

# FELIX

3 D. EVERY  
FORTNIGHT



No. 9.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE,

2 JUNE 1950.

## EDITORIAL

### Mr. Sellars.

It was with surprise and regret that we heard the decision of the Refectory Committee to dispense with the services of our butler, Mr. Sellars. The decision was made, of course, in the interests of economy, but this will in fact be small, since another person will have to be employed to take over his duties "behind the scenes," such as store-keeping.

He was the person whom people usually cited when they criticised the Refectory for being overstaffed, apparently believing that he did nothing but stand and look like a butler. In pandering to these critics, and to achieve what is really a trifling economy, the Committee have lost us the services of one who, at the least, lent an air of dignity to the Dining Hall and provided one of the differences between Imperial College and other less august colleges.

We must not, however, be unfair to the Committee, for although there are many who will feel a pang of regret that Mr. Sellars has been sacrificed, at least it shows that the Committee are prepared to take any steps that may be necessary to put its finances in order.

### Brown Baggers.

In our last issue we noted that in an article in The Observer, I.C. had been credited with the invention of the term "brown bagger." In their next issue appeared a letter stating that the term was known to be in use at U.C. in 1925, but we were surprised to see that no reply to this letter appeared this week. Has the Editor closed the correspondence, or can it be that no one at I.C. has taken the trouble to write?

The term appears in a Phoenix of 1918, which alone disposes of the U.C. claim, but it also appears in one of H.G.Wells' books, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that he acquired the expression when he was at this College.

### Felix Next Year.

This is our last issue this year since a fortnight hence we shall be in the midst of, or on the verge of, exams.

Most of this year's Felix Board are leaving or retiring, and a few new people are needed to help run the paper next year. Fortunately the Sub-Editor, Mr. C.M.Hargreaves, will be here next year, and he has been elected as the next Editor. We should be glad if anyone interested in joining the Board would get in touch with Mr. Hargreaves or the present Editor.



SPEAKING PERSONALLY.

When writing the Editorial this week I found that there were a number of things I wished to say which could not properly be said in an Editorial, since they were purely personal sentiments. I therefore decided to grant myself space for a personal article.

We who started Felix did so in the belief that there was a need for a paper which would report, publicise and comment upon College activities, and provide entertainment without deteriorating into a "Muckrake." As it turned out, the provision of entertainment has proved the hardest requirement, but the experiment seems to have been a success and Felix is well established.

Although the paper is financially responsible to Council, and exists by their consent, it is free to express such opinions as it sees fit. The Felix Board therefore carries a considerable responsibility, for in the hands of irresponsible persons the paper could be a powerful and mischievous weapon. In that event it would undoubtedly be suppressed, and I should be extremely sorry to see that happen. I hope, therefore, that future Felix Boards, will bring new ideas and new life to the paper, but will maintain essentially the same spirit.

I should like to thank all the members of the Board for their hard work and co-operation, and particularly Mr. C.M. Hargreaves for having shouldered much of the editorial work and responsibility.

Special thanks, also, to Miss Larcom and the Bookstall staff for having produced the paper, by hand and always on time, and for her ready co-operation when trouble arose. It may not be generally appreciated that each issue involves putting the sheets through the Roneo machine over 10,000 times.

E.M.Hughes.

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The Refectory Committee.

The Committee met on 22/5/50, and after the usual preliminary business discussed the question of the reduction of Sellars, with the result already known.

The dissatisfaction in some quarters with the ticket system in the New Lounge was then raised, and the suggestion put forward that, as an experiment, a crush rail be installed, with a cash register and desk at the end. Apart from the fact that the Dancing Club, who use the room three nights a week, would not like the idea, and the fact that we had no cash register available, the main objection was that it would almost certainly cause the service to be slower. When the ticket system was first introduced the queue was timed, and the average time was found to be about a quarter of what it had previously been when cash was taken at the counter. In view of this it was decided that the ticket system should be retained, in spite of its minor irritations.

The idea of putting on a cheap lunch at 1/6d was then discussed. It was felt that when Mr. Coomber put the idea to the Union General Meeting the full significance of the suggestion was not appreciated, and that it would be well worth while to try it as an experiment for a fortnight. By the time this appears the experiment will have been going for a week, and it is hoped that it will provide the answer to those who require a satisfying lunch at a low price. In any case, the Committee will be glad to have your opinions.

