

~THE KEY.~

VOL. XV.

APRIL, 1898.

No. 2.

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG.

The general status of women students in Germany is known to almost everyone. That degrees have been granted at Heidelberg and Göttingen, that most of the lectures at Berlin and Leipzig are open, and that medical students have unusual privileges at Halle,—all this has been told so often that the information is common property. Not so well known, perhaps, is the fact that women may study at Breslau and Königsberg, and that one or two have already taken degrees at Freiburg and Tübingen. But all this general information is too vague to be of much practical use. The conditions in German universities are so different from those at home, that it is not wise to take much for granted; and the purpose of this article is to give some definite information with regard to Leipzig.

In the first place, one cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that here, as elsewhere in Germany, the position of each woman is an individual one. Almost nothing is permitted to women as a whole, each one must ask for what she wishes. In Leipzig women are allowed to attend the lectures of those professors who do not object; but at any time during the semester the professor may change his mind, and withdraw the permission he has given. So far as I know, this has never occurred; but some of the women have chafed under the feeling that they have no right to demand admission. At present it is possible to obtain from the ministry at Dresden a hearer's certificate, which officially entitles its possessor to attend all lectures, when the professor gives his consent. The value of this imposing document is a rather doubtful quantity, and only one woman has thought it worth the trouble of a written application. Whether one has the hearer's

certificate or not, one's relations to the university as a whole are limited to certain transactions with the treasurer. The women are not matriculated. If they have a good deal of time and patience at their disposal, it is possible for them to procure a document stating what lectures they have heard ; but more often they must content themselves with personal credentials from the various professors. No laboratories are open to them. As a rule they are admitted to the seminaries, but are not usually supposed to take part in the discussions. Some of the professors refuse to receive any written work from them, but this varies greatly in different departments and with different men. The facilities of the University library are at their disposal ; and if all signs do not fail, they will soon be admitted to the reading rooms. Perhaps it is in the history department where their position most nearly approaches equality with that of the men. There they have opportunities for study in the Institute, and obtain a key, much as we do for our American seminary rooms.

So far I have tried to make my description impersonal, but I hereby announce that the rest of what I have to say will give that unfailing evidence of egoism, continual mention of self. Since the professorial permission is of such overwhelming importance, the editor has asked me to tell how I obtained it. In the first place, I had two letters of introduction, and felt that I had made a beginning, before I left New York. One of the professors, however, had the bad taste to go to Zürich for the winter, so my call upon him was in vain. The other at once gave me permission to attend his lectures, and told me to come to him at any time, if I wished to ask questions. With regard to the other professors, I have nothing to tell save of unvarying politeness and cordiality. It was a great relief to me to find that even German professors are men ; and I entirely lost my fear of them from the day when one visibly trembled before me, and another asked me if I did not know some other ladies who would like to take his work. One dear old man is so well known as the friend of all the foreign women, that he is said to go down the hall with a bevy of American girls after him. I have watched in the hope of catching sight of him thus surrounded, but in vain.

The first shock came when I discovered that the man who had treated me with the greatest politeness, who, in fact, had been a

stout personification of Lord Chesterfield and Sir Charles Grandison combined, was really much opposed to the admission of women; and that the crusty gentleman who put on his cuffs while I waited in the dining room, was disposed to treat us as students, and not as fashionable callers, to be bowed to but otherwise ignored. Shock number two came at the evident embarrassment of a professor who asked me a question that I didn't know. He seemed to feel that he had been guilty of some unpardonable offence against the laws of courtesy.

No previous preparation seems to be required for admission to the various lectures. A very inquisitive professor asks where one has studied, but he usually prefers an opinion on Leipzig, and is anxious to know if one had a pleasant journey.

As for seminary work the women get what they ask. My own experience has convinced me that a certain amount of brazenness goes a long way. Naturally, when I came here, I knew nothing about the attitude of the various professors; and, having selected the seminary which I wished to attend, I went to the professor, and asked permission. He gave it at once, and it was not until two weeks later that I discovered from other people his violent opposition to the higher education of women. Two girls who have been here several semesters, were much surprised that he would admit any woman to his holy of holies, the seminary, and were positive that he regarded me entirely as a visitor. After thinking the matter over, I went to him, and told him that I was not certain how much he permitted, and that I would like to know whether he allowed the women to hand in papers with the men. It took him some time to comprehend fully that a woman could desire to write a paper; but as soon as he was convinced of that, he said "yes" at once; and no one could have been more gracious. The question had never been asked him before. The terror of his name had been sufficient; but when the time came for him to show by a firm refusal that he deserved his reputation, he failed miserably. The moral is: Don't be afraid of any professor's reputation.

GRACE NEAL DOLSON, *Psi.*

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHAPTER.

As we are all striving toward an ideal end in our fraternity life, suggestions seem always to be in order. The relation of the president to the chapter was talked of at the last convention and it may not be out of place to talk more on the question now that our ideas have had time to crystalize.

How many of us really consider what this relation should be, what the powers of the ideal president should be and how executed? In many chapters the president is elected to serve as chairman of the meetings and to officiate at initiations. With this her duties end. No one is charged with the general supervision of the chapter. This ought not to be the case. If the president has not taken the reins firmly in her own hands, the fault lies largely with the chapter.

In regard, first, to the election, let us for this the highest office in the chapter, choose the girl who is the best adapted for it, not the girl who has been in the chapter the longest time or whose turn it may be. Of course the length of time a girl has been in the chapter might be one consideration for we gain in that way, as in no other, in zeal, enthusiasm and fraternity wisdom; but let us not make that the only consideration. It does not follow that the girl chosen is the most capable of us all, for some other girl may be better adapted for another office which demands certain qualifications just as necessary as those for the office of president.

But for her who should be our leader we must choose her who would best counsel and advise us, upon whose judgment we can rely and whose opinion would outweigh that of the others in a decision of importance. She must also be one who would feel the responsibility of the chapter. This last point needs especial emphasis, for the girl at the head, should be the head, endowed with all the duties implied thereby. No organization can be wholly successful when it is merely a body, a body without a head, to use a homely metapher. This is practically the chapter's condition when it allows each member, each officer, to carry out her own work as she thinks best without a general supervisor. This supervisory position belongs to the president who should try to realize what an important office she is holding. If she felt that her advice and judgment would mean much, she would be more

careful in that advice. She would feel the weight of her responsibility and the honor bestowed and would try to be more worthy of it, realizing at the same time that the dignity of the fraternity extends to its innermost workings.

When she has been chosen and duly elected, something besides taking her oath of office and presiding at meetings should be required. Some arrangement for her duties should be determined. A few suggestions might be in place, for example, having the retiring president give to her successor the list of offices, names of newly elected officers and their duties in the chapter, what is required of each and the date of any special requirement. The new president should then, in her turn, see to it that each one holding an office becomes acquainted with her duties, explaining, when any report, letter or tax is due and then seeing for herself that it is sent in time. It seems that in this way, not only would the president understand the duties of each office, but each officer would be much more faithful in performing the duties incumbent upon her. Fines would be imposed much less frequently, for how often it happens that these odious things are marked against the fair name of the chapter for no other reason than that she who should have attended to it "had no idea that it ought to have been done then—no one told her about it." Some one should see to it that she does know about it and who should do it but the president?

The president is the person to appoint meetings, taking good care as to her own attendance and noting that of others, requiring from the absent ones a good excuse. If it is necessary for her to be absent, she should appoint some one in her place for that meeting making her perfectly well acquainted with the business of that particular day. Let us be nothing if not business-like.

For another point, we might suggest that she keep informed in regard to the correspondence in the secretary's hands, especially that to come up in each fraternity meeting, so that she might advise the chapter in regard to the matters under consideration. It should also be her care to see that the archives are kept in order, examining them at the beginning and end of her administration. Instead of this or that one's being appointed to settle any question of outside interest or to hold any office not named in the

constitution, such as bidding a girl, receiving her pledge, or acting in any capacity where the chapter as a whole is to be represented, the president should attend to these duties. Just as we should not neglect any other of our fraternity relations so we should not let this one which should be the most important of them all, for the chapter, fall below the ideal.

MIGNON TALBOT, *Beta Nu.*

THE AIM OF THE FRATERNITY.

All fraternities have some interests in common. It matters not how various may be their aims, they all exist for the happiness and pleasure of their members. The Greek letter fraternity stands out as preëminently different in many respects from all other fraternities. They mean more than pleasant social intercourse; they mean more than mere friendship; their members are endeavoring to achieve the same end; they have the same aspirations and ambitions and are bound together by ties which are only known to the college world.

What, then, should be the aim of such organizations? For what purpose has the Greek letter fraternity been made part of the very life and existence of the great institutions of learning of the United States? To give happiness and pleasure to its members has certainly been one of the aims of the fraternity. Without this possibly there would be none, but this alone is not or, at least, should not be their great aim.

A distinct purpose of the fraternity is culture in some worthy field of mental activity, or, in other words, in the development of the mind. We would not make this the one great aim, but it should not be of a secondary nature. The fraternity should have a high standard as to its mental requirements and strive to maintain it by all possible means. As a rule it can be safely said that the greater number of fraternities do not pay enough attention to the scholarship of their members.

Justice should be one of the great principles of the fraternity; justice not only productive of a healthy social relation between student and student, but between student and faculty. The life of the student is not free from injustice. Here in college, as well as in the political world, are wrongs which should be righted.

College politics are not more pure than state politics. One of the serious objections to the Greek letter fraternity is that in many instances it breeds corruption and impurity in college affairs.

The fraternities correspond to our political parties; each one endeavors to gain power over the others. This in itself is not condemned, as the fraternity has its reputation to maintain and must hold it against rival fraternities, but too often the members will stoop to low and unfair means to gain their point. Such action is inexcusable in state politics, and how much more so is it among college men and women!

The college men and women of to-day will be the future leaders and rulers of this country. How, then, can we expect purity in the social and political life if they are to be trained in chicanery during the college course? Habits, formed during the college years, will cling to one through life; indeed, they become part of life. Therefore, how essential it is that each individual as well as the chapter cultivate pure and upright dealings in relation to fellow-students.

The relation of the fraternity student to the non-fraternity student is too often one of indifference. They should not be treated as if they did not belong to the college world at all. They should be shown the greatest respect in all the college affairs. There is no doubt many non-fraternity students have had the pleasure and happiness of their college-course lessened simply by the treatment received from fraternity members. It should not be forgotten that many of the non-fraternity students are so from choice, and that more are so because members are too often chosen from a superficial standpoint, thus rejecting many of real merit. The fraternity student should display liberality in all her intercourse with her fellow-students. When a pupil leaves home and friends to attend college, she is at the most critical period of her life and needs the help and friendship of those who will take the place of a family. A fraternity properly organized should supply the best substitute for this family relation. It is true that the fraternity organizations of a college are in a measure responsible for the spirit of the institution, the character of its intellectual and moral life. A high moral character then should be an absolute requirement of all members. A fraternity, which can keep alive the spirit of honor and faithfulness to duty, of resolution and an

unswerving purpose to accomplish the end which is right, has done its part faithfully in contributing in no insignificant measure to the most liberal and desirable culture of college men and women. This with the purpose of moulding magnanimous characters for each individual member, should be the predominant aim of every fraternity.

MYRTLE A. GRUBB, *Iota*, '92.

