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The Abyss

Issued Weekly by the Publications Board of the University of British Columbia

Volume I.

VANCOUVER, B.C., JANUARY 23, 1919

Number 8

Oratorical Contest An Eventful One

**TIE ANNOUNCED—PEEBLES AND
ADAMS, BOTH OF ARTS '20,
WINNERS**

The fourth annual oratorical contest, held last Friday evening in the Auditorium, was the best in the history of the University. Messrs. Adams and Peebles, both of Arts '20, tied for first place in the award of the judges. On the motion of Mr. Sutcliffe, it was decided to award two Gold Medals under these circumstances. The Silver Medal was won by Mr. R. E. Cribb, of Arts '21.

Prof. Sage, in speaking for the judges, complimented the Men's Lit. on the high standard of the contest, and stated that great difficulty was experienced in making a decision. The audience, which comfortably filled the Auditorium, expressed their appreciation by hearty applause at frequent intervals. Profs. Henderson and Wood were the other judges.

Mr. Peebles' address on "The British Navy" showed conscientious preparation, and he spoke in a clear voice. The speaker outlined the work of the fleet in the war, and related that, when Admiral Beatty was asked to give guarantees for the surrendered Germans, he had replied: "Tell them they are coming to England—that will be enough." He referred to the Navy as the bulwark of civilization and quoted the words, "Britons never shall be slaves." His delivery was handicapped by a lack of freedom.

Mr. Adams selected as his subject the "Future of Democracy." He traced the growth of democracy from the time of King John of England to the present. The speaker declared that democracy in the future would seek to bring about the brotherhood of man, which entailed the solution of the problem of Capital and Labor, and that the democracy of the future would endeavor

(Continued on Page 2)

FRESHETTES WIN FIRST DEBATE

A hard-fought debate between Arts '21 and '22, on January 15th, marked the first of the series of inter-class debates held by the Women's Literary Society. In spite of lectures at the same hour, the Assembly Hall was well filled, and the executive was pleased to see so many men present. The subject, "Resolved, that all Orientals, except Hindus, should be excluded from B.C.," although by no means new, has a never-failing interest, especially in view of the changes in conditions reconstruction must of necessity bring about. Some novel ideas were advanced on both sides, one of the speakers for the affirmative hurling rather a bomb into the complacency of the audience by the suggestion that Orientals form a low opinion of European ideals through contact with white workmen.

The speakers for the affirmative, Misses McMynn and C. Metz, of Arts '22, gave great promise of a distinguished future for the Freshman class. Both speeches were well arranged, and delivered, although that of Miss Metz was the more forcible. Miss McMynn proved her ability in impromptu speaking by her final refutation.

From the point of view of a disinterested listener, Miss Leila Coates' speech was exceedingly interesting, in its discussion of international relations with the Orient as affected by immigration restrictions, and also in its summary of the aid rendered the Allies by Japan and China. Miss Hazel McConnell, the leader of the negative, gave abundant evidence of her knowledge of debating and skill in refutation, to which a great part of her speech was devoted. She was able to give weight to her arguments by useful statistics and definite citation of authorities.

Although bashfulness overwhelmed most of the audience when the meeting was thrown open for discussion, yet some interesting comments on points raised by the speakers were given. The decision was rendered in favor of the affirmative. The next debate will be that between Arts '19 and '20.

Defeat Their Opponents 8-0

**'VARSITY AGAIN VICTORIOUS
OVER CIVILIANS**

In spite of the rain last Saturday, 'Varsity and civilians played their scheduled game at Brockton Point. Owing to the slippery condition of the ball, good Rugby was impossible; and yet, in spite of this handicap, 'Varsity showed improvement both in the forward and back divisions. In the first half the play was mostly in the civilian territory, except for a few minutes after the game commenced. After several attempts, Ternan finally managed to go over for the first try, which was converted by Gwyther. The civilians made a determined attempt to even the score, and, in a forward rush, they gained several yards. When trying to block this rush, Kingham received a kick on the head which necessitated his removal from the field. In the second half Ternau scored again for 'Varsity, making the final score 8-0.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY SERVICE CLUB

The Club will hold a social evening (cards and dancing) in the University Auditorium on Friday evening of this week. All returned men, students of the University, are welcome.

