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SEÁN MacBRIDE SPEAKS

Cyprus's Moment of Destiny

THE choice of Mr. Seán MacBride, S.C., as the distinguished visitor for last week's Phil. debate was a most appropriate one. For Mr. MacBride is indeed well qualified to speak on the subject of Mr. P. C. Chilimindris' paper—Cyprus; as he has been closely associated with the Cyprus problem for a number of years, having been chosen by the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation to work out an economic plan for South-East Europe. In the course of his work, Mr. MacBride tried to ease the mounting tension in Cyprus, which had been initiated in London as the result of the British Government's promise of independence to the Greeks. Turkey was now instigated, he said, into pursuing a course of violent opposition to a change in the status quo in Cyprus. Economic conditions were not good in Turkey, which had an authoritarian Government. Nor were the Greeks always tactful in their approach to the problem.

The situation became gradually worse and more difficult, until finally he, Mr. MacBride, made a proposal whereby the sovereignty of the island would be transferred to the Council of Europe for five years. After that a plebiscite would be held to decide its future. The Greeks and Turks agreed to this plan, but the British Government refused to accept it.

Mr. MacBride said that he was involved in a number of issues related to Cyprus, in connection with the Convention of Human Rights, when Archbishop Makarios was deported. Mr. MacBride said the Convention applied to Cyprus, as the British Government had omitted to declare a state of emergency before deporting him to the Seychelles. The question was investigated and the Archbishop was later released. This was almost entirely due to Mr. MacBride's intervention.

The recent agreement, Mr. MacBride said, did not come as a surprise to him, for sooner or later some form of compromise solution to the question was inevitable. From Turkey's point of view, Greek support in the Balkans was very important. The chief fear of the Turkish Government was that there might be a solution of the problem forced on them, in which there was no provision for constitution revision.

Unfortunately, just such a clause has been embodied in the London agreement. Another cause of concern in the agreement is the provision whereby the budget and other financial matters must receive the support of both Greeks and Turks. This provision implied a veto in the hands of the Turkish minority. The third difficulty concerns the balance of representation in the proposed Cabinet, in which there would be not less than three Turks and seven Greeks.

However, the major problem of Cyprus' independence, Mr. MacBride felt, was not any of those mentioned above. Rather it was this, that it was hard for the Cypriots to realise that they had now won their objective, and that the military faction had therefore served its purpose and that it should be prepared to let the civil authorities take over.

—Photo courtesy *Independent Newspapers*

Seán MacBride, S.C.

Mr. C. P. Chilimindris, the essayist, was introduced by the President, Mr. Laurance Roche, who said he did not think that we would hear an entirely unbiased account of the Cyprus problem, but that we would all learn something from it, whatever our point of view.

Mr. Chilimindris in his excellently delivered paper took the historical approach. He stated that Cyprus had always had strong ties with Greece, never more so than at the present time when in a population of 530,000 there were 430,000 Greek Cypriots, compared with 90,000 Turkish Cypriots. He stated that the Turks had seized on the idea of partition, but that the rights of the minority must be protected in any settlement. He felt that the British and Turkish Governments had not been working as wholeheartedly as they might have done towards a solution.

Mr. J. T. Killen (Sch.), who spoke after Mr. MacBride, said he felt that British Imperial policy was much more reasonable than it was given credit for and stated that Britain had put £17,000,000 into Cyprus since the war and was now due some return for her investments.

Mr. Owen Dudley Edwards, Auditor of the Literary and Historical Society, U.C.D., felt that Ireland had been treated much better than Cyprus was being at the moment, in that she had been represented in the House of Commons at Westminster.

Messrs. F. Joannides and M. Salih gave the Greek and Turkish viewpoints, respectively, while Mr. R. N. Basu (India), in his last speech before the Society, advocated a course of passive resistance. This theme was supported by Mr. Fergus Pyle.

In his summing-up to an audience of over one hundred people, the President hoped that now settlement had been reached, the extremists would not be allowed to take over, as had happened in this country. He concluded by saying that we had heard nearly every side of the question and in this the meeting had achieved its purpose.

St. Mark's at Stake

Many undergraduates will be unaware that College is situated in the Parish of St. Mark. With daily Services in the College Chapel, little interest is taken in the Parish Church. Besides, those who do not attend Sunday Services in College Chapel prefer to attend either St. Ann's or St. Andrew's.

Some time ago a commission was set up by the Archbishop of Dublin to look into the situation with regard to Dublin churches. The result is that many churches in the city are to be closed and many united. It appears that St. Mark's is one of those destined to be closed.

The parish was created in 1708 from part of St. Andrew's. The building of the church, which is in Pearse Street, began in 1729. The tower, as often happens in Dublin churches, was never completed. In 1892 an open-air pulpit was erected in the grounds, but this has now disappeared. It has one interesting feature — a small gallery, which is reputed to have been used for lepers, cut off from the congregation.

And so after over two hundred years' existence this church may be closed. What will happen to the building in this event is not yet known. It may be sold or perhaps pulled down and the site used for other purposes. Those living in the parish would then be transferred to another church. And so College will now be situated in a new parish.

ROOMS TO LET

The Committee of the D.U. Elizebethan Society wish to announce that Societies wanting to use their rooms in No. 6 must henceforth obtain written permission from the Hon. Sec. and must, moreover, apply for permission at least one week before their meeting. The charge will be 10/- per night, unless the Society in question already has an agreement with the Elizabethan Society.

TRINITY NEWS
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Amalgamation or Co-operation?

THE debate in "the Hist." last term on the motion that T.C.D. and U.C.D. should amalgamate brought to the fore a question which has been asked in one form or another many times in recent years, whether there is room in this city for two universities.

One would have thought that Trinity would by instinct have been against such a motion, as the instinct for self-preservation is very strong. However, when the motion was put to the vote, it was lost only by two votes. This attitude is hard to understand, since only Trinity people were in a position to vote.

It is claimed by those who support the amalgamist camp that much of the present overlapping of facilities would be done away with. This, of course, is true, so far as it goes. But surely mutual co-operation between the two Colleges would be a better solution, with the one developing a reputation for certain subjects and the other for a different set of subjects. While at the same time each being prepared and willing to exchange information on topics of common interest. Thus, a feeling of goodwill would, it is hoped, be fostered between the sister universities, instead of bitter resentment by the university who would inevitably be submerged as a result of such an amalgamation.

Such a feeling of goodwill would be most valuable not only at university level, but would spread far beyond the walls of each university with resulting benefit to the entire country.

Profile: *"Eliz." President*

Anne Jones

The burden of "Eliz." Presidency is becoming heavier as the society expands and now that its membership is greater than ever before and it is recognised by the Board as a major society, the position is no easy one to undertake. Yet Anne Jones has taken this problem in her stride, as she has all other successes and setbacks since her entry into College. She believes in taking things as they come and, if at times she

finds herself running her fingers distractedly through her short curly hair, her ready cheerfulness and quiet sense of humour soon see her through any difficulties and bring life and encouragement to her committee and her society.

Anne described herself as "an Orangewoman from the North," but officially she is not a Northerner, as her parents were from the South and she herself was born, in January, 1938, at an army hospital in Aldershot. From 1939 to 1944 she lived among the hills in the south of India, where her father was in the Indian Army; then he was killed and she and her mother returned to Ireland.

Anne went to boarding-school at St. Leonards in Scotland, and it was undoubtedly here that she became interested in sports, so that when she came to Trinity she immediately took up swimming and fencing. She has since achieved success in both these activities, representing Trinity as a member of the fencing team and becoming this year's captain of the Ladies' Swimming Club. To these she brings the same genuine interest and enthusiasm. "If you encourage people," she says, "they come along. After all, you must have Trinity competing in everything."

For relaxation, Anne often turns to music. She enjoys singing in Choral and gets a great deal of pleasure from classical music, especially Mozart opera. When she leaves College she wants to travel; she still has "a yen for the East."

Anne is rather a quiet girl and does not talk much about herself. In some ways she is impractical, is side-tracked into idealistic plans or overcome by her sense of humour, but she can be very practical—when miles of red tape and clogged official channels delayed plans for fitting out a sewing room at the top of No. 6, she was ready to tackle it herself, cleaning, distempering and all. The fact that the sewing room is now nearly ready to be opened to members is due almost entirely to her efforts, for she chose the materials and even made the curtains herself. She lives on a farm and loves country life. She is also very fond of children, but then she likes most people. "People," she says, "are so much more important than things," and a philosophy like this seems a very good basis for a happy life.

Unconventional—But Fun

Attendance at the "Eliz" inaugural last Friday was by no means up to expectations, but what was lacking in numbers was compensated for by first-class speaking and general high spirits. Where were all the "Eliz" members? Well, wherever they were, they missed an evening's good entertainment. As the numbers at the sherry reception held before the meeting were smaller than expected, there was food and drink left over, and many of the people attending the actual inaugural meeting afterwards accepted the President's invitation to help to finish it up, and joined the party in No. 6.

The meeting itself was fast-moving and entertaining; none of the speakers spoke too long, and all spoke well. Miss Anne Jones, the President, read a paper entitled "The Fear of Freedom," which dealt with the domination and standardization of man by society and the necessity for some cultivation of individualism "if we are not to become a breed of spectators. Primitive man," she said, "lost his tail because he did not use it"; industrial man is likewise "in danger of losing his imagination." Creative ability is what is most durable and worthy of man; after all, as she said, "one can create little unconsciously, except perhaps bad impressions."

Mrs. V. Miller then expressed her belief in the ability of man's imagination to rise above industrialization and said that her impression when entering Front Square sometimes was that individualizm, and even oddity, was flourishing in Trinity at least.

The second speaker, Dr. Lucy Mitchell, spoke of the necessary influence of society and said that a government or society cannot really either engender or safeguard creative ability.

Mr. Terence de Vere White felt as if he were playing mixed hockey and successfully upheld the honour of his side by producing a spontaneous, rather rambling, but most entertaining speech spiced with some surprizingly profound remarks, such as his comment on the inevitability of fear: "If death were removed," he said, "humans would be frightened of life."

"Hegel's Aesthetic"

The auditorial meeting of the Metaphysical Society was held on Tuesday, February 17th, at 3.15 p.m. in 5B. The President, Prof. E. J. Furlong, was in the chair.

In his paper, "Hegel's Aesthetic," the Auditor placed the theory of beauty within the framework of the whole Helegian philosophy, and stressed the organic nature of that philosophy. He stated that, for Hegel, art was "the least adequate form for the expression of the Absolute," and that natural beauty was inferior to art because it lacked "the baptism of the spirit."

Mr. Alexander then dealt with several criticisms which have been levelled against Hegel's aesthetic, particularly that of Croce who held that Hegel confused the opposite-relation with the distinct-relation.

The Auditor concluded his paper by attempting an objective appraisal of the Hegelian aesthetic. He believed that even as every science has its own particular subject-matter and accordingly is entitled to claim supremacy within that sphere, so philosophy which has all the knowledge as subject-matter is entitled to claim supremacy in all human knowledge, and its process, viz., rationality is the key to artistic, religious, and philosophical truth.

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss E. H. Noble, in proposing a vote of thanks, thought that Hegel's conception of beauty was different to that of the man in the street.

Mr. J. Nicholson held that beauty and truth were vastly different things. He believed that scientists and artists as such were not in fact looking for "truth."

A lively discussion followed in which Mr. Godfrey and the Auditor answered questions put by the members of the Society.

College Observed

We were born into the world at different times. We were born into different religions. We took the opinions of those around us. We accepted the political and religious views of our parents and our teachers. We went through life always accepting, putty-like in the grasp of the misunderstanding world around us. We were told that everything we were taught was true and most of us believed all these things and much more for a long time, and some of us still believe them. All these things were different, but to the individual they were truth.

From the newspapers scream the opinions of others, out of a poster stands the slogan that a certain detergent washes whiter than all others. Most of us immediately question this statement. But with the greater things in life it is not often that we question. Few of us question our religion, or whether we are travelling along the right road to create our own happiness. We just hope. Sometimes to think on these things seems to be too upsetting, and so we just hope for the best and shut our eyes to the bad consequences. This is all very well until things go wrong.

After the waste of the last war our parents turned around and cursed the politicians for their stupidity and laid the blame at every door except their own. And yet they were the people who saw it all and turned their eyes until suddenly they no longer saw through a glass darkly, but face to face, and for many years they suffered. But at the return of peace they cleared their conscience by blaming others, then shut their eyes and hoped. "Perhaps the Russians are friendly. Perhaps the bomb will not explode in our lifetime. Perhaps my son may never see war. Perhaps, after all, we will have a good budget in April." And so on in all things.

But we are different; we think. Yes, we think all right. "Perhaps I'm not wasting my time in College. Perhaps the lecturer is not such a fool as he seems. Perhaps eventually I may fall in love with John Smith and we will be happy. Something's sure to turn up . . ." And so on.

Don't think of the nasty things. Don't worry, it may never happen. But it may happen. The only way to be sure is to think hard how to avoid it happening, and then perhaps it never will, at least the blow will be less severe.

There may be problems that can never be solved by thought, but there have never been any problems that have been overcome without the use of thought, and so why despise thinking? Some of you say that there is a danger in thinking too deeply. This is true only if the initial thought is not sound, for then every succeeding thought has a false premise. I suggest that the initial thought should be: "Why do I exist?" Then after a very basic framework has been developed thought will flow and increase and become ever more useful.

But some people just think and do not act on the considered thought. They sit and grumble about what is wrong, instead of trying to create what is right, and the world developes no further. Others act without thinking and the consequences are left in the hand of Fate and Fate is fickle.

