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HABIT IN RELATION TO THE FRATERNITY.

Comte has called habit the "indolence of nature," and in a broad sense it may be said to be characteristic of all material things. By some obstacle in the pathway of its growth, the twig of a tree is bent from a straight line. It falls into the way of growing in a curve so that when the obstacle is removed it remains a curve. All matter seems to be possessed of a kind of inertia in this respect. Lines in the face are formed by habits of the flesh caused by the expressions which place them.

The brain is no exception to other materials. Its action in the formation of habits has been well demonstrated by Prof. De Motte in his lecture on "The Harp of the Senses," in which he shows that each thought produces motion among the brain-cells, which yield readily to its power and are carried to their respective places under the guidance of that thought just as materials in the wake of an ocean current are swept along by it to places of lodgment.

When once a thought wave has established a channel for its passage, carrying before it those cells upon which it spends its force, it accomplishes all succeeding acts of like character with greater ease, because of the channel already made.

Habits, not alone of thought, but of action, are produced and strengthened by repeating the acts from which they originate, and as they become more fixed and perfected, we become less and less conscious of the acts, and finally do them unconsciously.

From this it is evident that the first habit formed is the one most likely to remain, hence the truth in the adages, "The child is father of the man," "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined."

But ere this perhaps you have been asking, "What has this

to do with Kappa, or how does the science of habit concern the fraternity?" This is just the point about which I wanted to speak.

We form habits in the fraternity just as we do out of it—it is no safeguard against habit,—and it is that they may be worthily formed, fit representatives of the noble purposes and aims of our order that this subject is presented.

We enter the fold of Kappa as children, so far as its ideals, its purposes, its inner workings are concerned. Those who are already members are our seniors in all knowledge pertinent to its affairs, and it becomes the duty of such members to inculcate in initiates first of all a love for such knowledge, to place before them right ideals of its lofty aims and purposes, and to inspire in them by their own zeal and devotion to all fraternal interests the same emotions, so well defined, that no one upon entering may have opportunity to form for herself careless habits of thought concerning any detail.

Seniors, do you realize your responsibility in bringing up these children? If one of them shall be found regarding lightly some injunction from within, some rule or regulation even, who shall be held answerable? Shall it be the actual offender, or rather shall not they who have failed in their offices of instruction?

On the other hand, no "child" taking the obligations she assumes at her initiation, and having passed the number of years at which the average member enters the fraternity, is excusable for regarding lightly any such obligations. "There is no excuse for sin," and sin it unquestionably is when a woman of sufficient age and reason, and of good moral character, after taking the solemn, binding vows of Kappa, gives them so little thought, or thought so light in its nature, as to place the fraternity interests among the smallest that demand her attention. Such a one sins not merely against herself, nor against her chapter, but against the sisterhood entire, and it is indeed the whole that suffers most.

Let one Kappa fall into a habit of careless thinking concerning her duties as a Kappa, and some duty is sure to be carelessly neglected or postponed until a more convenient time—it may be a duty toward some sister; toward the chapter; it may be the forwarding of some report from the chapter, due the general fraternity.

Does this suggest the explanation of a list of fines you have read from some convention report?

Whatever injures a chapter, injures the fraternity at large in that it spoils a possible perfection in its workings; a careless way of thinking, developed by one girl into a habit, injures any chapter.

Some one may say, "But these mechanical duties of the fraternity are not pleasant and enjoyable, and it is so easy to neglect them." Why are they not enjoyable, my dear sister? Why have you allowed yourself to fall into the miserable habit of thinking that way about them? Is there no pleasure nor enjoyment in having yours the best regulated fraternity in existence; its machinery in the best working condition? Why not say, "I belong to the *best* of all the orders, and if by doing one small part, I can do but little to keep it best and make it better, it shall be done promptly and willingly. I am proud of her name and honor and no duty she may impose shall suffer neglect from me."

"As a man thinketh, so is he," then no doubt as a woman thinketh, so is she.

How have your habits of thinking in relation to the affairs of your fraternity been formed? Are you a loyal Kappa?

HARRIETT HARDING, *Iota*, '97.

A TYPICAL KAPPA HOUSE.

As the autumn wind gathers up the falling leaves, carrying them hither and thither, now high in the air, but, at last, buried deep down in the cool, restful shade of some quiet little nook, so my thoughts have caught up the flitting memories of bygone days and, carrying them back and forth over the past few months, they have at last nestled among the little Kappa meetings of the closing days of my college life. How comforting it is that memory can span the chasm of time which separates us from the college days! To-day my memory retraces its course, and I again stand at the brink of the chasm as I stood nine months ago, looking out over it and wondering if it ever can be bridged, how it will be done. What a suffocating feeling it is to be leaving school forever when a period, an era is completely passed and left

behind! What girl is there, who has attended her last committee meeting, who has spent her last hour in some favorite corner in the library; who has made her last recitation to some favorite professor, and who has finally come up to the last day of college feeling almost as if she were ready to draw her last breath, who will not feel this? It truly is a chapter in one's life ended.

But graduation from college does not mean inactivity for the college woman. Before her the world opens out such immense and far-reaching fields of work that she soon recovers from her suffocation. She does not long stand on the edge of the chasm not knowing how she will span it. She may have to build her own bridge, laboriously and slowly, plank by plank, from the lecture room to a professional career, the literary career, or the domestic career, or she may take just one long step from the college life to the busy life of the world. In any case, her outer life is easily and naturally adapted to her surroundings and moulded by her environment. But how about the inner life, and especially the inner life of the fraternity girl? As the last days of May are fading away into June, and among those dreadful last things comes the last fraternity meeting, the suffocation becomes unbearable. She says to herself: "How can I ever leave these dear girl friends; will I ever find on the other side of this chasm girls whom I can love so well? No, surely not; I will not try to go over. I will just jump in." Foolish child! who doesn't know what awaits her on the outside. Listen now to one who said the same thing a few months ago, but who has had a most delightful time on the other side. When in college fraternity girls are as a rule absorbed in their own local chapter, they know the girls of their chapter, they love the girls of their chapter; but the fraternity, as a national organization, is not a vivid reality to them except to the one or two who have been fortunate enough to attend a convention. It is in the chapter where the close and dear ties of friendship are formed, where one girl can creep gradually into the heart of many girls and abide warmly there. The chapter is just the snug, cosy place where we learn to love and be loved. It is no wonder we are loath to leave it, is it? But our fraternity is not a local fraternity of one chapter, it is a national organization. We are a family of chapters, living in one great big house, the Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity.

While in college there is one little room that we Kappas frequent more than all others—the pantry, you know—where only eighteen or twenty of us can gather together for a spread and a general good time with each other and no one else can come. Oh the charming lack of formality; the delightful ease and restfulness of a spread! I heartily love a snug pantry spread. But let me take you into some of the other rooms of our Kappa house through doors which my little Kappa key has unlocked for me. Soon after I came to Chicago one of the Upsilon girls invited me over to their first Kappa initiation. I was filled with delight at the thought of becoming acquainted with other members of our large family, and I cannot tell you the joy I felt as I entered the cosy drawing room of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Although there were some unfamiliar faces, yet I felt as if I were at home, for I had entered by means of the little key and found there the decorations of the unmistakable “two blues.” The pantry spread, with your own Kappa sisters, is delightful, but you have missed a great deal until you have sipped from the dainty teacups in the drawing room with your Kappa cousins once removed. One day about two months ago my little key very unexpectedly opened to me another room of our Kappa home, which I had never known. This time I did not meet with a crowd of Kappas, but with just one in the cosy, comfortable room where we could visit together. I sat in the Auditorium, in Chicago, listening to a concert, thinking there was no one in that large audience whom I knew, when suddenly a lady who sat in front of me reached back and placed a slip of paper on my lap. I picked it up and read: “Greeting to a Kappa sister from Mrs. A. J. Pruitt, Iota, K. K. Γ.” Do you think that Mrs. Pruitt and I were strangers long? No, the little key unlocks hearts. And so, you, who are just now feeling that life may be empty after college days are over, remember that, although the snug chapter life, the happy, everyday friendship with Kappas, which has been so sweet and helpful, is past, yet the little key will open to you other delightful spots which are sweet if they are infrequent. The little key is the “open Sesame” of friendship, and carries with it the aroma of kind and loving interest which attracts one Kappa to another.

There is still another room which the little key has opened to me, one which I believe is used to some extent in our Kappa

Kappa Gamma house, yet not so frequently as it might be. I speak of the reception room—the room which we can throw open to our friends in general, but particularly to the girl who wears no colors, who owns no badge. Occasionally, perhaps two or three times a year, we come out of the pantry to mingle with the motley crowd in the reception room. Do we, though, make the non-fraternity girl our guest as often as we might? I do not necessarily mean that we as a chapter of the fraternity should entertain her, but do we as individuals give her a welcome place in our hearts and lives? I believe that if we do not we miss the meaning of the very highest principle of our fraternity. When you leave the little circle of college friends, and go out into the world of strangers, she is the girl whom you will meet most often. She will look to you for something which has been lacking in her life, but for which she has had and still has an intense yearning. Will the friendship and love bestowed and received by you, during the days of fraternity life, make you broad enough to meet and answer the yearning for love which you discern in her? She is helpful, she is womanly, she is responsive. You need only to feel the touch of her life and know her kindness, the wealth of her affection and the beauty of her character, she needs to feel the touch of your life with its sympathy and love. So, as I look out over the chasm which separates the college life from the world life, I know that the college woman will not only be able to step out easily and cheerfully into new fields of labor, but also into new friendships and into a new social life. May each chapter of our fraternity be a school where the members may learn such lessons of unselfishness, thoughtfulness, helpfulness and love in the ties of fraternity friendships that as they go from it they will carry hearts so large, so womanly, so noble, that they will unlock themselves not only to those of their own number, but to the mass of young women who have never enjoyed the advantages and pleasures of fraternity life, yet who crave the warmth of human friendship.

RUTH PAXSON, *Beta Zeta*.

THE VALUE OF FINES.

A glance at the Grand President's report of the last administration shows a long list of fines, imposed upon twenty-five of the chapters for failure to meet fraternity requirements between the years 1896-1898. In a few cases, the delinquency has occurred but once, but oftener the chapter has been deficient in several instances so that fines from \$2.00 to \$13.00 in amount have been paid by individual chapters for delay or failure in carrying out those fraternity obligations about which there can be no question.

