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EVERY  
FORTNIGHT

# FELIX



No 117

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 14, 1958

## FRESH MODEL FOR NEW HOSTEL

### THE LATEST IN STUDY BEDROOMS

This week the third of the model study-bedrooms erected in No. 14 Prince's Gardens by Richard Sheppard and Partners was finished. The room embodies several interesting ideas, but comparison with the previous two reveals some economies that may not find favour with students.

#### FIRST THINGS FIRST

Workmen were still in the room when it was inspected by FELIX reporters and the only piece of furniture in evidence was the bed, equipped with a polythene-wrapped mattress.

The room measures approximately 14' 6" by 8' 6". A sliding window occupies one end, with an imitation marble slab over a heater forming a window seat, as in the original models (see photograph). At the other end are the (hollow) door and wash-basin. The latter is set away from the wall to make for easy cleaning, the only vertical support being the waste pipe, which is chromium plated. The taps are not sprung but are similar to those in the Union.

Above the basin and the door, running the whole length of the wall, is a fairly deep cupboard, useful for storing suitcases etc. A bare pearl light bulb protrudes from its underside to provide a shaving light.

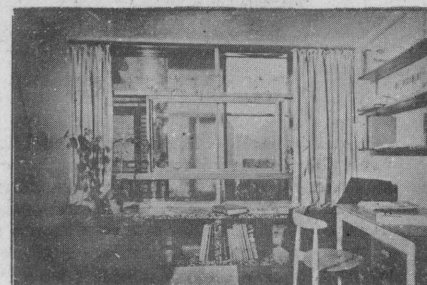
#### NO STRETCHING

The room has only one power point, situated 6" above floor level about half-way along the side wall. The lighting switch is three feet above this and thus limits the placing of furniture. The idea is that if one's bed is nearby no stretching is required to reach it. The light itself is suspended from the ceiling by several feet of flex (looped up on itself). The intention is that it can be pulled over to any part of the room by strategically placed pieces of string. No table lamp is envisaged.

The furniture to be used in the hostel has not been finally decided upon. Divan beds with low headboards and interior sprung mattresses will be used; wardrobes on castors may be. Alternative forms of bookshelving are on view - a box arrangement that stands on the floor and a narrow Dexion-like rack running from picture-rail to floor to which four rather shoddily finished shelves are affixed at desired heights. Unfortunately both of these occupy some floor space and students may prefer the better finished article shown in the photograph, which allows a desk to be placed beneath.

#### SUGGESTIONS

It is to be hoped that these rooms will be opened for a few days to members of the Union, so that the predecessors of those who will use them can pass criticism and make suggestions.



### HOTTER WOMEN WANTED

#### TO MELT I.C. HEARTS

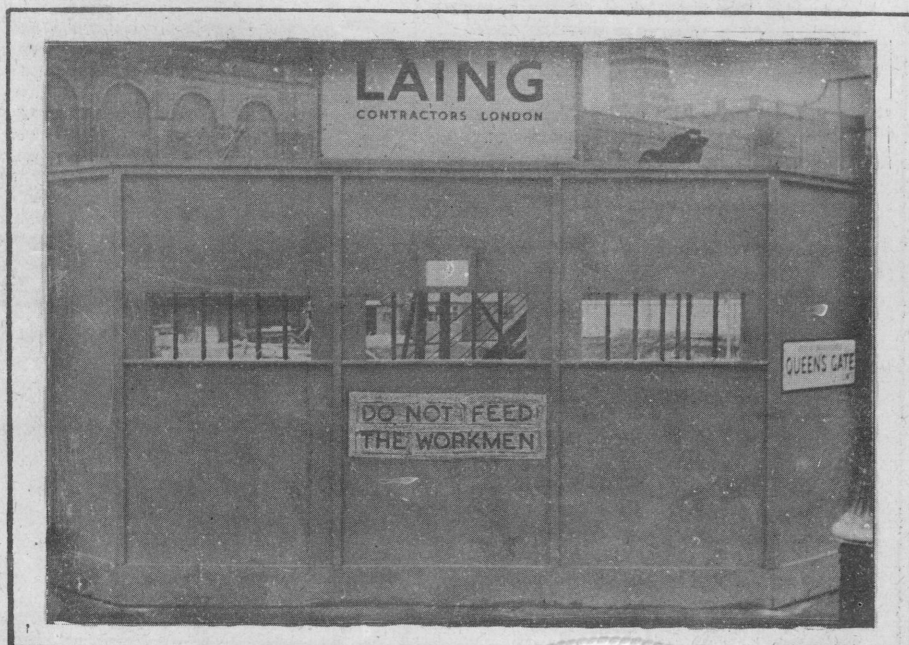
The second phase of the FELIX hop survey went into operation last Saturday. This time the women were under fire. What did the men want? Did they get it? That is what we wanted to know. Some of the men were indeed tongue-tied (see last issue), answering in monosyllables. Luckily others were more vociferous; below are given some general opinions:

Generally the women were quite satisfactory, although "warmth and homeliness" were lacking in most. Also they needed to be more mature mentally, inferring that their physical maturity was adequate. As one man put it, they were "often overexposed physically and underdeveloped mentally." However, some of the men preferred them that way! Little maternal instinct was evident in the majority of the females. Requests to "come back to the digs to wash up and make me some coffee" were severely rebuffed by such excuses as "Mummy would not like it", but, as we all know, Mummy would not get it!

However, before a man asks a girl to his flat for coffee he has to find her. Although most men seek them at hops a few women appear in odd places - "On top of a bonfire", "In Lapland", or even "In bed." These rarities do not detract from the problem of conversation at hops. Girls who answer "Yes" to "Do you come here often" are to be avoided as there is obviously something wrong.

Some men had original trends in conversation. "Does Stravinsky bore you?" Or "Are you pro-Osborne?" "Do you like champagne and oysters?" or "If I tell you that you have a good figure, will you hold it against me?" "Have you ever been to China? Well, what a coincidence, neither have I." However, little success is reported with the above openings. One interviewee has had limited success with a pseudo-cynical approach. It was generally felt that the girls should make more attempts at conversation.

Continued on page 2 ...





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## GIL STREETS

Gil Streets, alias Fred Nerk, alias Herr Obermeister Führer, alias "short and curly", is a third year metallurgist standing 5ft 6 inches in his Terylene socks. (His height in bare feet is unknown: he admits to having never removed his socks).

He was born in the Lincolnshire hamlet of Teynton all Saints (believe it or not) some years ago, (Lincolnshire County Police are rather vague about his correct age) on a Saturday morning at 8.30. In Gil's own words: "I knew it was a Saturday because I had a half-day off."