But if we think to the best of our ability and then act, we are opening a gateway to limitless good. Thinking hard until it hurts, makes it easier to think truly the next time. If everybody in the world tried to think clearly, humanity would still get hurt, but each time the hurt would be less and the healing quicker, and in the end there might even be peace in the world. There might even be happiness in the individual.

And so I suggest that we mistrust any thought until it has been questioned and with each problem think, then act, then, like a seaman, be prepared for the worst and hope for the best.

Of course, the thinking reader will realise that these thoughts on underdeveloped thinking in College are very limited and need many qualifications which are easily discovered by a little concentration.

Agricultural Supplement

CHANGING?

WHERE, in this modern age, is Science taking us? Most people will answer, "Towards higher standards of living", which is perfectly true if material wealth and economic profitability are labelled the criteria of success; but can we in fact say that our living standards to-day are higher? Are Science and Industry doing what the inventors and discoverers hoped that they would do—namely, using their discoveries for the benefit of mankind? This is to be doubted when we have neurosis, unemployment, crime and difficult teen-age problems as some of the bi-products of industrialisation. However, when we survey the agricultural world, the picture is a brighter one, for here Science has assisted man in his oldest craft without profoundly destroying his pattern of life.

Since time immemorial farming has been man's natural occupation, and as a way of life it has survived the changes of the centuries remarkably well. With the development of communications came the specialisation of labour, but Agriculture still remained the mainstay of the community, and it was not until man could supply more food than he and his family needed that labour was freed to industry. The advent of the enclosure system and of the Industrial Revolution was responsible for the movement of the people to the towns, and so brought to an end a pattern of rural life that had been prevalent for many centuries. Nowadays Agriculture has to compete seriously with Industry for labour and capital, but Industry in return provides her with the machines to do the job quicker.

Science and Industry, it must be admitted, are changing the outward appearance of farming. To-day the peaceful uses of Atomic Science are playing a bigger part in agricultural research, and vast areas of previously uncultivatable land are now producing food to meet the world's increasing demands. There is the prospect that the desert regions may be a future source of food; aircraft are being widely used in the application of sprays and fertilisers; experiments are being carried out to try to get cows to produce twin calves for the farmer, and tractors are even beginning to drive themselves. However, no matter what Science may do for Agriculture, there is still that element of unpredictability in its success, due to that large limiting factor — the weather. If the weather is not right, all scientific aids are useless, and man has yet to find out how to influence the weather without causing repercussions elsewhere.

In spite of the advances of Science, farming has retained its same character. It is still a satisfying occupation in that the results of one's labours are usually apparent and are related to something that is alive, unlike the work of so many people in industry which is often a soulless operation with little personal touch. Persisting still throughout Europe is the family farm, which as a unit, comprises all that is socially good. For such people their life is their work, their work is their pride, it surrounds them and gives them security. It is quite natural therefore to find that these people are happy and contented with their lot in life.

It is only in times of adversity that the townsfolk really appreciate the farmer, for the rest of the time they are inclined either to forget him or to complain against high food prices, which in fact often bear little relation to what the farmer actually receives. Very few of these people have a true concept of what a farmer's life involves, and their minds are very often mixed up with such romantic ideas as, "Let's get back to Nature." Seldom do these people reflect on the low wages of the farm labourer and the fact that of all people these labourers have never in history held a general strike.

Yet we have no right to be complacent, for as the old saying has it, "the two scarcest things in life are dead donkeys and satisfied farmers."

Contents

PHASES OF RURAL LIFE IN IRELAND

By J. O'LOAN

THE earliest inhabitants of this country have left their trails along the eastern sea coast, mainly in Counties Louth and Antrim. Subsequent to this first period of habitation the land seems to have subsided and it is fairly certain that part of the habitat of these early folk is now in the bed of the Irish Sea. These people are generally regarded as having lived by hunting and fishing and by gathering nuts from the abundant hazel woods which developed after the recession of the ice. As might logically be expected, in view of their fishing interests and of the fact that they probably depended to great extent on water transport, their traces are mainly by river banks and estuaries.

One might suppose the plane of nourishment of these people to have been low, but, if we have some notion of the abundance of fish which would swarm our rivers inside a half dozen years if for that period we abandoned our fishing techniques for theirs, our reaction towards them will be rather envy than sympathy — and what sport they must have had!

Stone and Wood Age

This was the so called Paleolithic or Stone Age, the later or more advanced part of which is known as the neolithic period, in which, hitherto, we regarded our unfortunate forefathers as having had only stone, bone or horn implements for their daily tasks. But we are now beginning to realise what should always have been obvious, that wood was the most readily available, easily worked and generally useful material to hand, and that these are the considerations which have at all times influenced man in his use of materials, be he our own farmer-fishermen who thatch their stone-built houses with seagrass, the early American settlers who built a city of wood called Chicago, or the Eskimos who live in igloos. As picturing social life, therefore, the term "Stone Age" should probably more correctly be "stone and wood age," and we must realise that with wooden implements (and a little extra muscle and skill) quite a respectable degree of crop husbandry would be possible. Our climate is most unkind to wood and other organic materials, and the life of an ordinary spade or shovel handle, if exposed to weather, or even to damp in storage, is only about a dozen years; consequently, archaeological specimens of early wooden implements just hardly exist here, though they have been found in other countries in comparable cultural environment. Had the Dead Sea scrolls or Cathay Desert scripts been deposited in Ireland, they would never have been seen again.

The age of stone and wood gradually merged into those of bronze and iron, the latter having developed here about a thousand years ahead of Christianity.

The Art of Writing

With the coming of Christianity, we change gradually in our materials for history from archaeology, with its highly interesting and illuminating modern techniques, to literature. We here are fortunate in having a body of literature—the Brehon Laws—developed over unknown centuries prior to Christianity and handed down in oral form till our people learned the art of writing in the fifth century. It is interesting to reflect what this art must have meant to a people of very considerable culture and having a considerable body of secular knowledge which, hitherto, they could impart, convey and bequeath only in oral form. The new possibilities opened up by the art of writing must have been to them an experience no less wonderful than all the phonetic innovations of our time—telephone, gramophone, radio and their variants put together—have been to us.

The Brehon Laws

The Brehon Laws as they have come to us were in the main written down prior to 735. They were transcribed and translated by John O'Donovan and Eugene O'Curry, and published during the last half of the last century. These two scholars worked under a grave handicap in that Celtic philology was only beginning to develop in their time. They had at first neither dictionary nor grammar of old Irish and they were dealing with a language which over the intervening centuries had changed as much as other living languages have done; the pattern of social organisation which the laws depicted was unknown to them. The translations, therefore, contain many imperfections which are gradually, if slowly, being corrected. If it is unsafe to form concrete opinions on social structure and government till a fully authenticated version of the laws is available, we can, nevertheless, get from them and other souces quite a reasonable picture of farming about the late pagan and early Christian period.

The internal evidence of the laws—their quality, structure and their obvious aim of ensuring the peaceful existence of the community—indicate a high level of intellectual development. The background, basis and subject matter of this intellectual development were farming, and a farming community of whom the Brehons themselves were part. A logical assumption would, therefore, be that the quality of farming itself would be high, and this is very obviously the case.

This is not the place to lay historical bogies developed in this as in all other countries by those who attempted or achieved military conquest, and the extent to which some of these bogies still obsess the minds of some of our best known historians is rather amusing if not amazing.

A Prosperous and Civilised Country

It can be stated generally that farming and the food and social conditions of the people as indicated by Brehon law were of the same quality and at least as good as those which prevailed in times of peace up to the introduction of agricultural machinery and the potato in the seventh century. There is evidence not only that their livestock would compare favourably with that of present times, but also that they had a knowledge of livestock quality and production which would appear to have been lost in later times. David Greene, commenting on the literary development and later decline, says: ". . . golden ages are always likely to be terminated by barbarian invasions. We need not fall into nineteenth century romanticism if we stress the fact that Ireland was a relatively prosperous and civilised country during this period. Threatened by no external enemies or internal upheavals, she had lost the habit of struggle (had she ever developed it?) and when presented by a challenge from outside was unable to respond to it." One might generalise further and say that "gold," whether as metal, foodstuffs or otherwise, has been the loadstone which attracted nearly all invasions.

The Type of Farming

Farming, as depicted in Brehon Law, was mixed tillage and stock. Strict regulations were laid down as to fencing and penalties specified for non-compliance. Fencing is not a characteristic of primitive pastoral farming. Four different types of fences are so exactly specified as to enable anyone to construct them properly. Roads and fair greens had to be kept in order. Farmers could borrow livestock and pay them back within three years—a perfectly equitable period for breeding stock. Much, if not most, of the land was held by family groups in the manner of modern private joint-stock companies. The property of each adult member of the group was not distinguishable as a separate area from that of the others, but he could bequeath, but not alienate, his share under ordinary circumstances. Bread, butter, porridge, milk, meat, fish and vegetables were the main foodstuffs. At different periods and places, some of these may have been more popular than others. Fosterage and the foods proper for children in fosterage and the subjects to be taught —farming for boys and domestic enonomy for girls—are indicated. Water mills were common from early Christian times and perhaps earlier. Cormac MacArt (ca 250) is credited by Jeoffrey Keating as having introduced the first mill-wright from Scotland. But Scottish agricultural historians credit us with having taught them how to grow corn!

The impact of the Norse did nothing to improve farming or social conditions. They were the occasion of two centuries of strife and destruction of seats of learning. Our round towers, built to resist their ravages, are silent monuments unparalleled elsewhere in the world to the struggle of simple enlightenment against barbarism.

Our Inheritance

It has long been a tradition that our "improved farming" came with, or after, the Anglo-Normans. Trow Smith, one of the best known English agricultural historians, says in relation to the conquest of England: "The Conqueror brought no land improvers with him, but only men of war." The same criptic comment sums up the position here. The only notable addition the Anglo-Normans made to our rural life was the introduction of rabbits which plagued us in recent years. The system of government which followed their advent gave rise to a period of internecine strife, stretching down the centuries, which precluded the possibility of agricultural and rural life developing as in neighbouring countries with the progress of technological knowledge. Our task is very much that of overcoming the handicap of this inheritance.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Dublin University Agricultural Society wishes to express its sincere thanks to the firms who so generously subscribed advertisements, and to those who so readily contributed articles to this Supplement.

Dr. Louis P. F. Smith is economic adviser to the National Farmers' Association, and is also a lecturer in Economics at University College, Dublin.

Lieut.-General M. J. Costello is General Manager of the Irish Sugar Company.

Mr. G. F. Mitchell is the Registrar of Trinity College, and also a lecturer in Geology at the University. He is intimately connected with the development of the Kells-Ingram Farm.

Professor M. J. Gorman holds the Chairs of Bacteriology and Botany at the Albert College, Glasnevin.

Mr. J. O'Loan is attached to the Land Project Office of the Department of Agriculture, and specialises in the study of Agricultural History.

Major G. Allen is a Director of Mount Pleasant Fruit Farms Ltd., Bandon, Co. Cork. This farm is becoming renowned for its excellent quality apples.

Mr. P. McHugh is the Farm Manager of the Kells-Ingram Farm.

Mr. P. D. G. Read is the Ex-Auditor of the Dublin University Agricultural Society, and took the photographs for this Supplement.

"Trinity News" thanks the artist, Mr. A. Conway, for permission to reproduce the drawings on page 3 of Dr. Louis P. F. Smith and on page 8 of Lieut.-General M. J. Costello.

We also thank the Soil Association for permission to reprint "Radioactivity and Food Supply" which originally appeared in the April, 1958, edition of "Mother Earth."

THIRD INAUGURAL MEETING

The Committee and Members of the Dublin University Agricultural Society invite you and your friends to the third Inaugural Meeting of the Society in the G.M.B. on Friday, 27th February, at 8.15 p.m. when the Auditor, Mr. R. O. COBHAM, will deliver his address:

"Agricultural Trading in Europe"

Chairman: Mr. J. J. Byrne.

Speakers:

Mr. K. RASMUSSEN, Nottingham University.

Professor J. B. RUANE.

Mr. A. KEHOE.

Dr. JUAN GREENE.

FREE TRADE

BY
DR. L. P. F. SMITH

FREE Trade is dead, or was still-born, in agricultural products. It may remain an interesting academic exercise but it is not the norm for agricultural transactions. For a country such as Ireland the effort to revive it would be futile and bankrupting. We must therefore adjust ourselves to the modern rules, even though they may not be Queensbury.

Other countries, especially the industrial nations of Europe, plan their economies with small interest in the effect on outsiders. We can read the effect of their plans and calculate their effects on us. For reasons political, sociological, economic, strategical or mythical, every country in Europe protects its agriculture and more especially its small farmers. To do so they protect the products of intensive agriculture suitable for small holders from outside competition, i.e., from us. The industrial countries have increased their imports of foodstuffs by 12 per cent. between 1938 and 1954 but the competing food products have been reduced 52 per cent. ("Trends in International Trade G. A. T. T.," Oct., '58, p. 40—Table 13). A glance at the German Green Plan and the French plans for agriculture, or the Swedish or American protection programmes show that this tendency is not accidental. The ease with which we can export meat, and the difficulty in exporting butter, bacon and eggs is a result.