B. K. PH.

Why not, M. E. T.? You have struck a chord that has music in it, and it seems as though the melody would echo all over the land. You have added to our inspiration by pointing out the trend of a path, worthy of being trodden by every Kappa. Our hearts are always touched, and respond in our best impulses whenever we realize that there is a pleasant duty ahead of us, whose object is to better the world and give pleasure to others. If it is true that "to whom much is given, from him much will be required," then with the advantages which we have received at college; in our classes, chapter meetings; among bright intellects and from the best text books; with the added discipline, drill and knowledge that we have attained, I say, if much be required of such a class; then indeed we only just begin to assume our responsibility as our active Kappa life closes. I heartily endorse every word in our sister's plea for the adoption of an universal plan whereby every Kappa may receive the B. K. Ph. degree. The thought has often come to me that some plan ought to be devised whereby we might keep in closer touch and more united interest with our un-active members. We totally ignore the old adage of "old men for counsel" by immediately after graduation, retiring all who receive their degree to the back seats, without responsibility, or personal interest. Do we not still need them, their counsel, their advice, and their experience. Life is so short, would it not be for our advantage, and would we not be better fitted to take up our work, if in some part of our exercises the Post-Kappas still had some active part. I can imagine some will say that soon the life of the chapter would wane, and possibly this might happen if they were allowed complete control, but such is not our plea. I would not advance the idea of their being

eligible to office in our chapters as now conducted ; but I would add an initiatory degree ; the degree of B. K. PH., with esoteric work, making every Kappa who received a college degree eligible. Thus we would have a more complete organization ; something for the neophytes to look forward to after leaving their alma mater. The officers of this Post-Chapter who might all be graduates could easily arrange to occupy the same rooms as the active chapter and the combined influence would tend in the right direction.

By this means a more permanent home organization could be kept up by the resident unactive members near the college, and the new arrivals each year would have a distinct social advantage by being introduced into the social functions of the city.

Inasmuch as our school days should not be set apart for the accumulation of book lore, to the exclusion of all attempts to keep pace with the social world, would not this plan of having, not a real live chaperon to keep us out of mischief, but of having a social helper with a real Kappa interest in us, redound to our advantage ?

Kappa girls, think this over, and let us hear from you, and should you, after graduation, wish to go back to your old alma mater and attend commencement how would you like it to have an organization welcome, and provide for you during your stay. Would it not be a step to approve ?

FLORENCE LOUISE REYNOLDS, *Xi*.

THE ANNUAL REVIEW.

Since the summary of last April one chapter has been added to our number and the fraternity now counts upon its roll 27 chapters, 2 regular alumnae associations, at Boston and New York, and smaller alumnae clubs at Indianapolis, Bloomington, Ill., Anderson, Ind., and Philadelphia. According to the latest reports the total active membership of the fraternity is 409, less by 29 names than at this time last year.

The largest chapters are Delta and Beta Tau, whose membership is 24, and Beta Alpha, with a membership of 7, claims the distinction of being smallest. The average size of the chapters is 15.

During the year 1897, 155 members were initiated, Upsilon,

Lambda and Beta Alpha admitting the smallest number, 2, and Chi and Gamma Rho the largest number, 10. The average number of initiates is 6.

The geographical distribution falls along the same general lines as last year. New York furnishes 68 members; Indiana, 50; Ohio, 50; Michigan, 25; Illinois, 30; Minnesota, 21; Pennsylvania, 27; Massachusetts, 20; Nebraska, 16; Iowa 19; Kansas, 15; Wisconsin, 11; California, 29; Missouri, 9; New Jersey, 5; Maryland, 2; South Carolina, Kentucky, Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Texas, Virginia, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Canada and Hawaiian Islands, each 1. Beta Delta and Kappa chapters have the most diverse membership, having representatives from 5 states. Beta Nu, Lambda, Omega, Epsilon, Chi and Sigma's members are limited to their respective states. It is interesting to note in this connection that four of these six chapters are located at state universities. Of the chapters, Pi, Beta Tau, Beta Eta, Iota and Delta rent chapter houses, but as yet none are owned in the fraternity.

Alumnae Department.

CHANGES IN FRATERNITY.

In one of his essays Carlyle philosophizes on the shifting aspect of life in these words, "To-day is not yesterday; we ourselves change; how can our Works and Thoughts, if they are always to be the fittest, continue always the same? Change indeed is painful; yet ever needful; and if Memory have its force and worth, so also has Hope." Change, swift and various, is indeed the law of the universe and he who pauses a brief space in the onward rush of life for a glance at happy days long past, sighs with regret that little remains "as it used to be," but, reflecting perchance on his ancestor, the decorated savage, or, the struggling pioneer, takes up his work again and goes on into the future with hope in his heart.

The changes in environment, whether more or less significant, do not fail to arouse the thoughtful mind and so the college student sometimes muses with deep interest on the various changes which have come with the years to college life. He sees the ex-

pression of a new philosophy of education in a changed organization and curriculum, in new methods of teaching and in the social life of the student body a constant change and development.

The college fraternity is one of the most typical institutions of student life and the study of its evolution is both interesting and enlightening. It was in the first place an organization almost solely for the cultivation of literary expression which was not provided for in the college curriculum of a short time ago. But social life crept in by degrees and literary study as gradually crept out so that to-day the average chapter is devoted to the culture of social life among student-kind while what literary exercise is needed outside the class room is supplied by literary clubs and debating societies. With the firm establishment of coeducation came an extension of the fraternity movement among the young women, and to particularize in regard to ourselves, Kappa Kappa Gamma has shared in the general process of development. This change from a literary to a social organization was an important one but there have been many others, some of slight consequence, others of considerable value. It is hardly necessary to mention the extension of our fraternity till it reaches from sea to sea, of the fellowship fostered by magazine and convention, or of the important changes in government.

The watchful eye can see the changeful process going on all the time and we who are just leaving active association with the fraternity feel that in time Kappa Kappa Gamma will not be just what it is to-day. But we know that change means progress and we are proud to feel that, with our beloved fraternity, to change has been to advance. We should not forget, however, that change has another phase—degeneration ;— and that a backward step is by no means an impossibility in fraternity government. In view of this it is good to consider that deliberation is a marked characteristic of our general government, that changes of policy have been so gradually wrought, and that conservative feeling dominates. So, in considering the questions to come before convention next summer, we have a feeling of confidence that whatever action shall be taken will not be hasty and blind.

We wish we could speak with the same assurance of the deliberations of the individual chapters. Is it not in hasty

and ill-considered action of chapters in regard to local policy that the greatest danger to our fraternity lies? A few mistakes may weaken a chapter for years and with the fraternity as with the church, if one member suffer all the members suffer with it.

There are influences constantly at work to cause change which may be harmful. Indeed it is not an uncommon thing to hear it said of other fraternities, perhaps of Kappa Kappa Gammas sometimes—who knows?—"The ——s were strong here a few years ago but they have degenerated greatly. We don't consider them rivals any more."

There are unexpected dangers that may threaten anywhere and the fortunes of war may bring loss which cannot be laid to the blame of the chapter. But we should bear in mind the necessity of maintaining and perpetuating all that is best in the chapter and should make systematic efforts toward that end.

It is here that the alumnae can serve the fraternity to great advantage, especially the local alumnae; they should be the strong, conserving force in the chapter. The chapter is making a mistake which does not take its alumnae into its council. Their mature judgment and experience are needed and it will always pay to consult them in matters of any importance. The alumnae, too, have a duty we think in this and should be slow to give up close relationship with the chapter. Perhaps a tactful advisory attitude on the part of the alumnae and a willingness to be helped on the part of the chapter would go far toward solving the question of the relations of alumnae and active chapter.

Above all let us not fail to keep the high ideal of Kappa womanhood ever before the eyes of the chapter. Thus shall we best keep it intact, strong, and beautiful, an honor to Kappa Kappa Gamma everywhere.

MARY E. BARRETT, *Beta Zeta*.

THE CONFESSION OF AN ALUMNA.

Perhaps I had better call it a discovery; but "Confession" is a much more fashionable term just now. There is Tolstoi's Confession. The Confessions of an Opium Eater, also of a Married Man,—and The Confession of a College Professor, not to mention

a cohort of murderers and other criminals. This last count in particular convinces me of the aptness of the word as applied to my own case.

I don't know how it is with the alumnae of other chapters of Kappa Kappa Gamma but it seems to be the special function of certain ones of Beta Beta to give advice. We have since the beginning cherished the conviction that we were much more capable of running affairs than the active members were, and it was our plain duty to tell them so, in season and out of season. With the fervor born of loyal love for the chapter and absolute confidence in our own wisdom, we have seized every opportunity to act the role of guide, philosopher and friend. No occasion has been too festive, no meeting too special to head us off. We have constituted ourselves a regular bureau of gratuitous information.

The vivid memories of the days when we were happy and active have eclipsed the present, and we are not able to see how the present generation can have fun or improve their opportunities except in the way we did. Your methods are very well, but you ought to write more songs, and sing them; you ought to debate erudite subjects, and do more serious work. We used to regularly settle the affairs of the universe. You ought to keep up the annual picnic and row your own boats; and above all things, you ought to *scorn* boys!

We are actually so mossy with conservatism that we do not even approve of calling our official organ simply THE KEY. Wasn't THE GOLDEN KEY, which we chose twenty or thirty years ago, good enough?

But it is not necessary to make an exhaustive analysis of a situation which is all too apparent. The heart of the confession is this: We are altogether in the wrong. That is a shocking statement, and I acknowledge that it "joggles" my foundations a bit to make it. I expect my fellow fossils will raise a cry of horror and rend me, but first hear me.

In the larger policy of the chapter touching outside affairs, the alumnae can indeed help; but the specific government of the active chapter can only be managed by the active girls. That field belongs to them; and no matter how nobly or successfully the older girls may have fought, it is no longer their battle.

Once I thought I could select new members better than the undergraduates—my judgment was better, and my knowledge of human nature O, so superior! And I was almost inclined to be happy because the girls seemed so stupid. Subsequent events taught me a lesson in humility.

It is not only the privilege of the active girls, it is their distinct duty to live their own lives and make their own history. It is true they are "heir to all the ages," but they have a right to enlarge their kingdom. The old order changes for the new (let me confess it with becoming meekness) and sometimes for the better. I have even come to think that I may write an article showing how to be happy though not an alumna. But let no undergraduate felicitate herself that this confession implies any radical reform. Far from it! Can a leopard change his spots, or an alumna her conceit? We shall continue to give advice and to parade our superiority on all occasions, from sheer force of habit. In proof of which, and just to keep up the record, let me close with the usual "chunk of solid wisdom." Whatever may come to you in the brief years you are here together, let me urge you to love one another. No other state will permit you to be happy or give you a permanent claim upon your chapter. The fashions and the customs of your generation will pass away. Love remains. Cherish and cultivate it, and no matter how many darkened years may intervene, you will always come to your own whenever you enter your chapter room. Without it, no matter how many traditions and memories you may hold, you will forever be an alien.

CAMMIE WOODS GAINES, *Beta Beta*.

IOTA'S EXPERIENCE.

A number of years ago one of Iota's most enthusiastic and best known members became prominent in the Music School. This school was in a very flourishing condition, and one year through her influence eight special students were initiated into Kappa Kappa Gamma. They were fine girls, but two of them left at the end of the first term and only one returned the next year. Since that time one of Iota's by-laws is not to admit special students. The members must be regularly matriculated students in

the College of Liberal Arts. There was a literature and art course in college, in which the fourth study was music or art, but so few continued to graduation in this course, that it was soon dropped from the curriculum.

Few music or art pupils ever intend to study at college more than a year or two. It is a sort of finishing, a "going away to school" for them. We alumnae realize far more than active members that in one year a member has just crossed the threshold. By the time she is a junior she begins to appreciate what she has joined and at commencement day she feels prepared to do the best fraternity work.

It is not reasonable that in a short time in active membership the girl is of practically any benefit to the chapter or the chapter to her. How much less is the fraternity dear to her and she of value to it.

MINNIE ROYSE WALKER, *Iota*, '90.

THE NEW YORK ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION.

The second year of the existence of the New York Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma opened with a social meeting held at the studio rooms of Miss Woods in West 22nd St., New York City.

