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THE NEED IS GREAT

Every hour of every day, press and radio bring us fresh reports of Allied victories and Axis defeats in the varied theatres of war—news which has given rise to a false feeling of optimism here on the home front. We are inclined to feel that the war is all but won and that further contributions to the cause of victory would be so much wasted effort.

We forget that casual disinterest on our part will have the severest repercussions on the battle line. Especially is this true of the flow of "blood plasma" supplies from this side of the Atlantic.

The greatest battles of the war are now being fought. Casualties are heavy. Thousands of wounded servicemen have been saved through the use of blood serum. But if we allow rosy newspaper headlines to cloud our vision of reality, thousands more will die. There must be no slackening in our nation's blood donor service as long as the need exists.

The Dalhousie Blood Donor Society has inaugurated its campaign for the year. If approached by a member of the committee—be quick to answer the call. Although university is preparing us for tomorrow, we must not shirk the responsibilities of today. The need is great, the effort small and the time for action, NOW.

Remember . . . WHAT WE WON'T MISS, THEY DIE WITHOUT.

A "ROUND TABLE" FOR YOUTH

Some weeks ago a group was organized on the Dal campus to submit a report on Health Insurance to the regional conference of the Canadian Youth Commission. Chairmened by Abe Sheffman, a nucleus of enthusiasts delved into the whys and wherefores of the situation and subsequently submitted their views for ratification. The report was given unanimous approval by conferees assembled from all parts of the province.

This initial group of the Youth Commission has since been absorbed in a student organization called "The Dalhousie Round Table", which meets periodically to discuss the varied problems of present-day and post-war Canada.

By stimulating a frank, open discussion of current problems, national and international, Dalhousians are expressing a long-dormant interest in Canada's future—a future in which youth must play a dominant role.

Our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Dalhousie Round Table.

"WHAT IS A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION?"

(In reply to this question here is the 2nd in a series of articles by members of the Dalhousie teaching staff)

The surest mark of a University education is a proper understanding of what is meant by a University and by education. The ability to acquire and remember facts, and the store of information thus acquired, are not in themselves education; but they are a necessary foundation for it. This foundation should be laid in the schools; but on this continent the first two years are too often devoted to work which can be done better by the high schools, and which hinders and obscures the true function of university training.

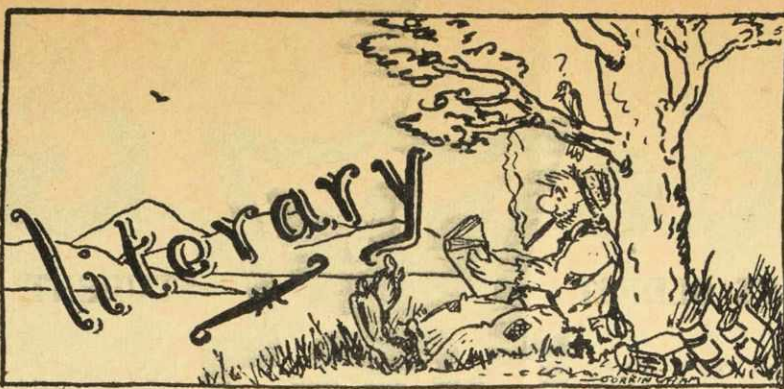
The English universities can specialize from the beginning. Those of North America, trying to ensure an adequate general foundation, are obliged in the first two years to cover too much territory. Many of them, even in so-called Honour courses, try to cover too much in the later years, forgetting that scattering has more than a rhyming connection with smattering. It has been said that "If a man knows something about everything, he knows nothing about anything; but if he knows everything about something, he knows something about everything." The "something about everything" belongs chiefly to the schools. The "everything about something" for those who have the desire and the ability to get it, should be the concern of the University.

Some of our "students" think that they are conferring a favour if they appear willing to be taught; they should have the will to learn. A university should be a closed corporation restricted to those who want it for what it is, and who would not, for the time being, change it for any other way of life.

There should be an association of free and active minds, with the give and take of intellectual debate and of social converse, teaching young men and women to match and modify their beliefs and opinions against those of others without animosity and without subservience. There should be agreeable surroundings, and opportunity for pleasant and healthful sports and pastimes, with less attention to money, show, and competition. There should be leisure for talk, and the countryside for walking; but if this last requires an alteration of the University almanac or of our northeastern climate, I will accept a compromise at Dalhousie with indoor swimming pools and skating rinks.

Arts and science, law and medicine, athletics and debate, commerce and engineering: the modern university is equipped to enable many men to learn many things. Its variety makes its essential quality—universality; but a common means and a common goal should give it also unity. For the one lesson, common to all others and above them all, that we can learn from a University, is how to learn. With that, we can face life.

C. L. BENNETT,
Department of English.



Oscar Wilde--Genius of Exile

AN APPRECIATION

Ill-informed and prejudiced biographers and critics, and well meaning but badly advised friends have enveloped the name and the works of Oscar Wilde with a false atmosphere of dark mystery tinged with evil. In an endeavour to dispel these absurdities we have written this article, neither to defend nor to blame Wilde, but to present to Dalhousie the true worth of his genius.