In co-ordinating with these planned economies we are working with known exogenous variables which are not reflected in current market prices. The price for some product, such as butter, may be good at present but the planned increase in the importing country, due to political circumstances, may give warning that the market will not continue to be favourable though present prices might stimulate our production for export. The price for such products will be different in each market and the quantity which each market will consent to buy will be limited. Free competition by farmers, reaching their entreprenerial decisions in isolation, will tend to over-produce for such markets and will not pass back the differential prices to a producer. In dealing with planned economies, present market prices simply will not convey the required information of future demand and supply on which to base our decision to produce. The market mechanism will not perform its function.

We must mesh our output with that of other countries, and do this to a considerable extent on their terms. The customer is right even when he is foolish. If we stay out of the long-term contract system projected for European agricultural trade we are likely to be left to compete for residual import quotas with non-European producers. Unlike the man who despaired of freewill and exclaimed:

"I am a being that moves, in determined grooves
Not a bus, not a bus, but a tram,"

if we have not complete freedom of movement, at least we can decide whether to launch our production in one direction or another, as the tram driver might decide whether to go to Dartry or Ranelagh. The Invisible Hand has become visible and more obedient.

Entering a system of internationally planned production may be accepted as merely the lesser of two evils. It may even be politically repugnant to the jingoist, whether he be of the school of Kipling or Mussolini. It means subordinating national policy to joint decision with other countries or by supranational body. Britain and the Scandinavian countries are unwilling to subordinate their stable Governments to what appears the less trustworthy continental political systems. The Irish have so recently gained freedom that they are unwilling to relinquish it, so the choice is not popular. At least, it has the advantage of making jobs for economists.

We must project the probable output trends of our products; the reaction of our markets to stimuli, whether economic or political; the elasticity and cross-elasticity of markets and stomachs (vide: "Journal of Agricultural Economics Society," Vol. 13, No. 2). This should provide our economists with exercise, if not with remunerative employment, for the next generation.

No one is suggesting a free market in agricultural produce except possibly the Danes. The distribution of the almost static market is not a question of economic competition but of making arrangements by means of long-term treaties and confrontations of policy for the supply of fixed quantities at artificial prices. Naturally, Ireland should continue efforts to lower costs in production and in marketing, though by European standards these are already low. The major task, however, rests with those who negotiate to obtain markets for our output and by bargaining concessions, political and economic. No small responsibility will rest with those who advise our politicians and supply them with the raw material for reaching their decisions.

The Kells-Ingram Farm

by **P. McHUGH, Farm Manager**

THE Farm was acquired by Trinity College in the spring of 1957. The entire estate comprises 850 acres, of which approximately 500 acres are arable, the remainder consisting mainly of woodlands. The soil is glacial in origin and the underlying rock is slate. The lime status is low—before liming, pH. ranged from 4·9 to 5·3, and the calcium level from 1,500 to 3,000 lbs. an acre. This has now been corrected by the addition of ground limestone. The phosphate status is low, but, in general, potash level is medium to high. Drainage is satisfactory, apart from occasional springs—a feature common to soils overlying similar geological strata. The farm buildings are substantial in structure, but as they are of early nineteenth century construction, many of them need alterations to bring them in line with present-day requirements.

Townley Hall.

The purpose of acquiring the Farm was threefold: firstly, to demonstrate good farming; secondly, to give the agricultural students at Trinity College an opportunity of acquiring practical experience in farming before completing their course at the Albert College, and thirdly, to do some research, especially in the field of agricultural economics.

It is felt that the best way to demonstrate good farming is to show that such farming pays a reasonable return on the invested capital. This is very important, as from figures published as a result of the National Farm Survey, it is clear that the returns from many farms in the "over 200 acre" class were far from satisfactory. The objective is to show that large farms can give a reasonable return on investment, when managed according to modern and scientific methods. It is hoped to achieve this without the extravagant input of capital and with resources which would be available on any similar sized farm. As farming in Ireland is generally mixed, it is intended to operate the Farm along similar lines. Approximately half the total area will be under the plough, and the remainder, apart from a small area of permanent pasture, in short-term leas. Wheat will be the principal cereal and should contribute considerably to output. Barley will also be of importance, but will be grown mainly for animal feeding on the Farm. Oats will be grown to a lesser extent and again will be used for home-feeding. Potatoes and sugar beet will occupy the greater part of the root break, apart from some feed roots. Potatoes will be produced for human consumption, but it is intended to have the crop up to certification standard, thus ensuring a dual outlet.

At present, most of the Farm is in permanent grass, much of which is of indifferent quality. The aim is to bring the plough around the Farm as quickly as possible and, in order to do this, extensive use will be made of the short-term lea. When all the Farm will be brought into productive grass it will be possible to decide on a definite system of rotation.

Milk, beef and mutton will be produced almost entirely from grass and grass products. Winter feed will consist mainly of silage, and it is hoped to exploit the self-feeding principle to the full, thus minimising labour costs. Again, the greater part of the pig feed will be produced on the farm.

The woodlands will also be operated on a commercial basis. It is hoped to have a succession of trees in various stages of growth. This is being achieved by a rigorous replanting policy on areas where trees have already been felled and, at the same time, over-mature timber is being disposed of. Much attention is given to a study of the most economic method of scrub clearance prior to planting.

Another reason for pursuing such a varied farming programme is to give students an opportunity of gaining experience in all branches of agriculture. It is hoped that all students will spend some time on the Farm before going on to the Albert College to complete their course. A start has already been made in this respect, whereby the second year agricultural students come to the Farm on one day each week for theoretical and practical instruction.

Stock grazing on Permanent Pasture.

The livestock programme will also be mixed. There will be a dairy herd of about 30 cows for liquid milk production and a beef herd consisting of Shorthorn females, mated with a beef type bull. Calves will be multiple suckled. This programme should leave the Farm self-sufficient so far as cattle are concerned and so make the eradication of bovine T.B. from the farm an easy matter.

The sheep flock will consist of 200 or more breeding ewes, mated with a ram of the Down breed. It is hoped to use more than one breed of ewe in order to get some information on the most suitable and economic cross for lamb production.

Pigs will play an important rôle in the economy of the Farm. There will be up to 20 breeding sows, all the progeny being fed on to bacon weight. Both Landrace and Large White breeds will be kept; these will be bred pure, but, in addition, some crossing will be carried on in order to study the value of the hybrid for bacon production.

A Belt of old Timber being cleared for re-afforestation.

The third function of the Farm is research. This will be mostly confined to economic problems for two reasons: firstly, it is an aspect of Irish agriculture which has received scant attention in the past and for which there is very little data available, and secondly, it is the type of research which interferes least with commercial farming.

The foregoing is a very brief account of the projects envisaged for the Farm. Needless to say, all these will not come into operation at once. Much development will have to be undertaken before they will start to bear fruit. It is hoped to spread this development over a period of five years, at the end of which the Farm should have attained the goals for which it was acquired.

The College and Agriculture

by G. F. MITCHELL

SINCE the war, agriculture in Ireland has been a matter of considerable concern. Output has risen more slowly than in many other European countries, and little progress has been made towards the eradication of bovine tuberculosis. The American Government felt this concern, and allocated in 1954 a sum of $5,150,000 to develop an Agricultural Institute. In Ireland, the farmers themselves have formed organisations such as Macra na Feirme and the National Farmers' Association to define their objectives and to take combined steps towards their attainment.

Since the war the world demand for scientists, both research scientists and applied scientists, has increased enormously, and all universities have been trying to increase their output of science graduates. In Ireland, financial resources for the support of fundamental research are very limited, but the universities can do honourable work in the training of applied scientists. It was in these circumstances, recognising on the one hand the need for raising the standard of Irish agriculture, and on the other the need for providing increased training for scientists, that the College decided to expand its School of Agriculture.

In considering the expansion of the School, the College started from the point of view, first, that Ireland cannot afford more than one university centre for the teaching of general agricultural science and that such a centre already exists in the Albert College, and second, that the essential need of Irish farming to-day is not more fundamental research, but the carrying of research results already available into the fields of the Irish farmers.

Sheep grazing Beet Tops.

The first stage of expansion was obviously the acquisition of a farm, where modern methods of husbandry directed by competent management and operated under close cost control would be demonstrated.

The College was advised that if the farm was to demonstrate the full range of farming activity to be expected in Ireland, dairying, beef cattle, pigs, sheep, cereals and root crops, its area could not be less than three hundred acres. It could be argued that a farm of this size is too big to be typical of the Irish holding, but there is a big number of farms of this size in the country, and this group of farms have at present the lowest output per acre of any of the groups into which Irish farms have recently been classified for the purpose of a national farm survey. The modern tendency is for the size of holding to increase, and the efficiency of the large Irish farm must be considerably increased if the national economy is to prosper. The three-hundred-acre unit must be run primarily as a productive unit, and its efficiency must not be impaired by attempts to carry out a research programme at the same time on the same acres. The aim is to raise the farming output per acre to two and a half times the average output for this class of farm in Ireland.

But a university farm cannot restrict itself to production alone; research must also have a place. Therefore it was decided to buy a farm substantially larger than three hundred acres, so that acreage would be available for research work without interfering with the production programme of the base farm.

The property acquired is on the north bank of the River Boyne between Slane and Drogheda, thirty miles north of Dublin. The land is of good, though not first-class quality. The lime status of the soil has been reduced by natural leaching as well as by continued cultivation. There will be a tendency to acidity. Acidity is, of course, a tremendous problem in Irish farming (except in the limestone areas), and it is hoped to do some research on this problem. Soil science is a major field for research in Ireland, and one in which a university with its departments of botany, zoology, geology, bacteriology and chemistry can give great assistance.

There is also a large mansion on the property, erected in 1800 to the designs of Francis Johnston, one of the most famous of Irish architects. The house, Townley Hall, is one of the most important historic houses in Ireland, and its preservation is of prime importance. Before dispersing the contents of the house, the former owner presented to the College much of the existing furniture of the reception rooms, which have thus preserved their original character.

It is the intention to make the mansion the centre of the instructional work of the farm. There will be a lecture-room, a library, a common room and a refectory, self-contained apartments for senior research workers, and rooms for students. The basement will be re-fitted as laboratories. It is not intended to confine the use of the house to members of the university. It is hoped to make it a centre for conferences and study groups run by Macra na Feirme, the Irish Farmers' Association and other groups. To serve these purposes, the house must be provided with modern central heating, electricity and sanitary facilities. Furniture must be provided, and the approach roads must be improved. The roof had been neglected, but the College has now put this in first-class repair.

A Self-Feed Field Ramp Silo.

So far, an attempt has been made to give a picture of the project as a whole. Why is this project important not only for the College, but also for the general improvement of agriculture in Ireland? A number of separate answers can be made to this question.

(i) Many of the large farms in Ireland are owned by people of wealth who run them for amenity purposes or to show a loss to be set off against other income for taxation purposes. No attempt is made to assess accurately the full amount of capital employed. Under these circumstances there is no incentive to do accurate costing, and almost nothing is known of the real costs of farms of this size. An accurate set of books and of costings for such a farm would be of great value.

(ii) If a simple type of costing can be devised to give records of the necessary accuracy on the Kells-Ingram Farm, it ought to be possible to form a group of farmers to keep similar records, and so expand the cost studies to survey a group of sufficient size to give statistical value to the group costings. Almost nothing of this type of work has been attempted in Ireland.

(iii) Some farms of this size have been run by the Department of Agriculture on scientific lines, but some of the work has been slanted in the direction of the current policies of the Department. Many large farmers have wished for a large farm, under similar scientific control, but free from official policy, which could provide a cross-check on the results of official policy. In these circles the College's acquisition of a farm has been especially welcomed.

(iv) Indeed, the very entry of the College into the field of practical agriculture has given a great measure of encouragement to all who have the future good of Irish agriculture at heart. It has been widely felt that the College was not pulling its weight in agriculture, and that the College should have started to make a real effort in this field, at a time when the outlook for Irish agriculture can only be described as far from rosy, has been widely appreciated.

In the Kells-Ingram Farm, the College has taken on a formidable and expensive commitment. Unrelenting hard work over many years will be required if the project is to attain its ambitious goal. Not only students of agriculture and of forestry, but all members of the College, staff and students alike, must give their support to the farm.

Spreading Fertiliser with a Rotary Disc Spreader.

I MARRIED A MUD-STUDENT

LOOKING back seven years, I realise now how infinitely small was my idea of what our life would be like; in some ways just as well, as it turned out! Fresh from the routined and orderly existence of Army life and a certain amount of "being the boss," my fiancé too was to have many shocks in store as the lowest of the low, a "mud-student!" Mercifully, we had expectations—although somewhat distant—of eventually having at any rate, a tenant farm of our own.

The plan sounded foolproof enough: a year as a student and a year at an Agricultural College—later, I thought of cottages with roses round the door, cosy wood fires and long delightful evenings sitting over them—so much for dreams. Reality dawned in the shape of our cottage, water only obtainable by the use of a bilge pump in the icily cold shack kitchen; how we cursed the city visitors who pulled the chain for perfectly inadequate reasons; 25 minutes at the pump to refill the storage tank! An ancient electric stove, the fast (so-called) boiling plate, took 25 minutes to heat up; the bath which could only be used with the aid of a rubber mat to cover up its rusty spikes!

Those nightmare mornings in winter are still a vivid memory to me, even now. The stove had to be turned on at 5.45 a.m. in order to heat water, etc., the boiler being incapable of sustained life for more than four hours on end. By dint of a certain amount of give and take—no porridge or tepid shaving water—eggs or tea, we would get him off to work on time at 6.30 a.m. Then, to my shame, I confess I would go back to bed till roused by the postman at 9.0 a.m. Oh how we cherished our Sunday mornings, no hour was too late for breakfast, and lunch, anyway, frequently started at 2.30 p.m. owing to my total inability both to understand the ancient stove or indeed to cook at all!

