuation.

Now I, and I think most Materialists, are intensely concerned about securing better conditions for humanity. This may be a minimum as far as spiritual values go, but it is an essential minimum. Yet it is a minimum of which I see the S.C.M. completely indifferent. I can only conclude that the aim of Christianity is to lead people after a will-of-the-wisp, called "spiritual values," whose outward manifestations are a complacency and a self-satisfied indifference to human suffering. That is why, Mr. Editor, I ask the Christians to show me their spiritual values without works, and I, like St. James, will show them my faith by my works.

"MATERIALIST."

## Propaganda and Education

MR. ALLISON'S SUDDEN CONVERSION!

Educationists swept all before them at the P. and I.R.C. open forum on the subject that "Propaganda should replace education in wartime." Mr. Allison spoke on the merits of propaganda, while Miss Kath Woodroffe extolled the virtues and truth of wartime education in the broader sense.

The chief point arising from the debate was that propaganda, to be successful in achieving its purpose of action, if blind yet effective, must be total. The propaganda with which we have been inundated in Australia is not total, therefore it is unsuccessful. While propaganda urges equality of sacrifice, the opposing point of view destroys its efficacy by pointing out the lack of excess profits tax and high wartime company profits. The result is industrial unrest. The only alternative is complete, all-exclusive propaganda with other voices stifled — or the achieving of equality of sacrifice.

However, remarks from the floor from Mr. Hax Harris, Elliott Johnston, and others converted Mr. Allison with comparative ease from his postulated position of support for the general beneficency and desirability of such a complete propaganda, which not only results in action but more often than not in wrong action; and even more, the existence of complete propaganda, governmental, industrial, or leftist, in Australia would destroy the very basic formula of the democratic people's state.

So that, Mr. Allison's original hypothetical dissension aside, it would appear that the forty or so people who attended the P. and I.R.C., under the chairmanship of Mr. Williams, were unequivocally (except for one speaker, if I remember rightly) in favour of the good old hobby-horse of the University — freedom of speech!

## Conservatorium on Show

The Conservatorium orchestra gave its first concert of the year last Monday week to a large audience, quite a proportion of which comprised University students. The performance, though good compared with past Conservatorium standards, was of that mediocre nature which makes a critic's task difficult, not bad enough on the whole to call forth much abuse, nor yet good enough to lavish praise upon. The orchestra seemed, as indeed it mainly was, a body of amateur performers without sufficient experience and practice together to obtain any degree of balance or precision. To our mind the outstanding performers were Miss Ronda Gehling, whose playing of the first movement of the Schumann Piano Concerto left little to be desired, and Mr. Jim Duncan, who, as flautist, was outstanding in the orchestra in his entrances, phrasing, and sense of balance.

Schubert's "Rosamunde" overture was insipid; the orchestra failed to get the delicacy which is this work's only justification. Eileen Sayers may have a good voice, but she certainly does not know how to use it. Her two songs — "My Lovely Celia" and "Geheimes" — were sung as though she didn't know what the words meant. Her interpretation was devoid of all subtlety and feeling.

The orchestra made a good attempt at Haydn's "Oxford" Symphony; it failed to capture Haydn's robust good humour — we felt it was a little forced — and it failed to achieve the formal symphonic beauty. It was, none the less, a good attempt, especially the slow movement which at times lifted us above the gauntness of the Elder Hall and the hardness of its seats. The French horns were throughout, and especially in this work, ghastly. They had a liquid — an unpleasant liquid — quality, and sounded as if they had not been properly broken in. The 'cellos and double basses were rather dead; indeed, the strings throughout had that peculiar stringy quality which seems to be their main characteristic at the Conserv.

Keith Raymond's singing was chiefly notable for a bad lapse in pitch and a

manful recovery, for which he received a good round of applause.

As we have said, Ronda Gehling's playing pleased us quite a lot. Her technique is so excellent as not to obtrude itself upon the music at all, her attack is clean and crisp, and her sense of balance and inherent musicianship are quite remarkable. Indeed, had this performance had adequate orchestral support, it would have been worthy of the celebrity platform.

Elgar's "Larghetto" and "Solemn Melody," by Walford Davies, were both within the grasp of the string orchestra, but this music, both intrinsically and in its performance, was not impressive. Natalie Sellick, as solo 'cellist, had a good tone but no punch. The final item, Handel's Concerto in F for organ, was of rather indifferent quality. We feel that, except in the hands of a master, the organ tends to be unwieldy and conveys a feeling of mechanical rather than musical power.