He was educated in his father's garage, on rare occasions attending King Edward VI school at Spilsby, (where he was a corporal in the Lincolnshire Wing A.T.C.). At the age of seventeen a veil of mystery (the Official Secrets Act) was lowered on his career, when he became an apprentice metallurgist at Harwell.

Few facts about the three years he spent there have come to public knowledge. It is known that he played in the first team and the mixed eleven at hockey, and that he was evicted from his digs for turning his room into a garage. (Gil says he left because he objected to the landlord, a Welshman, calling him a bloody foreigner.) His passion for lying on his back in a pool of grease gave use to his first car (an H.M. Govt. Special with Singer Le Mans engine.) The phenomenal performance of this machine was obtained by reducing its weight; mudguards, lights, body panels, silencer and seats were removed; eventually Gil was removed too, (to the police station) charged with 20 offences, and let off with a caution.

Since coming to I.C. in 1955, Gil's enthusiasm for cars, and for those necessities of life which seem to be associated with cars, has not waned. He

now owns half a Morris Eight (Dixie Dean owns the other half) and two ladies in Tottenham.

Last year Gil was the R.S.M. Entertainments Officer, and also dinner "charlie-in-chief" and official re-builder of Clementine. During his first two years he was on the I.C. Entertainments Committee and is now the Chairman. According to John Hobson (of Guilds Entertainments fame) the Saturday night hops here are so enjoyable as to be known as "Gil's Treats."

This flurry of activity has, however, left some time for Gil to pursue his main interests which include making omelettes, running a marriage bureau in conjunction with the social secretaries of several women's colleges, (frustrated I.C. males take note!) gooseberry pie, and humanity in general. He says the only thing he really dislikes are kippers for breakfast and tall women who wear high-heeled shoes. His ambitions are to enter the Monte Carlo Rally, to build his own house which he has already designed, to marry at 30 and to travel around the world.

His immediate ambition is to recover his old bowler hat which was:-  
Bought for two shillings,  
Swum across the Thames,  
Covered with flour on Morphy Day,  
Shattered by fireworks on November 5th,  
and which has:-  
Hobnobbed with Royalty,  
and Been pinched by a member of R.C.S.

Gil has been forced to use his best Sunday bowler as a temporary lampshade, so would the present owner of the old one please return it as soon as possible.

## ENGINEERS BALL

The annual Dinner and Dance of C. and G. College achieved success on a scale comparable to that of last term's Carnival. The Dinner was held in the Upper Dining Hall and the Upper Refectory, speeches being relayed to the latter. Mr. Mooney surpassed himself by providing no fewer than 249 dinners. The excellence of the speeches highlighted a memorable evening in an atmosphere considerably less formal than the dress.

After the Royal toast, Professor Christopherson, newly elected an honorary member of the Union, proposed the health of the College. There was nothing much, he remarked, that he could say, in public, of the President, and quickly passed on to the more serious matter of I.C.'s expansion, in which C. & G. would play an ever-increasing part, as the need for technologists became more acute. Mr. Dave Stevens replied to the toast and produced the surprise of the evening - The Spanner - recently reclaimed from R.C.S.

A very lively speech followed from Mr. John Hobson, who embarrassed his guests with some very well chosen words. Mr. Chadwick was put in his place by an after-party tale. After enquiring if Mr. Butters had his trousers on, Mr. Hobson: "Travelled through the sublime to .... Mr. Gil Streets."

## HOP SURVEY

... continued from page 1.

There seemed to be no preference for either blonde or brunette, providing she is of a "reasonable size and shape" and possesses personality, with accent on the latter. One man looks for big eyes but rarely finds them; another looks mainly for nice legs and ankles; this, he said, is no reflection on intelligence "but is very rewarding."

The opinion of the level of intelligence varied; some thought the females were dim-witted, some over intelligent, some were of "intelligence comparable with that of I.C. men, which is not saying much."

There seemed to be a distinct lack of dress sense among the girls. Many a budding flower is obscured by rampant foliage. Men found that they had to compromise between what they want and what they get, although most men came to the hop just for an evening's entertainment, not with any preconceived notion of picking up a girl.

Every man questioned intended to buy his partner refreshments. Most girls allowed themselves to be led down for a drink during the interval when they were very considerate in the choice of drinks, preferring fruit juices to spirits, but were more reticent when invited for coffee.

What about the after-care? Most of the men interviewed had only one girl friend usually at home or none at all; some had a half or three quarters (?) of a girl friend but would elaborate no further. Theoretically as many girl friends as possible were desirable, but "one takes up most of the time and money." Another interviewee had mainly nurses as girl friends; his appearance corroborated his statement that "Nurses are the downfall of students."

Such is the opinion of I.C. men of women and allied subjects, representing the general social trend. But, of course, I.C. hops are only a beginning. What is to follow? Doubtless your imagination will satisfy your curiosity!

In reply, a past C. & G. President Mr. Foster delivered a most cynical speech aimed at the present generation of students, and after some penetrating derogatory remarks about R.C.S., said that he "...could not wish to represent a finer body of women."

The dancing then commenced and continued except for a short interval until 2.30 a.m., after which records were played to the few energetic bodies remaining. Throughout the interval a be-bagpipied Scotsman had the crowd reeling to eightsome's and dashing white sergeants.

Auld Lang Syne and a Boomlaka completed the evenings official entertainment.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
CLUB

## SPANISH EVENING

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20

CONCERT HALL 7.30

## SPANISH DANCING

TALKS FILMS

## SPANISH WINES

ADMISSION FREE

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
EXHIBITION

March 3rd 7th in the Concert Hall

All entries to be given to the Union Hall Porter by 7pm  
Feb 27th

MONEY PRIZES

Details on Photo Soc notice board



## POINTS FROM COUNCIL

The Union Council meeting on Monday, February 3rd, was considerably shorter than the previous one, ending at 7.30 p.m. The proceedings are summarised below.

The broken step on the central staircase leading to the 3rd floor of the Union was due to the dropping on it of the old piano during transit to a children's Christmas party elsewhere in the College. Twelve other steps were damaged. The broken one will be replaced at College expense.

In a further attempt to prevent overloading, the lift in the Union will shortly be fitted with a cunning gadget consisting of a siren that emits a high-pitched whine when the capacity is exceeded.

On the extramural side, the cost of participating in Touchstone weekends is to go up from ten to fifteen shillings, and it is hoped that C. Day Lewis will give some General Studies lectures on poetry.

The Entertainments Committee reports poor organisation on the part of clubs running hops: some supervision seems to be needed. Some of the doormen hired for hops have been found rather unsatisfactory and it is hoped that College technicians may take their place.

The next Union meeting will be held on the 6th of March.