The evils attending such delinquencies need not be dwelt upon here, but the imposition of the fine, in consequence of these delinquencies, is of greatest importance, and a brief consideration of its value may not be out of place here.

Its primary aim is not to serve as a means of providing funds for the fraternity treasury, or to express the displeasure of the presiding officers for particular chapters that have been delinquent, but preeminently, its purpose is disciplinary, to serve as a factor in educating the chapter for greater efficiency in fraternity matters. Not many chapters can afford to pay a large bill for fines, but even were they able to do so, it would be undesirable, the welfare and high standing of the fraternity demanding a prompt, systematic performance of duties, thus obviating the penalty of a fine. A few offences may come about through an imperfect knowledge on the part of the responsible officer of just what her respective duties may be. In this case, when she realizes that she represents her chapter to the Grand Council and to the fraternity at large; and that through her deficiencies, the whole chapter must suffer, she will be careful—have a thorough accurate knowledge of what is required of her. Moreover, as the chapters appreciate the fact that they are represented in a measure by their officers, greater wisdom should be exercised in the choice of the young woman who is to serve in some particular capacity that she may be one not only with a genuine chapter interest but with an intimate knowledge of fraternity rules and regulations, as well.

With the chapter officers elected, let not the individual members think that they have done all their duty, and that their

responsibility, henceforth, has ceased. Only through the sustained efforts of each and every one will prosperity come to the chapter. Often, the stress of college work makes it extremely difficult for one or two girls to accomplish all that the fraternity may require at a stated time. Then the chapter officer should feel that she has the complete and hearty support and co-operation of each one with whom she is associated by fraternity ties ; that she may be sure of a ready response to any request for assistance which she may make. Is it not the spirit of mutual helpfulness in the exceedingly practical matters that is to be a source of strength to the chapter, and that binds the members together in sympathy and unity of purpose?

It must not be forgotten that the fine is imposed upon the whole chapter and not upon the individual member who may have been found wanting in the performance of her duties, and, therefore, should be met by the whole chapter. When a girl is appointed to an office, the chapter must trust fully her ability to fill that position, for only as she feels that she has the undivided confidence of every member, will she be able to serve her chapter best. Should she fail in any point, it must be accepted as a chapter misfortune, and not as hers, alone.

Sometimes, it might happen that the girl chosen was not the right one for the office, and that delinquencies occur through her oversight and carelessness. Even then, the chapter should not censure, and expect her to pay the fine. The responsibility is still theirs, in that she is their choice for the office, and if she does not prove equal to the work, she should be provided with an assistant who will be able to give her the necessary aid.

Whatever else the fine may accomplish, it should unite the chapter members more closely in loyalty to one another. Then with a stronger harmonious life within itself, the chapter will become more effective for the good of the whole fraternity.

GRAND PRESIDENT'S DEPUTY.

A BIT OF EXPERIENCE.

Not long ago I was supposed to be entertaining a dear little five-year-old and, as often happens on such occasions, was trying

to reverse the process and have him amuse me. With this end in view I besought him to tell me "something nice." He knit his brow, like the philosopher he is, and then said, sweetly, "See the fat cat and the rat"—a quotation from his much loved First Reader, then a recent acquisition.

In my present dilemma of what to say for the April KEY and how to say it, I sympathize with that willing little soul; my directions to write something of fraternity interest; original, but not merely literary; sincere, but not too personal; serious, but not a sermon; seem little more definite than the command to tell "something nice." The fact is that I'm only in the First Reader of fraternity knowledge and experience. I can resort to my primer for your entertainment, but I tremble at the thought that you will not enjoy recitations therefrom any more than you would those concise remarks about cats, rats and other monosyllabic animals that provide the infant mind with food for reflection. Still there is a scrap of this experience that I will venture to present, with the hope that it may interest some of you as giving a glimpse of yourselves as outsiders see you.

In my Barbarian days I was once conversing with a Greek and said to her, "Miss Somebody is lovely. You are very fond of her, aren't you?" The Greek replied, "Yes, she belongs to the chapter, you know." I did know, but being a Barbarian my first mental comment was, "Suppose she is? What has that to do with it?"

No doubt this is all I should have thought had it not been for the tone in which the words were spoken and for what the speaker's eyes said at the same time. The delicate shades of expression in the human voice and the inarticulate language of the eyes unfortunately I cannot communicate in writing. If only I could write the words so that you in reading would hear them as they were spoken and would see the sudden brighter shining of the eyes, you would understand why, in spite of that first traitorous thought of mine, they gave me a golden glimpse of paradise. Perhaps you can imagine what these indescribable parts of the expression added to the mere words, when I tell you that my second thought was, "So that is what a fraternity means! Just love!" There was nothing of partisanship in the tone; it did not mean that the Greek felt it her duty to be blind to the other's

faults and to say pleasant things about her because she was a Kappa. I have heard the words said when they meant this and nothing more and I know the difference. I felt that there was a strong tie of affection between the two girls independent of fraternity ties, but that the fraternity had in some way made them closer friends. I felt that they had interests in common and that the same ideal was their goal. Do you wonder that the simple remark was for me an instantaneous revelation of inner beauty and happiness in lives in which I had seen only the outside?

The best exponent of what is good in an organization is that unconscious witnessing of its members—the testimony of character. And surely it is when a fraternity does mean “just love” that it can be one of the sweetest and most ennobling influences in life. It is love’s alchemy that can change the base metal of dull and worthless living into gold, beautiful precious and eternal.

BETA ALPHA.

MORE FIGURES.

For some years it has been the custom for the April number of THE KEY to contain general statistics based upon the January reports. This annual summary is intended to put in comprehensive form some of the information which is most often asked for by both members and outsiders, concerning the size of the fraternity, the number of members in its chapters and its geographical distribution.

An examination of the latest reports shows that the fraternity now numbers 426 active members. According to the latest provisions charters are no longer granted to alumnae associations but the alumnae from several chapters are organized in Boston, New York, Columbus, and Indianapolis, while five or six cities boast local associations and a movement is on foot for a Beta Eta association in San Francisco.

Of our chapters the largest are Beta Tau and Delta with a membership of 24 each; the smallest are Beta Alpha and Beta Iota with 8 and 9 members respectively. The average size of the chapters falls between 16 and 17.

The number of members added during the past year was 151. The largest number, 12, was admitted by Beta Tau; the small-

est number, 2, by Beta Delta. Beta Nu, Upsilon, Epsilon, Mu and Beta Iota each initiated but 3 members. The average number of initiates in the chapters is between 5 and 6. Affiliates were this year reported in 6 chapters, Beta Epsilon, Eta, Psi, Beta Eta, Iota and Upsilon.

India sends 4 members. Aside from this 22 states are represented in the active membership: Indiana heads the list with 58 members; New York has 56; Ohio follows with 50; Pennsylvania supplies 33; Illinois gives 32; California, 30; Michigan, 27; Minnesota and Iowa, each 21; Nebraska, 18; Missouri, 15; Massachusetts and Kansas, each 14; Wisconsin, 13; New Jersey, 9; Maryland, 4; Texas, 2; while Vermont, North Carolina, Colorado, Nevada and Maine send each one member. A comparison with the figures reported for 1897 and 1898 show that Indiana and New York occupied the same position in those two years and that the position of the other states was practically the same, leading to the belief that the fraternity draws on the same districts year after year.

Beta Delta, Psi and Beta Gamma have the most diverse membership, drawing students from five different states while Beta Gamma adds the distinction of attracting members from India. Pi, Gamma Rho, Sigma, Beta Nu, Delta and Chi draw members only from their own states. This seems reasonable since five of them are state institutions.

In considering cities, it transpires that Minneapolis furnishes the largest number of members, 17; Columbus and Lincoln each give 16; Bloomington, Ill., 14; Iowa City and Meadville, each 10; Lawrence, 9; 7 cities furnish from 8 to 3 members; 26 furnish 2 members each and 156 only 1 member each. For the first time it happens that no chapter has exclusively local patronage while Beta Iota and Beta Delta are the only chapters having no members in the towns where they are located.

Alumnae Department.

COLUMBUS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION.

Beta Nu alumnae have read, with much interest, the accounts of the organization and work of Kappa alumna associations and have wished for some time that Columbus might boast of a similar organization. The Kappa alumnae of Columbus have, for several years, given an annual reception for the Kappa graduates of the State University, and have in turn been entertained by the chapter girls at the annual initiation, but beyond this we have not regularly had an opportunity of seeing each other. At last the wish of time has materialized and we can announce to the readers of *THE KEY* a new Kappa Alumnae Association.

This new Kappa Alumnae Association of Columbus, Ohio, has a membership of thirty-three with a representation from four chapters,—Gamma Rho, Lambda, Rho and Beta Nu. Meetings are held twice a month at the homes of the members. Interest has centered in a comparative and individual study of the poetry of Kipling, Meredith, Rossetti, and Swinburne. Just now we have finished Kipling, giving our attention to his women first and then to his philosophy and style,—reading, in connection with this study, “Mary, Pity Women,” “Mary Gloster,” “Delilah,” and the *L'Envoi* to “Seven Seas,” the preface to the “Outward Bound Edition,” and “Tomlinson.”

It takes some effort for busy, working women as we are, to give up the time to the meetings, but some irresistible force entices us to drop whatever we are doing on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month and attend the Association meeting. We begin to realize with Browning:

“What a thing friendship is—world without end.”

BETA NU ALUMNA.

PERSONAL NOTES.

BETA ALPHA.—Emma Fraser, '98, is at the head of the French Department of the Elmira College, Elmira, N. Y., this winter.

Mary Pennington, who has been studying at Yale, has returned to Pennsylvania this winter, and is now doing some work in the Laboratory of Hygiene.

GAMMA RHO.—Nellie Laffer, '97, was married Dec. 28, 1898, to Mr. Herman Hogg.

BETA GAMMA.—Gwen Jones, '92, was married Nov. 9 to Mr. David Arrel Pence, of Lowellville, Ohio.

Alice Cornell, '95, is taking voice culture in Chicago.