This meeting, although not quite so largely attended as previous ones, owing no doubt to the fact that it was the first one of the year, proved to be particularly interesting and enjoyable. More and more does it appear to those who have the future welfare of this Association at heart, that the apparent enjoyment of the members and the continued success of the meetings are sufficient arguments in favor not only of the permanency of the Kappa club, but also of its filling a long felt want. Of course one sees more or less gathering together of the girls from the same chapters, but this is only to be expected when the girls in all probability see each other at rare intervals. As time goes on, however, when the different chapter girls become better acquainted, this factional element will be entirely eradicated. Moreover, less of this was seen at the last meeting when every Kappa entered with zest into an animated conversation with her neighbor irrespective of chapter.

After the girls had talked themselves out, if such a thing were

possible, and refreshments had been served, Miss Jessie J. Cassidy of Psi Chapter gave an entertaining talk upon the laws pertaining to women in the United States.

One bit of legal news which amused the alumnae especially, was a law, only recently repealed, which gave a husband the right to beat his wife with a stick no bigger than his thumb. Other interesting facts also in regard to women's rights were cleverly dwelt upon, and it was regretted by all, when the lengthening hours compelled Miss Cassidy to stop. A short business meeting followed and the club then adjourned until January.

THE INDIANAPOLIS KAPPA CLUB.

A few cards sent out to alumnae and associate members of Kappa Kappa Gamma, called together about twenty-five Kappas at the home of Miss May Brayton, Feb. 5, for the purpose of organizing a Kappa Club, so long desired in Indianapolis. A very pleasant time was enjoyed renewing old Kappa friendships. Some laws and by-laws were adopted and officers for the ensuing year were elected.

Among the chapters represented were Upsilon, Iota, Delta, Mu, Nu and Psi. It is hoped that every chapter, knowing of any of its members who live in Indianapolis, will send their names to the Secretary, Miss Monta Kelso. We now have seventy-five Kappa names and wish that by the next meeting, March, 19, we may have reached all Kappas in the city.

We are glad to make known the existence of our club and pledge anew our faith in Kappa.

The Parthenon.

The question asked by Beta Epsilon in the January KEY is one which must surely have arisen in every chapter at some time in its history. There seem to be strong arguments on either side. Perhaps one of the strongest arguments in favor of refusing to vote favorably when one feels entirely neutral is that the spirit of fraternity is true sisterhood. If we do not feel that we want a certain girl for a sister, though we feel no real dislike toward her, are we observing the true spirit of the fraternity if we give up and vote for her? But then, along this line of sisterly feeling, may come the question, if we stand out for no definite reason when all the others are very anxious for a girl, are we showing a sisterly feeling toward those who are already Kappas? But suppose one of our members really feels that she could not be congenial with the girl. Then ought not we, who are utterly neutral, to respect this other sister's opinion and not vote for her hastily? If there is a real feeling of dislike on the part of any of our members, this need not make us feel that we, too, have a similar feeling, but it certainly ought to make us pause and reflect. Perhaps this girl, who has a feeling of dislike for the proposed candidate, may feel that she would be selfish to oppose, when so many are anxious to have her yield, and she may think that she can overcome her dislike. Yet it may be that she has read the candidate aright, and that others will agree with her in time. Then would it not be better for those undecided to refuse to vote favorably till the objection is removed from the mind of the Kappa who hesitates to oppose?

Beta Epsilon's
Question.

But in case there is in the whole chapter absolutely no feeling of repugnance toward a candidate, but on the part of some a strong feeling that she would be a true and congenial Kappa, why should we oppose? We should first be perfectly sure that our feeling is true indifference and not a vague dislike. And when we have made sure of this, then it certainly is our duty to try to see much of the candidate and become well enough acquainted with her to decide whether we would wish her for our sister. Of course we all agree that between Kappas there should

be real attraction, and not merely lack of repulsion. Yet, when we cannot attain to our absolute ideal, we must come as near it as possible, and seek girls not uncongenial to anyone, but really attractive to many.

EVA MAY BRYAN, *Beta Tau*.

Interpretation of the word "honors" seems to vary widely among the different chapters, and some rather surprising meanings are assigned to it. We realize that election as "Chairman

Honors.

of Committee on Freshman Spread," or "Assistant Marshal in the—Literary Society" carries with it a certain amount of prominence and social popularity, yet we fail to see how even in a large university such positions can be "honors" to be striven for and rejoiced over. In the majority of cases they are no manifestation of respect, distinction, or high consideration nor do they represent a standard of excellence far above other members of the class or society. On the contrary, popularity is never a sure index of excellence, and such offices are often given to those who have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances; sometimes, even among educated young women, to those who stoop to the methods of machine politics to obtain them. The word should rather be used with reference to special rank or distinction conferred by the school, for eminence in scholarship or success in some particular line. We protest against its abuse.

C. H. B., *Kappa*, '99.

Omega raises the question, "Shall any invitation ever be withdrawn, and if so how long shall the fraternity wait?"

After careful consideration, Lambda offers the following answer: The invitation should not be withdrawn until after waiting a reasonable length of time; the time varying in different cases. During the rushing season the girl has certainly had enough time to decide what her answer will be, therefore when she is asked and refuses to give her answer merely because she does not know whether she cares to become a member or not, we think

**Withdrawal of
Invitations.**

that the invitation should be withdrawn within a few days or a week. For in such a case the girl will not be a desirable member; she will undoubtedly be uninterested, indifferent, and not an enthusiastic worker.

On the other hand, should the girl desire to join the fraternity, and her parents, not knowing the superior advantages of fraternity life, refuse to give their consent, the invitation ought not to be withdrawn for at least one month and it might be advisable to allow it to stand for a longer time, this giving the girl's parents a chance for further consideration.

ANNA L. DURLING, *Lambda*.

Much has been written of the advantages which the fraternity affords its members,—especially social advantages and advantages derived from pleasant fellowship with noble, true-hearted women. Much has been written of the spirit which one member of a fraternity should exhibit toward another,—that spirit of ever ready sympathy and helpfulness. But there are two points which are not so frequently touched upon. The first of these I can only designate as openness, in the sense of lack of reserve.

Openness and Remembrance.

Too often the fraternity has been accused of destroying individuality, of bringing about so much openness that the individual is lost in the fraternity. This may be true in certain cases, but I believe that it is the exception rather than the rule. On the contrary, there is a lack of openness between members of a fraternity, which is much to be regretted. We have pledged our sympathy and our help, and we stand ready to give them when we see that they are needed; but oftentimes when there is the greatest need, there is the least outward appearance of it. Therefore, it behooves the one who is in trouble to make his need known in order that he may receive the aid. Why is it that we will persist in shutting up our troubles and worries within ourselves, when if we could only tell one of the girls about them it would make them so much easier to bear? We cannot expect anyone to approach us when we surround ourselves with an im-

penetrable wall. Let us have more openness. Ask for sympathy. It is yours; it has been pledged to you.

The other point of which I wish to speak is remembrance—remembrance during the summer vacation. To be sure, it will not be difficult to keep in mind those with whom we have been so closely associated during the school year; but remembrance means more than this. It means occasionally a letter, sometimes an account of a pleasant summer outing to those who are less favored, sometimes only a few words will accomplish the end; and during the summer months, wherever we may be, we shall be gladdened by the thought that there are those who are still near to us—in thought, if not in presence. OMEGA.

The question as to the advisability of the various fraternities entering into a semester contract, is one that presents itself to most of us every year—in few instances, however, does it present itself with enough strength to force it. It is not difficult to find fraternity members who believe that a semester, or even a year contract, would be the best possible thing for a fraternity; but it is difficult to find those who are willing to carry this belief out into action. For those who begin the year with a small roll it is hard to wait, and for those who have a chapter house partly vacant, it seems next to impossible. But these are minor questions when we ask: Is six weeks, sometimes even three, time enough to know a girl or time enough for her to know us? Are not the first few months of a girl's college career taken up with so many lines of activity that it is hard for her to distinguish anything very clearly? Does not it seem a little like taking an unfair advantage when we plunge at girls before they are fairly placed in relation to themselves and to the many things about them?

BETA ETA.

Beta Epsilon raises the question, whether in the case of a girl whose desirability is under discussion, that member who does not dislike her, but has an indifferent feeling towards her, should "stifle conscience, trust to the judgment of her sisters

and admit the new girl." This doubtless means that every opportunity has been embraced to know, and that an effort has been made to like the young woman in question. If, then, she does not appeal to the member with the scrupulous conscience, it would seem that the only thing to do consistent with fraternity spirit is to defer voting upon her. In admitting such a girl, there is a risk that the feeling **Another Answer.** or rather want of feeling toward her will persist and that the fraternal bonds of the chapter will be under too great a strain. Two or three girls admitted in such a way might cause the chapter life to sink into a lethargy. If the fraternity is to be a force in college life, as it ought to be, the individual members, besides having the qualifications of good morals and gentle manners, which are always presupposed, must be positively interesting. A girl who arouses no enthusiasm in a conscientious sophomore who is trying to like her, will not attract a freshman next fall.

It would be but a poor commentary on college and fraternity life if the seniors and juniors were not wiser than the sophomores and freshmen, but if there is one matter in which every girl ought to express her unbiased opinion, it is in the admission of new members. This is the means of maintaining the highest standard of membership with which the constitution provides us. If, putting aside our personal dislike or ignoring our indifference to the girls under discussion, we rely upon the opinion of the chapter as a whole, do we not shirk our responsibility and fail in our duty to the fraternity?

BETA DELTA.

One excellent method of finding out things is to ask questions. Will some one give us the benefit of her experience in answering this:—How far should the class standing of a girl influence a chapter in choosing or refusing her for membership?

All who have the interests of Kappa Kappa Gamma at heart are naturally anxious to win for their chapter the respect of the college at large, and such respect is in good part measured by the marks received by the **Scholarship.** members of the chapter. But it is a well known fact that many excellent and altogether desirable people are constitutionally unable to get high marks at examinations.

Should this count against them in weighing their chances for membership in the fraternity, and consequently for everlasting happiness? Beta Epsilon resolutely went ahead and asked the girls she wanted, before the bulletin board, with its harrowing array of examination marks, could draw any invidious distinctions; and her proverbial good fortune has justified her course. But she would like the opinion of any sister chapters that have had occasion to consider the question.

BETA EPSILON.

Noticing in the private annual reports of this year, the frequent mention of withdrawals of invitations by the chapters, the subject seems now to be ripe for discussion. Perhaps circumstances alter cases, but to me it seems the wrong thing to do. It is natural to suppose that, having loved and respected a girl sufficiently to share your fraternity life, your attitude towards her would remain the same, and no matter how long she took to decide, your patience would be strengthened and upheld by your strong desire for the acquisition. A good length of time is very often required for a new girl to become acquainted with a dozen or more students, and such a vital question as the choice of a fraternity, should be weighed with care. By keeping the invitation open, she has plenty of time, and although she joins another fraternity, she knows and you know that she has done what she thought was right; while if the invitation is withdrawn, she is hopelessly lost, and might join another fraternity without having had a fair opportunity for decision.

Length of
Invitations.

There should be nothing hasty about any matters concerning the fraternity, and in the case of failure after waiting, you are conscious of having acted honorably, while victory makes your heart thrill with joy, in thinking of the test you have stood, and have not been found wanting.

J. E. S., *Beta Iota*.

The maintenance of the high tone of literary excellence of THE KEY is a subject dear to the heart of every Kappa Kappa Gamma; and it is a question that may appeal to everyone as to

whether the present method of calling for a contribution for each number from every chapter is the best way of preserving this standard.

The fraternity does many things for us but it cannot transform us into literary geniuses and, unfortunate as it is, we are not all born Homers or Shakespeares. "Write an article for THE KEY" may be words of joy to some heart while it will strike terror to the depths of another as she longs to do all in her power for her beloved fraternity and yet hesitates to lay at the feet of the editor of the magazine an article unworthy of it. So in desperation she sits down at the last minute and writes an article which does justice neither to herself or her chapter, realizing that it will not be published but glad that she has at last performed the duty that fell to her.

