

# The Abyssy

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

Volume I.

VANCOUVER, B.C., JANUARY 16, 1919

Number 7

## Arts Men Hold Successful Dance

AUDITORIUM FILLED BY MERRY THROG—GENERAL PUBLIC WELL REPRESENTED

On the night of January 10th the Arts men held their fourth annual dance in the auditorium of the University, under the patronage of Mrs. L. S. Klinck, Mrs. L. F. Robertson, Mrs. H. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. F. H. Clark and Mrs. G. E. Robinson. The hall was gaily and tastefully decked with festoons of streamers in the University blue and gold, and by the softly shaded lights of red and blue. A five-piece orchestra occupied the stage and, much to the delight of the guests, were generous with their encores. This generosity of the musicians, however, was due partly to the applause and lung power (fully displayed) of some of our military men. Their enthusiasm carried them so far that one o'clock saw the dance little more than half finished and several dances had then necessarily to be omitted.

The members of C.O.T.C. showed a spirit of self-sacrifice with which they renounced the certainty of captivating every fair maid present by foregoing the pleasure of wearing their stunning drill uniforms—a privilege kindly permitted them by their commanding officers. However, in spite of this the variety of uniforms present lent a rather military air to our "Arts Dawnse." The students apparently needed little urging "to support this annual function." On the contrary, the number present showed that it is no longer possible to entertain with ease our outside friends as well as students and alumni; larger accommodation for the future will be necessary. Most of those present, however, regarded the discomfort caused by the crowd in the spirit of "the more the merrier," and Mr. Gibson and his committee are to be complimented on having given one of the most successful dances ever held in U. B. C.

Other members of the faculty present were Miss MacInnes, Dr. and Mrs. Matheson, Mr. and Mrs. L. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Hutcheson, Mr. Russel, Dr. Sedg-

## Cast for Spring Play Announced

LEADING ROLES TAKEN BY CONNIE HIGHMOOR, DOROTHY ADAMS, ART LORD AND GORDON SCOTT

With the second series of try-outs completed last week, the entire cast for the production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" has been chosen. To Miss Connie Highmoor, Arts '19, the experienced president of the club, falls the role of the haughty, worldly Lady Blackwell. Gwendolen, her sprightly daughter, will be played by Miss Janet Gilley, Arts '20, whilst the other young girl role will be taken by Miss Dorothy Adams, Arts '21. As a maiden governess of uncertain years, Miss Isabel Miller, Arts '22, will have an amusing bit, whilst Miss Dorothy Gill, Arts '22, will act the small part of Merriman, the maid.

The role of John Worthing, who learns in the course of this amusing play the vital "importance of being earnest," is in the hands of Mr. Art. Lord, Arts '21. Another of our popular "returned men," Mr. Gordon Scott, Arts '19, has the part of the sophisticated Algy. Allon Peebles, Arts '20, as a country clergyman, and Harold Hunter, Arts '22, as the manservant, complete this merry company. Those acting as understudies are Misses Livingstone, Ballentine, Eveleigh, and Messrs. Elsey, McIntyre, and E. W. Faulkner.

The date of production, at the Avenue Theatre, has been fixed for the first week-end in March.

wick, Mr. Wood, Mr. Boving, Mr. Jordan. Members of the Alumni present were Misses N. Coy, L. Bodie, S. McGuire, S. Clement, B. Clement, K. Peck, H. White, H. Willband; Messrs. M. Desbrisay, E. LeMessurier, H. McInnes, H. M. Robertson, C. Austin, H. Miller, L. Jackson.

The Arts men were pleased to count among their guests many returned men, former students of U. B. C.

## Varsity Team Beats "Civilians" 5-0

ANOTHER GAME NEXT SATURDAY WITH THE SAME TEAM—BE THERE AT 2:45 P.M.

The Rugby team held a practice game last Saturday and defeated the "Mudhounds" by a score of 5-0. Another game will be played next Saturday with the same team, who now call themselves the "Civilians." The game will be at 2:45, at the Brockton Point grounds. The boys want the support of the whole University to help them win this game.

Both Basketball and Rugby teams are looking forward to the return games with the V. I. A. A. The girls have been working hard at their practices every Tuesday and Friday and hope to turn the tables on their Victoria opponents when they next meet.

## MUSICAL TREAT IN STORE

The San Carlo Opera Company is now definitely announced to appear here on the nights of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, January 27, 28, and 29, with a Wednesday matinee, and in addition to the operas already mentioned, Verdi's "Il Trovatore" and Offenbach's delightful "Tales of Hoffman" are scheduled to be produced.