"It was with sad thoughts we listened to the words spoken by Mrs. S. S. Palmer at the last Board meeting, as they were her farewell words to the Occidental Board. Mrs. Palmer removes with her husband, Rev. S. S. Palmer, from Oakland to Columbus, Ohio. Her voice and pen will be missed, as for a long time she gave us delightful map talks on the countries under consideration and also prepared outlines of them in leaflet form to be used by our auxiliaries. We are loath to lose so valuable a worker."—*Woman's Work for Woman, Oct., '98.*

Alice Smith, '98, is teaching in the Brooklyn Schools, Cleveland, O.

KAPPA.—Nettie Doud, a former student, is superintendent of music in the schools at Alma, Mich.

Mae Ellen Steele, '95, was married August 3rd, 1898, to Harry S. Meyers, Phi Delta Theta.

EPSILON.—Married: February 16, at Bozeman, Montana, Harriet Thayer to Mr. Frank Edwards. Miss Thayer's home is in Bloomington, Ill., but she has been practising medicine in Helena, Mont. Mr. Edwards is mayor of Helena.

The Parthenon.

Each year the women's fraternities are coming into greater prominence in college circles and are attracting more notice from the outside world. They have become a very important factor in college life, so much so that the critical eyes of **Women's Fraternities.** faculties and towns people are fastened upon them.

I wonder if we Kappas realize this sufficiently—how closely we are being observed, both individually and collectively. The character, intellectual ability and social qualities of each one of our girls are measured in the minds of our critics, and the average of these measurements determines the rank of the chapter. The individual makes the chapter; the chapter makes the fraternity.

No girl to whom the sweet mysteries of Kappa Kappa Gamma have been revealed can leave the chapter quite the same as it was before her entrance into it. Her life while in connection with the chapter cannot fail to have left its influence. It is for her to determine whether this shall be for better or for worse.

What a great responsibility it is that rests upon us, every one! The girl who does not strive to do creditable work in the classroom, and the girl who does or says anything unworthy of that ideal toward which she is aiming—anything however trivial it may seem—these girls are doing an injury to the whole fraternity.

It lies with each one of us whether or no a favorable judgment will be passed upon us by the onlookers. Each girl has an important part to fulfill in keeping the three letters we love so dearly the emblem of that which is good.

M. G. B., *Gamma Rho.*

The problem of rushing has been so many times under discussion in **THE KEY**, that with much diffidence do I take it up again. A great deal of time and thought has been devoted to the solving of the question and many plans have been suggested, but the fact that evils still exist in rush- **Sophomore Fraternities.** ing is sufficient justification, I think, for again opening the question. During the past six months rumors of the

advisability of having fraternities sophomore fraternities, to avoid the difficulties of rushing, have been heard. If, necessarily, there were a year between the time a student entered college and the time she was eligible to membership in a fraternity, would not the time, strength and energy now expended in the fall rushing be saved? Of course, at the first suggestion of this plan, many objections appear. Might its adoption not mean that the rushing would only be prolonged through the entire year? It seems not to me if the course laid down were truly carried out. Some exceptions would have to be made in the case of students who expect to be in college only one year, and for students who enter the higher classes; these are, however, so few compared with the entering freshman class that it seems that the rule, though perhaps not binding on them, would nevertheless be efficient in solving, in part, at least, the problem of rushing. The plan would be, perhaps, to have no one join a fraternity during her freshman year; to have, late in the spring, a special time set for asking others to join the fraternity, and then, in commencement week, the initiation might be held. Many chapters now have their annual banquet in that week and where it is held the new members would then enter their fraternity life with enthusiasm and inspiration, certainly, so that in the fall they would come back to full fraternity life strong and loyal workers for its ideals. It would be understood, of course, that before the special time set, fraternity and fraternity matters would be little discussed with the new girls; no rushing, as it is understood now, would be done, but the fraternity members on their part would have time to really become acquainted with the new girls and the freshmen, in turn, could learn the ideals and what the different fraternities stand for, by watching the members.

Is not this plan practical? There are two ways in which it might be carried out—first, all the fraternities at one university might agree to it and so settle the question for that district, or better, the national convention of a fraternity might adopt the rule that that fraternity should be a sophomore fraternity, with the limitations suggested. This, it seems to me, is the true way to settle the difficulty, and though for a little time the different chapters of that fraternity might be at a disadvantage, they would finally be better off. The change is radical and radical changes

always meet with disapproval at first, but the benefits will outweigh all other points if one considers it seriously, and if at her next convention Kappa Kappa Gamma adopt this rule she will be taking, I feel sure, the first step—and that a strong one—towards solving the problem and removing an evil that takes us from, rather than draws us to, the ideals Kappa offers.

Eta.

The Editor's question in the last KEY concerning a secret publication is not a new one to Epsilon, and it has revived a great deal of discussion. There are many arguments for and against such a venture, but to Epsilon

A Secret Publication. it seems that those contrary outweigh the others.

It is said that a number of fraternities publish such organs, and many of them have been very successful. But these are chiefly among fraternities with such large chapter rolls that other intimate communication is practically impossible. However, we, with our number of chapters and present satisfactory methods of intercourse hardly feel the need of a secret publication.

It would be a decided advantage in the discussion of private business, and would serve to draw us nearer together. But can a printed periodical of a number of copies be absolutely secret? Even with the greatest care, the less affairs are entrusted to paper, the better.

The expense would figure, but if it were as easily solved as most of our financial problems, it would be but a secondary matter.

We fear that a new publication might turn the current away from THE KEY, and nothing could ever take the place of the inspiration we receive from it.

The question of success scarcely enters into the discussion, for if we attempted the bulletin, of course it would be successful. If we all supported it, it could not be otherwise. But above all, have we really any pressing need for a secret periodical?

BESSYE WELTY, *Epsilon*.

The suggestion made in the editorial pages of the January KEY—of a secret publication to circulate only among our own chapters—seems, at first thought, to open up a most attractive and interesting prospect. Such a paper would, in the first place, perform the very valuable service of instructing the chapters in matters of fraternity administration, laying before them the various arguments on important problems, and thus enabling them to judge far more wisely than now any questions of policy. An almost equally important advantage would be an acquaintance between the various chapters much closer and more complete than is now possible. Surely in every other chapter, as in Beta Epsilon, certain peculiarities in government and policy have gradually developed—for example, in the scope and the degree of the power granted by custom to the head of the chapter, in the additional officers' found to be necessary, in financial regulations, and in the methods of electing and initiating members. Each chapter, moreover, is surrounded by peculiar conditions; curious customs—unimportant, it may be, but interesting—have developed from some origin now, perhaps, shrouded in mystery. With all these various characteristics of our sister chapters—quite too intimate for public appearance in THE KEY—the secret magazine would enable us to become familiar. Any strict and business-like method of performing fraternity duties we might be inspired to imitate; we could adopt any regulations for chapter management which seemed suited to our own peculiar conditions. Bound together by a closer acquaintance, each chapter could profit by the experience and the advice of all the rest.

As an offset to the advantages to be gained, we must recognize the danger that the publication would not be kept thoroughly secret. Unless the copies were limited to a very small number, and exceedingly strict rules adopted for guarding them, there would be great risk of their falling into alien hands. This objection is undoubtedly one that should be carefully considered; for, useless and rather ridiculous as our secrecy may seem to the outer world, its strict preservation is certainly most essential to the spirit of the fraternity.

V. C. G., *Beta Epsilon.*

In answer to the question raised by Omega in the last issue we would say, that it seems to us that the pledged girl who has not kept in touch with the active chapter should not be initiated. If

when a girl becomes eligible or able, as the case
The Pledged Girl. may be, to be initiated, she is no longer considered desirable by the majority of the active chapter, to initiate her would be just neither to the girl nor the chapter. At the same time it would be unkind, after having once invited and pledged a girl, to refuse her full membership in the fraternity.

As a solution of these difficulties we would say never pledge any girl who has not immediate prospects of initiation. Eta's suggestion is of benefit here. By it, not only would the evils of rushing be lessened, but the difficulties concerning pledged members could be avoided. The opening of the spring term would, perhaps, be a better time for inviting new girls than May. They could then be initiated at once, and so be fairly started in fraternity life by the opening of their sophomore year. We feel that it would be a wise plan to admit no girl into the fraternity before the third term of her freshman year.

BETA GAMMA.

It has been urged that it would be of the utmost aid to the individual girl and of the most practical training to the chapter if special committees could be interested in different departments of literature and present frequent reports or reviews for discussion in the chapter meeting.

Why should we college girls who spend most of our time in class rooms and over our books drag them with
The Aim of Chapter Meeting. us into the chapter room? There is much to be gained outside of books. We want most of all to forget work and enjoy ourselves together as a chapter. Every one of our meetings should bind us closer together; it should be a means of broadening our sympathies and of making us feel more deeply what the fraternity truly means.

The only real work done should be for the chapter, and for the fraternity. We should know our constitution and standing

rules. We should know our fraternity's policies and much of fraternities in general. This is necessary to an intelligent foundation for fraternity life, and makes us realize more fully our obligations and responsibility as Kappas.

Let us keep the fraternity meeting as something we may look forward to for rest and enjoyment; where the only real work done will be for the chapter and fraternity. These hours will be more precious to look back upon than any we may spend in a literary society.

M. M., *Beta Eta*.

As the question of pledge day is being agitated, perhaps the experience of Xi will not come amiss.

We, like so many of our sister chapters, did not like the idea of being compelled to pledge a girl before we had time to be sure

she possessed the requisites of a true Kappa, lest

Xi's Experience.

she become a member of our rival. We had long talked of a contract, but nothing definite was

reached until in the spring, a committee of three from each fraternity was appointed to draw up an agreement. We pledged ourselves not to mention fraternity to non-fraternity students before the first Tuesday preceeding Thanksgiving. This, with a few minor articles was signed by all the members of both fraternities, and took effect at the opening of school in the fall.

School opened, but words fail to express the agony we endured in those seemingly never-ending six weeks. Rushing, which was bad enough before, was increased ten-fold. Misunderstandings as to the meaning of the articles in the contract arose on all sides. First one would be accused of faithlessness and then the other, until the whole affair was anything but dignified. Where complete harmony between the fraternities had existed, everything was discord.

Although Xi was very successful in her campaign that year, at the end of the six weeks she unanimously voted the experiment a failure. Perhaps, however, the failure would have been less complete had we had a joint session and discussed each article of the contract before we signed it. Then we should have secured a uniform idea of what we were to do and not to do.

XI.

