

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION
PRESENTS

FELIX

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EVERY
FORTNIGHT

3¢

EDITORIAL.

SPRING IN THE AIR.

This being our last issue this term, and Spring being in the air, FELIX is in genial mood, and our thoughts are turning to the best way of spending the Easter vacation. This is the season when the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love (for a change!), when we emerge from our winter hibernation and discover that Nature is Wonderful, and start to think of our summer pursuits.

Unfortunately, for the poor I.C. student this season is overshadowed by the realisation that Nemesis is nearly upon him, that the dreaded exams. are only a few weeks beyond the end of the Easter vac. When he thinks about this his brow becomes stern and he grimly determines to use the four weeks respite to catch up with all the work he has not done in the last two terms.

However, it only needs a little sunshine and the smell of a fresh spring day to dispel these gloomy thoughts and good resolutions, for after all there are some seven weeks for the summer term before exams, and if these seven weeks are to be fully used, surely one should relax now? Excellent-Nature wins again.

Having thus talked himself into doing what he wanted to do anyway, our student then sets about enjoying himself, and incidentally, what better time could there be for a brief visit to the Continent?

When next term comes, the Flap will be on, but we shall be refreshed in body and mind to cope with it. It is a constant source of amazement to each successive generation of students just how much can be achieved in those few brief weeks of the summer term, in spite of the vast number of diversions which appear.

The regrettable thing about this is that the normal healthy young man should spend his summer out of doors, not stuffing in his room and brown-bagging. The standard of I.C. cricket is not up to University standard because of the difficulty of findind time to practice, and the Boat Club's Henly eight suffers from the lack of good oarsmen who will not row after Easter.

What a pity we have to have exams. in the summer.
What a pity we have to have exams!

Anyway, we wish all our readers a very happy Easter.

NICKELODOURS IN THE AIR.

I.C. has suddenly been struck by an epidemic of putting nickels in nickelodeons. Wherever one goes, somebody will be whistling humming or "rendering" the tune in some way, and at Saturday hops the record is greeted with acclamation and a gay joining in of the choruses. Last year the same thing happened with "Cigarettes and Whiskey".

What makes these tunes suddenly popular? Not the tune, surely, for there is little enough of it. It might be the catchy rhythm, although it is not unique in this, possibly the rather suggestive words, or just the personality of the singer. Anyway, who cares? Put it on again, Reg!

ON BEING EXCHANGED.

About six weeks ago I walked into the Union for the first time in twelve months and was almost immediately cornered in the draughty part of the bar by a determined individual who said all in one breath "Hallo, have you had a good trip? Will you have a drink? Will you write for Felix?"

Being compelled to answer the first two queries in the affirmative, and realising with most unusual circumspection that this was one of those all or nothing situations, I knew that it would be regarded as at least ungracious not to reply to the third question "Yes, but who is Felix?" I know better of course by now. As soon as he realised that I'd committed myself the determined individual carried on "We have to go to press on Monday". He has offered me this same piece of gratuitous information once each fortnight ever since; so here, after the fourth time of asking, we are. I thought at first that I might attempt to make this account either alphabetical or chronological but changed my mind and decided in the end to let it be more of a haphazard history. If you have a pigeon-hole type of mind you'd better not read any further; and if the Editor doesn't like it he'd better not type any further.

There are innumerable angles to College life anywhere and after my experience of spending twelve months as an exchange teacher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology - the American counterpart of Imperial College- I could start almost anywhere; but before we do begin with details it should be emphasized that whilst I am pointing out some of the differences between English ways (as exemplified at I.C.) and American ways (as illustrated at Tech.) these are only isolated features in a general picture which in many respects is very similar on whichever side of the Atlantic you happen to be looking. And some of the contrasts stem from the fact that the American University is provided with rather different raw material (in an entirely metaphorical sense) and required to furnish a somewhat different product from the English University; one consequence of this is a much larger student population - M.I.T. has over 5,000 and is small in comparison with many American Universities, some of which have between 20,000 and 30,000. A greater number is available therefore for all the various College activities; thus, for instance, to compare with Felix, M.I.T. can call upon sufficient interested students to produce a twice-weekly six-page publication of Evening Standard size. They run and man their own printing press and it is exactly a miniature but real newspaper. This must afford great enjoyment to the paper's staff but whether it is best from the customer's point of view is doubtful, for it is quite apparent that there is an insufficiency of news and articles to warrant such frequent issues and they are made up of at least 50% advertisements.

