

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

VOLUME XII • NUMBER 1

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WINTER • 1946

Membership at Large in ΦBK Urged by Senator Aydelotte

At the recent Council meeting Senator Frank Aydelotte outlined a proposal now under consideration by a Senate committee to institute membership at large in Phi Beta Kappa. According to the proposal, graduates of institutions without a chapter would be offered the chance to undergo a special examination, and the Senate would then be authorized to elect those who stood up well enough in it as members of Phi Beta Kappa at large.

IF the proposal can be worked out to the satisfaction of the Senate, the chapters and the Council, Senator Aydelotte observed, membership at large would accomplish three objectives. First, it would make Phi Beta Kappa a national organization in a sense that it is not at present. Second, it would in the long run improve the Society's own methods of selecting members, because of the high standards set for membership at large admissions. Finally, and most important, Senator Aydelotte declared, it would enormously widen the influence of Phi Beta Kappa and give the Society a decisive voice in the advancement of liberal education everywhere in the United States.

Senator Aydelotte added that the type of examination to be given candidates for membership at large should be designed to test ability as well as attainment, allowing the candidate to show his or her qualities. He also suggested that a start might be made by selecting a small group of institutions. After the program had been tried out and found to work successfully, it could then be gradually extended until it embraced the whole country.

Senator Aydelotte concluded by saying that no final report on the membership at large proposal has yet been drawn up by the Senate committee. He urged Council members to weigh the advantages of the idea, and told them the committee would welcome any comments on the project which they might care to offer.

Triennial Council Meeting in Williamsburg Elects Gauss President of United Chapters; Passes Resolution on University of Texas

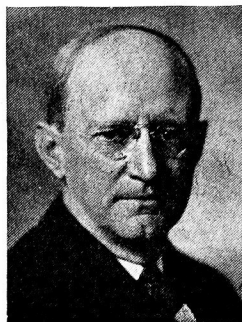
The newly-elected President of the United Chapters for the 1946-49 triennium is Christian Gauss. Eminent educator, administrator and author, Dean Gauss was chairman of the Department of Modern Languages and dean of the College prior to his retirement from Princeton University last year. As twelfth President he succeeds Dr. Marjorie Hope Nicolson, who guided the United Chapters through the critical war years.

The Council also elected Dean George A. Works Executive Secretary to succeed Miss Lydia Bresh, Acting Secretary since November, 1945. Dean Works comes to the United Chapters with a wide background of educational experience. In addition to directing many educational surveys, he was for many years professor in the School of Education and dean of students at the University of Chicago.

John Kirkland Clark and George Dana Graves, both of New York, were re-elected Vice-President and Treasurer respectively.

Owing to the fact that no triennial meeting was held in 1943 because of the war, the Council also renewed the entire membership of the Senate, except for three life Senators. *Senators-at-large re-elected for the term 1946-49* were Frank Aydelotte, director of the Institute for Advanced Study; Guy Stanton Ford, executive secretary of the American Historical Association; Christian Gauss, dean emeritus of Princeton and new president of the United Chapters; Marjorie H. Nicolson, professor of English, Columbia University Graduate School; Arthur T. Vanderbilt, lawyer

(Continued on page 2)



CHRISTIAN GAUSS

The twenty-first triennial Council of the United Chapters has instructed the Senate Committee on Qualifications to secure "at least annually for three years" information about educational conditions at the University of Texas, and empowered the Senate to suspend until the next Council meeting the University of Texas chapter's privilege of electing members "if at any time within the triennium serious deterioration be found." Senate suspension of the Texas chapter's privilege would require the approval of two-thirds of the Senators present at a Senate meeting, and those two-thirds must constitute a majority of the Senate's total membership. The Council also charged the Senate to report again on the situation at Texas at the next Council meeting.

THE Council's action was taken as a result of the findings of a special committee appointed by the Senate to investigate conditions at the University of Texas. The committee found evidence indicating violation of sound principles of tenure and of freedom. It reported that although changes had been made and promises given by the University's Board of Regents, conditions are not yet settled, and "damage to true scholarship may result." Speaking at the Council meeting, Judge Dorothy Kenyon, chairman of the investigating committee, stated that the Board of Regents "may have learned the language of academic freedom, but has not yet learned how to put it into practice."