The suggestion that the Refectory be handed over to a private contractor was the next topic. It was pointed out that J.J.Lyons



and Peter Merchant had both come to the conclusion that they could not handle it economically, but it was decided that no harm could be done by approaching John Gardners, and this is being done.

Little else of general interest was discussed, but in all fairness it must be reported that the Committee did not suggest that a new Felix Board be appointed to put the paper's affairs in order.

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Profile: I.C.W.A.

The most unremitting scholar or brownbagger could not have failed to notice that we have a number of women students at Imperial College. These fair ones among our dark and brooding brows provide just that amelioration of scenery so desirable between the yearly round of club dinners and exams.

The I.C. Womens Association (pronounced Icwah) is at once an Amazon stronghold, a Womens Institute and a minority government. It is a miniature union within the I.C. Union. It was formed in 1911 under one Dr. Whitely who remained its president for 15 years.

The president is now elected annually, this year Joyce Lee being in office. I.C.W.A. are 52 strong this year and since the war thirteen of whom live in the Hostel. Behind the committee rooms in the old lounge I.C.W.A. have their own common room where, Miss Lee told me, they have recently inaugurated occasional tea-parties. During the year I.C.W.A. run a dance in November and a Dinner in February to which a distinguished woman is invited as principal guest. In sport I.C.W.A. are good ambassadors of I.C.: they won the London Womens Inter Collegiate Sports last year and the previous year, a Hockey cup this year and the Tennis cup last year, and with Kathleen Stedman swimming for the U.A.U. and Jean Quartier playing at Wimbledon, I.C.W.A. can justly claim to be on the sporting map.

I asked one I.C.W.A. member if she had ever been in the bar. To my horror she said she had; but worse - last year one I.C.W.A. member dressed in man's clothes at a Carnival had actually bought drinks in our hallowed masculine hideout. But she reassured me by saying that I.C.W.A. approved of a men-only bar. Views on the male population of I.C. differed - as indeed one might expect - but we are generally held to be pretty average. I.C.W.A. members are unanimous in wishing that there were more women students at the college - activities are rather limited with such small numbers.

From an old minute book it appears that in 1912 a great discussion was raging on the moral propriety of women smoking. The views of the Rector were solicited and I.C.W.A. approached the Union Committee asking that a separate smoking room be provided for the ladies. How they have progressed since then!

C.M.H.

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STRATIFICATION.

Girls at college are in two strata,  
Those with dates, and those with data.

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ELECTRICAL REPORT Expt. 2E/TIM/1

Experiment performed on 15th May 1950.  
Report submitted on 18th May 1950.

ON THE THIRD STROKE IT WILL BE ELEVEN O'CLOCK

PRECISELY .....

Object:

The object of this experiment was the preservation of Coffee time.

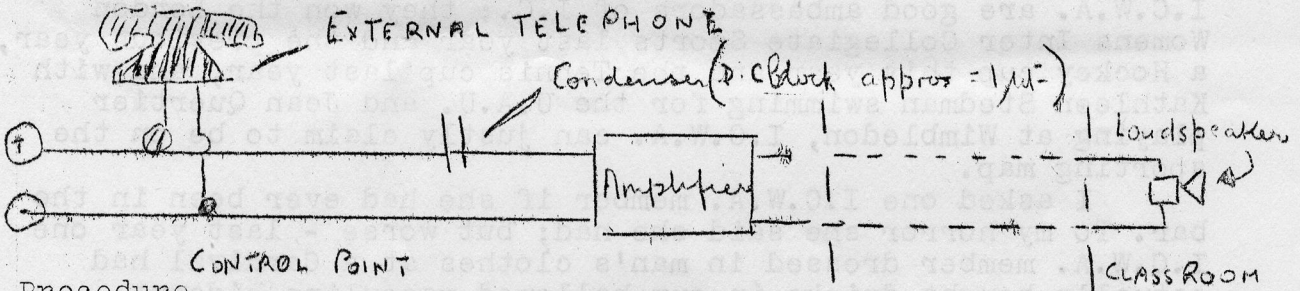
Introduction.