LIVELY DEBATING IN  
MOCK PARLIAMENT

The second Mock Parliament was held in Ayrton Hall on Thursday, January 30th. A Labour Government was in office, and the Liberal Society provided the official Opposition. Business opened with a statement of policy by the Prime Minister, which was replied to by the leader of the Opposition.

A Bill to repeal the Conservative Government's Rent Act, and to introduce some new measures on housing, provided some interesting debating. The Opposition was somewhat divided, and did not press for a division. The Bill was therefore accepted unopposed.

A debate on Education provoked some violent debating on the subjects of the eleven plus exam, and the future of public schools, but general agreement was felt on the subject of students grants. The Government promised to give this matter sympathetic consideration. An Opposition motion of no confidence in the Government was defeated.

The final business on the order paper was a debate on nationalisation. The Government proposed to nationalise several industries, including the road haulage and the coal distribution industries. A proposal by an independent M.P. to nationalise wine, women, and song was vociferously opposed by the two members of I.C.W.A. present.

The evening was enlivened by many interjections of a varied and interesting nature. The Conservative Society unfortunately did not support this sitting of the Mock Parliament. The House hoped that they would attend the final two sittings.

## S.C.C. APPROVES CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The Social Clubs Committee held a meeting on Thursday February 6th. The main items of business were two proposed amendments to the constitution, both of which were approved. The first was that any proposed new society must gain the support of one half of the members present at a committee meeting while the second allows two alternative possibilities should the full formation of a Club or Society be rejected:

(a) The Society or Club shall be formed as a Minor Society of a suitable existing Society or Club. The Minor Society shall be independent of the Senior Club, both financially and with regard to activities but shall be represented on the S.C.C. by the President or Chairman of the Senior Club.

(b) The Society shall be formed as in (a) but shall be financially dependent on the Senior Club, and be named

a Sub-group.

The Committee shall have the power to recommend to Imperial College Union Council that any club or sub-group be disbanded if it considers that the interests of the Union demand it.

The Photographic Society has been awarded a Pot in the Bar in recognition of their outstanding record - they are very well known and have been asked to participate in international exhibitions, besides carrying off many first places in U.L. exhibitions. Their own exhibitions have been judged by prominent members of the photographic world, who have complimented them on their work.

The Executive Committee of the S.C.C. has also revised the subscription rates of the Social clubs, taking into account their membership and expenditure. Several changes were approved.

COLCUTT TOWER  
MORE BRIGHT IDEAS

The request for ideas for dealing with the Colcutt tower has brought to light a wealth of originality; a selection follows.

Dear Sir,

I suggest that the Colcutt Tower be exhibited in a "thief-proof" bracket in the entrance hall of R.C.S.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony L. Brookes.

Dear Sir,

Why not keep the Colcutt Tower in order that our President can have a little room right at the top in which to practice on his euphonium.

Yours faithfully,

Judy Lemon.

Dear Sir,

The present outcry against the Colcutt Tower amazes me. Has no-one realized what a tremendous asset we have in our midst?

The entire skill of all three constituent Colleges must immediately be harnessed to the project of giving the Tower a permanent tilt. This would attract visitors from all over the world and immeasurably increase the prestige and revenue of the College. After all, who would have heard of Pisa if its tower were straight?

But there would be a nobler scientific motive behind all this. It is quite possible that in the not-too-distant future materials will be treated in such a way that they will resist the force of gravity and be repelled by the earth. Research on these materials would inevitably include a study of the time they would take to rise vertically to a given height on being released at ground level. What better equipment could one want for this experiment than the Leaning Tower of Kensington?

Yours tiltedly,

I.N. Guy.

Dear Sir,

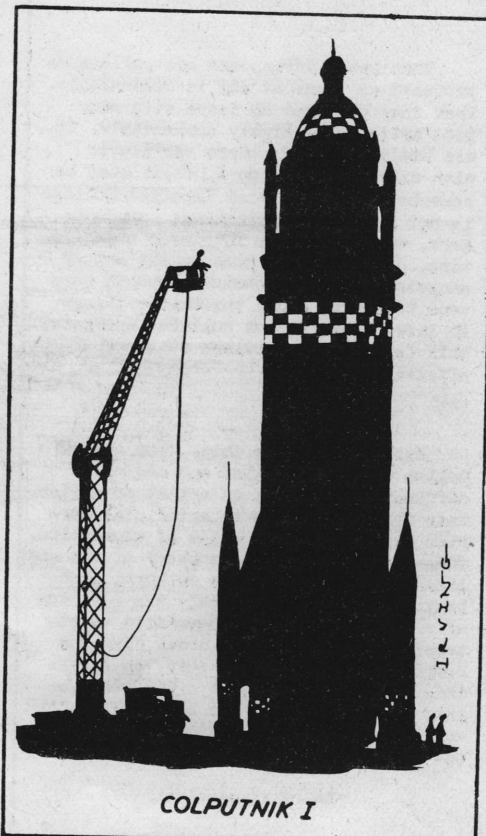
It is generally acknowledged that the Colcutt Tower must have additional supports when the surrounding buildings are removed. One obvious way of doing this is to build four flying buttresses at the corners of the tower to stabilize it. If the Reader will refer to the diagram he will see that if the buttresses were carefully designed they would give the tower the appearance of a gigantic neolithic rocket.

Nothing could be a more worthy symbol of the scientific work on the island site. Further, it would evoke great astonishment and admiration from overseas tourists who never realized that our entry into the field of ballistic missiles had preceded the first automobile by half a century.

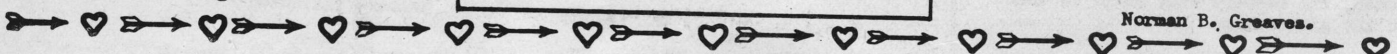
Poignancy is added to the situation by the theory that the tower will gradually sink into the ground under its vast weight when the supporting buildings are removed. As though winding up for a huge leap into space the tower (Colputnik I?) would disappear slowly from sight, with Mr. John Betjeman doing a smart salute on one of the balconies as it went down.

Yours faithfully,

Norman B. Greaves.



COLPUTNIK I







EDITOR: PETER LEVIN

CIRCULATION: 1500

## REVEILLE

We publish on Page 5 a letter from Miss Fryd complaining of the "Reveille" like nature of recent issues of FELIX. She does not put forward any constructive ideas but intimates that the production of a worthy FELIX could be achieved despite the low standard of the Arts at I.C. Constructive suggestions are naturally welcomed more than the merely critical, but all indications of readers' opinions are greatly valued.

What do you think of FELIX? Tell us what improvements you would like to see. All non-inimical suggestions that involve no law-breaking will be carefully considered.

