

4^d FELIX

EVERY FORTNIGHT



No 120 IMPERIAL COLLEGE FRIDAY MAY 2, 1958

I.C. GOES TO TOWN LIVELY W.U.S. PUBLICITY

The R.C.S. Union chose Speaker's Corner for its meeting at lunchtime on Wednesday, and the auspicious gathering of some 200 scientists was rapidly reinforced by interested members of the public. After the meeting Jezebel went off to Grosvenor Square to meet Clementine and Bo, and at 2.45 the three vehicles set off for Piccadilly via Oxford Street and Regent Street, Clem going ahead at a great rate, having not too much steam and wishing to get as far as possible while it lasted. Jezebel and Bo followed with a cortège of fancily dressed attendants handing out Carnival leaflets.

"On the afternoon of 29th. April, I was proceeding along Regent Street when I perceived a Bl..dy Great Steam Roller a-'urtling in my direction." It was at this point that Fate, in the shape of a big blue Inspector of Police, took a hand. Clem was ordered down a side street and the drivers told that they would be charged for using a vehicle "wholly for the purpose of advertising." Clem was carrying a small poster on her boiler door.

Chad and Graham King, President-elect of Mines, went to Savile Row Police Station and were told that Clem would be reported. Apparently fancy-dress processions for advertising purposes are illegal — only sandwich-board men thirty yards apart may be employed.

Meanwhile a large crowd of students had assembled around Eros, with many members of the public looking on. At the stroke of three Jezebel appeared and triumphant clanging acknowledged the cheers of the throng as she circled Eros and sailed away in the direction of Hyde Park Corner.

Bo now arrived, and a loud and enthusiastic Boomalaka rent the air. There were few policemen to be seen, but they seemed quite interested and carefully perused the leaflets handed to them.

Back at the Union a Black Maria was waiting. The occupants showed great interest in the vehicular display and urged it to depart with max-

WIN A PROFESSOR

Do you realise that for the meagre sum of One Pound from each student it would be possible to hold an Imperial College Sweepstake, the prize being one year's individual tuition from the professor of the winner's choice? This is, of course, rather far-fetched. Even so, it seems that measures nearly as extreme may be needed before long. Judging from letters received by FELIX, discussions heard around College and remarks made by members of staff, there are some who feel very strongly that the education offered by this College is not all it should be. Dr. Hopkins of the Physics department asserts that "there are many teachers who would find that, could they be compelled to listen to their own lectures, they would not understand them." Dr. Weale even goes so far as to suggest in the Phoenix that lectures might be scrapped completely.

So far, of course, it is the vociferous minority that has had its say. But what is your opinion? In an effort to gain a more representative selection of views, you are urged to fill in the questionnaire inside. You need not give a straight Yes or No, and relevant comments are welcome. Your name is not needed. Just leave the completed questionnaire in one of the collecting boxes or in the Union Office, not later than May 14th.

imum haste. A few minutes later an Inspector arrived — he had heard about the procession on his radio and had come along to join in the fun, suspecting that those outside were from another college and trying to gain admission. He too was handed a leaflet: there ought to be quite a sprinkling of the gendarmierie at Bedford on Saturday.

PIJAMA PARTY

In the evening a seventy-strong pyjama party, in luxuriant night attire, began their gay publicity stunt from S. Kensington; to the accompaniment of hot rhythm and hectic jiving (stationmasters and reporters getting hep) the party deviously reached Blackfriars, and thence proceeded to Fleet Street.

Here the law appeared gaily whistling, attracting passionate blown kisses from passing nightshirts. On to Trafalgar Square, humming patriotic airs, and provoking considerable public interest. Here the skiffle group provided music for jiving in a wonderful setting of floodlit fountains — onlookers joining in.

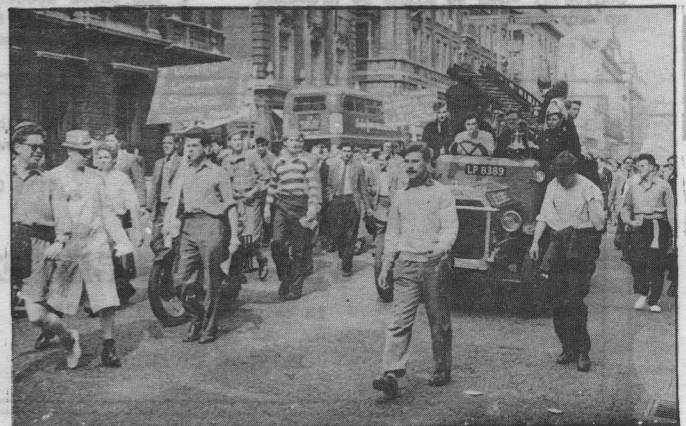
But the law at last politely but firmly intervened, informing the party that they were contravening the "Sessional law", as Parliament was then sitting. The procession was forcibly dispersed by 'A' Division but had soon re-formed, and disappeared into the depths of Green Park Station. The revellers returned, as they went, to the sound of strumming guitars.

SPORTS DAY
Coach tickets (2/-) from Bookstall
Buffet MAY 14th. Bar

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

In spite of grumbling when money is short, I suppose all of us realize to a great extent how lucky we are to be students in this country. We also have some idea of the hardships and difficulties that many overseas students face in their quest for learning, but very rarely do we have the chance to help these people, to supply money for drugs, medicine, books, equipment.

Tomorrow, however, the opportunity does arise, for the World University Service, with the help of most London Colleges, including I.C., is holding a Carnival in the grounds of Bedford College, Regent's Park. All that is required is for you to come and enjoy yourself. There will be a Barbecue Tea, Jiving, Jazz Band and Skiffle Group Contests, West Indian Steel Bands, Judo and Fencing Displays, and a Beer Drinking competition, as well as a host of other amusements. Chad will also be present sitting in a special chair suspended above a tank of water, so if you have a secret longing to dunk the President, here is a splendid opportunity. The Carnival is from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and is followed by a dance at I.C., in aid of W.U.S.



VAC QUIRK

An article on Vacation Work recently appeared in our contemporary THE TIMES. The opinions expressed were, surprisingly enough, not those of students, but of professors and tutors.

It is most revealing to find that we do not apparently need the money we earn - we save up "for a car, or a radio, or even a dinner jacket" according to a Yorkshire professor, who added that most of us come "from working-class families where a lusty youngster was expected to contribute something to the home . . . where in many cases brothers and sisters had been doing so since they were 15". From Scotland we are told that we work "for the prestige" from Oxford "undergraduates like tall stories to tell." Everyone agreed that finance did not usually enter into the matter but "if you hunted around you might find a hard case or two, especially among the older students."