Saturday shopping expeditions, 18 miles away to the nearest town, were the event of our otherwise uneventful weeks, and our groaning pre-war Baby Ford waltzed along the road in harmony with our spirits to the land of lights and pavements which then seemed all desirable. Shopping otherwise was a hellish nightmare. No deliveries at all, three miles on foot (I couldn't yet drive and there was no bus service) to the nearest village store. No fridge to store anything in and a larder which faced South. Such a help to a beginner! The flies had a whale of a year at our expense and the village scavenger dogs waxed fat on our high meat and fish! Dietary deficiencies produced a very fancy decoration of boils all over my husband and my weight dropped by over a stone.

Even Wiltshire winters don't last for ever and when the spring came we got our first taste of the credit side of country life, no roses on the cottage, but acres of snowdrops and bluebells all round and about it. My grasp of "Shifty Sheila," as we had christened the cooking stove, seemed better, and so were the crop of boils. Also, my husband now worked on a different farm, admittedly 14 miles away, but didn't start work there until the leisured hour of 9 o'clock! His employers were saints in disguise, letting him try his hand and poke his nose into everything that went on on their 300 acre mixed farm. A very different story to the large estate he had spent the winter on, where the bailiff patently loathed all forms of student life, and three weeks on a tractor rolling 150 acres of windswept plain would have broken weaker hearts than my husband's. How he stood it, I shall never know, but he says it taught him the valuable lesson that variety, even on a farm, is essential, and his men now benefit from it, I know.

It was a glorious summer and the country grew on us both and soothed us to at last being convinced that our dream of a farming life being just the job for us, was true.

In September we packed up to move to the Agricultural College. For the next year we were in a modern flat, complete with fridge and telephone; for alas, I admit that I am not a good cave woman, but given indoor amenities I could live at the North Pole! We even left the cottage a little regretfully, for the summer had dimmed slightly the memories of winter.

Life at the College was very different. £ s. d. was a constant nightmare in the atmosphere of party-giving and endless people to meals, but our creature comforts seemed Ritz-like. The year passed all too quickly, and it was a very sad couple who left to look for the Blue Moon of a tenant farm, but our luck held and three months after leaving College, with a month old baby, we moved into our 250-acre farm.

Even now, life is no smooth path to be trodden peacefully. Mysterious pipes burst under the deep litter straw, flooding it to a depth of 2 feet (on a Sunday, too, of course). Cows die of mysterious diseases, hay runs out months before the calculated date and silage sours for no apparent reason. Only the experienced know, and we are just starting to learn, how much, how very very much can go wrong on even the best of run farms. But when people ask, "Would you do it again?" I have not the slightest doubt, quite definitely yes, from every point of view. A husband, instead of a morning and evening ghost, unknown to the children except at week-ends, someone constantly about and a varied life that couldn't pall whatever the difficulties.

No, whatever the grumbles and however deep the mud, I'll stay a farmer's wife for choice.

RADIO-ACTIVITY AND FOOD SUPPLY

AT this time, when many of us are deeply concerned about the possible effects of "fall-out" radio-active materials resulting from H-bomb testing, it is interesting to note the increasing use being made, especially in the United States, of radiation and radio-active substances in agricultural and food-handling research.

It would appear from evidence submitted to the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, that this research has so far followed three main lines:

(i) The use of radio-isotopes as "tracers" in the study of plant and animal nutrition (as in human nutrition), also in the study and control of insect life.

(ii) The use of radiation in plant and animal genetics to multiply the occurrence of mutations, i.e., the changes in characteristics which are subsequently inherited.

(iii) The use of radiation as a sterilising agent to prolong the "storage life" of perishable goods.

Radio-active isotopes have been employed in various branches of research for some 25 years, but they were in very limited supply until the large-scale development of nuclear-fission for military purposes at the end of the last war made them freely available. They represent, incidentally, one of the few constructive means of disposing of the potentially dangerous by-products of atomic-power generation.

"Tracer" Research in Plant Nutrition

Isotopes are, in effect, radio-active atoms of the various elements. In their passage through an organism which has assimilated them in its food, they appear to behave as do non-radio-active atoms of the same element, but their movements can be traced by means of suitable instruments. They are thus said to be "tagged" or "labelled." Being unstable, they disintegrate in the course of time, releasing energy as rays. These could, in sufficient quantities, be harmful to the organism, so that only low concentrations are used in research.

One of the most interesting fields being explored with their aid is that of photosynthesis—the natural process by which green plants utilise solar energy to convert atmospheric carbon-dioxide and water into sugars and other materials composed of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. This is, of course, the key process by which all life is sustained.

The actual agents in photosynthesis are "plastids"—tiny, flat bodies carrying the green substance, chlorophyll, which absorbs the sun's rays; and one of the first uses that the isotopes were put to, was the study of these plastids. It was discovered, for instance, that iron must be present at the time of their formation, as in our red blood corpuscles.

"Carbon 14"

By 1940 it had been discovered, by using an isotope of oxygen, that the oxygen which is liberated during the process of photosynthesis is derived from the water involved, and not from the carbon-dioxide. It was already known that the hydrogen of the water combines with the carbon dioxide to form sugars; but it was not until 1945, when "carbon 14" (radio-active carbon) became freely available, that this very complex process could be studied in detail.

American scientists engaged in this research have declared natural photosynthesis to be "strikingly inefficient," and have expressed an ambition that one day they may evolve methods of artificial photosynthesis by which human foodstuffs (or at any rate animal fodder) could be manufactured from inorganic materials without the intervention of plants. Of more immediate interest is their finding (also with the help of "carbon 14") that the growth hormone which causes plants to respond to the sun's rays is auxin, or indolacetic acid, one of the components of which occurs in animal excreta.

Other Isotopes Used

Much work has also been done on the utilisation of chemical fertilisers by plants, using, for example, an isotope of phosphorus as a tracer. It has been found that, while plants in their early stages of growth use phosphorus from the fertiliser placed close to the seed, they obtain an increasing proportion of their requirements from the soil as growth develops. The proportion, naturally, varies with the soil conditions. No mention is made of any tests without fertilisers, the object of this research being the more efficient use of the latter.

Another very interesting finding resulting from the use of isotopes is that plants can aborb considerable quantities of certain elements through their leaves. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, for instance, are readily absorbed and freely transported in both upward and downward directions. Calcium, strontium and barium, on the other hand, are very poorly absorbed and move slowly within the plant. The foliar application of fertilisers is now quite widely used, especially in horticulture. (It appears to be at least as artificial a practice as the application of fertilisers to the soil.)

Isotopes are also being used in entomology as markers which enable the hibernation and migration of insects to be followed. They are being used, again, to study the effect of insecticides, especially those which are systemic (i.e., enter the plant's system), and as a means of assessing spray residues. Radiation is also being tried as a direct means of control, by the sterilisation of males.

Animal Nutrition Research

In animal nutrition, a similar tracer technique is employed. Radio-active cobalt, for instance, is being used to study the utilisation of vitamin "B 12" in sheep and chickens, and radio-active calcium and phosphorus to study the formation and metabolism of bone. Incidentally, the proportion of these elements which can be assimilated by animals has been found to vary greatly according to the source from which they are derived.

Since all foodstuffs contain carbon, "carbon 14" is proving a valuable research tool for the study of the physiology of reproduction, milk secretion, egg formation, wool growth and other important processes. One of the great lessons learnt from isotope research—and this applies to human as well as animal nutrition—is that all life processes are dynamic. However stable the various structures and organs of the body appear to be, the materials of which they are composed are constantly changing. Nutrition is essentially a "flow" of materials through the whole system.

Radiation in Genetics

In genetical research, it has long been known that radiations can cause mutations (hereditable changes), but all such changes were formerly believed to be deleterious. With the different kinds of radiation now available, however, it has been found that the neutron is a selective agent in that it is absorbed by the nucleo-proteins of the chromosomes, that is, the actual carriers of the hereditable characteristics.

As a result of the close study of the gene changes thus made possible, it has been found—or at any rate, it is maintained—that not all mutations induced by radiations are harmful. Some of them, such as resistance to disease or early maturing, may be agriculturally valuable. By using radiation to multiply the number of mutations, as compared with those occurring naturally, plant geneticists can obtain a much increased stock of new material from which to breed new crop varieties with desired characteristics. It has been stated that, from 100,000 individual plants, irradiation will produce, say, 300 mutants, of which perhaps two will have some desirable characteristic.

Radiation in Food Preservation

One of the main objects of commercial food processing is to extend the storage life of foodstuffs, the word "life" being used here in a non-biological—or rather, anti-biological—sense. For this purpose, much has been expected of radiation as a sterilising or pasteurising agent for arresting the natural processes of decomposition and the development of micro-organisms connected with it, more especially in the case of meat. It is also being used experimentally as a means of preventing the sprouting of potatoes, and as a weapon against insect infestation of grain and flour. Quite apart, however, from the very serious objection that the commercial advantages are likely to be gained at the expense of nutritional properties, the irradiation of foodstuffs has been found to present at least two major problems: (a) The lower the form of life, the greater the amount of irradiation required; in the words of an American authority, "the lower in the scale of life one goes, the more radiation is needed to cause death." (b) While bacteria may be killed by this means, enzymes remain active, and these can bring about "off-flavours" and discoloration which render the food unattractive to consumers.

On this point in particular, the American report is relatively optimistic, suggesting that difficulties are likely to be overcome in the space of a few years, and that "it appears that nothing but benefits can come from success in this field for both the consumer and the economy as a whole."

Radiation Sterilisation?

A rather more realistic appreciation of the situation is provided by a special report (No. 61) on food investigation issued in 1955 by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Britain. This summarises the advantages and disadvantages of radiation sterilisation as follows:

The main advantages are:—

(i) Highly efficient inactivation of micro-organisms and other forms of life is possible.

(ii) The rise in temperature and total chemical changes are small. Raw or lightly cooked foods could, therefore, be treated.

(iii) Appreciable thicknesses of material can be treated in containers made of such diverse materials as plastic, glass or metal.

(iv) The process could readily be used for continuous operation.

The main disadvantages are:—

(i) The cost of the process cannot be assessed with accuracy. The cost of development work and initial cost of the equipment, in particular, are likely to be high.

(ii) The chemical effects produced are often deleterious and result in unpleasant flavours and loss of colour, texture and other attractive properties. They can be controlled to a great extent, but this usually adds to the complexity of the process.

(iii) Enzymes are not in general inactivated by the irradiation and frequently give rise to deleterious effects on storage, particularly in fruits and vegetables.

(iv) Chemical changes during irradiation may decrease the subsequent storage life of many products.

(v) Great difficulty must be expected in showing that any chemical changes occurring during or after irradiation do not result in the production of toxic or other harmful compounds.

(vi) The extreme lethality of the radiations towards all forms of life demands strict observance of safety precautions in operation.

Summary

Thus, of the three principal uses to which radio-activity has so far been put in connection with agriculture and food supply, it would appear from the evidence available that:

The first (radio-active isotope "tracers") has provided a research method of considerable importance in the study of natural processes involved in the nutrition of plants, animals and humans.

The second (radiation-induced mutations), while it is likely to be of great use to plant breeders, may have at the same time long-term consequences which cannot yet be foreseen, genetical inheritance being a delicate thing to tamper with.

The third (radiation as a food preservative), while it may or may not prove preferable to chemical treatment, is clearly inconsistent with the ideal of whole foods consumed with minimal loss of their vital properties. Whatever its commercial attractions, it might well become yet another hazard to human health through the misapplication of science to problems of food supply.

THE HAZARDS of FRUIT GROWING

by Major G. Allen

THE most important factor in any commercial fruit farm is the SITE; neither years of toil nor the outlay of unlimited money can make up for a badly-chosen site. The land should slope towards the south, to get as much sun and heat as possible; it should be sheltered from cold winds which damage the blossom, from autumn winds which blow off the fruit, and from salt winds which defoliate the trees; at the same time, the air-drainage must be without any obstruction.

The soil must be deep, or fairly deep, and the sub-soil free, but not too free, draining. There must be access by a good road—good enough not to shake the spraying machine and other expensive implements to pieces, and not to bruise the fruits on their journey to the packing shed. The water supply must be ample for spraying. And where is such a site to be found? The answer to that is easy, **nowhere.** The bottom of the south slope may be deep soil, but not well enough drained; sheltered, but subject to frost at blossom time. The top of the slope may be free of frost, but too exposed. Shelter from rows of trees or from woods is an insoluble puzzle.

Shelter, but Birds

It is very encouraging to walk in the sunny lee of a sheltering belt of trees and to rejoice in the vigorous growth of the young fruit trees. But it is not so encouraging to note, starting in February, the flocks of birds pecking out the buds, ruining the crop, and turning a well-budded branch into a strip of bare and unproductive wood. In June, the formations fly in over the barrage of shotguns to strip the cherries as they ripen, and in August they can be seen pecking—and thus rendering unsaleable—each exposed rosy apple as it turns colour. Furthermore, millions, literally, of caterpillars can hatch in a wood and invade an orchard; in a few hours every tree is crawling with caterpillars. Unless an outbreak of this sort is dealt with immediately, all the leaves and buds are eaten, and the trees put out of bearing for at least two years. So shelter provided by trees remains a mixed blessing.

