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Trinity News

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Debating Highlights

Hist. PRINCIPAL v. EXPEDIENCY

The motion of the College Historical Society's biennial inter-debate on Wednesday, 17th February, presented a rather abstract theme: "This house would sacrifice Principle to Expediency." Some of the speeches were remarkably good, but, considering the difficult nature of the motion, naturally not all of the speakers succeeded in the task of creating that fluid, sparkling and scintillating wit and wisdom that makes a speech brilliant, and, instead of cutting straight and bright paths through the thick jungle of implications involved in the motion, they either contented themselves in tearing down the lianas and leaving out the big trees or spent all their time and effort in unnecessarily cutting an especially huge one.

However, on the whole the debate was interesting and illuminating. Mr. W. D. Cullen, M.A., in proposing the motion, explained that man could not always stick to rigid principles. The ultimate sanction for the sacrifice of principle to expediency was manifested in the right of man to fight for his survival. Commonsense was superior to principle which had to be adapted to the occasion.

Mr. F. J. E. Hurst, M.A. (Oxon.), opposed the motion by giving definitions of principle and expediency, and demonstrated that expediency was a matter of policy, neglecting moral justice and right according to momentary considerations. He said that modern society and especially democracy depended on the upholding of principles and that violation of them destroyed the basis of democracy. In modern society a conflict of principles was liable to occur very often—it was necessary to take one's choice among the principles, but to leave expediency out of considerations.

The Auditor, Mr. Ian Simons, in affirming his opinion that principle must never be sacrificed to expediency, explained that neglect of principles had led to the present bad state of affairs in politics. Proving his view by giving various examples, he said that opportunism and expediency had the most devastating results and that it was necessary to return to principles that were common to all religions.

Airport Dinner Dance

This year the Mod. Lang. Society is experimenting with the idea of replacing the usual annual dinner by a dinner-dance at the same price. This will be held at Dublin Airport on Friday, March 4th, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. If there is sufficient demand for transport back to town, a bus will be hired. Tickets, which will be on sale at Front Gate at the end of this week are available for any students, though the price for Mod. Lang. members is slightly lower. If this project is well supported, the evening should be a success and the occasion an annual one.

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METROPOLE

O'CONNELL ST., DUBLIN

Phil. SUCCESSFUL SUBSTITUTES

The Phil. awaited eagerly the arrival of the Scottish Debating Team for the first international debate to have been held last Thursday. However, a last-minute cancellation, as yet unexplained,



—Photo courtesy of Irish Times.

Dr. Wright, Chairman at Phil. Debate.

meant that the Phil. needed six new speakers to speak at very short notice on the motion, "That the emergence of many independent nations is a danger

to world peace." The speakers were found and their speeches were good enough to transform what could have been an anticlimax into a resounding success under the chairmanship of Dr. Wright.

The Irish teams in this debate were the first three teams from the "Irish Times" Trophy contest. Both the Phil. and the Hist. were among them.

The motion was proposed by Neville Keary (Hist.). He defined the terms in the motion at some length before coming to his main point, that these nations are dangerous because of their inexperience.

Ian Simons (Hist.) opened for the opposition. He spoke of Ireland as a new nation and put the blame for world tension on the stubbornness of the older nations.

Of the Trinity speakers who followed, Colin Chapman (Phil.) raised the important point of the ineffectiveness of the U.N. because of the veto held by power blocs. J. A. D. Bird (Phil.) quoted Scottish Nationalism as an example of what might happen if countries were given independence before they were ready for it, while Peter Hinchcliffe (Hist.) spoke of the trouble between Israel and the U.A.R. R. H. Johnson (Phil.) talked of the danger that the emergence of many small nations would not weaken the big power blocs, but make them more solid and more dangerous.

Effect of New Rules . . .

EXTENSIVE amendments to College regulations, with a view to improving the facilities provided for students, have been under consideration by the Board for a number of years. In an interview with the Senior Lecturer, a "Trinity News" representative was informed of the extent and consequences of these changes. The most dramatic and far-reaching changes affecting all categories of undergraduates, pass, honor and professional, have just been finalised. The ordinary, or pass, course in Arts, historically the foundation of the whole academic system, has undergone many changes during the past century and a half.

However, its general pattern, inherited from the early seventeenth century, has proved extraordinary durable. Even the substantial innovations made in 1952-54 left many of its traditional features unchanged. Its title became, "Course in General Studies," only in 1956.

Under the old regulations the number of subjects studied for the pass course was four in each of the four years. It was possible to vary these four from year to year, and it was not really necessary to attend lectures and take examinations in the same subjects. There are two examinations each year. In the new course the number of subjects is reduced from four to three. At least two subjects must be studied continuously throughout the four years. Term examinations are replaced by annual examinations, and thus the historic Little-Go, once the first of two basic examinations for the B.A. degree, is abolished, and the total number of examinations is reduced from eight to four. These are held at the end of the Trinity term. A much greater freedom in the choice of subjects is allowed. A student takes three of the following subjects in his Junior Freshman year and either changes his course in these three subjects or changes one at the beginning of his Senior Freshman year. Subjects must be selected from two groups and not more than two subjects may be taken from the same group. Group I consists of languages and history. The other group is Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Mental and Moral Science, Geography and Economics. There are also courses in Experimental Psychology and History of Music in the second group in the Sophister years. Another wise innovation is compulsory written work in all subjects each term. Standards in all courses have been and are being raised.

The new honor regulations are a revision of the general regulations for honor courses that first appeared in 1954. Till then, although honor courses were introduced as long ago as the early 19th century, honor students were sub-

ject to the general rules of the ordinary course in Arts, applied through a system of "honor privileges." This enabled them to substitute honor for ordinary lectures and honor for all ordinary examinations except Little-Go, and exempted them from some of the subjects of that examination. The new honor regulations, among other changes, mark the final stage in the abandonment of this system. Instead of the former Little-Go requirements, honor students must attend a course in a subsidiary subject during one of their Freshman years, and must pass an examination in that subject at the end of the course. If a student is unsuccessful in his subsidiary subject in his Junior Freshman year he may repeat it in his Senior Freshman year. Students are, in general, free to choose their subsidiary subject from the subjects of the general studies course, and may take the course prescribed in the subject for any of the four undergraduate years.

A subsidiary subject must not be a subject in the student's honor course. By special permission an honor or professional course may be substituted for a course in the general studies programme. A student of Celtic languages must choose as his subsidiary subjects, French, German or Latin. A student of Economics and Political Science must choose the Junior Freshman course for professional students in French, German, Irish or Spanish.

The old system of "privileges" for professional students is also abolished and a new system of Arts studies is instituted. Professional students now study one Arts subject each year. These are selected from a list of subjects in which courses are specially provided. They will normally study either the same subject for four years or one subject during their Freshman years and another subject or group during their Sophister years. To obtain credit for his Arts subject, a professional student must attend satisfactorily the appropriate lectures and satisfy the examiners at the annual examination in the subject. He must also perform satisfactorily certain prescribed exer-

cises in the subject such as an essay, tutorial or practical work and at least one English essay each year. Lectures in Arts subjects for professional students are given in Michaelmas and Hilary terms and the annual examination is held in March, with a supplemental in June or July. In the Freshman years, subsidiary subjects can be selected from the following list: English, French, German, Irish, Russian, Spanish, Astronomy, Mathematics and Irish Archaeology. Sophister subjects are French, German, Irish, Russian, Spanish, Geography and History of Music. Psychology and Social and Political Theory are additional Junior Sophister subjects, while Public Administration, History of Medicine and History and Philosophy of Science are Senior Sophister subjects.

A rule that has often been a cause of irritation and hardship to students is being abandoned. This is the old system of examination notices involving fines for tardy payment. With the new courses, all students will be attending lectures in the subjects in which they will be examined. Thus the relevant administrative department will automatically have a record of their candidature. This will apply to all Freshmen in the 1960-'61 session and will expand, naturally, as the new Sophister courses are adopted in the following two sessions.

A further administrative improvement is a system of annual student registration now under consideration. This will entirely replace examination notices and term registration cards. It will provide College with all necessary information about the student body with a minimum of nuisance to the students.

The present difficulty lies in the actual change-over. This will not be completed until 1962. When it is completed we will have something really worthwhile. One graduate summed it up very effectively: "Truly, College is becoming an educational establishment."

Festival Flash

To-day (Thursday) is the last day that students can obtain the special reduced rates for the Festival productions in the Olympia. Tickets are still being sold to-day in Players' Theatre, and it is your last chance to take advantage of this unique and exciting opportunity.

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TRINITY NEWS

3 Trinity College

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VIRGINIBUS PUERISQUE

PEOPLE talk a great deal in College nowadays about "sets" and "cliques." The general opinion seems to be that to belong to any such group is a bad thing. They forget entirely that humans band themselves always into the societies or associations in which they feel either safe and secure or to which they are naturally attracted. The innumerable circles to which we belong at times coalesce—and just as quickly disintegrate as its members return to their particular interests.

The corollary to the criticism of cliques—usually by those who are outside them either by choice or circumstance—is that the clique centres round one figure. Satellite stars gather quickly around anyone they might often mistakenly consider to be a person of importance. If the latter is wise, he or she will recognise these persons for what they are and endeavour to turn their hanging-on into something useful to the society concerned. The hanger-on will be transformed into a follower. It may well be that this rôle is the one that most naturally suits them. While retaining to a certain degree their own natural independence of will and thought, they yet defer to the leader of the set. Both parties derive benefit from the relationship, however artificial and unconscious it might be. The leader knows that his period of power is a short one. If he is sensible and integrated, he will know exactly how much importance to attach to his position—one that in almost all certainty will have little or no effect on his future in the world outside. He will treat it as a post of trust from which he can gain personal satisfaction and add to his natural abilities—abilities which must have assisted him to get to the top. The follower, again if he is sensible and realises that not every person is granted the same gifts, will perform his tasks reliably and conscientiously and thereby enrich his expanding personality.

The world is divided into leaders and followers. In College the same situation, strangely enough, also obtains. To which species do you belong?

BRIDGE CLUB

This term a Bridge Club has been founded in order that Trinity can compete in and against other Bridge playing Universities in Ireland and England. Already teams have been to Queen's, and there are plans that a match will soon be arranged against Galway. The Club is not, however, limited to competitions, both types of bridge are recognised and only those who wish to enter competitions can play or learn Duplicate. The aims include teaching the game to those who have either little or no knowledge, yet are interested. Meetings are held at 7.0 on Monday evenings in the Chess Club rooms, all are most welcome, or you may contact Russell Telfer in 28.

LOST?

Any information about the vanished "French Group" of the Mod. Lang. Society thankfully received. Please notify the Dept. of French, 35 College.

PROFILE

JOCELYN OTWAY RUTHVEN, Ph.D.

