

### Writers Workshop

In this column are printed selected samples of the best from among the short essays produced by the students of Dr. Pacey's "Creative Writing" Class. They are selected on basis of their quality and genuine representation of the students' work. It is hoped that they at once give notice to the creative talent at work on the campus, and add to the feature material that is carried in The Brunswickan.

(By M. L. O'Brien)

For many years (my friends) I have had an aversion to nails, of all kinds and types. You may indeed think this strange and a bit eccentric, but I shall nevertheless ask you to bear with me for a bit. I believe nails, like many other things, can be classified, and perhaps the highest form of the species is the human nail. This of course may be broken down into the fingernail, toe-nail, and we may even include hooves, harnes, and fish scales. In all the outer layer consists of the unguis, the second—the malpighian layer of epidermis, then the sub unguis and last of all, the corneum. These protrude either from the fingers of the hand or the toes of the foot. I do think that this type of nail is of little use. Take the finger type for example. Its pattern, or shape may be long, and painted, filed for scratching, and painted as you like, or it may be squared and brittle, a very good catch-all, giving that hard worked appearance. Of course I'm sure you all know the type that will never protrude, for their owner keeps them well chewed to a half moon. In this latter case they may serve some purpose,—by being an outlet for nerves. But then nails, even of this type are not particularly digestible.

Whether long, short, or half

moon, nails sometimes grow an addition — called the hang nail. This type has more feeling than all the others. As you probably know in many instances it causes much wincing, and stamping of feet. It can be the most annoying of the species, and the hardest of all to cut. Sometimes instruments most delicate must be employed, and even then a piece of flesh may be claimed. All these nails, as you know, are of the highest species, but the nail less important, and which I dislike even more,—is the iron nail. This is usually a slender piece of metal, with a head, and point, used for driving in or through wood. Sometimes attracted to the human nail, a relationship which is especially painful. These may range in size anywhere from 1-16 of 1 inch to the spike, or foot length. I think the latter is an especially miserable specimen. The most unpopular type is the rusty one, that sometimes has an affinity for feet. In one special case, I remember my dear cousin John was sent to the cellar to stoke the furnace. He didn't bother to put on any shoes, as the floor was cement. He found some excellent kindling wood but in the process, one slipped his notice,—but not that of his foot. He stepped on it unwittingly, and

drove a spike into his sole. The sad part was, my friends, that John did not have the sense as would you, or I, to sit down and pull it out. No, he stepped firmly on the boarded foot, while bringing down his other as a lever to get the nail out of the first. It would have been sad enough had this nail been a nice new shiny one, but alas, it was a lovely shade of red—rust to be more exact, and came out with only 1/2 its point.

This type of nail has the most drastic effect on human nature. There are others,—which I grant you are useful for a time, but in the end,—depending on the end they seek,—can do no good.

Looking now at the smaller and more slender type, we find the common wire nail. This is used in the most delicate of operations, such as support for picture frames. It has a flat head, which of course is an asset to any nail and more specially to the pounder.

A very common type with which we are all well acquainted is the flooring nail. I'm sure you'll tell me that there is nothing more useful than this type, but, what happens when one works loose? You walk along quite unconcerned, and all at once you and the floor meet with a crash. The floor shakes, but you shake twice as much. You get the hammer to pound it down, but you discover its badly bent, so you pull it out. The nail is not driven in as far as you think, and it pops up, hits you in the eye, and then . . . you see, you just can't win, it's impossible. Even the slender finishing nail has its drawbacks. Its head is almost even with its body. You try to pound it in, very carefully placing it. After several attempts, you find the nail is upside down, but its no good now anyway, because you bent the point hammering too hard. You might try a boat nail,—it's nice and coarse, and has an unmistakable head. This is the kind that will probably drive in very nicely, but you never know the size of the resulting crack. Speaking of short thick nails, what is a better specimen than the hinge nail? It usually turns out to be too long or too short, but you can't miss the head,—that I must admit is an asset.

