

ON DIT

PUBLISHED FOR THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY S.R.C.

Vol. 16, No. 13.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1948.

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RODER NEW PRESIDENT

The new (1949) Students' Representative Council, presided over by Kevin Magarey, the retiring President, had their first meeting last Thursday. Elected unopposed to the position of President for 1949 was John H. Roder, 20-year-old 3rd Year Law Student, and last year's S.R.C. Secretary.

The S.R.C. then settled down to fifty minutes of nominating and voting, and despite a record number of withdrawals, the numerous committees and positions of the S.R.C. were filled, after close voting in every case.

H. Medlin (Science) and R. E. Bray (Men's General) were nominated for Vice-President, which Medlin won 11-10.

Hard-working Elizabeth Adam (Arts), became the new Secretary, and the Treasurer is Commerce student, Eric Jackson, who left imme-

diately to help Tom Gawne, last year's Treasurer, still struggling over the least appreciated of the Executive jobs.

MEN'S GENERAL RESULTS

A record number of 10 students stood for Men's General Representatives, and the Rev. J. E. Bourke (183 votes), R. S. Bray (204), F. J. Harley (193), and C. L. Hermes (193), were elected. A feature was the large number of votes cast, in proportion to previous years.



New Women's President, D. Wauchope, chatting in the Refectory with friend Elizabeth Robin.

THE FULL S.R.C.

Ag. Science: To be elected.
 Law: John RODER (President).
 Arts: Miss Elizabeth ADAM (Secretary).
 Robert HETHERINGTON.
 Commerce: Eric JACKSON (Treasurer).
 Dentistry: To be elected.
 Engineering: Andrew KINNEAR.
 Brian SMITH.
 Medicine: Alan BENTLEY.
 John WEST.
 Pharmacy: To be elected.
 Science: Miss Denise HINE.
 Harry MEDLIN (V.-President).

Social Science: Miss Diana LORKING.
 Men's General: Rev. Fr. J. E. BOURKE.
 "BILL" (R. S.) BRAY.
 J. F. HARLEY.
 Clarence HERMES.
 Women's General: Diana WAUCHOPE.
 Judith AITKEN.
 Judith FISHER.
 Judith WOOD.
 Sports Association: Geoff. LAYCOCK.
 Teachers' College: J. JUDD.
 Editor of "On Dit": To be appointed.
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Kevin B. MAGAREY.

ELECTIONS IMPROVEMENT

The student elections this year mark a great advance on last year, and a tremendous improvement on the fiasco of 1946. Over 200 students voted this year, and the pre-election speeches of the Faculty Reps., and, more particularly, the Men's General Reps., were listened to by large crowds.

THREE GROUPS

For this quite considerable improvement in student interest, we have to thank three well-knit bodies, the Medical Faculty, who, in their clash with the S.R.C., gave "On Dit" one of its best front pages of the year, and its most quoted phrase, "I Am Distressed—Magarey;" the Socialist Club, who rallied round their candidates with praiseworthy zeal, and the Catholic community who turned up in their scores to mark their X's.

And "On Dit" has played its part, too, in putting the S.R.C. under the arc light of criticism during the year, whenever it was felt necessary, and whenever it could be printed before Magarey's veto was imposed. But too often did "On Dit" suffer from the over-zealous interference of the S.R.C. executive, who had the mistaken idea that anti-S.R.C. criticism was bad for that august body. "On Dit" can justly claim that its interest in the Students' Representative Council has done only good, and it points to the interest taken in the recent elections as proof of this.

NIGGER IN WOODPILE

But the nigger in the election woodpile, and there is a nigger, seems to be that the student who expects a year or so of service to the undergraduate body to serve as a recommendation for election is not in the race. Party or group politics seems to have arrived at the University, and the unendorsed student standing for election is lucky he has no deposit to lose.

But this is merely a sign of the future, possible but not inevitable. This year's "On Dit" has made more students than ever before take an interest in student elections, and it now remains for next year's "On Dit" to make students take an intelligent interest in student elec-

tions, a task for which we are singularly unfitted.

CHANGE SUGGESTED

Purely as a personal opinion, and in no way expressing the viewpoint of the retiring S.R.C., I would suggest that there is a grave danger of the head of the S.R.C. in the future, if these block votes intensify, being the leader of a mere group at the University, and unknown to the great body of students. Such a position can only damage the reputation and lessen the standing of the S.R.C. in the eyes of the student body.