Key Contributions.

With four articles a year, the number of members with literary ability is soon exhausted, even in the largest chapters, and the less talented ones are called into service. Should this rule be changed and each chapter be asked to contribute to possibly only one number a year, the articles would be much better, their authors, realizing that more depended upon them as the number of contributions were fewer, would exert themselves to write something that would be an honor to the fraternity, and the act of contributing would no longer be a duty to be performed with reluctance, but a duty to be looked forward to with pleasure.

Let us think of this, dear Kappas, and do what is best for the good of our fraternity and THE KEY.

JULIA B. HODGES, *Beta Alpha.*

The fact that we are to be personal helpers of each other is often forgotten in our eagerness and anxiety for the good standing of our chapter and fraternity, but it remains nevertheless, and if, in our chapter meetings we are not perfectly free to talk over the little things that help make up a college girl's every-day living, and if we may not know that any one of our chapter girls will help us in any little affair of our own if we will only ask her, then we are losing sight of our great purpose, and are missing the true joy of fraternity.

Loyalty.

Shall not the words in our song "doubly true" signify:—
Loyalty to fraternity, and loyalty to each other *personally*?

KAPPA.

In all previous discussions of the question, "What shall be done with the Fine Arts and Special Students?" the first part alone seems to have been deemed worthy of debate and the poor special is entirely ignored. Whether she is simply overlooked or considered unfit for a second thought remains to be seen. Though unworthy to pose as champion of this neglected
Specials. and so often misjudged class, still being one of its members I cannot refrain from offering one plea in its behalf. Confess now, when you hear the word special, does there not appear before your mental vision the picture of a gay, thoughtless girl, at college only for the fun she may derive from it, and flitting here and there as the fancy takes her, never remaining more than a year in one place? If so, I beg you to dismiss it, for truly that is not the sort of girl here under discussion. I acknowledge there are such specials, but shall we as a class be judged by a single example? My special is the girl who, desiring to perfect herself in one branch of study, confines herself strictly within its limits, or she who is physically unable to bear the burden of a full college course, and chooses those studies which please her most or of which she feels the greatest need. Shall such be condemned merely because they do not follow fixed laws? As a rule these girls remain the full four years, often longer. Think how much more, both of time and thought, such a girl can devote to her fraternity than the oft times overworked regular who can scarcely seize time from her studies for the weekly meeting. How many little duties devolve, and rightly so, upon the special. If she may be said to have any special sphere of usefulness it is certainly in filling the little gaps left by the lack of time of her busy sisters. Then, in your deliberations, forget not the special. Deprive her not of the joys and privileges of fraternity life.

A SPECIAL, of Lambda.

Chapter Letters.

ALPHA PROVINCE.

PHI—BOSTON UNIVERSITY.

In two more weeks Phi will end her second term of college work, but this term, usually the hardest of the college year has been made very bright and short by the helpful influences of our fraternity life.

There has been very little social life in the chapter this term and evidently this was to be the order of things, for on the day appointed for the reception to our girls' friends who attend Radcliffe, a severe snow storm swept over the city, and seemed to threaten it with the devastation caused by the storm two weeks previous; however several of the courageous young women ventured out and a very delightful afternoon was spent. The after effects of this reception were most refreshing.

Phi has had the very great pleasure of knowing and receiving into its fraternity life several of the girls from different chapters; three are Chi girls, two of whom are studying elocution in this city and Miss Hale who is continuing her course in music at the New England Conservatory of Music. From Beta Iota we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Haines. To these and to all the girls who may have an opportunity to visit Boston, Phi extends the warmest and most sincere welcome.

The new course of art study taken up in the chapter has been most interesting and beneficial to us all. Art and its relative branches are entirely lacking in our college course but by bringing them into our fraternity life and work we get a faint idea of them and a longing for all that may be obtained from what Longfellow calls "the revelation of man, as Nature is the revelation of God."

BETA EPSILON—BARNARD COLLEGE.

The mid-year examinations have come and gone, but to Beta Epsilon is denied the comparative calm which is supposed to be enjoyed by all those who, like the Kappas of Barnard, have tri-

umphantly passed through the ordeal. The first cause of our excitement and restless activity is the play which the chapter is intending to act before the college in the course of a few weeks. Those distracting consumers of time, rehearsals, have not yet commenced, for we are still in frantic search of a play which shall fill all the requirements of brevity, humor, and the minimum of stage scenery, and yet keep up the reputation of the fraternity.

This reputation, by the way, we are guarding more carefully than ever. For a year we have had but one rival in the field; within the last few weeks another has appeared, and we are beginning to feel, though we hardly express it even to one another the advisability of allowing the attractions of Kappa Kappa Gamma to become evident to the as yet unattached girls. We have been fortunate in never having received a refusal to join our chapter, and we are preparing to initiate, very shortly, three new members, for whom we ask the welcome of all our Kappa sisters:—Miss Kyle, '00, Miss Eaton, '01, and Miss Hewy, '01.

PSI—CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

When one is a freshman in fraternity one of the greatest delights is to wear the badge in a place not conspicuous to be sure—one mustn't be ostentatious—but where one is sure that everyone else cannot fail to see it and draw pleasant conclusions therefrom. In our sophomore, junior, and senior years we make the astonishing discovery that there is another and greater pleasure—hitherto unsuspected—that is connected with that little golden badge which far outweighs the delight of wearing it yourself—the pleasure of seeing it shine and glisten on an initiate eagerly and long desired—a new made Kappa Gamma. You admire the prized key in its new location a thousand times more than ever before. Your eye keeps wandering back to dwell on the initiate and the key and you consider the whole effect highly artistic.

We have had our initiation. But to give an idea of the pleasure and happiness there was for us in that initiation we must tell you that in addition to the three pledglings we mentioned in our last letter there are four others who entered with us into the bonds of friendship in Kappa Kappa Gamma—Evelyn Eglinton Andrews, '99, Alice Gertrude Brickelmaier, '99, Frances Helen Hunt, '99, and Ethel Montgomery Andrews, '00. The initiation—

how much of frolic and fun, solemnity and impressive beauty is called up by that word!—was held at the home of Ethel and Mabel Stebbins. There the spirit of Kappa reigned supreme while “knots were tied there’s no untying” and beneath the gaiety and light-heartedness that waited on the banquet and the merry toasts there ran an undercurrent of deeper feeling that strengthened old bonds and riveted fast the new. One of the pleasantest of our chapter meetings since the initiation was that spent at the home of Mrs. Barr where the girls gathered around a blazing wood fire and sang Kappa Gamma songs. Our song books are put to a great deal of use and hardly a chapter meeting passes that we do not practise the songs for we have a *prima donna* with us now.

BETA BETA—ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY.

Beta Beta pauses in the midst of college duty and pleasure to send greetings to Kappa sisters.

First of all we wish to say in black and white that “The Fleur-de-Lis Waltzes of Kappa Kappa Gamma” are a reality. On Monday evening, February 28, the chapter with a number of invited guests from other fraternities attended a musicale at Gouverneur, N. Y. This musicale was the coming out of our much talked of Waltzes, composed by Professor W. F. Sudds. Although there were an enjoyable number of selections rendered, the Fleur-de-Lis Waltzes were the feature of the evening and called forth unmeasured applause.

The title page is attractive and appropriate. The Call occurs in the introductory measures and at the beginning of the finale.

Through THE KEY we thank the chapters for helping us in this undertaking and hope the demand for copies will continue.

At holiday time Beta Beta received many gifts both useful and decorative. Many remembrances came from Alumna Land. Our pledglings surprised us with a very pretty tea table. Could we invent a magic tea chest, what a pleasure it would be to have our sisters come sailing into Canton to enjoy a chat over this dainty acquisition.

Thus far this year we have devoted alternate meetings to fraternity study. Not by starts and moods but regular systematic work.

We are truly happy and prosperous through a strong feeling of unity. And how much this feeling can do to keep us in touch with the object of Kappa life.

BETA TAU—SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

Beta Tau sends greeting to her sister chapters. Since our last letter went to THE KEY, we have passed through the trying ordeal of semester examinations. Between the two semesters we had a vacation of three days. Several of the chapter house girls went home at this time, and brought back good things, with which to give a spread to their less fortunate sisters.

We are all very glad to have with us again our sister, Mary Connell, who was obliged to leave college on account of illness, and it was a great pleasure to us to receive a visit from a western sister, Miss Coons of Omega. From what she told us of chapter life in Kansas, we came to realize more fully that Kappas are the same in the west as in the east; from whatever region we come, we are interested in the same cause.

Beta Tau has been doing her share of entertaining this winter. Our greatest success was our annual reception, which we held February sixteenth, at the home of one of our charter members, Mrs. Wallace.

The students at Syracuse are rejoicing in the prospect of a new science hall, which is to be erected on the campus this spring.

Rev. Ensign McChesney, of New York, has been chosen Dean of the College of Fine Arts, to take the place of the late Dean Vernon.

Chancellor Day has recently offered a prize of \$100 to the successful contestant in an oratorical contest to be held during commencement week. A second prize of \$50 is offered by a member of the faculty, whose name is withheld, and a third prize by the fraternities represented at Syracuse.

BETA ALPHA—UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To all our sisters, greeting! As Beta Alpha has read the chapter letters from time to time, she has sighed with longing for a room where she, too, might hold her secret conclave and know some of the joys her sisters write about. And now she has a

room, and such a pleasure has it been that first of all she must tell the good news to her sisters, many of whom must know just what it means and will rejoice with us.

In January Beta Alpha was happy to receive the Beta Iota chapter at the house of Helen Pennington. Although we live so near our sisters we do not see them very often and do not know them as well as we should like. It was most delightful to shake hands and chat with these girls, whom many of us had never seen before, but for whom we felt the warmest friendship because of the sisterhood to which we all are true. It is on such an occasion that we realize what fraternity bonds mean, and we sang our Kappa songs together with "a hearty good-will," which we had not fully appreciated before.

Washington's birthday is always observed by Pennsylvania as University Day as well, and we felt especially honored this year when President McKinley accepted our Provost's invitation to celebrate the day with us. The exercises were held in the Academy of Music in the forenoon. The Bishop of Pennsylvania was with us and opened the exercises with a prayer, after which the Provost made an opening address, and this was followed by the President's address. It will be of interest to all to know that our chief magistrate spoke twice with approbation of the higher education of women.

In February Beta Alpha entertained at a tea, at the home of Quintard St. John, her college friends who are not fraternity girls. The rooms were very pretty and the tea table was decorated with candles of the college colors.

We are planning now for a play, which we hope to give before the college year closes.

BETA IOTA—SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

Since Beta Iota's last letter to THE KEY, we have initiated two new members upon whom we were proud to pin the little golden key. The initiation of Helen Duer Walker, '01, of Philadelphia and Katherine Leggett Brooks, '00 of Sandy Spring, Neb. took place January 29 at the home of Arabella E. Moore.

In the early part of the winter we spent a very pleasant afternoon in Philadelphia at the home of Miss Pennington of Beta

Alpha chapter. This is the first time for several years that Beta Iota has met with Beta Alpha and it was delightful to become acquainted with some of our sisters who live so near to us. The afternoon closed with the singing of Kappa songs.

The engagement of Mary A. Hayes, '94, of Westchester to Frederick Gawthrop, '94, was announced several months ago. We have been unfortunate since Christmas in losing two of our active members on account of illness; Eva Rengier and Eleanor Cass. The latter, we hope, will return next fall.

On February 26, we held our annual banquet at the Colonnade Hotel in Philadelphia. The majority of our alumnae were present and it is needless to say that we had a rousing Kappa time. The toasts were most loyal responses.

In closing we wish to extend to Beta Beta our gratitude for the publication of the "*Fleur-de-lis Waltz of Kappa Kappa Gamma.*"

GAMMA RHO—ALLEGHENY COLLEGE.

