

ATBO: 2012: 4064

The Bergman Osterberg Union.

NEWS SHEET

The Grey Coat Hospital,
Westminster,
London, S.W.1.
September, 1947.

My dear old Students,

We are revising our wartime News Sheet for this year, so that members can keep in touch with the Union.

I thought I would take this opportunity of telling you about the plans to re-organise the Year Representatives. On January 3rd, 1948, we hope to have a Committee Meeting followed by a special meeting of the Year Representatives to introduce them to each other and the Committee and to put the machinery of the news collecting into working order again.

Miss Law has already written to the faithful few, who have kept in touch with their years throughout the war and I am glad to say we had many offers at the Annual General Meeting from members of years, who had no representative or whose old representative can no longer take on the work. There are, however, a number of years with no News Collector and we should be glad of offers. These years are:—1911, 1912, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1921, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1943 and the years before 1906.

Though we had no nominations for a new Secretary at the Annual General Meeting we most unconstitutionally accepted Miss A. J. Ross's very kind offer to help us out of our difficulty. We hope she will go on working with us for longer than her cautiously stipulated year. Our good wishes go with Miss Law and we all hope she will enjoy her greater leisure, now that she no longer has notices or Registers to bother her.

Miss MacLaren has given us much food for thought in her letter. As a very old Gymnast I can only add this hope—that the widening of the Syllabus in the Physical Training Colleges will not lead to a lowering of the already pretty low standard of Physical Education in the country. Schools are still suffering from the effects of the war and our six vital subjects, Gymnastics, Dancing, Hygiene, Summer and Winter Games, Swimming and Remedials need a lot of spade work put into them before they are up to standard.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
M. S. S. CHAMBERLAIN,
Chairman of the
B.O.U. Committee.

P.S.—We are hoping to publish news from some years with this News Sheet. Though this depends a little on paper shortage, and it may be, that we shall only be able to have these news items at the Year Representatives Meeting on January 3rd, 1948.

Kingsfield,
Dartford Heath, Kent.
September, 1947.

Dear Old Students,

The Students' letter has given you quite a comprehensive account of our return to Dartford and the many difficulties we encountered. It has also covered much of the incidental news of our two years' work. I will try to tell you a little about the College's general work.

This is a critical time for policy framing in the Educational world. There is obviously a drive to consider Education as a whole. Specialisation is not being viewed with very great favour. We are specialists, and we have to guard against our students having too little knowledge, and at the same time to equip them adequately to take their place in the general scheme of training. With regret we had to say goodbye to our full Conjoint course when the Chartered Society increased their training course to three years. We found we could not serve two masters. Choosing the Educational field, we arranged with the Chartered Society that, provided students had gained their London Diploma, they could be considered for Associate membership, and if they wished to pursue their medical training they could complete their Diploma by working at a Conjoint Hospital School for one extra year. The College is developing the School Remedial and Rehabilitation course. The students are still going to pursue one month's hospital experience in addition to one year's work in the College Clinic. We are trying to offer every student a subsidiary course in addition to Physical Training. The subjects chosen all have bearing on the wider aspects of Physical Education. These subjects at present are Ecology, Social Science, Literature and Drama, and Music. The subjects are voluntary, but we find that most students show interest in one. We hope to add Art and Handwork later. Three periods a week are given to these special pursuits. If the course was extended to four years these courses could all be developed further to the benefit of the student's general education.

4-
N.B. Not MARGARET - PRINCIPAL
CHAMBERLAIN

The College has not found its exact position in the new educational scheme, at present it is quite independent. Students may receive Local Education Authority grants, but are not eligible for Government grants. Quite naturally the Committee of Management are not prepared to give over the College to the State at present. The possibility of coming into the educational scheme under the auspices of the London University is an idea that will naturally be of interest to the Physical Educationalist.

Old Students will know that the Ling Association held a most interesting conference at Easter on the teaching of Gymnastics. Every College had the opportunity to set forth its aim and give an indication of its policy. This conference was valuable to the Colleges. There was a great deal of very co-operative discussion. It was so successful that the Colleges are now holding a further conference at Anstey during the Christmas vacation. These discussions are bound to give inspiration, and prove a widening influence to those responsible for the training of specialist teachers.

The College ran a Refresher course at the end of the Summer Term for Kent teachers. Next year, we hope to widen this course and throw it open to teachers throughout the country and simultaneously run a course for specialist teachers who show desire to take up training work. Old Students wishing to attend should write in May 1948 to the Secretary.

Old Students will note with regret that Miss E. R. Clarke is retiring from the Ministry in January. The College is proud of the service she has given to the country; many an old student will feel they have lost a professional friend, but I am sure they will all join with me in wishing her a happy retirement. We know it is bound to be an active one, and we hope she will have sufficient time to take an interest in our Old Students' Association.

Yours very sincerely,

G. MACLAREN,

Principal.

PRESENT STUDENTS' LETTER

Here is the first news letter since Colleges return to Dartford two years ago. Much progress has been made since that time and re-occupation is at last complete and College again its traditional self.

The early days of resettling involved great co-operation from everybody and Staff and Students were to be seen scraping paint from windows long blacked-out, scrubbing, digging, cutting and weeding. For example in September, 1945, the grass on the games fields was waist high and it seemed that they could never be coaxed back to their former perfection, but somehow they were tamed and reclaimed, grass replanted on College pitch, and this Summer we are once more using the Cricket pitch. Again, the tennis

courts on New Field and College pitch were in a dilapidated condition. But all have been renewed and are in use again.

These were the sort of difficulties that arose and had to be countered before College work in all its branches could be resumed at its normal level. Difficulties still exist especially concerning fuel. The Swimming Bath was not available for most of last year owing to necessary repairs being in progress and even this year though in working order, fuel has curtailed its use and the bath has been unheated during this Summer Term. However, the temperature cannot compete with that of Newquay Harbour, and we are very glad to have Mr. Howcroft with us again to guide and correct and provide instructive demonstrations.

There have been several new lecturers—Mr. Rawlings for Anatomy; the reinstatement of Dr. Philpotts for Education; Miss Mactavish continues to visit us for the Drama Course; and one night a week a voluntary class of Fencing is taken by Mr. Bember; Games coaches have included Miss Douglas Brown for Cricket and Mrs. Dewhurst for Tennis.

Societies still flourish, especially those concerned with Literature and Dramatic Art, Music, and Social Science, the three courses now taken as an alternative, instead of the C.S.P. Examination. This year "The Rose without a Thorn" was produced largely by the Students and was a success both financially and aesthetically. A recital of Spanish Dances and music gave us another delightful evening; and a talk on China given by the new Vicar of Wilmington and a political discussion were events arranged by the Current Events Society.

Demonstrations of Gymnastics, Dancing, Swimming and Games work, were undertaken both last year and this; the one outside on College pitch and the other inside the Gymnasium. We were most fortunate during the year to have a visit and demonstration from Madame Karlquist's team of Swedish girls. There have been expeditions to Wimbledon both this year and last which the whole College attended and found a great experience.

We also take an interest in the National Union of Students and some of the third years went to Switzerland at Christmas and Easter in connection with the Union while more students are to go to Italy and Sweden this Summer vacation. Lastly there have been two College Dances this year which in their turn proved successful.

Now we are at the end of another College Year and we hope that next term when printing difficulties are not so acute, we may be able to produce a real College Magazine on its former scale. For this is merely an attempt to keep Dartford Past in touch with Dartford Present, an effort to bridge the gap of enforced silence which has been unavoidably long and which we hope will never be repeated.
Dartford. July, 1947.