

# The Bergman Osterberg Union.

## NEWS SHEET

10, St. Augustine's Mansions,  
Vincent Square, S.W.1.  
June, 1944.

My dear old Students,

Once again we can only print a News Sheet. Let us hope that soon we shall be able to return to our full Magazine. I have been wondering if it would not be possible for us to use the News Sheet as a means for exchanging ideas on professional work. Two reasons for this come into my mind. First there is, as we know, a wealth of knowledge and experience among our own members scattered up and down the country. We have access to this only once in two years, when we meet at Reunion. Many suggestions picked up in discussions at Reunion lead to amplification of knowledge, which ought, in its turn, to be made available to the Union. Letters in the News Sheet would be a means of doing this, and would be welcome both to those who were at Reunion and those who were not.

On the whole, people are not good at "reporting." I am sure it is an accomplishment to be cultivated for the benefit of one's friends. And in the News Sheet we might make a humble beginning. Since last July I have had an amusing occupation. Being prevented from attending Reunion by my school's return to London, I have spent a year trying to find out what was discussed at Reunion last year. Everybody said it was very enjoyable—that is almost a foregone conclusion—but not one person could produce a connected account of the work.

The second point comes out also in Miss MacLaren's interesting letter, when she talks about the impending changes in the curriculum of the Physical Training Colleges. She invites us all to send her help in planning for the future. It has often struck me how little practical interest we, as old students, take in the actual training of our successors. Now that the Committee of Management has invited three Old Students to serve on the Committee, we have an opportunity to take the liveliest interest in the training. We three Old Students who are at present serving on this Committee would be grateful for expressions of opinion from other Old Students. Young Old Students could help by saying what they found most difficult in their first year of teaching and what they found most valuable. Old Old Students could help by giving us instructive criticisms, as a result of their experience, especially in the light of the findings of the various Committees, such as the one expressed in the McNair Report.

College, too, could help us in our work. A criticism of the First Year Students, as "material" prepared for training by the Schools, would be of interest. So, too, would a criticism of Students entering Elementary Training Colleges, from the same point of view.

Unless we use the Union more, we are not fulfilling the aims of our constitution.

We were never meant to be a purely social association, but were enjoined "to provide meetings, lectures, classes and demonstrations . . . for the benefit or advantage of the members." As we all work in such scattered places, it seems to me this use of the News Sheet would be a good substitute for the above.

To those members of the B.O.U. who are also A.A.M. members, I would send a special plea. The Physical Education Panel of the A.A.M. is at work on a pamphlet on the Teaching of Gymnastics. As a very hard working member of this panel, I can assure you we would welcome help from other A.A.M. members. If you have good ideas as to methods of teaching gymnastics, please send them to us—you have an A.A.M. Physical Training Panel member in your area, or, if you don't yet know her, send your points to me. We should be more than grateful.

We are looking forward to holding the Annual General Meeting in London on September 9th, but as life in the capital is a little uncertain at present, we feel it would be wise to have some pre-arranged plan for cancelling it, should the need arise. The officers of the Committee would, therefore, be grateful if everyone intending to come on September 9th would let Miss Law have a postcard during August. Her address is Swallows Rest, Repton, Derbyshire. She will then be able to cancel the meeting during the first week in September. We do hope this won't be necessary.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

M. S. CHAMBERLAIN,

Chairman.

Dear Old Students,

The Students' Editor has given a detailed account of the social happenings in the College, so I will confine my few observations to the work of the College.

There are thirty-seven students leaving this year and thirty-four have been presented for London Diploma, Part II. This is a very satisfactory proportion, provided the greater number pass. Thirteen students have taken the Social Science Course and twenty-four the Medical Course. Thirty-five have already obtained posts and the remaining two have every prospect of being appointed shortly.

The third year students have again spent three months in London. The teaching practice is excellent, but the three months in London is rather disturbing to the rest of the Course. Many lectures have to be duplicated.

The Medical group of the second year students have just taken their Conjoint, Part I, and all except one have been successful.

The first year students have settled down to College life satisfactorily. They promise to be a sensible set of students, with a pleasingly mature outlook on their work.