Lecky Professor

Passing a chevron-de-frise of bicycles without a glance right or left, a slight figure passes into the dark entry of No. 7. It is Jocelyn Otway Ruthven returning to her study with its papers, maps and modern attribute of Clio, its typewriter. She has changed little to outward seeming since her matriculation in 1927, nor perhaps has she changed much inwardly in spite of accumulations of learnings and distinctions. She was marked out as an undergraduate by her single-minded devotion to scholarships. She has it that when, so many years ago, she told me of her ambitions to become a history don, I blanched visibly. Accustomed as one was then to people who thought they would like to try such and such a subject, I can remember a parental appeal: "Can't Mary Anne do History? If she does languages she'll have to go abroad." Her attitude was indeed surprising. Perhaps it is not so now, though I think her sort of disinterested pursuit of knowledge is never common. I had known a student who entered one of the London colleges with the expressed intention of becoming its Senior Student and succeeded. The ambition there had a personal end; here, though success is pleasing, it is the work which compels.

Miss Otway Ruthven received her early education at the Hall, Monkstown. I was never curious to inquire about its teaching and whether the severity of her "discipline," as we say nowadays, is the result of or the reaction from some influence there is beyond me. She told me once that the most stimulating teacher she ever had was Prof. Alison Phillips who lectured her at Trinity in Modern European History. Why then her absorption in mediaeval studies? I don't know but my guess is that a conviction of the continuity of things based on strong family instincts was strengthened by the objectivity of this field of research. Not for her a view of past with continual and in the end misleading glances at the modern world.

It is a feature of academic life that the scholar's vital contribution remains withdrawn from colleagues and friends, however interested, who cannot in the nature of things attend undergraduate lectures. Publications, public lectures, administrative activities, important as they are, do not, in my view, provide the formative influence and enlivening communication which, after all, compensate for the anachronisms and anomalies of the privileged University scheme. So one has to abandon observation for surmise, an enterprise not so hazardous as it seems, for this is an exceptionally "integrated" personality; what my uncouth contemporaries used to call a character all of a piece.

She drives herself and continually rewrites her lectures, she venerates accuracy and the complete statement. Where she does not think highly of the mental equipment of her students, her method is likely to be bracing. She is

thorough as few people are. Let no one be misled by her deliberate movement and speech; she is tireless and ever active. How well I remember her in off-times during the war, knitting gloves with incredible precision and despatch, and I could never sufficiently admire the constancy which every night at the First



Aid Post filled hot-water bottles for hypothetical refugees who nightly failed to appear. One of our legislators has recently laid it down that the Irish economy has room for universities only if they confine themselves to producing competent professional men and skilled technicians. One would like to hear a Common Room discussion on this and to hear the Professors' contribution. In any case what she does in her classes is to show how sound work must be done and to give an intellectual standard which is valuable at all levels in the life "outside."

But to return from this "aery tour" of speculation. After a successful undergraduate course, scholar 1929, moderator 1931, she continued her studies by research at Cambridge. Ph.D. and Thirlwell Prize and Medal, 1936, and at Paris, where she held a scholarship from the British Federation of University Women. Her "King's Secretary and the Signet Office in the Fifteenth Century" was published in 1939. She was appointed lecturer in T.C.D. in 1938. Her line of study led to her public appearance as a Government witness in the Foyle Fisheries case. She became Lecky Professor in 1951, and takes her full share in the general working of the College. She is a constant supporter of College causes and societies. There is to me a sort of mediaeval design in her career: that age when town and country interests were never separated, where the life, hard as it seems, was satisfying to elite, with room now and then for colour and gaiety and charity and a great steadiness of purpose. She works remorselessly; if caustic sometimes of students en masse, she has much active kindness for individuals. She enjoys a party and has a nice taste in poetry and the arts, and over-riding her personal interests is her devotion to the welfare of the University of Dublin.

O. P.

DEATH of a Tutor

Part 4—THE VOICE OF THE GUNS

Story so far: Who has killed the black-mailing Dr. O'Byrne? Is it Mr. Smythe who has been taken for questioning by the Gardai? What does Richard Mather know? And who rode the bicycle through the Bay? Elizabeth thinks on these things as she goes to hear a recital by her aunt in the G.M.B.

It is generally agreed that my aunt knows how to play the piano; in fact she might have been born in a piano factory, from her practised skill and instinctive assurance of touch; so that when, just after four, she sat down in the pastelled elegance of the G.M.B. and began a Chopin waltz, you might well have thought heaven had hit Trinity at last and that in the Phil. next door the golden trumpets were raring on their cue. In spite of the brief warning of the recital, the word had spread and the hall was full—there was the Provost, looking appreciative in spite of his tone-deafness; Professor Till, marching to the waltz; Richard Mather, at the front, sitting next to the Junior Dean, both looking relaxed; several intellectuals and a few music-lovers. I was sitting at the back; you hear better there and you can see everybody, too. It seems strange to be sitting there while Mr. Smythe was being grilled by the Gardai about a murder—had he really done it? I couldn't believe it; and yet when I had last seen him a couple of hours before he had looked pretty wild, and quite capable of a few chunks of violence.

Jane glided her way through her favourite pieces, melodic and occasionally rather sad... Pavane... Tristesse... some hunting songs... Spanish dances... Romance and Melody in F... summer songs for me and my aunts... her auburn hair glinting softly... her quaint, meditating smile of concentration... I knew that in her mind she was far, far away in the dimensions of remembrance, in the memories of happiness... Tristesse... and Liszt's Con-

cert Study called Un Sospiro, a sigh... so very, very beautiful, and played as though it had been written for herself, in gracious honour...

Quite suddenly, too suddenly, there was outside the sound as of boots moving with velocity, a brief thud and the sound of the heavy door swinging open. Out of the corner of my mind I saw in quick succession a revolver, a hairy arm, a brown suit and the twisted face of Mr. Smythe. How unusual, I thought; he is angry and he has got a gun... He has got a gun! Without really thinking I flung my handbag at him and screamed. The bag missed him by about four feet, but he turned slightly; he was looking for someone. Then he pulled up the gun, took a vague aim, fired three times, and spun round and out into the hallway. There was another echoing shot, and then silence.

All hell then broke loose. It was quite a scene, something like Act 3 of Julius Caesar. By the piano Jane was looking quizzically at a deep bullet score all the way down the black keys. The Junior Dean was bending amid the scattered chairs of the front row, inspecting the somewhat dead body of Richard Mather. Through the scampering forest of legs in the hallway I could see the two outstretched, booted feet of Mr. Smythe, adding a dramatic counterpoint to the still smoking gun. The sounds were as screams, panicked sheep and disconcerted dignities: while the golden trumpets in the Phil. seemed to have made a quick departure, presumably having another unexpected engagement. With more clumping of boots the Gardai arrived. Superintendent Murphy puffing concernedly. He took one brief look, then lit his pipe.

Feeling faint I put out my arm and all of a sudden there someone 'on the end of it and it's Jane. "You O.K., Beth?" I nodded through my handkerchief. "How about a cup of tea?" As we passed the Superintendent I said to him: "Now we know," and he nodded with his pipe and replied "Yes indeed."



Social & Personal

We extend our congratulations to the following people whose engagements were recently announced:

The Rev. T. H. Mack and Miss Margaret Stewart.
E. W. Nicholson (Sch.) and Miss Hazel Jackson.

Mr. T. Bennett and Miss Betsy Dillon.
And also to Mr. Paul Focke upon succeeding as Baron Focke von Friesland.

"mise éire"

Film: "Mise Éire." Regal Cinema, Dublin.

Gael-Linn's first full length feature film in Gaelic, "Mise Éire," tells the story of the twenty eventful years in Irish history from 1898 to 1918, and this is done by means of contemporary prints, newspaper cuttings, and films. The newspaper extracts, in English, came as a godsend to those who, like myself, regret a complete ignorance of Gaelic, though a main fault was that they were rarely on the screen long enough to be completely read.

The period moves from Victoria's one and only State visit to Ireland, through the recruiting of the Citizen Army, the funeral of the Fenian, O'Donovan Rossa; the Easter Rising and destruction of O'Connell Street, to the return of Countess Markievich from exile. As always with great people long dead, one is fascinated to see Carson reviewing the Ulster armies (of both sexes), Arthur Griffiths on a platform in remote market places, dispirited Viceroy and unthinking soldiers marching rebels on to boats bound for exile, and an indomitable countess with the energy of a dozen men. The Easter Rising of 1916 is covered as well as it can be with no film material, but the photographs of the consequent devastation of O'Connell Street and its environs remind one that Dublin experienced the horrors of the Blitz a quarter of a century before London. Other interesting shots of special interest to the students of Trinity include the marshalling of the Crown Forces in Front Square in 1916, the convention which took place in the Regent House in 1918, and the funeral of Thomas Ashe passing Front Gate.

As a documentary film, "Mise Éire" aspires to be no more than a statement of fact and as such it could easily be lost to those who do not have a knowledge of the wider historical background. It is not in the province of the film to tell us why the ordinary Dubliner was so unsympathetic to the arrest of the resisters in the G.P.O. We are left to assume for ourselves that the execution (rather laboured in the film) of the signatories of the Proclamation was responsible from the anti-British swing on the part of the populace. Such omissions in so important a sequence of events spoil that sequence, and with stricter editing of tedious crowd scenes more time could have been given over to linking events.

Technically, "Mise Éire" was a hotch-potch. The music was brilliant in conveying mood, and the composer, John Reidy, is to be congratulated on having in one broad theme found a good substitute for "The Soldier's Song." But when the music stopped, the dubbing was pathetic. A friend commented that the crowd scenes must have been taken from a football match. I would not have been surprised if they had been. Other attempts to put sound to still photographs were sometimes laughable.

"Mise Éire" is a bold undertaking that can merit being seen until it is understood. It is a poor Irishman who will not acquaint himself with his nation's "epic fight for liberty"; it is a sorry Northerner who will not take this opportunity of seeing a film which will be surely banned in the Six Counties; and it will be a pig-headed Englishman who will not find in "Mise Éire" unlimited food for thought.

A. C. G.

Sit Down Strike

A Sunday paper recently reported that a Christ Church history student, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, has had his rooms re-decorated.

The new decor includes pure white walls, panels of dark crimson wallpaper edged with gilt moulding, and off-white curtains, while the furniture is covered with gold material.

Declaring that he could not stand the original colours, the Marquis has kept "a mud-coloured armchair which I sit in when I want to study hard." Can it be possible then that the reason why the Lecky Library is so crowded is the utilitarian nature of its seating?

But Jane just looked worried. So did the President of Choral. How was he going to explain to Piggot's that the piano had not been used in something like Wagon Train, nor yet in that artilleryman's piece de resistance, the 1812 Overture, when every semitone was really groovy: 38, that is.

Agricultural Supplement

TRINITY NEWS

February 25, 1960

Comment...

WHILE wishing our representatives success in their current series of trade talks with Britain, it is quite clear that we cannot hope for a magical dissolution of our difficulties. The rural population will inevitably further diminish, even though other markets for agricultural produce may be found, and further industries with an export potential must be introduced to absorb the displaced labour. These sentiments have been heard before, but they bear repetition.