How very naive! The maximum grant of a student is of the order of £270 p.a. - It is rather absurd to think that this alone can suffice to maintain a student for a year, without recourse to earning.

"Some dons heartily disapprove (of vac. work).... arguing that if undergraduates stopped using the vacation for serious study there must be a fall in standards" and "with a three year course...the heavy spade-work must be done in vacation or not at all." On the other hand one of our own tutors, presumably referring to approved vac. work "had a further idea: 'most of the younger tutors here don't like to see their students going off to work at all; there is a general feeling that this is the time for that broader education everybody says the technologist should have!'"

At last the powers-that-be have seen a little light, and have come round to the inevitable - that in general I.C. is producing relatively narrow-minded graduates. Agreed, the vac. is an excellent time to broaden our minds but working will not prevent this as long as the job is considered as a means to an end, and not an end in itself. Many I.C. students travel to Canada and Europe through Mr. Newby's Office - this can surely have no narrowing influence. Most jobs, either directly or indirectly, afford the opportunity of increased personal contact and travel, two essential prerequisites of a broad mind.

Finally: "The Association of University Teachers decided cautiously (in 1956) that undergraduates should be allowed to work, but not for too long." So it looks as if "we shall be free . . . to peddle bathing beauty contests, when we might be brushing up our Plato."

R.F.K.

DOWN THE WYE AND UP THE CREEK

This Easter a party of about twenty students, mainly from I.C. and Bedford College, embarked on the 100 mile canoe trip down the Wye from Glazbury to Tintern; all but two finished the course. Despite bitterly cold nights, leaking canoes and very wet water, there were no regrets and true to their training the I.C. men found a camping site within a few minutes walk of a pub every evening.



This was of course doubly convenient, although there was one near disaster when it was found that the pubs don't open in Wiltshire on Sundays - however the border was only a few miles away. The night life of Wiltshire was livened up the following evening when one I.C. man of strong climbing instincts found himself suspended several feet above the bald head of the local publican.

Despite two people getting wet on the first day, it was not long before people were anxious to test their skill (and canvas) at every rapid. However one electrical engineer managed to deposit his canoe half way up a tree and a gallant Miner had to dive into ten feet of near freezing water to save his lady passenger from being forever marooned on a tree trunk in mid-stream. He later set fire to his tent, but this was quite accidental and nothing to do with his desire to get dried out.

LIBRARIAN APPOINTED

Mr. A.G. Quinsee has been appointed full-time librarian in the College General Library and will take up his duties on May 1st. A graduate in English at Q.M.C., he is a qualified librarian and a man of very wide interests, one of his hobbies being the dismemberment of old taxi-cabs.

EUROPEAN UNION DEBATED

The Union Debate was held on March 11th with John Chadwick in the chair. The motion was an elongated version of "That this House is in favour of Britain's participation in a European Economic Union." Mr. John Briggs-Davies, M.P. spoke in favour, dwelling, chiefly on the necessity of using the European market if our industries are to survive. He was opposed by Mr. Martin Madden M.P. who feared that Britain might lose much of her independence under such a scheme. Of the seconding speakers Mr. Robert Finch impressed particularly by his obvious sincerity and good command of the problem.

The floor speeches showed that most I.C. men have not really the specialised knowledge for this kind of motion and only Mr. David Stevens, speaking against the motion, and emphasizing the direct threat to Britain's livelihood from the rapidly developing German industries, suggested that there was anything left to say after the paper speeches were over. The House divided, and the motion was carried by a small majority.

P.K.

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At Kerne Bridge the station-master became enraged at the steady stream of canoeists making use of his station facilities, since he was obliged to pump the water up from the river by hand. He must have spoken to the local bobby, who created near panic that evening by telling the party that water was being released from a reservoir upstream and that the water level was expected to rise 15 ft. overnight. It didn't!

The highlights of the trip were a beautifully clear sighting of the Sputnik II during its final plunge to earth, and the great scientific discovery that one must boil an egg more than 3 minutes if it has previously been frozen solid.

LICENCE REVOKED

"Some houses of licensed prostitution in Kyoto are now going to be turned into student hostels as the new Anti-Prostitution Law will be put into effect on April 1 and the red-light districts are to be closed consequently. The project was born when some representatives of the universities in Kyoto talked with members of the Kyoto Women's Association. It is now studied by a committee composed of two students, two representatives of the Women's Association, and two public accountants who have to consider problems concerning rent, hostels for women students and the improvement of rooms."

(courtesy SIF, Osaka)



Members of the other two Colleges, as well as Guildsmen, usually find "The Guilds' Engineer" interesting

THE GUILDS' ENGINEER

is being published shortly, at five shillings

PRICE TO STUDENTS: 3/-



TOUCHSTONE : FREEDOM AND SECURITY

NELSON'S COLUMN

The guest speaker on this occasion was Maurice Cranston, a frequent contributor to the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN and a prize-winning biographer. The inclusion of two guests from L.S.E. was a further guarantee of an interesting weekend — if such a guarantee be needed.

Mr. Cranston discussed three basic problems — political, social and economic. Mill pointed out in the 19th Century that in addition freedom from State intervention, one needed freedom from social conformation and from the pressure of public opinion up to the point where one is interfering with the freedom of others. Thirdly economic freedom was required, for in Victorian

England domestic servants and others were in Marx's words 'wage slaves'. The only answer was socialism with the degree of security and economic freedom balanced against a loss of political freedom. More controversial was the teaching of Rousseau who considered that the freedom to do what one should do was all-important. The speaker further pointed out it is probably an Anglo-Saxon illusion that all people want freedom.

On the subject of democracy Mr Cranston questioned whether the "Peoples' Democracies" or the Western democracies are a good approximation to true government by the people. Democracy cannot be government by the majority as this tends to neglect minority interests, whether the minority be religious, social or economic. He believed that the essence of democracy lay in the interplay of ideas in free discussion. However, when this point was considered along with censorship and other questions in the later discussion, many believed that the freedom to change the government occasionally is, after all, the best safeguard of democracy.