In connection with Verdi's earlier operas, it must always be borne in mind that the stories are far-fetched and impossible, and will not survive a critical analysis. Verdi cared only for the music; he was a fountain of melody.

In "Il Trovatore" we are first introduced to a group of the Count Di Luna's retainers. The oldest of them, Fernando, tells, in the opening aria, the events which must be known in order to understand the story of the opera. Further expository information is given by Azucena in Act

(Continued on Page 2)

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**MUSICAL TREAT IN STORE**

(Continued from page 1)

Two, in a powerful aria just after the  
Anvil Chorus.

"The Tales of Hoffman" is a close rival  
to the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan; the  
music is light and tuneful, and yet abso-  
lutely first class. Hoffman, upon being  
rallied by his cheerful companions about  
his unusually deep fits of gloom, suddenly  
rouses himself, and offers to tell them the  
story of his three unfortunate love episodes.  
These stories occupy the next three acts;  
the last act again shows us Hoffman and  
his sympathetic companions. There is  
plenty of excitement in these episodes; in  
the first one, Hoffman falls in love with a  
mechanical doll, and is only disillusioned  
when something goes wrong with the  
machinery of his beloved Olympia while  
he is dancing with her, and he is whirled  
round and round until he faints. In the  
second one, we have a duel. In the third  
one, a picture comes to life. The principal  
numbers are Olympia's song, and the  
Barcarolle of episode two.

**CORRESPONDENTS  
ANSWERED**

ASK CYNICA GAY

Sometimes letters arrive that even Cynica  
cannot answer, for example.

Dear Cynica,—Dr. Boggs said in lecture,  
"There are many people who would not  
rob their neighbor of a nickel, but who are  
quite content to be overlooked by the con-  
ductor on a crowded street car." Now,  
Cynica, why did so many of the men blush  
at this, and why didn't some of the women  
blush?

Simplicity.

Inquisitive.—Lord has refused to tell us  
who Gibson meant by "Nellie." We didn't  
ask Gibson; he is six-foot-nothing and  
we are only five-foot-two. Suppose you  
ask Sutcliffe.

Linc Baker paid old U. B. C. a visit  
last week. He is now discharged from  
the R. A. F., but has signed on for serv-  
ice in the ranks of the Benedicts' Bat-  
talion. May he be happy. Since we  
saw him last he has all grow'd up and  
got a cute little moustache 'neverything.  
He is now house master and teaches  
Latin in Chesterfield School, North  
Vancouver.

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Sophomore, Blarney-stone.  
Junior, Grindstone.  
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### RETURNED SOLDIERS' VOCATIONAL WORK

At the present time all of the Departments of the College of Applied Science are taking an active part in co-operation with the Invalided Soldiers' Commission in the civil re-establishment of returned soldiers.

The Department of Mining and Metallurgy is offering in this connection courses in Assaying and other special subjects, covering 43 hours per week for eight months. The Department of Chemistry is giving lectures and laboratory work in connection with these courses in Mining.

Temporary buildings of light construction have provided room for the expansion of the work carried on in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Garage mechanics, gasoline engine operators and chauffeurs are trained in a new garage, which will accommodate forty men at one time. Various models of engines and cars provide equipment for the shop work.

A well-equipped machine shop, accommodating twenty-five men, provides training for general machinists.

The electrical equipment is sufficient to give the students excellent training in the care of electrical machinery; supplies and fittings are used on practical wiring and installation problems to the extent that the men taking the course as General Electricians are thoroughly familiar with their uses.

In the course for Steam Engineers the work is done partly in the lecture room, partly in the laboratory, and partly in steam power plants throughout the city of Vancouver. The men taking this course have no trouble in passing the British Columbia examinations allowing them to take charge of the various classes of plants.

Motion Picture Operators are trained in co-operation with the local union. The student spends one-half of his time at the University taking electrical and optical work and the other half at local theatres.

Classes in Mechanical Draughting, Ship Draughting, Commercial Telegraphy and Forestry have begun, and classes in various other lines of employment will no doubt be inaugurated as the demand increases. The number of students taking any class is limited, so that no difficulty will be encountered in placing the men in positions.

At a meeting of Arts '22 women, called for Monday, January 13th, Miss Nora Willis was elected for the representative to the Y. W. C. A. cabinet.

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## NEED FOR LITERARY ARTICLES

There seems to be a general impression  
abroad that the Ubyssy is simply a  
chronicle of college events and activities  
and that literary material is not desired.  
This is certainly not the case; the publica-  
tion is of course primarily a newspaper,  
but it is a very poor sort of newspaper  
that does not also contain a few articles  
of a literary nature. The best publications  
of all countries are usually noted for their  
high literary tone as well as for the validity  
of the news they contain, and we as a  
university should certainly aim at the best.