## UNION LIBRARY

In the last issue of FELIX, Mr. J. K. Taylor enquired what had happened to the Union Library, he having read in the "Rector's Bulletin" that it had been incorporated into a College General Library. The position is that the formation of the College General Library is subject to the approval by the University Grants Committee of a grant of about £2,000 yearly to pay for a full-time librarian, books and upkeep.

The General Library Committee consists of several members of staff with three representatives of the Union Library Committee to ensure that the interest of the students are represented.

The Union will make a grant of about £250 yearly towards the purchase of books, which will be chosen by the Union Library Committee only.

The principal advantages of this scheme are that a full-time library will be available, and it will be on the island site. However, it will be seven or eight years before it can be housed on the site, and at the moment, with books being added at the rate of 600 a year, the accommodation is quite insufficient. It is hoped that No. 13, Prince's Gardens may be taken over, but this too is subject to U.G.C. approval. If this is forthcoming, the decorating and installation of shelving should be completed by next session.

The Union Library has recently been open only from 1 to 2 p.m. and has been in somewhat chaotic state. This was due to the departure early this term of Miss Bamford, the assistant to Mr. James of the C. and G. Library. However, a new assistant has now been appointed and, starting this month, the Library will again be open in the afternoons.

### VIEWPOINT

## BROWNBAGGING — A DEFENCE

When the fresher comes to this college, anxious to make the best of the wonderful college life he has heard so much about, he is immediately subjected to a barrage of propaganda from FELIX and from students conditioned to FELIX's views. I am referring of course to the propaganda against the "vice" of brownbagging. What FELIX and others do not appear to realize is that brownbagging does not necessarily mean a narrow education, and even if it does it is in some cases justified.

Last year about a third of the students at I.C. lived, for better or for worse, at home. Why should these students make the Union the centre of their social life? Are they to stop associating with their old friends just because they have gone to college? There is little to be gained in pursuing activities at college which can more conveniently be pursued at home.

Secondly many students, especially post graduates (who again make up about a third of the I.C. student population), have led a full life at college but have now had enough of the hectic uncertainty and anxious competition which is inherent in student life. All students realize sooner or later that college isn't every-

thing, and none more so than married students, of whom there must be two or three hundred at I.C.

Can brownbagging be justified if it is due to concentration on work to the exclusion of almost all else? Consider the third year student who has made the best of what college can offer, but then finds that he is heading for an "upper second." I am sure that FELIX is not going to try to stop him working all hours if it will bring him a "first" and with it exemption from national service. It is worthwhile devoting one year almost entirely to academic studies to save those two relatively wasted years in the army.

However if anyone reading this viewpoint has already fitted himself into one of these categories I hope he is not making it an excuse. I do not believe that there is anyone in this college who cannot reasonably take part in some student activity. Only a fool does not make use of the opportunities, that college can offer. If those who are brownbaggers only through sheer lack of initiative would take more interest in the Union, then the burden of I.C.'s non-academic reputation would not fall so heavily on those to whom College is their whole life — a state of affairs as much to be deplored as brownbagging.

F. Peacock.

### THE FUNCTION OF THE PHOENIX

Dear Sir,

Criticism of the last issue of Phoenix has been flying fast and furious over the past few weeks. A great deal of this has been useful and interesting. However it is getting to a stage where the points used in arguments on both sides are becoming banal and on the verge of bad taste. The more constructive criticisms have given helpful guidance in the compiling of the next issue which is already well towards the proof reading stage. Being the only person left to maintain the continuity of the magazine, when I was seriously indisposed it was difficult indeed, to even attempt to find anybody who could produce from scratch the autumn issue.

That Peter Jarman and his colleagues produced an issue at all is commendable. That they produced an issue with many good articles is highly commendable. It was badly balanced; there was little with direct bearing on I.C. It must be remembered, though, that Imperial College is not all that interesting; students here, whatever their intrinsic capabilities, do not easily come by the art of conscious self expression; events here tend to centre round the triter things in life. This is not cultural snobbery; this is rather an obvious state of affairs.

Another point is this. The symbolism of the scientist and engineer differs from that of an artist or writer. This tends to create an artificial barrier between the two modes of expression. There is the cultural snobbery of art and literature; there is the cultural snobbery of technology. Surely the function of a magazine such as Phoenix is to attempt in its own way to break down the barrier. Thus the arts must, as far as this is possible without distortion, be interpreted in terms the scientist can easily grasp. It is a difficult task but worthy of the effort.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Hodgson.

### FAIR HEARING

Dear Sir,

As a member of the Musical Society I am somewhat perturbed by the attitude of a large section towards the I.C. Choir.

The attitude of a friend of mine is typical. On being asked if he was coming to our performance of Bach's Mass in B minor on March 12th, he replied "What, come and hear you lot, not likely!" or words to that effect.

He nevertheless maintains that he is a music lover, and attempts to justify his attitude by saying that he thinks we are b ..... awful. YET HE HAS NEVER HEARD US SING! Surely for a (presumably) educated person this is a remarkable piece of judgment!

This state of mind is, I fear, all too common among fellow students. They base their opinion of the I.C. choir on that of their (presumably) mediocre School Choir.

We are NOT mediocre. We are NOT a school choir and we ARE worth hearing.

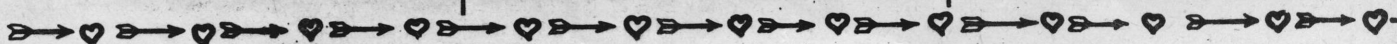
We are performing on March 12th a great work, perhaps the greatest choral work of all, for which many of us have been rehearsing for over 12 months. All we ask is that you give us one fair hearing, this once, and we feel some of you will not go away disappointed.

Yours faithfully,

Bryan J. Tilley.

### Vacation Accommodation:

Flat at Notting Hill Gate vacant over Easter vacation. Moderate terms for 1,2, or 3 persons. Apply J.L. Sellers via Union Rack.





## INDIFFERENCE?

Dear Sir,

The FELIX editorial on the significance of ZETA came as a surprise. For a change, FELIX was concerned with the oldest problem in the world, viz. preservation and improvement of humanity, in addition to the second oldest problem, viz. Sex. A step in evolution! I thought. After all, preservation must precede propagation. Who wouldn't prefer to have Marilyn Monroe in one delightful SA - active piece rather than have her disintegrated into  $\alpha$  - emitting atoms. But calories must be consumed before statistics (the vital ones!) are developed. It is the fact that calories are just not being imbibed over vast areas of Asia and Africa that has been pinpointed by the FELIX editorial in stressing the significance of Zeta. It appears that there is starvation at a stage in human history when science can provide plenty. Why?