KIMONO MY HOUSE

The last Carnival of the year, "Kimono My House" by R.C.S., was rather disappointing. It started promisingly enough and went with a swing until the cabaret. The ensuing chaos was mainly due to the presence of drunken insurgents from the Rugger Club, presumably still celebrating their victory over Kings, and the positioning of the bar on the stage did not help matters. The cabaret was potentially quite promising but, due to obvious lack of rehearsal, did not come over at all well. It opened with an epic of the Wild East: Wynot Burp in "That's Rice in them thar hills" — the story of how a one rickshaw town, transformed into a bad city overnight by a rich strike nearby, was cleaned up by the hardhitting sheriff Wynot Burp.

The next turn was a Chinese defective story entitled "The Case of the missing Chopstick", which went completely astray, and was mercilessly barracked by an impatient audience.

After an unnecessarily long interval, due to the microphones being broken by drunks, the band started playing until the early hours of the morning; but the music they produced was very disjointed, with long gaps between the numbers totally spoiling the atmosphere; as one girl put it "Just as you get in the mood, the b——y band stops!" The I.C. Jazz Band, which had been playing upstairs, took over at about five o'clock, continuing until all the weary bodies had retired to bed.

R.F.K.

GUILDSMAN'S EYE VIEW

Carnival cabarets are never blessed with good behaviour, and regular interjections from the revellers are usual. However R.C.S., in addition, had to suffer attacks from their rear flanks. At times it seemed that everything would end in disorder, at one stage the lighting gallery was besieged by two drunken rugger players, however, the programme was in the main completed and thanks are due to the bar staff for averting an ugly situation.

During a back-stage fracas, a group of drunks assailed the bar stools, helping themselves to beer and other drinks, including a half bottle of whisky. It is no wonder that the bar made a loss when such behaviour was taking place. The shame is even worse when one considers that a member of Union Council was standing talking to the miscreants.

Footnote: The whisky was paid for later when the thief had sobered up, other than that, none of the other drinks were paid for.

J.K.T.

HOSTEL RENTS GO UP

Next session will see an increase in the rent of most rooms in the Old, New and Garden Hostels. An extra £1 a term is to be charged, raising the rent of a room in the New Hostel, for example, from £19.10.0 to £20.10.0 for the Autumn and Spring Terms, and from £18.0.0 to £19.0.0 for the Summer Term. Vacation rents and charges for visitors will also go up, but there will be no change in the rents of the shared rooms in the Garden Hostel.

The reason for the increased charges is the cost of the recent redecoration of the Hostels, and the fact that much of the bedding will shortly need replacing, to say nothing of some well-known beds.

CHINESE EVENING TONIGHT

7:30

10:30

CONCERT HALL

CONGRATULATIONS on their recent marriages to John Hobson, of Guilds Entertainments Cttee., and Peter Jarman, short story writer.

NELSON hears that the authorities at Los Angeles City College and at Michigan State University, both co-educational establishments, have stopped girl students from attending classes in shorts. They said it was "too distracting." Lecturers should learn to control themselves.

A suggestion for Mr. Mooney: There is now available some new hotplate equipment that gives, among other things, a top plate and a hot closet, each with three degrees of heat. Every whim of the kitchen staff is thus catered for.

ON the first of April Dr. Sparkes, Godfather of the new Union building, became a Professor. However, he was still a Professor the following day.

WE are 'appy to hannonce the hingement of our ear2nist, ECCIE.

1.15 THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Harry Davidson and his Orchestra

The Lotus Waltz: When April sings

Robert Stolz

The Chadwick: Pins and Needles

Sydney Baynes

Eva Threestep: Demoiselle Chic

Percy Fletcher

Hurndilla: Original Music

Thurley Beale

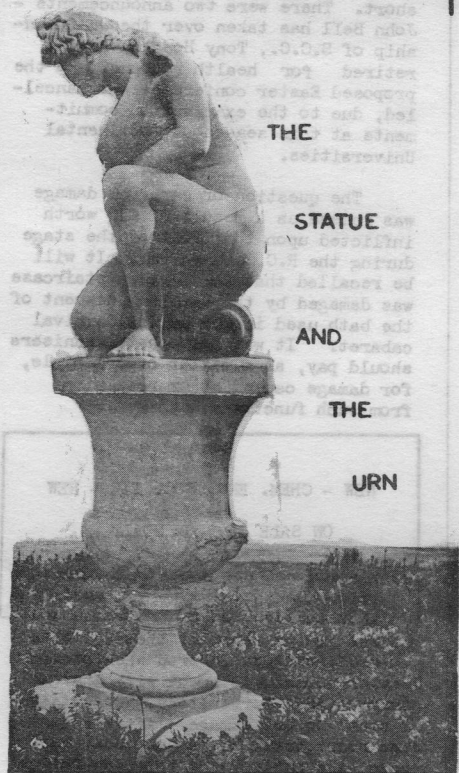
FELIX wishes to state that he has no connection with any other domestic beast.

THE WRECKERS MOVE IN

In preparation for the erection of Weeks Hall, the job of demolishing nos. 16-18 Prince's Gardens has recently been started. This Hall is expected to be completed by October 1959.

No authority has yet been received from the University Grants Committee to go ahead with the demolition of the houses on the South Side of the square. In the meantime, the proposed designs for the hostels in Prince's Gardens will be on view at the Summer Exhibition of the Royal Academy, together with those for the Island site.

Observant members of the Union will have noticed that several changes have taken place recently in the College's gardens in Prince's Gardens. Now looking much tidier, and with considerably fewer laurel bushes, they are beginning to take on a new lease of life. Changes have also been made in the Victorian statuary adorning the centre flower bed. The original figure of a bashful nude has been removed from its place of honour and now surveys the scene from the back of the American School. In its place is a large stone Urn that is said to have come from the collection of relics of the 1851 Exhibition. The advantages of this change are not yet apparent, but time will doubtless tell.



THE

STATUE

AND

THE

URN

THE SOLUTION ?

EDITOR :

PETER LEVIN



CIRCULATION

1500

IS MARRIAGE REALLY NECESSARY ?

Earlier this year Professor Ubbelohde of the Chemical Engineering Department, who is a member of the Council of R.C.A. and a collector of paintings and objets d'art, read to the Royal Society of Arts a paper on "The Marriage of Art and Science." Unlike most would-be mind-broadeners he made out a convincing case for such a union. Describing artistic urge as a creative human reaction to experience, he pointed out that while technological progress had greatly amplified the range of human experience, the reaction of art was towards unintelligibility and the abstract. Art thus provided no fundamental safeguard against the pressing claims of applied science, which consequently became more and more starkly functional.