The head of the S.R.C. must always be the recognised leader of the student body, and not, as may well happen, the leader of a small, well-organised group, unknown to many. So I would suggest we do what the University of W.A. does, and elect our leader from the people. Our groups and parties here can be compared to the rather unorganised position in the U.S.A. where, again, the leader is directly elected.

If we elected the President of the students from the students direct we would be assured of only students well-known to all nominating, and the status of the S.R.C. would increase correspondingly.

However, this is but a suggestion, intended merely to fill up the front page, and in no way criticising the present executive. I cannot see much wrong with the present S.R.C., and I think our destiny is in safe hands with the present President.

WANTED!

Applications are now called for the position of:

- (1) Editor(s) of "On Dit," 1949.
- (2) Editor(s) of "Phoenix," 1949.
- (3) Editor(s) Union Handbook, incorporating the Orientation Handbook, 1949.
- (4) Editor(s) of "Song Book," 1949.

All applications should be addressed to D. A. Dunstan, Chairman, S.R.C. Publications Committee, and should reach the S.R.C. Office by Friday, October 29.

Applications for the position of Director of the S.R.C. Advertising

OUTSTANDING TALK

Prof. G. V. Portus will give perhaps his last talk to students as a Professor on Wednesday, October 20, in the Lady Symon Hall, at 1.20 p.m. He will talk on "Democracy," with special reference to the current clash between the political democracy of the U.S.A. and the Russian economic democracy.

This straight from the shoulder talk by an invigorating Professor on vital current affairs, coupled with a sincere desire to pay tribute to a lovable man, has led to the talk being sponsored by the International Relations Club, the Socialist Club, Liberal Club, the Fabian Group, and the S.C.M. It should be worth hearing.

On Wednesday, "Democracy," by Prof. Portus. All students invited.

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Agency are now called for. The Director will receive approximately 15 per cent. of all revenue from advertising in S.R.C. publications. Intending applicants should read the regulation relating to the Agency and the contract into which the Director will enter. These are available from the S.R.C. Office. Applications, addressed to the Chairman, of the Publications Committee, should be left at the S.R.C. Office not later than Friday, October 29. Applicants will be interviewed by the Committee and the S.R.C.

JOHN H. RODER,

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNIVERSITY RADIO

"We Were There" Session

Gil Wahlquist wrote a very natty article in "On Dit" some time back, commenting on how this University could use a radio station. But he missed out what I consider the best scheme of all, the presentation of history in an up-to-the-minute manner.

How much more dramatic history could be, if our radio reporter was there, right on the spot, to give us history being made. I would suggest a team of history honors students to write the script and be the reporters, and perhaps Professor Portus to correct the spelling and make the sound effects.

As an example:

Good morning, everyone. This is James Forbes. It is cold—very cold—out here in the Crimea, this frosty morning of October 25, 1854, and those British troops who have not had a delicious bowl of steaming Clyde's Soup along with their iron rations must be feeling the climate—the Russian climate, that is—keenly. But now we have several of our correspondents waiting to be heard from, so we switch you to Ross Duncan, at Lord Raglan's headquarters. Come in, Ross Duncan.

DUNCAN: Here at Lord Raglan's headquarters there is an air of muted, disciplined bustle. (Sound of bugle and neighing in the background.) The British Heavy Brigade, under Brigadier General Scarlett, has just completed a most successful charge. Now attention is focusing on the Light Brigade, commanded by dashing Lord Cardigan. Lord Cardigan—and how we could use more cardigans and raglans in the sub-zero temperature, ha, ha, ha—disposes of some six hundred cavalymen. Trained to a hair, they are actively preparing for action. But here beside me is the British supreme commander, Lord Raglan.—Your Lordship, those Russian guns up there in that valley are rather troublesome, are they not?

RAGLAN: Yes, Duncan. Dashed troublesome, if you ask me. But I must rush now, for here comes Flo Nightingale!

DUNCAN (in a furlong from home gabble): The troops are springing to their feet and saluting all around me. Even the toughest old survivors of the Napoleonic campaigns are stilling their customary rough oaths as Miss Nightingale advances through the lines.

