



TALKABOUT

A PUBLICATION
OF THE STUDENTS OF
WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

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OCTOBER 12, 1948

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Official Opening, Spectacular Success

Fortune had smiled indeed! 'Twas the Opening Day of the Wagga Teachers' College, the hour 2.30 p.m. The sun shone brightly, and a more promising day for such an auspicious ceremony as was about to take place in the Gymnasium could not be conceived. Women students dressed uniformly in white; men, pictures of the ultimate in sartorial elegance, and visitors awaited the arrival of the official party who were to launch W.T.C. on the educational sea.

AFTER 300 students had sung the College Anthem, Principal G. L. Blakemore, M.A., introduced official members to the audience. Miss Maureen Lane, Secretary of the College Students' Representative Council, presented Mrs. Heffron, wife of the Minister, with a bouquet.

In his opening address, Mr. Blakemore said he hoped that the people of the Riverina would take a proprietary interest in the College.

He thanked the Wagga City Council and the Wagga Chamber of Commerce (which had donated £100 for the purchase of a number of pictures for the College) for their interest already shown in the College. Mr. Blakemore said that in 1947 the College site, which had been a R.A.A.F. hospital, had been acquired from the Commonwealth Government for a Teachers' College. Mr. Salmon, Secretary of the Education Department, had been in charge of the expenditure of money on the College.

Continuing his address, Mr. Blakemore said the Department had planned the College wisely and had been liberal with equipment, which was the best available.

"A Teachers' College is a living thing. It is not made up of buildings and materials, but of the lecturing staff and students," Mr. Blakemore stated.

"We want to send out, not only teachers but men and women. Our aim is based on the education for complete living. We want to train the students to live with their fellows. In this regard the students at this College have the benefit of the co-educational set-up," Mr. Blakemore said.

He stated that the training course at the College embodied the following important points: scholarship, social living, sound spiritual character, and a love for the teaching profession.

"We are living in a democracy, the British way of life and we must train our pupils to live democratically," continued Mr. Blakemore. "In our College paper, 'Talkabout', students have freedom of expression. Never has opinion been restricted. Students express truly and properly their opinion."

Mr. Blakemore mentioned that the Students' Representative Council was elected democratically by the student body, and it controlled all students' funds. Those responsible by organising activities enabled students to take their place in the real democracy of Australia.

Concluding his address, Mr. Blakemore said: "The students of Wagga, I hope, will blaze new trails of education and will guard education in a spirit of great adventure. 'Excel with honour' is a simple motto, but it crystallises the policy outlined. 'Excel'—determination to succeed; to have a life with a real purpose. 'Honour'—this embodies char-

acter building, which is vital in organization. Our College Anthem is consistent with our motto. We have overcome initial difficulties and obstacles. We have carried on lectures, despite incomplete buildings, but there are still many difficulties to be overcome. When we think of the future of this College, we realise we have moved some distance along the planned pathway. We have given our best, ever trusting we never could fail."

The Mayor of Wagga, in a brief yet capable speech, welcomed the visitors and students to Wagga. "I feel that you, the parents of these young people, will be completely satisfied with the home of your sons and daughters over the two years they spend with us. We, the citizens of Wagga, are very pleased to have them in our midst."

Mr. Graham, M.L.A. and local member, was the next speaker. He has done much in pressing the needs of Wagga College in Cabinet discussions, and it is largely due to him that Wagga was selected as a site for a Teachers' College. The speaker drew an analogy between the need for trained teachers and the necessity for skilled men in agriculture, a sphere of activity with which he as Minister is particularly concerned. "Wagga is one of the foremost educational centres in Australia, boasting as it does a Teachers' College, Technical College and Experiment Farm," Mr. Graham said.

Presenting an Australian flag to the Principal he said: "I have pleasure in presenting this flag as a gesture of goodwill, and I trust that it will fly over the College for many years to come."

The Minister for Education, the Hon. R. J. Heffron, M.L.A., opened his address by telling the students they were greatly needed in the teaching profession. He said he hoped to open another Teachers' College soon. "There is a lag to be made up. Our present teaching force of 12,000 should be built up to 18,000. Just two years ago I opened Balmain Teachers' College, set up in temporary premises on the site of old Smith Street School. Wagga College is the second College to be opened in two years."

