

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

VOLUME IV · NUMBER 2

This Issue Goes to 83,000 Members

SPRING · 1939

PHI BETA KAPPA DEFENSE FUND FOR THE HUMANITIES AND INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

World Crisis Challenges Φ BK Senate

JOHN H. FINLEY

National Chairman, Φ BK Defense Fund

THE Senate of Φ BK reacted vigorously at its December meeting to the threat which nationalism and materialism are making upon freedom of thought and breadth of scholarship at home and in other parts of the world.

Two most unusual resolutions were passed — to reinspect a college and a university where it is feared that high scholastic standards have been lowered to the point where the chapters should be withdrawn, and to raise a capital fund of \$150,000 to \$300,000 to enable the Society to maintain its service to scholarship and democratic freedom in America on the present high level, without fear for the future or compromise with the present.

The fundamental significance of these two actions is interpreted fully in articles on pages 2 and 3. These two actions, taken at the same meeting, though widely different in character, reveal daring and a singleness of purpose. They serve

notice that Φ BK does not rest upon dusty laurels of the past, but in these days of confusion and strife it enters energetically the arena of present conflict prepared to do battle valiantly for the high ideals of broad culture, of sound scholarship and of democratic freedom.

It does not suffice for America's leading scholarly society to regret and deplore the destructive force in the world today. It is our duty and privilege

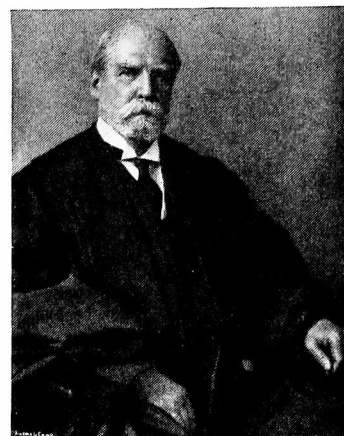


JOHN H. FINLEY

to stand firmly for our traditional high ideals, to relax not one jot or tittle of our efforts and services, to advance our colors and to challenge openly the forces that are attempting to disintegrate democratic principles and to cheapen the processes of cultural education.

The Senate of Φ BK has undertaken to raise a capital fund to keep our work vital at this time of crisis. It is a duty which the choice membership of this honored Society owes American democracy and world scholarship.

Will you not help by your gifts and your service to gather this fund?



Charles E. Hughes

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, Φ BK Brown, Honorary Chairman, Sponsoring Committee, Φ BK Defense Fund.

Our Campaign for Funds

JOHN KIRKLAND CLARK, Φ BK Yale

*Chairman, Executive Committee, Φ BK Defense Fund
Chairman of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation*

IF INTELLECTUAL freedom means anything — if it is to be preserved, it must be fought for. Φ BK is the natural leader in that fight — as is shown by its history in leading the contest for broad, general culture. It cannot lead without resources. It needs support from its members and friends to carry on this fight — continuously and successfully. A careful computation has led the Senate at its December meeting to the unanimous conclusion that \$150,000 should be raised at once toward an ultimate goal of \$300,000.

The challenge to intellectual liberty and freedom of thought, of speech and of worship — the ideals of Φ BK —

Notable Φ BK Dinner, Hotel Astor, February 20th — John H. Finley, Dorothy Thompson, Joseph Bentonelli, Clifton Fadiman, et al. — See page 4

PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHAPTERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA in November, February, May and September, at the Rumford Press, Concord, N. H. Editorial and executive offices, 12 East 44th Street, New York, N. Y. Editor, William A. Shimer, Harvard Φ BK; Assistant Editor, Dorothy E. Blair; Consulting Editor, Frank P. Graves, President of the United Chapters. Advertising rates upon application. Subscription 20 cents a year, \$1.00 for five years. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Concord, N. H., under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable at your office and addressee's new address is known, please forward, rated with postage due to cover forwarding charge. Undeliverable copies should be sent to:

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overshadows even the challenge to democracy as a political system. It cannot be met by armed forces — as may be the course in international developments. It cannot be dealt with by diplomacy. It calls for a strengthening and a widening of efforts on broad fronts of intellectual training. Along these lines, we have made promising progress. We are resolved, with your support, not to slacken or withdraw, but to push ahead.