Last March the Southern Association of Colleges and

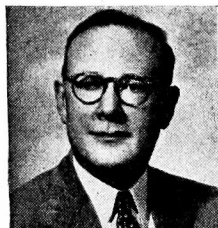
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GEORGE A. WORKS



Newcomers to the Senate Elected at the Council Meeting



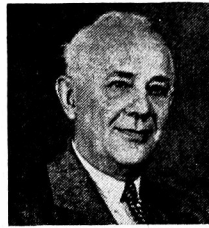
EUGENE P. CHASE
Professor of Government, Lafayette College; middle Atlantic district, 1946-49



STANLEY P. CHASE
Professor of English literature, Bowdoin College; New Eng. dist., 1946-52



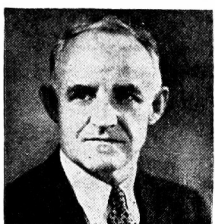
MERLE CURTI
Professor of History, the U. of Wisconsin; Senator at large for term 1946-52



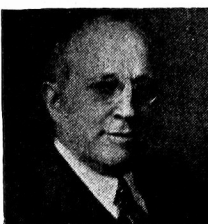
CLARENCE A. DYKSTRA
Provost, U. of California; western district, 1946-49; (appointed Senator 1945)



LAURENCE M. GOULD
President of Carleton College; north central district for the term 1946-49



FRANK P. GRAHAM
President, the University of N. Carolina; south Atlantic district, 1946-52



EUGENE MEYER
Editor and publisher of The Washington Post; Senator at large, 1946-52



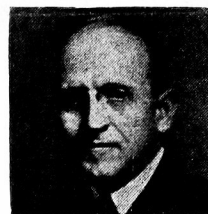
ALLAN NEVINS
Professor of Am. history at Columbia University; Senator at large, 1946-49



PETER H. ODEGARD
President of Reed College, Portland, Ore.; Senator at large for term 1946-52



JOHN E. POMFRET
President of the College of William and Mary; Senator at large, 1946-52



GUY E. SNAVELY
Executive Director, Assn. of American Colleges; so. central district, 1946-52



CARL F. WITTKÉ
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Oberlin, Ohio; Senator at large, 1946-52



HELEN C. WHITE
Professor of English, the U. of Wisconsin; Senator at large for term 1946-49

OFFICERS (cont. from page 1)

and dean of the New York University Law School; and Goodrich C. White, president of Emory University; for the term 1946-52; John Kirkland Clark, lawyer and vice-presi-

dent of the United Chapters; Frank P. Graves, lawyer and former N. Y. state commissioner of education; Theodore H. Jack, president of Randolph-Macon Woman's College; and Dorothy

Kenyon, lawyer and former N. Y. City municipal court judge. In addition, Raymond Walters, president of the University of Cincinnati, was re-elected Senator for the east central district for the term 1946-49.

The remaining thirteen members, elected Senators for the first time by the Council, are shown above.

Fund Raising Measures Approved

The Finance Committee reported to the Council that although income has increased during the past six years, additional sources of current income will be required to support adequately the essential needs of the Society during the next triennium. To help meet this requirement, the Council has amended

U. OF TEXAS (cont. from p. 1)

Secondary Schools moved to restore the University of Texas to full membership in the association by voting to lift the probationary status placed on the University at the association's 1945 meeting. In June, however, the Council of the American Association of University Professors, meeting in Chicago, put the University of Texas on its list of censured administrations and recommended close observation of the University so as to be informed when conditions there have become satisfactory.

AT THE same session in which the Council of the United Chapters acted on the Texas case, a proposed constitutional amendment was also discussed, preparatory to final action at the 1949 meeting. The proposed amendment, which applies to Article VII of the Constitution and Article IV of the By-Laws, would give the Senate interim authority similar to that granted specifically in the Texas case whenever "... there shall arise in any chapter, or in any institution sheltering a chapter, a situation which, in the opinion of the Committee on Qualifications, constitutes a grave and imminently dangerous threat of serious deterioration requiring prompt attention and action . . ."

Introducing the proposed amendment, John Kirkland Clark told Council members that no provision is made in the Constitution at present for dealing with an emergency situation, and he explained that the proposed amendment was brought to their attention at this time so that all chapters might study it carefully before final action is taken by the 1949 Council.

the By-Laws with the committee's approval, raising from \$2.00 to \$3.00 the registration fee sent to the United Chapters for each new member-in-course. As an additional means of gaining financial support, the Council also approved a plan to solicit sustaining memberships.

Sustaining members are members of ΦBK whose voluntary contributions of five dollars—or a multiple of that amount—help carry forward the Society's activities in behalf of liberal education. During the next twelve months all those who have not already taken out a sustaining membership will be invited to do so.



Know of an Opening?

Rates for items in the "Know of an Opening?" column are ten cents per word for a single insertion, seven cents per word for two or more consecutive insertions. Replies should be addressed to Member No. —, care of THE KEY REPORTER. They will be forwarded promptly to the advertiser.

508. (Miss, Ohio) Honors with distinction, English literature, Northwestern 1944. Two years experience sales division of large corporation. Desires more interesting work. Location no object.

