

# St. John's Collegian

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## Facio virtutem voluptati- bus verbisque

The busy B's of the faculty continued to hold the spotlight on the lecture platform last week, with Mr. Bingley speaking on "Arithmetic." Actually, Mr. Bingley did not confine himself to that art, but had something to say on at least the foundations and principles of all mathematics.

Trivium and quadrivium each have a language of their own, arithmetic (or algebra, the distinction between the two was never quite made; the Cartesian Mephistopheles was undoubtedly present), being the language of the latter. And it is easily seen how superior mathematical language is to all other kinds: for they are ambiguous and denote ideas only imperfectly, while it symbolizes (or even is; this question was hotly disputed in the question period) nothing but clear and distinct ideas.

One reason why words signify so poorly, is that they have impositions and intentions, while mathematical symbols do not. "Pentasyllabic is pentasyllabic" is a perfectly true sentence, and not a mere identity, but to unravel it requires a lot of unnecessary labor, merely because the author did not choose to make *his* intention, and therefore that of the words, immediately apparent. What is needed then is a quasi-Cartesian revolution of language.

After thus establishing a safe basis for mathematical discussion, Mr. Bingley proceeded to show us some glimpses of arithmetical grammar. From the generation of integers, and from certain fundamental laws, as well as the law of contradiction, it is possible to construct the entire edifice of arithmetic. The lecturer rather emphatically denied that mathematics is nothing but something to be applied to the physical world. Nevertheless, it is clear that it can, and has been, applied most successfully even though

that is not its main function. Why it is possible to do this, did not become quite clear, however.

The question period was rather lively, if esoteric. The most interesting position to arise was this: Mathematics is pursued merely for pleasure, like music. Its laws are completely arbitrary, although they must forever conform with the law of contradiction. For if not, mathematics would obviously have to cease existing, and the pleasures involved in it as well. And why is it possible to treat the physical universe mathematically? That, it appears, is a kind of grand accident, for things happen to have mathematical structures. We wish Mr. Comenetz could have joined the discussion.

We cannot help but finish with a puzzle which perhaps will shed some light on the question of whether words are really poorer signifiers than mathematical symbols. We are able to relate this through courtesy of the Dean.

"Let all words be divided into two classes, namely into autonyms and heteronyms. Let autonyms be defined as those words which signify themselves (such as "word," "pentasyllabic"), and heteronyms as those words signifying something other than themselves. The question then is: Is "heteronym" an autonym or a heteronym?"

But he who treats the trivium thus quadrivially can expect no mercy.

PETER WOLFF.

## Lecturer Tonight

Mr. Richard F. Cleveland, member of the firm of Semmes, Bowen & Semmes, will lecture tonight on Law. A member of the Board of Visitors and Governors since 1930, Mr. Cleveland is the son of Grover Cleveland. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School.

## Barr On Grammar

The President delivered a lecture that may be characterized—even stigmatized—as a trifle too trivial. The concern was largely to point out the indispensability of grammar to predication; this would seem almost to be obvious. His second point was that grammar must never forget its purpose, which is the facilitation of predication; this seems hardly less comprehensible.

In any event, then, it appears that the parts of speech are reflection of the Aristotelian categories; the grammar, or the use of those parts, is the reflection of the employment of the categories, or logic. In somewhat the same way that the Homeric gods utilize mortals, so we words, with grammar as the tool. Grammar, then, stands to ideas in the relationship of means to ends.

The danger, of course, is clear; it is that of substitution of means for ends. Periodically this occurs, and when it does, distrustful of the grammatical structure that has apparently lost direct reference to ideas, or to reality (the exact connection, or distinction, was not belabored), civilizations eventually discard the old structure or discover a new interpretation. This actually occurred during the Renaissance, when the dormant vitality of the Greeks effected a comeback. But if the generations of scholasticists between the Greeks and the Renaissance had not preserved the letter, the spirit had also been lost.

The least satisfactory, as well as the most important, point was the particular matter of the reflection in grammatical predicates of material predication. In what sense, and by means of what faculty, neither the truth nor the relevancy of the proposition was asserted; though obviously grammar must imply material predication. What Mr. Barr called the "fundamental mystery of reading" turns out actually to be the fundamental mystery of predication. For

after all written words are but symbols of spoken ones; and then the mystery turns out to be memory, itself indeed at least as great a mystery, but anyhow a different one.

This means that in the structure of grammar is implicit logic. . Different grammars are commonly indicative of a common logic. The example was given of air and naval warfare; the maneuvers of the latter are translated into the terms of the former.