During the past ten years, Φ B K, through its chapters, its associations, its Senate and its officers, has taken a series of forward-looking steps to effectuate its ideals; to improve the standards of liberal, cultural education in our colleges and universities by a finer test of qualifications of new members and of institutions seeking or sheltering chapters; and generally to strengthen the cause of freedom of thought and expression, both in our colleges and in the outside world.

Under its revised Constitution, broader powers are now conferred on its Committee on Qualifications; its general quarterly, *The American Scholar*, is constantly gaining strength as one of the leading reviews of the country; THE KEY REPORTER is carrying news of the Society's doings to every member four times a year; the graduate organizations have been recognized as an integral part of the Society and are maintaining among the thousands of its graduates the spirit of the Society. Φ B K has undertaken a task which challenges its membership to give it loyal and substantial support.

In making this marked progress, we have been handicapped by reduced income on our well-husbanded investments and by increased costs, unavoidable in the working out of our program. For the past three years we have had to appeal to many of our members for contributions to meet annual deficits. We feel that the time has come to make an appeal to *every member* to contribute, as generously as possible, so that funds may be in hand to carry on our fight, for a dozen years at least, and on a permanent basis if possible.

We of the Senate and its committees have toiled faithfully and earnestly. We call upon you *all* to hold up our hands and join material support to your spiritual aid.

"Your extremely important enterprise will help successfully to make the general public aware of the necessity to take a firm stand in the menacing world crisis." — Albert Einstein.

A Strategic Position Fortified

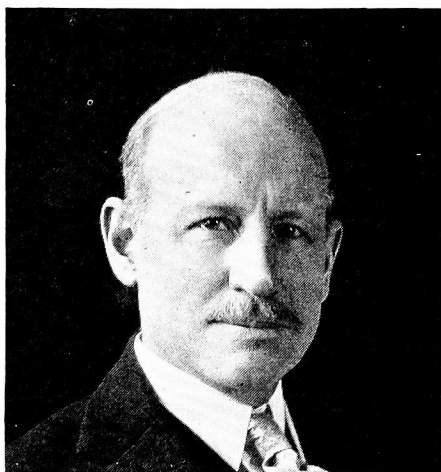
FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES, Φ B K *Columbia*

New York State Commissioner of Education

President of the United Chapters of Φ B K

Member, Executive Committee, Φ B K Defense Fund

TODAY we are compelled to fight again for the Magna Carta of civilization. A struggle must be made for individual freedom, which includes freedom from restrictions on education and scholarship quite as much as freedom from political dictatorship. This freedom is at present dangerously threatened even in America, and Φ B K's reaction has been neither slow nor ineffective.



FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES

Educators declare that Φ B K now exercises perhaps the strongest incentive in the country to encourage our thousand colleges and universities to provide, at least for those students who promise to achieve positions of leadership, the broad, liberal, thorough education essential to enlightened judgment, good taste, and social tolerance and vision.

A high-point in that reaction was reached on December 14th when a score of Φ B K Senators, devoting a day to the review of the status of scholarship and the work of the Society, unanimously adopted a number of far-reaching resolutions. The most news-worthy of these, judging from the flood of newspaper clippings, was the decision to investigate a college and a state university that are believed to have deteriorated, mainly through political interference and financial mismanagement, to such an extent that their Φ B K charters should be suspended or withdrawn. This is the first time in its long history that such drastic measures have been taken by the Society, since every one of the 132 chapters

ever established is active today. The investigations and hearings to be conducted by the Society's Committee on Qualifications will be similar to those given the scores of institutions seeking new chapters and should have a like effect in raising standards, in strengthening the liberal or cultural motives in education, and in providing special opportunities for the superior students.

A second significant action of the Senate on the same occasion was the provision for a Committee on the Status of the Liberal Arts and Sciences. This Committee expects to devote two or three years to a thorough study designed to unite and supplement various partial investigations undertaken by other agencies and to produce a report of such insight and literary quality that it will receive a wide reading not only by educators but by all concerned with the individual and social consequences of American secondary and higher education. This study would also guide Φ B K in selecting colleges for new chapters and students for membership.

The new world-wide struggle for freedom cannot hope to salvage civilization, except as it seeks the chart of its course in the Φ B K motto, "The love of wisdom is the helmsman of life." But under the economic and political pressures of today even educators are casting the humanities overboard, leaving the helm of life at the mercy of this or that particular skill or technique — a proceeding dangerous in uncharted seas.