How Gamma Rho's new corresponding secretary trembles when she thinks of writing the chapter letters, particularly since her predecessor has been such a very able one! She fears that her feeble powers will contrast sadly with those of the former secretary, but, supposes in such a case, one can only do one's very best and then pity the poor people upon whom that very best is inflicted.

When we came back to college this term we all expected a quiet, though pleasant, term's work with our new girls, who—by the way—seem like old Kappa Kappa Gammas, so beautifully do they enter into the real fraternity spirit. Yet we have one thing to regret—that Miss Boose, one of our new initiates, was unable to return to college on account of poor health.

You all ought to see our fraternity room now that it has been newly papered and painted! The paper has a light blue background with a sort of *fleur-de-lis* pattern in dark blue, and we all think the room extremely pretty. The rearrangement of our room was a birthday present to ourselves and from ourselves. Our birthday comes on the thirteenth of February, and we celebrated it this year as usual by giving a farce, to which we invited the mothers and sisters of the girls and a very few other friends. We received a number of very pretty presents, mostly dishes.

A short time ago Kappa Alpha Theta delighted all the members of the woman's fraternities at Allegheny by the invitation to the little operetta, "Il Jacobi." The operetta itself was most delightful and thoroughly enjoyed by all the guests; we were glad also of the opportunity of being brought into close contact with the other fraternity girls, some of whom it is so hard to meet in any other way.

Gamma Rho sends her best wishes to all the other chapters of Kappa Kappa Gamma, and hopes they are enjoying their work and their new girls as much as she is.

BETA PROVINCE.

LAMBDA—BUCHTEL COLLEGE.

This letter finds Lambda in the midst of a very successful year. Our girls form a congenial group and all our meetings are much enjoyed. Our brother and sister fraternities have entertained us most royally. First Zeta Alpha Epsilon gave a reception and dance, on January 8, which was much enjoyed by many who attended. Later on, February 22, the Delta Gammas gave a reception in the afternoon in the gymnasium at which those who do not enjoy dancing, were entertained, and in the evening a large number of the young and gay tripped the "light fantastic."

Our girls have inclined to selfishness and our parties have included only the girls who wear the key. Misses Hugill and Herndon gave a most delightful party at Miss Hugill's home on South College Street. Spider webs were untangled and then all gathered around the open fire, burning fagots and telling stories. Miss Metta Dague excelled all others in the art of story telling and received a reward for her ability. Miss Fisher, one of the older girls, has invited about twenty-five of our members in the city to her home on Buchtel Avenue, February 25. We are all anticipating a pleasant time.

Zeta Alpha Epsilon also treated some of our girls and others to a sleighride at Mr. Frank's in Fairlawn. Various games and a fine supper made the evening pass rapidly into morning when we returned tired and sleepy.

Buchtel celebrated Washington's birthday on the morning of

the 21st with appropriate exercises in the chapel. Social events in the line of class socials have been quite numerous. The seniors have a whist club which meets often, and from all reports these meetings are much enjoyed.

Miss Musson, teacher of music, gave a musicale in the gymnasium which was attended by a large crowd of lovers of music.

Founder's Day, the eighteenth of January, was commemorated by a literary program, followed by a dance. Both parts of the entertainment were equally pleasant. This is a day to which the students all look forward with a great deal of delight and they were not disappointed. A theatre party, chaperoned by Miss Warner, saw Nat Goodwin in "The American Citizen," February 19. From this letter one would naturally suppose our time was spent mostly in social pleasures, but, together with these, we spend much of our time in study, but think that the news-letter is the place to tell of all our good times.

BETA GAMMA—WOOSTER UNIVERSITY.

Since THE KEY's last issue, Beta Gamma has chosen a new scribe to review and record the chapter's doings for the benefit of her sister chapters.

After two weeks of vacation Beta Gamma girls returned to work and study, all save Clara K. Jackson and Erma J. Rowe both of 1900, who are compelled to give up their college work for the present on account of ill health. Aside from this we have met only with success and present to you our five new girls of whom Kappa Kappa Gamma may justly be proud. They are: Ada Pennell, Elizabeth McLeod Price, Lucy K. Price, Mary L. Moore, and Gertrude E. Morrison.

On the evening of January 19 the chapter entertained at the pretty home of Miss Mabel Douglas. With this and the several parties by Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Gamma Delta, respectively; the dormitory parties, lectures and concerts, the girls have been kept busy not only in their studies but socially also.

Within the past few weeks Wooster has been rejoicing over her victory at the State Oratorical Contest, when her orator won first place.

Preparation for the convention has already commenced, the delegate is of course chosen, fraternity study is in progress and the new initiates are deep in the experience of the trials and tribulations of preparation for their first examination.

BETA NU—OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

Beta Nu is proud that, at a time of the year when most chapter letters are filled with accounts of social functions and hard study only, she can report an initiation and one under such auspicious circumstances. We beg leave to introduce to all wearers of the key a new sister, Julia Bryson, and in case her name should be familiar to some of the older members of your chapters, let me explain how long and how faithfully she has been a pledgling. Seven years ago as a small girl she came to Ohio State University, entering in the first year of the preparatory department and was pledged with our seniors who graduated last year. At the end of that year her health broke down, and ever since, until this semester, she has been unable to attend college. Imagine the rejoicing when it was announced that she was well enough to come back, and the joy of the initiation following. Think of having waited seven years to become a Kappa! It is absolutely scriptural!

In spite of the fact that initiations go far ahead of anything in the line of social function, we do not by any means despise the latter as a means of recreation. Under this head comes the report of the Kappa ball on January 14. It was held at "The Normandie," and was the most brilliant affair in our circle this year. During the holidays we were entertained twice, so that we did not feel as though we were separated at all, even though we were not meeting in classes. Mrs. Kauffman, the mother of two of our freshmen, opened her house to us, and Lucy Allen gathered the girls together in honor of Flora McCarter, one of our last year's seniors now home from Bryn Mawr. There have also been the usual number of winter term festivities in the college world, and with all these, Beta Nu feels she has been very gay.

Washington's birthday was celebrated by a tremendous reception given to all students and alumni by the Faculty Women's Club and the Alumnae clubs of Ohio State University and held in the new Armory, of which we are so proud. The reception was

a perfect success and made us all acquainted for the first time with the immense size and perfect proportions of the large hall.

We are now at work on the gymnasium floor and are happy in having for our instructor a Kappa—Miss Elliott, of Sigma—who has made such a favorable impression on the University world and whose ability has been so appreciated that we are more than proud of her. Sigma's loss is our gain.

And so with hard and successful study, with gaieties enough to keep us lighthearted, with inspiring fraternity meetings and, best of all, an initiation to bring home to us again the sweetness of the tie that binds, our time has been spent.

May all chapters be as happy !

BETA DELTA—UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Among the things that Beta Delta has most enjoyed since she last wrote, is her visit from Belle Brewster.

Just at the close of the old year, Miss Brewster returned to her home in Bay City, after several years abroad, studying music ; and when the Hospital Circle of King's Daughters secured Miss Mary French Field for an entertainment early in January, Miss Brewster consented to sing on that evening. Her songs were some of Eugene Field's charming lullabies, and we were very proud of her rendering of them.

During her visit, we held an afternoon reception at which our guests were the sorority girls, some independents, and a number of the faculty and city ladies. In the evening, we gave an informal dancing party.

We enjoyed Miss Brewster's visit particularly because her stay abroad had not been merely the sight seeing visit of the ordinary tourist, but she had lived there, and had gained an intimate acquaintance with some of the greatest masters in her art.

The convention programs have been received, and convention enthusiasm has since risen still higher.

Another thing that has added to it is the visit to our city of Emily Lowe of Sigma. We so much enjoyed meeting her. The picture of Sigma chapter in the July KEY has acquired a new interest for us since we have met one of the girls. How nice it would be could we see each other oftener !

Beta Delta extends greetings to every Kappa.

XI—ADRIAN COLLEGE.

Since our last chapter letter Xi's girls have been very unfortunate in losing one of their truest and best girls, Ethlyn Wilson, who has gone home on account of ill-health, but we sincerely hope to have her with us again during next term.

Xi is always glad to welcome back her alumnae members and she has recently had very pleasant visits from Mary Brierly, '96, Anna Owens, '96, and Sara Huntington.

We have two new sisters to introduce to our sisters in the bonds of Kappa Kappa Gamma: Clara Haines and Ada Meikle, who we feel sure will prove devoted Kappas.

The initiation service was very pretty and impressive, and was followed by a pleasant informal reception and banquet in our Chapter Hall, such as only jolly Kappas can enjoy.

The Hall resounded with merriment, songs and shouts of "Long live the Kappa Kappa Gamma."

KAPPA—HILLSDALE COLLEGE.

Since our last letter, we have had one more initiation and, as a result, we have one more wearer of the key, Elva Bailey. We also have three new pledglings beginning the year with us: Zoe Fraser, May Southworth and Gertrude Opdyke.

The new year seems to vie with the old in giving us good times and hard work. Last term closed with coasting parties and a pleasant evening with Mrs. McDonald; but the good times and good people to give them have not been lacking in 1898.

Myra Walworth's uncle, remembering how young people enjoy sleigh rides, asked us to spend an evening with him at his home in Jerome,—so the evening of January 29, our company of thirty-eight accepted the invitation and found the pleasantest time and the kindest hospitality awaiting us.

February 4, the Alpha Tau Omegas held their annual convention here giving a reception in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening. The reception gave all an opportunity to meet the delegates from Adrian and Albion and their other friends from Sandusky and Ann Arbor. Not the least among the attractions of the banquet were the addresses and toasts which inspired all with firmer loyalty to fraternity life in general.

The work, mentioned as coming in equal share with the pleasure, falls upon one and all ; the juniors are especially busy with the Annual and several are working hard at contest orations and essays. But before we write again all will have had a vacation and may it be a happy and useful one.

GAMMA PROVINCE.

DELTA—INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY.

In the winter term the girls of Delta chapter returned, filled with curiosity to know what the "Christmas Box" would contain. When each girl came back from her Christmas vacation she brought something to make the fraternity home pretty and attractive. The presents were kept in the box until the first business meeting and our pleasure in opening it far outbalanced the trouble and expense. Many of the things we had longed for came in that box and the plan was such a success that we intend to have one every year.

Another "chapter house improvement scheme" is our sewing circle. After our regular meeting each girl makes and gives either a sofa or floor pillow. Now our settees and window seats are perfect nests of bright cushions.

We are proud of Stella Vaughn, whom we have initiated this term and we also have with us Cora Smith, a graduate of Beta Delta who is taking post-graduate work in Latin and English. Mary Kelley, too, has returned after a term's absence.

Grace and Lena Triplett did not return for the winter term but we hope that they will be back in the spring.

We have formally entertained the young men of the University once this term. We also entertained the three other sororities on February 18. Some interesting toasts on college subjects were given.

We send kindest wishes to all wearers of the golden key.

IOTA—DE PAUW UNIVERSITY.

De Pauw Kappas are as happy as ever and have reason to be for they have another girl to introduce through the pages of THE

KEY. Ione Haworth, '01, was initiated at the chapter house on the evening of January 8, and she has already become a loyal Kappa.

Iota has had a wedding to chronicle since the last issue of THE KEY. E. Jean Nelson was married December 15 to Judge Penfield of New York City. Jean has always lived in Greencastle and has been a great help to Iota. She was the first and only girl who ever won in the Interstate Oratorical Contest and is the founder of the Musical Aid Guild of New York, an organization established for cultivating the voices of girls who are unable to meet the expenses of a musical education. Although we still receive enthusiastic letters from her we shall miss her presence among us very much.

Iota's girls should be very enthusiastic Kappas for they have had so much this year to make them so. At the time of the State Oratorical Contest Grace Smith, Dora Elliott, Ethel Campbell, Rosella Ford and Mary Marsee visited us and helped to celebrate the victory gained by De Pauw.