Second year Electricals in Guilds have been having trouble lately with some of their lectures. One hour lectures have not infrequently been extended up to 40 mins. or so "overtime." It has been felt for some time that this was not a Good Thing, for one thing it jeopardises all chance of coffee at Jane's.

Several suggestions were made and some tried out. The foot-shuffle crescendo at 11 a.m. proved fruitless. The lecturer continued for 34 minutes overtime. Much leather was expended in the attempt. Then there could be an alarm clock on the pipes or the synchronome clock could be accelerated during the lecture with an accumulator and a morse Key. For those interested, one pulse =  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute.

It was further suggested that TIM might be relayed by a Loudspeaker in the class at the time the lecture was due to end (11.0 a.m.). This experiment was to determine the sensitivity of lecturers to this form of treatment.

Circuit diagram.



Procedure.

First select a suitable telephone and "get well in" with the local inhabitants. Then fix up a piece of thread along the route the loudspeaker leads are to take & measure the length of wire required. Acquire the wire, pinch the amplifier and swipe the Loudspeaker, and connect up as in diagram.

One minute before TIM is required, lift receiver and wait for the I.C. switch board operator to say "Can I help you." Assume a voice of easy nonchalance and ask for "a line please"..... Dialling Tone ..... Dial T.I.M. Wait till the third pip of 1059' 50" has pipped and then turn up the volume control of the amplifier .....

Results.

In chronological order:- Horror ..... UPROAR ..... more Horror as more TIM came over ..... a surreptitious look at the watch ..... a deep blush ..... and most important of all only 12 mins. 23 seconds more lecture - a reduction of 47% on the previous shortest overtime.

Conclusions.

We of 2E would like to express our thanks to the unwitting G.P.O. who so unwittingly supplied TIM to such a good purpose, and to the unwitting P.G.'s who so unwittingly had their phone used to such a good purpose. We trust that in future, lecturers will not unwittingly extent their allotted lecture time. Good luck to all future pioneers!

Footnote. Shortly after the relay had ceased the I.C. operator cut in and asked "Haven't you finished yet?"



EXHIBITION ROAD.

(With apologies to the author of "Canterbury")

Ave Albert!  
Too far away to hear.  
Too stiff, too proud to ever glance  
At the infant Exhibition Road;  
Sired by the silence of the Gardens  
Out of the chaos of the Gore,  
Where thronging streams of traffic thunder incessantly.  
Not one nod? - But then these things are hard  
With a marble neck.

Scientia imperii decus et tutamen.  
Eighteen hundred pairs of feet,  
A daily tidal ebb and flow.  
Scarves of all the colours of the rainbow  
Wound round young men of different shapes and sizes  
(-Round young women too - but there the shape is standard  
And the only variable is size).  
Three seats of learning, each with its own especial kind of  
knowledge  
Luxuriously upholstered.

De mortuis nil nisi bonum.  
A road no longer youthful, but straight as ever,  
Supporting a middle aged spread of museums.  
Science and Geology - suitably square and stratified.  
Victoria and Albert - white topped with dome on dome,  
Carrying in niches high above the pavement  
A row of petrified worthies - St. Dunstan, Caxton, Wedgewood  
Turned to stone by the Natural History Museum's  
Gorgonlike Gothic.

Vale.  
Decadent road.  
Defiled by traffic lights and buses  
Staggering feebly on to die  
Against the front of an electricity shop  
Under the cold stare of plate glass windows

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Perhaps its soul, continuing to the Underworld  
Finds there three branches of the river Styx  
Named District, Metropolitan and Piccadilly.

A.F.T.

More Student Suicides.

Dr. John Lowe, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, said at Bristol University founders' day service on Saturday that there was an increasing tendency among students to worry themselves into "anxiety states." The suicide rate among university students was relatively higher than in other groups and was rising.

Sir John Stopford, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, expressed surprise yesterday at Dr. Lowe's statement that the "suicide rate" was going up. "I would dissociate myself at once from that," he said.

Dr. D.W. Logan, Principal, London University, thought students were more anxious about their future.

Prof. G.C. Field, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Bristol University:  
Women did not appear to be as greatly affected by anxiety as men.  
Daily Telegraph.

A trifle tactless, at this time of year?



DRINKING MAN'S GUIDE TO LONDON.

The Prospect of Whitby.