A translation from one grammar to another does, then, not consist of a mere substitution of identities. The important thing is that similar ideas (for they cannot be the same) be conveyed, that the logic be preserved.

Finally, the value of grammar to civilization. It is impracticable, if not impossible, for each generation to recreate all the culture, to regenerate all ideas. Therefore are necessary formulae, which will preserve the ideas that they may be later interpreted and utilized. Institutions, long buried in mere convention, may re-appear with a new meaning.

Commitment to rote and systematization has the property that it is seldom completely devoid of enlightenment (viz: insight). Grammar has, finally, the purposes of seeing that something true may be said, and that some one, sometime, can understand it.

Which might have been given as a definition.

H.T.W.

### War Meeting

In this, the first of a series of Sunday evening talks on the Progress of the War, we had with us Mr. Olav Paus-Grunt, former professor at the University of Oslo, now with the Norwegian Government in Exile and attached to the OWI. His subject was: The Liberal Arts in Norway Under the Nazis.

Mr. Paus-Grunt started by mentioning an important fact—as far as Americans are concerned—namely, the difficulty which the American public has in appreciating the hardships of other countries, especially if they are so small and so distant as is the case with Norway. The same time, he did not let us forget, that in spite of what is happening to them, the people of Norway continue to fight the invaders.

He made clear that by Liberal Arts he meant the men who represent and practise them. They were the leaders—in better times, spiritual,—now, physical as well; but in these men, the detrimental effects of comfortable living would normally appear first.

Norway, said Mr. Paus-Grunt, has had a long tradition of social reformers, of intellectuals, poets, and writers. The government was one of the most efficient and democratic in the world. The intelligentsia of the present upheld the traditions of past generations, and refused valiantly to accept anything which was contrary to their old conceptions of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

The remainder of the talk was mainly an enumeration of the methods used by the Germans either to convert the people of Norway to their principles, or to suppress them with ruthless force. Needless to say, they were all unsuccessful.

There were two more items in this speech worthy of mention. First, the recitation of a poem written by a Norwegian as early as 1936, calling on all the world to realize the danger which was about to descend on them. This may be considered wishy-washy emotional appeal, but it was anything but that; in fact I want to go as far as to call it the high point of the speech.

The second was his mention of the inability of the Germans to understand the psychology of others—one of the chief factors in the eventual defeat of the Reich.

However, we must attach this question: How much did he actually say, and how much of it was propaganda? His accounts of the German behaviour in regard to the teachers showed very clearly that the teachers and intelligentsia were being mistreated, but it neither proved a point nor caused any controversy. I even venture so far as to say that Mr. Paus-Grunt was getting off the subject. I also wonder what the intelligentsia would do without the common people; the fact that they were not mentioned at all indicated that they did not seem important to him. He seems to have forgotten that a revolt's success depends on the co-operation of the masses, and not necessarily on the leadership of the intelligentsia alone.

R. C.

And the question of its propagandistic content? Many citizens of small nations are captivated by a narrow sense of patriotism which makes the country seem the be-all and end-all of democratic, efficient, and all-around capable government.

For all this, Mr. Paus-Grunt helped to clarify the position and institutions of a country which is known to Americans only through the medium of Hollywood films.

C. BRUGGMANN.

### Student Employment Bureau

Even before Mr. Comenetz lifted officially the ban on pleasure, which was generally supported, spiritually at least, by the Freshman converts to Platonism, there was asserted a proposition about all work and no play and its consequence. The validity of this proposition has hardly ever been questioned seriously. To do so would presuppose a new statement of the nature of man, which is undesirable since we have not yet begun to recover from the last attempt by Descartes and its resulting chaos. Let the proposition stand as true.

Since the proposition is true, and since the College does not wish to produce dull boys, evidently a certain amount of pleasure should be sought, not indiscriminately, by all members of the College. Now some pleasures are gained only by means of an initial outlay of funds, i.e.—movies, dances, books. These funds may be gotten by the pleasure seeker either from a benefactor or an employer. If from an employer, problems may arise, i.e.—Who is a potential employer? How do I meet her? Am I qualified for the sort of employment she has to offer? The Student Employment Bureau offers the answers to these and many other puzzling questions in the minds of prospective employees from among the Student Body. Also, for the small sum of three dollars (paid to Messrs. Rocker and Bruggmann, current operators of the Bureau), the employee potentialities of any student may become actualized.