The chapters of Φ B K, with encouragement from the United Chapters, are giving increasing attention to means of stimulating interest in liberal education. They are favoring honors work, comprehensive examinations, individual reading periods, and other special opportunities for the more capable students. They continue to stand firmly for that basic principle of man's liberty and intellectual and spiritual progress — faith in enlightened individual capacity.

Φ B K would trust the future to talented young men and women who have been taught *how* rather than *what* to think. The *how* implies a broad knowledge of all past thought and action as an

(Continued on page 5)

Fellowship to Be Awarded in March

APPLICATIONS for the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship in the fields of Greek and of French are now being received. If a qualified applicant is found,



MARJORIE NICOLSON, Φ B K Smith

Dean of Smith College, Φ B K Senator and Vice-President, Chairman of the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship Committee, the other members of which are President Guy Stanton Ford and Dr. Mary E. Woolley.

the first award of \$1,500 will be made in March. An announcement concerning the recipient of the stipend will appear in a later issue.

In 1934 Dr. Isabelle Stone, Φ B K Wellesley 1905, left to the United Chapters a bequest of \$23,243.75 for the establishment of the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship in honor of her mother. Dr. Stone, who had been a teacher, received her bachelor's degree at Wellesley and her Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. She continued her study of Greek history and language in Europe on an Alice Freeman Palmer Fellowship.

Zona Gale

GLENN FRANK, Φ B K Northwestern
Editor and former University President

TO OTHER voices and other pens I shall leave a rehearsal of the sheer facts of the biography of Zona Gale. Of none of the daughters of men in this generation do the ordinary facts of when she was born, the books she wrote, the posts she held, or when life left her body seem of so little importance in comparison with her own incomparable self — the grasp of her mind, the richness of her

spirit, the limitless reaches of her sympathy, her unerring devotion to the values that are deathless.

Zona Gale Breese was a supremely great woman. And part of her greatness lay in the fact that she seemed never aware that God had touched her with uniqueness of insight and power. With the plaudits of the gifted of earth in her ears, she was humble of spirit.

She was gentle. She was serene. Her sensitive spirit, housed in a fragile body, had in it the strength of marching armies. She never ran from an issue or dodged a decision that involved the principles upon which her being was grounded. More than anyone I have known, she combined militant convictions with a godlike tolerance for the judgments of others.

There was an amazing directness to her mind. She pierced through appearance to essence always. There was about her a rare intuitive quality that seemed to cut across the laborious processes of research and drive directly to the heart of reality in any problem she touched.

She was — let me say it again — a supremely great woman, with a greatness that did not depend on any external trappings or recognitions. She would have been a supremely great woman had she never written a book, never given her mastery of insight and expression to the theater, or struck a poem like a spark from her spirit.

EDITOR'S NOTE. — Zona Gale was born in Portage, Wisconsin, on August 26, 1874. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.L. degree in 1895, later receiving degrees from Rollins College and the College of Wooster, and was elected to Φ B K as an honorary member by the Flora Stone Mather College Chapter in 1924. In 1928 she was married to William Llywelyn Breese of Portage. Miss Gale's writings include, besides reviews and short stories in various periodicals, some 30 published novels, essays, poems and plays. From 1936 until her serious illness early in December, Zona Gale was an active member of the Book Committee of THE KEY REPORTER. Her death occurred in Chicago, Illinois, on December 27, 1938.

New Address for Φ BK Offices

ON January 28 the offices of the United Chapters and the Foundation and of *The American Scholar* and THE KEY REPORTER were moved to 12 East 44th Street, New York City (telephone Vanderbilt 6-2735 and 2736) from 145 West 55th Street, where they had been located for 18 years.