We in Asia are seeking the answer to this question. And when we come to advanced countries like this, and to premier scientific institutions such as I.C., we hope to learn from the men in these institutions not only about telemetering and thermodynamics, but also about the marriage between science and human welfare, which has apparently been banned.

How much do we learn from the average I.C. students? Very little. Few can teach us what conditions are required for science to be harnessed to human welfare. To be civilized is

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to be concerned with civilization; from this standpoint few are civilized. We "ignorant" natives find an appalling ignorance about the affairs of large segments of humanity. We find "free" minds so brainwashed that they believe they shouldn't be concerned with the use of science. These makers of tomorrow's world (of course you are, otherwise money wouldn't be spent on I.C.) have been indoctrinated into steering clear of the problem of how tomorrow's world should be.

While Jews were being gassed and their bodies burnt as fuel, Nazi scientists were "disinterestedly" studying the efficiency of the conversion into power. Is the attitude commonly held by I.C. students very different?

I doubt it! Which is why we Asian and African students are impressed by the editorial in FELIX. In it is the unassuming answer to Jarman's request for constructive criticism. Camus was committed on Algeria, and it appears that this editorial was inspired much more by the spirit of Camus than was the "valiant band of writers" in the Phoenix.

Yours sincerely,

A.K.N. Reddy.

## GLOBETROTTER

Dear Sir,

Last October, in FELIX 111, you presented the first of a series of articles called the "FELIX GLOBETROTTERS GUIDE". This was both informative and useful, and I eagerly awaited more. FELIX 112 informed us that your correspondent "had not found his way back to I.C." from Westfield." After that: silence.

This, sir, shows FELIX in a very poor light. Is FELIX a stick-in-mud or has curiosity killed the cat? As it will shortly be spring, when a young man's fancy turns to love etc., now is an excellent time to continue this series.

Maybe I.C. men are "tongue-tied, leaden-footed" (FELIX 116) through worry about how to get home after escorting the girl friend to her home. The novelty of walking back from Hampstead through the centre of London in the small hours of Sunday morning soon wears off, as most freshers by now will have found out.

This, sir, it is in your hands to remedy.

Yours faithfully,

Dave Briggs.

Editor's note:-

Unfortunately for the series our Globetrotter went too far. Coming shortly - "Son of Globetrotter"

## OUTSIDE VIEW

Dear Sir,

As a sporadic reader of FELIX and an occasional visitor to I.C. I was most interested to read Viewpoint in the current issue.

My own past includes several years at one of the older provincial Universities of Mr. Bridgwater's article. I was fortunate in always living close to the major buildings of the University and, more particularly, that of the Union. Consequently I was able to take part in any activity I chose, without making a major effort in the way of travelling etc., and found out something of the other fellows' point of view.

Not all of my year were in the same position. Those coming from neighbouring towns constituted the largest part of our 9 to 5 population. It may be coincidence but when I now meet members of this group conversation is mainly limited to sex, shop and ale.

As I see it the students at I.C. suffer in their University education because I.C. is both non-residential and also a technical College with the examining status of a University.

The answers to the present predominance of "specialist" University educations are, I think:-

- Completely residential Universities.
- The abolition of the system of advanced technical colleges (I.C. included).
- The removal of the interference of Grant Authorities in University affairs in the way of lecture attendance reports etc., which compel many students to become members of the 9 to 5 class.
- The removal of teachers from University posts and their replacement by lecturers.

Item (c) is of course the result of local

bodies misguidedly seeing that the rates and tax payers money is well spent.

Not all students will agree with (d). However if you want to be taught, as opposed to learning by the University system, then one should attend a technical college and leave your place in the University open for someone who wants to learn.

If our "narrow minded friends in their rut of self-sufficiency" lose from the introduction of the Arts into the College Hostel, or better into the College itself, the loss will only be temporary. The losers should realise that advances in any one field generally come by the application of ideas and techniques gained from other fields. The sooner one realises that one's own field is not the only worth while one the better.

Yours etc.,

Psi  
Ex Leeds.

## SEX AND BEER

Dear Sir,

In his Viewpoint in the last issue of FELIX, Mr. Bridgwater dismisses with scorn "sex and beer" as opportunities of broadening our interests, but I think that they are two of the most important channels open for possible promotion of our intellects.

Is it not a fact that we meet more outsiders with diverse opinions at hops than on most other occasions in college life? Can we not express ourselves more freely with a jug of alcohol in our hands than without? There is more to be gained from these pursuits than from inviting outsiders to join our social clubs and societies.

Yours etc.,

V.K. Royce.

## XWORD

Dear Sir,

I suppose the opinion, recently voiced in fairly prominent quarters, that scientists etc. are uneducated is taken by most members of I.C. with the proverbial pinch of NaCl. It is therefore doubly distressing when the truth of it is demonstrated, as happened yesterday in the Dining Hall at lunch. Sitting opposite me were two postgraduates (of which College is irrelevant), doing a crossword over their meal(!); they argued for nearly ten minutes over whether "Consecutive" was spelt "Consecutive" or "Consecutive". They were followed at the table by two gentlemen in scarves and macintoshes.

It is easy to feel superior about this sort of thing, Sir, but surely it helps to demonstrate the need for intimate contact, in Imperial College, with something more than just "Science and Technology", i.e. with Education.

Yours faithfully,

J. Wendon.

## THE MOTE

Dear Sir,

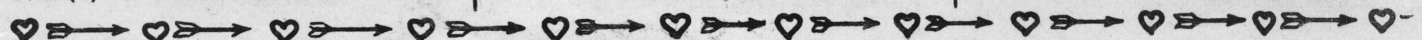
May I suggest that FELIX first cast out the beam in his own eye, and then proceed to cast out the mote which is in his brother's eye.

I have recently heard FELIX referred to as a college "Reveille", by a student here, and suggest that circulation might be larger if FELIX more closely resembled the college newspaper it is meant to be. Any students preferring "Reveille" may always obtain that magazine at any news-agent.

The standard of the Arts may not be high at Imperial College, but surely we can produce a newspaper worthy of the greatest science college in the country.

Yours etc.,

Gillian Fryd.





## TOUCHSTONE

## IS MAN MEASURABLE?

The topic for discussion at last week's Touchstone weekend had the rather unpromising title, "Is Man Measurable?" In fact, although we didn't realise it, we were in for a remarkably interesting talk from the visiting speaker - Mr. R. J.E. Silvey, Head of the B.B.C.'s Audience Research.

Mr. Silvey's talk dealt with "Social Research", in which he had been involved for thirty years. He started by saying that social scientists were more like ordinary people than like "unwashed artists and tireless poets", and after observing that the scientist, unlike the layman, draws his conclusions only after finding out the facts, said the only question he could think of to which there was a clear-cut "Yes" or "No" answer was "Is she pregnant?". This uncertainty complicated social research, which must aim to reduce the qualitative to quantitative terms as far as possible but not to reduce human values to cold statistics.