Have we really tried to sell our produce abroad—not on a quick-penny basis but on the slow, sure footing whereon national wealth is founded? A friend tells us of Danish butter selling in the free market of Aden at 12/- per lb. Have we tried such outlets?

We import heavily from many Continental countries. Perhaps our trade missions would be better employed in talking facts to them, and in pushing sales in the receptive Middle East.

However important are the improvements of quality and the reduction of costs, our first attention is demanded by marketing. The most pressing wants of our agriculture at present are additional outlets and a thorough shake-up of our marketing system.

OFFICERS OF THE D.U.A.S. 1957-1960



Front Row, left to right: S. Hayes, J. A. D. Bird, R. O. Cobham (Auditor, 1958-'59), J. Durand (Auditor, 1959-'60), P. D. G. Read (Auditor, 1957-'58), L. Roche, T. A. Stewart.
Back Row, left to right: P. Walsh-Kemmis, A. C. Pim, G. E. Plant, S. Clark, S. C. Warren, P. Clarke, T. N. Leonard, G. E. Jenkins.

An Honors Degree For Agriculturalists

By A. A. PAKENHAM-WALSH, M.A., A.A.C.C.A.

WITH Agriculture as Ireland's largest industry, and Dublin as her capital city, it is only fitting that a large share of the responsibility for higher education in agriculture should be assumed by the University of Dublin.

The University has had a School of Agriculture since 1906. But, until Townley Hall was acquired in 1956, it had not the means to demonstrate modern farming practices or to contribute to research in agriculture, forestry and associated branches of knowledge. The Kells-Ingram Farm of 350 acres at Townley Hall is destined to make this possible, but in a special way. The farm is not an experimental farm as such. It is, rather, run deliberately as a business enterprise. The teaching and research there will relate to the conduct of farming business on a real life scale. Efficient agriculture is more than the application of the best scientific and technical knowledge. It requires that these be tempered by economic considerations and that the variety of crop and livestock enterprises be integrated into a profitable whole by good farm management.

Setting up the Kells-Ingram Farm was a major increase in our University's power to contribute to agricultural education. Its next important step was

to add a moderatorship in Agriculture to its B.A. honors quiver. The new honor course for students seeking this degree was introduced in 1959/60.

The Schools of Agriculture and Forestry now offer two degree courses in agriculture because it is believed that there are two distinct needs. One is a professional course designed for those who intend to become executives in farming or advisers to farm executives. The other is an honor course providing a more fundamental approach to the underlying sciences.

The new honor course for agriculturalists is based on the natural sciences. The first three years are devoted to the studies of the honor course in Natural Science with specialisation in botany or zoology, with economics as a subsidiary subject and with vacation work at the Kells-Ingram Farm. The fourth year will be spent in residence at the farm, studying there the subjects of the final (moderatorship) examination. These include agriculture, agricultural engineering, animal husbandry, crop

husbandry, farm accounting, economics and management, and statistical method. In dealing with these subjects, the University will have the assistance of the research staff of the Agricultural Institute.

The longer established professional course is run in co-operation with University College, Dublin. In this professional course, Dublin University students spend their first two years at Trinity College, Dublin, on general science, with field work at the Kells-Ingram Farm. The second two years are spent at University College, studying, on the College's Experimental Farm at Glasnevin, the husbandries, sciences and technologies of agriculture. Good farming is an exercise in the balanced application of the three E's—ecology, economics and engineering. How to do the balancing is becoming as important as understanding the things to be balanced, and both T.C.D. and U.C.D. have strengthened the studies required in farm accountancy, economics, management and statistical method to equip graduates more fully for the modern farm business.

This professional course in agriculture and its allied courses in horticulture and forestry are formidable undertakings for

any student. It would be quite impossible to add in as well the more intensive scientific study required for specialised teaching or research. And, despite the livestock precedent in Irish agriculture, there is no market for the dual-purpose graduate. So the honor course was born of efforts and thought of Frank Mitchell, Registrar of the University, and of James J. Byrne, then Registrar of the Schools of Agriculture and Forestry, and now Chief of the Rural Economy Division of the Agricultural Institute.

Agriculture is so important in Ireland, that Dublin's new moderatorship may cause little surprise. It should be realised, however, that agriculture has only won full university recognition during the last fifty years. Farming, forestry and horticulture are worthy callings, and their development depends on education. The universities' contribution is needed at the higher level, especially as a take-off point for research. The extent of this contribution will depend, in the end, more upon the human qualities of students and teachers and their devotion to agricultural education than upon the number and variety of courses universities can offer.

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Our Cattle Industry

By HENRY KENNEDY, M.A., D.Sc.

IN this country, of the 11.6 million acres of agricultural land before the war, about 10 millions were under grass. While in the future the cultivation area may not sink to the 1939 level, there is no doubt that in the future—as in the past—grassland will be the main feature of our agriculture. It is not necessary to stress the importance of its efficient exploitation.

Because of climatic conditions, there are few countries so favourable to high output from pastures. While that is true, it must be confessed that there is a tremendous gap between what is possible and what is actual. This gap has been emphasised in the report by Mr. G. A. Holmes about ten years ago and later by the team of experts from O.E.E.C., who visited the country. Indeed until comparatively recently it might be said that the tremendous advances in the techniques of production, management, utilisation and conservation of grass had passed us by.

It is true, however, that in recent years there has developed a growing awareness of the importance of grass in the economy of the farm and of the country. The Government White Paper on economic development stresses the importance of grass. That emphasis came none too soon. Too often in the past the word "grass" was associated with the word "rancher" and both had a bad name.

There are now—here and there—throughout the country a number of farmers who have and are practising techniques of production and management which are far in advance of the general practice. Great developments have taken place in the knowledge of grassland husbandry, and prospects in the future are truly exciting.

The practice of grassland management developed by Mons. Andre Voisin on his farm near Dieppe, Normandy, and described in his book, now published in English, "Grass Productivity" is in itself a remarkable development. On some 40 acres, divided into 20 paddocks, in 1954 there was a production per acre from the grass of 460 gallons of milk and 5 cwt. of livestock increase. This achievement was, admittedly, on good land, with comparatively high fertiliser treatment, but the results are mainly due to the method of management. Indeed, Professor Klapp of the University of Bonn has made the statement that of all methods of improving grassland output, the management of the pasture is the most important.

The remarkable development of livestock products in New Zealand before the war indicates what can be achieved from grass well fertilised and well managed. The climatic conditions in that country and here have a considerable degree of similarity. There are, of course, some differences, but it would be difficult to decide which country has the greater natural advantages.

Up to comparatively recently there was no information as to the actual output of grass in this country. Recently, however, and particularly in Johnstown Castle, there have been measurements made and these go to show that even on indifferent land the production here is quite comparable with that in New Zealand. In the amelioration of grassland it is now clear, mainly from work on the Continent, that the combination of fertiliser application with grazing management on the Voisin system can in a very short time bring a striking increase in output and so avoid the expensive business of ploughing and re-seeding. It is clear also that the grazing period can be expanded very considerably both at the beginning and at the end of the year.

The fact is then that the grazing animal can obtain its food in situ from properly fertilised and properly managed grass for seven or eight months of the year. The problem of winter food remains. We have climatic conditions

which make it possible to produce grass in great quantity and of high nutritional value. These same climatic conditions make it very difficult in the normal year and impossible in the bad year to make really good hay. The result is that our cattle suffer very severe malnutrition during the winter. That condition is only too obvious in the late spring months. In the exceptionally bad years, of which 1946, 1950, 1954 and 1958 are recent examples, the results are little short of disastrous.

This problem of winter feed can be solved by the making of silage according to modern ideas. Over 30 years ago the Nobel Prize winner, Prof. A. I. Virtanen, developed a system in Finland of preserving grass with a minimum of loss which has been proved in experiment and in the experience of thousands of farms in that country. There is, therefore, no technical problem in producing winter feed which could make possible liveweight increase in cattle and a high production of milk in the "dead" months.

When the grass and the winter feed are available, how are they to be used? In the White Paper the dairying industry, unfortunately, is more or less "written off," notwithstanding the experience of centuries in this country as a producer and exporter of butter. With the best management, an acre of grass has a limit to the number of food units it can produce. For the small farmer—and the majority of our farmers are small—it is essential if he is to make a reasonable living that the food units produced should be applied to the production of a product which has the highest sale value. For the small farmer, then the choice is, or should be, limited to the production of milk. It would be inconceivable that the small farmers of Denmark and Holland could have reached such a high degree of prosperity except on the basis of milk production.

There has developed, however, a degree of defeatism with regard to the production of milk and a certain hesitancy and fear of entering into the export market, which is due to a great degree to the confusion in the minds of producers between price and profit. If we were able to double our production and the surplus were exported, it would create only a minor ripple in the pool of world supplies.

For the larger farmer, beef production is on a different footing; because of his wide acres, a lower return per acre can still provide a good living. Here again there are all the indications of change. The system in the past of the long itinerary from calfhood through the various hands and various fairs and markets, and through alternate periods of plenty and scarcity, has been and is a most wasteful system and the future may be to a greater and greater extent with self-contained units for the production of the highest quality beef animals.

It has to be admitted that the present outlook for the export of agricultural products is not too rosy. Things, however, change rapidly. As late as 1953 there was a serious food shortage in Britain. That was the year of the ewe mutton and fat pork. The narrow margin between plenty and scarcity was exemplified in 1959, when the drought all over Western Europe caused a serious scarcity in milk and dairy products. That, however, must be regarded as merely a temporary phase. In the immediate future there is every likelihood of a plentiful supply of foods of all descriptions, and marketing problems facing countries outside of the three major blocs—the United Kingdom, the Common Market countries and the United States—are truly formidable. The straight tariff is now somewhat old-fashioned. The industrial blocs can create very favourable prices for their farmers, and the example of eggs in England shows how the new system of favouring home producers can effectively squeeze out a traditional export industry.

At the moment, with so much discussion taking place, it is difficult to forecast the final picture of European trade arrangements. While, however, one cannot be too optimistic about the immediate future, it is likely that looking ahead over an extended period the picture may be very different. The population increase of 3 million per year in the United States (and likely to be even greater in the future) is of great significance.

Competent authorities believe that the existing surplus in the United States will at the end of a decade have disappeared and that, notwithstanding the enormous capacity for production in the United States, it may well become a great importer of food and, possibly, take the place of Britain as the main food importer.

KELLS-INGRAM FARM—

A YEAR OF PROGRESS

By P. McHUGH, M.Agr.Sc.

A YEAR has passed since the last Supplement outlined the programme of development and during that time, this has been put into effect. The dry season, which was such a boon to the grain harvest, gave a severe set-back to grassland and roots crops, and, consequently, yields of the latter were well below expectations.

From early in the season, pastures showed signs of burn, and conditions became so bad that cattle had to be foddered from August onwards. Though this drought was exceptionally long, it is apparent that our shallow soil, overlying Silurian rock, does not withstand dry conditions for any length. To overcome this, we propose to grow a considerable acreage of Lucerne in future years.