Soft Fruits—The Advantages

Having failed to reconcile the conflicting essentials and thus been forced into the usual unsatisfactory compromise, the fruit-grower decides finally on a site, probably about half-way up the south slope. The next decision is what to plant. Soft fruits, or tree fruits, or some of both? Let us consider the advantages and disadvantages. Soft fruits are: (1) Cheap to plant, (2) come into bearing quickly, (3) easy to propagate, (4) difficult to steal, (5) cheap to cultivate. One man, one horse and a few simple and robust implements will look after a considerable area. There is no need to lock up a large capital sum in the mechanical horrors which will not start in the morning, break when they hit a stone, grind clutches (£30 upwards) into powder, have to be taxed and insured, etc., etc., and swallow the possible profit on many a farm.

The Disadvantages

The disadvantages are: (1) The uncertainty of having a fairly close market; it is often easier to grow the soft fruit than to sell it. (2) Much hand-labour, which, as wages are increased continually, irrespective of the output per man or the selling price of the fruit, may render the plantation uneconomic. This may happen to any enterprise anywhere, but soft fruit is especially vulnerable as hand-labour is the principal item in the cost of production. (3) A **large** amount of humus every year. In Kent, the normal application for strawberries, prior to planting, was 100 big horse-loads of rotted dung per acre. In the garden of my old home on the shore of Cork Harbour my father used enormous quantities of a compost made of seaweed and horse-cow manure in alternate layers. This produced the best soft fruits I have ever seen or eaten, and no sick plants, no virus, no spotted strawberry leaves, no raspberries looking as if a flame gun had been passed over them; but to manure, say, 5 acres on this scale would be quite an undertaking. (4) The difficulty of getting healthy foundation stock. The evidence is overwhelming that the breakdown in the health of so many soft-fruits is owing to their being grown in soils deficient in humus. (5) The risk of the selling price being reduced to far below the cost of production by the importation of fruit-pulp from a country like Bulgaria. Why fruit-pulp is allowed into Ireland, where soft fruits can be grown so easily and thus help to stem the tide of emigration, passes human understanding, but there it is.

Tree Fruits

Tree fruits are an entirely different enterprise. The cost of establishment is much higher, the waiting period much longer, the selection of the site and of suitable fruits to grow thereon far more difficult and the adequate water supply harder to find.

Advantages of Home-grown Tree Fruit

(1) The sugar-forming process, upon which depend the juice and flavour of any fruit, takes place at the end of the life of the fruit **only.** Therefore, the nearer a fruit is to fully ripe when it is picked, the better its juice and flavour. Ripe fruit travels badly, so imported fruits, usually very tough woody varieties grown to withstand a rough journey, must be picked long before they are ripe and **before** the sugar-forming process has even **started.** Furthermore, much imported fruit is grown in hotter climates with irrigation; this results, invariably, in a spectacular outside, and an un-eatable inside. So home-grown fruit, if picked **after** the sugar-forming process has started, will **always** be far superior in juice and flavour to imported fruit. (2) Long-cropping life. Apples and pears, 60-80 years; some fruits longer than that. (3) Tree fruits do not exhaust the soil; apples can follow apples indefinitely.

The Advantage of a Co-op.

Anyone so fortunate as to own a farm within economic distance of a Co-operative Society like Dungarvan can plant, say, 15-20 acres of, say, apples, and risk a comparatively small sum of cash. The Co-op. saves the outlay on spraying machinery, packing shed, and refrigeration. The drawbacks are: (1) Cost and difficulty of spraying, (2) Journey of fruit to packing shed and bruising, (3) Winter pruning. In Kent, there used to be a race of fruit-men, born and bred for generations on the fruit farms, who could, and would, winter-prune properly. No such labour is, as far as I know, available in Ireland. So the planter of 15-20 acres must either winter-prune himself or teach a farm-hand to do it (not always easy). Nevertheless the advantages of a Co-op. usually outweight the disadvantages.

The opinions expressed in this article are my own personal ones.

The Flight from the Land

by Lieutenant-General M. J. Costello

AT present our land is giving direct employment to about half as many people per square mile as the land of Denmark, about one-third as many as in Belgium and only one-quarter of the employment given in Holland. This is because the emphasis in Ireland is on grazing beef cattle on grass and in the other countries it is on intensive production.

The scope for increased employment lies in the production of those crops and livestock products which have a high labour requirement and for that reason alone offer an advantage so long as we continue to have plenty of young men willing and indeed anxious to farm if they can get the chance. The employment content per acre of the different forms of agricultural production could be increased considerably provided that the produce can be sold at prices which are at once profitable and competitive.

Regular Employment

It is essential to devise a combination of crops and livestock that will give regular employment throughout the year. One of the most serious defects

of the present pattern of agriculture is the uneven demand for labour, leading to much under employment as well as to peak demands with which some farmers are unable to cope.

Production Programme

It is also necessary to have diversified production for two fundamental reasons:

(1) To spread the risks of disease, weather damage and fluctuating markets.

(2) To make the most economical use of by products, e.g., skim milk to pigs (at the price which the Danes have been paying, for our dried skim it is worth 6d. a gallon on the farm for pig feeding), beet tops to cows and other cattle, surplus whole milk to calves, poultry to glean the stubbles, pigs to consume waste potatoes and household swill.

This programme is not a new one. Its main principles are expressed in the slogan: "One more cow, one more sow, and one more acre under the plough." It is not the case that this programme has been tried and failed, but simply that it has not yet been tried with the full backing of all the forces needed to make any farming programme successful.

The Market—Two Important Questions

It is, of course, a condition of expansion that the additional products be sold at a profit. There are two questions here, firstly, whether there is a market at all, and, secondly, whether we can sell competitively in that market

As to the first, the figures of total consumption, not merely total imports, in England show the immense possibilities.

As to the second, the answer is that our best farmers can do so to-day and could do better with more co-operation in production and with marketing arrangements as good as those of our competitors.

If it be pointed out that there is no future for butter and bacon on the British market because prices there are uneconomic, the answer is that these prices are also uneconomic to the bigger producers, Denmark and New Zealand. Why should it be assumed that the economic laws of supply and demand, so highly respected in academic quarters, will not operate in this matter? Why should it be assumed that the New Zealanders can or will continue indefinitely to sell butter at a loss? If, with our climatic and geographical advantage we cannot compete with them, or, if a 10 per cent. tariff advantage over Danish bacon is not enough for us, what chance have we in the field of industrial exports based on imported raw materials? I think we have a good chance in the latter case by reason of our advantage in the matter of labour, but a very much better one in all processed farm products which suit our soil and climate, and are better adapted to the family farm than the industrial one. These are the very products which make a big demand for labour and are, therefore, becoming scarcer in England and especially in the U.S.A. They are the products we should concentrate on.

Production and Consumption Prospects

On the long term prospects (and only long term views are important in agriculture) the following are the estimates of the United Nations Organisation of the increases required in production of the chief groups of farm produce if the estimated world population in 1960 were to be adequately fed:

	Per cent. increase	Million metric tons increase
Fruit & Vegetables	163	254
Milk	100	150
Meat	46	30
Fats & Oils ...	34	5.2
Cereals	21	63
Sugar	12	3.6

Another highly significant fact is that the world population is now increasing at the rate of 30 millions a year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that over the next twenty years the American demand for farm products will increase by 50 per cent. This will probably lead to American imports of vast quantities of the products which the family farm can best produce.

Domestic Industrial Employment

Lastly, the best custombe the Irish farmer has is his fellow Irishman at home who buys as much from him as 16 Englishmen. Those very agricultural products which seem vital to the economy of the small farmer are precisely those which can give most employment in processing and transport, and in the provision of the materials which the farmer must buy in order to produce them. These are the industries in which we have or should have most natural advantages. Thev are also those which can be located in western and other rural areas with advantage, instead of handicap, if local farm production be increased. For example, the sugar industry has a turnover of about £14 million, a wage bill of over £1 million, pays £1 million to various carriers and nearly £1 million for other Irish goods, and it is based on 84,000 acres of beet.

From Rainwater to Packaged Proteins

By J. M. Gorman

THERE are hopeful signs that the long-awaited expansion in our agriculture is now well on its way. Among farmers themselves there is evidence of a new enthusiasm, a greater degree of self-reliance and a firmer belief in their ability to manage their own affairs. During the past decade, quite striking advances have been made in many directions, standards of all kinds have been raised and we feel that we can look forward to the future with confidence.

Nature has endowed our country with exceptional and inexhaustible natural resources on which to build our agricultural industry. Our progress and ultimate success will depend largely on how intelligently we exploit these resources. We must, therefore, try to find out as much as we can about them and learn to understand how they may be most effectively utilised.

Most of the technical side of farming is concerned with the growing of crops. It is a primary activity on all farms. Consequently, a knowledge of the major factors which influence plant growth in any area, country or region is of the highest importance. Of all the factors that influence plant growth, those which added up constitute the climate, outweigh and override all others. It is the climate of a place that determines what plants will grow there at all, whether the plants thrive or not being dependent on soil and other factors. Few people, I believe, even yet appreciate how bountifully we, as farmers, have in this country been endowed by Nature with gifts of climate — a generous and well-distributed rainfall (which no subsidy could provide or any scheme of irrigation be a substitute for) and moderate temperatures — for both of which we have to thank our insular position and the genial influence of the Atlantic Ocean. Humid summers and mild winters (rarely are we snow- or frost-bound for any length of time) produce in sheltered places a vegetation almost tropical in luxuriance.

The natural vegetation of Ireland, at all event of those parts of the land surface with which we are here particularly concerned, viz., the land now devoted to farming, was formerly covered to a large extent by forest, oak and ash mainly, together with hazel, birch, alder and other shrubs which, with the trees, now persist mainly in the hedgerows or in woods and plantations. We do not find, certainly in the lowlands, any truly natural climatic grassland such as is found in all the continents and represented in North America by the prairies, in S. Russia by the steppes, and in South Africa by the veld. Our grasslands are artificial, man-made, and if they were not maintained in their present condition by grazing and mowing would rapidly turn to scrub and ultimately, if let alone, revert to forest. Indeed, it can be something of a problem to keep the hedges from encroaching and to keep out of our old pastures volunteering brambles, briars, furze, thorn bushes and even tree seedlings. The natural grasslands of the world are found only in dry climates where the rainfall is low, the rate of evaporation high and consequently the amount of water available in the soil for plant growth falls short of what is required to support trees. It is quite obvious that we in Ireland are much more happily situated for farming. Blessed with a climate fit to grow deciduous forest, is it any wonder we can grow grass so well? Nor is it surprising that when we go about it the right way, we are able to obtain enormous yields of dry matter from crops which have the capacity to deal with large amounts of water — mangolds, beet, turnips, cabbage, kale, potatoes, ryegrass and the various legumes, peas, beans, clover, lucerne and others.

Plant physiologists have long been interested in the question of the ratio of the weight of dry matter produced by crop plants to the weight of the water required for the process. This is obviously a matter of much practical interest in dry climates and, therefore, as might be expected, much of the research work on the subject has been carried out by American and Russian investigators searching for drought-resisting types. One of the earliest workers in this field was Hellriegel, whose results were published in 1883. In the crop plants which he studied he found the ratio to be approximately 1 : 300; that is to say, for every ton of dry matter produced, 300 tons of water were required—it will be recalled that 100 tons of water over an acre is the equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall. The Americans found such figures as for potato 500-650, cabbage 520, rape 700, beet 380 units of water consumed per unit of dry matter produced. For any particular crop the figure varies somewhat widely according to the climatic conditions. The chief point of interest emerging from this work is that the production of a ton of dry matter per acre involves the consumption of anything from 4 to 7 inches of rainfall. If, therefore, we take, say, 20 tons of ryegrass and clover (20% dry matter) off an acre in, say, three silage cuts we may safely take it that 20 inches or more of the rainfall has been consumed by the crop. Needless to say, where the output of dry matter is very small as, for instance, in the case of over-grazed, low-grade pasture, only a small fraction of the rainfall is utilised, the bulk of the water flowing more or less uselessly away. Incidentally, if we could double, say, the dry matter output over our land surface as a whole by means of crops, improved grasslands, and greatly extended afforestation, the volume of water carrying its burden of solutes and suspended matter to the sea would be substantially reduced which would help considerably towards the solution of some at least of our leaching, erosion, and drainage problems— a highly desirable result but after all secondary to our main interest, which is the exploitation of our very superior climatic advantages for the future development of our agriculture.

At present our agriculture is not geared to high production. Less than 30 per cent. of our statistical 11½ million acres of agricultural land is utilised for tillage crops, and leys of five years and under. The remainder, between 70 and 80 per cent., is permanent grassland — old pastures and old meadows. Little of this grassland has been tilled within the last century and very little indeed of it has received any fertiliser. Over much of it the output is wretchedly low. Just before the last war, Stapledon and Davies carried out a grassland survey of England and Wales. They found that 80 per cent. of the pastures fell into their third and fourth grades in which the swards were dominated by bent grass (Agrostis) a low-yielding, unpalatable, poverty-tolerant species. We have not had a detailed survey in this country nor is it urgently required, for it is only too obvious to the observant grass-conscious traveller, especially at this season of the year, that 80 per cent. or more of our pastures, in spite of the improvements which have been made in the past couple of decades, are still composed to a great degree of the ubiquitous bent grass. It is this old grassland which offers the widest scope for improvement. There are about 8 million acres of it, ranging in quality from finishing pastures (a small proportion of the whole), through moderate store cattle and dairy pasture, down to those which are almost entirely unproductive.