If you intend bringing a friend, or friends, let Ian Gibson (Arts '19) or Harry Letson (Science '19) know as soon as possible.

All are eligible for membership who are students of the University, or were before the time of enlistment and who have been on active service with any branch of His Majesty's forces, or who, whether students or not, enlisted in the B. C. Company of the 196th.

A pleasant evening is anticipated. Many students have recently returned from the Front, and there will be many reunions of old chums. Come and meet the bunch.

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ORATORICAL CONTEST

(Continued from Page 1)

vor to effect a brotherhood of nations through the establishment of an International Court of Justice. The citizens of to-day, he concluded, must face the new era in the spirit of Columbus, who dared to discover a new continent in spite of all obstacles. Mr. Adams had a free platform manner, but his interpretation of history is open to criticism.

Mr. Cribb spoke well, but showed a slight lack of polish. His subject was "Western Civilization." The war was regarded by him as a step in the evolution of the humanitarian stage of society. He stated that "the ideals of the age were not based on sentimentalism," and that Western civilization was far from being in a state of collapse. "In the future there must be competition, but without hatred and bitterness."

"The Challenge" was the title of Mr. Webster's speech. He was somewhat hesitant in delivery and didactic in manner. He made a strong plea for unity in College affairs, and emphasized the need of developing "a University with a soul."

In speaking upon "Friendship," Mr. Cope, of Arts '22, treated the subject thoughtfully. He defined it "as the greatest gift of the gods to men": life without friends was "an empty nothing." He delivered his address in a rather stilted manner, using language too flowery and ornate.

While the judges were arriving at a decision, Mr. Mahrer entertained the audience with a much-enjoyed musical selection. Several of the "classics" from the College Song Book were enthusiastically rendered by all. Mr. MacKinnon, the president of the Men's Literary Society, acted as chairman of the meeting in an appropriate manner.

SOCCER NOTES

At a meeting held on January 10th the following were elected as officers:

Captain—A. Swincesky.

Vice-Captain—R. F. Adams.

Secretary-Treasurer and Manager—H. Greer.

The University soccer team is now well organized and mean to give a good account of themselves. Within the next few weeks a game with a local team will be announced. We urge all who can play soccer to attend the practices on Monday and Friday at 3:00.

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CHEMISTRY SOCIETY

FRESHIES SPEAK

At a meeting of the Chemistry Society, held January 15, three members of the Freshman year gave papers dealing with the history of chemistry. It was the first time the Society has had the opportunity of hearing the first-year students.

Miss B. Lipson dealt with the earliest romantic history of the science, when chemistry was considered as a black art, and chemists as more or less evil magicians. Later, Aristotle and other philosophers, who recognized only four elements, fire, air, earth and water, became the leading scientists of the day. Among the first accomplishments of the chemists were the preparation of gun-powder, glass and soap, and the smelting of gold.

Mr. W. Stevens gave a very interesting paper on the alchemists, whose chief aim was to find the philosopher's stone with which they could effect the transmutation of metals. The universal remedy and the inextinguishable lamp were also sought after by these aspiring scientists. Geber, and Roger Bacon, known as "Dr. Murabelis," were foremost among them.

The theory of the tatro, or medical chemists, was very well explained by Miss A. H. Curtiss. They considered that the aim of the chemist was not to prepare gold, but to work in conjunction with the physicians in preparing and experimenting with medicines. They regarded disease as merely a change in the chemicals of which the body was composed. Many new medicines were discovered as a result of their efforts.

After a hearty vote of thanks, the meeting adjourned for refreshments. The fact that the organic lab. was used as a kitchen aroused a certain amount of suspicion, but there was not much difficulty in disposing of the eatables.

CLASS NOTES

ARTS '22

A meeting of the Freshmen was held last Thursday. It was decided to hold a class party on February 21, and arrangements were also made to secure pins for '22. Two teams have been selected to represent the year in the Inter-class Basketball League, and practice has already begun. Captains of the teams will be chosen in the near future.