The labour force consists of ten full-time employees, supplemented by casuals for root singling and potato picking. The machinery pool consists of three tractors, a self-propelled combine, baler, potato harvester, two ploughs, two disc harrows, a rotary cultivator, one mower with hay-making equipment, and miscellaneous converted horse equipment. Recently a hammer mill and meal mixer has been installed.

We are still short of a considerable amount of equipment which is essential to our full development. Our most urgent needs are grain drying equipment, a forage harvester and a muck spreader, but these must wait until our financial position improves.

Cropping Programme

As outlined last year, much emphasis is being placed on an intensive tillage programme. Over half the farm was under the plough, the acreages of the various crops being as follows: Wheat, 120; barley, 55; oats, 25; peas, 5; sugar beet, 10; potatoes, 20; kale, 10; hay and silage, 90, and grazing, 150, of which 24 acres were direct seeded and gave little production until the end of the season.

Cereal yields were very satisfactory, wheat, barley and oats giving 33, 34 and 25 cwt. per acre, respectively. As already mentioned, root crops were poor, the yield from sugar beet and potatoes being only slightly over nine tons per acre. About 300 tons of silage and 80 tons of hay were made during the season. Weather conditions prevented a second silage cut being made, and the number of cattle being overwintered is less than expected.

Sheep: One hundred each of Galway and Wicklow hogget ewes were mated with Suffolk rams. The lamb crop was fair, Galways giving 140 per cent. and Wicklows 110 per cent. Ewes and lambs were grazed in the forward creep grazing system, which proved very successful. Twenty-seven acres, divided into six paddocks, carried about 200 ewes and their lambs from April the 8th until July. Though the market was not up to expectations, it is intended to maintain the breeding flock in the region of 200 ewes in the years ahead.

Beef Cattle: One hundred stores were overwintered and most of these were disposed of during the spring and early summer at favourable prices. Some 30 heifers were mated with an Aberdeen-Angus bull during the previous season. These calved early in spring and an additional bought-in calf was suckled on each. These calves are now being overwintered and it is hoped to dispose of a number of them as forward stores during the present season. Forty-five females were mated and will be calving shortly.

Pigs: During the year, 150 pigs were sold for bacon. These were mainly Large White-Landrace crosses and about 70 per cent. graded A. The sow numbers have been gradually increasing and at present stands at 18. Lack of suitable housing has been the greatest obstacle to increasing pig numbers, but the year ahead should see a substantial improvement.

The Dairy Herd: This is a completely new enterprise. During the year a self-feed silo and milking parlour layout was erected. With the exception of the structural steelwork, all labour was drawn from the farm staff. The milking parlour is of the raised tandem, in-churn recorder type and is proving very satisfactory. Cooling is by immersion in chilled water. Towards the end of the year some 20 Friesian females were purchased, the majority being pure-bred. These are now milking and by and large coming up to expectations. During the coming year it is hoped to increase the herd size to 30.

General Improvement

Apart from the general farming programme, much energy was devoted to farm improvement. Overgrown hedges were removed and replaced by wire fences, gateways widened and many farm buildings reconstructed. This work, while time absorbing and expensive, is slow to show a return, but there is no doubt that it is a profitable long-term investment.

The second year students from Trinity College continued to visit the farm on one day each week. They were given classroom tuition and practical demonstrations on all aspects of farming. Four students are at present spending a practical year on the farm.

The programme of making the Kells-Ingram Farm into a scientifically run, profitable concern is a formidable one. While our achievements during the past year may not have come up to our expectations, nevertheless we can safely say that good progress has been made and we can look into the future with confidence.

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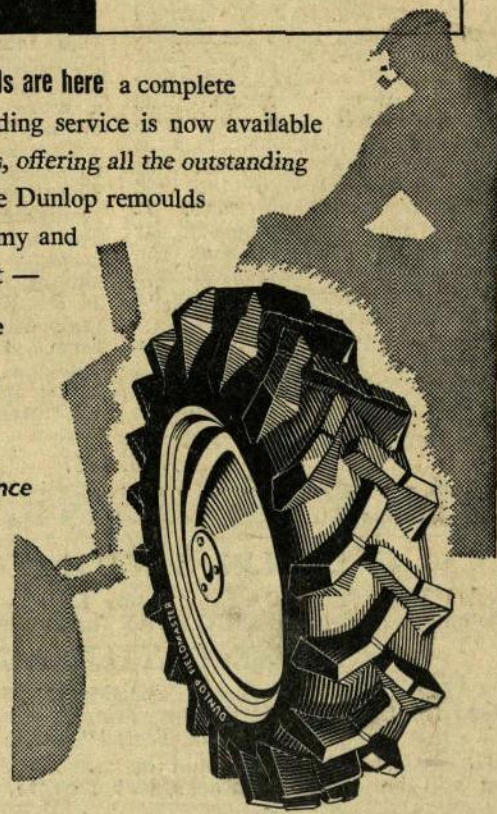
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The Woodlands of Kells Ingram Farm

By N. MURRAY, Ph.D.

THE woodlands of the farm, covering as they do 278 acres, comprise about one-third of the total property. Hardwoods cover over half of this area at the present time, while softwoods occupy only one-fifth, which includes 37 acres planted since acquisition. Another 56 acres at present await clearance and replanting, the timber from this area having been sold by the former owners.

The main broadleaved species in the stocked woods are oak, followed by beech and ash, while silver fir and Scots pine are the best represented needle trees. Many of the woods are at present understocked and plans for bringing them into full production will be outlined briefly below.

Reasons for Planned Management of the Woods

Kells-Ingram Farm was acquired by Dublin University to demonstrate the advantages of good management. When the relative size of the woodlands is considered, the importance of forestry will be immediately seen.

Every sound business undertaking must have a plan, both for its present operation and for its future working, particularly if the policy is one of expansion. Forestry is a business in which the forester seeks to improve the quality and increase the quantity of the material which he produces on the land at his disposal. He cannot change plans monthly or even yearly without causing financial loss and maybe silvicultural damage. The prime object of forest management is to make the most of the soil available, obtaining the greatest and most usable volume of timber in perpetuity.

Good land use aims at providing the owner with a steady income. Farm woodlands can play an important part in meeting this objective. There are times of the year when men and equipment are more or less unproductive from an agricultural viewpoint. These slack periods for agriculture usually coincide with times of maximum forest activities, such as land clearing, planting or thinning operations.

While planned management of the woods at Kells-Ingram Farm will aim at bringing in a continuous flow of money, it will also provide facilities for the practical demonstration of good forestry to students and, as such, is one of the objectives of the Management Committee.

Too often in Ireland and Britain, the fate of private woodlands has been decimation to provide monies for payment of death duties, and sometimes complete devastation to finance non-woodland enterprise.

Kells-Ingram Farm possesses a considerable reserve of good hardwoods, of which the supply in the country is already becoming restricted, and in addition it is situated in an area adjacent to several hardwood-using industries.

On the Farm, the woods are, generally speaking, restricted to lands which from an agricultural viewpoint are useless. It is only by the practice of forestry that most of these areas can bring a good financial return. In addition, the woods provide shelter from the wind in what would otherwise be a bleak situation. While it may be undesirable to have trees too near the farm crops, research in other countries has shown that the advantages of tree shelter outweigh the disadvantages.

It is planned that approximately 33 acres of the woods will be managed under a selection system of silviculture in such a way as to favour the hardwoods more than the softwoods. In

this method, single trees or groups of trees shall be removed. The first trees to go will be those that are overmature or defective and, next, those that are mature and of merchantable size. Where possible, natural regeneration (young trees growing from seed spreading from the old trees) will be promoted and possibly assisted here and there by the addition of suitable shade bearing conifers.

The remaining 245 acres shall be gradually switched over to softwood production (i.e., where they are not already under conifers) by a process of clear felling and replanting. The expected position in 30 to 40 years' time will then be nearly 80 per cent. under softwoods and less than 20 per cent. under hardwoods. Thinnings from these coniferous plantations can be used to meet farm and local requirements for poles and also for industrial conversion (pulp, chipboard, etc.).

At present there are large quantities of firewood on the estate in the form of defective or otherwise unusable trees, in addition to large quantities of laurel, hazel, etc. This firewood will be disposed of as quickly as possible, and at the moment there is a good demand for this commodity in the locality.

By making use of conifers in the restocking of areas where laurel and other weed species are present, it is possible to get quicker suppression of the weeds. In addition, conifers can be brought to maturity in approximately 50 years, so that capital is not tied up as long as with hardwoods such as beech and oak. Softwoods start giving a return from thinnings in 18 to 20 years.

By careful management it will be possible to bring about a condition in the woods where the annual increase in timber volume matches or is greater than the amount cut yearly.

The first and biggest task is the restocking of the devastated woods and, as mentioned earlier, 37 acres have in fact already been dealt with. At the moment a further 20 acres is being prepared for planting this season. Investigations are being made into the costs of clearing and drainage and considerable reductions have been effected in the costs of clearing derelict woodland sites for planting by making use of heavy machinery. A small Arboretum is being developed by Professor Webb and in addition to this there will be demonstration plots of the various species used in forestry in Ireland.

Timber Sales

As far as possible, timber is sold to local merchants for use in local saw-mills or factories. The trees are sold individually or in groups and all commercial timber is measured on the ground before being removed from the farm. In this way a better return is obtained for the timber sold and more accurate control of the volume of timber cut is possible.

Forestry and field are complementary factors in Kells-Ingram Farm, just as they are on any large farm with mixed lands. It is only by using the two to their full capacity that the best return will be earned. This programme of development at Kells-Ingram Farm is already well under way.

INEXORABLE TRENDS

By N. BIELENBERG, B.A., B.Agr.Sc.

AGRICULTURE in Ireland, as in most European countries, has been based traditionally on the small family farm, a holding where the farmer and his family own the land, and provide labour, management and capital. We have come to regard this as a socially desirable structure that should, if possible, survive in the future.

Farming to-day is an occupation which requires an increasing acreage of land and capital per man employed. In Ireland, shortage of capital is acute, and 169,000 or 54 per cent. of Irish farms are under 30 acres, which is considered to be below the size required "to attain a minimum standard of living without the contribution of an additional outside income."

The industrial revolution and developments since then have resulted in a formidable increase in the productivity of labour in most sectors of the economy. But the peculiarities of agriculture have not enabled it to share in similar progress and rises in standard of living. This may be partly attributed to the fact that agriculture is not a man-made process. Man does not fashion the product or transform raw materials into goods in the same way as his industrial counterpart. In agriculture, these activities are performed by the biological processes of nature, and man only assists those processes. The output from the land is not so much dependent on man's capacity to work, but on the efficiency with which the biological processes function. It is dependent on the intensity of the processes adopted, and the yields achieved.