On February 5, Hallie and Nellie Landes entertained the Kappas at their home in honor of Ada Frank, '97, Harriet Harding, '97, and Nettie Wood, '95, who were visiting us at the time. Many of the resident alumnae of Iota were present and we had a very pleasant time.

We are very sorry to say that Orie Cook and Blanche Nixon who were with us last term are not in college at present.

We send greetings to every chapter.

MU—BUTLER COLLEGE.

Since the last issue of THE KEY, Mu has had a very pleasant but, as is customary during the winter term of bad weather and hard study, a very quiet time. Since that we have entertained our friends informally and we have had a beautiful initiation at which Mary Hawkins took the fraternity vows.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated by the whole university as usual and was a very successful affair. There was a parade at noon, a meeting with speeches in the afternoon and an informal dance and the theatre in the evening. Of the verses of the new 'Varsity song, one verse was devoted to each college and we are

proud to say that in the competition at Butler for the verse which should best set forth its charms and glories, that of Mary Marsee, a Kappa, was chosen.

Two of our girls, Anna Williams and Mabel Craycraft have been forced to leave school on account of ill health and we miss them very much. Mabel Craycraft, however, hopes to be with us again in the spring.

Nettie Sweeney, '97, is at college again, not as a fellow student with us but as teacher of French and History during the illness of the regular professor. We enjoy her presence at our meetings and her friendly counsel such as only a Kappa can give Kappas.

ETA—UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

Eta sends greeting to her sister chapters. We are rejoiced at having finished our first semester examinations and after the excitement of our annual Junior Promenade are safely launched on our new semester of work.

Georgia Hayden, '96, Ann Connor, and Meta Shumann have just visited us. Georgia Hayden expects to go to the University of Chicago this spring for post-graduate work.

Some weeks ago Miss Barrett, of Iowa, visited us while on her way to study the different library systems of the state. Through her we were glad to become better acquainted with our sisters of Beta Zeta.

Our alumnae have been more than usually kind to us. Mrs. Olin, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Stolz and Mrs. Pitman have entertained us several times. Friday evening, February 11, we celebrated the end of our examinations by giving a very informal dance. We have pledged no one since our last letter but have initiated Carrie Dilatush, of Robinsville, New Jersey.

We have no chapter room but scarcely feel the need of it as most of us live at the Hall and our town girls are most cordial in lending their homes for our business and social meetings.

UPSILON—NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

Yes, Upsilon is experiencing the very same busy routine of duties now as the last time that she communicated with her sisters through *THE KEY*. Duties galore, but mingled with so many pleasures that life is thoroughly enjoyable.

The sororities at Northwestern have adopted a comparatively new plan, at least new here, of giving their annual party and including on their invitation list a certain number of girls from each of the other sororities. So far this has proved to be most successful, establishing a freer and more friendly relationship among the girls. At her party on March 11, Kappa followed this plan and we all felt that we enjoyed ourselves doubly because of the presence of our friends from the other sororities.

I presume that you have all heard of our rules here at Northwestern, iron-clad rules that are being rigidly enforced. The one that conflicts most of all with our former custom is that compelling all parties to close promptly at eleven o'clock. Imagine the festive company assembling at six-thirty, the "dead swell function" fairly under way by seven o'clock and the last wail of our "Home Sweet Home" ending abruptly with the stroke of eleven. But pardon the degeneration—we rather like it.

We regret the loss of two of our girls this year; Laura Whitlock, a junior, was obliged to leave college on account of ill-health and Daisy Barger one of our new Kappas. We hope to welcome them both back very soon.

We were delighted to have a visit from two of our Epsilon sisters, Miss Shreve and Miss Walker, who are studying this year at Kenwood Institute, Chicago. We hope to see them often in Evanston.

EPSILON—ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

Epsilon is proud to introduce to her sisters scattered all over the land, her three new members Letta Brock, Bessie Welty and Mary Tullis. They have already shown their love for the double blue and they will be loyal wearers of the key.

The initiation was held at the beautiful home of Margaret Cole on the evening of January 16. The service was unusually impressive and a large number of the alumnae took part in it.

On the evening of January 11 a spread was given in honor of our "babies" at the home of Clara Burke. A car full of Kappa sisters sang our songs and gave our call on our ride to Miss Burke's. We spent a delightful evening in true Kappa fashion and we were fortunate in having with us, Ethel Hopson, '95.

We are looking forward to convention and hope to have a number of girls there. Those who attended last convention have a great desire to renew old friendships and form new ones.

It is a pleasure to meet Kappas from other chapters and we have enjoyed hearing of Xi from Miss Goodman who was visiting her sister in Bloomington.

February 12, Epsilon gave an elaborate dinner to her friends at the home of Bessie Welty. It was a St. Valentine's party and all the decorations were appropriate to the occasion. The banquet tables were arranged in the form of the letter E. After the dinner was over, Miss Probasco called the company to order and admirably filled her position as toast mistress. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing.

At present the class oratorical contests are arousing enthusiasm among the students. Epsilon has two members who are striving to carry off the freshman class honors. We are also preparing for the annual debate with the Iowa Wesleyan University to be held at Mt. Pleasant, Ia., in March. Epsilon won last year and hopes for good fortune again.

The Wesleyan is rejoicing over the election of Dr. Smith of Montpelier, Vt. for president of the university. He is to be installed in his new office next June. The college has a bright outlook and is to be congratulated on its new president.

DELTA PROVINCE.

CHI—UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

Since our last letter to you, a new year has carried us on in our work and our play, promising us by its fair beginning a happy and a successful progress.

We opened it by a reception to our men friends, and had the pleasure of wishing some hundred of them "A Happy New Year." Perhaps it was their good wishes in return which soon brought us the joy of having seven little pledglings, and now we long for the time when they will become real Kappas, bringing into the chapter all the help and strength which so many true and loyal girls can bring.

One, we did not have to wait for as she is at the University

now. On the seventh of February we initiated her, and I wish you might know the pleasure we feel in adding the name of Ora Gridley of Duluth, to the long list of dear Kappa names. It seemed a serious and a solemn thing for one girl alone to enter into our social sisterhood, and our hearts went out to her with double love, and double desire to make her one of us in the highest and best sense of all we stand for and hope to be.

At the sophomore election Mabel Stone was elected to the board of our annual *Gopher*, and we are glad again to be represented in a movement of general college interest.

The Junior Ball on the eleventh of February was a brilliant success. It was two o'clock before the evening had half begun, and we had to tear ourselves away, for the Ball we had planned and waited for was over.

On Valentine's Day our Kappa rooms were thrown open to our little pledged ladies, and Cupid's darts flew about—striking with perfect aim our weak—or our strong points, relentlessly.

And thus our lives to outward appearances have gone on. These are the things we have done—but how little do they tell you of what we are.

If we might only get a glimpse into the inner fraternity life of our far away sisters how much nearer we would all be drawn together. But we are all Kappas, and here is one bond of unity that can stretch over all distance, and bind us together by the strong enduring bonds of a common ideal, a common hope.

BETA ZETA—IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Beta Zeta brings another sister to join the ranks of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Our chapter initiated Edith Macomber, 1900, during the first of the winter term, and now we are proud to introduce her to our sister chapters.

We have been unusually gay this winter, and never have we been entertained so often in so short a time. We always like to hear about the different kinds of Kappa spreads, parties and general good times, so perhaps other Kappas would enjoy hearing about some of ours. One of the most enjoyable was the Kappa Kappa Gamma dancelet given one Saturday afternoon in the Armory for our initiate and a few guests. Another was our sew-

ing bee given at Mary Lytle's home. We advise other Kappas to try this if they have not already done so. It is very profitable to get together (probably on the floor, with plenty of pillows), and sew, especially when there is a book of good short stories, and a big plate of apples, and perhaps homemade crackerjack, ginger cookies, candy or nuts to help us pass away the time. In fact a new element has crept into our business meetings, too. Formerly we had no eating at this time, but it has become very customary to add to our business energy, by having something to eat. We think it is a fine plan.

We spent a delightful afternoon with Mrs. McChesney, one of our alumnae, and were also entertained by Miss Hughes, one of the faculty.

But one of the pleasantest features at S. U. I. this term has been the inter-fraternity life. Among the men's fraternities, a S. U. I. Hellenic Whist League has been formed. The three chapters of girls' fraternities here, decided that they didn't have time for whist now, so we did not join. But we have had two joint meetings among ourselves. We met with the Delta Gammas at a delightfully informal fraternity meeting, and the Pi Phis royally treated us to a sleigh ride and a supper at the home of Miss Rundell. Fraternity girls have much in common, and while the rivalry between the three chapters is very strong, we have common ties which barbarians do not have, and we thoroughly enjoy these union meetings.

Mrs. Belle Andrews Dow, one of our charter members, visited here this term. She told so many stories of early Kappa life, with its fun and its work, that we became prouder than ever of our chapter and our fraternity.

Already we are looking forward to the convention. If every chapter is as enthusiastic about it as ours, there will be a fine number of representatives from each one. The older girls tell about the fun they had at Evanston and we all become very much excited and interested. We hope to send a large delegation and hope to greet you all at that time.

THETA—MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY.

Again it is the duty of the scribe of Theta chapter to recount the doings of her chapter since the last publication of *THE KEY*. Examinations, though disturbing the peace of our minds for a while, are now of the past. We are now busily preparing for that other though not less important, one in April. We grant there is a good deal of work connected with preparation for fraternity examination, but we believe in them thoroughly, for in no other way can we learn so systematically the important facts that every Kappa ought to know about her fraternity.

During the last three months Theta has had one loss and one gain. With Zenna Bush leaving us, we lose a womanly and inspiring friend and an enthusiastic and loyal Kappa. Our gain in the return of Bessie Potter has been an inestimable one. She has initiated us into the doings of convention so thoroughly and delightfully that we are all anxious to be a part of the next one.

Dr. Thomas J. See, one of the most distinguished alumni of Missouri State University, visited his alma mater a few weeks ago to deliver a lecture. He was entertained most royally by the faculty and townspeople. Mr. See is a member of Missouri chapter of Phi Delta Theta.

The M. S. U. girls are shortly to organize a military department. There was once such an institution in the history of the university, but it was short-lived. This time we hope it will meet with better success. The girls, though they expect to out-rival the men soldiers at the end of the year, have not yet decided to enter the competitive drill with them.

To our sister chapters we send hearty greetings.

SIGMA—UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

By this time every chapter has probably received convention programmes from Sigma. We are all preparing for a large convention and are disappointed when we learn that only one is coming from a chapter. Our marshal, Laura Houtz, and her deputies, Mabel Richards and Mae Whiting, are busy writing to the alumnae and answering letters from the different chapters. We try to have a fraternity meeting every Saturday afternoon to talk over the work done during the week.

College life has been more lively than usual socially. This year the girls have given most of the parties. Three large functions at the Lincoln Hotel have been given by Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Delta Delta and Delta Gamma. On February 18 the Junior Promenade was given, the most successful of all the promenades.

February 15 was Charter day. This is celebrated by a lecture, by gymnastics and by drills of the battalions and of the "Pershing Rifles." "The Rifles" were presented with a large silk flag from Lieutenant Pershing, our former drill master. Many people witnessed the indoor base ball and volley ball games. The girls also took part in honoring the birthday of our University. The "Midgets" and "Infants" contested in basket-ball. We are looking forward to the game here March 4 between our first team and six young ladies from Omaha.

Several of Sigma's members were present at a cycle skating party lately. They had a jolly time but they thought it would be more enjoyable if they only had pneumatic costumes along with the pneumatic skates.

We are all studying hard again, since Lent has put an end to most of the gayety.

In December Martha Burks, class of '95, one of Sigma's strongest members, was married to Harry Harley.