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NOON HOUR LECTURES

Reference has already been made in these columns to the lack of opportunities for united support of University organizations on the part of the student body, owing to the fact that no time is assigned in the calendar for the encouragement of either intellectual or athletic activities. The only hour available under existing conditions for meetings, large or small, is at noon, and even that is encroached on by increasing numbers of lectures. Conflicts in the original time table have caused changes in many lecture hours, and large numbers of students are debarred from attending interesting and important meetings. It is practically impossible for even executive meetings to be fully attended, owing to the number of lectures held at noon. As long as this condition continues, many instructive addresses, such as that given by Dr. MacKay on "Reconstruction," must be lost to fairly large groups of students. This is manifestly unfair, not only to those who are striving to foster Varsity spirit, but also to those who wish to profit by the discussion of present-day problems.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Letters must be brief, and will be published only over the name of the writer. The Editors accept no responsibility for statements made in this column. Owing to a misunderstanding this rule has not been applied in this issue, but will be in future.—Ed.)

The Editor, "Ubysey":

Dear Sir:—With reference to the alleged disgraceful conduct at the Arts dance, I would like, without condoning with the offenders in the least, to offer a few suggestions.

In the matter of the discourtesy shown to our patronesses, I feel sure most of the incivility occurred in connection with the reception committee, in that a number of men pushed past the ladies in order to obtain programmes for their partners when they came down.

Would it not be more convenient to place the programmes in the hall where everyone can obtain them easily?

With regard to the refreshments, would it not be advisable to have them served by a committee whose members do not dance? I feel sure there are a number of students who would be willing to help their organization in this matter. The refreshments could thus be ready on a table by the kitchen when the supper dance came round.

In addition, it would hasten matters if men would remain with their partners and allow the committee to serve them, instead of crowding round the door.

These suggestions are not new, but I feel sure it would be well for executives managing functions to bear them in mind.

H. D. GREENWOOD.

The Editor:

Dear Sir:—Far be it from me to conjure up, by the simple title, a dread picture of any militant suffragette hurling bombs at the Parliament buildings, or thundering fierce invectives on the bald and often helpless heads of mere men. Ah, no! Those days are gone. Woman, after centuries of oppression, now is nearly free. And herein lies the consummation of her freedom.

At dances, and other kindred functions, woman is still fettered by the shackles of convention. She has not the privilege of invitation. She cannot ask a man for a dance. Ah, no! She must sit demurely till he asks her—which, alas! sometimes he neglects to do. She cannot seek a pleasant partner—only by staining her soul with a little white lie can she avoid the unpleasant. This is a great handicap, a great hardship. Therefore, I say, let us, young and enterprising as we are, fear not to tread an unbeaten path. Let us strike the fetters from their sweet lips, and, in our functions, let men and women alike ask the persons of their choice. Let us do so by adopting this convention that the men request the even and the women the odd dances; then, odd as it may seem, our women will be not only beautiful and fair, but free!

R. SEMAJR.

Editor "Ubysey":

In reference to the O.T.C., are not athletics, even if "compulsory," far better? For what is the real good of the corps, anyway? People say the world has been copying Germany, but we don't need to copy her militarism. Why not give students the privilege of athletics or the O.T.C.? Then those that dislike the corps can join in something that is worth while (from their standpoint).

A QUESTIONER.

Editor "Ubysey":

Dear Editor:—In most universities the gown is a symbol of dignity, worn by the professors in the halls and during lectures. In some institutions the seniors also wear the gown, and in others all the undergraduates; but in the University of British Columbia, with the exception of Dr. Ashton and Miss MacInnis, none of the professors wear gowns and the seniors do. Isn't this rather assuming on the part of the seniors?

IRONQUILL.

ANNUAL STAFF

The staff for the 1919 Annual is now announced:

Editor.....Arnold Webster
Associate Editor.....Hazel McConnell
Illustrations Editor.....Ralph Argue
Art Editor.....Patricia Cowan

One of the students went into the University book store and asked, "Have you 'Ethics of the Dust'?"

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MILITARY COLUMN

It is hoped that there will be out-
door shooting for the members of the
C.O.T.C. this year. It will be remem-
bered that keen interest was taken in
the inter-platoon shooting competition
last year, when some good scores and
a high general average were made.
Should permission be granted for the
use of the miniature, or the Richmond
rifle range, practice will commence as
soon as weather permits. Every mem-
ber of the C.O.T.C. should avail him-
self of this opportunity as soon as
definite arrangements are made.