Mr. Heffron said he was impressed with the room available when he first inspected the Wagga College site. "We wanted to see teachers trained and trained quickly. We could not ask for brick buildings because of shortages of materials, but we thought that if we could establish a College it would not be long before Wagga was doing great things. We are realists and are making the best of the position as we find it and not as we would like it to be," Mr. Heffron said.

He said that Mr. Salmon as Secretary of the Education Department had been largely responsible for the establishment of the College. "He saw to it that before he retired the College was in full operation."

Mr. Heffron thanked the supervisor of the Department's painting and repair staff (Mr. Baxter), the Mayor of Wagga and his council and the Wagga Chamber of Commerce for what they had done. He also thanked Mr. Graham (Minister for Agriculture) for his persistent demands regarding the College. "Mr. Graham wants the College to be one of the beauty spots of the south-west. When the new buildings are erected, we will co-operate and see that it is," said Mr. Heffron.

Mr. Heffron said that before long he hoped to open the Wagga Base Technical College. He had in mind something more than a Teachers' College for Wagga, but he was keeping his remarks on that subject in reserve.

"We will have to continue to build up the supply of teachers," Mr. Heffron said. He pointed out that each year the Government was spending more and more money on education. New school buildings were going up and school enrolments were increasing in leaps and bounds. He averred his Department was facing up to the educational needs of the State in a way never before dreamed of, but it was necessary if New South Wales was to have an educational system comparable with those in other parts of the world.

People who said that the New South Wales education system was below those of other countries did so because of an incurable inferiority complex. Those who were qualified to compare the systems paid tribute to the schools and Teachers' Colleges in New South Wales.

Mr. Heffron said the College buildings were only of a temporary nature and would be there only as long as necessary. He told those present that the Wagga district would be looked after from an educational point of view, but he wanted the support of the people to ensure that a good job was done.

Mr. Heffron then declared the College officially open.

Mr. Mackenzie, Director-General of Education, asserted that some people "took up teaching," whilst others "become teachers." "To become a teacher," he continued, "one must develop a positive personality and must acquire a knowledge of psychology, and must have a philosophy of life. Academic knowledge, and a realisation of the difficulties in handling children, are important if one is to become a successful teacher," he concluded.

Dr. Phillips, Principal of Sydney College, offered congratulations to Wagga from his staff and students on its Official Opening. "I must congratulate you on being different from the other Colleges—so different in fact that I begin to doubt the evidence of the birth certificate." Digressing into psychological realms, Dr. Phillips instanced Adler's case of the status of the youngest child in the family—he serves as a pace-maker to the remainder of the family and is likely to eclipse his brothers and sisters in achievement. Environmental factors are conducive to the accomplishment of academic and professional honours here at Wagga, Dr. Phillips believed.

"The students of Sydney College present you, the students of Wagga College with this picture which over the last twenty years has become part of us. I hope by this means that we can transplant a little of Sydney College in Wagga College."

Returning once more to his pre-occupation with the family, Dr. Phillips concluded: "I wish you a very happy childhood, a daring adolescence and many years of happy and full life in the community."

Mr. Cantello, Principal of Balmain, with a tinge of envy, referred to our College as the 'Daddy Xmas College,' where 'ask and you shall receive' ruled the day. He paid tribute to Mr. Salmon's work in supplying the College in the early days of acute shortages, and urged the students to adopt a selfless attitude in their teaching.

He then yielded to Dr. Basset, who was bursting himself to present three fine pictures brought down from Armidale as a gift to Wagga. Before resuming his seat, however, he explained his regret at Balmain's inability to provide us with a picture at the moment, but he said that one would assuredly be presented when finances allowed.

Dr. Basset presented three pictures, a Douglass Pratt pencil sketch, a scene of New England country painted by Fre. Roberts, of the staff at Armidale, and also a portrait of Dame Mary Gilmore, to which was attached quite an interesting history.

Dame Mary, an old Waggaite, presented the picture to the Education Minister in 1938 and instructed "that it be hung in the Teachers' College, Wagga (when it eventuated)." Since 1938 the portrait kept the Howard Hinton collection company at the Armidale College. Dr. Basset said: "In 1938 it was thought that the picture would long stay at Armidale, but I know now that it belongs to Wagga and discharge my trust to-day by surrendering it to you." Dr. Basset explained that the picture had been painted and then repainted, greatly changed and reduced to a head and shoulder size over a period of years. In handing over the picture, Dr. Basset said he hoped "that the greatness of this great Australian may be an inspiration to you."