VOICES: God bless you! Here comes Flo! She's my pin-up girl. She discovered germs.

MISS NIGHTINGALE: Thank yeou. Thank yeou, thank yeou, one and all.

DUNCAN: Miss Nightingale, how does it feel to be the first woman in history to go on active service as a nurse?

MISS N.: Ai can't tell yeou heov inspaining Ai faind it, frenkleh. But Ai'm sure as sure could be that many others of mai selfsame sex will follow in mai footsteps.

DUNCAN: You see this thing catching on?

MISS N.: But defnitateh. Ai think there will one day be a perfectleh splendid Australian Red Cross. But parm me, heah comes—Lord Lister! (Loud applause from the troops.)

DUNCAN: Lord Lister is Miss Nightingale's guest star at Balaclava to-day.

LORD LISTER: Morning all. That'll be twenty guineas. (A gun booms loudly.)

DUNCAN: There seems to be—I can't quite see—yes, there's something happening over there. I re-

turn you now to James Forbes at Base H.Q.

FORBES: And now, over at the French H.Q. of General Bosquet, Ken Tregonning is waiting to tell us how the situation looks to the Gallic contingent.

TREGONNING: Waiting at the microphone beside me is General Bosquet, French Commander in the Crimea. General, what is your prediction?

BOSQUET (gloomily): C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre.

TREGONNING: Which means, of course, "It is magnificent, but it is not the war." Let me find out to what the General is referring. General, what is not the war?

BOSQUET: Ze—ow you say—wine ration, she 'ave not reached us for three weeks. Zut alors!

TREGONNING: The troops are restive, General?

BOSQUET: Ze troops? Je m'en fiche! I, Bosquet, am restive.

TREGONNING: That was General Bosquet, telling us of the privations endured by the men of his command. Little he knows where the wine has gone—ha, ha . . . ask the Rugby Club. And now, back to James Forbes.

FORBES: Somewhere out on the left, where the English Light Brigade is wheeling into position, Bob Daughety is waiting to tell us how things look from the forward zone. For that story, we switch you now to Bob Daughety.

DAUGHETY: The Tommies look debonair and gay. They seem not to recognise the ordeal ahead of them. Their horses are sleekly groomed. They might be on a parade ground in faraway Aldershot. But here comes a familiar figure. Why, Lord Tennyson. I didn't expect to see you so far up near the Russian guns!

TENNYSON (heartily): Got to get the close-up picture, young man. But it's just plain Mister Tennyson, you know.

DAUGHETY: Don't worry, Mister Tennyson. You'll be a Lord before you're many years older. Well, what do you think of the Valley of Death this morning?

TENNYSON: Valley of Death?

DAUGHETY: Yes, these six hundred here are getting ready to ride into it.

TENNYSON: Hmm. Not bad. Not bad at all. Lend me that pencil a moment.

DAUGHETY: Back to James Forbes.

FORBES: We will now try to contact Don Porter, who is attached to Russian General Liprandi's artillerymen. Come in, Don Porter. . . . Come in, Don Porter.

PORTER: This is Don Porter, reporting from the Russian lines. As I look down towards—(sound of blows). Tovarisch! Tovarisch! No!

No! My papers are in order, I assure you—

VOICE (gruff and unfriendly): Nichevo! You are a warmongering correspondent and a capitalist spy! (More blows. Silence.)

FORBES: We regret that the signal from the Valley of Death this morning was not up to normal broadcasting standards. Now back to Bob Daughety.

(A rush of feet. Groans. Cries of "Make way for the stretchers!")

DAUGHETY: This is going to make medical history! The first wounded are coming back now from the valley. Right before my eyes Lord Lister, with an assist from gracious Miss Nightingale, has set up an advance casualty clearing station and is about to start operating. . . .

The first man has been lifted onto the table. He seems to be a Russian, although he is so covered by blood and contusions that it's difficult to make out exactly. He's in a bad way, all right. Miss Nightingale is burning brown paper under his nose. Lord Lister, stripped to his moleskin waistcoat and spats, is sharpening a bayonet. While they conclude their last-minute preparations I will try to get a few words out of this badly battered Muscovite. . . . Good heavens! His eyes—I know them! Glazed, but unmistakable! It can't be—it is! Don Porter!