That spectacular improvements can be wrought in this old grassland is constantly being demonstrated. Again, because of our climate, improvement is rapid. Lime, fertilisers, weed control, and improved grazing management will often more than double the output of palatable herbage within a couple of seasons. The most critical part of the business is the management and often because of lack of knowledge, the benefits which ought to accrue from the soil treatment are largely lost. Grazing and other management operations must be directed towards the suppression of unpalatable species and the encouragement of the better pasture types: this implies some system of rotational grazing. Grassland improvement can be quite a costly undertaking, though subsidies for lime, fertilisers and drainage do much to help.

Money spent on it, however, is in the nature of a capital investment. It is an outlay on raw materials for processing into a marketable product. The return on the capital in any particular case will depend on the type of livestock enterprise operated and on the skill and efficiency of the stockman and, of course, on the state of the market. Costings carried out in various parts of Ireland during the past couple of decades have shown that grass consumed as pasture costs one-quarter to one-fifth as much as purchased concentrates of equivalent nutrient value. Real grass, grown on properly treated soil and properly managed, is a truly high-grade protein-rich (18% of the dry matter) cattle food. It is a perfect summer feed for rearing young stock, for milk and meat production. Legume-rich young swards preserved as silage will provide cheap proteins for winter. Our own protein foods represented chiefly by lean meats of all kinds—beef, mutton, lamb, poultry, bacon, pork (also milk and cheese) are the costliest items in the household budget. They are essential for proper nutrition, but on account of their cost as compared with fatty, starchy and sugary foods they are often deficient in diets where families are big and incomes small. In the world at large, protein foods are scarce and dear. Furthermore, as standards of living rise and the population of the world grows, the demand for proteins increases. The market is always expanding. Competition for this valuable market becomes more intense. Quality, price, attractive packaging, presentation, advertising, marketing, services, all play their part. We start with many natural advantages, including relatively cheap raw materials, a climate uniquely favourable for livestock production and proximity to the market. It is now up to us. Can we pack proteins and more proteins?

Berlin: Cause or Symptom?

SAMUEL KNOX-CUNNINGHAM
Ulster Unionist M.P. for South Antrim

On May 8 this year, West Berliners will be celebrating, or at least marking, the tenth anniversary of the lifting of the historic Berlin blockade of 1948-49. Exultation, however, will doubtless be tempered with realism, for three weeks later, on May 27th, the "proposals"—amounting to a notice to quit—contained in the Soviet Government's Note to the Western Powers of November last are due to take effect.

To many, history seems to be repeating itself; the prospect of another tense struggle of nerves and resources, as in the days of the famous airlift, looms ahead, casting a sinister shadow over the memory of that victory.

The similarities between the two Berlin crises are, however, superficial; closer examination reveals profound and encouraging differences. The Berlin blockade of 1948 was a calculated, deliberate attempt by the Soviet leaders to add a crowning achievement to their unparalleled success story of post-war empire building; half a dozen east European countries had already been drawn as by a magnet into their orbit, and the great states of Western Europe, still weak and unstable from the effects of war, were oscillating uncertainly between the two poles of American and Soviet influence. There was no Federal Government in West Germany, no German army, no N.A.T.O.; Marshall Aid had scarcely begun to flow and Communist parties in certain Western European countries had shown remarkable gains. Furthermore, the West, generally weak in relation to Soviet power, was at no point weaker than in Berlin. Here, they were as an island set in a hostile sea; conditions were nowhere more favourable for the Soviet power to demonstrate publicly and convincingly its superiority; success here would sound as a knell across Europe.

But to-day there has been a change; with the advent of Western strength, unity and economic recovery—to all of which, in later years, Britain has made a notable contribution—it is in eastern Europe, amongst the Soviet satellites, that weakness and instability have made their appearance. The rôle of Berlin has, by a stroke of irony, been reversed. "Berlin," said Mr. Dulles, a week before his recent illness, "is a spot within the Communist world that everybody sees, and it is one of the most exciting, dramatic exhibits of freedom that I think can be imagined." Berlin, the ostensible symbol of Soviet success, can no more be placed out of bounds to Communist visitors than the tomb of Lenin; yet, on reaching it, they find there the glittering shop-window of the West.

The Western presence in the city has then to-day become a symbol of freedom—of an alternative and manifestly attractive way of life—set in the midst of a sea of tyranny; significantly it was the scene of the first of the spontaneous uprisings against Communist oppression which were later to be repeated in Poland and Hungary. For these reasons it is, in its present status, a painful thorn in Soviet flesh, and it is against this background that the Soviet demarche must be assessed.

Just as the significance of Berlin to-day differs from that which pertained ten years ago, so any Soviet attempt to change the status quo is likely to differ. If, for example, the Soviet Government avoided a clash of arms in 1948, when militarily their advantage was overwhelming, they are probably likely to avoid one in the circumstances of to-day. Indeed, there is evidence that they are anxious to avoid even such a war of nerves as might be occasioned by a second airlift; for not only have they been careful to give the West six months' notice of their proposed action—six months in which stocks in West Berlin can be built up—but the notice expires in the spring, an unpropitious season for would-be blockaders, since the need for bulky commodities such as coal has by then tailed off. If further evidence were needed, Mr. Mikoyan supplied it in the conciliatory tone of his references to the Berlin "ultimatum" whilst visiting the United States.

If then the Soviet Government's ultimatum over Berlin is one which they do not appear determined to press, what is their object?

Their object appears to be the same as in 1948—the elimination of the Western "presence" in Berlin—but with a difference. Success in 1949 was sought as the first fruits of a further process of westward expansion, whereas to-day the object is, in the short-term at least, more static and negative. The Soviet Government see little immediate prospect of advance in Western Europe; their greatest need is to consolidate their satellite empire eastward and to eliminate kinks in the Iron Curtain. Berlin in its present status is the most irritating of such kinks.

If the strategic balance of advantage in the present Berlin situation lies with the West, the Soviet Government are undoubtedly better placed tactically, and their advantage here should not be underestimated. Their avowed intention, for example, to hand over their responsibilities to the East German regime and to withdraw from Berlin has, by clever propaganda, been presented as a generous gesture calling for a like response from the West; a hand-over to the East Germans would place the West in the humiliating position of being in Berlin on suffrance of a subordinate, puppet regime which they refuse to recognise; whilst to recognise the East German regime would be almost as great a gain to the Communists as a Western withdrawal from Berlin. Furthermore, in waging a war of nerves (at which they are adept) they can play upon fears of nuclear warfare not present in 1948, whilst the West are at a disadvantage in having to make the first positive move in a situation of blockade.

The Soviet Government have used their advantage to precipitate a conference on Berlin on the most favourable possible terms to themselves, and will do all they can to limit discussions to that one topic. The West, however, are also in a position to state their terms, for their position in Berlin derives from their contribution to the defeat of Germany, so that legally their withdrawal should take place only in the context of a German Peace Treaty. A German Peace Treaty is inconceivable without the creation, in some shape or form, of a united Germany; and to end the division of Germany is to determine, once and for all, which of the contending parties is to gain the allegiance of a state which, after 12 years of peace, is potentially the richest and most powerful in Europe. The next few months, therefore, are likely to be amongst the most crucial and decisive in post-war years.

LOOK BACK IN ANGER

Jimmy Porter has lost contact with any reality. He even distrusts the reality of the love between himself and his wife. He is suspicious of this love, so that his wife does not tell him that she is pregnant, fearing that he will construe this as some sort of a trap. He distrusts the reality of their love in another more complex way—his wife has never had a baby. She becomes for him almost a representative, almost at one with the frustration, the hopelessness which is devouring his manhood—a symbol of the emptiness, the fruitfulness, the aridity of his twentieth century. So he lashes out desperately at his wife. This restlessness, this frustration of a man out of touch with his reality are admirably portrayed by David Shillington. Jimmy wants to achieve so much: he wants to live in a world where there are some causes left to die for; he is, in fact, running a sweet business in the English Midlands and is aware that even death in this atomic age is an inglorious, momentary agony produced by the impersonal flick of a switch.

We might say that Cliff is in touch with his reality—we might even say he represents his reality. His limited intellect is satisfied with his lot; we can see Jimmy's delight in wrestling with Cliff—here is the reality of physical contact. However, Cliff is more than reality—he is understanding: he has an instinctive realisation of the lack of any balance in Jimmy's life and the resultant misery in Alison's life. He realises Jimmy's need and Alison's because of his own spiritual maturity. Thus Cliff should be intellectually unsubtle, yet genial, sensitive and understanding. This Wm. Porter is.

Alison is in love with Jimmy. She can find self-fulfilment in her love, but eventually Jimmy's taunts drive her from him. She understands her husband's sickness and when she returns to him she has realised that the only reality in her life was her love for Jimmy, so that she must return to him. When Jimmy is eventually reconciled to her, we may say that he has been made to realise at least one reality in his life—the reality of this love between himself and his wife. As Matthew Arnold says:

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another; For the world . . . .
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggles and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

But Jimmy's problem—the problem of modern society—remains unsolved.

David Shillington as Jimmy Porter, Wm. Porter as Cliff Lewis and Marie Geoghegan as Alison express this comment on part of our society convincingly. Outdated society is represented by her father, Kenneth Brayden, who is rather bewildered by this modern problem and for whom happiness centres in a dream which died with Victorian England. The link between the old and the new—the girl with the Victorian "Weltanschauung" and the modern desires—is Helena Charles (Audrey Murray). Neither of these last two fused quite so well into the dramatic entity.

This is the first production of "Look Back in Anger" by any amateur group in the world. The production and acting are stimulating. Congratulations to Mr. Louis Lentin and Mr. John Jay. This visit to the St. James's Gate Drama Group's production of "Look Back in Anger" was a worthwhile experience.

Well-known Critic in the Bear-pit

Mr. Anthony Hartley, literary critic of the "Manchester Guardian," has been described as an "educationalist and humourist." That he is a scholar with a wide knowledge and concept of literature is shown by his editing within the last year two collections of French poetry from the 19th and 20th centuries for the Penguin series (collections which have been put on the Trinity course even before the second one has been published). That he is a patient and painstaking man is obvious, as he himself explains the difficulty of compiling an anthology of modern poetry when there has been no time for posterity to form a judgment of its comparative merits and it is extensively hard even to obtain copies of the poems. That he is also a clear and interesting speaker was evident to the large audience which gathered to hear him speak on French poetry in the Museum Building "Bear-pit" last Thursday.

Mr. Hartley's talk covered a general survey of 20th century poetry in France, dealing with the principal differences between that written before and that after 1914, which he said was a turning point in its development. He pointed out the influences on the French literature at that time and spoke of many individual poets and their relationships to one another. He also said a little about the difficulties facing a foreigner who wishes to understand modern French poetry, mentioning amongst other things the current trend (particularly confusing in a foreign language) of poems which deal with many images and thoughts that run at a tangent from the principal theme without actually mentioning it at all.

To conclude the meeting the Chairman, Professor Arnould, called on Dr. Conor O'Brien, who writes under the pen-name of Donal O'Donnell and has previously spoken memorably at Trinity, and Dr. Sheehy-Skeffington, who managed to say a few words before rushing off to cast his vote in the now historic P.R. division in Seanad Eireann.

Letter from Cambridge

The feature which best typifies Trinity life is the cobbled expanse of Front Square. This is the hub of College life, a place where one can find anybody in particular or equally well nobody in particular, where one can stand and talk or just stand and wait.

The Trinity man in Cambridge looks in vain for the counterpart of Front Square. *The Cambridge courts, with* their carefully tended lawns and flagged paths, provide a pleasant and secluded front garden for their handful of residents, or a suitably picturesque sight for tourists, but they provide little else. To find the characteristic best typifying *Cambridge life, we must seek elsewhere.* It seems to me that this is best found at five to nine any week-day morning, when the streets of Cambridge are filled with a rushing, interweaving, chaotic horde of cyclists, gowns billowing out behind, all determined to be in time for *their non-compulsory nine o'clock lecture.*

Rush and determination—how different from life in Dublin—are these two typifying features of the Cambridge undergraduate. To an Irishman who is proud of the easy-going nature of his countrymen, this may be attributed to *national differences in temperament.* This is largely true, but is not, I feel, the whole answer. The large percentage of English students in Trinity does not change its essential character because taken away from his natural environment the Englishman easily fits into a *new system. The environment provided* by Cambridge, in every field highly competitive, with no room for the just average person, must be accepted as largely responsible for its highly geared way of life. On average, for every place offered, there are a dozen applicants for *admission to the University. This means* that with the exception of a small number of places reserved for those of outstanding sporting ability, or sons of influential parents, admission to Cambridge is restricted to specialist students and only the very brightest of *these can hope to be accepted. Although* probably unavoidable, this restriction to a particular class of student is, I feel, regrettable. It necessarily introduces a narrowness to the University life which, fortunately, does not as yet affect us in Dublin. It is a privilege of the student at *Trinity to mix among ordinary people, to live with non-specialists, for* whom our pass course still caters, and above all to be able to enter into the many-sidedness of university education viewed as a liberal training to fit us to go out into the world, rather than as a production line for highly trained *specialists.*

This contact with experts in every field which Cambridge provides, this highly powered intellectual atmosphere, is undoubtedly most stimulating and con-

ducive to serious study. And for Cambridge to maintain the academic standards which it does, such a system is *probably necessary. The advantages* must, however, be counterbalanced by their consequent disadvantages.

Cambridge and Dublin are examples of two different ways of life whose essential characteristics I have tried to compare. It would be wrong to judge *one against the other, because obviously* much depends on the temperament and the aspirations of the individual. But we can be sure that we have in Trinity a way of life which is in no sense inferior to that of our sister university and one which may indeed promote a broadness of outlook less likely to be found in the more restricted and more specialised Cambridge system.