Mr. Blakemore accepted the portrait with no small surprise, for he declared that he had no knowledge of either the picture or history before Dr. Basset spoke.

Mr. Salmon followed Dr. Basset, Mr. Blakemore introducing him, because he felt sure that after all that had been said in eulogy of Mr. Salmon and his work for the College, a speech from the retiring Secretary of the Department would be essential.

Mr. Salmon stated his views on public speaking—"to be seen, stand up; to be heard, speak out; to be appreciated, sit down." He continued by recalling the days when the Education Department was in labour and the College was not yet born. "Pioneers, it might have been much worse. The first site suggested for the College was Kapooka, then Uranquinty." Much cheering greeted his use of that heart-warming word, "Pioneer."

He continued: "I noticed scratched in the cement near the covered way a group of Pioneer names. I thought how foolish were the scribes to write down their monuments where many feet will wear it down. Let not cement be your monument; write your names in the characters of the children you teach; let them be your monument." Mr. Blakemore and the Pioneer staff, Mr. Salmon warmly congratulated on an excellent job done. "The future of your College is safe in the hands of Mr. Blakemore and the traditions the students will establish," he concluded.

Mr. Taylor, representing 12,000 practising teachers in New South Wales, spoke finally. He lauded the foundation of the College as a definite step in decentralization, and he expressed the hope that a University College will quickly follow. He also expressed the fervent hope that there would be many long lulls in Cabinet discussions so that Mr. E. Graham, who is seated beside Education Minister Heffron in the House, would be able to pester that Minister with stories of the needs of the Wagga students.

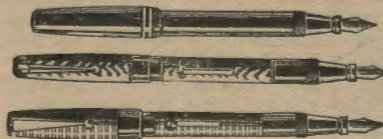
He emphasised to the students their

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good fortune in being residential students without outside distractions.

He advised the students to use well their leisure time. "One phase of College life that should take precedence over all is participation in the 'extra' activities, so vital in your training. Learn here to stand up and speak your mind, to play sport and to be a leader, for if you do not acquire those faculties here you will never acquire them. Your success as a teacher depends on your ability to take part socially in the life of your community."

Mr. Taylor proceeded to urge Mr. Graham to see for himself the conditions under which the students lived and to make a report on the insufficient allowances. "To better the student lot is a responsibility and an obligation for those who realise student conditions and are in a position to improve them," stated Mr. Taylor.

He urged the students to give service to the Department above all. "Money," he said, "is not the only recompense for the true teacher."

"Go on," he continued, "and build your traditions. From 12,000 teachers in the State I bring you an expression of goodwill. Go on and achieve something. Go on and achieve a permanent good-service for education and society!"

Mr. Taylor was the last speaker of the afternoon. Before the Anthem was sung, however, Mr. Blakemore asked Mr. Salmon if he would, in commemoration of the great opening day, plant a tree so that the College and the tree might flourish together into a mighty new era. The large gathering adjourned to the grounds and Mr. Salmon planted the tree.

The College was then thrown open to general inspection.

"TALKABOUT"

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Editorial

BELIEVING that a full report of opening proceedings is desirable as an historical record, I crave your commiseration, since the usual format of "Talkabout" has been altered this week in order to present a detailed picture.

Next week, however, we shall be back again with our own inimitable and, I trust, individual line of journalese—so for the present I must urge the virtue of patience whilst awaiting "Watson" and the several other features of this paper which, by giving the bitter pill a sugar coating, make it assimilable.

ALAN FRYER.

"Pygmalion"

On 28th and 29th September a large audience had the pleasure of witnessing the Second Year Dramatic Art Option's performance of "Pygmalion" by George Bernard Shaw.

The two leading roles were played by Barbara Bosler and Jim O'Ryan, both of whom excelled in their parts. The characters of Colonel Pickering and Alfred Doolittle were played by Tom Hodges and Harry Gibb respectively and both parts were interpreted very effectively.

The acting in Act II was particularly good, and many were the laughs occasioned by Alfred Doolittle (especially certain aspects of his costume, or should I say objects adhering thereto), who really looked and acted as one would expect a dignified dustman to look and act. Mrs. Pearce (played by Jill Noble) looked terrifying as she admonished Professor Higgins (Jim O'Ryan) regarding his descriptive language and casual manners. In this act Tom Hodges' features had acquired a sun-tanned aspect and he looked more like an Indian colonel than an Indian colonel ever did. Jim O'Ryan appeared resplendent in his green silk dressing-gown and grey hair. The flower girl, Eliza (Barbara Bosler) was very well played and Barbara showed considerable versatility in her transition from the flower girl to the Duchess.