OMEGA—KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY.

Omega has been enjoying herself since the last letter.

We have pledged a new girl, Daisy Nickstrom, and feel sure she will prove a loyal Kappa.

The Kansas City Symphony Orchestra was here and gave a concert February 18. There was a large attendance. The fraternities were well represented and we occupied a box.

In the State Oratorical Contest held here last week our Kansas University representative was awarded first place and will represent Kansas in the Interstate Contest in Illinois.

We are now beginning to make our plans for the annual spring party to be given April 22.

We hope to make it the most delightful one of the season.

PI—UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Since the last letter to THE KEY Pi's history has been about the same as ever—a great deal of pleasure with of course, a bit of college work thrown in now and then, to keep us from growing too frivolous.

In the early part of December the University of California had its annual celebration of Junior Day. Blanche Terrill was the heroine in a very clever farce, written by a Delta Kappa Epsilon, and we are proud to say that she was congratulated far and wide as a most glorious success.

The third Thursday of every month has been set aside as our day at home. In the afternoon we have a tea for the ladies of the faculty and other friends. Then in the evening we keep open house for the college men, and the club house is usually filled on both occasions. Of course between the tea and the evening we have a gay dinner at which nearly all the girls are present.

We had a most enjoyable time on Christmas and celebrated in a manner profitable as well as festive. We had a big Christmas tree on which were hung presents for the house. There was a book and a picture from each girl for our memorial library and art collection, besides innumerable pillows and dishes.

We are becoming great friends with our Beta Eta sisters, with whom we exchange frequent visits at our respective at homes and initiations. And speaking of initiations reminds me of our new Kappa that we wish to present, Georgie Carden. This little Christmas freshman is a lovely addition to our six other freshmen whom we have now had in training for half a year.

How we often wish that our guardian angel, Annabel Collins, could look in upon us some time to see how prosperously her charges are getting along. Of course our natural conceit tells us that we were a most charming group to begin with and we can affirm with perfect candor that our seven new members are the best in the class of 1901.

We wish all of our sisters a success similar to ours. We are only waiting till the convention when we hope to know you better.

BETA ETA—STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

The greeting of Beta Eta comes from a very happy chapter in this early part of ninety-eight. It is happy because of its decision to stand for a right principle, even though forced to stand alone,—but still happier because the result has now proven successful.

For a number of years our chapter has tried to induce the other fraternities at Stanford to extend pledging-day from the end of six weeks to the end of a semester,—but in vain. Although they agreed it would be best theoretically, they thought that it would fail in practice.

This year Beta Eta considered herself strong enough to make the trial alone, and it has been so successful that doubtless it will become the permanent policy of the chapter.

Now we present for your welcome Clara Martin, Rowena Merritt and Winifred Morgan, who have worn the golden key since January 12. It is a great pleasure to bring them within the broad Kappa bonds that extend so far beyond our purple eastern mountain wall, even to the other, far distant, ocean. And it has been an especial pleasure to be able to introduce them personally to another chapter here on the coast with us. The pleasure of little sisterly visits for parties, receptions, and best of all, initiations, is one as delightful as it is new to Beta Eta.

This semester we have Minnie Sullivan, '95, one of the charter members of Pi, here at Stanford with us. And Carrie Goodhue, one of Beta Eta's own number, has returned to us again, after spending last semester with Pi. We also have with us Stella Stearns, Minnesota, '95, of Chi.

In all, Beta Eta's number is so large that six of the girls do not live in the chapter house. However it is the home for all, even though some must have their pillows and plates elsewhere.

Our wish for a happy spring to each and every chapter! And the well wishes of the westernmost one of all are the heartiest, for they are to be measured in intensity by the distance they have to travel.

In Memoriam.

MAUDE M. STEARNS.

Died September 22, 1897.

Again Iota has been called upon to mourn the death of another sister in the bonds. Maude M. Stearns became a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma in 1890 and since 1892 has been teaching at Williamsport, Ind.

She was esteemed and loved by all who knew her and in her death Iota loses a dear member and the world a noble woman.

M. S., *Iota*.

MYRTLE GRUBB.

Died February 12, 1898.

Iota mourns the loss of one of her dearest members, Myrtle Grubb of Greencastle, Ind. Myrtle entered the fraternity in the autumn of 1889 and was a loyal, earnest member for two years when she left DePauw and went to Germany to study music and German. She possessed a beautiful voice and spent four years abroad having it cultivated, but on the return voyage she contracted a severe cold which led to the loss of her voice and left her in a delicate state of health. She is not only mourned by Iota but by a large circle of friends both in town and in the University.

L. M. B., *Iota*.

EVA M. DONALDSON

died November 6, 1897, at the home of her parents in Wabash, Indiana, after having baffled with consumption which found a ready prey in her frail body.

She became a member of Beta Gamma in 1888 and because of poor health was never able to finish a college course but, had she been blessed with physical strength in proportion to her mental abilities, the brightest laurels would have been accorded her by the most exacting critics.

Heartfelt sorrow goes out to the fond parents who have laid to rest their last child.

Beta Gamma.

College and Fraternity Notes.

The 'George Washington Memorial Committee' was organized in Washington, April 8, 1897. As its plan for a National University will be of interest to all college women, a copy of the prospectus which has been sent out is given below :

"PURPOSE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

The object of this Association is first of all to promote a patriotic interest in the bequest made by President Washington, for the establishment of a National or Central University for the higher learning, a post graduate university, that shall complete the American system of public education and furnish facilities for highest investigation and the diffusion of knowledge. And in the second place especially to raise in small contributions a fund for the erection of an "Administration Building" for said University, the corner stone of which shall be laid on or near the one hundredth anniversary of his bequest in this behalf.—*Article, II., Constitution.*

The Ideal.—We wish to honor the appeal of Washington and Jefferson, and the long line of statesmen and scholars who both before and after them, have written and spoken and worked for the completion of the educational plan of the country. We wish to renew and strengthen the ideal of a free people, made free by the most perfect enlightenment which opportunity can give to each and every citizen.

Plans.—To do this we lay our plan before the people of the United States, and ask consideration for it, and that small subscriptions be given to help bring the ideal, founded on a national need, to its realization.

We ask for a University for advanced work, not a duplicate of advantages already offered in the colleges and universities scattered over the land, not another college for undergraduate instruction.

The Administration Building.—We work for an Administration Building, a visible thing, an administrative home for a university not yet chartered, because we have faith that the need when once understood and asked for by the people, will not be denied by Congress, elected by the people.

If by the time we have a fund for our purpose, the University of the United States shall not be chartered on a broad and liberal basis, we shall present to Congress our purpose, our lists of workers

and ask that the site which Washington set aside a hundred years ago for such a university, shall now be rededicated to its original purpose. We shall ask that a Commission of Statesmen and Scholars be chosen to draft a bill for the foundation of the University of the United States, the best bill that present wisdom and experience can devise.

University Relations.—We shall ask that the Government, as representing the people, the only agency adequate for so large a work, shall offer the facilities of its Departments at Washington for the determination of the more difficult problems of science; that plans of co-operation be arranged with graduate departments of existing universities adding to their facilities and increasing their investigating force; that thus the work of investigation scattered throughout the country may be at once unified in its purpose and broadened and deepened in its extent. Such a union of forces would relieve the central administrative part of the university from the burden of training investigators, would bring the University of the United States into vital relation with the people in the States, would open Government departments to those thoroughly equipped to take up special problems, would make the Administration Building a vital part of the whole.

Precedents.—Precedent for such request we have in the Government Bureaus for scientific investigation, and in the Morrill Bill, which, in 1862, in the midst of civil war, gave to the States grants for colleges of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, and in the Hatch and Morrill Bills of 1887 and 1890, which established Experiment Stations and increased the grants to the Agricultural Colleges. That is, in certain fields, the National Government has fostered both higher education and research, to the incalculable advantage of all parts of the United States, and increased the opportunity in the higher fields of investigation.

Fellowship.—By our voluntary contribution we shall open the way for gifts from societies and individuals for the establishment of fellowships in the University or its branches. Already several such endowments are planned by national societies, which gladly unite when the work will benefit the whole country.

Success.—With success in our first and smaller purpose of gathering a fund for an Administration Building we have a widespread interest, so that every dollar will represent many petitioners for the fulfillment of the plan of a University of the United States. No Congress can fail to grant the request of millions of petitioners, backed by the precedent of Government and the long-delayed desire of statesmen and educators.

The Ideal.—In working for an Administration Building we bring before the people an ideal. Let us hold to that ideal. It is an

ideal into which every generous endowment for fellowships for research will fit.

It is with all these things in mind that we have been able to formulate an expression of what we feel to be the purpose of our work.

The *Delta Upsilon Quarterly* suggests that each chapter by obtaining flags and banners bearing the colors and insignia of the colleges where Delta Upsilon is represented and arranging these about the rooms will have something unique in the decorating line "

Alpha Delta Phi is reported to be considering a petition from a group of men at the University of Wisconsin.

At St. Lawrence University last year 73 students out of 89 were Greeks.—*The Scroll*.

The total membership of Delta Delta Delta is 565. Of this number 225 are active members.

The original charter of the Harvard Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa, which was lost several years ago and was recently recovered at a sale of antiquities in Boston, has been given by the William and Mary Chapter to the Harvard College Library. This charter was granted in 1779 by the "members of the meeting Alpha of William and Mary College, Virginia," to their brother, Elisha Parmeli, of the University at Cambridge. Parmeli received the charter in person from the Alpha chapter, and, stopping at New-Haven on his homeward journey, he founded the Yale Chapter. The Yale fraternity is thus older than the Harvard branch. The dies of an old medal have been found and the medals have been struck off, so that the old custom of wearing them may be revived.—*New York Tribune*.

The University of Illinois opened last fall a school of literary instruction, the only one of its kind in the west. The course will cover four years. It is in charge of Miss Katherine Sharp, late president of the Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity. Miss Sharp is a graduate of Chicago, has been giving literary instruction at Armour Institute, and is said to be the most thoroughly equipped woman librarian in the country.—*The Scroll*.

**FOURTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA
WITH SIGMA CHAPTER, AT LINCOLN, NEB., AUG. 23-30, '98.**

PROGRAM.

Tuesday, Aug. 23—Arrival of Delegates.	Friday Evening—Lawn Party.
Tuesday Evening—Informal Reception.	*Saturday, A.M., Aug. 27—Business Session.
*Wednesday, A.M., Aug. 24—	Saturday Evening—Reception.
Opening Session.	Sunday, A.M., Aug. 28—
*Wednesday, P.M.—Committee Work.	Special Church Services.
Wednesday—5 o'clock Tea.	*Monday, A.M., Aug. 29—Business Session.
*Wednesday Evening—Committee Work.	*Monday, P.M.—Business Session.
*Thursday, A.M., Aug. 25—Committee Work.	*Tuesday, A.M., Aug. 30—Closing Session.
*Thursday, P.M.—Business Session.	Tuesday Evening—Farewell Banquet—
Thursday Evening—Musical.	At the "Lincoln."
*Friday, A.M., Aug. 26—Business Session.	Wednesday, Aug. 31—
Friday, P.M.—Tea.	Trip to "Trans Mississippi."

*All Business Sessions at University Chapel.

The Grand Council delegates and visitors will be accommodated at "Hotel Lincoln" at the rate of eight dollars and seventy-five cents per week. All mail for convention guests should be addressed "Hotel Lincoln," 9th and P Streets, Lincoln, Neb.

Those women expecting to attend the convention, and wishing further arrangements made, should notify the Marshal of the convention, Laura B. Houtz, 242 South 18th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, before the first of June.

Editorial.