Along the Pool of London lie some of the oldest and most historic pubs of the City and to-day probably the best known is the Prospect of Whitby.

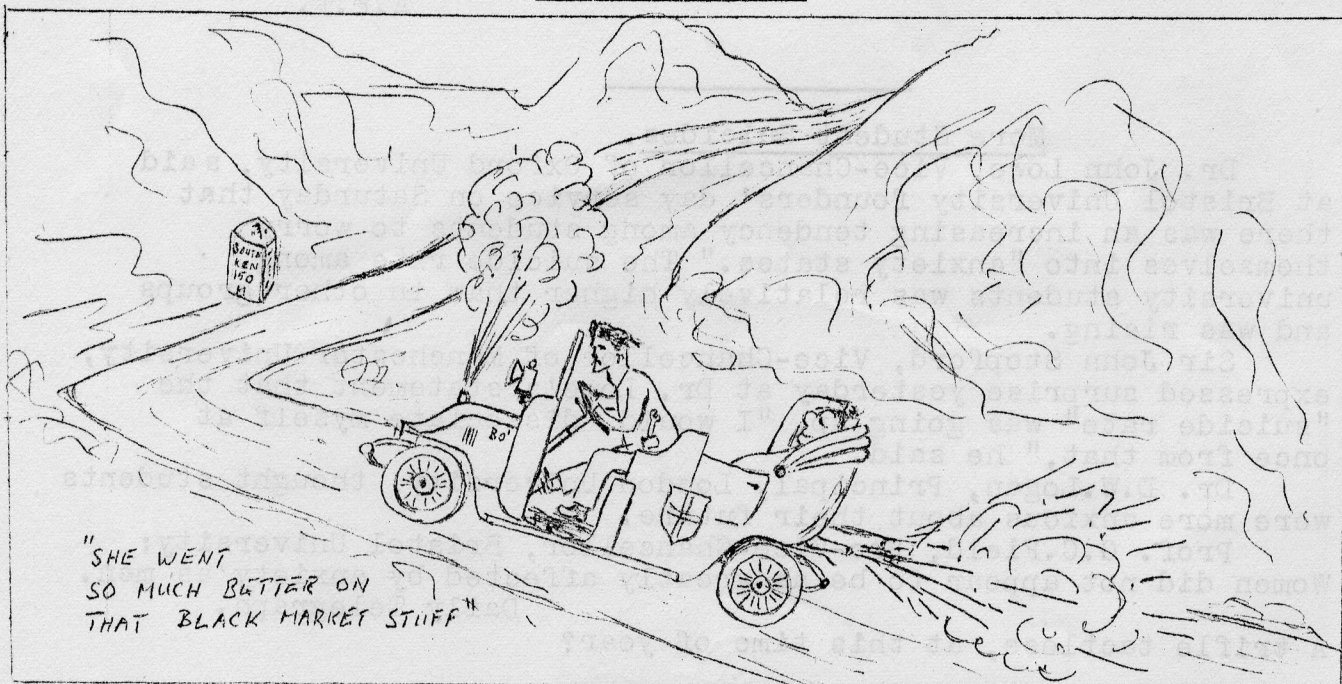
It stands at the entrance to Shadwell New Basin and is easily found by taking the District Line train to Wapping and approaching along Wapping High Street and Wapping Wall between the cliffs of warehouses. It is this roadside entrance under the sign of an old sailing ship that is probably the oldest part of the Prospect - about 400 years, although claimed by some, with forgivable exaggeration, to be 600 years old. But it is the riverside front of the inn which has the most especial charm; a rakish assembly of beams and boarding and the long flight of the wooden Pelican Stairs leading up from the mud to the dingy street.

Visited by many it has been the haunt of Sir Hugh Willoughby, Sir Martin Frobisher and Judge Jeffreys who is said to have enjoyed the grim spectacle of the victims he had condemned swinging from the gibbets of the Execution Dock nearby. Pepys and Dr. Johnson too are old associates, the upper dining room commemorating the former by its name - Ye Pepys Room. If visiting this room it is wise to notice the fittings which in a twinkling converted the room into a prize ring; a thing that was often done.