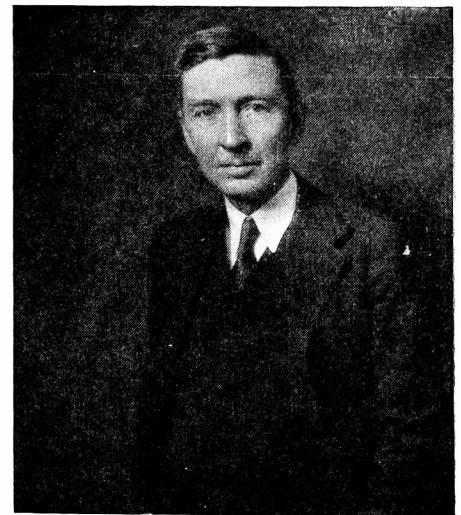
A Defense for the American Tradition

WILL D. HOWE, Φ B K Indiana

Editor and Director, Charles Scribner's Sons
Member, Executive Committee, Φ B K Defense Fund

AFTER a hundred and fifty years the ideals of Phi Beta Kappa still stand as the ideals of American culture. Do we want those ideals to endure? How can we do our part to help them to endure? These are the questions which confront us in one of the spiritual crises of our national existence. Historians who have studied the past, social and economic experts of modern conditions tell us that there are signs in America of decline and decay of the American tradition. Φ B K stands for that tradition. It has been contemporary with it and will rise or fall with it.

We are pouring forth our billions for military armament, shall we withhold our thousands for the strengthening of those more permanent, more spiritual defenses which will give new vigor, new life to those forces which must be nour-



WILL D. HOWE

ished if the America which we envisage is to survive?

I know of no instrument which deserves better our moral and financial support than the Society which has throughout the entire period of our national existence stood for the ideals of the American tradition.

" Φ B K's efforts to insure continuity of operation through raising \$300,000 is wholly commendable in a world where the issue is increasingly between the way of reason and the way of force." — Harrison C. Dale, President, University of Idaho.

Defense Program—Sponsors and February 20th Dinner

A HUNDRED noted members have been invited to serve with the Φ B K Senators as the Sponsoring Committee of the Φ B K Defense Fund for the Humanities and Intellectual Freedom, of which Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes is Honorary Chairman and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and Senator Carter Glass are Vice-Chairmen. As this issue goes to press acceptances have been received from the friends of Φ B K whose names are given here. Other acceptances are coming in daily and will be announced in the next issue.

OWEN D. YOUNG
Φ B K St. Lawrence
A Senator of Phi Beta Kappa and member of the Executive Committee of the United Chapters



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THE defense program of the Φ B K Society will be launched with a dinner at the Hotel Astor, New York City, on Monday evening, February 20, 1939. Dr. John H. Finley, the National Chairman will preside.

Dr. James Rowland Angell, recently President of Yale, will be the moderator for a symposium and round table discussion on "The Crisis of the Humanities in the Fight for Intellectual Freedom." Miss Dorothy Thompson will be the guest of honor and the speakers will be Dr. G. A. Borgese, the noted Italian author of *Goliath, the March of Fascism*, who will represent countries which have been deprived of intellectual freedom; Dean Christian Gauss of Princeton; Dr. Roscoe Pound, recently Dean of the Harvard Law School; Dr. Marjorie Nicolson, Dean of Smith College; and Mr. Charles Evans Hughes, III, who will represent the younger members. Mr. John Kirkland Clark, noted lawyer and chairman of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation, will make the summation. The symposium will be broadcast on a coast to coast hook-up from 8:30 to 9 P.M. over the Mutual Broadcasting System through WOR and affiliated stations.

Joseph Bentonelli, lyric tenor of the New York Metropolitan Opera — the only Φ B K member now in opera — will sing. Mr. Bentonelli was elected to Φ B K as a student at the University of Oklahoma. He was voted one of Italy's four most popular tenors during the 1934 season.

Clifton Fadiman, Φ B K Columbia, book editor of *The New Yorker* since



JOSEPH BENTONELLI

1931, will instruct and entertain the guests with a program similar to Sam Golentaul's famous "Information Please," sponsored by the Canada Dry Company on the National Broadcasting Company's system. Mr. Fadiman will give a "Final Examination" to four famous Phi Beta Kappas: Mr. Charles Evans Hughes, Jr., the Reverend Ralph W. Sockman, Mr. Mark Sullivan, and Mr. Alexander Woolcott. Mr. Fadiman would like members to suggest questions in such fields as liberal education, scholarship, and intellectual freedom. Those submitting questions acceptable to Mr. Fadiman will receive their choice of *Phi Beta Kappa Orations* in two volumes or a two-year subscription to *The American Scholar*.