As man becomes more efficient, the size of farm that he can work increases, and indeed must increase if he is to be kept fully employed. But since land is limited, this is not always possible. The alternative is to adopt a more intensive farm programme, which includes a higher proportion of the enterprises which have a relatively high labour content and a low land requirement. The latter has been the general trend in most European countries, and national policies in Ireland have also been directed towards this end.

The question, however, arises as to how successful such a policy will be in solving the small farm problem. Few will deny that intensification and increased production will enhance the profitability of the individual farm. However, on the national scale the wisdom of this policy does not necessarily follow. Success hinges on the elasticity of the market for the individual products and agricultural production as a whole, both domestically and abroad. If the demand for aggregate agricultural production is elastic, an increase in total production would increase total farm receipts. If, however, the demand is inelastic, the opposite will occur and aggregate receipts will decline. Lack of data in this respect makes it necessary to hazard some guesses.

Theoretically on the home market the demand for food should be highly inelastic. From empirical estimates abroad, this inelasticity is borne out. In the U.S., results tend to show that a two per cent. increase in production is accompanied by a 20 per cent. decrease in farm prices. Ireland is, however, a country which exports a high proportion of her agricultural production. Since by European standards production costs are relatively low, an expansion of exportable commodities should be beneficial to the Irish producer. In practice an analysis shows complications, as all foreign agricultural markets are closed to normal access by subsidies, tariffs and quotas. As Dr. Smith wrote in this supplement last year: "Free trade is dead, or was stillborn in agricultural products." Every European country, faced with a similar small farm problem, is protecting its agriculture from outside competition and more particularly the products of intensive farming suitable for the smaller producer. It is, therefore, no coincidence that we can export beef (with a small output per acre) with comparative ease, and have difficulty in disposing of bacon, butter and eggs. While tariffs, quotas and subsidies remain in European countries to prevent outside competition for these products and no outlets can be found except at dumping prices, an increase in aggregate production of the intensive products will tend to depress prices by an even greater extent on what we assume to be an inelastic market.

The effects of an increase in real income on the demand for food domestically are difficult to estimate. American

data show that per-capita caloric consumption tends to remain constant in spite of a growth in real income. But the composition of the diet tends to change away from the starchy foods towards higher cost vegetables, dairy products and meats. However, the significance of this is small judging by other data estimating that a 7 per cent. increase in real disposable income only results in a 1 per cent. increase in consumption of agricultural products. With a static or waning population, even with a substantial rise in the standard of living, one can hardly expect a significant rise in food demand domestically.

Apart from the possibility of expanding the less common intensive products, such as broilers, fruits and vegetables, one is left with the production of store cattle. Certainly there are possibilities of expanding this trade, but this extensive form of farming with a low labour requirements (approx. 25 man-hours per head per year) and high land requirement (approx. 60 two-year-old stores per 100 acres) is not suitable to provide an adequate income on the smaller farm.

Based on the assumption, therefore, that the domestic demand for the intensive products, notably from dairying, is inelastic, and that no profitable outlets can be found for the surpluses, the future for the smaller farmer does not look very bright. The existing policy depends on the ability to find foreign markets for the increases of intensive production. A failure to find outlets can only lead to the dilemma of U.S. agriculture, where farmers are chasing their own tails by increasing production to combat lower prices and thereby further depressing them, with a rapid elimination of the marginal producer, the smaller farmer. A policy of price supports which has been adopted in the U.S.A. is something that a predominantly agricultural country obviously cannot afford. It is noteworthy in this context that in America, in spite of this aid, the number of farms and the agricultural population have declined by some 20 per cent. in the last decade.

In Ireland in the last 15 years the number of males employed in agriculture has declined by some 25 per cent. It is reasonable to assume that similar declines will continue in the future if current marketing conditions prevail.

As machines increasingly replace human labour and the opportunities for profitable intensification diminish, it will become increasingly difficult for the smaller producer to raise or even maintain his current income, unless he can procure more land and capital. Perhaps the time has come to accept the decline in the number of farming families, as a necessary development (brought about by man's own efficiency and which is unpreventable), and base our policies on growing farm size. With that as a basis it may be possible to find a solution that will not only be better for the future farmers but also for those who by necessity sooner or later will have to leave the land. There appears to be a clear case for encouraging and giving guidance in rehabilitation and re-investment of capital to those who have leanings towards other occupations. Their land could then be used to create economic units which would yield a reasonable family income. In doing so, one must remember that a farm that is viable to-day may be non-viable to-morrow. This must also be borne in mind when transplanting farmers to larger farms from non-viable holdings. How long will they remain so? It is possible that in one's attempt to do social good to these unfortunate people, one may be taking them out of difficulty and poverty to-day only to plunge them into equal or greater hardship in a few years hence.

If one accepts that the agricultural population must decline, it may be possible to plan resettlement of these people, and the re-investment of their capital in other professions in Ireland. This might avoid the present situation where the small farm acts as a springboard to foreign shores. While one has long recognised conflicts between social and short-term economic objectives, in the long run these social problems appear to be closely tied to economics.

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WHENCE CAME OUR PLANTS?

By W. J. TOAL

I WONDER how many of you can conjure up the vision of an old-world garden? You know the kind I mean: ivy-covered walls and mossy steps mellowed by time and the countless feet which have trodden them, overgrown bushes of lilac and lavender, tangled masses of honeysuckle, clumps of lordly lilies and mats of fragrant pinks. Just a peaceful, old-fashioned garden with a long human past behind it, filled with plants that have lived with us for hundreds of years and that charm us with their colour and beauty, and delight us with their fragrance and variety. But how seldom do we pause to think how they have been brought to us from their ancestral homes all over the world, or to imagine why it is they came to be grown in our gardens.

The story of how all the different plants found their way into our gardens is as diversified as the plants themselves. A few of them were simply wild flowers whose slight variations were noticed and encouraged until they gradually developed into the present-day favourites. Some are the results of strange and perilous journeys, having been collected by travellers during their wanderings down through the ages. Some have come to us by careful breeding, while others were but chance seedlings that were first noticed in a nursery or private garden, or perhaps on a wild hillside.

It was entirely a matter of chance that an English nurseryman, on a holiday in the west of Ireland, came across a drift of pink flowers in the village doctor's garden. There they were, lighting up the late autumn with masses of pink spikes like miniature gladioli. He was quick to realise that he had accidentally stumbled across something new and straightway bought the lot for £50. The flowers of the new-found treasure were shown in London in 1921 and gained the coveted Award of Merit of the Royal Horticultural Society. That is how the pink Kaffir lily, *Schizostylis coccinea*, Mrs. Blanche Hegarty, came to our gardens, and the name of that village doctor's wife became known all over the world.

It was also a matter of chance that the late Thomas Smith of Newry one day wandered into the garden of an ancient castle in County Cork. In it he discovered a particularly fine form of *Helleborus niger*, the Christmas rose. He rescued this neglected gem, propagated it and launched it into the horticultural world as *Helleborus niger*, St. Brigid's variety, by which name it is still known and distributed.

While many of our garden plants have reached us by discoveries such as these,

the vagaries of wind and sea have also made their contribution to the glory of the garden.

During the seventeenth century when the Dutch colonists arrived at Table Bay, among their numbers were two gardeners whose business it was to grow fruit and vegetables for the infant colony, and to collect such South African plants as they considered might be of value to the homeland. Thus it came about that ships engaged in the East Indian trade frequently called here on the homeward journey to collect bulbs and plants. About 1659, one of these ships was wrecked in the English Channel and among the debris washed ashore were a number of bulbs, and by the action of wind and waves they were buried in the sandy shore of the island of Guernsey. By the autumn, great scarlet flowers appeared along the foreshore. In the genial climate of their adopted island home they flourished and increased, to be known as the Guernsey lily, under which common name they spread throughout the world.

About one hundred years later, another Dutch ship on the homeward voyage from South Africa was driven ashore on the rocky coast of eastern England. In this case some bulbs of the lovely *Vallota speciosa* were washed ashore among the remains of the wreck. They were collected and planted by some of the inhabitants of Scarborough and from that time they have been known all over the world as the Scarborough lily.

We are indebted for the introduction of many of our best loved plants to the efforts of missionaries down through the centuries. Few of them found time to collect assiduously and among these few was the French Jesuit, Pierre d'Incarville, who arrived in China about 1740. It was he who sent home

to Paris the seeds of *Ailanthus altissima*, the Tree of Heaven, and the graceful *Sophora japonica*.

Another French Jesuit who was sent out about the middle of the nineteenth century was Paul Perney. For some years he laboured in the Province of Kiuchu in the guise of a Chinese beggar and his contribution to our gardens will be best remembered in the small evergreen tree, *Ilex Pernyi*, one of the most refined of the hollies.

We are reminded of the hazardous trips of Amand David when we admire the beautiful pink buds of *Prunus Davidii*, the evergreen *Clematis Armandii* and the lovely *Lilium Davidii*. Perhaps his most sensational discovery was the spectacular *Davidii Vilmorianiana* in the wilds of Szechuan. This small tree, which in the early summer hangs out large white bracts, creates the impression that the whole tree is covered with white pocket handkerchiefs, indeed it is commonly known as the pocket handkerchief tree.

It is to Huguenot refugees that we owe our greatest debt for many beautiful plants. Their gardening zeal, in keeping with their industrious character, was amazing. Some of them could show over 50 varieties of the choicest pinks; others over 100 varieties of tulips; others 40 or 50 varieties of auriculas, all of which were named. It is to the Huguenots that we must go for the record of the first flower show to be held in Ireland. About 1700 they formed a

florists' club which met for many years in the Rose Tavern, Drumcondra Lane, now Dorset Street, Dublin. At these meetings, premiums were awarded to the members who exhibited the most beautiful flowers.

Although this was a well organised floral club, it was not for another hundred years or more that the Horticultural Society of Ireland came into being.

We have with us to-day two of the world's most famous daffodil breeders, Mr. J. L. Richardson of Waterford and Mr. Guy L. Wilson of Broughshane. What a wonderful contribution they have made to the floral gems of the daffodil world. Countless are the number of varieties that have been created by them and countless are the awards which they have won in every country where daffodils are grown.

In the rose world the creations of the Dickson's of Newtownards and the McGredy's of Portadown are equally well known, while many of the choicest shrubs which adorn our gardens first saw the light of day in Newcastle, the home of the Slingers' and the Donard Nursery.

Other names come to mind, Miss Fanny Currey of Lismore, Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth of Lissadell, Thomas Smith of Newry, Sir Frederick Moore and Dr. Robert Lloyd Praeger, all of whom have helped in firmly placing Ireland on the horticultural map of the world.

Why We Must Preserve The Small Farm

By C. MURPHY, M.Sc.

THE Irish farm is generally a family one. It is, in fact, the only remaining modern economy which still preserves the family as the basic economic unit. Whereas industrial activity tends to operate against the family, farming by its very nature binds the family close together. It gives it stability which guarantees the permanence of family life. The farm family lives and works together for 24 hours of the day.

Children become more conscious of themselves in the farm family. The child at an early age finds opportunities to develop individual skills and to develop a sense of responsibility which helps in the formation of character.