Every work of man has a social influence. A building replaced the "natural inheritance of skyline, light and horizon, wind and weather, by a man-made artefact, which generated new aesthetic experiences", and there could be no question that such experiences should be made generally pleasing and elevating. Moreover, the inside layout could impose on its users a sense of frustration and hurry, or a sense of efficient living. Responsibility for the forming of "pleasing patterns or dull trivialities in the space-time curves of individuals in a building" was not to be evaded by any "servile flight into stark functionalism."

The crux of this argument is clear. The applied scientist will not fulfil the social requirements of his construction without some access to artistic creation while an artist will miss much contemporary opportunity without some access to applied science. These are the educational demands on the union between art and science and these are the reasons why General Studies and Touchstone are a vital part of our education at I.C.

FOOD IS NO SUBSTITUTE

Taking with a pinch of salt press releases from the College that unctuously refer to the General Studies lectures as a "bridge between different domains of learning and interest," we should be grateful that one of our professors seems to understand the reason for their importance. Unfortunately, on being asked "what the Imperial College is doing to enable a rather homogeneous collection of scientists to become acquainted with the Arts," Professor Ubbelohde could only plead that it was "difficult for me to reply cogently to that question, apart from quoting St. Paul about the leaven in the lump." It emerged, however, that he is promoting a dining club to cement the marriage between the artists of the R.C.A. and the scientists of I.C. This is quite a bright idea and we may hope that something will come of it. But we cannot all discharge our responsibilities by joining a dining club.

I.C.Y. HOLIDAY

The newly formed cycling group of the I.C.Y.H.A. made a six day tour of the Lake District during the Easter Vacation, meeting at the Crossthwaite Hostel, which was both readily accessible and a suitable starting point. On the first day some rain occurred at Bowness, but by the time that Esthwaite Water was reached, sufficient sun shone to make a very picturesque scene.

The next day Walna Scar and Hardknott passes were climbed, the former proving rather more difficult than was expected, and a joint I.C./Bedford party on a walking holiday was joined at Eskdale Y.H. Two of the more energetic cyclists decided, amidst much scorn to go 'over the tops' to Buttermere; unperturbed, they made this journey over Wasdale Head and Blacksail Pass, arriving in pouring rain at the Buttermere Hostel, where they were met by the others who had gone the longer and less mountainous way. Rain continued all the next day, which rather spoilt the long and interesting climb up Honister. A clay pigeon shoot provoked much interest in the afternoon and several members attempted to take some photographs.

After staying the night in Keswick, a Southwards course was set, amidst picture postcard scenery, for Grassmere. Attempts to find the Hostel nearby ended with lost trails in a thick wood near Langdale; this penultimate night was spent with the hiking party. On the last stage over Kirkstone to

POINTS FROM COUNCIL

Apart from the reports from representatives on committees, the agenda of the last Council meeting was quite short. There were two announcements - John Bell has taken over the Chairmanship of S.C.C., Tony Hodgson having retired for health reasons, and the proposed Easter conference was cancelled, due to the examination commitments at this season of Continental Universities.

The question of carnival damage was raised as a result of £30 worth inflicted upon the front of the stage during the R.C.S. Carnival. It will be recalled that the Eastern staircase was damaged by the headlong descent of the bath used in the Guilds Carnival cabaret. It was felt that organisers should pay, as a matter of principle, for damage caused at or resulting from such functions.

NEW - CHEM. ENG. SOC. TIE - NEW

ON SALE IN BOOK STALL

SILK & RAYON 14/-, SILK £1.

Ullswater and Penrith, the only untoward incident occurred when one member decided to argue with the dusty road; fortunately, he sustained little serious damage. After spending the night at Garsdale Head Hostel, voted the best of the trip, the party split and went its several ways.

OH WOE!

At the end of last term the Dramatic Society Easter production of "Misery Me" by Dennis Cannan was seen by those members of the College, apparently few in number, who were interested enough to investigate the work of a College Society other than their own. Finance can be no excuse - one can attend for as little as 1/6d. Although this was not the Society's main production for the year, those who did not go missed a pleasant evening's entertainment even if it was not of the high standard which the Dramatic Society can, and do spasmodically, reach.

If one member of the cast was accidentally omitted from the programme until the last minute it is may have been due to his inaudibility which made him lose character at times. Unsuspected talent was revealed by Janet Stevens who gave a very sincere and sensitive interpretation of the leading role; this is especially creditable for, although in her third year, it is the first time Janet has set foot on a stage as an actress. Mike Spence gave the confident and genuine performance which we have come to expect of him; while Derek Bayliss, a new-comer, gave ample proof of his previous acting experience and will be a great asset to the Society in the future. Sheila Burbage obviously enjoyed her part although it did not greatly tax her ability.

It was most unfortunate that the producer also chose to act.

The set was good, if rather insecure in moments of great crisis; indeed the strength of one actor proved too much for it. It was well-designed, creating an illusion of space and demonstrated technical ingenuity if lack of artistic imagination. In spite of the fact that three people were in charge of publicity there was not overmuch advertising, nor was it much in advance of the first night - although one is given to understand that this was not entirely their fault. Let us hope that this alone was the reason for lack of support from the College as no actor can perform well without the sympathetic co-operation of an adequate audience.

NOT GOODENOUGH?

Sir,
Touched by an example of manners bad even by the standards of Imperial College, displayed in the recent examination of membership cards, I wish to question the present system of involuntary membership of the Union.

Since I first came to the Imperial College I have paid about £20 in Union subscriptions. These have enabled me to mix socially with people I have no wish to know, and have assisted a few students to hold Union offices and, as the number of bogus accents shows, to become conscious of their social and moral inferiority.

I suggest that we either adopt the Oxbridge system of selective membership, or provide the alternative of an Upper and a Lower (Right or Left, if that is preferred) Union. Naturally, but unfortunately, the Upper Union subscription would have to be considerably the higher.

The latter system would enable the more civilised section of the present Union to avoid being annoyed by the more brutal.

Yours faithfully,

K.F. Goodenough.

CULTURE

Dear Sir,

I hope your editorial of last term falls on fertile ground, together with Tony Hodgson's inspired supporting viewpoint in the following issue. For too long now, the problem of producing cultured and responsible students has been hedged around by such questions as: Do the narrow-minded scientists need better Union facilities? Or bigger halls of residence? Or more General Studies lectures?