Veronica Reen was impressive as Mrs. Higgins and seemed to be the only person capable of keeping Higgins in his place. She also became a favourite

with Doolittle when she asked permission to attend his "turning-off." Harry ought to wear that hat continuously; it enhances his appearance.

Bonnie McIntyre, Margot McInerney and Kevin Wilcox were striking as a peculiarly embarrassed family of socialites and the bunch of flowers received by Kevin was well deserved. Bonnie acted the part of a worried mother, and she must have been very worried to have such extraordinary children.

Colin Taylor, Maureen O'Neill, Doreen Manwaring, Marjorie Abraham, Bette Lonergan and Jack Collins as bystanders and Jean Johnson as the parlourmaid effectively played their small but important parts.

A very important part was played behind the scenes by the stage crew. Without their co-operation the play would not have been the success it was. The members of the crew were D. Gibson, A. Hoffman, L. Clifford, M. Cox, W. Elliot, D. Gamble, W. Parsons. In charge of the house was Ken McLean, ably assisted by M. Yabsley and a host of charming usherettes (B. Andrew, J. Carey, E. Coles, P. Davies, R. Johnston, G. Roberts, G. Robinson, J. Robinson and A. Tanner).

As well as the usherettes were the programme sellers, who also did a good job.

The publicity was in the capable hands of M. Rawlin, D. Rummery, M. Whittaker and Alan Fryer. Sandwichboards were the means of propagation, and proved very effective. Edna Baker proved herself to be a very thorough wardrobe mistress. Head of the student committee was Miss Webb (our popular librarian) and under her guidance the committee looked after the business side of the production.

The work of Mr. Donnison (with Doreen Manwaring assisting) deserves special mention. He was responsible for the stage management, and spent much time giving his expert advice.

Miss Moore (our lecturer in speech) was the producer and was directly responsible for the play's success. She gave almost all her spare time in rehearsals. About a week before the play was performed Miss Moore became ill, but recovered in time for the final rehearsal. During her absence Miss Wylie and Mr. Ashworth took over her work temporarily.

Because of Miss Moore's able direction and the co-operation of the cast and stage crew, the play was a real success.

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A Musical Afternoon

A slight shower of rain did not prevent a large crowd from gathering in the College Hall on Thursday for the musical afternoon provided by the Music Society.

First impression by the audience, as the choir took its place immediately to open the programme, was the pleasing uniformity of dress, and the utter lack of confusion which accompanied the positioning of one hundred students. The sixty-five women were dressed in white, while the dark suits of the men formed an effective contrast.

Visiting artists who took part in the programme were soprano, Miss Mary Thomas, and oboeist, Mr. Ian Wilson, both of Sydney Conservatorium.

The choir, which consists of first and second year students, opened with Sibelius's "Finlandia" and Tchaikovsky's "The Nightingale." Although most of use had heard the choir practising at some time or other this term, I'm sure no one had anticipated quite the standard attained after only four months practice.

Miss Thomas then sang a bracket of four songs, "Fairest Isle," and two arias of Lane Wilson's "My Lovely Celia" and "Shepherd, Thy Demeanor Varies." The last song was received with particular enthusiasm because of the interpretation of its light mood.

Ian Wilson followed with "Concerto for Oboe" and "Arioso," the clear, pure notes of the oboe indicating perfect finger work.

The choir then gave a delightful rendition of our old favourite, "Linden Lea," while the second and third numbers, Elgar's "The Snow" and "The Shepherd's Song," provided an excellent contrast in tempo.

Two of Debussy's compositions, "The Girl With the Flaxen Hair" and "The Little Shepherd," played by Mr. Wilson, were very well received.

Miss Cornell's accompaniment was faultless, and in many instances, attention was drawn from the artist to her superb playing.

Miss Thomas delighted with a final bracket of "Gypsy Songs," which included the sad haunting melody of Dvorak's "Silent Woods," "Garbed in Flowing Linen," "Songs My Mother Taught Me," and, offering a contrast to the first, the gay, quick spirit of "Tune Thy Fiddle, Gypsy." Encored twice, she gave students the opportunity of hearing how the Irish folk song, "I Know Where I'm Goin'," was meant to be sung. Miss Thomas obliged again with the English song, "Clorinda."