Family life on the farm is surely the natural way of human living. Civilisations have toppled because families were massed into large centres of population. Great empires have crumbled whenever land ownership has fallen into the hands of the few. The civilisations of Egypt, of Rome and of Greece fell in their time, all being countries in which the family farm was generally non-existent.

There is little need to stress the value of a citizen with "a stake in the country." Such a man will resist with his life any interference with his rights and properties. The countries where in recent times Communism has been challenged with a degree of success have got whatever freedom they now have through the small farmer. It was not from the intellectual nor the writer that opposition came, but from the people each with his small piece of land, and prepared to defend it at all costs.

A further point of emphasis is the needs of our towns and cities which cannot be met without a viable rural population.

These reasons must compel us to preserve our farm families—as many as possible — if not for the sake of the people themselves, then for the sake of our society, our whole way of living, our entire future.

We have a declining population influenced by economic factors. These in turn influence such things as late marriage, emigration, etc. Our marriage rate began to drop, strangely enough, not with the Famine but with the Land Acts. The drop became noticeable immediately after the enactment of the first important Land Act in 1871, so there seems a relationship. Easy access to a way of living was lost in gaining stability of tenure, and these problems have remained with us to the present time.

Love of the Land

Confidence in farming disappeared with the Great Famine. Prior to the Cromwellian invasion we were probably the best farmers in the world. Cromwell broke the hearts of the Irish people—the Famine finished it. To revive that spirit, to make the people of the country appreciate again the value of the soil in their country, is one of our most urgent needs. We have to re-create the pride, national and parochial, in our country; pride in our parish, pride in our land. The Folk School Movement is endeavouring to do this. We must endeavour to make the people practically patriotic — to appreciate that, gallant military enterprises are not the only way of expressing love of one's country. We must teach our people to understand that good, honest work behind a spade, or on top of a tractor, or organising a co-operative group of a choral society in their own community is even more important now.

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RUMINANT NUTRITION ADVANCES

By L. B. O'MOORE, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.C.V.S.

TAKEN together, cattle and sheep make possible the utilisation of over 80 per cent. of the agricultural area of this country by converting large amounts of herbage into the two best (and most expensive) human foods—meat and milk. These two domestic ruminants have reached the economic position they occupy as producers of food by virtue of the fact that they are primarily roughage eaters, competing only to a very limited extent with man in their minimal grain requirements.

The farmer plans the feeding of his cattle and sheep round grass, both as pasture and its conserved products, silage and hay; the more expensive grains and concentrates are added as supplements only when this is merited for increased production.

A complex four-chambered stomach enables the ruminant to utilise literally tons of fibrous material—material which is of little direct use to non-herbivorous animals and, of course, of no direct use whatever to man. The first stomach or rumen is primarily concerned with the initial breakdown of roughage. With its great capacity it is able to store large amounts of plant material which after a time are brought up again for "cudding" or "back chewing." It has been known for centuries that the rumen serves in this way to assist in roughage digestion, but over the past twenty or thirty years more and more has become known about other functions of the organ, the advances made in this knowledge paralleling those made in the basic sciences of physiology, biochemistry and microbiology.

While the adult ruminant has a stomach consisting of four chambers—rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum—the baby calf or lamb, prior to nibbling grass or hay, is essentially a monogastric animal, having a developed abomasum (fourth stomach) only, with digestive processes similar to those of the foal or the piglet. The gradual transfer of the infant from a diet of milk to one of solid food results in the development of the first three compartments of the stomach, by far the largest of which is the rumen; in an adult bovine this may have a capacity of as much as 60 gallons. The rumen acts not only as a storage and a triturating organ for ingested roughage, but also as a type of vat in which the feed is pre-fermented and partially broken down prior to digestion by enzymes further down the alimentary canal—in the fourth stomach and small intestine. Different types of fermentation are brought about by the action of highly specialised unicellular organisms which live in the rumen, deriving their nourishment from the ingested feed of the host animal. Conditions for the growth and activity of these organisms are an optimum chemical reaction (pH. slightly below 7.0), the absence of any gases which inhibit microbial growth and a balanced food supply with suitable moisture. Such conditions pertain in the rumen of a healthy, well-fed animal. The relationship of the rumen micro-organisms to the host animal is an excellent example of symbiosis; in return for the micro-organisms' part in breaking down coarse roughage, the host animal provides in the rumen a favourable environment for their growth and development.

Rumen micro-organisms include bacteria (unicellular plants) and infusoria (unicellular animals), and both types of organism are essential in the digestion of the feed. Much of the energy requirements of ruminants are met by the breakdown of cellulose, the hard structural material of plants which is indigestible to all non-herbivorous animals, with the possible exception of the snail which possesses a special enzyme capable of breaking down this complex substance. In addition to dealing with other plant carbohydrates, the rumen bacteria are able to degrade cellulose to simple sugars, which are then fermented to give rise to several important fatty acids—chiefly acetic, propionic and butyric—and to various gases, mainly carbon dioxide and methane. Excess of gas produced is eructed via the gullet, while the fatty acids pass through the wall of the rumen into the blood stream, where they can be utilised immediately as a source of body heat and for various other vital processes. The nature and the concentration of these fatty acids in the rumen is dependent inter alia on the composition of the animal's feed. For example, a limited fibre intake results in depressed acetate production. As acetate is now known to be an important precursor in the build-up of milk fat, it is most important that a milch cow should be provided with adequate dietary roughage. A drop in the percentage of fat in milk is of common occurrence in dairy herds when moved from a hay and concentrate diet in the house on to young, lush, spring grass. Experimental work has shown that the feeding of acetate to cows on low fibre intake results in a small but significant rise in the percentage of fat in the milk.

Other specialised rumen micro-organisms break down the protein fraction of the host animal's feed to relatively simple nitrogenous compounds which are then incorporated in the tissue of the organism in a re-arranged form to supply a source of protein of direct use to the animal. As digestion proceeds, these organisms die off and are

swept from the rumen along with the partly digested mass of plant tissue which undergoes further degradation in the fourth stomach and small intestine, the simple products later passing into the blood stream to be rebuilt as body protein. Research work has shown that through the agency of rumen organisms a certain amount of inorganic nitrogen from simple substances such as urea, which are valueless in the diet of a monogastric animal, can be built up into protein. This has proved of economic value in parts of the U.S.A. where urea has been used to replace a part of the expensive protein in the ration of fattening cattle. While the monogastric animal must be provided in its diet with a definite minimum amount of protein of "high biological value," the ruminant is able to utilise proteins which are known to be of low nutritional value to other animals. Consequently, it is very wasteful indeed to feed dairy cows on expensive sources of animal protein such as fish meal when much cheaper sources of vegetable origin are equally as good in meeting their nutritional requirements. On the other hand, the quality of the roughage fed is of considerable importance. Leafy green grasses and clovers, whether eaten as pasture, silage or hay, provide much more energy and essential nutrients than the coarse, stemmy material of grasses after they have seeded out.

Unlike monogastric animals, ruminants are practically independent of a supply of any of the B group of vitamins in their feed, these being built up from relatively simple substances by specialised rumen organisms. However, for the elaboration of one of the vitamins of this group—vitamin B₁₂, which contains about 4 per cent. of the element cobalt in its molecule—minute quantities of cobalt are required in the diet. It commonly happens in this and in other countries that pastures in various areas fail to supply adequate cobalt for the purpose, and in such cases rumen digestion in grazing stock becomes retarded, due to a dying off of particular micro-organisms which require vitamin B₁₂ for their growth and development. In extreme cases of cobalt deficiency, the host ruminant becomes a "pinner."

Thus many of the nutrients essential in the diet of cattle and sheep arise as a result of microbial fermentation in the rumen. The readily available energy-supplying fatty acids, the essential proteins and practically all the vitamins of the B group are produced in this highly efficient "laboratory." But occasionally the normal fermentation in the rumen becomes upset; this may be followed by severe digestive disturbance and even by one of the "metabolic disturbances." For example, alteration of rumen fermentation from a predominantly acetate to a predominantly butyrate type may bring about ketosis (so-called acetonæmia) in milch cows; this condition often results quite simply from feeding badly conserved silage which is high in butyrate. Other causes of ketosis are much more obscure and their discussion must be left to another article.

The baby calf or lamb before developing into a normally functioning ruminant has entirely different dietary requirements from those of the adult animal. It requires performed in its feed all those essential proteins, vitamins and other substances which in the older animal are "manufactured" in the rumen; suckling or milk fed youngsters are, of course, assured of a supply of these nutrients. Now, before the rumen is developed in the infant animal, it is perfectly safe to feed antibiotics at low level. It has been shown experimentally that this may result in improved live weight gain and in a better rate of feed conversion, while in parts of Munster control of bacterial scouring in recently dropped calves has been effected by low level aureomycin feeding. In the case of the adult animal with an active bacterial population at work in the rumen, antibiotic feeding may or may not be indicated. Claims have been made for enhanced live weight gains in adult beef cattle and for increased milk yields in dairy herds following antibiotic supplementation. It is proposed to investigate the effect of feeding these substances on milk production at our Dairying Research Centre during the coming year.

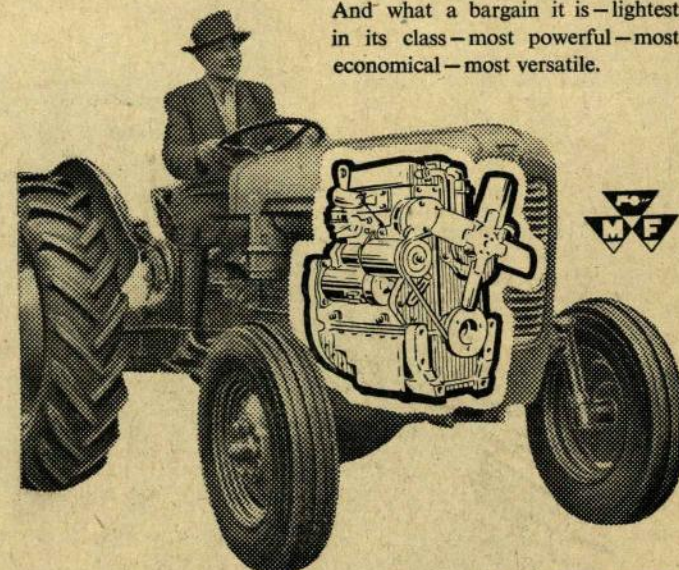
At the present time, research workers at agricultural experimental stations in various parts of the world are engaged in studies of various facets of rumen function. The more fundamental aspects are of interest primarily to the physiologist, the biochemist and the microbiologist, their findings being of concern to those engaged in stock husbandry—the men who have to study the practical and economic aspects of new ideas in feeding for growth and production—and to the veterinary surgeon who is called on to treat many cases of metabolic disturbance arising wholly or in part from rumen dysfunction.

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ARE YOU A SNOB?