Of course we need these things, but let us keep our sense of proportion. An average student spends less than a quarter of his time in Union activities. Living in a purely internal hall at an all-science college like I.C. is hardly going to help students adjust to society in general. And General Studies lectures still bear for most, however deplorably, the stigma of being either, 'potted' or thrust upon them.

Most of a student's active life (for good or ill) is spent in study. Obviously, it is academically that the student must be reached by the arm of 'culture'. How can this be done? How can we acquire a sense of vocation, a feeling of responsibility - things which stem from a real and fundamental respect for our subjects? Not by the present method of ten lectures a week, then go home and read it up! Or from the idea that science is a set of facts alone, which must be temporarily absorbed and then unburdened in the next examinations.

What is required, first and foremost, is decent teaching, not lectures by cast-off researchers copied hurriedly out of text-books. We have enough specialist research workers on the staff. Why not a few specialist teachers? They could give all but the most advanced courses, and they would be chosen for their enthusiasm and humanity. Human inspiration is the stuff of life, science included. No amount of impersonal talk can replace the influence of the natural teacher, particularly in the early years at College.

In this way proper unity could be given to the present sets of disjointed, unrelated courses. And in this way, methods of thought may be stressed, instead of facts alone being rammed down our throats.

As support for such lecture-room improvements, there should be a much enlarged tutorial system, and perhaps also junior colloquia for vigorous discussions amongst undergraduates. All the staff, professors included, should give tutorials, while a student should have more than one tutor, and more tutorials than the present quota of one shared hour every week or two. Only through constant personal contacts can students get an impression of the real nature of scientific thought and research, and only by first-class teaching can they develop any sort of maturity.

It is from this maturity in our daily thought and work, the closest and strongest influence on us, that real culture can spring.

Let us set this present state of affairs in order first, and worry about our recreation later. We'll even tackle this much the better as a result.

Yours etc.,

B.M. Segal (Physics III)

Note:

(In the writer's experience his remarks apply particularly little to the Mathematics Department.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLASTIC SANDWICHES

Dear Sir,

I am amazed and appalled at the gross stupidity of whoever is responsible for installing the plastic-coated counter in the Sandwich Bar.

Surely a purely passing observation of the conditions in that pigsty would show that the money frittered away on a powder-blue Formica top could be much better spent.

Why is there no room to eat in comfort? Why do we have those bulky moth-eaten sofas, Union rejects? Why are there no plates, no glasses for milk, no milk boiler? Furthermore, the cafeteria atmosphere induced detracts considerably from the usefulness of the room for other functions.

Do not imagine that we are ungrateful for having money spent on us, but we are not impressed by pretty colours and fancy woodwork.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sandwich.

Not Lord Sandwich.

UNSUPPORTED

Dear Sir,

Once again the I.C. Dramatic Society has given us an entertaining play, well acted and produced with considerable skill, and providing a very pleasant evening's entertainment. But once again, on Tuesday evening, the House was less than a quarter full, which is extremely poor reward for the hard work put in by both the actors and production staff: not only is a full house essential to create the best atmosphere for a comedy, but it also helps the actors to become more confident in their parts.

If more members of I.C. would take the opportunity to see one of these productions, they would be assured of full value for their money and would help to make the effort of the Society more worth while, and they might even be tempted to go again in the future.

Yours faithfully,

P.J. Crabtree.

Editor's note:

This agonising plea for bigger audiences for the Dram. Soc. has become a biannual institution at I.C. It is about time that the Society stopped moaning and asked itself why it happens to them and not to the Musical Society, for example.

Now, the Musical Society's activities are a part of daily College life for many people. The lunch time concerts, record recitals and lectures keep people, including non-performers, interested and sympathetic. The Dramatic Society on the other hand produces its two plays a year in a manner reminiscent of a chicken laying an egg, only an occasional gallery party relieving the intervening tedium.

There are many more things that the Dram. Soc. could do to attract interest and support. A well known author, actor or producer, for example, would be a great draw for a lecture or demonstration of his art. Again before the performance of a play the author might be induced to come and talk about it. Long-playing records of plays by Shakespeare and others, new techniques in writing and performing plays - all these afford scope for original and enterprising ideas, and it is about time that advantage was taken of them.

SENIOR COMMON ROOM

Dear Sir,

How much longer are the members of the Union going to stagnate in their apathetic stupor and allow a gross miscarriage of bureaucracy to continue in the building designed for their own convenience? I refer to the fatuous situation that is now present in the Senior Common Room. How much longer are we to let a small group of coffee drinking, cheaply fed, inhospitable Senior Common Room members monopolize a room whose importance in the Union building needs no explanation?

Negotiations recommended by the Union last year appear to have reached a deadlock through the inflexibility of the Senior Common Room in their endeavour to segregate themselves from the student body even though there are, as we all know, more lounges for the staff members only than for the two thousand or so students.

It recently happened that a group of students was unable to watch the televised F.A.Cup semi-final replay, in the Reading Room. Naturally assuming that the staff are human, and reciprocate the tolerance shown by students to them, they went into the S.C.R. to watch there. However this so provoked and enraged a member of the S.C.R. as to demand if all were Union members and to go so far, quite beyond his rights which appeared incidental, as to ask for Union cards.

Assuming that originally the hope was to encourage free contact with student and staff, as was Hall Dinner, then it has failed miserably. Only if we see the S.C.R. as a convenient coffee lounge near cheap food for S.C.R. members, a facility which is not available to the students who are without doubt of prime importance in that building, is it a success.

If the members of staff who use the Union building want to be apart from the students let them go elsewhere; the Dining Hall is pleasant enough, the students give the place atmosphere, which impresses visitors, but we are not a zoo, we are not a showpiece, we are a living organism that must be operated efficiently and so cannot afford luxuries such as the S.C.R. By all means let us have members of staff to dine, wine, lunch and munch but not to slink off and drink in isolation.

Yours, Benedictus Benedictus.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Dear Sir,

At last! I.C. has its own Committee for Nuclear Disarmament - a matter which is surely the particular concern of I.C. students since so many of us will eventually help to produce nuclear arms. The committee has the support of people with widely differing religious and political views.

A meeting is to be organized for the evening of the 8th May when several prominent speakers will propose the case. On the 20th May, a delegation will be sent to the National Peace Lobby at the House of Commons where it is hoped a large contingent will represent I.C.