The general trend of thought in any  
university and the creative ability of the  
men and women within its walls are re-  
flected in the student publication as in  
every other activity. Items of news, no  
matter how well written they may be (and  
it is very important that they should be  
well written), can never give an adequate  
conception of the intellectual capacity of  
the college as a whole.

Students owe a duty to the weekly pub-  
lication, as it is not desirable that all  
articles should be written by the members  
of the board. It is true, with examinations  
in the near future, no one has much time  
to devote to extra work, but exams. are  
not always with us, and a spare hour could  
not be more profitably employed than by  
writing a short literary article for The  
Ubyssy.

The mere writing does us infinitely more  
good than we imagine; it has been stated  
that more good writers emanate from Ox-  
ford than any other university, because the  
students are required to spend a great deal  
of time in practising the art. Of course  
practice alone cannot make writers, but it  
will go a long way towards the accomplish-  
ment of a certain degree of perfection.

There are many subjects which provide  
excellent literary material and which will  
suggest themselves to the intelligent

student. Short reviews of new novels and  
plays (provided these are worthy of re-  
view) are always acceptable, as they help to  
keep us in touch with matters that should  
be important to every university man and  
woman. In the present issue of The Ubyssy  
we are fortunate enough to publish  
under the dramatic section an article of  
the type desired; it is to be hoped that  
many of a similar nature will be received  
in the future.

Let every student of ability try to raise  
the standard of the weekly publication by  
doing his or her part; let us see that each  
issue will contain at least one or two liter-  
ary articles of value as well as the usual  
news items. We want a paper of which we  
may be justly proud, worthy of the name  
of a university publication and fit to rank  
with others of merit.

## CORRESPONDENCE

(The Editors accept no responsibility for state-  
ments made in this column. Letters must be  
accompanied by the names of the writers. All  
letters must be written on one side of page only,  
and if typewritten must be double spaced.)

Owing to lack of space, a number of letters  
have been held over till the next issue.

Vancouver, Jan. 14, 1919.

The Editor "Ubyssy,"

Dear Sir: I would like, with your kind per-  
mission, to be permitted, through the medium  
of your paper, to address the students of Arts  
and Science '20, '21 and '22.

On Friday evening, January 10, the annual  
Arts' dance was held in the Auditorium, and  
according to the newspaper reports it was the  
"best ever." I feel sure that no University stu-  
dent present at that function will, in spite of  
the reports, consider it an event worthy of our  
institution. In fact, I believe we will all agree  
that a public dance held in a down-town hall  
could not have been much worse. This being  
the state of affairs, I feel it my duty to try and  
convince the students who will in the next few  
years be guiding the policy of our Alma Mater  
that the Arts dance, which, having a precedent  
from Old McGill, should nevertheless become a  
thing of the past.

Irrespective of the class of people that have  
been attending our dances, do you think that  
the University should give a dance to the gen-  
eral public? I feel that we might find means  
a little more befitting our University to enter-  
tain the general public, if we think it is necessary.

The Arts Men's Under-graduate Society have  
been violating the spirit of their constitution in  
the past by giving the dance. It is the duty of  
this society to "promote the general interests of  
its members in so far as it is permitted to do so  
by the Alma Mater." The Arts dance gives  
very little consideration to the student body.  
True, it renders financial aid to the Alma Mater,  
but surely it is not the wish of any student that  
our Alma Mater Society should become con-  
taminated for the sake of a few paltry dollars.

Our student enrollment has now reached a  
point where we have no accommodation for out-  
siders at any of our functions. Why could we  
not confine our large functions to our own stu-  
dents and members of the Alumni? True, it can  
be and is argued that if it were the ruling very  
few would attend, for it has not been customary  
in the past for college men to bring college  
women. If this is the argument, then there is  
all the more reason why the ruling should be  
enforced. Some of our men may then realize  
they owe a duty to their fellow-students.

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In view of the above facts, and the knowledge of the disgraceful conduct evident at the Arts dance, I feel sure that you, as members of the Alma Mater Society, will next year do all in your power to make the Arts dance, if given, a purely student affair, and see to it that no students act in any manner unbecoming to our Alma Mater. Yours respectfully,

W. G. SUTCLIFFE,  
 Pres. Alma Mater Society.

Editor "Ubyssy":  
 Isn't "L'Homme Indigue" funny? I think his letter is a scream.

PUELLA INNOCENTIA.