Dickens in "Our Mutual Friend" calls it the "Six Jolly Fellowship Porters" and describes it as "a narrow lop-sided wooden jumble of corpulent windows heaped one upon another .... with a crazy wooden verandah impending over the water."

To-day it is perhaps best to sit on the lower balcony with a pint of "best" and watch the river traffic moving about Rotherhithe to the accompaniment of riverside sounds and smells; or if one is more accustomed to drinking with song one should return to the bar. There amid the festooned trophies of all ages and lands - a topee from Africa, a Stetson from Australia, kris from Java, ships lanterns and an occasional unbeautiful cherub - one can listen to the three man Hawaiian band or join it in song as they play through their enormous repertoire.

In that fog of smoke and heat one will rub shoulders with East Enders at home, West Enders on a night out, tourists from America, sailors and students who have come to see this famous pub and stayed to enjoy its unique atmosphere.





UNION DIARY.

June 1st. I.C.U. A.G.M. Gym. 1.20  
2nd. 22 Club Dinner 7.30  
7th. Resident's Dinner 6 p.m.  
8th. Joint Council Meeting 5.45 p.m.  
9th. 21 Club Dinner 6.30  
21st. Combined Clubs Dinner 7.30  
23rd. President's Dance.  
- End of Term -

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Parliamentary Debate on Scientific Resources.

Three weeks ago, in the first Private Member's debate for 12 years, Mr. M. Phillips Price moved a motion urging the fullest development of Britain's scientific resources and manpower. Some fifteen M.P.s spoke during the four hour debate which was packed with interesting and (mostly) well informed comment. One of the recurring themes was the question of technological education and a number of speakers referred to Imperial College in the course of their remarks.

Mr. M.P. Price whilst acknowledging I.C. at South Kensington said we had nothing in England to compare with M.I.T. or the Technische Hochschule at Charlottenburg. He wanted to separate the technical colleges and their degrees from the universities on the grounds that the universities' scientific work was more theoretical. Mr. Albu (a graduate of I.C.) pointed out that I.C. was something more than a technical college - it also taught pure science and was in fact a college of the University of London, awarding degrees. Mr. Rankine pointed out that such a separation would result in reversing the process of elevating the status of the technical colleges and would be fatal to the development of the very research Mr. Price wished to see progressing. (It would appear, however, that Mr. Price was referring to technical education at a somewhat lower level). Mr. Price made references to the 1851 Exhibition and suggested that perhaps the 1951 Exhibition was a great opportunity for further development in technical education. Mr. W. Wells, urging higher salaries for teachers at university level and referring to the shortage of technological manpower said he found "some trepidation in speaking when graduates of the Imperial College of Science are in front of me." Mr. Wells expressed suspicion "of the idea of putting together a great many technologists broadly following the same kind of career and study and calling them a university. I was inclined to argue: 'That is not really a university at all. A university is a place where we find mixed together students of the classics, history, theology, engineering, chemistry and other branches of learning.'" He went on to say that sufficient diversity might be introduced into a technological institution to ensure that the condition of university life is satisfied. In M.I.T. for example one can and to some extent must study subjects as history and languages.

Mr. Herbert Morrison in his reply to the debate said that the difficult and controversial question of establishing a technological university was not being neglected. It has recently been debated 'in another place' (the House of Lords?) and also in the Press. The Government appreciated the importance and urgency of the matter.

The debate is fully reported in Hansard 154, 5-11 May 1950, a copy of which is in the Old Lounge. It well repays reading.

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### CRICKET AT HOOK.

Hook and Newnham cricket field is in rural Hampshire. Apart from the distant line of petrol smoke over the Basingstoke road, and the occasional jet fighter, it is a wholly pastoral scene: given over except on match days to the harmless activities of the birds and the bees. The pitch, if not a replica of that at the Oval, is clear of bracken and dandelions and flat enough for a view of the approaching bowler.

Come 11.45 a.m. the I.C. eleven (possibly weakened by a few traitorous defections) trickled from the "Dorchester Arms" and took the field. Eric Waight bowled one of the opening batsmen in his first over, but thereafter play continued sedately. Later Useless celebrated his return to first-class cricket with a nonchalant one-handed catch on the boundary; and there was a run out. With Hook 59-3 I.C. returned smartly to the "D.A."