We may seem to have carried our job as critic rather to extreme, but we feel that it is time that criticism of Conservatorium performances concentrated more on performances of the players and less on the admittedly poor acoustical qualities of the Elder Hall. Surely this, the only conservatorium to over half a million people, can produce more than an occasional good pianist and a very occasional good instrumentalist (not to mention singers). Without making any particular criticisms, we should say that the Conserv. could do with quite a lot of stirring up, and that University students should take more interest in the Conserv. and be the prime stirrers. As a start, can't something be done about the string players?

## Limerick

The closing date for the best limerick on the Engineers' Ball will be Monday next, May 12. Entries should be placed in "On Dit" box before twelve noon.

## Scoop

At last the Medical students have abandoned their attitude of "We don't wish to be publicized," to write:

## Medical Meanderings

The meds. appear in print for the first time for several years, and it seems an opportune time to attempt to dispel the widespread obsession of "the apathy of the meds." This may appear well founded at first glance, but there are explanations.

Our society, for instance, is run by the senior years — i.e., fourth, fifth, and sixth years. Men in these years are never required to come to the 'Varsity in the course of their work. Contemporaries in other faculties have, in many cases, completed their courses and the Refectory and cloisters are filled with new faces. Thus the seniors, having neither friends nor work to attract them to the 'Varsity, spend their only spare time, their lunch hour, at the hospital where they have both. This may be unfortunate, but is quite reasonable.

However, that the meds. are completely disinterested is not a reasonable statement. In the Union elections last year three meds. topped the poll, which shows that most meds. at least troubled to vote. (This cannot be said of all faculties.) Were it not for us the Sports Association would be bankrupt and practically teamless. Last year meds. filled the positions of captains and secretaries of the football, cricket, golf, boat, and hockey clubs and captain of athletics, while the proportion of meds. in the association is far greater than any other faculty. However, enough explanations — I avoid the term "propaganda," as most meds. care little what they are called, whether "apathetic" or "paretic," "disinterested" or "disseminated."

Since our course has been speeded up by the simple means of shortening the Christmas vacation by ten weeks (one term) for each of three years, a tense atmosphere is creeping into the medical school. Someone has always "got exams. in a few weeks," and the strain prevents all but the most hardened from remembering how many the dealer bought or what his partner led. However, it is gratifying to realize how hard they try.

The Surgical Director, who refuses to believe that any med. would prejudice his health by overwork, is organizing first-aid, A.R.P., and blood transfusion work for the senior years. Many find that they have little working time left each week from which to subtract this, and they fear a curtailment of more pressing activities may be essential.

The med. dinner and ball have been abandoned for the duration of the war, since neither has ever been run at a profit and it was not felt that this could be remedied this year.

We again draw attention to the fact that "Charcot's Joint" is no longer in Frome Road but that Sues Gumma and His Condyloma Boys, featuring Four Plus Wasserman and his Argyl-Robertson Pupils have taken a stand in more congenial surroundings. Paresis still reasonable and ataxia included.

The next monthly meeting of the A.M.S.S. is on May 15 at 7.15 p.m.

Next week: THE DENTISTS.

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# FOOTBALL

## University Top of Amateur League

The 'Varsity eighteen upheld its reputation by convincingly defeating Exeter, last year's premiers, by five goals. At last the club has gained the meritorious position at the top of the premiers list. It is the only undefeated team in Amateur League A1, and we intend remaining at the top of the list.

For the last few years' Varsity football has been trailing well down on the list. In 1939 it was fighting hard to remain in the A1, and just managed to stay there. The year 1940 saw a slight improvement. We lost many of our men to the fighting forces, and the team was reconstructed. Now this year we are benefiting by the result of last year's juniors and Harold Page's coaching, both on the field and off, was no mean factor which contributed to our success on Saturday.

The 'Varsity is top of the premiers list and intends to remain there, an example which might be well followed by the rest of the 'Varsity teams.

The game opened on Saturday with the wind favouring us, and soon we had the ball in our forward lines. The ball remained there for most of the quarter. In this quarter we had many opportunities to score goals, but our forwards were somewhat off the mark. Excellent play by our centre half-forward was marred by his kicking for goals, and also by Gurner, who, although leading out and marking well, did not kick as accurately as he did last week. For the quarter we scored only four goals out of twelve shots. The backs held Exeter well this quarter, and only allowed them one goal.

The second quarter saw the 'Varsity again attacking, but soon Exeter found their feet and, with the wind favouring them, started to score. Then the backmen, who saw little of the play up to then, combined excellently, and stopped many attacks by brilliant marking and clearing rushes. Shierlaw at this stage was again the outstanding man on the field, and his reliability helped considerably.

The third quarter was a repetition of the first, the ball up in our forward lines, but we lacked the system which was evident in the first quarter, and we made little headway.