Now that the chapters have selected their delegates to convention, the duty still remains of instructing them as to their attitude toward the different subjects to be brought up for discussion. Perhaps the most important of all is the question whether Kappa Kappa Gamma, in the future, shall admit fine arts and special students. This question has been hanging over the fraternity for some time and should be definitely settled by this convention. As it is the most important matter that has been before us for several years, it is hardly fair to leave it to be decided by the votes of the delegates at convention time. The chapters should discuss it now and decide what their attitude is to be so that the votes of the delegates in convention may voice the real feeling of the entire fraternity.

The whole subject has already been thoroughly discussed in the magazines, so that it is unnecessary again to take it up in detail. Generally speaking, it resolves itself into this: are we to admit an unlimited number of fine arts? are we to admit a limited number of fine arts? or are we to admit no fine arts and special students?

Looking at the matter for the first time, it seems that fine arts and specials are out of place in the college woman's fraternity, but when it develops that one chapter is confident that a decree excluding fine arts would mean the ultimate ruin of their chapter, and other chapters feel that such exclusion would decidedly limit both their usefulness and happiness, ought not these chapters to be considered and the final decision to be the admission of a limited number of fine arts and special students?

As the next issue of *THE KEY* is the last number before convention, any business which is to be brought up may well have a little preliminary discussion in its pages. Several questions have been merely touched upon which might be found fruitful for further consideration—whether the date for holding convention shall be changed; in what way and for what reason a charter should be revoked; what the fraternity's attitude shall be toward extended Pan Hellenic contracts in some cases admitting no members during their freshman year; and what the fraternity policy shall be in regard to the magazine, whether it shall remain with one chapter or change its location occasionally.

It would be wise also for chapters who have candidates for fraternity offices to notify the other chapters either through *THE KEY* or by letter so that the delegates may know something about the women for whom they are expected to vote. It doubtless appears to the chapters that the members of the Grand Council have no duties save to wear extra attachments on their keys, attend conventions and enjoy themselves. But this is only the silver lining which they see. An office on the Grand Council means real work and the qualifications necessary are either unlimited time or unlimited enthusiasm and love for the fraternity. That the editor of the magazine has on the average been spending two

hours a day for four years on fraternity work will serve to show what is required of Grand Council officers. Bear this in mind when selecting candidates.

It is a pleasure to welcome another alumnae organization, the Indianapolis Kappa Club. THE KEY extends to them the right hand of fellowship and renews the vows of loyalty made long ago. May they live long and prosper !

Exchanges.

The kindest remark that can be made about fraternity poetry as a whole is that its enthusiasm is charming. But enthusiasm like charity "covereth a multitude of sins." What nobler subject than friendship could one want to inspire a poem? Why then is it that most poetry which appears in fraternity magazines is an absurd compound of cheap sentiment and doggerel rhyme? The Greek world is made up or supposed to be, is it not, of the "chosen" of the younger educated generation? Then surely there ought to be some shoot of hidden poetic genius on all this promising soil. Hidden it must be for it is certainly not in evidence. But if the new Greeks are so unworthily degenerated from Sappho and Homer as to be entirely alienated from the Muse, then at least let us clothe our thoughts in simple prose and keep bad attempts at verse out of our fraternity magazines. To quote from one recent attempt "What need have they of lisping, limping rhyme?"

In looking over our exchanges this month we naturally turn to the *Kappa Alpha Theta Journal* sure of finding something there of interest. The first article entitled "Date of Asking Day" attracts our attention. It details concisely and carefully the evils incidental to the fast and furious rushing which results when there is an early pledge day and it concludes with an earnest plea to have asking day as late as the end of the fresh-

man year. The benefits which will follow from this course of action are threefold and are stated thus :

" In a year's time acquaintance with the new girls would be gradual and natural. Their character, intellectual attainment and social qualifications would be tested and proven. The chapter would not be deceived by the glamour of first impressions nor carried away by the prejudice of one or two girls, for or against.

Choice would be made from the point of view of value to the chapter, the ideal fraternity standpoint, rather than from personal enthusiasm. So like would go to like, impressions would be less colored by the conduct of rival fraternities and there would be much less chance of mistake.

I repeat, then, the gradual and longer acquaintance would enable us to weigh girls more truly and choose more wisely, since we must choose, and would save the sense of injustice and lack of appreciation now inevitably felt by the quieter, less outwardly attractive girls who are often the strongest and best of fraternity material, but whose very value and deep strength makes them harder to get acquainted with, and so often leaves them unasked, or asked only later after all the hurt of being left out.

Further, the new girls themselves could choose more intelligently. They would recognize their own places, and, in a sense, try to work toward the ideals of this fraternity or that, and to make themselves fit to join it, (I believe this is practically the result where this system obtains among college societies) and feeling the greater dignity of the choice they would feel the greater honor of being so chosen.

Moreover it would be easier to retain friendships with members of other fraternities, and with the independents: in the former case because they would be hardier plants than now, grown in the natural atmosphere, instead of in the forcing-influence of the rushing season; in the latter case also because with the diminution of our faults will come the diminution of independent antagonism, so far as it exists at all."

That the results of pledging at the end of the freshman year, would be as ideal as is implied here is not so obvious but it cannot be denied that it is a step in the right direction. The loss of the fraternity life and influence in the freshman year is cited as the most serious objection to this plan of action. But there is no doubt that the experience gained in a year outside a fraternity would make one appreciate all the more fully the charm and helpfulness of a life within. There is also in the *Journal* an article entitled "Those Chapter Letters Again" which it would be well for our corresponding secretaries to peruse carefully and under-

standingly. It contains some excellent advice for them which is summed up in the laconic "mind your adjectives." Some of the corresponding secretaries of the women's fraternities have been lately accorded a large share of attention chiefly consisting in censure in the recent numbers of their magazine. Here is a crumb of comfort for them. The *Shield of Theta Delta Chi* asks how it happens that the women find time to write such interesting chapter letters. And in truth though we are in danger of seeming unable to receive a compliment with due humility, we must confess that after wading through a number of chapter letters in some of the men's fraternity magazines and after trying to form some idea of the chapter from epistles mainly in the form of telegraphic despatches, we smooth down our ruffled feathers and come to the conclusion that we are not justly appreciated.

We look in vain among our exchanges for the February number of the *Alpha Phi Quarterly*; the November number is the latest in evidence and though we run the risk of being reproached as hopelessly behind the times, we must speak a few words of commendation. It is an attractive little volume both without and within and the Syracuse chapter have cause to be congratulated on starting their term of editorship so successfully. The contents are chiefly accounts and descriptions of the "Jubilee" which breathes enthusiasm and happiness from every page.

The *Theta Delta Chi Shield* relates mainly to their coming semi-centennial convention. A spirit of friendly envy moves us as we read of all the active preparations for the great event and leads us to question frivolously why one cannot have such a blessing as a semi-centennial oftener than twice in a hundred years. We extend our sympathy to the editor who was unable to complete the exchanges owing to his ill health and the rush of business occasioned by the convention. We quite believe with him that "it is no sinecure to arrange for a semi-centennial."

The subject which seems at present to be agitating the "*Palm of Alpha Tau Omega*" is the harm resulting from the undignified escapades so often connected with initiations. To quote from "The Initiation Ceremony."

"The candidate has received the unanimous vote of the chapter and has been presented for initiation. He is about to be made partaker of all the benefits of a duly accredited member, and from the good name of the fraternity at large, he has the confidence

that he is being made an ally in the cause of gentility of conduct, strength of character and nobility of manhood.

Would it not be a disastrous situation if he were to have to ask if there was any chance of violence being done him in this most solemn act?"

After giving instances of "methods of torture" used on these occasions the writer goes on:

"Such a state of things is to be deplored. We dare not charge it to the ignorance or weak-mindedness of any, but certainly such demeanor evinces lack of prudence and judgment, besides it brings great indignity upon the chapter and upon those identified with it. If we allow this evil tendency to grow, and if, by our mere inattention to it, we foster its pernicious cause, we may expect, on the part of the coming membership, but little confidence in the purpose of our greatly beloved fraternity, a disgust for its whole proceedings, the mind of disloyalty to its precepts, and hence extreme carelessness in conduct. Far be it from any chapter of Alpha Tau Omega to be the instrument of its own destruction."

The same subject is taken up in one of the editorials in which the editor tells of a case where a chapter had disgraced itself by a brutal swing and in which he protests emphatically against having the name of their fraternity linked with such an affair.

The January number of the *Phi Gamma Delta* is interesting to Phi Gamma Deltas. We who stand outside the pale must pass over the pages with a sigh. There is one article that appears to be of cosmopolitan interest, entitled "Columbia University". We want to read it but "vita est brevis" and we pass on. There is a full description of the Columbia chapter's new house of which they are justly proud.

Since the decisive action of Kappa Alpha in regard to Theta Nu Epsilon a great deal of interest has been aroused over the subject. The *Shield of Phi Kappa Psi* for January contains two interesting articles relative to it. One, "Inter-Fraternity Class Societies" ably defends these organizations on the grounds that (1) they promote class allegiance (2) produce an external influence on the fraternity for its good, (3) have a broadening effect through the inter-fraternity associations and (4) lessen unfriendly rivalry between fraternities. The other article "On Theta Nu Epsilon" is not of such general interest as it considers that organization alone apart from other societies but it is an interest-

ing attempt by a member of Theta Nu Epsilon to answer the arguments which have been made against it.

In the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, for February, an article entitled "The College Man in Politics" affords its readers plenty of material for earnest thought, it is in decided contrast with the gossiping personals, the weak generalities and the sentimental rhymes which characterizes so many fraternity journals.

The subject of this article is one which demands the notice of college students whether men or women. Ours is a country ruled by the people, therefore the political activity of her educated and intellectual men is indispensable to her welfare. A strong class of college-bred politicians is his only salvation from those parasites, who, under the pretext of serving her would reduce her to their service.

The college graduate, then, owes one great duty to his country, *i. e.*, that of taking an active part in her politics. To do this he must not allow his refined and cultured nature to shrink from the usual filth which attaches itself to politics, he must not scorn to work on the same field with the saloon-keepers, for, says the article before us—

"There is no royal road to power in politics. College men and saloon keepers must tread the same path."

And again—

"We rage at the politicians as a class, with the absurd rage of words. What right have we to rage at them, when we ourselves are a class whose cold selfishness and distrust of the people works more evil than all the activity of those manipulators of men and thermometers of popular feeling, called politicians. In a republic the fittest will survive. If to-day the politician, rather than the scholar, is seated on the throne of power, it is because he ought to be there rather than the college men, who, in their studies and in their clubs, weakly lament the decadence of public virtue instead of entering politics like men and putting their hands to the levers of affairs."

A republic should have no aristocracy, whether of birth or intellect. Her educated men should live with as well as for the people.

"The people are not to be taught by being talked at—they must be talked with, they must be acted with, they must be lived with. It is not the duty of college men to get down among the people—it is our duty to be of the people; it is our duty to be the people themselves so far as our numbers go. In my day we had a col-

lege cry, "We are the people". Take out of that cry its arrogance and put into it the majesty of humility, and make it the motto of every institution of learning in the country."

Our sisters will doubtless be interested in the following clipping from the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, and agree with the sentiment expressed therein, against the initiation of honorary members. We fully believe that strength and honor should come to a fraternity, from its own members, not from celebrities of the outside world, who have no immediate connection with the college career and perhaps no sympathy with the fraternity life of the college members.

"The feverish haste to fill up their lists with "big" men seems to have produced a reckless abandon, which in some fraternities, if not checked, bids fair to corrupt and destroy the usefulness of those societies. Such artificial exaltation only cheapens. This plan of initiating men out of college is radically wrong and diametrically opposed to the true fraternity idea. In our opinion, no man should even be taken into a college fraternity unless he is an actual *bona fide* student in course, no matter how distinguished or how worthy he may be, either as an honorary member or otherwise. To take in men after they have gone out of college is only one step from taking men in who never were in college. It is not only a ridiculous, absurd practice—and it has actually become a practice with some societies—but a dangerous one."