Cambridge, Mass. is to the City of Boston what Kensington or Westminster might be to the City of London, and M.I.T. being centrally situated in such a large metropolis is fortunate to be located along one bank of the Charles river, which at that point is both wide and slow. The College possesses an excellent sailing club with a Clubhouse just across the road from its main buildings; it is therefore not surprising that in inter- varsity sport M.I.T. gains most of its successes in sailing fixtures. On the whole sporting activities are not particularly encouraged although, with the exception of football, all the usual American games are catered for: the major sports are, in winter, basketball and ice-hockey, and, in summer, baseball and athletics. M.I.T. is quite unusual amongst American Universities in not deriving much of its publicity through its football team; it does not possess a stadium capable of holding up to 80,000 spectators nor employ a coach earning a yearly salary of 30,40 or 50 thousand dollars. To quote one of their

ex-presidents "Tech is a place where men come to work not boys to play".

The larger number of students appears to have required a more rigid organisation of classes than we are accustomed to. Individual classes usually comprise no more than thirty students, which requires of course what seemed to me a quite enormous teaching staff. Formal lectures are not given so much as hour "instruction-periods"; these start at 9 a.m. (in summer at 8 a.m.) and run right through to 5 p.m. during a 5½ day week with some free periods depending on the individual timetable. Courses are based on set textbooks out of which the instructor gives daily homework; in class he may go through previously set problems or, if necessary, attempt to explain the text. The usual B.Sc. course takes four years to complete; the system of examinations I will leave to mention in my next article together with some comments on the social and residential aspects.

M.I.T. includes a department of Humanities and about one course in every six attended by the Undergraduate student in his first two years is given by this department. One term it might be History, another English and so on (I should mention that the academic year consists of two 16-week terms). I am quite convinced that these courses are not something extra which the American gets and the Englishmen does not but that the difference is that the English undergraduate has already had their content at school before he comes to a University. From a scholastic point of view the American schoolboy is not educated to the same standard as is the English boy- hence, as I mentioned earlier, the different 'material' on which the American University has to work.

D.A.



BOILED MAN AGAIN!

PROFILE: PROFESSOR LEVY.

In a second floor Huxley study, on the Chair of Mathematics sits Prof. Hyman Levy, Dean of the Royal College of Science and Head of the Mathematics Department- a formidable combination of responsibilities which he appears to carry effortlessly. This impression is suggested by the ease with which one may approach him: and for twenty minutes he talked with me informally, smoking the inevitable cigarette, his hair fanning out into space.

He graduated at Edinburgh and brought away also a brogue which might almost be worn- but not worn away, this in spite of the blandishments of Oxford, Göttingen and London. His eh-errrhs between sentences give one just that extra time to get down a vital point. Prof. Levy regards lecturing as a problem of making intellectual and emotional contact with his audience. "I get a great kick out of lecturing" he said, "and seldom come out of a lecture of mine without learning something!" Prof. Levy pointed out that lecturing was a relic of mediæval times and had two crucial problems to solve today- lecturing under modern conditions, a not insoluble problem, and more important- how to reconcile the vast content of knowledge today with a limited period of study. He thought the latter problem might mean wholesale reconstruction of the modes of instruction, and perhaps the study of the principles in a whole field combined with specialized courses in one chosen direction. However the problems of lecturing are not all of this nature. Some years ago, called down to a basement lecture room, Prof. Levy found the door barricaded, the lecturer pale and helpless outside and an uproar coming from within. The miners were on strike. With great momentum (sic) he split the door open and cried "Stop - just as you are", and for five minutes harangued the assembly as they stood there in their frozen attitudes. The peace restored, the miners' complaints were later dealt with in the cooler atmosphere of Prof. Levy's study. "Students are reasonable people," he said, "there is usually some substance behind a protest of this kind". As Deal. of R.C.S. Prof. Levy has students coming to him with problems ranging from financial troubles to love affairs. "There have been some quite dramatic scenes in this study", he said. He has the happy knack of talking to students as equals; his informal manner puts one immediately at ease and one never leaves him without feeling stimulated. One gets the impression of confidence - in himself and in the world around him.

For recreation Prof. Levy turns to Music and Politics. He has a large collection of folk music from all over the world, and he has composed some songs "which have even been performed". As for politics his views are well known and we leave readers to study them in his many books - and, on the lighter side, in his witty after-dinner speeches.