If you are dissatisfied with the present trends in Nuclear Policy, you are invited to get in touch with any of the signatories below, and lend us your support.

Yours sincerely,

D. Finney (Sec.)	S. Lenssen
L. Allen	J. Lucicli
J.D. Cole	Judy Lemon
R. Jarman	J. Platt
A. Hodgson	P. Porgess

TOP MEN COME TO I.C.

The General Studies Committee is sparing no effort to secure visiting lecturers who are authorities in their fields and can be relied upon to be interesting and lively. Five have been appointed for next session, and will form the nucleus of an extremely varied programme.

C. Day Lewis and L.A.G. Strong, neither of whom need any introduction will give between them a series on Modern Poetry and the Poet in theory and at work. Dr. David Thomson, Master of Sidney Sussex College and author of a recent book on Modern

CLIMBING ON

BONNY TYNESIDE

Like many Southerners I used to think that England finished somewhere roundabout Yorkshire, so when I was persuaded to take my climbing holiday there, it came as a surprise to find that Tyneside is not in Scotland. The Consett Climbing Club, at which I stayed, lies about fifteen miles from Newcastle, and one finds the club camp as an inconspicuous cluster of Nissen huts nestling under the steel works.

One does not appreciate that Tyneside is such an excellent climbing region until one sees the thousands of conical pit-heaps decorating the countryside. Like Mount Snowdon, many of these have railways to the summit, allowing the less energetic to see a wonderful panorama of the coal-field.

The climbs for the most part are for novices, and for the more experienced climber the club arranges "pot-holing" expeditions to disused coal-mines. It is one of the ambitions of the Consett Club to emulate the feat of their rivals - the Shotley Miners Welfare Sub-Terra Club, who a few years ago discovered a hitherto unknown seven-foot coal seam in a disused mine. The National Coal Board in a moment of weakness awarded them £500 for their discovery.

Beginners usually take about four or five days to graduate to the stiffer pit-heap ascents and after about a week are allowed on their first trip underground. The main shafts are as a rule uninteresting and the more commercialized mines run special lifts to get to the best climbs.

Once a week a coach trip to Newcastle is laid on to see the morality play 'Cinderella on Toast'. These trips are very popular, not only because of the show but also for the almost forgotten benefits of modern sanitation. All in all despite the language difficulties the climber is sure of a cheap open air holiday with good food and the opportunity to make a judicious collection of rock specimens to reduce the winter fuel bill.

Europe, will lecture on "Europe since 1900", while A.J. Taylor, an up-and-coming lecturer at U.C. and a first-class speaker, will discuss "England since 1851." The inimitable Antony Hopkins will continue his series on "The Enjoyment of Music" Individual lectures being arranged include "Education in the U.S.S.R.", "Science and Crime" by L.C. Nickolls, and "Modern Marriage" by a member of the National Marriage Guidance Council.

At the request of the Staff Christian Association, a short series of lectures on the problem of nuclear weapons has been arranged, and several well-known personalities have accepted invitations to take part. Professor J. Rotblat, Michael Howard (lecturer in Military Studies at King's College), Sir G.P. Thomson and Professor Dame Kathleen Lonsdale will take part. It was hoped that the latter two would speak against each other, but Sir George declined on the grounds that time would be so short that a duet was not justified. Nevertheless, it is hoped that a thorough airing and interchange of views will take place.

WELSH RAREBIT

On Monday and Tuesday April 21-22 the Railway Society combined visits to Swansea and Wolverhampton with journeys over some of the many scenic lines in the mountains and valleys of South and Central Wales.

The South Wales Pullman conveyed the party to Newport where the only diesel train which could not be excluded from the itinerary was joined for the trip up the valley to Pontypool. From there the route was via Quaker's Yard to Merthyr and thence to Swansea where, after a ride on the Swansea and Mumbles Railway, the travellers spent the night.

The second day's 3½ hour journey to Shrewsbury over the heavily graded ex-L.N.W.R. Central Wales line (noted more for the beauty of its scenery than for the frequency of its train service) was very exciting, especially on the steep and sharply curved descent from Sugar Loaf Summit. The engine crew knew there were enthusiasts on the train and their memory of the speed restrictions appeared on occasion to lapse.

The return from Shrewsbury to London was broken at Wolverhampton for a visit to the Stafford Road Works of the Western Region where locomotives were seen undergoing various types of repair.

Although this excursion was not so well supported as those of the last two years, it was every bit as successful and the Visits Secretary is to be congratulated on the efficiency of the organisation.

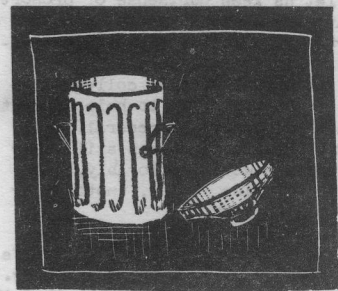
R.D. Wills.

WHAT MANNER OF

FISH

IS THIS?

The effect of the new photo-front Phoenix will only be equalled when the refectory starts serving fish wrapped up in five pound notes. It says a great deal for the design and layout that over thirteen hundred members of the Union were sufficiently interested to investigate further. Was it the same old ood -- or perhaps a coelacanth cutlet?.



Attention was inevitably focussed on the "Anthology on Women," occupying as it did one third of the issue. Unfortunately, in such a prominent position it was not an unqualified success, due mainly to the choice of subject and its frivolous treatment. An eight-page anthology on a less worn topic might provide a more suitable vehicle for the talent of the Phoenix staff. Virtually the only counterweight to this lightheartedness was Dr. Weale's serious note and the discussion of the Imperial University. The Editor and his staff have obviously put a great deal of work into this Phoenix, and deserve congratulation, but their efforts merit a more balanced display.

P.H.L.

OFF TO SILVERSTONE

On the morning of 12th April, eleven members of the R.C.S. Motor Club left the College on what proved to be one of the most adventurous journeys yet undertaken with Jezebel.

She behaved perfectly, as is expected of her, until Edgware, when a mysterious coughing started on the numerous up-grades. This was stopped by keeping her petrol tank topped up but this remedy soon proved insufficient. However, air was blown through the petrol feed system to clear a partial blockage.

By the time Silverstone was reached the day had warmed up and the crew, thinking all their troubles ended, settled down in the paddock to enjoy a good day's racing.