513. (Mr., Conn.) A.B., Colgate '37; M.B.A. Boston University '39. Graduate work in accounting. Experience — one year of training in all accounting departments of large corporation; two years of cost work; three years of auditing and accounting procedures; one year general accounting as executive accountant. Wants responsible position in private industry. New England preferred.

514. (Mrs., N.Y.C.) Wells, A.B. '35, M.A. '39; three years Graduate Institute International Studies, Geneva, international relations; two and one-half years ILO; four and one-half years Federal Government (CIAA, State) in labor relations, migration, student exchange. Wants executive or research position N.Y.C.

515. (Mr., Kentucky) Biologist, Ph.D. Harvard 1933. 15 years college teaching experience, biology, embryology, histology, anatomy, numerous publications, research. Desires professorship.

516. (Mr., Va.) A.B., University of North Carolina; Ph.D. Johns Hopkins 1936; Experience: seven years teaching political science in college; two years working directly with state and local officials. Wants to return to teaching.

517. (Mrs., Cal.) Grinnell, A.B. '43; honors, English; minors, French, German, History. Varied clerical experience; reporter metropolitan newspaper; analytic, creative ability. Wants public relations, journalism, publishing, advertising, San Francisco area.

518. (Mr., N.Y.) receiving LL.B. Columbia Law School Feb. 1947 desires legal position. B.A. Univ. of Calif. 1940 with highest honors. 4 years military service. Ex-Officer Military Intelligence Service, War Department General Staff. Age 28.

519. (Miss, R.I.) Brown A.B. 1923, M.A. 1925; former Reader in English for College Entrance Examination Board now teaching English in New England desires position, not necessarily teaching, in southern California.

520. (Mr., N.Y.) ΦBK N.Y.U. 1939; D.D.S. Columbia, N.Y. license. Ex-Captain with three years experience including Chief Dental Service, Station Hospital, and Chief Oral Surgeon, General Hospital, seeks hospital position, or opening or association in private practice. Age 28.

U. S. Education Missions

Decentralization of the educational system, an upward revision of universal, compulsory, tax-supported education to cover nine years of schooling at the primary level, and the establishment of a three-year "upper secondary school" — tuition-free and coeducational — were among the recommendations made in the recently published official

report of the U. S. Education Mission to Japan. The report also recommended adoption of the Roman alphabet to replace Chinese characters, and the creation of a public library system throughout Japan. Education at the higher level, the report continued, could be made available to a much larger number of students by liberalizing college preparatory school curricula.

The mission was appointed to study how democratic freedom of teaching and learning could best be encouraged in post-war, rehabilitated Japan. Last March the 24 members of the mission spent a month visiting Japanese schools and gathering information from Japanese educational leaders.

Another U. S. mission was sent to Germany late in August. It returned from Germany at the end of September and is now preparing an official report.

ΦBK Associates Annual Meeting

The seventh annual dinner and meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Associates will be held on November 26 at the Cosmopolitan Club in New York City.

Mrs. Adam Leroy Jones, President, will act as toastmaster, and Christian Gauss, Dean Emeritus of Princeton and President of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, will be guest speaker. The subject of Dean Gauss's address will be "*The Humane Tradition: Building for One World.*"

ΦBK to Award Sibley Gift

The Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship will be awarded in 1947 to a woman scholar for advanced study in the field of French language or literature.

Terms of the fellowship, which carries a stipend of \$1,500, stipulate that candidates must be unmarried women between the ages of 25 and 35 and must have demonstrated their ability to carry on original research. All applications should be addressed to The Secretary of the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship Committee, 5 East 44th Street, before January 15, 1947.

The Fellowship Committee is composed of Marjorie H. Nicolson, professor of English at Columbia University Graduate School, chairman; Dorothy Kenyon, lawyer and former municipal court judge of the City of New York; and David A. Robertson, president of Goucher College.

News Guild Finds Scholarship

by COWL RIDER

A scholarship, in the amount of \$150, which will pay a student's tuition for a full year at the University of Richmond, is being made available this year by the Richmond Newspaper Guild. The scholarship, to be known as the Richmond Newspaper Guild Scholarship, will be awarded annually to a graduate of either John Marshall or Thomas Jefferson High Schools, of Richmond, Va., preference being given to applicants who express an interest in pursuing journalism as a career. The award will honor the memory of two former members of the Richmond News Leader staff, Lieutenant W. Stanley Kennon, bombardier in the Army Air Forces, and Lieutenant Deverton Carpenter, who died in action in World War II.

The Richmond Newspaper Guild membership includes news department employees of *The Times-Dispatch* (morning & Sunday) and *The News Leader* (afternoon except Sunday), and of the Richmond offices of the Associated Press and United Press.

COWL RIDER, a member of the Richmond Newspaper Guild, is on the staff of *The News Leader*.