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1854, the son of the famous surgeon Sir William Wilde and Jane Elgee. After attending the Portora Royal School, and Trinity College, winning prizes in classics and scriptures at both, he entered Magdalen College, Oxford. His ambition was to be a writer. He won the Newdigate prize for poetry with his poem "Ravena". This last honor assured him of easy access to the London publishers when he began to write.

The London which Wilde entered at the conclusion of his studies was saturated with bigoted Victorian morality, an easy mark for the ridicule of a man of wit. This order of society was, however, being shaken to its foundations by numerous political and moral radicals, particularly among the youth.

Wilde's erratic dress and critically aesthetic attitude soon made him conspicuous among these malcontents. However, his irresistible wit and novel and brilliant conversation found him favor in the midst of that very capitalistic society that he ridiculed. For Wilde was always greatest as a conversationalist, and therefore the greatest fruits of his genius are lost to us forever. Nevertheless, it was not long before, with poems and essays, Wilde was making his name known in the realm of letters. In his poetry, which was good, though never great, he revealed his romantic spirit, his craving for liberty; in his essays, particularly "The Soul of Man Under Socialism", he showed his idealistic conception of the world as he would have it. Although at first the conventional critics attacked Wilde viciously, soon, despite the scandal created by his so-called immoral novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray", he became recognized as the leading literary figure of the day and as the arbitrator of criticism. As his scintillating, brilliantly witty comedies appeared in rapid succession, his fame and his wealth grew apace, and he became universally recognized as the greatest English dramatist of the nineteenth century. He could go no higher and as he must perforce go on, his fall was inevitable.

Accused of immoral crimes, too odious to mention, Wilde was hurled from his summit by the long suppressed hatred of horrified Victorian English justice. The greatest genius of his age, Oscar Wilde was sentenced to two years of imprisonment for a crime which any beggar on the streets could commit without fear of a greater penalty than a nominal fine. Within the gloomy walls of Reading Gaol, the flame of Wilde's genius sank to an ember and the weird reflections of this ember were cast upon the world in one of the greatest works of prose of the English language, "De Profundis". On his release, fanned by the breath of freedom, his genius rose again, expressed in the passionate "Ballad of Reading Gaol" before it sank again and was extinguished by his death in 1900.

Exiled from his country during the last few years of his life, Wilde suffered severely enough even for his hideous crime. Even after his death, the hypersensitive public held his memory in loathing. They went too far, however. They confused the degenerate man with his invaluable art. The brilliant works of Oscar Wilde remained in complete obscurity for many years. Even today, in this supposedly liberal and enlightened age, although his works again enjoy large-scale publication they are frowned upon, practically ignored by the critics and the scholars of this country. We call for an end to this ridiculous attitude, for it is ourselves, and not Oscar Wilde, who will suffer from our ignorance of his work which is entertaining when not profound, beautiful if not conventional. Though Wilde's philosophy is weak, it repents, nonetheless, a large school of thought and cannot be overlooked. Furthermore, in such works as "De Profundis", the better poems and the beautiful fairytales, which ring with greater sincerity than the plays, Wilde reveals that he was theoretically as great a moralist as those who persecuted him. We ask that Wilde the religious poet, Wilde the prison reformer, Wilde the penitent philosopher be remembered, as well as Wilde the degenerate. Then, in an age which admires Lord Byron, surely Oscar Wilde can be tolerated. But do not take our word for it, read Wilde yourselves. That is what we ask. Read him and judge.

LATEMUS.

BLOOD DONORS—

(Continued from page 1)

nate will not be allowed to do so. A few (about one person in twenty) may feel slightly dizzy, but after lying down for a short time, this will pass off and they will feel as well as ever. Coffee and biscuits are served to the donors.

How Often Should Donations Be Made?

Only once before Christmas. After Christmas we hope to hold clinics early in January and again in March to enable students to obtain their blood donor badges. These are given after making three donations, and are attractive badges that you will be proud to wear. Names of all donors will be published in the Gazette.

How Much Blood Is Taken?

A maximum of 400 c.c. (less than a pint), but this varies with the individual, as some may not be able, in the doctor's opinion, to donate as much as this.

What Is the Special Blood Donor Meal?

It is important to refrain from eating fats (butter, whole milk, cream, eggs, bacon, etc.) for dinner or supper on the day of your clinic.

Fat in the blood stream makes the plasma cloudy, and your donation will be useless.

Last year we had 145 donors at the first two clinics. This year we want to do better than that. So come on, Dalhousie, let's do our part.

"WHAT YOU WON'T MISS, THEY DIE WITHOUT."

NIGHT ECLIPSES DAY—

(Continued from page 1)

the judgment of the Lord Chief Justice and decided for Mr. Martin.

Allan "The Kid" Butler wanted to get framed, so he signed his name to Sheffman's wormlike scrawls which he explained to the court was shorthand. However, the bench took no judicial notice of Butler's antics and peace was restored after the conspirators Feeney and Sheffman were judicially separated. Caught gossiping and giggling during the proceedings, Gazetteers McLaren and Mingo were ordered to supplement the dwindling smoking supplies of their Lordships.

N.B.—Will someone tell Clancy that the plural of "foot" is feet and not "feets".

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