FORTER: Bob . . . the Iron Curtain . . . Russians . . . waiting to infiltrate . . . millions of them. . . . To-day, it's the Czar . . . to-morrow it will be some other leader. . . . Warn the Western world. . . .

DAUGHETY: Quick! (Confused minor sounds. Groans. Music rising, then fading into sound of chipping, as of pick in quarry.)

DAUGHETY: Lord Lister has just completed the first trephining on record, carried out entirely with a bayonet . . . Don Porter will—LIVE!

JAMES FORBES: Yes—Don Porter was destined to live—in history. And so nearly a century before the Iron Curtain was rediscovered by the world's statesmen, a University radio correspondent had unearthed this tremendous secret and key plank in Russia's platform.

Don't fail to listen again at this time next week, over this same network, when University reporters will bring you "We were there — The Rape of the Sabines."

—K.T.

Christmas Cards Selling Fast

At the time of going to press (Thursday) only a hundred and eighty odd were left of the additional five hundred Christmas cards that were printed after the initial five hundred had been sold in the two days they had been in the Union Office.

It is expected that these will be sold in the next few days, and you are urged to buy some before it is too late. The University Children's Club will prosper from the profits which Mr. K. Tregonning, the originator of the scheme, estimates at roughly £15.

It is possible another 500 may be printed, if demand is such to warrant it, and paper can be secured.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

As from January 1, 1949, an increase of 5/- per week makes the maximum living allowance under this scheme, £130 per annum for those living at home, and £169 per annum for those living away from home, plus, of course, payment of fees.

Maximum assistance will be granted on an adjusted family income (i.e., gross taxable income less £50 for each dependent child, other than the applicant, under 16) of £250, but the reduction in the amount of assistance will be £4 (instead of £5/4/- as at present) for each £10 by which the adjusted income exceeds £250. Income taken is that for the previous financial year. Examples of the effect of these provisions are as follows:

Students living at home:

Adjusted Family Income.	Current Assistance.	1949 Assistance.
£450.	£13 plus fees.	£50 plus fees.
£550.	Fees less £39.	£10 plus fees.

Students living away from home:

Adjusted Family Income.	Current Assistance.	1949 Assistance.
£450.	£52 plus fees.	£89 plus fees.
£550.	Fees only.	£49 plus fees.

Subject to various detailed rules, assistance is granted to the following classes of students:

- (i) First Year: Selection is competitive, and based on Public Examination records. Vacancies number 102 at the University, and 16 at the School of Mines.
- (ii) Second Year: Competitive for a limited number of places, depending on number of previous failures.
- (iii) All Years other than First-Year: Non-competitive: where the applicant has been a full-time student and was excluded at the beginning of his course solely on account of the means test. This is designed primarily to cover cases of death or retirement of the father.
- (iv) Competitive assistance in Final Year: Designed mainly for those who have been part-time students and need one year of full-time study to complete their courses.

The CLOSING DATES for applications for assistance in 1949 are as follow:

FIRST YEAR ASSISTANCE 31/1/49.

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Applications must be made on the prescribed forms, and these, together with further details of the scheme, will be available at the Branch Office of the Universities Commission.

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BAND FORMED

The Adelaide University Regiment held a highly successful second parade on Tuesday night. Many more recruits were enlisted, and the normal attendance of those already enlisted was well above expectation considering the close proximity of the exams. It is an interesting fact that if recruiting continues at the same rate, we will very soon have the largest Citizen Forces unit in South Australia, and may possibly be reviewed by the King next year.

The parade took the form mainly of general interest lectures. Recruits were shown the P.I.A.T. (Projector Infantry, Anti-Tank)—a weapon developed towards the end of the war, and now carried by all infantry units. It did yoemen service rapidly since the first parade. We now have a St. Mark's platoon composed entirely of students from St. Mark's, and a Teachers' College platoon composed entirely of Teachers' College students. A band has been formed under Corporal Hopkins



Medical Check-up and Kit Inspection for Recruits.

not only in Europe against tanks, but in the Islands against stubborn Japanese fox holes. Most recruits were surprised to find that this weapon was yet another one of the many held by an infantry battalion—they have seen nothing yet.