AAUW International Scholarships

In addition to the international research fellowships awarded as part of its regular program, the American Association of University Women has this year granted 33 emergency scholarships to women students from liberated European countries. The scholarships were awarded for a double purpose: to foster international understanding, and to offer special training which will equip the recipient to take an active part in the rehabilitation of her native land. Eleven liberated countries are represented in the AAUW fellowship committee's selection of students.

Group Needs English Teachers

The Committee for Refugee Education is in urgent need of volunteer teachers for the free classes it is offering in English instruction. With the growing number of displaced persons now arriving in the United States, applications for instruction have increased. Inquiries of prospective teachers should be addressed to the committee at 254 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

A Word From Our New President Christian Gauss

On my return from Williamsburg, our new and enthusiastic editor requested that I prepare a statement for this number of *THE KEY REPORTER*. I declined for two reasons. In the first place, I had recently had an opportunity to speak to the chapter delegates at the Council Meeting. I had tried to express to them my deep sense of the honor they had conferred upon me. Though I had done this haltingly and inadequately, I felt that it would be more satisfactory to the chapters and to me not to attempt to do so again in words, but to discharge with whatever strength is given me the responsibilities with which I have been entrusted. I did not wish to "crowd the mourners" or make the members of the Society feel that I intended to come in as a new broom.

In the second place, President Nicolson had presented the problems of Phi Beta Kappa so adequately and so tellingly in the Autumn number of *THE KEY REPORTER* that I felt there was little I could add. The editor has now renewed his request and is supported by our able Secretary. This prelude will make clear that I shared the sentiments of those members who felt a brief period of silence by me would have been golden.

I have nevertheless allowed myself to be overruled by one consideration. It is this. Since President Nicolson's statement in the Autumn number, one thing has happened which deserves more than a casual mention. The Williamsburg meeting of the Council has passed into the past. By common consent it was one of the most successful meetings in the history of the United Chapters. It is true that one of the most important items of business, the granting of charters to new chapters, was absent from our agenda. This was because our Committee on Qualifications had wisely decided that it would be impossible to make the customary detailed and careful examination of institutions applying for charters during the upset wartime conditions prevailing on nearly all of our American campuses. This should not blind us to the fact that much work has accumulated, and not only in this field. Perhaps at no time in our history have so many changes in curriculum been proposed and introduced into our colleges. The relation of liberal arts courses and of vocational courses is being presented in new perspectives. If ΦBK is to live up to its obligations and opportunities, it must have more direct and immediate sources of information than are now available on what is taking place in our rapidly changing academic world.

CHRISTIAN GAUSS, president of the United Chapters, has been associated with Princeton University since 1905. A scholar of distinction, he was chairman of the department of Modern Languages and dean of the College before his retirement last year.

THE KEY REPORTER

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CARL BILLMAN.....	Editor
BENNETT CERF.....	
LEWIS GANNETT.....	
HOWARD M. JONES.....	
KIRLEY MATHER.....	
ALLEN TATE.....	
GEORGE A. WORKS.....	Consulting Editor

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
WILLIAM A. JAMES, 217 Canner Street, New Haven 11, Connecticut

After the most successful Council meeting in our history I therefore feel that it is important for all of us to consider earnestly President Nicolson's careful analysis of our cumbersome organization. We all recognize that the chapters constitute the heart of the Society, but our Society now has 94,000 members and 141 chapters. If we are to have any of the qualities of a fraternity or brotherhood, or make our common interest effective, we must establish closer liaison between the chapters and the officers of the Society and the Senate. I am confident that with such liaison more effective methods of transacting the Society's business can be found.

There is another and much simpler problem which we must solve. Miss Nicolson managed with her customary lightness of touch to convey to us painlessly that we probably have the most inverted method of financing ourselves ever devised. The immense majority of our 94,000 members have paid into the ΦBK Foundation a total of \$2.00 — at the time when they could least afford to do so, since they paid it in before they were earning their own living and while they were still in college. The Society also received a profit on their keys. Most of them have paid nothing since.

In return we keep their records, we make the changes of their address in our addressograph, and we send them for life a subscription to *THE KEY REPORTER*. That is why our operating budgets have risen. Our present quarters are now too cramped to contain our records and provide working space. I do not believe that our members would wish to embark upon another endowment campaign. Oddly enough, the notion that scholarship can be promoted without opening purse strings has been throughout ΦBK history one of the most prevalent vulgar errors. (It is only through the generous annual contributions of our ΦBK Associates that we have been able to make both ends meet.)

A cursory examination of our records convinces me that no Society of comparable standing and aims has ever received so few bequests over so long a period of time. In order to correct this situation, I am asking our legal adviser and President of the Foundation, John Kirkland Clark, to draw up the form in which bequests could best be made to ΦBK . This form may later appear in these pages. Members could bring it to the attention of their philanthropic friends. We have a right to expect more help from this source. Our members can with profit repeat to their wealthy friends and to themselves the Latin proverb: *Et sunt commercia coeli*. Heaven also has its business. Some money is necessary to carry on the work even of Phi Beta Kappa. It is true that the Council did increase the registration fee to three dollars. This was done reluctantly, to meet pressing needs.