C. M. H.

R. C. S. NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY DINNER.

The 52nd Annual Dinner of the R. C. S. Natural History Society was held on Thursday March 9th 1950. It was preceeded by an address "The Next Million Years" by the Distinguished Visitor, Sir Charles Darwin. This scientist and philosopher made this an opportunity to launch his views on the future of mankind, and a depressing picture it made! In the animated discussion that followed topics ranged from the consumption of dogs by the Chinese to the use of alcohol as the world's future power supply the criticism of Malthus by Haslett to the demerits of curbing the human passions. Dinner followed in the Upper Dining Hall and memorable among the speeches was that of Prof. H. H. Read when proposing the toast of the Ladies, which drew a spirited reply from Miss J. Spencer.

THE DRINKING MAN'S GUIDE TO LONDON.

SUNDAY LUNCHTIME.

A great number of people, whether they are regular drinkers or not, make a habit of having a glass of beer at lunchtime on Sunday. The afternoon is free, and usually quietly lazy, and the effect of a good lunch is greatly enhanced by a beer before it. It is not a time when one wants to drink much, and the choice of a pub will be determined by the type of company, the excellence of the beer, and in the summer, facilities for drinking in the sun. Many quite ordinary pubs assume an entirely new character on Sunday, and I shall try to give a guide to a few of the better ones in West London.

Two of the best have already been described, the Windsor Castle and the Swan, the former being almost ideal as a Sunday pub. Nearer College, the Denmark (near the bottom of Queen's Gate), and the Gladstone and the Bunch of Grapes near Brompton Oratory deserve mention - the latter at the moment seems to be a favourite rendez-vous of the more wealthy, and is often referred to as the Vatican Arms. The Nag's Head (surely known to all I.C.) and the George IV in Montpelier Street, are two nearby pubs that have the virtue of being open until 2.30p.m.

Going slightly farther afield there are the Scarsdale Arms (just west of Earls Court Rd.), the Red Lion (just off the road opposite the Curzon cinema) and the King's Head and 8 Bells at Chelsea are all places where one can sit out on the pavement and be sure of pleasant company. One last tavern must be mentioned, and that is the Star, a little mews pub in Hankin Place, on the west side of Belgrave Square, to which the clientele come in an assortment of cars and taxis from all over London.

This is, of course, by no means a comprehensive list - that would need several issues of Felix - but it should serve as a guide to anyone who wants a quiet, pleasant drink in a congenial atmosphere.

E.M.H.

UNION BAR.

We learn that the ancient firm of Whitbread's is to supply beer in the bar from Eastertime. The price will be 7½d. for mild and 8½d. for bitter - but with the greater beer consumption expected it is hoped that this sale price may be reduced. If it is as good as we expect, many of us will choose to do our drinking in the Union bar instead of elsewhere, which will be a Good Thing for the Union.

Beer Improvement Sub-Committee
(Retd.)

INSPECTION FOR ALBERT.

Men from the Ministry of Works are to inspect the Albert Memorial with a view to getting it repaired in time for the Festival of Britain.

The memorial was damaged during the war. Some of the satellite figures were damaged. A cross was lost.-Evening Standard.

The cross is not in the Hostel.

THE U. L. HOCKEY CUP.

For three years I.C. Hockey has come near to winning the cup; two years ago the semi-final and last year the final. This year the cup was won by 2-0 against U.C.; a handsome victory when it is considered that no goals have been scored against I.C. in a Cup Match this year. Unfortunately a U.C. player was badly hurt in the first minutes of the game- a great pity. Our team's brilliant record must not go unexplained, so we present close-ups (closes-up?) of the Cup Team; some conclusion might possibly be then obtained.

G. Sim (Goal) Very rarely touches the ball during a match and because of this has clocked in many hours of sleep with the I.C. XI; is an asset on a long train journey as he is a very keen card player and helps to finance several players for the coming week- one day he may win. Nowadays when he is not too sleepy he takes his own ball to the game and plays with himself in the goal. All goalkeepers go like this in the end.

J. Gillett (L.B.) One of these rare U.L. birds who is only seen in his home territory on Cup Matches and days when the University game has been scratched. Renowned for his stopping of the ball with his feet in the circle without being caught. Plays a good game of hockey but usually spends a good deal of time falling down and picking himself up. Hates cold weather.

P. Justesen (R.B. Capt.) -whose motto may be "They shall not pass"; tends to become bored with the forwards and occasionally goes up to try and show them how to score- would play better on an empty stomach.

J.C. Hayward (L.H.) Trains on beer, cigarettes and - plays a good game after Carnivals, provided he hasn't sobered up too much. Suffers badly from "Cuppers", a disease common to Cup players.