DAVID SPEARMAN

FOUR & SIX

I arrive at the party thrown by Miss **Lisa McKenna,** a bright, voluble girl who has gathered together a crowd of guys and dolls. Factually, **Serena Crammond** making great play with the eyelash routine looks under said adjuncts at **Patrick Keith Cameron,** a tall guy with a smooth line in speech. An attractive Spanish female whose name escapes *me has hold of* **Tony Hickey** *and* **Clive Mumford.** On the whole, **Clive** lasts the most rounds and does not appear to pull any punches. **Tony** goes back to **Judith. Teach-Teach Stack,** a guy with more hair on his face than even **Morgue Dockrell,** talks earnestly to coronet-*swinger* **Nick Tolstoy,** *but later* **Nick** *is* found sitting by a short, very attractive gal called **Sue Gregory,** while **Richard** is less earnest with **Penny Gibbon,** a doll who acts. **Robin,** known to his friends as "tall, fair and handsome," is with **Marion.**

An another day stags **Pooler Leeman** and **Alan Lucas** are heard singing quaint ballads (from Ireland). Can this really be the Liz. inaugural reception?

I suffer a great blow to my prestige when I am not invited to party given by **Harriet Chance, Betty Evans** and **Jennifer Cronin.** So, as ever, being unwilling to rely on secondhand info, will remind trio that I suppose hooch good and also conversation.

In an effort to get over *this sadness* I creep into swell drugstore full of bright students. In a corner **Omar El Badis** is eyeing a beautiful, name of **Frances Wylie Graham**—the girl who sends everyone. Pity she doesn't know some of the new pseudos in College. I hear a dame called **Eleanor** yelling about something or other—gather she's a new girl. Somebody tells me I must mention **Mike Bogdin,** but I prefer to watch **James Graham** trying out a conversation. Some character. Through the window I see **Guy Milner,** so healthy-looking he needs no coffee at all. He never knows where all these parties are. Nor for that matter does a pal called **Eccles Gibbons**—*guess he gets more fun* in the Reading Room. And that's where I must go—so in the lingo of the old Romans—"Vale."

"BI." MEETINGS

The Hilary term's meetings of the "Bi" began with a paper by Mr. J. Heward Thompson — "Richard Bright, a Centenary Appreciation." Professor J. H. Widdess arranged a small exhibition of books of historical interest to illustrate this paper. The meeting also included an outstandingly lucid account of the treatment of acute renal failure by Mr. A. Walshe, F.R.C.S.I.

In the succeeding meeting, Mr. G. F. Henry gave an account of the surgery of intermittent claudication, whilst Mr. *A. Tomkin succeeded in the almost* impossible task of producing a genuinely amusing paper on a medical topic (his *eight weeks as a resident student in* Guy's Hospital).

Another unusual and stimulating paper was Mr. H. B. Smith's account of the "Pathology of Genius," which formed another "double bill" with an exhibit of a case of Motor Neurone *disease, very ably presented by Mr. A.* O. Williams. Indeed, the standard of *preparation and presentation of all the* papers read during the term has been unusually high.

Last Monday, February 23rd, Mr. J. H. Thompson read a paper on "Subarachnoid Haemorrhage," to which Mr. P. C. Carey, M.Ch., of the Richmond Hospital's *Neurosurgical Department, spoke. This* meeting also included several films, including one of pre-medical interest, and one on "Marrow Puncture," which had a similarly witty presentation to the film on "Venepuncture" which gave rise to much interest and amusement when it *was shown last year.*

In the last two years the custom has grown up of inviting a guest speaker to address a special meeting of the Association during Trinity term. It is hoped to continue the practice this year and in addition the Society will act as hosts *for an inter-debate with the equivalent* societies of the other Dublin medical schools.

Medical students may also be interested to hear that the British Medical Students' Association will be holding a Clinical Conference in Belfast from *18th to 21st March.*

Chess

PROGRESS SATISFACTORY ?

by "One of the Pieces"

There has been so much activity in the Chess Club this term that we haven't had time to acquaint our readers with the progress. One of the Pawns tried to make amends last week, but got his facts rather confused. That's the way with these Pawns. *Anyhow, the* "A" team, playing in the Ennis Shield competition, have beaten U.C.D., Dublin and *Sackville.*

The match with Kevin Barry "B" was drawn because W. E. D. Alexander's adjourned game had not been properly analysed. Last Friday night they met Kevin Barry "A." D. G. Cochrane and N. A. Rowe lost on boards two and three and the other four games were adjourned. To win this competition, Trinity must win or draw this match.

The "B" team, playing in the O'Hanlon Tournament, have beaten T.C.D. "C," Phibsboro, Dublin "C," U.C.D. "B," Dun Laoghaire and Kevin Barry "C." They meet U.C.D. "A" on Saturday, and the only other undefeated team, Eoghan Ruadh "A," on Friday, March 6th. For best performance we must mention J. A. Lutton and B. Hannon.

The "C" team have not done so well with only two wins. The best performance on this team has been given by the *captain,* M. Robinson, and by A. Bonar-Law.

RECORDS

The Gramophone Society has done remarkably well this session. Since last October it has acquired over 70 new members. The majority of these are *Junior Freshmen,* and this is probably because persons of a higher standing were frightened away by the previous headquarters in the Choral Society *which* were somewhat inadequate.

The Society, under the direction of Russell Telfer, Peter Haley-Dunne and *Nick Carey,* has been presenting interesting concerts of rare or infrequently performed works, and the aims of the Society become *progressively more* ambitious. Later this term, Peter Hinchcliffe is to give a talk on "Nunow on Record," and this promises to draw a large audience.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

THOMAS P. O'NEILL, M.A., F.L.A.I., *Assistant Keeper of Printed Books*

The National Library of Ireland owes its origin, as do many of our national institutions, such as the Museum, College of Art and Botanical Gardens, to the Royal Dublin Society. When that body was founded in 1731, one of its first decisions was to establish a library. In 1877 that library was handed over to the State and became the nucleus of the National Library of Ireland. Since it became the National Library it has been the policy of successive librarians to collect every book relating to Ireland, printed in Ireland or written by an Irishman. Also it has been part of the policy followed in the selection of books to purchase a representative collection of the best books on every subject. In pursuing this policy, the library has been assisted, since 1927, by the operation of a copyright law under which a copy of every item published in the State has to be presented. Also by the fact of the State's membership of international organisations, the library has become a deposit library for the publications of such bodies as U.N.O., U.N.E.S.C.O., F.A.O. Among its collections is a set of the League of Nations' publications. Also the official documents, reports and other works of the British Government and a great number of those of the United States are taken by the library, which also takes some seven hundred periodicals and newspapers. The newspaper collection is extremely valuable for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The department of manuscripts has developed and expanded greatly in recent decades. It contains about 10,000 volumes of bound manuscripts (including nearly 1,000 in Irish) and a large quantity of deeds and unbound items. The Ormond papers from Kilkenny Castle are of particular importance for seventeenth century history, and the William Smith O'Brien papers are valuable for the nineteenth. Papers of Lord Lieutenants, such as the Duke of Richmond, stand shoulder to shoulder with those of patriots such as James Fintan Lalor and Lord Edward Fitzgerald. The early novels in the handwriting of George Bernard Shaw and the manuscripts of "The Portrait of the Artist" may be found with the thirteenth century description of Ireland by Giraldus Cambrensis. The variety of the collection is enhanced by the acquisition of microfilms of manuscripts in other libraries. The British Museum, Lambeth Palace Library, Oxford and Cambridge and many other places in Britain have manuscripts of great importance for Irish historians. So also have the libraries in Paris, Madrid and Rome. From all over Europe, microfilm copies of manuscripts have been obtained and research, which was not possible previously without expensive foreign travel, has been put within the reach of people in Dublin.

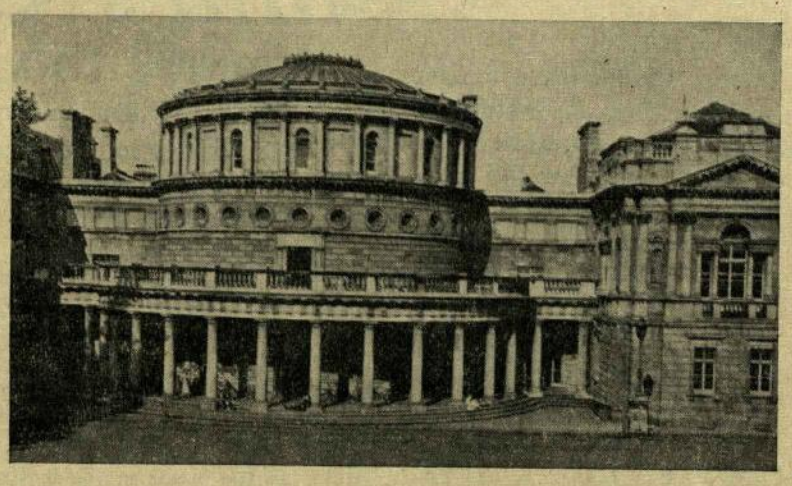
A good collection of maps, ranging from the sixteenth century to the present day, is maintained and the section devoted to prints and drawings contains some 70,000 items. Many of these are portraits of Irishmen on engravings of Irish scenes of which there are published catalogues. There are also pictures of Irish life and history and a number of caricatures in the collection. In this department also is a unique collection of photographic negatives, about 250,000 of them, acquired from old firms of photographers, including Lawrence of Dublin and Poole of Waterford.

The description of the contents of the library gives some idea of its value for readers. In general, readers must be interested in advanced work before being granted facilities to use the library. Those engaged in literary or historical research will find it essential to make use of the facilities provided. A general catalogue arranged under authors' names and titles of societies and periodicals is maintained in the Reading Room, and also there is a subject index. The Reading Room is open each week-day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., except on Saturdays when it closes at 1 p.m.

Specialist bibliographies are prepared by the staff of the library and include Dr. R. I. Best's bibliographies of Irish literature and philology; Dr. R. J. Hayes's "Clár-litridheacht na nua-Ghaedhilge"; James Carty's bibliographies of Irish history covering the years 1870 to 1921, and Miss Rosalind Elmer's catalogues of the portraits and topographical prints in the prints and drawings collection. The library staff have also prepared lists of periodicals taken in Dublin libraries which have been of great value to students wishing to locate copies of journals which they wished to consult. A major scheme of a national bibliography is at present being undertaken and when it is completed it will be a combined catalogue of all printed and manuscript records of Ireland, including periodical articles.

The library provides also a photographic service which includes photostat, microfilm and photographic processes. This makes available to students outside of Dublin copies of documents which they cannot otherwise use. The Genealogical Office in Dublin Castle, which is a department of the National Library, has a large collection of genealogical manuscripts and a heraldic museum. This office, which was formerly the Office of Arms, grants coats of arms and arranges for genealogical searches, for which there is a set scale of fees.

Over the years many students have stood on the steps of the National Library and discussed the research and reading. Perhaps one of the most famous was James Joyce, who has immortalised one such conversation in "Ulysses." As other generations of research workers pass, they contribute to the great tradition which the library and its readers have built up in its history.



The main front of the National Library
—Photo courtesy of Bord Failte Eireann

This Concerns You

"Common Sense and Nuclear Warfare."
By Bertrand Russell. 3/6 from any bookshop.

This book should be read by anyone who wants to stay alive, which presumably means you.

Your life is threatened; what are you doing about it?

This may seem an extreme statement, but it is provable. Bertrand Russell aims to prove it and, whatever other faults we may find in his philosophy in general, we cannot consider him likely to be panicked into making logical fallacies. He uses facts from official sources as far as possible when he is demonstrating his argument. Thus:—

—From the National Planning Association of America's pamphlet: "1970 Without Arms Control; Implications of Modern Weapon Technology":—

"... not only does the danger of war remain a possibility, but the probability totalled over time increases, becoming a certainty if sufficient time elapses without succeeding in finding alternatives."

—Also referring to "Estimate of probable casualties in the United States made by the Federal Civil Defence Administration (F.C.D.A.):—

"This statement considers what would be likely to happen if nuclear weapons having a combined yield of 2,599 megatons were dropped on the United States. Taking the population as that of 1950 — namely, 151 million — they estimate that, on the first day, 36 million would be dead and 57 million injured, and that by the sixtieth day (from the same bomb) there would be 72 million dead and 21 million injured, leaving 58 million uninjured. Mr. Dulles's own Government made this estimate and we must therefore suppose that it would regard such an outcome as constituting a victory provided the number of Russian dead were even larger ...."

There are two comments to be made on this. Firstly, that figures by themselves mean very little and, secondly, that this is very strong talk for a man who is respected the world over as a thinker and acclaimed even by his adversaries. Such a man would not risk his reputation for some mere fad or trifle. He must have a very good reason for it. The temptation is to repeat his argument verbatim and add comments. However, this would only confuse the issue. The arguments are clearly stated for all to see, my aim is to give reasons why you should look at them.

Firstly figures. Figures become more meaningful if they are related to actual experience. The figures given by the F.C.D.A. above mean very little in terms of human lives. They can be given slightly more meaning by the following:

Suppose you were to walk into College and find all the other students slaughtered; their bodies thrown together in a heap in Front Square. We can just picture this heap if we think of the number of people on Buffet and the number of people in No. Six together with those who eat elsewhere. We can form some sort of idea about the size of the pile. The pile of corpses at Hiroshima would have been twenty times greater. The atom bomb which fell on Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945, killed 410,000 people. The hydrogen bomb in the F.C.D.A. report would kill 170 times that figure. Here again ideas about size become vague.