Epsilon asks how far a girl's family should influence a chapter in considering her for membership. Here, as everywhere else, circumstances alter cases. If the chapter is located in a city and the parents of the members prominent socially, the chapter would not naturally be so influenced in favor of a girl whose family does not belong to their own set; but if, in spite of family, they feel really drawn toward a girl and her family is respectable, they should be sufficiently liberal minded to take her in. I mean briefly this, that if a girl, family and all, seems the kind of a girl who would help and be helped by Kappa she should be asked to join, otherwise not.

Perhaps the very opposite of this but a side of the question which is often more puzzling is how far a girl's family should influence us in her favor. Because a girl's family is good, and would be a source of strength to the chapter, or because other members are Kappas, should weigh no more than any other single consideration. We never take in a girl for the sole reason that she is a good student or a popular girl, and if we feel that the good she would do the fraternity in one line would be overbalanced by the harm in some other, or if we feel that instinctive dislike to her, we have no right to give our vote to her.

It is often hard to tell whether we would not gain more individual comfort by giving in and voting for a girl who has a sister or other relative in the active chapter, but if any girl feels that such a person would be really detrimental to the chapter she has no right to consider herself in voting for her, for chapter welfare should be considered before personal pleasure.

E. F. O., *Sigma*.

Chapter Letters.

ALPHA PROVINCE.

PHI—BOSTON UNIVERSITY.

Phi greets her sister chapters cordially and wishes to tell them all the news. First of all, we have a new initiate and a senior besides—Miss Julia Ordway. The initiation was held Friday afternoon, February 24, and the freshmen Kappas for the first time participated in the service. As soon after their own initiation as it was, they felt most keenly the vivid sentiments which were experienced at their début into Kappahood.

Our new initiates entertained the chapter delightfully at one of its recent meetings. They assumed full charge of the afternoon's program, which was a delicious treat. At the end of the afternoon the chapter room and its members were all left the happy possessors of souvenirs: the former's preëminently substantial; the latter's artistic.

The attendance at our alumnae "at homes" continues as good as ever. At every third meeting in the month, the familiar Kappa knock is repeatedly heard and the room assumes a more festive appearance at the arrival of the alumnae. A special program is arranged, usually reading or lectures by the professors. Our guests are always gracious, and the occasion is most enjoyable.

We must not forget to tell of the "Klatsch Collegium," which takes place March 3. This is a formal social event and is the grand affair of the social year. The Kappas have the sophomore table, presided over by Miss Elizabeth W. Hunter, 1901, and Mrs. Charlotte Barrel Ware as matron.

Phi, with a bright prospect for a happy year, wishes the most prosperous future for her sister Kappas.

BETA EPSILON—BARNARD COLLEGE.

Much to our disappointment Beta Epsilon has to send off the news-letter to the Editor just a few days before hearing the result of our invitations of membership to the freshmen.

This is the first year of the Pan-Hellenic compact for us, and to-day is "asking day". Naturally we are watching the experiment with much interest and a great deal of hidden excitement is going on within our hearts. Except in the final result, which of course, we do not know as yet, we feel that the experiment has been a successful one, for as the compact is of rather longer duration than is usual, we do not feel that we have made a blind choice of the girls who are to be our closest friends. We feel also that the college girls have maintained their dignity, for there has been none of that mad rush for freshmen which gives a pang of horror to the members of Beta Epsilon. Outwardly the Barnard girls have acted to-day as they have done on other days, with the exception, we must admit, of a slightly conscious look on the faces of those who have received our written invitation, as they pass us in the halls.

Though we cannot report the admission of any freshmen, another new member has been chosen by Beta Epsilon. Evelyn Osborne, 1900, was elected at our last meeting, and in a short time she will be initiated into Kappa Kappa Gamma.

To go back a little in the history of our doings since our last letter to our sister chapters. Last December when Jannetta Studdeford, '01, whose election was announced in the January KEY, was initiated, we attempted with much success, a new departure in the way of initiations. The initiation took place at eight o'clock p. m. at the home of one of the girls who lives not very far from the College buildings. After a delightful supper we all escorted our new member over to the Chapter-room, where a cheery open fire, and lots of other good cheer in the way of sweet cider and enough goodies of all sorts to satisfy the most ravenous bonbon fiend, awaited us. Here we drank to the health of our new member, to Beta Epsilon, and to all our sister chapters, and finally concluded with a toast to Olive Louise Morrison and Mr. Barnes, whose engagement she announced to us through one of the other girls. The girls then repaired to the rooms which they had taken for the night, in the dormitories, but alas! not to sleep, for it was far into the morning before the groups which had collected in the various rooms, dispersed and went to their own rooms to dream of goats and sweet cider. The next morning when we filed down to breakfast, we were greeted

by a college much astonished at seeing Jannetta Studdeford a wearer of the key.

Our next event in the line of gayety was the play which we gave to the college just after the Christmas vacation. This was pronounced a great success by all who were present, made the more so perhaps, by the addition of a beautiful new curtain in the Theatre, the gift of Ninety-nine to the college. The guests amused themselves by admiring it while waiting for the appearance of the actors.

We regret to say that we have lost three of our members during this first term. Two of them, Agnes Leaycraft and Cerise Carmen, have been obliged to leave college on account of ill health. We hope, however, to have them with us next year. Olive Louise Morrison also left us to travel through the south and west before her marriage.

BETA BETA—ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY.

Beta Beta wishes to extend her greeting and best wishes for '99, to all the chapters of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

The fall term at St. Lawrence is just ended and the members of Beta Beta again breathe freely after the anxious week of final examinations.

During the past months we have been very quiet, but working steadily. At initiation season we had our usual success, getting six of the brightest and best from the entering class: Chloe E. Stearns, Winthrop, N. Y.; Lena Olga Idler, Ogdensburg, N. Y.; Eva Grant, Hirmon, N. Y.; Minnie Rowland Root, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Eleanore Courtney Mulry, Jersey City, N. J.; Mabel C. Fields, Canton, N. Y.

The initiation banquet was one of the most enjoyable which we have ever had. The alumnae were present in full attendance and each had a word of good cheer for the girls. The toasts were all good, particularly the impromptu ones by each of the initiates who were in costume.

In January we had the pleasure of a visit from Alice Mason, one of the Brownings, who added to our Christmas box by a generous gift.

During the past week Beta Beta entertained the alumnae in the chapter room and the pleasure of the occasion was greatly

enhanced by the presence of Mrs. Emily Eaton Hepburn, of New York City.

St. Lawrence feels justly proud of the honor conferred upon it by the granting of a charter of Phi Beta Kappa. The University has also lately been the recipient of a large gift for the extension of the Classical Library.

PSI—CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

Greeting to all the sisters to whom Psi has once more to "speak her little piece."

Soon after our return to college in January the chapter gave its annual dance, highly enjoyable to us and we hope to our guests as well.

With the beginning of February came the gaities of Junior Week, after which we were plunged into those deep abysses of remorse where everything is of a dark blue tint. Here we wandered gloomily about for a fortnight boring our way contritely through piles of neglected work, stumbling over the stony hearts of our professors, until we finally regained the beaten path, when we began to feel again that we need no longer echo the sentiments of Mr. Mantilini, but that there were occasional gleams of sunshine on the road to knowledge. In looking back I recognize many of these sunshiny spots as chapter meetings where, after business cares were disposed of, we spent our time in gay carousing. Far be it from me to disclose the awful nature of these revels. If any sister is curious let her come and witness them herself. She will be joyously welcomed and well feasted.

The spring examinations are rapidly approaching, but they find us happy in the knowledge of labor well performed. Perhaps in our next letter we may tell of twenty-one 100 per cents which may redeem us in the eyes of any of our sisters who look upon us as frivolous.

BETA TAU—SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

Since Beta Tau's last letter she has experienced the pleasures of a Christmas vacation and the difficulties of the ensuing semester examinations,—on the principle of the sweet-bitter mixture. Counting among the Christmas festivities was the rather late

visit that Santa Claus paid to our house. It was after we returned from vacation and he brought us a sofa, a chair, some dishes, vases and many other nice things for the house.

We have entertained the faculties of three of the colleges. This was quite a large reception as the faculties number considerably over a hundred. Several classes have entertained. Among them the juniors, who gave an "at home" to the juniors from the other women's fraternities. Plans were formed at this for a junior women's club that they hope to have succeeding juniors perpetuate.

We have initiated a new sister, Florence Terry, of Lockport. It seemed a good omen to begin the new year with such a fine addition to the chapter and so January sixth she linked her life with ours. We take much pride in introducing her to you.

Dr. Commons, one of our ablest professors, is to leave the University in May to pursue original sociological investigations in Washington. His loss will be felt by all, but it affects us especially as Mrs. Commons is a Kappa.

The Onondagan, our junior annual, will soon be ready for distribution and we would like to exchange annuals with chapters who care to do so.

It seems a feasible way of interesting ourselves in other chapters and would probably be instructive too.

BETA ALPHA—UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To our Kappa sisters, once more a greeting.

Since our last letter Beta Alpha has initiated two new members, Adeline H. Jacobs and Mary R. Scattergood.

Our college is now awaiting a great issue. Is Pennsylvania to be opened throughout to women as to men or will she have an annex? Colonel Bennett, an old friend and benefactor, left by his will a sum of money to be used by the University for the advancement of higher education of women. The will has been contested for some time but now we learn that it is to remain unaltered and we are again wondering what will be the outcome.

On February fourteenth Beta Alpha gave her annual reception to the faculty and her friends. The reception was held in Bennett Hall, the women's residence, and in spite of the

dreadful weather which wrapped Philadelphia in a thick, winding sheet of snow and suspended activities in general we felt that the reception was far from a failure. Our alumnae who are always very willing to help and show an interest in the enterprises of the active chapter received with us.

Pennsylvania observes Washington's Birthday as University Day. The students gather, with the faculty at the Academy of Music in the morning and are addressed by some prominent man. This year Hon. Seth Low of Columbia University will make the address. There is always a great deal of class and college spirit shown on this occasion, when the student body looses its tongues in class yells and college songs.

The new Archeological Museum is about completed and the collection now in the library building will be placed in it before the winter is over. Pennsylvania expects to have a large new Law building by the session of 1899-1900 and work has already begun on it.

Every year Pennsylvania and Cornell have an intercollegiate debate. This year it is to be held at Philadelphia in the Academy of Music. It is always an occasion of considerable excitement among the students. The subject for debate is, *Resolved*, That the interests of the United States are opposed to the permanent control of any portion of the Eastern Hemisphere except so much as might be needed for naval stations. Pennsylvania has the affirmative side.