Later, however, a slight leak was noticed in Jezebel's radiator. Enough chewing gum was bought to chew the way home, but this proved ineffective, as did R.d.w.l.d. After numerous stops for water and one due to a police warning that "your museum piece is trailing water," the fire-engine reached home. She has now been restored to full health.

STOP PRESS

RIFLE CLUB WINS U.L. CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

This is the first time since its inception four years ago that the Cup has been won by I.C. The Club already holds the League (Engineers) Cup.



The Musical Society sprang into the public ear towards the end of last term with two presentations - a performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor by the College Choir, followed a week later by Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado."

Both the Mass and the Savoy Opera drew full houses, the latter for four nights running, enhancing the already considerable reputation of the Society. To quote THE TIMES:

"It is the aim of the conductors of most university choirs that every student-member should sing Bach's B Minor Mass during his or her university career. Many of those taking part in the performance by the Imperial College Choir on Wednesday evening must have been singing this work for the first time, and it is greatly to the credit of their conductor, Dr. Eric Brown, that they sang with sureness and conviction. Responding well to a clear and steady beat, with perfect intonation throughout, they produced some exciting moments, but were not yet able to sustain this excitement."

The singing in "The Mikado" too was of a high standard, and under the expert direction of Mr. Frank Kennard the hardworking cast gave a very spirited performance. Stafford Dean, as the Mikado, and Michael Amos, as Ko-Ko, were outstanding. However, a little more care could have been taken with the props. The backcloth that was used for the Guilds carnival, and showed it, while reflection from the sellotape holding Katisha's fan together was no less obvious.

These successful productions of the Musical Society underline once again the strong musical tradition of the College. Incidentally, it is a fact that performers queue up to give lunch-hour concerts at I.C., appreciating the "civilised audience and atmosphere," before going on to broadcasts. I.C. occupies an accepted niche in London's musical world and it is obviously vital to maintain our musical facilities. It is to be hoped that during the expansion of the College and after, these facilities will be carefully safeguarded.



FROM
BACH
TO
SULLIVAN

HOCKEY CLUB IN HOLLAND

From the day we arrived in Groningen this tour had the promise of success. We arrived during a snowstorm but the weather quickly changed, giving us fine sunny days for the rest of the tour, enabling us to complete all our fixtures.

However, these were of minor importance, since the main purpose of the tour was to meet Dutch students, to learn their ways, and to teach them a few Old English customs. We were fortunate in that there were no language difficulties, our hosts being eager to practise their English.

In Groningen our hosts were the members of Forward Hockey Club, a student society of the Univ. of Groningen. The highlight of our stay was a feast, in celebration of Forward winning the North Netherlands Hockey Tournament. As at all other feasts, our team displayed great ability in the art of alcoholic imbibition.

Two matches were played in Groningen. The first, against Groningen Catholic Students, was drawn 1 - 1; our goal, the first of the tour, was appropriately scored by the Captain, H.G.King. The second match, against Forward, was also a draw 1 - 1 (scorer R.Lee). Our stay in Groningen was concluded with a dinner given by us for our Dutch friends

followed by a dance, the highlight of which was a jive display by our goalkeeper 'Sham'.

Unfortunately, the following morning we had to take the road to Utrecht at 6:00 am., where we played in one section of the Dutch Universities Hockey Tournament. We won our section, but we retired to let the runners-up play in the final, which they won. Our thanks are due to the Dutch Universities Athletic Association for allowing us to play and for entertaining us afterwards.

And so to Delft, famous for Delft Blue China and for Engineers (6000 of them), which is a typical University town and is an ideal touring centre. Here we played our hardest game when we drew 2 - 2 with Delft Studentum. The Delft side contained one of their two internationals, and were favourites to win the Netherlands Club Championship. However, thanks to fine goals by Lee and Holmes and a splendid effort by the defence, we managed to maintain our unbeaten record.

Our last game was against Delft Sanctus Virgilius, in which the team rounded off a fine tour by winning 6 - 1.

Tour record:
P 8 W 4 D 4 L 0 F 15 A 5.

From Delft we visited the Hague, and later Amsterdam, where, with spokesman Bhatnagar persuading the proprietor to allow us a cheap rate, we toured the famous canals by barge, seeing many places of repute. After a farewell party at Delft, there followed much merrymaking on the overnight crossing.

Our thanks are due to our hosts for their hospitality, the Union for its support, and Messrs. King and Rees for their hard work in organisation.

This was a fitting end to a most successful season, in which the Club has lost only 17 matches out of 55. We have regularly turned out three teams, and with a little more support it should be possible to form a 4th. team.

Record for season:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st. XI	29	18	6	5	81	42
2nd. XI	14	6	2	6	27	35
3rd. XI	12	4	2	6	18	20.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 2nd. MAY
CHINESE SOCIETY Chinese Evening in the Concert Hall, 7.30.
STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT "Is Man Fallen?" speaker, Rev. D.L. Edwards. Room 127, 1.10.

SATURDAY 3rd. MAY
W.U.S. Carnival at Bedford.
Entertainments Committee Informal Dance.

FRIDAY 9th. MAY
STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT Open Meeting, "The Attraction of Gambling" speaker, Rev. D.Greeves. Room 127, 1.10.
GUILDS MOTOR CLUB A.G.M. Room 15, 5.5.

SATURDAY 10th. MAY
Entertainments Committee Informal Dance.

FRIDAY 16th. MAY
R.C.S. Country House Ball at Silwood Park.

U.L. SWIMMING CUP COMES TO I.C.

For the first time since 1948, I.C. Swimming Club have won the University Championships, with Q.M.C. and Battersea jointly taking second place.

The I.C. successes were:

Harford - 1st. 110 yds. Backstroke.
2nd. 440 yds. Freestyle.
Loveman - 1st. 220 yds. Breaststroke.
2nd. 110 yds. Butterfly.
Beckett - Joint 4th. 440 yds. Freestyle.
Piggott - 4th. 110 yds. Freestyle.
Hills - 4th. 220 yds. Breaststroke.
Squadron Relay Team - 2nd.
(Beckett, Piggott, Larsen, Harford)
Médley Relay Team - 2nd.
(Hills, Harford, Beckett, Loveman).

As can be seen from the results, the Club owes its success chiefly to the two Rogers..... Harford and Loveman.

Swimming Club officers for 1958-59:
Captain - R. Harford.
Vice-Captain - R. Basham.
Secretary - B. Hart.

CRICKET

About seventy people turned up for trials and practices at Harlington this year. Many of the newcomers were of quite high standard, making team selection a difficult task.