ST. MARK'S PLATOON

Our organisation has advanced

(Eng.). Pipers, drummers, and practically every other type of instrument player are required for this. All instruments are supplied. Many more drivers are also required.

Remember that the Adelaide University Regiment is a University unit, as its name implies. It is specially designed to meet the needs of University students. Members of

organisations within the University are kept together, e.g., St. Mark's and Teachers' College; night parades are very much restricted compared with other units of the Citizen Forces; leave of absence from night parades is given for lectures, and in

the period immediately prior to examinations; everyone is given an equal chance of promotion. In these and in many other respects it caters for students—it is therefore up to students to support it. JOIN UP NOW.

Letters to the Editor - - -

A BOUQUET

Dear Sir,—Allow me to congratulate you on your issues of "On Dit." While the separate issues have been slightly unbalanced, "On Dit," throughout the year has given us plenty to read, and in comparison to "Farrago" has maintained a high standard of responsibility, rare in student journalism. I notice where you were attacked for not publishing international news, but I agree with you that a student newspaper should be devoted to student activities. You have given a fair distribution to all clubs and societies—a difficult feat.

Yours sincerely,
P. JEFFREYS.

ELECTIONS ATTACKED

Dear Sir,—Allow me to express my amazement (in what I presume will be your last issue) at the results of the Men's General Elections. That Smith, Forbes and Hone came to be ignored by the majority of voters is, to me, a terrible sign of the stupidity of students. Here we have three students, who I venture to say have done more for the student body this year than any other trio (excluding Magarey and Tregonning), and they are ignored. Hone who, through the Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee, has been a tower of strength to all students who play sport; Forbes, whose stirring work on the Book Exchange and the Arts Society seems to have been ignored; and Smith who has battled with Premiers on our behalf, have been dropped, and three nonentities elected. What have THEY done? The S.R.C. must truly represent those who put them there—a lot of half-baked nonentities.

Yours,
"FED-UP," Engineering III.
(One of the elected candidates, Mr. Bray, organised the "Miss University" competition for W.S.R. and has written several articles for "On Dit." Father Bourke has given several talks for the Aquinas Society, and also written for "On Dit." Mr. Hermes has been an active member of "Scotts Own," the Debating Society.—Editor.)

BROKENSHA DEFENDED

Dear Sir,—"Thirty-Niner's" reply to Mr. P. Brokensha's letter concerning the formation of a University Regiment was, for the greater part, quite irrelevant.

The question raised was not whether Australia should be adequately defended in the existing world situation—we are not concerned with that at all; but rather whether the University is a fit place to introduce military training. The danger of militarism within the University is that it encourages a totally false

concept of war, particularly the kind of war made possible to-day by recent developments in atomic research and bacterial warfare.

Such training tends to glamorise, even to glorify, war (as in College Cadet Corps) while its sordid reality, the mass murder of millions of men, women, and children, military personnel and civilians alike, and the ensuing poverty, disease and starvation are minimised.

The conditioning of the minds of youth to regard war in this nationalistic, chauvinistic light was a powerful factor in Hitler's rise to power, and is even to-day being exploited to the full in such organisations as the Falangist Youth Movement of Franco Spain. Such an outlook is so obviously in conflict with the ideals for which a democratic university is supposed to stand, for example, freedom of expression, the impartial search for truth, that the point hardly needs laboring.

Yours sincerely,
J. A. WALKER.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Sir,—I have just read Prof. G. V. Portus' talk on specialisation, and as a typical Med. student (I think) I quite agree with him. We are too restricted in our course to develop as citizens, and we have no chance of acquiring that critical faculty he mentions.

While I do not think the extra year's course will be possible, I would like to see many Arts lectures put on from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., to enable students from other faculties to attend them. Especially would I suggest the S.R.C. press for late lectures in English I, Political Science and Economic History, which many Med. students would like to attend.

I hope Prof. Portus' critical appraisal of the University has not fallen on stony ground.

Yours sincerely,
W.S. (Med. III).

ST. MARK'S DEFENDED

Dear Sir,—The writer of the article attacking St. Mark's for lack of corporate spirit was way off the beam. As a visitor to Adelaide, resident at St. Mark's, I would like to make it clearly known that the very strong corporate spirit at this college has given me a sense of belonging I certainly do not feel towards the University as a whole. If there were enough colleges for all students, then maybe there would be a great improvement in the University, but to try and drag St. Mark's down because it is different to the rest of the University is silly.