It is one of the many privileges afforded to our age-group that we can be termed "intellectual snobs" and, even more surprisingly, still get away with it. Adults find us amusingly immature and long-winded, children find us "jolly clever," worldly-wise and polysyllabic. Unfortunately, among genuine intellectuals our behaviour and outward appearances are distressing to note.

Why? Outwardly we tend to assume that our slovenly appearance will display our disregard for mundanity. Alternatively we are camp, prunny, Italian-pointed and be-drainpiped. What is worse, the intense self-consciousness with which some of us assume this introvert and yet ostentatious dress puts maturity against us, nauseating the respectable whom we consider it such fun to shock.

Then again, our conversation is lengthy, erudite, narrow-minded, lopsided and monotonous — especially on subjects like Beatniks, Ginsburg, Existentialism, Schonberg and Cocteau. You will, of course, notice a strange variety in these topics, but who knows much about them — indeed, who cares?

Points That Cannot Be Ignored

It is, primarily, safe to assume that we know nothing new or stimulating,

even sensible, about our subject. Instead could we not accept our infinitesimally small knowledge as one of the exigencies and tribulations of our age, waiting for knowledge and wisdom to slowly progress down our path? Would we enjoy hearing others speak about the subjects on which we discourse with so much conviction and so little knowledge? The intellectual snob is often the first to condemn another of his kin. Instead, a help to us could be the application of the art of perception. Have you noticed how often the marks of a true intellectual seem to be humility and an infinite capacity to listen to others?

At our age we can only be expected to be subjective in our approach. "I like" and "I don't like" are by-words for a sensible approach. Musically, one hears people often saying: "I adore Mahler (or Beethoven or Brahms...)" and their opinion can be respected as an irrational but genuine approach. The person one shies away from is the one who declares: "I find the Leit-motif in Wagner very tedious" or something equally erudite.

May I suggest you try tape-recording yourself on such subjects at Bartok, Dufy, Sandburg and then keep the tape for twenty years or more? The result will be startling.

C. H. Bontoft de St. Quentin.

Drama Festival Programme

Monday, March 7th

8 p.m.—Dublin University Players present the Irish premiere of "CARDS OF IDENTITY," by Nigel Dennis, in the Olympia Theatre.

Tuesday, March 8th

12 noon — Lecture: "YOU NEVER CAN TELL," by Louis O. Coxe, Visiting Lecturer in T.C.D. from the U.S.A. Mr. Coxe has had a play presented on Broadway. This lecture concerns George Bernard Shaw.

2.15 p.m.—Lecture: "WORKING IN A SMALL THEATRE," by Alan Simpson, Director of the Pike Theatre, Dublin.

4.30 p.m.—"THE MAIDS," by Jean Genet. Presented by Dublin University Players in Players' Theatre.

8.0 p.m.—"THE SATIN SLIPPER," by Paul Claudel, presented by University College, Dublin, Dramatic Society in the Olympia Theatre.

Wednesday, March 9th

2.15 p.m.—Lecture: "ECHO OF A SIGH," by Tony Aspler, presented by Dublin University Players, and A ONE-ACT PLAY, still to be decided, presented by U.C.D. Dramatic Society, in Players' Theatre.

8.0 p.m.—"ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT," by Micheal MacLiammóir, presented by University College, Galway, Players in the Olympia Theatre.

Thursday, March 10th

12 noon—Lecture: "SOME ASPECTS OF MODERN AMERICAN DRAMA,"

by Louis O. Coxe, followed by a discussion.

2.15 p.m.—Lecture.

4.30 p.m.—"THE TERRIBLE MEEK," by Charles Rann Kennedy, presented by U.C.G. Players in Players' Theatre.

8.0 p.m.—"THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY," by Tourneur, presented by Cardiff University Players (winners of last year's "Sunday Times" Drama Festival), in the Olympia Theatre.

10 p.m.—3 a.m.—FESTIVAL BALL. Dancing in fancy or formal dress with music by Earl Gill in the Shelbourne Hotel Ballroom.

Friday, March 11th

2.15 p.m.—FESTIVAL SYMPOSIUM with the following panel: Seamus Kelly, Drama Critic of "The Irish Times"; Jim Fitzgerald, well-known Dublin producer; Godfrey Quigley, Director, Dublin Globe Theatre; Mary McGoris, Drama Critic, "Irish Independent."

4.30 p.m.—"THE HOLE," by N. F. Simpson, presented by Queen's University, Belfast, Dramatic Society, in Players' Theatre.

8.0 p.m.—"MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL," by T. S. Eliot, presented by Queen's University Dramatic Society in the Olympia Theatre.

Saturday, March 12th

8.0 p.m.—"SALOME," by Oscar Wilde, preceded by "PASSION, POISON AND PETRIFICATION," by George Bernard Shaw, presented by Stranmillis Training College, Belfast, Dramatic Society, followed by the FINAL ADJUDICATION and PRESENTATION OF AWARDS by Mr. Stanley Illsley.

WOT, NO RHINOSERI?

A satisfactory and, for an inaugural meeting, unusual atmosphere of pleasant and unembarrassed camaraderie was established at Tuesday evening's Mod. Lang. session on "Ionesco and the Anti-Theatre."

As Chairman, Richard Stack read an entertaining and very coherent paper upon a subject which could so easily lead to confused abstractions and avant-garde clichés. The speakers were all good and, as a group, provided a well-balanced study of the subject, and Prof. H. O. White, who was in the chair as self-styled "anti-chairman," was in excellent spirits.

After a deliberately perturbing début, Mr. Stack proceeded to explain Ionesco's conception of the dramatist, who should be given total freedom from traditions of any sort, and drama, which should be able to exist as an entity even if the audience does not understand it, or even recognise it as such. He illustrated Ionesco's derision of suburbia, of language in the conventional sense.

The second speaker was Mr. Louis Coxe, who has been packing lecture rooms ever since his arrival last October by his eloquent and witty lectures on American literature. Mr. Coxe considered the Chairman had done as good a job as possible on Ionesco, better in fact that Ionesco himself has done. He finds the plays too chic, too concerned with expertise, startling but with little resonance, an attempt to appear satirical by taking a trivial situation and adding a gimmick. He thinks that far from being "avant-garde," they are more exactly "garde" and, while claiming to be "anti-theatre," they do not make it clear what "theatre" they are "anti."

The gap left by the last-minute and unavoidable withdrawal of Mr. Denis Tuohy was admirably filled by the invaluable Dr. O. Sheehy Skeffington, who righted the balance of the meeting by defending Ionesco in his rôle of rebel

against dramatic tradition and of the social order, and, while possibly overrating the subtlety of some passages in the plays, justly pointed out as a result of strength, or at least of originality, the dramatist's habit of letting fly shots in all directions in a most unexpected manner, so that the audience can never foresee the next line and, therefore, cannot relax its attention.

Mr. Patrick MacIntee from U.C.D. dealt with various aspects of primitive drama ranging from Japanese death-plays to fertility rites in Co. Cavan. He made many provocative, though partially sound, remarks on the idea that Ionesco represents a new awakening of primitive drama under conditions which resemble those two thousand years ago. Since the time of Christ, he feels, there has been no need for drama; the battle with nature and death is over, as the solution has been given. But now that France has lost communion with Christ again, primitive drama is revived. What more provocative a set of sentiments could one ask for? He also remarked that his personal gesture to the Chairman, Richard Stack, had been to prepare for the meeting by having a shave (!) and (strange to say) gained loud laughter by his comment on Ireland: "We are a holy and pure nation," and the subsequent remark: "Even the fertility rites in Co. Cavan are more refined."

Special Services

Two special Student Services are to be held in College Chapel on Sunday, 28th, at 7 p.m.—preacher, Rev. John Delight, Travelling Sec. of Inter-Varsity Fellowship—and on Sunday, 6th March, at 7 p.m.—preacher, the Archdeacon of Ferns.

Shrove Tuesday: Festival Evensong at 4.45 p.m. in College Chapel. Full choir and Dr. Hewson at the organ.

FOUR & SIX

Hearts full of youth; hearts full of truth, Six parts of gin to one part vermouth.

Trinity Hall parties help carefree days to pass almost quicker than anything. Margaret Kingston, Sheila Lovett and Jennifer Grange got together and gave an excellent party to prove this Kathy Jones was there (this column last issue), but between her hair and David Gilliat we didn't see much of her. Ursula Staines and George Hallows clung tenaciously to one another, while the delighted croak of Peter Vernon Hunt was heard when he found Maddie Langford in the bullrushes. Call me Moses! Mike Stubbs and Angela Kelly gyrated slowly at the edge of the floor—Tony Jamison and Etaine Yardley smiled sweetly at one another. At one stage I saw Jill East looking rather worried when she found there was a shortage of manly heroes with cars—but she got home somehow. I congratulated the hostesses, particularly Margaret, on effecting an unbelievably swift dismissal of would-be crashers Paul (Social Circular) Focke and Michael ("Alf") Harley.



Miss Carol Challen at Appian Way.
—Photo courtesy of Irish Times.

The Time Has Come for All Good Men

Appian Way indulged in no Roman orgies at the party given by Pauline Goodbody, Sheila Kirwan and Anne Leonard. Forcing my way through a crowd of Players, kindly invited by Anne, I found that the rest of the party consisted of squadrons of Mod. Lang. and Film Society figures. That conveys that Richard Croft, Andrew, Gilliat (q.v.) Mariano, Lisa McKenna and Co. were all making whoopee. Remark of the evening came from a character who said he had just met a Russian who spoke no Russian and was English. Yes, tall, piratical Count Nikolai Tolstoy-Miloslavsky had come. Susan Gregory was controlled and social, while Jane Johnston was as charmingly earnest as ever. Smilingly dignified Carol Challen listened to Stella O'Connor's description of H-bombs on Dublin. It was a good evening — even Michael Brereton found some manners someplace.

We'll pass and be forgotten
With the rest.

Fun and Games at Monkstown

I was rather surprised to get an invitation to Louise Fox's cheese and wine party last week-end. Nick McIver, spotting Helen Dawson, stuffed Camembert recklessly in his pocket and left Mary Strelley to the tender mercies of Bob Jacobson. The radiogram blared. I listened attentively while Martin Phillips mentioned his (rejected) copy for "Icarus." Suddenly tiring of the bright inconsequential chatter (see all previous gossip columns) I fled to Howth.

Party at Howth

Many who met Margaret Woods during her all-too-short stay in College were to be seen at the party she gave. Naturally, the sizable College contingent present was sprinkled liberally with new faces, but I was not sure to which of these two groups Tim. Angel claimed to belong this time. Dan Brownlow chatted hard with an ambassador's daughter, but perhaps he just wanted some C.D. plates for his car. I looked hard but couldn't see pseudo-intellectual Mooney (Hugh) anywhere. Betty Williamson and John Jessop found something in common, but perhaps that was just a matter of medicine. The magnificent cocktail might have been the reason for many people's worries on the Howth road that night. As for me, I checked and re-checked the names of all and then lost the list.