Phi B K members who can possibly do so are cordially invited to attend. Reservations for members and their friends and questions for Mr. Fadiman's test of Phi B K wit and mentality should be sent to the Secretary, Dr. William A. Shimer, 12 East 44th Street, New York City.

During March committees will be organized in the New York metropolitan area in support of this movement and, following that, similar committees will be set up in other cities.

John Erskine, John H. Finley, William Allan Neilson, and Roscoe Pound are to be speakers in a series of Phi B K broadcasts this spring.

Strategic Position Fortified

(Continued from page 2)

indispensable condition to present constructive thought and action. By electing members without regard to sex, race, religion, or economic or political philosophy, Phi B K upholds the liberty of thought, expression, and action fundamental to human greatness. Phi B K, born with the nation in 1776, should be cherished in America as dignifying a principle now being trampled underfoot in many lands by near-sighted advocates of national material strength. Phi B K stands for no party or class, but only for intellectual ability well employed. Phi B K promotes democracy in our colleges by bestowing the highest possible honor upon excellence in general scholarship, irrespective of wealth, social fraternity affiliation, athletic, or other campus prestige. The pre-eminence of this scholastic honor is a precious heritage of the colleges and should be guarded jealously. It means

much to the quality of leadership in America.

That Phi B K members do attain leadership is evident from the fact that 5,480 appear in *Who's Who in America* — one out of fewer than six. This proportion is the more remarkable when one considers how small relatively is the number of Phi B K members to the total population or even to college graduates. And of course thousands of other members are quietly at work in the home, school, office, laboratory, studio and church, frequently contributing more to American culture than some in the more public positions listed in *Who's Who*. This leaven in our democracy should be kept wholesome through high standards of liberal scholarship. The 300 or more public addresses sponsored annually by Phi B K, the meetings of 132 chapters and 107 graduate associations, the distinguished magazine *The American Scholar*, THE KEY REPORTER's quarterly visits to 83,000 members, all contribute to an *esprit de corps*. Close contacts with scholarly persons, even through the printed page, stimulate creative thought and informed social action. The graduate associations being established in every populous community serve this purpose with Phi B K's characteristic simplicity of organization and program.

The Senate has adopted still another practical measure designed to provide the support necessary to the continuance of this work by Phi B K. A nation-wide campaign is being organized to inform every member of the extent and strategic social importance of Phi B K's work and to give each member an opportunity to contribute to a fund of \$300,000 needed to protect the Society's vitality for the decades ahead. This will enable Phi B K to concentrate its energies, not on itself as an organization, but on its educational objectives. With its emphasis and methods re-examined and adapted, as often before since its founding 163 years ago, to the problems of the age, Phi B K will continue to throw its time-tested influence into the struggle for the preservation and promotion of intellectual freedom, creative cooperative scholarship, and capable democratic leadership.

"It gives me much pleasure to accept the designation of Honorary Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee. I have been compelled to make it a rule to refuse sponsorship of all sorts of appeals, many of which are in behalf of worthy organizations. . . . But I am sure that no one can misunderstand the reasons for making an exception in this instance." — Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.

Know of an Opening?

If name is not given, address Member No. —, care of THE KEY REPORTER.

ART, MUSIC

180. Miss Ella Davis, 24 W. 69th St., N. Y. C. A.B., Hunter '38; major, art; minor, mathematics. Exp. — apprenticeship to photographer. Wants anything requiring ability in drawing, photography or knowledge of art, science, stenography, typing.

181. Edward Meltzer, 64 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. Mus.B., Northwestern '25; A.B. '26; research and study here and abroad in advanced theory, music education, musicology, symphonic oratorio, operatic repertoire, orchestral instruments. Exp. — has conducted symphony orchestras in Vienna, Boston, New York, Chicago, Providence; 15 yrs. college and high school teaching. Wants position as conductor of civic symphony orchestra and oratorio chorus, combined with college or radio work.

BUSINESS, SECRETARIAL — See also 180, 78, 195

182. (Mr., Wis.) A.B., Lawrence '21; majors, business administration, economics. Exp. — 17 yrs. in food field. Wants executive assistantship; teaching college economics, business.

183. (Mr., Ill.) Northwestern '28; M.A. '29; major, mathematics. Exp. — as university assistant taught mathematics, did secretarial and statistical work in psychology and education; other part-time work. Wants secretarial, high school or college teaching, preferably in Chicago area.