However, I agree with the rest of the article, though I suggest there is another side to the picture. It's an awfully good place to work.

—"MED. III."

W.E.A. BOOKROOM

The academic year is drawing to a close. At present students are too busy preparing for examinations to consider textbooks for 1949, but they will be ready to do so at the end of November. The Bookroom staff is specially trained to help students with their problems, and we urge students to consult us as soon as possible about their purchases for next year. We have the list of texts to be used, and stocks are arriving from time to time.

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CRICKET OPENS

Having decided to scorn delights and live laborious days (and nights) until they are behind us, we have not moved around with our customary regularity of late. On Saturday week, however, we found ourselves feeling particularly seedy, and were induced by the comfortable feel of spring sunshine to view the XI in its first match at Unley.

With Tregonning and Bennett gone, the team has lost maturity in its higher registers, and now leaves a general impression of potential rather than actual strength. But it does look fresh and clean-cut and keen for big things under the leadership of Colin Millard.

The classical Douglas began well with some copybook shots born of mature consideration and care, and having no suggestion of panic or unlettered haste. He was the logical man to open the proceedings in such a balmy atmosphere. He can always be trusted to do the thing with due decorum and proper regard for the tenor of the occasion. E. England, from the West, put together a very useful 68 in determined style. Bednall's 30 odd, contributed when needed most, were full of character and skill. Smart flayed about him like a threshing machine and struck several balls rudely to the boundary before being caught near the wicket. Dowding was impressive, though his stay was not long. Varsity total was 176. Sturt have made 50 odd in reply without loss.

K. T. O'L.

FOOTBALL DINNER

The footy dinner, which was staged at the Richmond the other Friday night was a quiet and restrained end to the 1948 season. Alan Dowling was awarded the Gunning Medal for being the best and fairest player during the year, and Don Watson for being the most improved. Needless to say, Tregonning got up on his hind legs and said Everything That Needed To Be Said. Mr. Brebner, on behalf of the vice-presidents, said some nice things about the club and the blokes, and one felt that he was probably profoundly right. John Day and Don Robinson announced their respective retirements from Varsity footy, to the sorrow of the whole team. The chairman, Dr. Sangster, then spoke nostalgically of his last match with Varsity whereat a silent toast in salt tears was drunk. However, the frivolous spirit revived, and everyone bashed his neighbour's ear unmercifully until a late hour.

K. T. O'L.

"On Dit," which has endeavored to be a more or less faithful record of University activity and a satisfactory expression of University thought, now quietly fades away. Let us hope, fellow students, that its fortnightly appearances have been like so many green isles of wakefulness in that deep wide sea of apathy which seems your native element, in which you swim with such serene and goggling contentment. The Editors feel a deep and abiding gratitude towards those dozen or so people who managed, fish like, to struggle for a brief moment up from the depths of their apathy and gasp one bubble to the surface. The musty depths of ocean hold the other sparkles of the "University Mind."

But "On Dit" has had to struggle against not only apathy, but over-enthusiasm and misplaced zeal as well. For while the great majority of the students stood aloof, and bothered not, the incessant, unnecessary, exasperating and eventually inevitable interference of the Executive of the S.R.C. at times made the editing of "On Dit" a most un-

pleasant task. It is suggested that Editors in future be allowed complete authority over the matter selected for publication. They must be allowed to express the opinions and the viewpoint of the average student, and not merely the voice of authority. Interference from the S.R.C. should be reduced to a minimum, and "On Dit" should not be made the means for pro-S.R.C. propaganda, and nothing else.

Perhaps next year a more mature Executive will rightly give the Editor a fair go, submit all official notices long before the deadline, and allow criticism, instead of repressing it.

For criticism is a healthy sign, and is not answered by repression. Future Editors should be given the right to express their own opinions in their paper, or else the title is an insult. The Executive of the S.R.C. must learn to restrain its zeal to shape everything at the University to one mould, for a University is surely the last place on earth where such a foolhardy task should be attempted.

RELIGION IN EDUCATION

A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS

A minor 19th Century social critic once referred to religion as an opiate. He was wrong. It is a stimulant which rapidly produces intellectual insobriety.