The cooperative spirit of the Williamsburg meeting would indicate that our growing membership is willing to support the necessary work of the Society and that we must find a way to distribute the small charge more equitably. Complacent, purse-proud middle-age would seem to be looting eager and impecunious youth. A system emphasizing active membership for life would be more in accord with the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa, and as King Lear says, would show the heavens more just.



WHEN SENDING IN AN ADDRESS CORRECTION, where possible please use your KEY REPORTER wrapper.

THEY SAY . . .

Phi Beta Kappa Standards

To the Editor:

The letters by Mr. Ruediger and others in the Summer 1946 issue of THE KEY REPORTER raise interesting points. Is not attainment of the objective of Phi Beta Kappa (the recognition and encouragement of scholarship) hampered by the form of organization in collegiate chapters? This was an excellent scheme when colleges were few, and the social activities of Phi Beta Kappa important. Would not an organization on a regional basis be preferable? Let each chapter admit to membership all college students in its area who demonstrate that they have the necessary scholastic attainments. Mr. Ruediger admits that increasing the number of chapters creates the danger that standards will be lowered. Would not a small number of chapters on a regional basis be better?

I have mentioned standards. The other letters in the REPORTER mix the question of standards of admission with questions as to the desirability of certain activities, such as a crusade for racial equality. Are not standards of admission a fairly separate issue? I use the word "fairly" advisedly, for other matters are involved. If a student in a Southern university demonstrates high scholastic ability, he should be honored by admission to Phi Beta Kappa, even if the university has certain discriminatory practices that are not altogether laudable. It is in the definition of scholastic ability, and there only, that the other questions arise. If the university has an antiquated viewpoint and teaches only the ante bellum ideas of the unreconstructed South, it may be assumed that most of the students have too narrow an outlook to be true scholars, and therefore, we must look with extreme care in picking new members. We should consider not only the formal instruction, but also the ideas and values imparted outside the classroom. If the situation were bad enough, we might say that there was a presumption that any student at that university was undeserving of admission, but this should not be considered an irrebuttable presumption.

This does not mean that Phi Beta Kappa should not devote considerable thought to the racial question. We should for two reasons. In the first place, scholarship demands broad-mindedness, which is the same thing as lack of intolerance. Secondly, Mr. Ruediger points out that our objective is not only the recognition but also the encouragement of scholarship. In the encouragement of Negroes we can do a great deal of good work. I have tried to show the importance of a proper definition of scholastic ability. In practice, the use of such a definition would permit a certain elasticity. In fact, there must be elasticity if we are to encourage as well as to recognize. Therefore, let us lean in favor of the student who is underprivileged because of racial prejudice or for other reasons. In this way we can encourage and help. Also we can stress the activities of Negro members in the REPORTER and THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR, but this is incidental.

It may be felt that this letter calls for a standard difficult to apply in that it must be high and also elastic; but is this so difficult when high scholarship is always the end in

view? It is true that such a standard forbids automatic admission on the basis of high marks alone, but such an arbitrary rule should not be tolerated anyway. We have a challenge to maintain scholarship in a materialistic world. Let us meet it in the proper manner and by the proper methods.

FREDERICK A. STEBBINS
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Phi Beta Kappa and Segregated Education

To the Editor:

. . . The sanction of segregation and discrimination ill prepares our nation for world leadership, when over half the people of the world are non-Caucasian.

To decry criticism on the ground that it stimulates opposition is a fraud . . . If there is to be an end to criticism, let it be by removing the just grounds, not from timidity. I know of no case in history where acquiescence ended an abuse of justice and human rights.

If Mr. Garrett's position is typical, scholarship is in pusillanimous retreat before "white supremacy," whose advocates are loud in speech and successful in practice — however shallow and Hitlerian in theory. The differences between races of men on which anthropological classifications can be made constitute probably less than one per cent of all inherited human characteristics. No sound physiological reason has ever been adduced for believing that any race or group should enjoy intellectual superiority. Sound environmental reasons do exist. The assumption of equality is not simply an "hypothesis" or a political ideal, but a biological fact. What is *not proved*, is the existence of hereditary differences. In view of the anxiety of some groups to purvey racial hatred based on pseudo-science, the scholar should stand on this ground — not its opposite.

It is never too soon — or too late — to take a stand dictated by principle. I feel that the cause of good scholarship would be advanced if all non-sectarian schools which practice racial and religious discrimination in any form whatever were excluded from Phi Beta Kappa until their policies are changed. My own northern college would probably be affected. If its charter were withdrawn I would gladly relinquish the honors and benefits which I derive from the organization — though I would feel honored to have belonged at the time when you decided that those honors were granted under false pretenses.