The horse-shoe nail comes in the thin flat headed class, but the upholsterers nail belongs more with the hinge nail. This has a short thick body and is provided with a sharp point. Its singular personality lies in its triangular head—which must, I think provide a problem for the upholsterer. How he manages not to miss is a mystery to me.

Perhaps next in size is the shoe nail, and what could be more miserable. One can never be quite

(Continued on Page Seven)

### The S.C.M.

### What Is It?

(By Stig Harvor)

In the first place, the Student Christian Mission (SCM) is a student organization. It is run by and for students. Its program and policy is determined by students. It is aimed at students in the situation they find themselves while in university. Its primary interest is therefore in the university environment. It is concerned chiefly with the intellectual life of the student. It is also, however, concerned with the life of the student in society. Thus, the SCM is concerned with the student as a whole and not merely with one single aspect of his life.

In the second place, the SCM is a Christian organization. This means that it attempts to show students how to achieve a satisfying and integrate view of life by pointing to the Christian Faith, studying it, and helping students to live it. It does not mean that the SCM is an organization exclusively of or for the convinced Christians. The SCM openly welcomes students of all beliefs, views, and opinions only asking that they be willing — as the "Basis and Aim" of the Canadian SCM puts it — "to test the truth of the conviction upon which the movement is founded." This conviction is that "in Jesus Christ is found the supreme revelation of God and the means to the full realization of life." If any student shares this conviction or is willing to examine it, the SCM welcomes him or her.

In the third place, the SCM is a movement. It is a company of adventurous students striking out in the forefront of Christian thought and action. It joins students into a world-wide fellowship marked by a unity of mutual respect and understanding however divided they may be on specific issues. This unity springs from their common loyalty to one man, Jesus Christ. The vitality of the SCM has never been one of numbers. Rather its vitality lies in its willingness to examine and test its own foundation and the views of its critics. It is sensitive to new thought, whether adverse or favorable to its own foundation. It is forever striking out into new

fields of exploration. It is living and expounding.

Having examined what the SCM is, let us now look at what it does. We will confine our observations here to our own campus since this is most relevant to us. The SCM in U. N. B. undertakes a varied program in trying to carry out its purpose. Through weekly Open House meetings in St. Andrew's Church Hall it attempts to stimulate thinking and discussion as well as provide a feeling of fellowship among its members. Through its social functions it attempts to satisfy the need for gaiety and fun. Through the publication of the Student Directory it renders a service to the university community and also bolsters its own finances. Through its support of the International Student Service, the University Christian Mission, and other projects it translates its convictions into creative action. Through worship and prayer it attempts to lead students closer to God. Finally, through its study groups which are at the heart of the program, the SCM attempts to relate the Christian faith to a student's studies and experiences in such a manner that his intellectual integrity is upheld and his life will take on meaning and purpose.

The recent University Christian Mission gave many students a glimpse of a Christianity they had never heard of before. This was a

(Continued on Page Seven)

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### Writers Work

(Continued from sure of the size. WH sticking in his big to all of a foot. But y is loose, it can't be eighth of an inch. S shoe maker isn't ev about the number.

Whether tacks sho ed with nails, is que it is perhaps a lower species. The two that now come to my carpet and thumb carpet specimen is v can scarcely live up times,—of course dep thickness of the carp tack is unquestiona useful. Why there's goes by when one d thumb tack. It als good job standing o which doesn't prove tory when one wishe

In this preamble o neglected to mentio ably the lowest in t ies. This is the c Dicken's Xmas C said that Marley, y door nail, but that was the deadead pie gery he could think Having looked at must stop, for I fea to hit any of them o thus wasted my br in the future some the perfect nail, an no need for such a

### The S. C. M.

(Continued from Christianity not dogmatic assertions to Scripture passa challenged but founded on clean th mon human experie all-embracing inter which did not fear and close scrutiny. I humbly submit of presenting Chr by the Mission is with the purpose of the Mission did is is attempting to c If the SCM falls sh it is rather the fa bers than the fault faith as such. Be evaluating the SC not all of its mem and most beginners they do not measur standards of intell and living exempli sioners, remember Christians, with m you want to join for truth you will their fellowship. I fect it may be. Al of you is honesty diligence.

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