The process used is that of sampling: a small "sample" of people is asked a number of questions, chosen with considerable care and usually accompanied by "decoy" questions designed to keep the victims off their guard. The victims must be representative of

## RAILWAY SOC.

## IN THE EAST END

Ten members of the Society, after an uneventful journey by District line reported to the M.P.D. soon after 2.15 on Wednesday, February 5. While a guide was being found a gentleman who said he was deputising for the shed master took charge of the party and invited us to inspect at close quarters one of the 1000 h.p. diesel locomotives now being put into service on freight trains on the North London line. While we were so doing the man we'd seen first returned with our guide, who appeared to be several years our junior, and was obviously not interested but welcomed a chance to stop work, and announced that climbing on the locomotives was forbidden. Our friend told us "I've given you permission" and took charge of the party. He showed us round the shed, which is being converted to deal exclusively with diesel locomotives, while our official guide trailed behind. Then we were let loose in the shed yard and those who'd been put off from bringing their cameras by a little rain wondered if they hadn't been too pessimistic.

On arriving at Bow Works we waited 20 minutes for a guide, passing the time in searching the walls and floor for relics of pre-grouping railways. Apart from the Gatekeeper himself all we found was an L.N.W.R. key. The works belonged originally to the North London Railway and no locomotives have been built there since 1910. It is now used for light and heavy repairs and can accommodate up to 16 engines at a time.

On Sunday March 9th the Society is having an all-day visit by diesel railcar to Swindon locomotive works and carriage and wagon works. Any member in doubt about the attractions of this visit should ask anyone who came on the Severn Tunnel trip last year or read the account of it published in FELIX.

R.D.W.

the whole group being studied (e.g. all radio listeners) - in listener research, where questions on one day's listening have to be answered the following day; a questioner might by the evening be looking for a rich old man, when all he could find was a poor young woman, who of course just would not do. (However, as Mr. Silvey pointed out, the two are often found together).

The speaker went on to talk about measurement of attitudes, and revealed that Anti-Semitism, abhorrence of sex-education and support for corporal punishment usually go together. He then gave reasons for the steady growth of social research and examples of how it had been used in the past.

Mr. Silvey finished with his own job - broadcast audience research - saying that it was very difficult to measure either the enjoyment of broadcasts or people's comprehension of them. The B.B.C. invites selected members of the public to Broadcasting House, plies them with coffee and biscuits ("You can get them so docile they'll do anything!") then plays a recorded talk to them, stopping every few minutes to ask questions on the subject matter. The answers reveal how well the audience understood it.

Questions followed, during which Mr. Silvey mentioned that university graduates tended to answer questions with "What do you mean by.....?". Then the bar opened.

After dinner three groups were formed and discussion continued until about midnight on a number of questions arising from the talk. After lunch on Sunday the three groups reported the results of the previous night's deliberations. One of the questions had involved suggesting suitable social research to help solve some social problem. One group chose "Teddy Boys, Students and Debutantes" as their problem: we wonder what the connection is! Another, discussing capital punishment, decided with great solemnity that it was impracticable to ask someone if they had been deterred by the threat of hanging from committing murder!

Other points which emerged were that freewill exists, that there is a case for vocational training for journalists, that there is no cause for making pre-election public opinion polls illegal, and in addition such polls might be useful before an important piece of legislation; and that M.P.s were a bad lot anyway.

The proceedings were wound up by Mr. Silvey, who agreed with, and amplified, most of the conclusions.

J.W.



NO, IT'S THE SCIENCE MUSEUM.

## MADEIRA MADE CLEARER

On Tuesday, January 28th, the Society had another first tasting "of little known wines", this time of Madeira.

The tasting was preceded by a talk by Mr. Cossart, who introduced Madeira as an island of mild and honey and breath-taking romance.

The island has a volcanic soil, enriched by the ashes of forests destroyed by fire centuries ago, which imparts an unmistakable, burnt bitter sweetness to the wine.

Madeira is a heavy fortified wine in the Port and Sherry class, which it faintly resembles in taste, with perhaps a hint of the nutmeg flavour of a Vermouth. It is more akin to a Sherry, for its method of production is based on a "solera" system - a system of blending, ensuring a continuity of style. There is thus now no vintage Madeira since the island vines were destroyed by the dreaded phylloxera plague in the late seventies. However, the pre-phylloxera vintage is still improving in quality, for unlike port, Madeira does not suffer from the usual decay, as it rarely throws any sediment in bottle.

Being insensitive to changes in temperature, its chief markets are in India and Scandinavia. In England it has to compete with Port and Sherry and comes a poor third.

The four main types of Madeira are Bual, Verdelho, Sercial and Malmsey, named after the species of grape from which they are made. The latter is a shade too sweet to suit the English palate, to which the Bual or Verdelho is more suited; the dark golden colour and pungent luscious bouquet of the Verdelho cannot fail to give pleasure.

## MUSICAL EVENING

Some readers may be surprised to learn that there is an I.C. Orchestra. Like the Choir this is more than liberally sprinkled with musicians from other places.

On Thursday 30th January, our Orchestra gave a short concert. The first item, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1, in F, required three oboe players; there was only one. Undaunted, and with one oboe, conductor Frank Kennard (music master, Dulwich College) started ten minutes late. A second oboe managed to get through the fog in time to arrive for the start of the second movement. (Loud applause) During the third movement, the Orchestra began to find some cohesion, which was more or less maintained for the rest of the concert.

The second item, Konzertstücke for Piano and Orchestra by Schumann, was well performed. The soloist, Gordon Stewart, R.C.M. was outstanding. The I.C. upright was less so; in fact one member of the audience suggested that it be offered to Television's Movie Magazine.

The third item was three Russian Songs, sung in that language by Miss

Continued on page 7 ...





## SWIMMING

In the league game against Guy's Hospital at the U.L.U. pool on Tues. 4th Feb., I.C. 1st Team won 3 - 0, even though two reserves had to be found at the last minute. I.C. had much more possession of the ball, but the shooting of the forwards was lamentable. Scorers were Everest, Corrigan and Bashem.

In a friendly match on the 6th Feb. two reserves had to play again, and I.C. lost 11 - 5 to the very strong Regent St. Poly. side. After rather a shaky first half the team settled down and the whole side played well and with spirit. Scorers Larsen (4), Corrigan (1).

In the University leagues, the 1st Team are lying 3rd, the 2nd Team are 5th and the 3rd Team are 2nd.

... continued from page 6.