BETA IOTA—SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

Work seems to have been Beta Iota's watchword since December and back in the dim past—"befo de blizzard"—I seem to see groups of individuals bent low over those formidable books which cause so much anxiety. But our little company of nine sailed through the semi-annuals and began the second semester with a new vim. In the meantime came two receptions 1900 to 1902 and 1899 to 1901. This varied the monotony greatly.

But Kappa's gaiety and happiness culminated in the fifth annual banquet and reunion held at the Hotel Lafayette in Philadelphia, February 25. The active chapter rejoiced that afternoon in the company of twenty alumnae. Every Kappa knows

what an event of this kind means in the way of real joy and every Kappa would have thrilled could she have heard the loyal responses to the toasts proposed by our symposiarch, Aida Evans. As though that afternoon's festivities were not enough, in the evening Beta Iota, active and alumnae, adjourned to the Belfield Club House in Germantown, where thanks to Edith Kenderdine and her brother, we danced until Sunday morning was announced. The dance was all the more enjoyable because the company was largely composed of Swarthmore students and ex-students.

On the twenty-third a few of us attended a delightful reception given by Aida Evans at Malvern, Pa. March fourth promises the attraction of a college reception where we shall have the pleasure of seeing many alumnae.

So these two months roll rapidly by—all too rapidly, for we realize that it means the approach of June and the loss of our two dear seniors.

Till then, goodbye, and may all Kappas be as happy as Beta Iota.

GAMMA RHO—ALLEGHENY COLLEGE.

Gamma Rho sends greetings to the sister chapters of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

During the holidays one of our most enthusiastic town girls, a graduate of '97, was married, and the last meeting of the fall term was given up to a spread in her honor. Some very appropriate toasts were given and every girl had, as a souvenir of the occasion, a red heart-shaped card with subjects of toasts written on it, tied to a fleur-de-lis card with light and dark blue ribbons. After the spread we initiated Rebecca Frey, a sister of one of our alumnae girls. This year we celebrated our birthday by giving a large reception at the home of Frances Colter. Although the weather was unfortunately very cold that night, it did not interfere with our pleasure or that of our friends, when once there for the beautiful flowers and music made us quite forget the inclemency of the weather. The dining-room was decorated with our fraternity colors and flowers and as the guests were served, favors of light and dark blue were given them. Helen Russell, one of our girls who could not come back to college this year on account of ill health, gave us a very pleasant surprise by

coming to the reception when only one of the girls expected her. In our rejoicing, however, we could not help thinking of one of our girls, Della Greenland, who is not with us this term and who has been sick ever since her return home Christmas. Knowing how thoroughly, she takes all our interests to heart, we knew how great her disappointment would be in not being with us.

In closing, Gamma Rho sends best wishes to all chapters.

BETA PROVINCE.

LAMBDA—BUCHTEL COLLEGE.

We have begun a new term and a new year since our last letter, and our number is slightly decreased; Rhea Hugill having left us to attend college at Oberlin and Bess Fisher is no longer active, leaving only eleven active members now.

The social part of our college life has been as gay as usual. There have been two dances given by the students this term and a Founder's day celebration. We are now preparing for a very interesting entertainment to celebrate Washington's birthday. The program will consist of a play and tableaux representing historical events.

We have been trying to furnish our hall this year, but found it rather slow work until the idea originated in the ingenious minds of some of our girls of giving a donation party. Invitations were sent to all our old girls as follows:

The Kappas young and Kappas old
 Held in the greatest adoration,
 Do from the present chapter
 Receive this invitation,
 To come with any kind of gift
 To the K. K. Γ. donation,
 Which is by Lambda girls
 An original creation.
 Pray do not say in anger—
 "Donation! Botheration!"
 But just at half-past four
 May it be your recreation
 On February seventeenth
 To attend this celebration.

We served tea, cake and salted nuts to our guests and enter-

tained them with a little farce given by five of the girls. We received many beautiful gifts to adorn our hall and enjoyed a very pleasant reunion.

Lambda sends best wishes and greetings to her sister chapters.

BETA GAMMA—WOOSTER UNIVERSITY.

This term has been a very prosperous and happy one for Beta Gamma, and we trust it has been as successful for all our dear sisters of whom we think so often. 'Tis true our ranks have been somewhat broken by sickness. After a long siege of typhoid fever, Gertrude Morrison left school for the remainder of the year, but will return to us next September. Effie Pomeroy, Ada and Bess Dalzell have also been ill, but have now returned to our circle.

On the evening of February 3, we had a most delightful initiation at the home of Edith Johnson. The initiates were Bess Johnson, Ada and Bess Dalzell, Jane Glenn, Clementine Axtell and Edith Maxwell.

Several of the alumnae members were present to help us welcome the new girls. A few nights after this we pledged Gertrude Hatfield, who is to be initiated next week.

On St. Valentine's eve we gave a party at the home of Agatha Hard. Our friends all pronounced it a decided success and we felt well repaid for our efforts.

Beta Gamma sends greetings to all.

BETA NU—OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

With the opening of the new year two charming girls, Caroline Hardy and Helen Jones, linked their hearts to Kappahood. We are more than proud to introduce them to our Kappa sisters and only wish that you might know and love them also.

Phi Kappa Psi delightfully entertained our chapter with an informal evening at their new chapter rooms in the Great Southern Hotel.

On January 14th we were the guests of President Canfield at an exciting basket ball game between O. S. U. and Kenyon. This was followed by chafing-dish refreshments in Mrs. Canfield's artistic studio on the University Campus.

Miss Morrison of Psi chapter visited us in February. On the afternoon of the third a Kappa reception was given at Miss Corner's home, so that we might become better acquainted with her as she is soon to be a resident of Columbus.

Faith Welling's beautiful country home at Worthington, one of the Columbus suburbs, has been the scene of two pleasant Kappa evenings. The first an informal chafing-dish party of Kappas with their college guests; the second an informal sleighing party and oyster supper.

Among all our pleasures Beta Nu has suffered one great loss in Nelle Green who has gone back to her old home in Indianapolis, yet we earnestly hope that she is still with us in heart.

Beta Nu sends her best wishes to all her Kappa sisters.

BETA DELTA—UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

We are rejoiced at having finished our first semester's examinations and are now fairly launched on our second semester of work.

At the end of the semester, one of the most important social events of the college year took place, the Junior Hop. A large number of out of town girls were present, but the college girls were also well represented.

Since our last chapter letter, we have pledged two new girls, Winnie Broad, of Ishpeming and Jennie Logan, of Bay City, Michigan.

Our new patroness Mrs. Palmer, entertained us a few evenings ago in a delightful way. After a little music she gave us a short talk on her travels in Spain, which she illustrated with photographs of the Alhambra and of scenes of the famous old cities.

February twenty-second, we had a dinner in honor of our national hero. After dinner, appropriate toasts were given, Isabel Ballou, presiding as toast-mistress. In the evening some of our members with dramatic talent amused us with an impromptu play.

XI—ADRIAN COLLEGE.

Xi sends cordial greetings to her sisters in the midst of another term. Our social pleasures have been many in the past two months, mingled however, with much hard work and the time since our vacation has fled very rapidly for all of us.

Our new sisters are growing more loyal to Kappa every day and we feel very proud of them. Addie Chase represented the Star Literary Society as essayist in the anniversary held February 20. She had already gained for herself quite a reputation as a reader and did herself full justice on this occasion so that every Kappa's heart swelled with sisterly pride.

At the George Washington Banquet held in Metcalf Hall, Maude Conley, our recent pledgeling, sang in a way that instilled patriotism in all our hearts.

We are always pleased to have our old girls with us and so far this term we have been especially favored and have enjoyed visits from Blanche Wheeler, Sara Huntington and Mildred Moore. Our alumnae association in the city also makes it very pleasant for us.

KAPPA—HILLSDALE COLLEGE.

First of all we want to tell you of our new sister, Mary Ward. She is such a dear girl and we are sure she will make a true and loyal Kappa.

We held our initiation at the home of Zoe Smith. The girls had spent much time decorating the house with dark and light blue and it certainly made the service very impressive.

At the opening of the term we gave a Kappa spread at May Gurney's when we laid aside all formality and had a jolly good time.

The skating rink on the campus has been in good condition this year and we have spent many pleasant afternoons and evenings there.

Just at the close of last term the Alpha Tau Omegas entertained their friends. After an enjoyable time at their pleasant rooms they gave us a jolly sleighride around town.

How anxiously we await the coming of THE KEY that we may hear all about our Kappa sisters!

Best wishes to you all.

GAMMA PROVINCE.

DELTA—INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Since the last issue of *THE KEY*, Delta has been enjoying life in the best way. Eight weeks of the college term have gone and it seems we have only begun—this in itself shows that the time has been fully occupied.

We are proud to have affiliated with us Effie Blount of Mu. We have added one new girl to the sisterhood, Vesta Triplett. On the night of her initiation, we entertained some of our friends and had a delightful time.

Outside of the jolly spreads, the social events have been few.

We have begun a study of the constitution and hope to be well prepared for the examination in April. Our new girls are enthusiastic workers and take hold of the fraternity study in a way which surprises their older sisters.

Delta wishes the best of success for all her sister chapters.

IOTA—DE PAUW UNIVERSITY.

The year eighteen hundred ninety-nine has brought many pleasures as well as sorrows to Iota girls. Owing to the hard grind of the winter term, and the illness of many of the girls we have had little time to devote to social pleasures. One of our usual "At Homes" and a unique Valentine Party given by the Senior girls have brightened our otherwise gloomy term.

We have had the pleasure this term of initiating a long pledged girl, Mary E. Curtiss. Miss Curtiss was pledged several years ago in the preparatory school but left, before entering college on account of her health. We also have with us Mary L. Deputy, of Mu, who expects to graduate at De Pauw.

The death of the father of one of our girls, has cast a shadow over us which we find hard to dispel. But in her grief, we feel that the cords of Kappa love and sympathy, have been drawn tighter around each of our hearts.

The serious illness of Mabel Pavey which has taken her from us this term, is a source of much anxiety and grief to us; but we hope that she will be able to return next term.