The season opened successfully for the 1st XI who beat Wye College by nine wickets, on a difficult pitch. One of the most pleasing features was the fielding of the I.C. team, which was a vast improvement over last year.

The trip to Wye was an outstanding success, due in part to the fact that the team were accompanied by the I.C.W. S.C. tennis team. It was noticeable that on the downward journey one team sat at the back of the coach and the other at the front, on the return journey positions were shuffled, proving that Sport brings people closer together.

The 2nd XI had a less happy time at Harlington against the Institute of Education and only managed to draw the match.

The third eleven, however, started the season with a fine win over Wembley 3rd XI.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crosscountry Club officers for 1958-59:
Captain - G.P. Tilly
Vice-Captain - P.S. Smith
Secretary - A. Brown
Treasurer - P.A. Rayment.

J.H. Collins (Crosscountry Captain) did very well to win the Orion Harriers 15 mile crosscountry race. J. Conway, also from I.C., came 4th.

In the Sculler's Head, Martin Gaylard (I.C. Boat Club) came 7th, from over 100 entries.

On March 29th, an I.C. team ran in the Wigmore Harriers 15 mile road race, over a tough course in the Hampstead area. The team was placed 25th. (M. Barber 81st. R. Peacock 122nd, and P.S. Smith 139th.)

HEAD OF THE RIVER

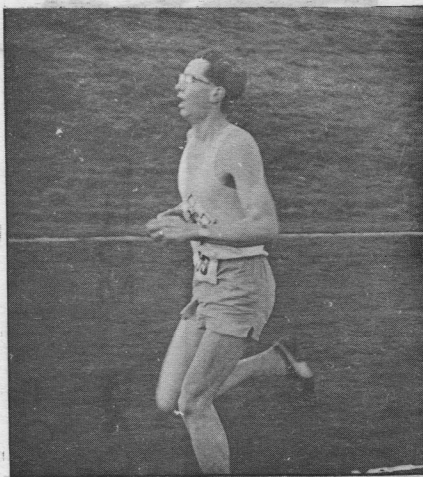
On Saturday 29th March 290 crews entered for the London "Head of the River" race from Mortlake to Putney, of these, seven were I.C. crews who had stayed a week after the end of term to row in the gruelling $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles race.

The conditions were quite good apart from a fierce head wind on the final stretch from Hammersmith Bridge to Putney. This was the downfall of many crews, including the I.C. 2nd VIII, who were only a few seconds slower than I.C. 1st VIII at Hammersmith but ended up some 50 places lower.

The I.C. 1st VIII did very well to move up from 16th to 12th place. They caught the crew in front near Chiswick Eyot but that crew would not move over to allow the I.C. boat to pass (as is the rule in rowing) and the I.C. boat was forced to go wide out of the stream, thus losing valuable seconds.

Due mainly to increased opposition the only other I.C. crew to better its position was the 6th VIII, composed of freshers with some previous rowing experience, who moved up about 30 places from 184th.

However, all the I.C. crews enjoyed their Head Night Dinner. The Coxes had also supped with coxes from various clubs at the annual I.C. Coxwains' Society Dinner the previous Thursday. The Boat Club hopes to reap the records of its winter training in the coming regatta season.



ABOVE: Dave Briggs (RCS) the winner of the 3-miles.

BELOW: The I.C. 2nd. VIII before the 'Head'.

ATHLETICS

The triangular meeting held at the end of last term resulted in a comfortable victory for I.C. (68 pts.) over L.S.E. (48) and Q.M.C. (46). Star of the match was Alan Brown who achieved 2nd. place in the pole-vault with 2' $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

This term's activities began with the Trials and a Pentathlon competition. In the former, "Gorb" Newman - an old hand at the field events - won both the discus and shot events. Many athletes entered our Pentathlon, in which five events are chosen from nine track and field events. The result was unexpected, as a trackman, Keith Ludlam, proved victorious with a total of 2427 points. His performances were: 100m. (11.4s.) 768pts. 400m. (52.6s.) 666pts. HJ (4'6") 372 pts. LJ (18'3") 415pts. Shot (22'3") 206 pts.

A. Abbott, spurred on by the prize of 5 cigs., was second with 2341 points.

On April 26th. I.C. athletes upheld the prestige of the College in the University Trials. Outstanding performers on the track included B. Curtis (220), K.W. Ludlam (440), P. Rayment (880), J.S. Evans (mile), J.H. Collins (2 miles), and W. Melbourne (hurdles). Dave Smith dominated the field events with a magnificent HSJ of 45' 7".

On the same day, an I.C. team beat Westminster Hospital by 75 pts. to 55. Great promise was shown by fresher J.R. Breckon who won three field events, HJ, LJ, and HSJ.

Sports Day

Two events of the annual Athletic Sports have already been held. The three miles was held at Parliament Hill on 19th. March. This event has for long been a most interesting struggle between R.C.S. and Guilds, who this year were again very evenly matched, and the result was extremely close, with Guilds winning by 28 pts. to 30. Unfortunately, illness prevented several athletes from running but the two Colleges were equally affected. Three R.C.S. men finished in the first four positions, but Guilds then packed in a bunch of five runners which decided the result.

Individual results:

1. D. Briggs (RCS) 14m. 50s.
2. J. Conway (C&G)
3. J. Collins (RCS)
4. M. Barber (RCS)
5. K. Wall (C&G)
6. G. Tilly (C&G).

An innovation this year was the Steeplechase, won by Guilds with R.C.S. second - Mines not entering a team. The early pace was set by K. Wall, who built up a considerable lead, but J.F. Jaeger closed the gap in the last few laps and, finishing with a strong sprint, won by several yards.

All the other events in the Sports will take place on MAY 14th. at MOTSPUR PARK. Why not come to Sports Day - you are given an official College half-day for this purpose. Coach tickets (2/- ret.) may be purchased from the Bookstall.

ICWSC

I.C.W.S.C. had an enjoyable tennis match at Wye College on April 26th. Result: Wye 6, I.C. 3.

F E L I X QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you consider that Imperial College provides the right type of education?
2. Would you like to see more attention paid to the quality of teaching?
3. Do lecturers take a sufficient interest in your work?
Would more personal contact be desirable?
4. Does your department tend to discourage participation in College activities?
5. Would you recommend anyone to take a degree course in your department?

Comments:

(May 1958)

Course.....Year.....