J. Hart (C.H.) One of the new boys in the team who as yet is still fit. Maybe before he leaves he will have changed. Possesses limitless energy, which is a good thing for the older members.

D. Twist (R.H.) A graduate from the 2nd XI one of Uncle Mac's trainees. Pity he wasn't taught to play with his left hand on the stick and not in his pocket. Cannot play hockey well after a Carnival - Uncle Mac forgot to teach him how to drink.

P. Digby (L.W.) Has had an amazing season, in which he has pulled every muscle in his body (and a few more). Now he is strapped together before every match and rubbed with embrocation to try and keep in one piece. He's sure to take it easy at Easter.

K. George (I.L.) One of our "natterers". Due to his great speed can make rude remarks at one end of the field and be at the other end before the retaliation. Has been known to score goals on occasions.

E. Green (C.F.) Another elusive U.L. Bird. Should go a long way in Hockey if he plays more for I.C. Possesses terrific speed when with the ball- but won't go and get it- should drink more.

M. Jones A Welshman - who seems to spend most of his time on his deathbed. Pity, as if he had played more he could have shown the natives at home how to play.

R. Bentley A good non-drinking-smoking-card playing member. (As yet to be converted). This year he learnt to play hockey: next year he will learn the finer points of the game.

THE WEEK'S GREAT THOUGHT.

Sir John Anderson said that broadly speaking he still regarded capital punishment as being preventive and deterrent, but not reformatory.

Daily Telegraph.

TOUCHSTONE

(The touchstone was used by the ancients to test the quality of precious metals.)

Three years ago the College acquired a large country house set in about a hundred acres of park and woodland, at Silwood Park, near Windsor. I.C. Field Station has been used, chiefly by biologists but also from time to time by surveyors and meteorologists. And there, last week end took place a gathering which promises to be of major historical importance in the evolution of Imperial College.

A man, when he finally goes down from a University, should be possessed of something within him he would not otherwise have had. Erudition and technique may be acquired in libraries and workshops. But a gracious affection for men and for learning, and the seed of an integrating philosophy of life sown in a ground well ordered and tended are hardly to be come by in early life outside the Universities.

On Saturday 11th March some thirty representative members of the College, students and staff, went down to Silwood as guests of the Rector and of Professor and Mrs. Munro. In most pleasant and informal surroundings they lived for two days, eating, sleeping and on occasions drinking - and discussing together what ought to be: the relation of liberal studies to our science & technology, the need to be met: diagnosing a complaint and seeking a cure and at the end they presented their conclusions.

From these small beginnings are to spring further weekends at Silwood Park, to which any who chooses may go to talk and play, and on the touchstone of companionship and discussion assay their metal and find themselves. Silwood is eventually to become a regular feature of all our lives.

The conception and execution of the "Touchstone" idea (which includes the "Ends and Means" Lectures and Dinner-in-Hall) have been all the Rector's. In the brief years of the Rector's office, as Prof. Levy remarked on Sunday, he has wrought more subtle and more profound advances than have been made within the College since 1908.

"MANDRAGOLA"

The I.C. Dramatic Society Easter Production next week will be Machiavelli's comedy "Mandragola". ".....the plot is scandalous enough to account for the suppression of the play in most countries..." So runs the note in the published version. After the I.C. production another country may be added to the list, who knows?

In these enlightened days the audience may feel that the plot is not so bad as it is painted. Anyway, tickets are selling quickly so you are advised to buy one TODAY.

Tickets are on sale during the lunch hour in the Library Annexe price 1/-, 2/-, 3/- and 4/-.

(D.R.K.)

CLASSIC MISPRINT

Dr S--, one of our most eligible bachelors, is retiring from practice. Hale and hearty at 65, the doctor says all he wants is a little peach and quiet.

... Wichita Eagle, Kansas.

The donation will be used to purchase new wenchers for the hospital, as the present ones are in a dilapidated condition.

News-Herald, Franklin (Pa)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor, Royal College of Science.
"Felix". 13th March, 1950.
Dear Sir,

Not just to satisfy "Mild & Bitter's" request (Felix No.4), but because I feel strongly on the matter, do I write in an endeavour to tear at the heartstrings - or better still the pursestrings - of the Refectory Committee, which I believe has the welfare of the bar amongst its offices.