R. C.

### College Meeting

Thursday night it was announced in College Meeting that Mr. Kaplan will start a new Bible class and, if a sufficient number of students is interested, he will also lead a group for the study of Hebrew. Mr. Buchanan pointed out that the two greatest influences on western thought have been the Greek and the Judaic traditions. Through historical accidents the study of the former has been stressed to the disadvantage of the latter. The Dean believes that an understanding of it would bring about a revolution in our thinking.

Mr. Buchanan also commented on the attendance rules, pointing out that they are by no means arbitrary, but designed to aid the learning process.

### Sports Diary

MONDAY—Pinkney-Paca touched off the season with a rousing but loosely played 10-9 battle. Paca's downfall came on an error, a walk, and Barton's solid hit to right in the twelfth inning. Tom Robertson, the Paca pitcher, limited the winners to eight hits, but sloppy fielding turned the tide. Paca blew an eight-run lead in the sixth, committing seven errors, which, combined with four hits, including Dick Van Der Voort's homer, put Pinkney back in the game.

Newton, Pinkney's hurler, was the winner, although he allowed numerous hits. However, he offset this by showing splendid control, giving up only two walks, one of which was intentional. Dan Barber and Robertson led the Paca-Carroll nine, evenly dividing six safeties. Israel and John Wakefield paced the Pinkney attack with 3 and 2 hits, respectively.

TUESDAY—Chase-Stone, rapidly becoming a big threat to the defending champions, West Pinkney, overran Randall to the tune of 13 to 6. Piling up an eleven-run lead in the first four innings, the Freshmen, with their twirler, Van Sant, loosened up and allowed four tallies to cross the plate in the final five frames. Ross, of the winners, lead the day with a double and a triple, while Scot Desjardins slammed out 3 for 5.

WEDNESDAY—West Pinkney, out for more blood, and priming up for the big tussle with Chase-Stone,

slammed out 22 hits and buried Randall under a deluge of 25 runs. The Upperclassmen managed, somehow, to cross the plate four times. Leon Israel slammed his second double of the season and Perry uncorked a long homer. "Ham" Durning, one of the league's top pitchers, won his initial game of the season.

THURSDAY—This day saw another one-sided slugfest, with Chase-Stone adding to Paca-Carroll's woes with a crushing 22-4 victory. Van Sant won his second game of the season, and was ably supported afield and at the plate. Bill Ross drove his second double of the year, while Dick Maury cashed in with a homer and a triple. Desjardins again had a 3 for 5 day, and played beautiful ball at second base.

FRIDAY—The battle for last place was on, and Paca-Carroll won it with ease, dropping a game to Randall, with a score that sounded like football. Of the forty-five runs that came across, Randall scored 28, while Paca had to be satisfied with the remaining 17. Eric Nussbaum was the winning finger, while George Smith, who tried to help out with two homers, was charged with the loss, his second so far. This game was also sparked by some brilliant plays by the Paca shortstop, Pat Welch.

TUESDAY—The battle for first place; and Chase-Stone's hurler, Dick Maury, started off in fine form, fanning five of the first six men to face him. And to add insult to injury, the Freshman drove in four runs in the third, three being accounted for on

Ian Robertson's home run along the right-field line, to lead Pinkney 4-0. But the defending champions, aided by a multitude of errors, managed to score seven times in the last of the third and added three more in the fourth. This was a lead the Pinkney nine never forfeited; and, behind "Ham" Durning, they coasted to an 11-8 triumph. The versatile second baseman, Scot Desjardins, continued his 3 for 5 days, and added in with some fine plays at second and short. Leon Israel drove 3 hits, including a double, while Barton and Congrove played good ball.

The Chase-Stone team, however, is still a very potent threat to Pinkney's high hopes of another championship.

WEDNESDAY—Randall came right back to win its second victory in a row, routing a makeshift Chase-Stone aggregation, 20-7. The upperclassmen, aided by many errors and timely hits, managed to sew the game up in the opening innings, allowing Eric Nussbaum to coast to his second triumph. Ben Perry, Wensel, and Cochran each had a home run to pace the Randall attack. George Van Sant was the losing hurler, the defeat being his first of the season.

THURSDAY—Chase-Stone, playing for the third consecutive day, slammed out 23 hits to crush Paca-Carroll again, 25-13. Maury and Robertson each had four hits for the winners, the former driving a long triple along the right-field line. Scot Desjardins, of the winners, and Dan Barber of Paca had 3 hits each.