We are looking forward with much pleasure to a visit from some of Mu's girls, who are coming down to attend the debate between the University of Indianapolis and De Pauw, held here March third. We also anticipate a visit from Elizabeth Mahan, '97, of DePauw, and Nell Brown, of Upsilon.

Iota sends best wishes to all whom Kappa bonds unite.

MU—BUTLER COLLEGE.

Not long ago Butler College was affiliated with the University of Chicago. By virtue of this affiliation, Butler students receive full credit at Chicago for all their work done at Butler, and on the completion of twelve weeks post-graduate work at the University, a bachelor's degree. We feel justly proud of our Alma Mater for winning such a guarantee of her high standard of scholarship.

We were very sorry this year to lose two of our most active members, Effie Blount and Mary Deputy, but are glad to think they went to colleges where they found a hearty welcome from other bands of Kappa sisters, at Bloomington and De Pauw. Our social times this term have all been of a very informal nature, a high tea on Friday, January the sixth at the home of Verna Richie, and a reception to the college women on Tuesday, February twenty-eighth with Anne Butler.

February brings round two days of great significance to Butler College, Founders' Day and Washington's Birthday. On the seventh there were special exercises in chapel in the morning and a play by the students in the afternoon. Each class had charge of one act and a rare opportunity was afforded of giving all the jokes on the faculty and students which have been accumulating for a year. Kappa was well represented, five of our chapter taking part. In the evening an address was given by President Harper of Chicago. Our next holiday, the twenty-second which commemorates the incorporation of the University of Indianapolis, was celebrated by a parade of the students, speeches and dancing at Tomlinson Hall in Indianapolis, and a theatre party in the evening.

ETA—UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

Since Eta last heard from her sisters the time has gone very swiftly. Mid-winter examinations with their attendant work and excitement are things of the past. We have lived quite comfortably through the cold, which inconvenienced so many people in all parts of the state, and are all very proud of Professor Wood, one of our faculty, who has so skillfully used electricity to thaw out the frozen pipes.

In the meanwhile our fraternity life has been but little interrupted. We have pledged one new girl, Carrie Holah, who is awaiting with our other pledgings, the now not very distant time, when they are to be admitted to a full share in the joys and responsibilities of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

The members of Eta enjoy their cosy chapter room immensely. After our holidays we had a Christmas tree; all our alumnæ were invited, and almost all accepted. Each one brought some contribution for the room, till it has become quite Kappa like, with light and dark blue and fleur-de-lis. We were troubled for a time by the sadly dilapidated condition of our owl—its eyes fell out on the slightest provocation, and even its head once in a while parted company with its body. Now, however, since we have been presented with a beautiful, new specimen, who solemnly gazes at our doings without losing the use of his organs of sight, we feel that there is almost nothing left to desire.

Every other Monday night we have a chafing-dish supper. I am sure you can appreciate the fun of concocting all sorts of dishes, and yet not feeling that upon them, and them alone does the meal entirely depend, for our alumnæ send all sorts of goodies to satisfy the appetites of their younger sisters.

So the time passes; soon it will be spring, when our circles will be broken up for a while—then will come the fall with its excitements and experiences,—but the good wishes Eta extends to her sister chapters will ever remain unchanged.

UPSILON—NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

Upsilon, just entering upon the second semester of college work, with the renewed determination to uphold the standard of our sisterhood, sends hearty greetings to all in the bonds of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

At last the new Academy building is completed and the six hundred students who have been crowded in the old "Prep" are now enjoying the freedom of the great halls and comfortable recitation rooms.

The building, which is named Fisk Hall, as a tribute to the untiring energy of Dr. Herbert F. Fisk, the principal, is a large structure of red brick, overlooking Lake Michigan and has a chapel capable of accomodating eight hundred students.

With this building and the prospect of a new gymnasium in the very near future, we feel that some of our architectural hopes are being realized.

Last Friday evening there was in Fisk Hall the largest and most successful student meeting ever held at Northwestern.

As the object of the meeting was to raise money for athletics we were doubly favored in hearing Prof. R. L. Cumnock, of the Cumnock School of Oratory, read and Prof. Carleton Hackett, of the School of Music, sing.

Besides occasional spreads we were entertained delightfully by Helen Bliss one evening in February.

We have also resumed our custom of having supper in the fraternity hall once a month and can assure you that these hours when together, as one family, are the most pleasant of our fraternity life. Upsilon looks forward with pleasure to the coming months and sends best wishes to her sister chapters.

EPSILON—ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

To our Kappa sisters from east to west, greeting.

Epsilon has been very busy and happy the past three months, and feels that the year of 1899 is to be an unusually prosperous one in Kappadom.

We have done no entertaining on a large scale, but are encouraging frequent gatherings among ourselves, as they are so delightful and helpful. December 17, at the home of Flora Jones, we gave our usual spread for our "babies." We succeeded in showing them some hitherto unknown joys of Kappahood, although the process was a severe one for them.

After the Christmas festivities were over, our interest was centered in a very important affair. One of our active girls had

been induced to enter the bonds of another, well—fraternity. But as the change would not sever her connection with us, we gave our approval.

How delightful were the "showers" and luncheons given in her honor, but above all was the ceremony itself. On January 24, at the home of the bride's mother, Frank T. Parritt and Clara Burke were married. The wedding was very beautiful, and there never was a lovelier bride. We are ever so proud of the new recruit to the ranks of our brothers-in-law, and unmistakable signs show us that we are to have some more in the very near future.

We entrusted our lives recently to the hands of some of our chafing-dish cooks, at the home of Bessye Welty. Strange to say we all recovered, after a time. What joy a chafing-dish is! The very presence of one betokens fun.

Just now we are looking forward to the annual debate between the Iowa Wesleyan and our University. It is to occur March 10, and is made one of the big events of the school year. The fraternities always take possession of the boxes in the Opera House, and the friendly rivalry is delightful.

DELTA PROVINCE.

CHI—UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

Chi is at present busy with the spring term's work but wants to send a hearty greeting to her sister chapters.

The chapter has been somewhat broken up over the departure of two of its members, Alice Warner and Helen Mills, who have been spending the winter in California. We hope that they will bring us back accounts of personal experiences with some of our western sisters, whom we are always glad to hear about.

Many small gatherings have been enjoyed this year. One evening during Christmas week the chapter rooms were bright with candles and filled with merry girls all glad to be free from studies and happy to be together around the tree which had gifts for all, hung among its branches. How the walls resounded with the peals of laughter when some well known joke was emphasized by an appropriate gift.

Our Valentine party was one of the pleasantest occasions during last term. We met one evening at Marjory Higbee's where we went prepared for our usual good time there. The valentines were original and collected in a huge basket. Later they were distributed and were read by the person receiving them before they were passed to the owners.

It is an occasional evening of this kind that makes us feel the strong friendship which exists and is so much appreciated by us all.

We are anxiously waiting for the spring which we have not yet seen. It will be so welcome in cold Minnesota.

BETA ZETA—IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

To all the chapters Iowa sends greeting!

On Friday, March 3, we opened our chapter house informally with an "At Home" to the Kappa mothers and a few friends. We do not own a house of our own, but rent the upstairs and have our fraternity room downstairs.

Social life, subdued early in the fall term by President Schaeffer's sudden death has revived during the new year. Perhaps the most important event in the Greek world has been the formal opening of the chapter house of Beta Theta Pi. This is the first of its kind in Iowa City, and the Betas were very fortunate in securing a large residence so well suited to their needs.

Delta Gamma entertained the members of all the fraternities with an informal dancing party at the Armory, and Pi Beta Phi gave a luncheon at the Kirkwood to Delta Gamma and Kappa Kappa Gamma. Both were very enjoyable.

We would like to announce that we are really studying for examinations. Our chapter seems to be rather backward in this respect, as we do not make study a part of our usual fraternity meetings. We think we have a real desire to learn, but are always slow to begin, and think it rather extraordinary to be studying by the last of February.

The Junior Annual has lately been issued by the class of 1900. It is a memorial to Dr. Chas. A. Schaeffer, late President of the University.

THETA—MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY.

The time has at last rolled round when the new corresponding secretary sends forth with the fond pride and trembling hope of the young author her maiden effort. Never again will the coming of *THE KEY* be fraught with quite the same interest to her. Never again will she turn with such eager fingers the uncut pages of that magazine seeking to discover how her production "looks in print."

Examinations are now things of the past. No longer do we see our fellow students marching through the silent corridors with slow step and intense interest conjugating the verb "to flunk." To them the inflection of this weak English verb is a harder task, calling forth more tears and sighs than any German verb could ever do. Of course no Kappa swells the ranks of this august body.

Since the last publication of *THE KEY* several changes have been made in Theta's roll. Two new members have been initiated into the mysteries of Kappahood, Vassie Ballard and Edith May Vaughn, and two of our old enthusiastic girls have deserted their adopted home. Mary Bassett Potter completing her course in January and Ida Dobyns going to Chicago to study kindergarten work. Sadly shall we miss them, but their departure by rendering our circle smaller, must only serve to draw us closer together, making each feel that her responsibility is now increased.

How true it is that it never rains but it pours! Not only have these two vacancies been made in our devoted band but one of our last year girls that we hoped might be able to return this semester, has completely changed her mind and—married instead. A few weeks ago the announcement reached us. Married—Miss Fern F. Simms to Mr. Rolla R. Rothwell, Moberly, Mo., February ninth.

Rumors concerning the establishment of a rival fraternity here are current, but for some unknown reason the young ladies have not yet announced themselves. Anxiously are we awaiting the denouement and a right royal welcome shall be given them for we appreciate the influence of competition in fraternity life as well as in political economy.

SIGMA—NEBRASKA STATE UNIVERSITY.

In the mid-winter quietness since our last letter, there have been many happy days for Sigma. The chapter has been deeply touched, however, by the terrible sorrow that has come to the Grand Registrar and has been made to feel the limitations of even Kappa love. Words are so inadequate and all help so vain when such bereavement comes!

These have been busy months. Books and school duties claim first consideration as the first semester closes and the second one begins, but there have been many times when the various fraternities have opened their houses and halls to their friends and interfraternity relations have been most pleasant and helpful. But best of all there has been the chapter life, and these months have brought the girls close together. Each new girl has seemed to step into a place that had been waiting for her, and new strength has been added to the chapter, strength upon which we are already coming to depend. As the new semester has opened and commencement seems not far away, there is a general feeling that new responsibilities must be assumed by each. Worthiness for Kappahood is nowhere more truly tested than by the way in which these responsibilities are met.