My complaint can be summed up in a few words - tankards, lack of, drinkers for the use of. The glasses now in use, not to mention the beer on occasions, reminds so many of us very painfully of the N.A.A.F.I. Ugh! Far be it for me, a mere fresher, to suggest that all should be provided with pewter drinking vessels - apart from their prohibitive cost, it is only fitting and proper that the captains and kings should be honoured. I make a request that a quantity - the larger the better - of glass tankards be purchased of both sizes. If stringent economy is necessary then the smaller variety can be dispensed with as being of less use.

Yours sincerely, D.Spink.

The Editor, "Felix". I.C.Union. 3.3.50.
Dear Sir,

With reference to a Footnote appearing in your issue of 3rd.inst., I feel it my duty to remind you that our members pride themselves on their good seats. This is a sore point with most of us and I wish to lay emphasis on the matter.

Yours faithfully, F.C.Ewels,
Hon.Sec. I.C.Riding Club.

The Editor, Felix. I.C.Union.
Dear Sir,

I should like to make use of your columns to announce that there will be a meeting of the proposed Dixieland Jazz Club in Committee Room A on Tuesday next, 21st. March, at 5.15.

This is the meeting at which the constitution and policy of the Club will be formulated.

Any new supporters, ideas and (especially) instrumentalists are very welcome.

Yours etc., Peter G. Taylor
Derek Hughes. R.C.S.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION DIARY.

- 17th March ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES CARNIVAL
"Merrie England"
- 19th March 7.15 New Lounge, Film Society "M"
- 20th March 5.15 Mining Theatre, Film Society "M"
- 21st March 5.20 Guilds Board Room, a Concert,
I.C.Choir & Instrumental Group.
- 22nd March) Imperial College Dramatic Society
- 23rd March) "MANDRAGOLA"
- 24th March) A three act comedy by Machiavelli

College Rugger.

I.C. rugger is in a bad way. Why do so many players leave science at South Kensington on Wednesdays and Saturdays and think it has no place on the rugger field?

Probably the best game for some time was that between the Mines and the R.C.S. on March 1st. The R.C.S. deservedly won 6-0 and showed commendable keenness and will to win. Wheatley and Severn played very well behind the scrum for the R.C.S., Cook hooked consistently and Colin Morgan scored the points. Things clearly went right for the R.C.S. in this game, but it was not really surprising that against the Guilds on the following Wednesday they had to struggle hard to win 3-0. This was not because the Guilds were good, but because neither side showed enough knowledge of the game to score except by accident.

The Mines-Guilds game will be fought for the Engineers Cup in the traditional manner, but the Guilds will have to show all round improvement if they are not to be beaten by a Mines side which is probably not as strong as usual.

There are individuals in all the College sides who will do well in senior rugby, but unless some effort is made to get players to think about the games when they are playing, we shall not see the U.L. cup at I.C. In about a dozen games this season, I have never seen I.C. or College teams beat the opposition by a planned attack. As for a knowledge of how to use the touch and the punt ahead, how to make the best use of the elements and of tactics generally, it hardly exists. This could be remedied if there were fewer games and more practice.

S.R. Sparkes.

HYDE PARK ROAD RELAY RACE.

Saturday, March 11th.

Of course it's really no consolation to us for the loss of the Roderic Hill Cup, but the eleven Universities and Colleges who visited us were full of admiration for our organisation, and the finish of the race proved so close that we almost forgot that our own team came fifth. In fact I.C. were never in the first bunch, which, after the first lap, consisted of Battersea, King's, Southampton and Loughborough. These four continued to fight out the lead, with Loughborough getting the best of it until the last lap. Then Barrett of Battersea, and Dujon of King's, two well-known University milers, went away from the others. Dujon held a five-yard lead at the Serpentine Bridge, but by running wide at the final turn into the finishing straight, allowed Barrett to draw level. Amid scenes of great excitement, Barrett forged ahead to win the race for Battersea. His time, 13 mins. 48secs. beat the record lap time set up by Bob Gigg of I.C. last year by 10secs. Although never in the running for first place, I.C. nevertheless defeated Birmingham and Reading, two traditional rivals of ours. This was largely due to a finely-judged piece of running on the last lap by Ted Whitlock. We have no excuses for not winning; not even that Samways was chased by a bulldog.

A.B.W.

I.C.B.C. v Reading University B.C.

- 1st VIIIIs. R.U.B.C. won easily, 7min. 35sec.
- 2nd VIIIIs. R.U.B.C. won by a canvas, 8min. 1sec.
- 3rd VIIIIs. I.C.B.C. won by $\frac{1}{3}$ length, 4min. 21sec.
- 4th VIIIIs. I.C.B.C. won by 3 lengths, 4min. 40sec.