165. (Mr., Ill.) Ph.B., Brown '31; major, English; work in psychology and education at Northwestern. Exp. — 7 yrs. in public relations, vital statistics, industrial hygiene, teaching, family welfare, administrative, executive. Wants work as executive assistant, writer, or in public relations.

184. (Miss, Conn.) Ph.D., Maine '35. Exp. — 10 yrs. vocational counseling, social work, personnel work. Wants work in placement, counseling; teaching in eastern college.

EDITORIAL, JOURNALISM — See also 190, 78, 193, 194

185. Harry Galkin, 52 W. First St., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. Oberlin '36; major, English. 1936-37, Inst. of International Ed. assistantship — taught English in Milano, studied at Regia Univ. Knowl. — Italian, French, printing, typing, editing. Wants editorial work, writing; also translating French, Italian.

186. Robert S. Langer, 37 Collins Ave., Troy, N. Y. A.B., Union '36; M.A. in English, Harvard. Exp. — 1½ yrs. in factory. Wants journalism anywhere in country, but preferably in East.

187. Charles F. Walters, 2122 N. 64th St., Milwaukee, Wis. Colgate '99. Exp. — editorial, writing, literary criticism, columnist.

RESEARCH — See also 191, 146, 78, 179, 193

188. (Miss, Mo.) Ph.D., Univ. of Missouri '34; majors, classical languages, archaeology; special work in English literature. Exp. — library, excavating, research, proof reading, stenography. Wants also archaeology, literary work, teaching; translating Latin, classical and modern Greek, French, German, Italian.

TEACHING — See also 182, 183, 184

189. Arthur E. Finney, 14 Cliff St., Plymouth, Mass. Boston '05; majors, Spanish, Portuguese; minors, French, Italian. Exp. — 15 yrs. teaching Spanish. Wants academy teaching, also translating.

190. Darrell Huff, 1107 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, Iowa. A.B., Iowa '38; now working for M.A. in journalism and for Ph.D. in psychology. Exp. — newspaper feature and magazine writer, reporter, photographer, picture editor. Wants college teaching, magazine or newspaper work.

191. (Mrs., N. C.) A.B., North Carolina '29. Exp. — teaching, research.

146. Miss E. Elizabeth Moore, 827 MacVicar Ave., Topeka, Kans. A.B., Washburn '31; M.A., Kansas '36; majors, English, Latin. Exp. — 6 yrs. high school teaching, supervising practice teaching, 4 yrs. substitute and assistant college teaching, library, Y.W.C.A., Americanization. Wants college teaching, research, translating, library work.

192. (Miss, Ind.) Ohio Univ. '37; major, English; minor, education. License to teach English. Wants also tutoring or work as companion.

78. (Mr., N. Y. C.) A.B., C.C.N.Y. '36; majors, English, Latin, French; minors, mathematics, history, physical science; graduate study in English, Columbia. Exp. — 1½ yrs. research assistant, 2 yrs. preparatory school teaching English, mathematics, history, Latin. Wants also library, clerical, research, publishing, book store.

179. (Miss, Jamaica, N. Y.) A.B. Colby '37; M.A. in zoology, Columbia. Exp. — college, laboratory, assisting, private tutoring. Wants college teaching or assistantship in biology, tutoring, research, technical assistance.

193. (Miss, N. Y. C.) A.B., N.Y.U. '35; majors, English, Classics; A.M. '36; Ph.D. in archaeology, Johns Hopkins '38. Exp. — cataloguing, private tutoring, research, radio, lecturing, camp counsellor. Wants college teaching in Classics, fine arts; research; publishing; museum position.

TRANSLATING — See also 185, 188, 189, 146

194. (Miss, Mass.) A.B., Iowa '32; M.A., Boston '35. Exp. — 2 yrs. high school teaching, editing. Wants German translating, general editing.

195. (Miss, Ill.) Ph.B., Chicago '33; major, German; minor, French; knowl. of Spanish, Slovak. Exp. — 5 yrs. elementary school teaching. Travel abroad. Wants mainly French translating, travel bureau work, foreign correspondence, secondary school teaching, preferably near Chicago.

GENERAL

196. (Mr., Penn.) Gettysburg '33; major, economics. Exp. — CCC camp administration, public relations, selling. Wants position anywhere while attending law school.