In the fourth our training began to tell. We raced Exeter to the ball. Despite Exeter's supporters' efforts, they could not make any headway and we went on to win comfortably by five goals.

Saturday's match produced some brilliant combination at times, and it is combination, not individuality, which goes to make a good football team. The team on the whole showed better system than last Saturday's match at Payneham, and the softness of the oval was no mean factor in our win. On Saturday we were without several regular players.

McMichael injured his leg at Payneham and had to stand down for the match. Abbott, who had injured his ankle at a practice match a fortnight ago, made an impressive return. He was one of our best. His play at centre was sometimes brilliant and his leading and passing an example which the rest of the team might

follow. His ankle seemed to give him little trouble, and we hope he will maintain his form which he showed last year.

Shierlaw, at half-back, played a useful game. He stopped many attacks by his brilliant marking, and his kicking is improving every match.

Dalwood, playing his first match, was a tower of strength at centre half-forward. His great reach and ability to leave the ground made it impossible for the opponents to outmark him. His kicking was good in length, but in direction it was astray. Like all left-foot kicks, he swings his leg round instead of straight through, which results in a curve pull. However, this will improve with practice.

Brookman on the wing played a sound game. His pace was a great asset to him, and he was always in front of his man. His marking is remarkable for his size. His position play was good, and received many passes from the half-back line.

Steele at full back was worthy of note. He made many clearing rushes which looked very impressive to the spectators, if not to the players. His kicking was accurate, but he lacked distance. He will have to improve if he wants to win the kicking the football at the sports this week.

White played a vigorous game while roving, and kicked three goals when resting in the forward pocket. He was always in the midst of the throng, and if the rest of the team followed his example they would not only be undefeated but unplayable.

Final scores: 'Varsity, 16 — 14; Exeter, 11 — 12.

Best players.—'Varsity: Shierlaw, Abbott, Dalwood, Brookman, Steele, White.

Goalkeepers: Gurner, 5; White, 3; Dalwood, 2; O'Grady, 2; Cowell, 1; Disher, 1; Page, 1; Nicholls, 1.

### B's

In its first match for the season the B team had a win against St. Peter's Old Collegians. The score was 12 — 13 to 11 — 3.

The superior training of the 'Varsity team told in the last quarter, when they took the lead for the first time and held it.

Outstandingly good football was played by John Day at centre half-forward, for which he got the vote, and by the Colton brothers, John and Bob, at full back, who saved the situation time after time. Others to play well were Bridgland and Norman. Judging by their form at present, the B's have every chance of coming top of the students' grade this year, provided they are willing to put in plenty of hard training.

Before the match began D. L. Davies was re-elected captain and R. A. Russell was elected vice-captain.

The B's have a bye next Saturday.

### Football Dance

JUNE 21

See a Footballer and buy a Ticket

## Come to the Inter-Club Meeting State Champions in Action

The climax of the State amateur athletic programme will come on Saturday, May 10, at the 'Varsity Oval, when the combined inter-club meeting will be held.

An admission charge of sixpence will be made and the proceeds will be given to the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund. Tickets are available from Mr. Hamilton or from the Athletic Club Committee. If you have any interest in a grand sport, come along and see how it should be done.

### 'Varsity Sports

Do not forget the 'Varsity sports tomorrow on the 'Varsity Oval. Some very good running will be seen. At least two records are expected to go, and, if the track remains in its present perfect condition, fast times should be recorded all round. M. W. Elliott should have no

trouble in lowering the 440 yd. low hurdles record, judging from his last two brilliant present record stands at 60 sec. Whether or not O. E. Nichterlein's 880 yd. record of 2 min. 1 sec. will be broken is not so sure. It will be a hard race between the clock and M. H. Draper. The fastest time that any South Australian has run the 880 yd. is 1 min. 59 sec. (The next fastest is O. E. Nichterlein's of 2 min. 1 sec.) The present State record of 1 min. 56.2 sec. is held by a New South Welshman.

In the 440 yd. low hurdles the "native" record is 55.8 sec. and the fastest time recorded in the State is 54 sec. (Not many people can run a 440 yd. flat in 54 sec!)

In the sprints, unfortunately, it is very doubtful if our two best sprinters, viz., Aitken and Craven, will be able to run. Aitken pulled a muscle while training and Craven injured his ankle, and so far in both no signs of recovery are apparent. With these two out it is rather hard to say who will win the 100 yd. championship.

Who will win the championship cup is another hard question to answer. Particularly as the entrants cannot make up their minds as to how much they can stand. Come along and see a good day's sport. Admission by programme, which will cost sixpence.