"That fruitful mother of barbarous woes," writes Clive Bell, thinking of the millions of human minds perverted and repressed by taboos, superstitions and the fear of Hell, and misled by the idea that man was made by a man-made idea.

"A Catholic Contributor" pleads for religion in education ("On Dit," 4/10/48) and sets forth that the function of education is "to provide the student with a rational explanation of his existence, and ultimate aim in life." Although the Pope and M. Stalin would both agree with this, democrats might prefer that education should seek rather to develop the student's intellect in order that he might make an intelligent

choice for himself on these matters. Under tyrannies, however, explanations and aims are "provided" ready-made. "Give me the child until he is eight" or preferably eighty, goes well in Rome, Madrid, or Moscow. None of this "individual liberty" nonsense!

WINE AND SONG

Having turned the education system into a propaganda machine, our anonymous evangelist, full of Christian humility, denies the right of the secularist to any virtue or morality. Such things are the prerogative of those who follow Christ. The secularist must "eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow he dies,"—the age-old fallacy that morality cannot exist without religion. If the good life can only be lived when motivated by the fear of divine inter-

vention one might query whether it is worth living. But history shows that religion, so far from being the purveyor of the good life, is the ultimate cause of its destruction. Traditional moral restraints disappear because they are seen to be associated with superstition. Ancient Greece, Renaissance Italy, and this Modern Age, are examples.

The secularists dismissed to drink and imminent death, the scientists are then taken to task for their lack of respect for the "intelligence" which "constructed" the atom. Perhaps this disrespect arises from the failure of this same "intelligence" in the fields of genetics and agricultural economics. By some strange mischance human population has always exceeded available food supplies. Some unkind critics, dirty Commos no doubt, have suggested this as the real cause of human suffering and misery.

Then there are all the other nasty things which secular education has produced. Hitler and his racial pride, Hitler who rose to power in the birthplace of Protestantism and took over Anti-Semitism from the Christians, who had nourished and nurtured it for over a thousand years. Mussolini, who was educated in a secular convent and for the repose of whose soul Mass was said in Milan Cathedral on Anzac Day, 1947.

FORGOTTEN POINTS

Our "Catholic Contributor" forgets that Fascism still flourishes in Catholic Spain, Portugal and Argentina, that Fascism was born and bred in the home of Catholic Christianity, that it was the Pope who, for twenty years, "tacitly acknowledged that might is right." He forgets that millions of young men from the secular schools of England, the Empire and America fought and died in an attempt to destroy Fascism. Were the ideals of these young men merely "power, wealth and knowledge?"

Religion creates a spiritual and intellectual tyranny which is in turn the breeding ground of other tyrannies. That is why Fascism and Communism spread so rapidly through the Catholic countries on both sides of the Curtain. Religion has no place in education. Man can only "avoid final catastrophe" if his mind is free, free to realise the supreme greatness of the human personality and the insignificance of myths, free to recognise that the ultimate purpose of humanity is humanity and that the only valid dogmas are "the paramount duty of outspoken truth, of the common ownership of the earth and the equal rights of man."

JEFFREY F. SCOTT,

ON DIT

This issue was written, compiled and edited by K. Tregonning with the help of his friends, Jeff Scott and Jim Forbes.

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VICIOUS RESULTS?

Finally our friend who seeks "the re-introduction of truth" points to the vicious results of free, compulsory and secular education. There is the "greed" and the "abuses of the industrial era." The industrial

APOLOGIES

No Sports Writers, no Sport News. So Sorry!

WOMEN'S HOCKEY TO-DAY

Miss Mary Teesdale-Smith, who has recently returned from a tour of New Zealand with the All-Australia hockey team will demonstrate methods for improving stickwork on the University Oval from 5 p.m. onwards.

All you require is a stick, shoes, and ball, if possible.

If you cannot attend this practice, there will be two more this year, and more before the season begins next year, i.e., in February or March.

Anyone who has participated in interstate matches will fully realise the value of good stickwork. It is probably this factor alone which enables N.S.W. and W.A. to outwit other States. This, too, is one of the strong points of the victorious Sydney University team.

So take your sticks out of their summer resting places for a few more weeks, and come and train with the rest of the association under expert tuition.

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Please indicate with a tick if—
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