To the Editor of "Ubyssy."

Dear Sir: I read with amazement, mitigated by compassion, your amazing attack on the masterpiece chosen by the Players' Club for their spring production. It seems scarcely credible that anyone who has carefully read this play could make such absurd comments.

Your criticisms seem to be levelled against the character of the author and the moral attitude of the play. The first point I shall pass over as unworthy of discussion. If standard works are to be judged by the morality of their authors, then our literature would be sadly depleted.

As for the second charge, I am entirely in agreement with you that the play was written primarily to amuse. If we went to acquire only "higher education" through the stage, we do not attend Gilbert and Sullivan's operas nor any other exhilarating and piffing productions which for years have been drawing immense audiences from all ranks of life in London and New York. We even exclude the great Shakespearian comedies for fear they upset the gravity of our thoughts. I venture to say ninety per cent. of our great plays aim not at "higher education," but at wholesome amusement, which in itself is highly beneficial. I am even inclined to think it would do you good, Mr. Editor, to relax your ponderous solemnity with an occasional laugh.

It is possible, sir, that there are a few who, with yourself, may judge these excellent lines to be but slightly more enjoyable than the entertainment of a cabaret, but I seriously doubt that the great majority of our audience will be in a position to make these comparisons. I venture to say it is not only the much-condemned "society" who will appreciate this play, but, if we are only fortunate enough as to be able to do justice to it, the whole audience cannot fail to be highly gratified at the selection.

I shall not attempt to detail the merits of this play, as even greater dramatic critics than yourself have given it the highest commendation. I regret that your criticism is destructive in its character to such an extent that the Greek classics, the Shakespearian plays and the most famous modern productions are to be debarred. I have no doubt, Mr. Editor, that the Players' Club would welcome a practical suggestion; or why not produce an original masterpiece?

G. W. S.

Vancouver, Jan. 13.

Editor "Ubyssy."

Dear Sir: As the article entitled "The Spring Play" appears on the so-called editorial page of The Ubyssy, we are led to suppose that it voices the opinion of the Editorial Board. May we be allowed to congratulate the writer on his knowledge of Oscar Wilde. From what he says, one would credit him with having read almost the whole of one play, but not more; not more, by any means. Of course, everyone knows that a knowledge of one play is all that is necessary in order to judge the author's powers. In the case of Shakespeare, his reputation as a drama-

(Continued on Page 6)

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

(Continued from Page 5)

tist would not suffer if the critic had read only, say, "Love's Labors Lost."

The writer has certainly had experience in selecting plays for the Players' Club; he speaks so glibly of the wealth of drama from which they may be selected. Naturally he knows that any good play is suitable for amateur production, and that all groups of amateurs are the same. They have no limitations, limitations being confined to professionals. When all the committee has to do is find out the very best plays and take any one of them, it is strange that they find their task so onerous; people of fairly average intelligence, too! Perhaps all the wealth of drama of the ages is not contained in the U.B.C. library, and it may be difficult just to lay hands on it. Then we must take into consideration the fact that students are queer people, and that there may be some slight possibility that this year's talent in the Players' Club is not such as to enable them to present a soul-stirring drama with a lofty moral. Miss Anglin is, unfortunately, only an honorary member.

However, these are mere paltry excuses, and before closing we must congratulate the Board on the possession of a moral dramatic critic with such lofty literary views.

Query—Why is The Ubysey the reverse of literary?

INTERESTED.

[Possibly by the efforts of the "so-called" correspondents the literary qualities of The Ubysey will be "reversed."—Ed.]

Editor "Ubysey,"

Dear Sir: Through the medium of the correspondence columns the Students' Council wishes to draw the attention of the students of the University to the disgraceful conduct of some of our invited guests and also of some of our own students at the Arts dance. It has always been the general opinion that young people arrived at University age know how to conduct themselves at a social function, yet apparently this is a delusion. To be specific, the Council would point out four misdemeanors occurring at the Arts dance for which no excuse can be given—discourtesy to our patronesses, improper dancing, smoking in the ballroom, and misbehaving in connection with the serving of refreshments. Have the students and guests of the University no respect for themselves that they act uncivilly to the ladies who so kindly act as our chaperons? Do the couples who "bear hug" at a college dance, whether they be guests or students, consider how seriously this reflects on the University? Is it necessary that some of the young men present at our dances should smoke in the ballroom, or that they should fight over the refreshments like animals? Surely this rowdyism is unbecoming to the University.