Books to Own

The Book Committee: Will D. Howe, Burton E. Livingston, Robert A. Millikan, Irita Van Doren.

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At Midnight on the 31st of March

By JOSEPHINE YOUNG CASE. *Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1938. \$2.*

Granted the catastrophic miracle, this poem is the believable story of a New England community which discovered one morning in 1938 (or thereabouts) that it must learn to live in terms of 1620. The miracle is a tall one. On the stroke of midnight on the thirty-first of March, the electric power fails and next morning the truckman who delivers the milk to the creamery comes ashen-faced to the store to tell that the concrete highway peters out in rubble and primeval forest. Exploring parties, east, west, north and south, all return with the same story. The pines stand thick where the neighboring towns and villages once were. The two hundred men, women and children of Saugersville discover with a shock that, save for them, the inhabitants of the American continent and, for all they know, of the world, have been expunged.

One gathers that the gifted daughter of Mr. Owen D. Young was told once too often that the American people are not what once they were, and decided to speak her mind. She has done it with imagination and compelling dramatic power; done it so movingly, in fact, that the reader finds himself wishing that on some thirty-first of March the electric light beside his own bed might fail as it did at the bedside of the frustrated artist, John Herbert. For Saugersville is another Sangri-la, a world where the harried creature of the age which has abolished space and made an idol of time, may slacken his pace and learn to live again.

Mrs. Case's narrative in verse is a captivating escape story. Who, retaining his sense of values, would not live in Saugersville, to begin again the superb adventure of building America? But the poem is something other than a flight

into Never-neverland. The fantasy of it is only on the surface. The poet is seeing contemporary America, confronted with a world catastrophe. Smash civilization, if you must, on the rest of the globe, she cries. Make Europe a wilderness again where the wild beasts roam through what were once the habitations of men. We here in America will maintain ourselves and rebuild civilization. You think we are degenerate. Well, perhaps a few of us are, consumed with greed or fear or reckless individualism, but that is only one percent. Underneath the speed, the paint and the gadgets, the American is healthy and strong, with nerves unimpaired, daring, resourceful, kindly and responsible, as hungry to live and to create as he was three hundred years ago.

That is a large idea, and Mrs. Case has clothed it in a fable which has reality and is persuasive. The men and women in the story who have the responsibility of perpetuating not only the race but its accumulated treasures of learning and experience, have a touch of Spoon River and of Tilbury Town, but they live their own independent life — plain country folks from anywhere, accepting the catastrophe philosophically, as they would, not feeling heroic at all, but very determined to survive and to make what they knew of civilization survive after them.

Gus Warder looked out over muddy fields
That were already drying in the sun
And would be fit to plow and harrow and sow
Before many weeks were gone. He turned again
Within his mind the plan of crops and
stock. . . .

It would be difficult, this working out
Of independent living. . . . But given sun
And rain enough, no late or early frosts,
The sweat of every back that could be bent,
They would succeed. Gus folded over his arms
And dug his feet more deeply in the earth.
This was his kingdom and he would succeed.

Assuredly, Mrs. Case knows her America. Her book is a comfort in a time of earthquakes and hurricanes, and such.

HERMANN HAGEDORN,
Author and poet

Philanthropic Foundations and Higher Education

By ERNEST VICTOR HOLLIS. *Columbia University Press, New York, 1938. \$3.50.*

This book, by Dr. E. V. Hollis of the School of Education of the College of

the City of New York, is, in this reviewer's opinion, the most valuable study in the field of Philanthropic Foundations that has yet been published. It describes the purposes and methods of the larger Foundations, in satisfying detail, and gives a comprehensive overhead view of the activities of all Foundations, in so far as their own secrecies and inhibitions permit.

The whole discussion of the Foundations is brought by the author into their relationship to higher education in America and Dr. Hollis' marshalling of facts and achievements brings the reader to a deep sense of appreciation for the remarkable service which the Foundations have rendered to the development of America's cultural life.

In interesting and surprising conclusion, the author assures us that these instruments of philanthropic service are not on the wane, as some have feared, but that, on the contrary, the number and resources of philanthropic foundations are increasing each year and at an accelerated pace.

This is a book that should be read by everyone who is interested in America's cultural and philanthropic enterprise.