The bright entertainment concluded with the choir singing "The Foggy Dew," "O, Let Me Look on Thee Once More," and Sullivan's "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day."

Taken all in all, with an ear to the stage, and an ear to the audience's reactions, highlights of the afternoon were:—

(1) The choir's renditions of "Linden Lea," "The Snow" and "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day."

(2) The unexpectedness of Marj Ab-

raham's voice in "The Nightingale"—an introduction only too brief.

(3) Miss Mary Thomas's interpretation of "Shepherd, Thy Demeanor Vary," "Songs My Mother Taught Me" and "I Know Where I'm Going."

(4) A sustained highlight, in the conducting of Mr. Pople, who at times had the entire audience unconsciously singing with him.

The musical afternoon concluded on a brilliant note, and found its reward in the impressive silence which immediately followed upon almost every item.

Phys. Ed. Display

Marking the official opening of this College, and, as part of the celebrations, a physical education display was presented by both first and second year students on Thursday night. This display proved to be very entertaining and covered most of the physical activities of the College.

All items were presented with poise and precision. Outstandingly popular were the Stave Dance by second year men; Greek Walks and Gestures and Grecian Studies, by second year women; Vaulting, by second year women; Burlesque Wrestling, by second year men; Pyramids, by first and second year men, and the Statuary.

The Stave Dance and the Burlesque Wrestling swept the audience to its feet. Several of the window-sill patrons were here dangerously near to descending on to an unsuspecting crowd. It is realised that much serious practice was necessary for these two items in order to avoid the smashing of bones and the weeping of mighty men.

Greek Walks and Gestures and Grecian Studies also had a wide appeal. Colour of costumes, etc., here was carefully planned; these items, too, showed the result of intensive practice. Grace of movement was the keynote. It must be mentioned that Cathie Smith took the stage (to herself at times) in both of these items.

Vaulting by second year women was performed with grace and accuracy. It was evident that many townspeople and parents had not realised women were capable of vaulting.

Pyramids, by first and second year men, also served to show what physical education is to-day. Those involving handstands, etc., were especially spectacular.

Statuary, the grand finale of the display, was very effective. The black background here played a very important role and the "statues" could have been the creations of some master sculptor.

All other items also deserve praise. The intensive practice which preceded this display has been fully justified.

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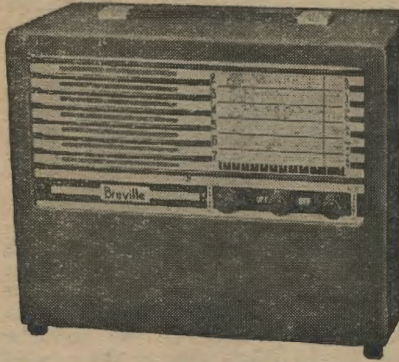
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Many Happy Returns

Immediately following the Phys Ed. display the literary fraternity entertained lavishly in the Assembly Hall, the occasion being the celebration of the first birthday of that splendidly produced paper, "Talkabout."

About thirty guests were present, including Mr. and Mrs. Blakemore, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Levis, Mr. and Mrs. Lonsdale, Mr. Ashworth, the printer Mr. Chambers and his wife, Mrs. Whittaker, the Writers' Group, "Talkabout" staff, and a select group of hangers on.

The Editor, Mr. Al Fryer, proved an efficient M.C. who got out of every difficult situation by calling on someone to speak or entertain.

In his official speech Al recalled the good old bad old days when the Pioneer staff battled the fates and elements in the Arts and Crafts Room to produce the early issues. He thanked his staff and supporters for their help and then passed the buck to Dave Rummery.

Dave failed to impress as a speaker, but I have to admit he did a splendid job later in the evening when he carried the dishes back to the kitchen. (Mr. Robertson and Mr. Mitchell also did good work in this field).

Mr. Blakemore then delivered a fine address in which he praised Al and his staff for their work in producing the paper which has played so big a part in College life.

Mr. Levis forecast a brilliant future for "Talkabout" and told of the early days when the paper was only a dream with little chance of becoming reality.

Our printer Mr. Chambers then took the floor and said a lot of nice things about the Editor, the staff, and the paper. (At this stage I think Al really considered putting the price up.)

Speeches over, the gathering partook of a sumptuous repast prepared by the female members of the group and the soul mates of the male members.