The Students' Council has already appointed a committee to draw up a resolution governing the limitation of attendance at, and the proper conduct of, college functions. Such behavior as took place at the Arts dance will not be tolerated for a moment in our University, which stands for the best in ideals for the community, not for vulgarity and misbehavior. It is the

duty of each and every member of the Alma Mater Society to put an end to these misdemeanors at once.

Respectfully submitted to the Alma Mater Society.

THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL.

**SONNET**

The strong blast of the Autumn wind  
sweeps by,  
Whirling aloft the last parched yellow  
leaf,  
Sobbing over the roof-tops, wails with  
grief  
At Summer gone; piling the clouds on  
high  
Tier above billowed tier, straining the  
eye  
To pierce the infinite depths of fleecy  
white,  
Hurled Eastward by the wind's super-  
nal might,  
Leaving the West a royal sunset sky.

There is a time within the minds of  
men  
All things seem revelling in rebellious  
thought,  
Passions, ambitions, earthly aims as  
naught,  
And no hope in a future past our ken;  
Save at the day's end, in the sunset  
light,  
Is the sweet promise of Eternal Night.

As the Freshman sees it: Shoe shine  
5c.

As the Senior reads it: Pedal tegu-  
ments lubricated and illuminated by the  
finite, quintuple, segmental, fractional  
portion of one dollar.

Mother: Dorothy, you shouldn't go to  
the dance in this rain. You know, your  
rubbers leak.

Dorothy: That's all right. I have  
pumps inside of them.

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## DRAMA

New York theatre-goers have had, during the past Christmas season, the pleasure of seeing the latest production from the pen of Sir James Barrie, and one in which, if we may believe the critics, the dramatist has attained the height of his genius.

"Dear Brutus" is a fairy play, and it is interesting to know that its author thought it was too fantastic to please a New York audience. The play deals with the workings of Fate and takes its title from Cassius' philosophical remark, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." The scene is laid in the home of a Mr. Lob, where are gathered a group of disappointed mortals, each of whom has reached middle age and looks back with passionate longing to the person he might have been. Mr. Lob, a delightful character, is a reincarnation of Puck, disguised in modern dress. It is midsummer night, and at twelve o'clock the rose garden changes into the forest of Might-Have-Been, and he sends his guests out to become the people they long to be. Here they learn that the fault was in themselves and that they were not the playthings of Fate. The unfaithful husband is married to his affinity and flirts just as violently with his real wife. The thieving butler is a great capitalist, but a thief still.

The most charming scene in the play is that where Dearth, the artist, played by Mr. Gillette, meets in the forest his dream-daughter. Here all the idyllic tenderness and whimsical humor of Barrie is seen and there is a moment of pathos "which even Barrie has scarcely surpassed," when the mother of this dream-child, a woman who has just seen her own dream shattered, is a witness, and the dramatist allows us to hope that for these two there may be some happiness in store. As the forest fades away, the others, for one moment, see themselves as they really are, but the realization passes quickly from them and, like Bottom, there is only left for them the memory of a dream.

It is tragedy, in spite of the fact that it is a fairy play; but it is tragedy with a great sense of uplift. The man and the woman who met the dream-child in the forest may never see her again, but "they have a consolation higher than life can bring—a consolation of the spirit." It is Goethe who says that there is no true tragedy which does not bring with it a spiritual illumination so great as to assuage the sense of defeat and transfigure death itself. This is the keynote of all great tragedy, and if Barrie has accomplished this, we may well agree with the critics that it is the finest achievement of his dramatic career.

—I. H.

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### SCIENCE LAW COURT

Mr. Justice Morrison, Chief Justice of the Faculty of Science, was duly elected to his position last Thursday, with Mr. Swanson as Provost Marshal and Mr. Kingham as Chief Prosecuting Attorney.

The men of the second year arranged to practice basketball in the Chalmers Church gymnasium and also to use its splendid swimming tank. They all went over a week ago Wednesday and intend making this a regular habit.

The arrival of the piano in the Physics lecture room was hailed with delight by everyone. We think Dr. Hebb was very considerate the other day in awaiting the pleasure of the Science Men's Vocal Training Society before beginning his Physics

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\* \* \*

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TOILER.

\* \* \*

Gentlemen,—

In the benefit of students, I beg to recommend "Lactan." After one dose I was able to discover a new and hitherto unknown translation for my Latin text, which aroused such envy in the professor that he has refrained from calling upon me since.

Inspiredly yours, from the

BACKSEAT.

\* \* \*

Dear Sirs,—

Once I was shy. But now!

Yours in haste,

(N. B.—Lactan, upon analysis, shows a healthy percentage of C<sup>2</sup>H<sup>5</sup>OH.)

"TUUM EST"

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