BRITTON HARRIS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

To the Editor:

I protest at the attempt to get $\Phi B K$ to take a part in compelling educational institutions to admit undue proportions of classes or races. This is none of the business of $\Phi B K$.

The attempt of some religious groups and races to intrude themselves where they are not wanted, by legislation or compulsion, is utterly indefensible. Every person, every group, every educational institution, has a right to admit to its private organization anyone it pleases, and to legislate or claim otherwise is certainly without any foundation of intelligence.

No one is so intolerant as the so-called oppressed minorities.

G. P. BULLIS
FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Compulsory Military Training

To the Editor:

The article by Dr. Stauffer is a sincere and thoughtful presentation of the best of the arguments that can be advanced for the war-provoking institution of universal peacetime military training. Granted, perhaps, that Dr. Stauffer is professionally neither a soldier (having been a mere major in the air corps) nor an educator (a professor of English), it is more difficult to accept some of the arguments advanced. He says that the theorists who maintain that a huge citizen army will be useless in future wars are the same who upheld the invincibility of the Maginot Line. If these latter were those who were thinking in terms of yesterday, i.e., that a bigger defense of the old-fashioned type would be impregnable, the belief that a bigger army today would likewise prevent conquest is equally superseded by events. Perhaps the most disappointing part of the article is the parallel between college education and army training. Education exists for the development of minds. The army trains individuals as tools in a machine, a system carried to its perfection in the fascist states. Are we going to take lessons from fascism? As the author states, democracy will always prefer non-military means of settling disputes. If we do so prefer, our country should immediately launch a movement for the universal abolition of conscription and armaments, now when we are in a unique position to assure other nations of the sincerity of our preference. If we do not do this, nobody else will.

That Dr. Stauffer should refer to the UN — our only hope so far of a world government in which war would cease to harass and destroy mankind — as a "peaceful gesture" shows a lack of faith in any future worth educating for. "Principles and policies of other nations," he says, need to be "made clear by time and tradition." Clarification of our own, and the closer identification of policies with principles, would speed clarification of others'.

"Lack of (military) training has made the inception of the last two wars easier. We might at least try something else." What he proposes is not something else, but an intensification of the system that brought defeat to Germany, Italy, and Japan. Let us indeed try something else, something that has never before been tried, to give man's ideals a chance to overcome his inhumanity. Let the United States lead, by sponsoring world-wide total disarmament!

THOMAS JOHNSON
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

$\Phi B K$ DIRECTORY

A few copies of the latest edition (1941) of the $\Phi B K$ Directory are available. No new edition is contemplated for some time. Orders will be postpaid anywhere in the U. S.

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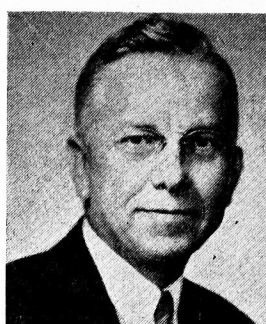
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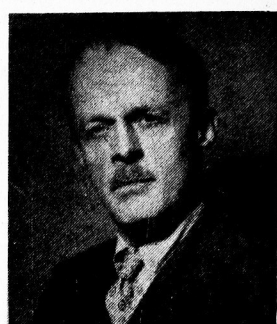
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ALLEN TATE

With this issue three new members join the Book Committee of THE KEY REPORTER: Lewis S. Gannett, ΦBK Harvard, Howard Mumford Jones, ΦBK Chicago, and Allen Tate, ΦBK Vanderbilt.

Mr. Gannett, newspaperman and literary critic, conducts the daily column "Books and Things" in the New York Herald-Tribune. Dr. Jones, president of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences, is professor of English at Harvard University. Mr. Tate, critic and poet, is an editor of Henry Holt & Co.

Other members of the Committee are Bennett Cerf, ΦBK Columbia, president of Random House, author of *Try and Stop Me*, and editor of the recently published *Anything for a Laugh*; and Kirtley F. Mather, ΦBK Denison, author and professor of geology at Harvard.

Twentieth Century Fable

ALL THE KING'S MEN. By Robert Penn Warren. New York: Harcourt Brace. \$3.

Reviewed by Hiram Haydn

Viewed superficially, Robert Penn Warren's brilliant, erratic ALL THE KING'S MEN is the saga of a demagogue. It tells how Willie Stark, the naïve but honest treasurer of Mason County, became The Boss, twice governor of the state, and was well on his way to becoming Senator when he was shot and killed. From the time he first appears in the back room of Slade's place, shambling and clumsy, wearing a crumpled seven-fifty seersucker suit and his Christmas tie, to the moment when he lies dying on a hospital bed — Willie Stark dominates the book and its other characters. When he is present, the story moves and lives, is instinct with the concrete and illogical poetry of life.