## Women's Basketball

Whacko! they've done it again. Playing against one of last year's finalists A Grade, 'Varsity proved its mettle by beating Cheerio 38 goals to 15. The whole team playing excellently, showing great speed, accuracy, and fighting ability. A Mackay in defence and R. Halls and B. Kidman in goal were the outstanding players. Keep it up, 'Varsity, and see what you can do to last year's premiers next week.

In a fast game the B's were defeated by Ellangowan 31 — 18. P. Piender did very well in defence and G. Bonnar played energetically as attack wing, but must be careful of her footwork. Many balls were lost in the first quarter for progression and the forward line needs to dodge more and come out in front of their defences.

The C's were beaten again this week by M.B.C. 35 goals to 9. This team sadly needs more practice to improve play. The throwing is too weak and inaccurate, and there is not enough speed in moving around the court. Do all be out to practice as early as possible on Wednesday, so we can get a good game before next Saturday.

## Baseball

The A's opened the season well on Saturday with a good win over Sturt by 9 runs to 2. The game opened quietly, neither side being able to make much headway in the first innings. However, in the second knock 'Varsity by good batting and aided by Sturt's blemishes in the field, piled on 6 runs. Later 3 more runs came our way and Sturt found the deficit too much for them, being able to score only two runs, one of which resulted from wild throwing on our part.

Ex-Melbourne 'Varsity pitcher, Jim Anderson, did a good job on the mound with five K2s and with only three hits scored off him. Ron Kilgariff, who took Joe's place behind the mask when the latter received a beautiful black eye from Sturt's pitcher, Brown, caught well, and notched a beautiful home run over right field in his first A grade game. Alderman, who came into the side when Joe Kilgariff was forced to retire, held left field safely by bagging three lofty fliers.

Although we recorded six safe hits, from Lewis, M. Anderson, J. Anderson, Daly, Backhouse, and R. Kilgariff, our batting shows considerable room for improvement, especially with regard to certain members of the team who were struck out rather consistently.

In the B grade game Kensington proved a little too strong for us, running out winners by 14 runs to 11. Here again our batting was weak, with the exception of Soar, who recorded three safeties. However, lack of information prevents further comment on this game.

## Lacrosse

The A's had a bye. The B1's defeated West Torrens 15 — 2. Goalthrowers: Nancarrow (9), Greenhalgh (2), J. Ward (2), Phillips, Clark. Best players: Phillips, Greenhalgh, Ward.

The B2's were beaten by Legacy 1 — 20. Goalthrower: Hallett. Best players: L. Kirkman, Hallett, K. Ward.

Both these matches showed that nearly everybody was in need of practice. In the B2 match this was most evident.

Wurm played well in goals and generally managed to leave some part of him in the way of the ball.

L. Kirkman kept the back line together and was mainly responsible for the score being as low as it was.

Lavis — a promising back man, but could be a little less gentle with the opposing forwards.

Keany played well at times but must watch his man and not the ball.

Fisher, suffering from Keany's complaint, but tried hard and should improve.

Anderson played hockey for a large part of the afternoon. Stickwork needs improving.

Miller played well but did not get the ball away too often at centre. Catching a little faulty.

K. Ward — one of the best of the freshers and one of the few who remembered that they were not playing in a nursery.

Daniel: Stickwork good, but too inclined to get rid of the ball at any cost the minute he hears a noise behind him. Together with a number of others, could take a lesson from Ward.

Bromfield, Sampson, and Hallett tried hard on the forward lines all day, although opposed by the strongest back line in B grade. They received poor support from the rest of the team, but should do very well as the season goes on.

If this score is going to be improved in future matches, every player should set about improving his stickwork immediately. Come out to practice every night until you can pass and catch accurately. The B2 team will play the B1's on June 7 and should try to improve sufficiently to beat them.

## Women's Hockey

The hockey season began in earnest on May 3, when A grade, B grade, and E grade University teams played Blackwood, Plympton Park, and Y.W.C.A. respectively.

The A team played quite well on the whole, but there is need for much more team work and offensive play. A. Haslam as goal played a good game, coping with a fast Blackwood forward line. P. Robinson shot 'Varsity's two goals, the final score being 5 — 2.

In the B grade University was beaten 6 — 4. The goalhitters in this match were B. Cane (3) and H. Eyles.

In the E grade 'Varsity lost to Y.W.C.A. 1 — 3. This team was comprised mostly of freshers and as there is a bye next Saturday there will be a fortnight for plenty of hard practice! So the next time 'Varsity has three teams playing let's see to it that we all win.

We are trying hard to get a coach for our teams.

Any girl who has not paid her sports fee, £1, to Mr. Hamilton or the Secretary by May 23 will not be able to play. Remember this, and pay up.

# TIME

waits for no man

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