Among the new students who entered the University after the Thanksgiving recess was Nellie Vaill LaSelle of Beatrice, and before the holidays she was wearing our pledge pin. To have a pledgling is so rare a privilege for Sigma that the initiation was delayed until the eleventh of February. The ceremony took place at the home of Emma Outcalt and was followed by a dinner at The Lincoln. How thoroughly Kappa the table was! The possibilities of our colors grow upon us more and more, as we find them in Delft china and embroidery, as search reveals candles in the blues, and photography reveals blue prints for dinner cards. Surely no colors can equal the double blues!

The thirteenth anniversary of the granting of the charter to the University of Nebraska was celebrated on February 15. It was a time of great rejoicing since on that day the Governor signed a bill which is believed to insure the future of the University so far as finance is concerned.

We have a formidable rival this year for the old girls meet as

regularly as the active chapter. Rumors come of such Kappa times as we have never known, such as we never can know until we are fairly out of college and can be admitted to second Kappahood. It is a source of strength to the active chapter to know that Kappa bonds hold when school days are over and that fraternity friendships are life friendships.

OMEGA—KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY.

Omega sends greetings to her sister chapters.

Since our last letter Omega has lost one of her number, Edyth Parker, who was unable to return to college.

We are glad to introduce to you our initiates: Bertha Miller, Elizabeth Hudson, Jane Harrison and Lulu Cross and another pledgling, Mabel Bailey, of Chanute, Kansas, all of whom we are sure will make loyal Kappas.

The Kappas entertained informally at the home of Jane Harmond on January 30.

The resident alumnae of Kappa Kappa Gamma entertained the active chapter very pleasantly February 25, at the home of Gertrude Spalding.

PI—UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Our University opened on January the sixteenth, and though we had seen each other often during vacation, we all welcomed the chance of closer unity and intercourse which college work alone gives.

Five of our girls were graduated at Christmas time—with one exception the last of our charter members—making us younger girls feel that now upon us depends the success of Pi in the future. Two of the graduates, Grace Dibble and Cornelia McKinne, have positions as High School teachers in Centerville and San Rafael.

During vacation we had several delightful luncheons and teas at the homes of our girls and also two genuine Kappa gatherings at the fraternity house, "all among ourselves." To one of these, given just after Christmas, we all came in fancy costumes and reveled in the merriest "high jinks." On that night we each made our Christmas offering to the fraternity house, and as one of the older girls unwrapped the mysterious packages dis-

closing chairs and dishes, books, ornaments and even some very practical substantials, we all applauded and voted thanks and behaved in a delightfully unconventional fashion.

Since college work has begun, we have had several more formal affairs at the fraternity house. The third Thursday of each month is our day to be at home when we entertained all our friends with an informal afternoon tea and in the evening a number of college men visit the house.

Besides our fraternity festivities we have this month enjoyed a card party and a tea at the homes of two of our girls.

One honor won by our University must be noted—Berkeley came off victorious in the Carnot debate with Stanford.

BETA ETA—LELAND STANFORD JR. UNIVERSITY.

Last semester we introduced to you our six freshmen and our one post graduate. This semester we are glad to tell you that we are all together in our chapter house, thirteen of us! We had a merry time distributing the various rooms but the house proved extremely elastic.

In January we had the fraternity Christmas tree and it was a very successful plan because we received some beautiful things for our home. While the house received the pretty things, we consoled ourselves by presenting each other with gifts which seemed particularly appropriate. Since then our time has been taken up with work and the various little festivities which make work so much lighter.

The outer Quadrangle is commenced—the two new buildings being the library and assembly hall,—and the chapel is shortly to be built.

Carrie Dilatush from Eta, who was with us last semester, has returned to Vassar where she graduates in June and Ida Wehner, our last '98 Kappa, graduated at Christmas.

Beta Eta's best wishes to all chapters for a successful year.

In Memoriam.

MRS. JOHN C. NICHOLSON.

Mrs. John C. Nicholson, (Carrie Carpenter Morse) of Omega Chapter died at her home in Newton, Kansas, March 23, 1899. She was a student at Kansas State University in 1885 and 1886.

College and Fraternity Notes.

The fifty-first annual convention of Theta Delta Chi met at Young's Hotel, Boston, Mass., January 12. Mr. Carl Harstrom was elected president of the fraternity for the fifth time.

The charter of Theta at Kenyon College was revoked in October, 1898, but every other of the 21 charges received an official visit from the president or his deputies in the five weeks preceding convention. The *Shield* report showed a loss of \$1500 in the last ten years. In one year, only, 1894, did its receipts equal or exceed its expenses.

The fraternity has under consideration a plan for a reserve fund. This fund is to consist of a fixed percentage of all initiation fees and dues with annual contributions from graduates, the money to be in charge of trustees for investment. It may be used for loans, secured by a first mortgage on chapter property and its interest earnings may be devoted to a quinquennial catalogue or *Shield* expenses if so directed by convention.

A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon has issued a colored lithograph of the fraternity coat of arms, made by the Forbes Lithograph Co., of Boston. It is in three colors, is suitable for framing and sells for \$1 a copy. Phi Kappa Psi, on the other hand, is agitating an engraved certificate of membership for each initiate who is willing to pay for it.

The election of Hon. Albert J. Beveridge, Psi Phi, '85, to the United States Senate from Indiana, is particularly gratifying to all Δ. K. E's. Brother Beveridge was the orator of the Fifty-first Annual Convention held at Chicago in November, 1897, and has always been an enthusiastic and active member of the Fraternity, and deeply interested in all fraternity matters.

Although he will be one of the youngest members ever sent to the United States Senate, his great reputation as an orator and public speaker will certainly give him great prominence on the Senate floor.

His speech which has attracted the greatest attention since his election was his address delivered on February 13th, at the Lincoln Day celebration of the Union League Club at Philadelphia, where he responded to a toast on the subject of Imperialism, which has been published broadcast throughout the press of the United States.—*Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly.*

In 1887, Mr. Beveridge married Kate Langsdale, a member of Iota Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Phi Gamma Delta has issued a new catalogue, a book of 1500 pages with 800 illustrations.

Delta Kappa Epsilon has granted charters to Tulane in New Orleans and Toronto in Canada. These are the first charters granted since 1893. The fraternity is reported to be advocating extension among the southern colleges.

Delta Upsilon installed a new chapter at the University of Nebraska, December 9.

Kappa Sigma held its Thirteenth Biennial Conclave at Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 28, 29 and 30. Alpha Tau Omega convened at New Orleans, La., Dec. 28, 29 and 30 and Sigma Alpha Epsilon met at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 27, 28, and 29 when a charter was granted at the University of Illinois.

Delta Gamma installed its Theta Chapter at the University of Indiana in November. The chapter started with ten active members and two pledged honorary members. The fraternity holds its next convention with the Albion Chapter, May 9, 10 and 11.

It is generally understood among the officers and students of Columbia that President Seth Low will accept President McKinley's appointment as one of America's representatives at the Czar's Peace Conference. This will necessitate his leaving the university within a short time, and the absorbing question is as to who will be selected by the trustees at their meeting in May to act as temporary president. If the precedents of 1867 and 1889 are followed, John Howard Van Amringe, the dean of the School of Arts, will be the choice.—*New York Tribune*.

Editorial.

The spring term is probably the happiest time in the fraternity year. The anxiety of rushing and the excitement of initiations are over and the chapter's members can now pay their bills and settle down serenely to the enjoyment of their work and of each other. The chapter's policy for the year has been determined and the only question now left to vex the soul of the conscientious worker is that of pledge day.

In most colleges it is the custom for the "Pan-Hellenic" contract to be drawn up and decided upon in the spring and held up and acted upon in the autumn. What Kappa Kappa Gamma's attitude shall be toward these contracts seems to be the burning question which is agitating the chapters affected by them.

The only platform which has ever been attempted by the fraternity was drawn up by Chi for the Grand Council Session at Minneapolis in 1895. It contained this plank:—"Wherever possible, to enter with other women's fraternities of the college, into compacts regarding rushing and pledging." This is the nearest a tentative expression of the feeling of the whole fraternity to which we have ever come. It was referred to the Session committee but after much discussion it was finally decided that the platform idea be abandoned, so that its provisions were never adopted by the fraternity. Yet a survey of past numbers of the magazine shows that until the past year the policy of the various chapters has uniformly been to enter into contracts wherever they existed. This year much discussion has arisen on the subject.

An editorial in the January number sets forth at some length the disadvantages of the ordinary contract but the arrangement, suggested by Eta in the Parthenon of this number, for making the fraternities "sophomore fraternities" is quite another thing. It suggests some questions which demand careful consideration. Would it be possible for all the women's fraternities to do this and would they care to do so? Thus far, one of the national fraternities has shown itself decidedly averse to contracts. Would any one fraternity be able to adopt this plan and carry it out alone with success and would it be wise for us to make such an attempt? If this method were decided upon by a general vote of the fraternity, would our chapters be strong enough to stand out alone and would the freedom from rushing thus acquired atone to the chapter for the loss of the first year's training, which does so much for its freshmen?

Where the field is practically their own, as is the case with about one-third of the chapters, the results would doubtless be much the same as at present but in the universities, where competition for desirable members is very close, would the result justify the disadvantages?

It would be an interesting experiment but is it not one of those

which it is more satisfying to see tried by some one else? Is there not too much at stake?

If any chapters really believe that it is a wise policy for Kappa Kappa Gamma to become a "sophomore fraternity" *THE KEY* is happy to open its pages to their arguments. Such a point at issue would add much interest to the next Convention.

THE KEY is again impelled to call the attention of its readers to the work of the College Settlement Association and to urge them to become members. It is one of the few movements which has been entirely planned and carried out by college women and it ought particularly to appeal to fraternity women as it carries into active life the spirit which the fraternities aim to foster in their members. Where individual subscription may be too much burden, there seems no reason why each chapter could not support a membership.

At the request of Pi and Beta Eta, an official jeweler was appointed at San Francisco. If other chapters desire to send so far for their pins they should address Shreve and Co., Market and Post Sts.

The new catalogues are in the hands of the chapters and those who have examined them will find that some changes are already necessary. The making and printing of such a volume is so long an operation that by the time of its completion some of the original returns sent in by the members are already subject to correction. This is particularly true of the women's fraternities where marriage is apt to work havoc with names and addresses which were apparently stable.