Last Tuesday the usual drill was can-
celled to give the students time for
athletics. A two-hour parade will be
held on Thursday.

We welcome to our midst the follow-
ing returned men who have resumed
their studies at the U.B.C. since Christ-
mas: Messrs. J. T. Smeeton, J. C.
Berto, E. E. Day, H. W. Colgan, W.
H. Ballantyne, B. D. Pratt, J. C. dePen-
cier, J. P. Walker, F. F. McKenzie,
D. Davidson, L. D. Shaw, G. C. Allen,
H. J. Bird, G. G. King, Colin H. Crick-
may, G. E. W. Clark, G. B. Fraser, L.
V. Millar, and also H. E. Walker, B.A.,
of Arts '16, who is taking a post-grad-
uate course.

CORRESPONDENTS

ANSWERED

ASK CYNICA GAY

Discharged—I believe mufti is still
expensive. Address enquiries, re latest
prices, to Mr. K—lys—do.

Uncertain Freshette—Little girl, you
must not respond to the advances of
the Science men when you are crossing
the campus. There are quite enough
nice Arts men.

Curious—I do not think that the fact
that Gibson was in the kitchen fully
accounts for the shortage of sandwiches
at the Arts dance.

Janitor—The disappearance of rope
from the University premises may be
explained by those subtle odors which
emanate periodically from the office of
Dr. Sedgewick.

Roughrider—In your present financial
condition I would not advise buying an
auto. Take a course in Agriculture.

Impressed—Oh, yes. Why, Adam is
as well acquainted with Lloyd George
and Woodrow Wilson as he is with his
old friend Bill Taft. His nickname for
one is "Lloydie," and the other
"Woody."

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**A FRESHMAN'S FIRST
IMPRESSIONS**

I stepped off the Fairview car at Willow Street and gazed at the College buildings on the crest of the hill. Instantly I realized that the work-a-day world was behind me, and that I now moved in surroundings of learning and culture. The only remaining evidence of commercial enterprise was a low, gray building of dilapidated respectability—grim reminder of man's ultimate end, be he college graduate or just ordinary human being. All the other buildings in the vicinity were of an institutional or pedagogical character. Chief among them stood the University group, along the approach to which I was now making my way; and in my heart the most imposing in this group was the Arts building, a white edifice of noble design, seeming, among the other more lowly structures, to reach up into the very clouds—surely the embodiment of the high aims of the young souls it roofed. A vast green sward surrounded these buildings, relieved here and there by pretty clumps of shrubbery. I passed round a handsome pillar postbox, and lo! I was actually in the College grounds. I was not alone on the landscape. Many youths and maidens, with earnest and eager faces, were directing their steps in the same way as I. A few arrived in motors, for which vehicles gravelled driveways and ample parking space had been provided. Men and women students, some of them dignified seniors in gowns, drifted across the wide campus. I mounted the broad steps and entered into the Arts building.

The main hall I found to be filled with serious-eyed young men and women. I had always expected intellectuals to look grave, and I was not disappointed. On one side of the hall was a door leading to the library, through which I caught a fleeting glimpse of long aisles of well-filled bookcases. A treasure-house, indeed! On the other side of the hall was a broad marble staircase, spiraling upward, ever upward through stories of classrooms and offices. On this side of the hall, too, was the entrance into the administrative office, holy of holies

of College life. A great deal of the wall-space in this same main hall was given up to bulletin-boards, posters and notices—evidences of student pursuits other than academical. In the men's common room, a large, airy place, I again discovered that College life was not one unending round of lectures and studies. Here one relaxed and joined in harmless merriment with one's fellow-students.

The lectures were a constant source of delight to me. In the great rooms, I and scores of my peers hung on the lips of the professors, eager for every priceless gem of wisdom they uttered. Thus had the students of all ages sought their knowledge, thus had the knowledge of the ages been expounded. I was inspired; I saw myself on a level with the students of such famous places as Oxford or Cambridge, Harvard or Yale. I became even more exalted when I remembered that to us, striving pioneers, was given the honor of laying the foundations of the great Western University of the future. To me, College was not a task; it was a privilege.

Why not, people? Life is what we make it.

SOME GEMS FROM FRENCH I.