Who Laughs Last?

Humour is one of the most difficult things in the world to define, and audience reactions to humour are of the most difficult to predict. A man speaking in a comic way about humour is, therefore, in a doubly tricky position and there are very few people, particularly outside the professional comedians' world, who could emerge victorious from such a situation.

At the Eliz. last Wednesday, Hugh Gibbons tackled this problem before an audience of members and guests, both male and female, and proved satisfactorily that he, at least, had achieved a large measure of success in cultivating a sense of humour. Now and then a joke misfired or passed unnoticed; sometimes a remark caught on and the audience roared with laughter; consistently listeners were entertained by a

quick flow of patter, serious and amusing.

Basically, the talk was a serious study investigating the reasons why people laugh and then illustrating these with amusing examples. Humour thrives on the unexpected and on group reaction, said Mr. Gibbons. It is not necessarily a matter for uproarious laughter — "People should smile many times a day for every time they laugh." To cultivate a sense of humour, he said, you need "a sense of proportion, and a strong sense of disproportion. Don't say everything is serious, but some things are funny, say everything is funny, but some things are serious." One might query the grammatical logic of such a sentiment, but there is no doubt that, if all students in College followed the advice suggested, Trinity would contain many more pleasant and many less self-important individuals.

Trinity Club Men No. 6

A.B. SEAMAN. True to his name, the love of his life is messing about in boats. Skipper of a fourteen-footer on Dublin Bay. Appearance? Definitely nautical—Crew-cut, Aran sweater and waterproof slacks topped by a highly colourful crios tried in a double clove-hitch.

Ambition — to circum-navigate the globe in a Kataraman. If and when he does, high on the list of stocks for the locker will be Club Orange and Club Lemon. Boat Clubs?

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AT LAST GREAT RUGBY

The Back Line for once Used to Advantage

Trinity, 14; Wanderers, 6

It was possibly because both sides had been released from the unpleasant prospect of playing in snowbound Belfast that this match had something of a festival air about it. Despite muddy conditions and three unfortunate injuries, play was always extremely open, and both packs fought so hard to gain possession of the ball for their backs that it was a wonder that they had the energy to walk off the pitch at the final whistle. This was a welcome, and overdue, return to form for Trinity after five successive defeats. The forwards played with customary vigour and the advent of Lea in the centre has brought long-sought co-ordination to the backs.

From the start of play the Trinity forwards were much more mobile and purposeful in the loose than the Wanderers' pack. They were especially quick in bringing the ball upfield at their feet, and their ability to make use of the opposition's mistakes contributed greatly to victory. Trinity had few answers to Culleton's lineout work; he jumped the highest and had little difficulty in getting the ball away to his scrum-half. Neither side had any marked advantage in the tight scrums, with the result that both sets of backs had an even share of the ball. Slightly against the run of play, Trinity took the lead when Reid-Smith kicked a penalty from in front of the posts. Shortly after this, a foot-rush by the forwards brought play up to the Wanderers' line. From the ensuing scrum, a relieving kick was fielded on the touchline by McMullen who dropped a goal from 30 yards out. McMullen's safe handling and lengthy kicking were a feature of the game. He plays so well on almost every occasion that one is now inclined only to notice his infrequent mistakes.

Rees gave Hall an excellent service, of which the latter made full use. Indeed, Hall had one of his best games for the side; he was always in control of the situation, cleverly varying attack with kicking. Wanderers were unfortunate to lose their out-half at this stage, but it made so little difference to their spirited play that it was some time before I noticed his absence. Wanderers reduced their deficit with a penalty goal, and for some time did most of the attacking. It was, however, Trinity who ended the first half with a score. Hall fielded a Wanderers' fly-kick and initiated the movement which sent Patrikis crashing his way over near the posts. Reid-Smith converted.

Wanderers lost Bornemann early in the second half, but this further re-

duction to the numbers only seemed to make them play the harder. Trinity's defence, however, was unshakeable, Lea, in particular, being noticeable for his hard, sure tackling. Lea was also impressive in attack; he is not conspicuously fast, but has a good eye for an opening and always runs at full speed. Moore seems to play better with him and it is to be hoped that the selectors will persevere with the present back division. For the closing 20 minutes, play became even more fast and furious than before, and it was greatly to the credit of the 13 Wanderers' players that they were still endeavouring to play Trinity on equal terms. They swung the ball along their back line from one side of the pitch to the other, but could never get the better of Trinity's defence. Wanderers kicked another penalty, but Trinity put the result beyond any doubt with their second try. Hall again fielded a kick-ahead by Wanderers and, seeing that the tired defence was not making strenuous efforts to stop him, went through on his own.

This was as well as Trinity have played this season, and the defence has rarely been better. All matches up to the cup will be played by "A" fifteens, giving various players a chance of showing their paces. This is a most sensible policy, and is to be highly commended.

A NEW GAME FOR COLLEGE

A new trophy was competed for in Belfast. The "Friendship" Trophy—presented by Judge G. B. Hanna and Dr. Brennan for competition at Bridge between the Irish Universities—was contested by two teams each from Queen's, U.C.D. and Trinity, and won by U.C.D. "A" team. The Trinity representation was unofficial, since Bridge is not a recognised pastime here. I think that the tournament—held in Queen's and sponsored by the Irish Bridge Union—demonstrated that Duplicate Bridge is an art, a game of skill, and not a gambling game. That the teams from Trinity failed to win only shows that they were not skilful enough on the day.

As the name of the trophy indicates, it was presented to inspire friendship between students of the Irish Universities by personal contact across the

Badminton

A Successful Season

The Trinity Badminton Club has enjoyed the most successful competitive season since its inception. Early in the season Trinity beat U.C.D. in the Colours match by 6 matches to 3, and in the triangular match recently scored an identical win and dethroned the champions, Queen's University.

In Division A of the Midland Branch League, Trinity beat Ailesbury in a very exciting match by 6 matches to 2, giving them the right to play Thorndale in a play-off, which they duly won by 5 matches to 3, thus running out winners of their section. Last Monday they beat Pembroke 6-3 to reach the Midland Branch final of the Irish Junior Cup, having defeated Abbey and Glenageary on the way. They are also still going strong in the Midland Branch Cup.

The second team just failed to win their section of the league, although they beat Charleston Road 7-1 in the final match, and Gregg, the ultimate winners, by 6-2. Club attendance has been poor during the period of league matches and members are asked to consult the notice board and make an effort to come down on free nights. A mixed handicap tournament is being organised which is open to all members.

First Irish Hockey Trial

Trinity's Representatives Have Mixed Fortunes

Whites, 1; Blues, 1

Due to poor conditions at London-bridge Road, last Saturday's Irish hockey trial was moved to the Grangegorman pitch. This was dry, but very rough and led to a rather farcical match. On this rather poor surface there was a considerable amount of hesitancy shown in stopping and controlling. Forwards found it very difficult to do anything with the ball and the defences were guilty of a variety of mishit clearances and over-vigorous tackles. It was an unsatisfactory game and the selectors cannot have learned much from it.

Trinity had three representatives. McCarthy and Lavan were in the Whites' forward line and Steepe played in the Blues' back line. McCarthy played as well as could be expected in

the rather trying conditions. He narrowly missed the goal on one occasion with a fine drive from the edge of the circle and also had a goal disallowed following a close, but fair, off-side decision.

Lavan on the right wing rarely got into the game, mainly because his inside-right rarely passed to him. Even when, by some mischance, the ball did go in his direction his half-back was playing such an obstructive and dangerous game that it was impossible for him to do anything with it.

Steepe, on the Blues, had a good game. Aided by the fact that the umpires were rather lenient on the "kicks" rule, he gave a very sound display. Unlike other members of his side, he kept his head at all times and never degenerated into making wild swings or dangerous tackles. When the final trial teams were announced it was not surprising that he had been selected as left full-back on the Blues. Blackmore, right-half of the Probables, and Lavan, right-wing on the Possibles, have also been selected for the final Irish trial on March 5th. Congratulations to all three.

HOSPITALS RUGBY CUP

This year's Dublin Hospitals' Rugby Cup campaign has reached the decisive stage. The first semi-final is due to be held on Monday next in College Park at 2.45 when the Richmond and Dental Hospitals meet. The Richmond have beaten Dun's comfortably and they had a 19-17 win over the Adelaide. The Dentals, who won the cup last year for the first time since 1923, have already beaten last year's runners-up, the Mater, 6-0, and so, under the captaincy of "Rolly" Meates, they are confident of ultimate victory. However, they may not have things all their own way because it seems likely that the strong St. Vincent's team will be in the final.

Hospitals' rugby is noted for fine, open, exciting (and rough!) play, so Monday's match should be well worth watching.

Swimming

Promising Freshmen

Last week-end at the Irish Universities' Freshmen's Championships in Cork, Trinity came second to Queen's, beating U.C.D., U.C.C. and R.C.S.I. We had two individual winners, Des. McGilligan, who came first in the 100 yards freestyle in 67 secs., and Richard Rooley, first in the backstroke. Rooley equalled the old record with a very good 70 sec. Trinity were second in the flying squad. A creditable performance by the Freshmen.

In the senior water polo championship, D.U. had an easy victory over Cork on the Saturday morning, while Queen's beat U.C.D. 12-0. The final between Queen's and D.U. was very keenly contested in the first half. Queen's opened the scoring, but R. Jagoe replied immediately with a splendid goal. Trinity missed an easy goal and a penalty shot in the next few minutes. M. Higginson, playing in goal instead of the injured Dowse, played well in the first half, as did backs Lee and Murrane. Half-time score, 1-1. Queen's settled down much better in the second half and their superior skill and fitness told on a weary Trinity team. A good goal in the 2nd minute of the half, followed by a penalty, knocked the wind out of Trinity, but not their fighting spirits. O'Brien-Kelly and Sharpe had some good shots, but to no avail. Result: Queen's, 5; D.U., 1.

Fencing

Individual Champion

The Team Remains Unbeaten

The men's "A" team won the Shield of the Dublin Foil League outright last Thursday night when they beat E.S.B. 8-1 (M. Boyd, 3 victories; B. Hamilton, 2 victories, and C. Rye, 3 victories). In the whole course of the competition they never lost a match, and were given only one walk-over victory, that being against Achilles.

In a sabre match against Campbell College on Friday night, Trinity, fighting on home ground, won 21-15 (M. Boyd, 2 victories; H. Blaber, 2 victories; T. Aspler, 1 victory; B. Hamilton, 5 victories; M. Robinson, 1 victory, and C. Rye, 3 victories).

B. Hamilton won the Irish Junior Open Fencing Championship last Sunday, and C. F. Rye was 4th. G. Notley and T. Aspler were knocked out in the semi-finals. S. Brooke got into the final of the ladies' championship.

The team which left for England on Monday was suffering from combat fatigue, injuries, absentees, and acute trepidation. The programme is a heavy one, involving fighting on all six days of the tour. The team, however, is at the peak of its achievements and its prospects have probably never been better.

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