After lunch the attack was noticeably blunted. Useless retired to extra cover clasping his stomach and a series of Charlie's, Gordon's, and Jack's with gigantic forearms refused to see any subtlety in the great-hearted bowling of Weak and Rambaut. Hook were eventually out for 238, by which time Roy Severn in the deep field was in good training. Waight emerged from the holocaust with 5 wickets for 47.

I.C. began unauspiciously, losing Weale, Clapp and Rambaut for 21 runs, but Dick Morphy and Pete Davies, I.C.'s indomitable captain, stayed together and the tea-time score was 80-3. After tea Pete began to hit fours to either side of the sight screen alternately, to the evident chagrin of bowler Charlie and his deep fieldsmen who was oscillating out of phase. The score was 116 and the pair put on 95 before Morphy was caught off a miss-hit for 39. At this point the I.C. ship unaccountably turned turtle and sank. Dai Nicholas went down the pitch to Charlie and failed to return. Roy Severn, Derek Allen and Useless followed rapidly. Pete was out for a splendid 62 (ten 4's), and the innings ended for 122 with Waight utterly bowled as he hit a hypothetical six.

And so to the "Dorchester Arms" again, led by umpire Alan Dark. We were defeated at darts but held our own in other departments, and had a monopoly of Zulu songs. Even the three who made ducks were speedily reconciled to cricket. There is no place like Hook on Whit Monday and we are pleased to report that none of our cricketers is missing - not even those who trusted their lives to Useless and John Rambaut on an incredibly traffic-ridden London road.

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ROWING. from our rowing correspondent.

The Vesta Dashes. - Wednesday 17th May, & Thursday 18th May.

I.C.B.C. were represented in the Dashes by the 1st Juniors in the Junior-Senior Eights, C.H.Barwise in the Junior-Senior Sculls and H.J.Pushman in the Junior Sculls.

The Eight were drawn against K.C.L. (the eventual winners of the event) and although perhaps not at their best, did not disgrace themselves in being beaten by a canvas. Both Scullers lost their heats in much the same manner. Being slow off the start, they were soon left behind, but settling down began to overtake their opponents and were only half a length behind at the finish.

Thames Ditton Clinker Regatta. - Saturday 20th May.

Whilst the Vesta Dashes were in progress, I.C.B.C. colours were being carried up river by "A" and "B" Fresher Crews. These eights left Putney on Tuesday evening, reached U.C.S. Boathouse at Richmond that night and continued on the Thursday night up to Molesey Boathouse. "A" crew were to race in the Junior Clinker Eights at Thames Ditton, whilst "B" crew came to



pace and encourage them on the long row up.

The regatta itself was truly a day of days. Supported by Bo and a strong I.C. contingent on the bank, "A" crew beat the R.A.F. by  $\frac{3}{4}$  length in their first heat, their start being very good. In the next heat they lost to Thames R.C., which crew your rowing correspondent, with a breaking heart, had to force on to win by half a length, he having been press-ganged into it at the last moment.

The "A" crew should not be disappointed at this result. They showed quite clearly that they are well up to Junior Standard - no mean feat in such an inexperienced crew. Their exploits after the regatta in rowing an extra two miles to take their boat back to Molesey testifies to their keenness (even though they were not entirely sober at the time).

The keenness, hard work and latent ability in the "A" and "B" crews augurs well for the future, as the majority of both crews will be here for two years and some for three.

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#### Lawn Tennis - The University Cup.

The Cup presented to the Winners of the University Inter Collegiate Lawn Tennis Championship is one which will not be paraded around the Union on the finals day by its drunken winners in 1950. For I.C., having held the respected but uncoveted position of runners up for the last two years have been knocked out in the second round by Queen Mary College, apparently not contented by inflicting the same ignominy on the Rugger Club earlier in the Year.

I.C., although they had not been extended to beat Battersea Poly by 8-1 in the first round, did not face the prospect of meeting Queen Mary with confidence, since the strength of the opponents first pair, Claussen and Turner, was well known. They, and the I.C. first pair Watson and Wilson had done battle several times at University Trials, and both pairs had represented the University. It seemed then that this rubber might provide the key to the whole match. Watson and Wilson started well, taking the first set 6-2, playing in their best (but only too rare) form. Quickly they took the lead 3-1 in the second, and seemed well on the road to victory. Then tragedy occurred. Wilson had lost his service and a long series of deuces was being fought out on Claussen's. In taking an easy volley Watson slipped on the damp surface and fell hurting his knee. It transpired that this proved the turning point of the match, for in the next game Watson served badly to give the Queen Mary pair the lead which they never again lost running out winners 2-6 6-3 6-2.