During the recent exam. in French I, the following are said to be some of the guesses made by "despairing and innocent Freshies" in translating:

Pas du tout—The father of twins.

Chemin de fer—The way to do it.

Le moire disait son bréviare—The least said, the soonest mended.

Ils mangeaient du jambou cru—They ate what they believed to be good jam.

LE DIABLE.

Owing to lack of space, we regret that we are unable to publish all contributions received. Next week we hope to publish those letters and other interesting contributions which, unfortunately, have been held over.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

PROFESSOR KING

Our little "flu" holiday had many results, but for Agriculture '21 the principal feature was the acquisition of a new professor. When classes were resumed we were not a little surprised to find, to our deep regret, that Prof. McLean would no longer lead us in the study of animal husbandry. His successor comes with strong recommendations.

Prof. King graduated from Guelph in 1913. On leaving College, he became County Agent for Haldimand County, Ontario, where he remained about a year and a-half. Mr. King then accepted a position on the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College late in 1914, which he held until his appointment to the Faculty of U.B.C.

Prof. King takes a very lively interest in student affairs, and he has, even during his short sojourn with us, won a permanent place in the respect and confidence of all who have the privilege of working with him.

WOMEN'S UNDER- GRADUATE SOCIETY

On Thursday afternoon, January 14th, Miss Linley addressed the women students, her topic being "Clinical Psychology as a Vocation for Women."

She described the special training needed for "deviate" children—children of the border-line type who diverge from the normal, but yet are not definitely feeble-minded.

"At present," said Miss Linley, "there are six classes for deviate cases and one for those of pronounced feeble mentality."

In close connection with this branch comes clinical work. The clinician diagnoses the diseases of trouble-causing children, to ascertain the reasons for their behavior.

There are many problems encountered in homes and factories. This research work is largely the work of charity bureaus.

The problem of reconstruction offers many opportunities for field work, where help is given to shell-shocked men.

The value and variety of this psychological work and the great need for trained workers were pointed out.

In conclusion, the speaker emphasized the essential qualifications for the work—abundant practical sympathy, an unlimited supply of courage, optimism and patience.

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¶ The street car service specified in the contracts made 20 years ago and more would not be tolerated to-day.

¶ But still people insist that the fare stipulated in the contract must remain.

¶ If that argument applies to the fare, it should also apply to the service.

B.C. Electric

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

By Algernon

Yesterday, while walking peacefully through the halls, I was seized roughly by the shoulder. My captor wheeled me around with a jerk, and I found myself face to face with the Editor-in-Chief.

"You're to write a humorous column for the paper every week," he said.

"I can't do that," I told him; "I'm not a bit clever."

"I know," he said. "But I can't get anyone else. Be sure your copy is in before Friday night of the preceding week."

Then he vanished, and I was left with the task on my hands.

Now I have been on the lookout for funny things, but nothing funny has happened, except, for instance, Marjorie has had the "flu"; but, no matter how funny that is, I can't put it in the humorous column. Then four of our prominent men students, not satisfied with spending a week in Victoria with the bunch on Saturday, stayed over there three more days; and in Victoria, mind you! prominent men students. And then there's Sutcliffe. The awful silence of that "city of the dead" must have affected his brain, for, returning on the boat on the Sunday, he was heard singing wild College songs, and, worse (my informant whispered this), he had his hat down over one ear in the most tough fashion!

AN AGRIC'S LAMENT

It is a modern Class Sedan,
That calleth for the Six,
With its long, hard seats, and springless frame:
Did someone orders mix?

The big front doors are open wide;
Alas! they must get in.
The class is met, the seats are set.
Mays't hear the merry tin.

He cranks her with his skinny hand;
"She's hard to crank," quoth he.
He doffed his coat, then down his hat,
And swore an oath, "By Gee!"

He cranks away with feverish haste,
The Class Sedan stands still;
Then wheezes in that missing hing,
And yieldeth to his will.

Ag. '21 in that 'bus—
They can not choose but go;
They think it surely is a joke;
Alas! it is not so.

The 'bus is jeered, the corner cleared,
The truth comes home pell-mell;
This (?) old 'bus must carry us:
O, Limousine—Farewell!

LAMB AND WRIGHT, Ag. '21.

Read the ads. on this page.

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