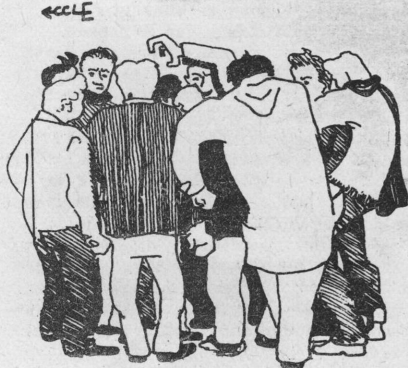
Anna Vincent, R.C.M. These were pleasant, although the soloist was faced with fierce competition from the afore mentioned piano. The concert finished with Ballet Music and Entr'acte II from Rosamunde, by Schubert.

It is difficult to judge an amateur orchestra fairly but, although it is not as good an amateur group as is our choir, we may be proud of ours, and it should reach a very high standard in the future.

The concert was followed by an informal musical party, when a wealth of individual (and spontaneous) musical talent was revealed. A violin solo by Graham Silver (R.C.S., Chem. I) must be mentioned. His classmates might well view him as a rather more subtle successor to Vic Oliver. The party concluded with much washing up, at eleven o'clock. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

J.V.B.

## DEBAGGING



## FROM THE OUTSIDE

## U.L.U. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Exhibition, Dance and Cabaret, Concert, Films, Swimming Gala, Bathing Beauty Competition.

In the Union Building, Malet St. February 18th - 22nd.

SEE POSTERS ON EXTERNAL NOTICE BOARD

## PINCHED

At 2.10 p.m. last Sunday, the FELIX staff was gazing blankly out of the window at Q.A. in search of inspiration. Suddenly there appeared on the horizon a lorry load of men disguised as policemen in order to conduct the chaos at a rally organized by the DAILY WORKER. Shortly after their arrival one of the gentlemen was seen to enter the Union, reappearing almost immediately with a Film Soc. advertisement. This was manhandled into the lorry and rapidly transformed into a card table.

Five minutes later two members of the FELIX staff, summoning up their resolves, marched on the offenders and demanded the return of the stolen article, but they were greeted with gesticulation and informed that the game of strip poker by then in progress could on no account be interrupted. Undaunted, our intrepid reporters suddenly found a NO PARKING sign in their hands, but before they could tuck it inside their jackets menacing growls issuing from the front end of the lorry (not the engine) requested them to desist forthwith.

Back in the FELIX room:

Some consultation ensued. Shall we dial 999? Hmm. We don't want more of them. A Lady Godiva stunt? Ah. Eyes turned to the female reporter. She blushed daintily. "Has anyone got two ha'pennies? I'll ask if they can direct me .....?" Taking with her three copies of the current FELIX, as an afterthought, she made her way to the lorry. The curtains parted and out popped a little round helmet. And another. And another.... Talking. Whispering. And then .... twenty constables heaved their bosoms, dried their eyes and to Miss W.I.L.C. presented their beloved card table. Triumphant she returned.

If only we were women what a joy-ride Morphy Day would be.

## COMING EVENTS

## FRIDAY 14th. FEB.

## MINES CARNIVAL

LIBERAL SOCIETY Colonial Policy Study Group in Committee Room B, 6.30.

GUILDS MOTOR CLUB Film Show, "Motor Cycle Sport 1956" and "Overhead Ordeal" Room 15, 5.5.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY Talk entitled "Physiology of Plant Growth" by Dr D.G. Watson of Rothamstead Experimental Station, Botany Lecture Theatre, 5.30.

## SATURDAY 15th. FEB.

## Swimming Club Dance

## MONDAY 17th. FEB.

CHRISTIAN UNION "The Son of God" by Rev. J.F. Bailey. Metallurgy Lecture Theatre, 1.15.

## TUESDAY 18th. FEB.

JEWISH SOCIETY Israeli Evening in the Concert Hall, 7.30.

## WEDNESDAY 19th. FEB.

RAILWAY SOCIETY Visit to Port of London Authority Railway.

## THURSDAY 20th. FEB.

CONCERT given by members of the Jazz Club. Traditional, Modern and Skiffle groups. Concert Hall, 1.15.



## NELSON'S COLUMN

"DAMN, I've got potatoes down my jumper" exclaimed a prominent member of I.C.W.A. So now we know!

A CRAZE for bill-posting and sign-writing seems to have struck Kensington recently. As ever, I.C. is getting thoroughly plastered.

DEFINITION of an I.C. hop: "What are all those men doing standing there?"

SO THE B.B.C. find they "can get them so docile they'll do anything" on a cup of coffee and biscuits. We wish we could.

"HAS ANYBODY HERE SEEN CHADDLES?"

Four female visitors to I.C. were "caught in the act" of desecrating the Roderic Hill building with this white-wash inscription on Tuesday morning (1.30 a.m. P.T.). Two pyjama-clad Guildsmen gave chase and, after being thoroughly whitened, caught one of the culprits. Clothes were removed and exchanged, providing the lucky gentlemen with an excuse to return later that day for supper.

The marauders, from the local C.E.M.-etry, also left an amorphous-looking parcel for the Secretary of the Union to open publicly at the next Union meeting. What will he find? We shall see.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB  
Spanish Evening in the Concert Hall, 7.30.  
JEWISH SOCIETY "Jew, Guest or Resident" by Rev V. Gold.  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY "Algae and Scenery" by Dr G.E. Fogg. Botany Lecture Theatre, 5.30.

## FRIDAY 21st. FEB.

THE RECTORS CUP Boxing in the Concert Hall, 7.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY "An approach to picture making" by Dr G.W.G. MacLennan. Botany Lecture Theatre, 5.15.

## SATURDAY 22nd. FEB.

## Musical Society Dance

## TUESDAY 25th. FEB.

RAILWAY SOCIETY Presidential Address by Mr. A.W. Woodbridge entitled "Modern Methods of Signalling". Room 161, 5.40.

## WEDNESDAY 26th. FEB.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY Annual Dinner at 7.30. Guest Speaker Mr Gerald Durrell. 10/6.

## THURSDAY 27th. FEB.

MOCK PARLIAMENT Liberals in office.  
1. Bill to limit powers of Monopolies.  
2. Legislation to encourage Co-ownership.  
3. Debate on International and Colonial Affairs. Ayrton Hall, 7.

## FRIDAY 28th. FEB.

GUILDS MOTOR CLUB Film Show, "If the Cap Fits" and "Mardos Trophy" Room 15, 5.5.