I. R.

### SOFTBALL RECORDS — To Thurs., July 29

#### SOFTBALL STANDINGS

	W.	L.	Pct.	G.B.
West Pinkney	3	0	1.000	---
Chase-Stone	3	2	.600	1
Randall	2	2	.500	1½
Paca-Carroll	0	4	.000	3½

#### FIVE LEADING BATTERS

	A.B.	H.	AVE.
Israel, West Pinkney	15	9	.600
Barber, Paca-Carroll	21	12	.571
Desjardins, Chase-Stone	22	12	.545
T. Robertson, Paca-Carroll	15	8	.533
I. Robertson, Chase-Stone	25	12	.480

HOME RUNS—Smith, Paca; Perry, Randall, 2. TRIPLES—Maury, Chase-Stone, 2. DOUBLES—Israel, Pinkney, 3.

**Arts**

Shortly after the invention of the motion-picture, the Editors of the COLLEGIAN dared us to have our say about the frivolous and fine arts in print. We took up the dare. Since that time the film industry has blossomed and grown into something big and beautiful. We haven't. We have suffered much at the hands of the popular artists. Our motto persists: "It is sensible and to be present is enough to separate the future. If it come to happen that there is no eraser then certainly there is no cause why there should be."\* This is the reason.

*Lady of Burlesque* (at the Capitol today and tomorrow) doesn't aspire to the heights of realism but that's just as well. It is amusing and interesting. Based on Gypsy Rose Lee's *G-String Murder*, the film only confounds confusion. No one is certain, not even the police, about who got murdered and by whom. But then, we weren't particularly interested. Barbara Stanwyck, back in her old medium, is remarkable, to say the least.

*The Constant Nymph* arrives on Sunday at the Circle. This provides the serious moment for the week. Charles Boyer continues to struggle with the language but with handsome results. In spite of this, *The Constant Nymph* we endorse heartily. In addition to Mr. Boyer, there is Joan Fontaine and Charles Coburn, both of whom are excellent. And Dame May Whitty hangs around for a minute or two.

The less said about what's playing at the Republic, the better. The theatre itself, however, is also very cool.

At the National in Washington is *Junior Miss*, playing at summer stock prices. It is called "the gayest comedy of all," but don't believe it. Besides—this reminds us of the old one that goes, "I know a joke, let's write a play."

In Baltimore there is more to choose from. At the Maryland, Fred Stone plays *Father in You Can't Take It With You* this week. At the Hill-top Theatre a new play by Bryan and Goddard called *Less Majesty* will be produced. The thesis of this is that

Queen Elizabeth was a man and kept up the farce for political reasons. Off-hand, we don't believe it.

\*A phenomenon which we have often noticed.

**N. B. IIAB**

The atoms of Democritus,  
And Newton's particles of light  
Are sands upon the Red Sea shore  
Where Israel's tents shine bright.  
WILLIAM BLAKE

**CALENDAR**

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE**

Fri., July 30 — Sat., Aug. 7, 1919

**Friday, July 30:**

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Athletics	Back Campus
5:00 P. M.	Vesper Service	Great Hall
6:30-8:00 P. M.	Music Seminar	Humphreys Hall
7:00 P. M.	Bible Class	McDowell 22
8:00 P. M.	Formal Lecture—Law —Richard Cleveland	Great Hall

**Saturday, July 31:**

10:30 A. M.-12:00 M.	Athletics	Back Campus
2:00 P. M.	Boat Club Meeting	McDowell 21
2:00 P. M.	First Aid Class	McDowell 24

**Sunday, August 1:**

7:00-8:00 P. M.	Recorded Concert	McDowell Plaza
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**Monday, August 2:**

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Athletics	Back Campus
5:00 P. M.	Vesper Service	Great Hall
7:00-8:00 P. M.	Recorded Concert	McDowell Plaza

**Tuesday, August 3:**

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Athletics	Back Campus
7:00 P. M.	Bible Class	McDowell 22

**Wednesday, August 4:**

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Athletics	Back Campus
7:00-8:00 P. M.	Recorded Concert	McDowell Plaza
7:00 P. M.	Year Book Meeting	McDowell 23
8:00 P. M.	Meeting of the Madrigal Group	Humphreys Hall

**Thursday, August 5:**

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Athletics	Back Campus
5:00 P. M.	Vesper Service	Great Hall
7:30 P. M.	College Meeting	Great Hall

**Friday, August 6:**

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Athletics	Back Campus
5:00 P. M.	Vesper Service	Great Hall
6:30-8:00 P. M.	Music Seminar	Humphreys Hall
7:00 P. M.	Bible Class	McDowell 22
8:00 P. M.	Formal Lecture—to be announced	Great Hall

**Saturday, August 7:**

10:30 A. M.-12:00 M.	Athletics	Back Campus
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