Not all the details are convincing. The Boss's relation with fastidious Anne Stanton strains even the willing suspension of disbelief. His abrupt reconversion to an impolitic integrity after his idolized son breaks his neck in a football game seems forced, hurried, almost effected by the author's act of will. Still other incongruities emerge upon reflection.

Yet it is impossible not to believe in and be fascinated by this great sweating hulk of a man with the forelock that he cannot keep combed back. Part ruthless and corrupt politician, part old-time roaring evangelist, part inarticulate and wistful seeker after the good,

the true, and the beautiful, he alternately bludgeons and cajoles the reader into subjection, as he does the common folk who return him to office. The more brutal and violent the contrast, the more effective. For this is the Southland of Bilbo and the Bible belt, of the degenerate aristocracy and the red-necks, the hicks — a land of gaudy and

(Continued on page 7)

Recommended Reading

MY BOYHOOD IN A PARSONAGE. By Thomas W. Lamont. New York: Harper Bros. \$2.50.

The early years, in a Hudson River Valley parish, of the famous financier.

COLOR BLIND. By Margaret Halsey. New York: Simon and Schuster. \$2.50.

A plea for racial tolerance and rapprochement between Negro and white.

MAN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. By George R. Stewart. New York: Random House. \$2.75.

An anthropological history of the human species.

THE LOWELLS AND THEIR SEVEN WORLDS. By Ferris Greenslet. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. \$4.

The study of a distinguished American family.

The Jewish Problem in the Modern World. By James Parkes. New York: Oxford. \$1.25.

A brief history of antisemitism and an overall picture of world Jewry today.

SCIENTISTS AGAINST TIME. By James Phinney Baxter, 3rd. Boston: Little, Brown. \$5.

The contributions of America's men of science to victory in World War II.

THE PARTISAN READER: TEN YEARS OF PARTISAN REVIEW, 1934-44. Ed. by William Phillips and Philip Rahv; introduction by Lionel Trilling. New York: Dial Press. \$3.75.

Stories, poetry and criticisms from the literary periodical, *Partisan Review*.

EAST RIVER. By Sholem Asch. New York: Putnam. \$3.

The story of a Jewish patriarch in New York's teeming east-side tenement district during the early 1900's.

LEO TOLSTOY. By Ernest J. Simmons. Boston: Little, Brown. \$5.

The biographer of Pushkin analyzes the works of another Russian literary giant.

STENDHAL. By Matthew Josephson. New York: Doubleday. \$4.

A biography of the great French novelist.

BRANDEIS: A FREE MAN'S LIFE. By Alpheus Thomas Mason. New York: Viking. \$5.

An appraisal of the character and achievements of Chief Justice Holmes' famous liberal colleague.

ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY. By Donald M. Nelson. New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$4.

The wartime head of the WPB relates how the vast supplies for war were produced.

THE WILD FLAG. By E. B. White. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

A collection of editorials on world government written originally for the *New Yorker*.

CITIZEN 13,660. By Miné Okube. New York: Columbia University Press. \$2.75.

The moving story in sketches and brief text of a Nisei artist's experiences in a relocation center during the war.

20TH CENTURY FABLE (cont. from p. 6)

violent contradictions, laid out under "God's bright, brassy incandescent sky." And no one could do more justice to this man and this land than Mr. Warren does, with his rich and sensuous prose and his authentic insights into character.

But Mr. Warren's ultimate purpose stretches beyond the tale of the Boss and the picture of the Boss's land. Like most thoughtful novelists, he has a legend to tell of "our times" — and the result is a flagging and weakening of the story and the portrait, with very little compensatory gain. In the first place, the book's philosophical overtones are strained through the consciousness of Jack Burden, Willie Stark's ambiguous "secretary" and "research" man — whose primary task is to pin something on all the Boss's opponents.

Jack Burden himself is the book's major misfortune. It is because the first half of the story is largely Willie Stark's and the second half largely Jack Burden's, that the novel sags so badly after a magnificent start. For while something like Henry James's "sensitive observer" may be needed to interpret the "meaning" of the story, Jack Burden, the renegade aristocrat — the hollow man who felt "the first pull of the quicksand" of the past when he finished college, and thereafter moved with increasing woodenness in the present — at once alienates the reader and is incapable of the tasks with which the author has invested him. His introspection is interminable, full of the now fashionable sort of inverted self-pity. His regeneration at the end of the book is as repulsive and unconvincing as a "happy ending" as I have ever encountered. Finally, his conclusions about himself and the others discredit his (and by implication, the author's) interpretation of the story.