# SPORTS NEWS

## BOAT CLUB

### 3 - 1 VICTORY OVER READING UNIVERSITY

In the annual four-crew fixture against Reading, the 1st, 3rd, and 4th, VIII's won their races comfortably, and the 2nd, VIII lost by a narrow margin after an intriguing race in which the crews kept stopping to wait for each other.

The races took place at Putney, being rowed on the rising tide. The order of racing was 3rd., 2nd., 4th., 1st, VIII's. The first two races were rowed in pouring rain, and the last two in water which was rapidly becoming rougher as the tide rose.

The 3rd, VIII started well on Surrey Stn. and were  $\frac{3}{4}$  length up on reaching the Boathouse; going comfortably, they finished the 1-mile course in 4m. 46s. with a lead of 4 lengths. The 2nd, VIII took the Middx. Stn. and had built up a lead of  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  length at Fulham Football Ground where no. 6 in the I.C. crew caught an enormous crab. By the time he had recovered, the crew was about 3 lengths down. The Reading crew eased and waited for the I.C. crew to recover, restarting about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lengths ahead of them. Despite a finishing burst of great ferocity, I.C. lost by the narrow margin of  $\frac{1}{4}$  length in a time of 8m. 5s. for the Putney Bridge to Hammersmith Bridge course.

The 4th, VIII were determined to retrieve the situation, and rowed a very workmanlike race on the Surrey station to win by 4 lengths in 4m. 47s. for the 1-mile course - an excellent time for a clinker boat.

Meanwhile the water had been getting steadily rougher, and by the time the 1st, VIII boated conditions were most unpleasant. Both crews got off to a good start, but the I.C. VIII had a lead of a canvas at the Boathouse. They improved steadily on this and went on to win by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  lengths in a time of 7m. 40s. for the Bridge to Bridge course.

On the previous Sunday the four main "fresher" crews rowed up to Richmond for lunch, then paddled together back to Chiswick Bridge, from where they raced back to Putney. It was extremely encouraging to see the determination shown by these crews, only one of which had had previous rowing experience. Of necessity, rowing involves mainly weeks of training in preparation for a few minutes racing; this often tends to discourage newcomers to the sport. But to those who persevere and achieve even a small degree of success comes the satisfying reward of overcoming the elements, which usually seem to conspire against one.

## FENCING CLUB

I.C. Fencing Club on Mon. Feb. 3rd. beat Battersea College Fencing Club by 9 bouts to 7. Individual scores were:

	Won	Lost
G.Brassington	3	1
J.Nickalls	3	1
B.Goldie	2	2
D.Turner	1	3

This was a fine win for the I.C. team, which, although suffering from lack of practice, fought well to beat the Battersea team which has already beaten a number of the larger London Colleges this term.

## SOCCER REPORT

After the defeat by Southampton University the 1st, XI certainly needed to regain confidence in its ability. Although St. Mark and St. John College are not among our strongest opponents, for the first half they controlled the course of the game. Gradually the I.C. team overcame its lethargy and became more purposeful. Strong tackling by the defence and good combination among the attack converted a 0-1 halftime deficit into a 4 - 1 victory.

The next match, versus New College Oxford, became a mere formality, as I.C. won easily by 7 goals to 2. Keith Codling and Harry Pidgeon obtained hat-tricks, which may prove expensive for them at the annual dinner.

Such an easy victory was not a good preparation for the following League match against Westminster College. In the first half, I.C. had more of the play, but Westminster took advantage of two slips in the Harlington mud, and at halftime were leading 2 - 0. Although I.C. tried hard, even perhaps a little too hard, to even the score, our efforts met with no success. Late in the game Westminster scored one further goal, to make victory absolutely certain. Our hopes of League honours are now considerably dimmed.

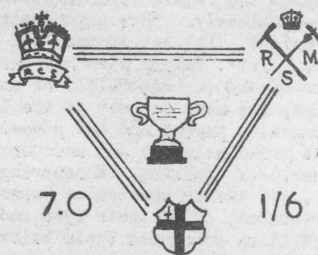
However, the 3rd, XI, captained by George Webster, now need only two points from their remaining games to win the division two championship. Their promotion would mean that the I.C. 2nd, and 3rd, teams would compete in the same division next season, which would solve current speculation as to their relative merits.

The 4th, XI are in a precarious position. After winning 12 League games in a row, mostly by big margins, I.C. have lost twice to Institute of Education, their chief rivals, and promotion is now doubtful. Having already scored over a hundred goals this season, the 4th, team deserve stronger fixtures for next season.

Soccer Club record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st. XI.	24	14	3	7	74	53
2nd. XI.	20	12	2	6	75	58
3rd. XI.	23	18	3	2	85	34
4th. XI.	23	20	0	3	116	31
5th. XI.	22	12	1	9	92	75

## RECTOR'S CUP BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS



FRIDAY 21st FEB.  
CONCERT HALL

## 10th ANNUAL HYDE PARK ROAD RELAY

MARCH 1st 3pm

## ATHLETICS

The Club fixture-list for the coming season is almost complete, and may be seen on the notice-board. Attention is drawn to the first match - now only 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks away - against U.C. on Wed. March 5th. The second match this term is on March 15th, and incorporates the Inter-collegiate Steeplechase. The I.C. Sports Day will be on Wed. May 14th, at Motpur Park.

Entry forms are still available for the Coaching Course held by U.L.A.C. at Motpur Park from 14th. to 18th. April.

The official training period this term is at Hurlingham Park Athletic Ground on Sunday mornings at 11.00 am. Circuit training can still be carried out in the Snack Bar each afternoon after College hours.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The first team has met stiff opposition in the past fortnight and has not been very successful. On 1st. Feb. the Club lost to Bristol A.C. and Bristol University, at Bristol. J. Collins did well to finish 3rd. in a field of 40, and J. Conway was 9th. after dropping a few places during the last half mile of a very tough six-mile course. The evening celebrations were more successful, and after the last train had departed three I.C. men, having abundant faith in the generosity of British motorists, started at 1.00 am. to hitch-hike to London. But lifts were scarce, and after walking about 20 miles, and waking the inhabitants of several West Country villages with their singing, they caught a train to London on the Sunday morning.

The 2nd. team have at last succeeded in defeating Brentwood School, but only by one point, and thanks to a 1st. team member who missed the train to Bristol.

On 8th. Feb. a match with U.C. developed into a huge race with 10 strong teams competing, including Oxford II, Southampton and Bristol. With heavy rain and thick mud the Parliament Hill course was at its worst. I.C. came 4th. losing to Oxford, Southampton and L.S.E., but defeating our great rivals U.C. and Bristol.

The second team had a match against Pearl Assurance and Lloyds Bank, over a rather wet and muddy course at Malden. Lloyds won the race fairly easily, with I.C. second; our first man was K. Wall, in 3rd. place.