The failure of their first pair in this important match appeared to demoralise the I.C. team, for Smith and Welch ended the afternoon with a blank score sheet and Swain and Russell beat only the opponents third pair. In due respect to the Queen Mary players they must be congratulated however in turning out a team which was as stray at the tail as at the head. The whole team played a little better than the I.C. team, the difference was indeed slight, for many rubbers ran into three sets, the last of these providing entertainment in the gathering dusk for the dancers on their way to the Saturday night hop.

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#### QUICK WAY OUT.

Members of I.C., whatever their emotions on the days of their examinations, are not recommended to follow the recent example of a student in Egypt who, while being orally examined by an English Professor, pulled out a gun and shot the Professor in the arm.

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SPORT.

RECENT RESULTS.

Tennis:	May 9th.	I.C.I v Paddington	D 2-2
	" 10th.	I.C.I v N.E.C.	W 9-0
	" 13th.	I.C.I v Borough Rd. Poly.	W 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	" 13th.	I.C.IIv Borough Rd. Poly.II	W 8-1
	" 15th.	I.C.W.A. v R.C.M.	W 5-4
	" 17th.	I.C.I v Public Schools O.B.	D 2-2
	" 19th.	I.C.I v Lowther	L 0-6
	" 20th.	I.C.I v Q.M.C.	L 2-7
	" 20th.	I.C.IIv U.C.	L3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
	" 20th.	I.C.W.A. v L.S.E.	W 6-3
	" 23rd.	I.C.W.A. v R. Free Hosp.	L 2-5
	" 24th.	I.C.I. v L.S.E.	L 4-5
	" 24th.	I.C.II v L.S.E.II	W 5-4
	" 27th.	I.C.W.A. v U.C.L.	W 4-0

Cricket:	Wed. May 3rd.	I.C.I v U.C.	Abandoned
	Sat. " 6th.	I.C.I v Wadham Coll. Oxf.	"
	Wed. " 10th.	I.C.I v L.S.E.	Lost
	Sat. " 13th.	I.C.I v Old Meadonians	Won
	Wed. " 17th.	I.C.I v Wembley C.C.	Lost
	Sat. " 20th.	I.C.I v U.C.S. Old Boys	Won
	Wed. " 24th.	I.C.I v Kings Coll.	Won
	Sat. " 27th.	I.C.I v Trinity Hall,	Camb. Lost
	Mon. " 29th.	I.C.I v Hook & Newnham	Lost

Athletics:	Apr. 19th.	I.C. v S.Lond. Harriers	L 62-43
	" 29th.	I.C. v Bat.Pol. v Q.M.C.	W 52-25-22
	May 3rd.	I.C. v Peterhouse Camb.	W 73-67
	" 6th.	I.C. v K.C.L. v Bristol	L 39-(W)-(2nd)
	" 24th.	I.C. v Barts. v Mdx.	W 46-18-8

ADVERTISEMENTS.

1. Bargainbargainbargain .....N  
Black Elephant for Sale.

A 15 H.P. Morris Oxford saloon. Price before petrol de-rated £75. Now increased to only £77.

Highly recommended for party vacation work. This machine did not falter on the Cornwall run!!

Can be viewed outside the Union. Mr. R.E.Barnes, our London representative, will be pleased to demonstrate at (almost) any time. Contact him through the Union letter rack.

Bargainbargainbargain .....N

2. Wanted. Will anyone willing to lend, hire or sell a frame rucksack and/or maps of N.W. Scotland for use during July please contact I.W.B. NYE - I.C.Union Rack.

Touchstone.

The next Touchstone weekend will be held at Silwood Park at the end of term, on June 24-25th. The subject is to be a legal one, probably "The Law is an Ass," and it is hoped to get some young but eminent member of the legal profession as principal speaker. It is also hoped that a few students will attend from L.S.E.

About 28 students will be able to attend and those wishing to do so should submit their names at the Union office without delay.