An outline of the method by which the catalogue was prepared and the pains which were taken to avoid error is given in the introduction to the book, so that it is unnecessary to repeat it here. But in spite of all efforts some of the missing members were not found in time to be properly registered in the volume. What now concerns the fraternity is the publishing of the additional information which has come to light, the correction of errors which may be found, the addition of the names of those initiated since the catalogue was published and the record of marriages which

have occurred since that time. THE KEY will publish with the July number a leaflet the size of the catalogue, hoping to embody in it *all* corrections and additions thus bringing the record up to the present time. This will be sent to all owners of catalogues and is to be slipped in the back of the volume.

If all catalogue owners will from time to time send to the Editor any information or corrections which they may possess, the issue of an annual leaflet will allow this volume to fulfill its office for some years to come and not outgrow its usefulness as the former catalogue unfortunately did. Will each corresponding secretary go over her chapter lists carefully and send in any information she has with the chapter letter and public annual reports which are due for the next issue of the magazine?

The pin which was offered as a prize for the best article written during the year has been awarded to Marion Twiss of Beta Nu Chapter for the article entitled B. K. Ph. in the magazine for January 1898. The chapter head has been given to Beta Eta for the chapter letter in the October KEY, the most satisfactory of the year.

Exchanges.

"O Youth, Yonth, Youth! Forgive me, you're so young."

In the September number of the *Kappa Alpha Journal* the editor, with all the dignity of a newly-elected official, announced his intention of subordinating the Greek press and exchange departments, and devoting the extra space thus gained to original matter relating more directly to Kappa Alpha. This was a change of some importance, and the editors of the other fraternity magazines naturally commented upon the new policy. Some of them went so far as to question the wisdom of disregarding the existence of everything except one's own little circle. Still, wise or unwise, the editor of the *Kappa Alpha Journal* undoubtedly was the best judge of what kind of a magazine he wished to publish. A later issue shows that his plan was not so narrow as his rivals supposed. He did not intend to ignore the other

magazines, but, instead of reviewing their contents in general, to confine himself to their comments upon the *Journal*. That he did not enjoy criticism is natural; one must remember that this is his first year of editorial work. His manner of expressing himself is not what the standard of the *Journal* would lead one to expect; in fact, there is none of the magazines where a mode of criticism so different from that usually employed by a gentleman, seems more out of place; but here again the editor is best judge of what he wishes to make of his magazine. No one else has any right to object, if he enjoys it himself and the members of his fraternity will tolerate such a procedure. But what does awaken one's wrath—and a glance at the current numbers of the other exchanges will show that *THE KEY* is not alone in this opinion—is that this ubiquitous editor chose Mr. Holmes for his victim. Every one knows what Mr. Holmes has done for his magazine, and the fairness with which he has treated those of the other fraternities. That after ten years of service he should be insulted by an editor of less than a year's standing is worse than in bad taste; it is absurd.

The current number of the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, after giving an account of the history of Theta Delta Chi, which Mr. Holmes has just prepared, adds the following:

Mr. Holmes is a living example of the successful man, who, in the midst of the pressing duties and demands of the world, has always found time to devote a great part of his energy to the building up and support of his fraternity. We know of no other man who has been more conspicuous than Mr. Holmes in this particular. His purse, his pen and himself have always been devoted to Theta Delta Chi. His example is not only a benefit, but an inspiration to not only his own fraternity, but to us all.

The Sigma Chi Quarterly has announced a series of articles upon different varieties of university life, and the last number contains a description of the German universities. Such a series is of interest to nearly all college students.

To return to this country, *The Arrow* has an excellent statement of the necessity for the secret ballot, and of the strange aspects which this long suffering institution may be made to assume. A portion is quoted:

Every chapter, and it may perhaps be said, every individual in our fraternity has her own idea of the most important principle of our organization, excluding of course our fraternity ideals

which we all concede is the very foundation of our being. Apart from this, however, and alluding only to the mechanism, so to speak, of the organization, many of us will agree that on the strict conscientious observance of our constitutional provision for balloting rests our hope of happiness.

It is unfortunate that in many cases the voting on a name instead of being done secretly degenerates into an open canvass. No girl has any right to question another girl in the chapter as to the way she means to vote;—it is the indisputable right of every member to cast her vote as her own opinion dictates. There are chapters whose pride it is to say that they have never had a name blackballed,—but what is the method that prevails in these chapters. The girl's name is proposed and an excited discussion takes place in which every girl announces her determination to vote favorably. Then they all solemnly write their little votes and all the mummery of a secret (?) ballot is gone through with. But suppose some conservative minded member does not join in this discussion,—she is fairly assaulted with questions as to how she means to vote on the proposed name till in desperation she says, "Really, girls, I'm not at all favorably impressed with her." Thereupon the whole chapter assumes an injured air toward the rebellious one, and some one resignedly remarks, "Of course we don't want her blackballed, and if you're going to do that we had better drop her name for the present, for it won't do any good to vote." In such a chapter, if any member should assert her individuality by casting a negative vote without previous announcement of her intention, every other member would take it as a personal affront.

I venture the assertion that in not less than one-half of our chapters is the balloting more than a mere farcial form, utterly opposed to the manifest intent of the constitution.

The February number of the *Trident* contains a discussion of what characteristics are necessary for the ideal fraternity girl. A brief extract from one of these opinions is given below:

When we speak of the ideal fraternity girl, we are apt to think of her as being possessed of certain distinctive qualities which do not belong to those outside the Greek world. We forget that the ideal fraternity girl is simply the ideal woman, and that fraternity life is a training school in which special attention is paid to the cultivation of those qualities that go to make up the perfect woman.

The following is quoted from the *Kappa Alpha Theta*:

When reading the report from the Convention of Beta District, we were particularly interested in the statement that "The desirability of inter-fraternity societies was almost unanimously de-

nied." We wondered why they were deemed not desirable and wish some one would give us the arguments against them.

Perhaps fraternity spirit runs higher here than in most colleges, but it has seemed to Chi for some time that organizations which would bring the girls of different fraternities into closer sympathy would benefit not only the girls themselves by broadening their interests, but also the university by creating more of a college spirit. The rivalry between fraternities is so great here and the tendency to mingle only with our own girls so strong that a need has been felt for some organization of the kind.

Nearly two years ago a society called Eta Pi Upsilon was formed by a few seniors from each girls' fraternity and from the independents, which has helped to some degree in breaking down this exclusiveness. Now the juniors are making plans for an organization to include all the fraternity girls in the class, and perhaps the independents. The first meeting to talk it over was held in the shape of a thimble party at the Kappa Kappa Gamma house about a week ago. All there had a most enjoyable time and came away with a desire to know all her classmates better and to do more for the university, if possible. The objects and purposes of this organization are to help the girls to become better acquainted and thus broaden them and build up college spirit.

The *Shield of Phi Kappa Psi* is an optimist even on the subject of chapter letters, and an editor will dispute that that is the final test.

"Who said that Chapter letters are mostly rot? That they are so much alike in every Fraternity magazine that with mere changes of names they would do just as well for one as another Fraternity organ? That vain boastings and petty innuendoes elude an editors' blue pencil so easily that a letter often does more harm than good to the Chapter and the Fraternity by concealing weaknesses and exaggerating self-importance?

Neither admitting nor denying in toto such impeachment, the fact remains that the best all-around Fraternities to-day realize, as never before, the value of the interchange of Chapter letters in a Fraternity magazine. Comparison of methods and practices is education in itself. Some things that can be done and some things that ought not to be done are revealed. Differences of local conditions come to be better understood. Chapter letters which tell of 17 to 20 Greek competitors, and Chapter letters which report only four or five can hardly fail to broaden in a measure mere local views of Fraternity policy. In the reading of a large batch of letters, Fraternity essentials stand out from the artificial and spectacular. The "splendid rushing season" resulting in the capture of—one man, and similar pneumatic tire

expressions get due deflation in the general view. And misjudgments come to naught through the frequent revelations of the bright and the true and the good which crops out where Fraternity is lived from day to day.

For evidences of growth in the faith which carried the founders of our Fraternity through thick and thin, through storm and sunshine, to use their phrase, watch Chapter letters."

The March number of the other *Shield*, that of Theta Delta Chi, comes out in a new cover, and is thereby greatly improved in appearance. Under the management of the new editor, the *Shield* bids fair to maintain the excellent reputation it acquired under Mr. Holmes's guidance.

THE KEY says amen to the following extract from the *Anchor* :

"The economic side of the question as to the right of financially independent women to lower the wages of those who need the money, by increasing the supply of workers, is a familiar and important one but one which need not be discussed here. My plea is for higher culture, to attain which abundant leisure is necessary. There is a class of women who stand face to face with a rare opportunity for achieving that which is best and highest in life, yet who turn away and seek less noble ends in unpromising fields. Experience, in the course of years, will reveal to these women their lost opportunities but the experience is likely to be bitter and might sometimes be spared if a wiser direction were given to youthful ideals and ambitions. There are fields of activity for those who have time, opportunities for usefulness and happiness that do not come to the business woman. Have this leisure class the right to ignore their privileges? A trust is theirs, which should be used for self-improvement and for the glory of humanity. To have acquired gracious manners, to have learned to appreciate good literature, beautiful art, exquisite music, and noble friendships, is no small thing; to have trained one's mind to an understanding of social problems, to have one's heart opened to active sympathy with wrong and misfortune is a worthy achievement; but these things do not come in their completeness to tired women who labor six or eight hours per day. The latter class of women may perform their daily tasks with conscientious exactness but few of them have the strength, if they feel the inclination, for any intellectual work beyond that which is professionally required of them.

It is tritely said that fortune is fickle, and, in a democratic country, it is true that she who plays to-day, may be called upon to work tomorrow. To meet this condition, it is desirable that every woman should be potentially self-supporting. But to ful-

fill this requirement, is it indispensable that she be a bread winner even in the days of plenty? If in the golden days she spends her time in the acquisition of learning, in the development of artistic gifts, or in some of the many forms of philanthropic work that call for intelligent workers but have not money wherewith to pay them, will a woman be less able to secure remunerative employment when the evil days come upon her, than if she had worn out nerves and body in the uninterrupted routine of work since college days were past? Will she not rather be prepared to bring into the required work, a new vitality and an unwearied interest that will surely make for good?"