As the highlight of the evening Al produced a sponge birthday cake about the size of a pumpkin seed and a candle of extreme proportions. With one breath the staff extinguished the flame, and the company sang several songs in honour of "Talkabout's" birthday.

Al then called upon Mrs. Whittaker to divide the cake among the thirty present. Mrs. Whittaker did a fine job, but I think she must have a soft spot for me because my crumb was bigger than any of the others.

Mr. Ashworth then rendered another blood-curdling episode in the life of that happy character "Gobberslobber." This dramatisation had terrible effect on Mr. Levis's young daughter, but Mr. Ashworth took steps and soon had the situation well in hand.

Time was marching on, and being a cagey customer I realised that the work of cleaning up was not far off, so Paul Rees and I went out for a smoke. When we got back Mary, Wyn, June, Bette and the other girls had everything in order and were in the act of farewelling Mr. Blakemore and the official guests.

About fourteen diehards remained,

including Ralph, Marge and that refugee from "Pygmalion," Kevin Wilcox.

The party now took a decidedly informal turn and several prominent writers displayed hitherto unsuspected talents.

Thus the faithful rejoiced on the occasion of the paper's first birthday.

Little Theatre Club

Noel Coward's cynically amusing comedy, "I Leave It to You," is under production by this Club. This three-act play is the most ambitious enterprise yet undertaken by the Club, and members are looking forward to an entertaining evening when it is staged in the Assembly Hall on Monday, 25th October.

David Rummery, Miriam Bowers and Norma Neilson are handling the "elderly" roles in the play, Pat Davis and Baden Brown do some romantic love scenes, and the other members of the irresponsible and scatter-brained Dermott family are Dorothy Gibson, Margaret Olive, Philippa Alberry and last but by no means least, Ian Thomas. Ken McLean works hard as producer, prompter and the butler Griggs. Bill Parsons is stage electrician and stage manager, and promises to do big things with lighting effects.

Fun during rehearsals has lightened the Club who have a number of one-acter, and the effort displayed here the hard work necessary for a three-should inspire the other members of act plays under production.

Backstage

One of the most interesting curiosities of man is to find out how the other half lives.

This article is designed to show you how the other half lived behind scenes of "Pygmalion." Desperate producers rushing around looking for actors and actresses to make up and being rushed by frenzied stage hands with enlightening information as regards "what happened to the thunder record" and if there was to be a drenching, flooding rain noise or a fairy-light April shower.

At last on the eve of "look out there," the curtain was drawn. Heavy sighs of relief were drawn for at least everyone was in their rightful places and God was in His heaven, etc.

First night we were rather surprised at the uproarious reception we received. Second night we were worried because there seemed to be only a titter. (We found out the reason; Darby wasn't in the second row on the second night.)

In the middle of act one Mrs. Eynsford Hill, sequin-bedecked, decided she was hungry, so in true Bohemian fashion, she, Mrs. Higgins (cameo and all) and one of the street walkers sat down to enjoy coffee out of a billy, a hot pie and a cake.

Scene changes were swift. Actors doffed suits and donned others, ignoring completely the world about them, while the leading lady authoritatively called "slip, frock, necklet, bracelet, tiara," etc., with accurate and rhythmical precision.

Room Inspection

After the official opening of this College on Wednesday, 29th September, both men and women's dormitories were thrown open for inspection. Upon this announcement several mysterious souls slipped unobtrusively and rapidly from the crowd in the direction of their respective dormitories. It is to be noted that when the students arrived to inspect the rooms of these weird and wonderful creatures they (the rooms) were unbelievably clean. No discarded clothing, no cigarette butts, and no newspapers were to be seen. All was extremely tidy, chairs being pressed carefully against the wardrobe doors. Any student approaching one of these all-concealing structures was shown hurriedly but politely towards the door. Allen Thomson, however, took a lovely photograph of Bonnie's wardrobe. This will be a shot well worth seeing.

And now—BEDS! Over some the covers were painstakingly drawn. An unsuspecting fly rested in the very centre of just such a bed and the cover sank so rapidly that he was deafened by the air rushing past his ears. (I regret that I did not see this but heard of it from a most reliable source.) Just imagine the expression on that poor little fly's face! Greater still, imagine the embarrassment on the fact of the student who owned that bed! Ninety-five per cent. of the beds in the men's dormitories had a deeply eroded gully right down the centre. The other five per cent. had eroded right over the edges (sheet erosion).