Yet the interpretation, the "meaning," is there to be dealt with, however inadequately in a short review. Mr. Warren's central theme is that of the basic duality of existence in the world in which his characters live, and — by explicit extension — elsewhere in the twentieth century world. One aspect of this duality concerns the present and the past — the mean and tawdry present of dirty politics, of football stadiums and garish crowds; and the variously legendary past of the South, romanticized by Mr. Warren's characters in the same way as by so many characters of so many Southern novelists.

In addition to Jack Burden, who loses himself for a time in the Civil War story of Cass Mastern, and the older members of the aristocracy of Burden's Landing, there are those strange cases of arrested development, Anne and Adam Stanton. Anne tries, in jerky, compulsive efforts, to live in the present, but her heart and thoughts belong to the idyllic early days with Jack and her brother Adam. Adam tries to lose himself in his devotion to surgery, but as Jack says, "he has lived all his life in the idea that there was a time . . . when everything was run by high-minded, handsome men wearing knee breeches and silver buckles or Continental blue or frock coats . . . who sat around a table and candidly debated the good of the public thing. . . . And when the world doesn't conform in any respect to [his] picture, he wants to throw the world away."

Adam cannot stand his ultimate discovery that the corruption he sees in the present was also prevalent in the past, and had not only touched his father, the former governor, and Judge Irwin, the chivalrous figure of his childhood, but even destroyed his picture of his sister. He kills Willie Stark in the lobby of the Capitol, and is killed by Willie's henchman. Jack, however, makes the profound discovery that "we can keep the past only by having the future, for they are forever tied together"; he and the Boss-soiled but chastened Anne set out at the implausible ending to seek a new life.

In addition to the dichotomy of past and present, Mr. Warren splits the forces of the present into "the terrible division" of our age:

As a student of history, Jack Burden could see that Adam Stanton, whom he came to call the man of idea, and Willie Stark, whom he came to call the man of fact, were doomed to destroy each other, just as each was doomed to try to use the other and to yearn toward and try to become the other, because each was incomplete with the terrible division of their age.

No one who has read the novel thoughtfully can doubt the crucial importance of this paragraph to Mr. Warren's "fable." In judging this paragraph, one must judge the philosophic fabric of the novel. It does not stand up — for the paragraph demonstrates alike the facile incompetence of Jack Burden "as a student of history" and the insufficiency of Adam Stanton and even of Willie Stark to carry the symbolic load laid upon them.

"The man of idea" need not, does

not, always find the gap between his ideal and the empirical actuality unbridgeable, even in the South today. Nor is "the man of fact" necessarily impervious to the world of principles. Willie Stark clearly was not, for that matter. He fails Mr. Warren's philosophic intention through being too real a human being — too many-sided to fit the pattern imposed upon him. Adam Stanton fails for the opposite reason: his disillusionment is almost as adolescent as the romantic Southern never-never land he cherishes as his ideal. There is too much life in the one character, too little in the other.

Finally, whether Jack Burden (and Mr. Warren) meant to confine the "terrible division" to the South, or to extend it to the whole of contemporary society, his is a woefully over-simplified analysis. To attempt to summarize in this pat formula the conflicting forces within modern man and contemporary society is to reduce them to a nursery mimicry of battle.

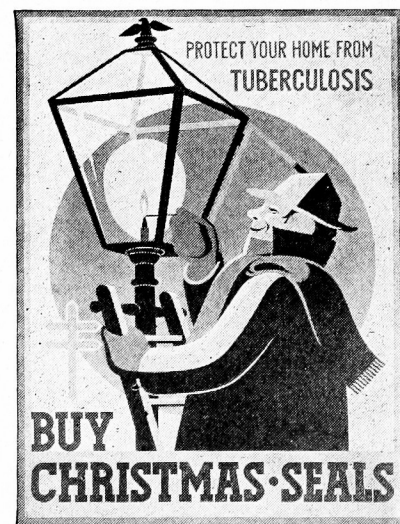
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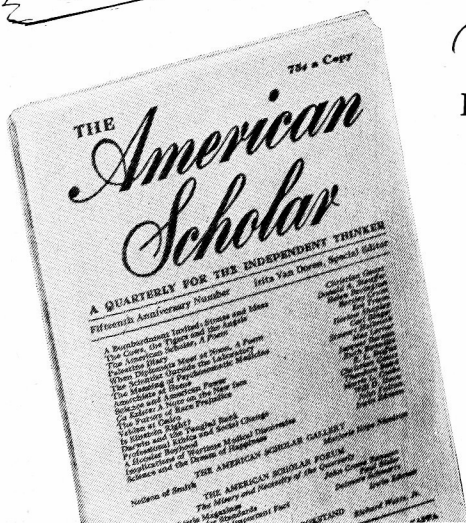
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