ARNAUD C. MARTS,
President, Bucknell University

The Family of the Barrett: A Colonial Romance

By JEANNETTE MARKS. *Macmillan Company, New York, 1938. \$5.*

Rudolf Besier's play "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" was excellent dramatically but imperfect factually. The Edward Moulton-Barrett it exhibited was hardly one discoverable in the neutral light of library or study. The play made him a sort of Victorian Caliban, more clinical than historical. It is

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the special merit of Miss Marks' work that she sets aside this interpretation and makes Edward Moulton-Barrett more credible and creditable as a man, his conduct as a father more understandable.

Miss Marks has performed invaluable service to Browning scholarship by her researches on the island of Jamaica in the West Indies, the foundation place of the Barrett fortunes, where she has had access to a hitherto untouched wealth of family records. She begins her chronicle there in 1655, with the arrival of Lieutenant Barrett with a force to oust the Spaniards, and, in the course of her account, places greatest stress on these three Barretts: Edward Barrett (1734-98) of Cinnamon Hill on Jamaica's Northside, under whom the family fortunes developed; Edward Moulton-Barrett (1785-1857) of Cinnamon Hill and of Hope End in England, under whom the family fortunes dwindled; and his daughter Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet (1806-61), of Wimpole Street, London. The two centuries of colonial background in the Barrett history form a story as rich and various as that of the American Northwest and its growth. Predominant in that story was patriarch Edward Barrett, who lived manorially in Jamaica and defied fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and slave insurrections to drive him from his increasing acres.

But the responsibility he passed on to Edward Moulton-Barrett, that of preserving the family and its fortunes, was a heavy one, for already in the 1790's events were shaping to diminish those fortunes (declining profits from sugar and rum, for one). Small wonder, then, that by the time the 1830's and 1840's arrived with their terrible losses Edward Moulton-Barrett was desperate. He was painfully devoted to the ideal of family solidarity; he depended on Elizabeth as a sort of anchor for the family; he knew how ill she was and how important drugs were to her. Therefore when she eloped in 1846 he was as one possessed. And just such logical if unhappy reasons explained his opposition to the marriages of his other two children, Alfred and Henrietta. He was a man deserted, as he saw it, in the midst of disintegration.

The convincing reevaluation of Edward Moulton-Barrett that Miss Marks gives us is matched by her discerning treatment of Elizabeth Barrett Browning individually and in her marriage with Robert Browning. She says much that is

THE LETTERS OF Ralph Waldo Emerson

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both new and cogent concerning the former's poetry and her partiality towards outlandish "causcs." Robert Browning gains new stature from Miss Marks' unsentimentalized examination of his complete dedication to her whose infirmities his chivalry touched with "a silver sound." But not many critics will agree that Miss Marks stands on firm ground in airing the fifty-year-old tittle-tattle of Dr. Furnivall that Browning was part Negro. Miscegenation was not rare in the West Indies, where Browning's great-great-grandfather, Edward Tittle, made shoes for the Barretts, but that Browning's sallow complexion and one or two other circumstantial issues prove him tinged by a "dash of the tar brush" is a story that won't come off.

But regardless of minor irritations (Miss Marks' style is not always one to inspire praise, certainly not in her early chapters), *The Family of the Barrett* is a work of valuable biography and sound scholarship, enhanced by incidents and personalities as vigorous as the centuries that begot them. Miss Marks admirably realizes her purpose: to "free these men and women from . . . the sentimentalities and legends of blind group hatred or group worship."

ALVIN R. ROLFS,
Instructor in English, Purdue University

New England Hurricane

THE hurricane last autumn, which rooted out New England trees and snuffed out lives was anticipated by these stanzas in "A Hymn at Night" in Robert P. Tristram Coffin's *Maine Ballads* (Macmillan, 1938, \$1.75):

"And I will stand between My sons
And ruin and the rain,
I will take them to My heart
In the hurricane.

"They shall not be afraid by night
Nor come to any harm,
I will put beneath their heads
My everlasting arm."

He sang aloud and did not hear
The riven oak tree fall.

They found him with a child's calm face
Beneath his shattered wall.

Dr. Coffin, Φ B K Bowdoin, author of many volumes of poetry, formerly president of the Φ B K Chapter at Wells College, is now a professor of English at Bowdoin and engaged in the preparation of a ritual for Φ B K initiations.

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." — Bacon.

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