Many rooms (especially in the women's dormitories) were brightened by curtains. But not only to the women must we grant this honour. Mr. Ken Cant, "Sluggo" and Stan Faulkner had a lovely pair in their room—pretty floral ones. To Lindsay Clifford and Max Cox goes the honour of perhaps the tidiest room in the College. It is amazing to note that Mr. Ashworth lives in this same hut. Or is it because of this that the room is so tidy?

Many men students are to be praised for their home-made book shelves. Does it matter now that Mr. Somebody lost two fingernails in the process, or that Mr. So-and-So dropped the hammer on his toe and swallowed half-a-dozen nails from the shock of it? The shelves are there now and those I saw were being used to the utmost.

After inspecting the women's dormitories many men realised for the first time just what was meant by "the three-quarter walls of Theta-Mu." In this block wardrobes have as yet no locks and, along one complete corridor, no drawers. Thus every available linen bag was put to good use, as things must be stored somewhere, and three unsuspecting males had already been smothered completely by wardrobe-avalanches.

Some women, also, have built book-cases themselves and these sturdy structures hold all the knowledge of the women's dormitories. (What a load!)

Men students were extremely quick

to realise the value of the women's laundry (some had realised it long before this), and are anxious to introduce their clothing to its interior. To walk in one door and straight out the other with a man's shirt under your arm would accomplish this, I should think.

Most men were envious of the coloured coverlets which adorned the women's beds. It is to be hoped that some come their way soon as they certainly improve the rooms generally.

The corridors of Theta-Mu are extremely narrow. In fact, it is impossible for two people to walk abreast here. This was noticed by one male lecturer in particular as he squeezed himself throughout the corridor's length, finally couching himself in its spacious common-room with much relief.

Both men and women's dormitories stood the inspection well. On the whole, they showed that their inhabitants were anxious to impress their visitors as well as to make life more enjoyable for themselves.

WYN WALSHAW.

Musicalities

GINETTE NEVEU—a virtuoso violinist.

Ginette Neveu is a violinist at present touring Australia under contract to the Australian Broadcasting Commission. She has successfully toured Europe, England (where she was highly praised by Neville Cardus) and America (where she received praise from Olin Downes and Virgil Thomson). Her success was so enormous in the U.S.A. that she was immediately booked for another tour this year.

Neveu is a twenty-eight-years-old Frenchwoman of olive complexion, black hair and a highly-strung temperament. Her family is very musical. Charles Widor, the organist, was her great-uncle; her mother is a distinguished violinist and also the first to realise Ginette's potentialities, and her brother Jean is her accompanist for recitals.

She is a great believer in work, work and more work. This is the basis of her flawless technique and her complete mastery over her instrument. After learning from her mother, she studied at the Paris National Conservatorium of Music and later studied under Carl Flesch. When seven years old she performed the Mendelssohn violin concerto with orchestra and when fifteen she won the Wienlawski prize at the International violin competition at Warsaw. The prize was the Stradivarius that she plays. Isaac Stern wrote of her:

"A very individual performer whose musical concepts one can either be violently for or against, but whatever she does she does with such certainty, such dynamic conviction, that she forces at least temporary acceptance of all her ideals. In my opinion, at least, she is a major artist."

Olin Downes writes: . . . "a compelling performance of the Brahms' Violin Concerto, one in which youthful vigour and emotion went hand in hand with

the authority and control of a master."

Wherever she turns Neveu is being accepted as one of the world's leading fiddle virtuosos and is quickly nearing the top of the ladder.

When she leaves Australia for America she will have given concerts in Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Wollongong, Newcastle, Brisbane, Melbourne and several other cities. I witnessed one concert at which she gave three encores to an audience which is usually very conservative in its applause.

Sibelius, the famous Finnish composer, claimed that she was the best interpreter of his violin concerto in the world and is has been said with good reason that Brahms would have made a similar claim. Her playing of the Brahms violin concerto was powerful and vibrant, much more so than would normally be expected from a woman.

Her exact rhythm, inexhaustible energy and depth of tone in the Sibelius concerto combined to give an unforgettable performance.

Her stance when she is playing is masculine. Everyone who sees her in action remarks and wonders in amazement at her handling of the instrument, her physical stamina and her personal charm. The Australian Broadcasting Commission is indeed fortunate in having such an artist here.

RALPH J. C. HUTTON.

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