P.T.O.

We find, however, that although they have adequate physical ability, they are distressingly lacking in physical achievement. The war has obviously interfered seriously with the teaching in schools.

We made valliant attempts to return to Dartford, but we were balked by six hundred Americans. We have now resigned ourselves to remain in Cornwall for the duration of the European campaign.

The Committee of Management is very busy at present considering how the College can contribute to the new scheme for the training of teachers. We are fortunate in having a very active Committee. We realise from the findings of the McNair Committee that we have a great opportunity in front of us to show initiative and boldness in our planning. It is obvious to all that we are at a new crossways and that great changes must be made. We must envisage a training which will adhere to the sound foundation and tradition of the past, and which will embody the wider educational schemes for the future. I beg all Old Students to take part in these deliberations, and I shall welcome all suggestions sent to me personally or to the Old Students' representatives on the Committee of Management, namely, Miss Bird, Miss Chamberlain and Miss Evans. We do not wish to wait until the end of the war to make our changes—we wish to start at once.

Yours sincerely,

G. MACLAREN,  
Principal.

June, 1944.

Dear Old Students,

This year finds us even more firmly established in Newquay. The College has now four hotels on Pentire Headland, and Miss MacLaren has a bungalow of her own called "Fairway."

This year has been busy in every way and an exciting one, particularly for the third year students. The majority of the third years have spent three months in London and had the opportunity of seeing the College for the first time. As well as gaining experience in the Kent schools the students were fortunate to have swimming and diving coaching from Mr. Howeroft and Mrs. Halliday. Miss Heyworth continued our dancing training. The second years also had a pleasant four days in London, when they attended dissection lectures at the Royal Free Hospital.

We were very glad to welcome as new members of staff Miss Bolleau, Miss Dunstan, Miss Ewart, Miss Kirkman, Miss Lindsay; also Miss Hunter, who deals so ably with the household matters.

The social life has been gay in College this year. There have been several dances given by the R.A.F. and the American

Forces. The latter collected us in a fleet of Jeeps, and they provided us with long-forgotten cream sponges and fruit juice as refreshment. The year dances that have been held in College have been greatly appreciated by the R.A.F. and the Americans.

The Literary and Dramatic Society have given successful readings of "The Duke in Darkness," "They Came to a City," "The Cherry Orchard," and "Jane Eyre." They also presented a performance of "Quiet Wedding" to the patients of the Newquay Ministry of Pensions Hospital.

The Musical Society have arranged several formal and informal meetings. The most interesting were two recitals, one for piano and 'cello by John Pauer and Douglas Cameron, and the other a piano recital by Cyril Smith.

The Debating Society arranged a combined meeting with the R.A.F., W.A.A.F., and the College. The proposal before the house was in favour of flats rather than houses in post-war planning. The motion was defeated by a large majority.

We have had some interesting lectures, including one from Mr. Gordon Seaton, the naturalist, on Sea Birds; Miss Harris, of Sherborne, on Canada; Mr. Donald Grant, on Current Affairs; and Mr. Eric Portman, on The Stage.

Christmas was a very happy time in College. The dinner was excellent. The third year students, according to tradition, decorated the dining room and this year the theme was "Alice Through the Looking Glass." The main idea was to do everything backwards, as if looking through a mirror, and the effect was rather riotous and very good fun.

The first years gave an excellent entertainment at the end of the Christmas Term, which concluded with some mimed carols, portraying a Nativity scene. As usual, the College went carol singing, and the sum collected for the Newquay Hospital was £43 7s. 6d.

We have played some good games of hockey against the R.A.F., W.A.A.F., Gresham's School and the Cornwall Guilders. Lacrosse matches have been played against Benenden School and Miss Cowle's scratch team.

The National Savings Group has excelled itself during this year, and in the recent "Salute the Soldier" campaign the College target was set at £1200, and this was exceeded by £647.

The College is giving a small demonstration this summer to some of their Newquay friends.

Yours sincerely,

E. M. WASHINGTON,  
Students' Editor.

June, 1944.