Many people in Ireland sit optimisticly on the outside of all this destruction and hope that neutrality will protect them. Nothing could be further from the truth. "The damage to neutral countries may be as high as 5-10 per cent. of that suffered by belligerents." This does not include embryonic and neo-natal deaths or defective children.

For this reason and for the sake of the emigrants, people living in Ireland cannot afford to ignore the situation. The danger to you and your family is very great.

Migratory Changes

Dr. J. Desmond Smyth, Professor of Experimental Biology and Professor in charge of the Zoology Dept., is leaving next week for Australia to take up a similar post as Head of the Zoology Dept. of Canberra University.

Prof. Smyth has been engaged primarily in research for a number of years, and his departure means that a new Prof. of Zoology will be appointed soon to take charge of the Zoology Department's work.

Prof. J. Brontë Gatenby, Prof. of Zoology, who has also been engaged in research work for the last four or five years, has now been appointed to a special research chair in Cytology.

Two Unionists and Unionism

Last Tuesday our information on two unionists was increased. The first of these, Mr. J. Hunter, Auditor of the History Society, was reading his Inaugural Address — about the second, "Carson the Creator." Mr. Hunter's paper was a good one; it was very unfortunate indeed that the usual courtesies paid to it by the speakers were unnecessarily platitudinous. The essayist was a unionist, and clearly an admirer of Carson. We were told he had tremendous moral courage, making him a frequent party rebel at Westminster, and his career was traced gloriously from the platforms of the Belfast shipyards through the House of Lords to his bronze statue in front of that grandiose monument to the nadir of our architectural progress, Stormont. Biased—prejudiced—it may have been, but it was painstaking and well delivered, and it created that impression, even in one hostile to its spirit, which sincerity can never fail to make. But with the contributions of the speakers to the paper (Professor McCracken of Londonderry, Professor Mansergh of Cambridge, and Professor Moody in the Chair), some more critical points were to emerge. Firstly, Carson may have been a creator, but he created by accident—he didn't work for a separate Ulster with Home Rule, but for a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Professor Mansergh suggested that the real creator was Bonar Law — Carson took action (like the Duc D'Orleans) as he might take a bath—he shut his eyes and jumped in. The result was perhaps that by saving six counties to the United Kingdom he lost Ireland to the Commonwealth. Secondly, he was the most reactionary of conservatives in English politics — hardly a sign of great moral courage, or even of high political intelligence. Professor McCracken and Professor Moody both hastened to efface the effects of the more objectionable parts of the paper — the ridiculous account of the 1916 Rising, the gross underestimation of all Southern Irish leaders except Redmond ("Jim Larkin and his Dublin roughs"), and the failure to realise that rule of gun was as much the fault of Ulster as anywhere else. Professor Moody concluded by pointing out that the useless Convention of 1917 met where the present meeting was being held — in the Regent House — a final stimulus in a stimulating evening.

SPORTS NEWS

Rugby 1st XV

A VERY NEAR THING

Trinity Outplayed for most of Game

D.U., 5; Instonians, 3.

RARELY have the Trinity 1st XV left College Park with a luckier win behind them. In the game last Saturday afternoon, Instonians were on top all the way through, playing far superior rugby, until in the very last minute when H. O'Connor broke across the line near the posts and A. Reid-Smith converted.

This game, not the most spectacular by any means seen in the Park this season, will be remembered mainly for its one-sidedness. The play was invariably in the Trinity half and only the weakness of Instonians' centres prevented them from romping home to victory.

The continual defensive play that Trinity was forced to adopt resulted in R. McMullen, upon whose future many hopes are pinned, displaying his very talented game as full-back. His cool and unhurried manner, gathering at the feet of the oncoming forwards and overcoming of the many hazards of the high wind by some superb touch kicking, all mark him out as a possibility for a provincial full-back.

In the 16th minute Instonians opened the scoring when J. Hewitt avoided McMullen's attack to touch down far out. The atempt at conversion was well out.

Trinity continued the defensive game, endeavouring to keep Instonians' score down more than anything else. That was the position until almost on full-time, when the surprise try and conversion came to give the home side a match which was won, strangely enough, by defence.

* * *

3rd XV **AWAY WIN**

Terenure College 2nd XV	**5**
Trinity 3rd XV	**8**

A strong wind was blowing down the pitch and Trinity found it hard going in the first half. However, they took a surprise lead in the opening minutes when Mulraine broke from a scrum and scored near the posts. The conversion was missed and from that minute on Trinity were under constant pressure from the Terenure backs. The play in the first half fluctuated between the Trinity "25" and goal-line. It was no surprise when the Terenure backs broke through and scored a try which was made into a goal. The visitors were not dismayed. N. Jones, who played an outstanding game, leading the Trinity pack, led a forward rush and scored near the posts for McGovern to convert.

There was no scoring in the second half and this was perhaps due to Trinity's continuous attempts to pass the ball instead of using the "Garryowen" into the favourable wind. The centres did not have the thrust of the home backs, still tending to run across field. The forwards played with zest against a raw, boisterous pack, but heeled slowly and gave little or no protection to their scrum-half. Praise must be given to R. White who made few or no mistakes at full-back when under constant pressure from the opposition and the wind.

* * *

Hospitals' Cup

The Dublin Hospitals' Rugby Cup competition usually produces some fine displays of bright, open rugby. This year's campaign has been no exception.

Last week the Dental team, having previously disposed of Sir Patrick Dun's, defeated the Adelaide by 9 points to 3. The fine work of the Dental backs was instrumental in their scoring three tries. Furlong kicked a penalty goal for the Adelaide.

The Dentals should now meet the Mater (who defeated St. Vincent's 3-0) in the final. However, we learn that the Adelaide have objected to one of the Dental players, claiming that he is not a properly registered Dental student. It seems rather churlish of them, since the borderline for eligibility for these matches is always rather dubious.

With a Pinch of Salt

Vagabonds, 10; Gentlemen of Players, 3

In beautiful spring-like weather the eagerly-awaited clash between the Vagabond XV and the Gentlemen of Players XV took place in College Park last Thursday. The encounter was played in a clean, friendly spirit under the hawk-like direction of referee Brian Hamilton. The first half was quite uneventful except for a few dangerous bursts by guest player Kelvin Smythe, who, we believe, plays for some other team in College. After a rather boisterous half-time, play was resumed, only to be interrupted by a character who vaguely resembled my manservant Jeeves bearing a tray of much-welcomed drinks. Despite strong protests from the Players XV, the game stopped for a few minutes till the referee restored order.

Richard Tomkins scored two excellent tries for the Vagabond XV, one being converted by Harry Stevenson and the other by Dave Pearson. Only mishap of the game was a mid-air crash between John Goldberg and Ron Pilkington when both tried to catch the fleet-footed Mike Read. Towards the end that master tactition, Russi Wadia, scored a well-earned opportunist try.

Boxing

Looking Ahead

For the past three weeks the Boxing Club were in serious training for the Irish Universities' Senior Championships which were held in the Gym. last Tuesday at 7.45. These championships have always been considered as a final work-out for the U.A.U. Championships which this year are being held in Sheffield on Friday, March 6th. Trinity are firm favourites to retain the Harry Preston Cup which they have held for the past six years, although strong opposition is expected from London, Loughborough and Glasgow. Although the final composition of the team has not been decided, Sherlock, Tulalamba, Wheeler, Orr and Taylor are all former U.A.U. champions and should provide a solid basis for the team.

Last week in the Irish Universities' Junior Championships, Trinity supplied two outstanding champions in D. Millar and R. Molesworth, both of whom displayed tremendous punching power and won all their fights inside the distance. D. Hogan-Magee and J. McConnell also reached the final of their respective weights.

Hockey 1st XI

Mill's Cup in Sight

TRINITY TO MEET Y.M.C.A. IN FINAL

Dublin University, 5; St. Ita's, 3.

AFTER twenty minutes extra time, Trinity defeated St. Ita's by five goals to three on Saturday last, and thus qualified to meet Y.M.C.A. in the final of the Mills Cup.

A fine goal by Byrn after only two minutes' play gave Trinity an unusually early lead. Subsequent goals by Byrn and Blackmore, allied with stout defence work, in which goalkeeper Stewart was outstanding, gave Trinity a three-nil interval lead. What followed might best be described as a debacle. St. Ita's scored three goals to leave the teams level at full-time. A casual observer might lay the blame at the feet of goalkeeper Stewart, and in fact it was his two mistakes which gave St. Ita's their first and third goals, but if St. Ita's had recorded goals for the mistakes made by the other Trinity players they would have reached double figures. There was one exception, McCarthy, who played his best game to date.

Centre-half Blackmore, forced on to the defensive, failed to exert his mastery in mid-field. Wing-halfs Webb and Grigg gave their opposite numbers far too much scope, though it must be said that Webb was considerably shaken by an earlier encounter which cost him a tooth. Stewart was not the confident custodian of the first half. But, as has happened so many times, Trinity "came again." In the first period of extra time a mesmeric run by Steepe saw McCarthy regain the lead for Trinity, and in the second period McCarthy crowned an outstanding performance with a well-taken goal.

* * *

The following have been awarded their "colours" for the season 1958-59:—

***A. C. Stewart** (Glasgow Academy), ***H. D. Judge** (Portora Royal School), ***I. S. Steepe** (St. Columba's College), ***K. G. Blackmore** (St. Patrick's G.S.), **M. G. T. Webb** (St. Columba's College), **D. B. Grigg** (Deans Close School), ***J. N. Lavan** (Downside School), **R. F. Byrn** (St. Columba's College), **J. F. McCarthy** (Mountjoy School), ***W. A. Findlater** (Repton School), ***V. H. Keely** (Stoneyhurst). * Old Colours.

The team to represent D.U. in the Mauritius Cup match against U.C.D. will not be announced till later.

Swimming

Chalking Them Up

D.U. Swimming Club had a double victory over Dublin S.C. when they met in a combined swimming and water polo contest on February 12th.

The most exciting race of the evening was the freestyle. W. Tayler was just beaten into second place by a touch in the same time as the winner, Dublin's T. May. O'Brien-Kelly and Upton were 1st and 2nd in the backstroke, while Sharpe and Anderson were 1st and 3rd in the breaststroke. Trinity also won the medley and water polo squadron races.

Final points: D.U., 32; Dublin S.C., 18.

Trinity had an easy win in the water polo despite a shaky start during which goalkeeper Williamson saved the situation.

Result: D.U., 7; Dublin, 0.

Trinity got a walk-over last week and now stand second in the Leinster League.

Last Friday night, U.C.D. and D.U. met in a friendly Freshman match. Trinity won the swimming, 24 points to 23, but lost the water polo, 4-3.

Both the senior water polo team and the Freshman team travel to Belfast next week-end for the Irish University Championships. Here's wishing them luck.

D.U. SQUASH RACQUETS CLUB

The team selected to tour Scotland from February 26th to March 2nd is as follows: A. Bonar-Law, P. Heaney, J. Gillam, R. Roberts, D. Yeo, R. Pentycross.

Soccer

PRESS ON...

D.U.A.F.C., 1; V.C., Bangor, 3

The Soccer Club once again failed in this annual friendly match. The team continues to display no cohesion whatsoever. During the whole 90 minutes there was barely one concepted passing movement. As usual, Verbyla in goal, Prole and Ntima tried hard, but all to little effect. Ntima is a fine ball-player but needs to co-operate more with his inside-left. To judge from the halves' and forwards' displays, one would hardly have thought that they'd been playing together as a team twice a week all this season. The half-time score was 1-0 for Bangor. Trinity's goal came near the end of the game from Davenport.

The Week's Diary

D.U. HOCKEY CLUB—MAURITIAN CUP

Monday, March 2nd—D.U. 1st XI v. U.C.D. Londonbridge Road.
Tuesday, March 3rd—Q.U.B. 1st XI v. U.C.D. Londonbridge Road.
Wednesday, March 4th—D.U. 1st XI v. Q.U.B. Londonbridge Road.

D.U. CHESS CLUB

Friday, February 27th—"C" Team v. Phibsboro'. Home.
Saturday, February 28th — "B" Team v. U.C.D. "A." Away.
Monday, March 2nd—"A" Team v. Eoghan Ruadh "A." Away. "C" Team v. U.C.D. Away. Ladies' "A" v. U.C.D. Ladies "A." Away.
Tuesday, March 3rd—Ladies "B" v. Sackville "A." Away.

D.U. RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Thursday, February 26th—3rd "A" v. Royal Bank of Ireland. 4.30 p.m.
All other matches Saturday, February 28th:
1st XV v. Wanderers. Lansdowne Road, 3.15.
2nd XV v. U.C.D. Belfield, 3.15.
3rd "B" v. Old Belvedere. 3.15.
3rd "A" v. Old Belvedere 3rd "A." 3.15.
3rd "B" v. Old Belvedere. 3.15.

D.U. HARRIERS AND ATHLETIC CLUB

Saturday, February 28th—v. Q.U.B. at Belfast.

D.U. BADMINTON CLUB

Thursday, March 5th—Ladies v. Rathfarnham. Away.

D.U. FENCING CLUB

Saturday, 28th February—National Championships, Town Hall, Dun Laoghaire.

SATURDAY SPECIAL

W. Hall's **Castle Benito** in the 4.30 at **Manchester** gets my confident vote this week. **"Col. Tottering."**

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