

THE KEY REPORTER

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This issue goes to the more than
118,000 members resident within postal service

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

ΦBK Offices to Move to Washington, D.C.

The national offices of Phi Beta Kappa will be moved at the end of 1954 from temporary quarters in Williamsburg, Virginia, to permanent quarters at 1811 Que Street, N. W., in Washington, D. C. The Que Street property was purchased for the Society's use on June 24 by the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation, a corporation established in 1924 to hold and administer the capital funds of the Society.

The Que Street house is situated between New Hampshire Avenue and 19th Street, within a block of Dupont Circle in the area in which a number of non-profit educational organizations now have their national offices.

Purchase of the property marks the end of a search for permanent quarters that began more than five years ago when the Phi Beta Kappa Senate reached the conclusion that the Society should have a home of its own rather than continue indefinitely to occupy rented quarters. In 1950 a Committee on Housing was appointed to expedite the search. Under the chairmanship of Senator John E. Pomfret, the committee has considered property during the past five years in several eastern seaboard cities, as well as in smaller communities near New York, Philadelphia and Washington. In addition to Chairman Pomfret, the members of the Committee on Housing included Samuel T. Arnold, Provost of Brown University; Guy Stanton Ford, formerly Executive Secretary of the American Historical Association and past President of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa; Earl G. Harrison, Philadelphia attorney; Dorothy Kenyon, New York attorney and Senator of Phi Beta Kappa; Roy F. Nichols, Dean of the Law School, University of Pennsylvania; Harold O. Voorhis, Vice-Chancellor of New York University; Paul Webbink, Vice-President of the Social Science Research Council; and Donald R. Young, General Director of the Russell Sage Foundation.

An offer was made in March, subject to a favorable ruling by the Zoning Board, since the house is in an area zoned for residence. The zoning appeal was granted at the end of May, clearing the way for the final sale. The purchase price was \$75,000, to which approximately \$20,000 will be added for remodeling. The house has been used as a private residence and certain structural changes must be made to comply with Building Code requirements for office use.

The house has been fully paid for with funds now in hand.

In 1948, with the approval of the Senate, the Executive Committee of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation voted to set aside increment in the capital funds of the Society after August 1, 1947, so that funds would be available for the eventual acquisition of permanent offices. Since then the necessary funds have been accumulated due to the skillful management of the Investments Committee of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation. As a result, the decision to buy the Que Street house as the permanent offices of the Society will mean no curtailment in Phi Beta Kappa's

regular program of educational activities, nor will it mean that members must be solicited for special contributions to help pay for the property.

The house has had three owners since it was built in 1912 by Alexander Britton, a prominent Washington attorney. Mr. Britton sold the property in 1919 to a physician, Dr. Henry Pickering Parker, who lived there until his death in 1924. A year later Mr. and Mrs. Copley Amory of Boston bought the property from Dr. Parker's widow. For the past thirty years it has been the Washington home of the Amorys.

The property is expected to be ready for occupancy at the end of December or early in 1955. It will house the offices of the United Chapters and of the Foundation, as

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Photo by Chase Ltd.

Phi Beta Kappa's new home at 1811 Que Street, located in an enclave between the Argentine Chancellery residence on the left and the Chancellery offices on the right.

Science and Social Conservatism

By Leonard Carmichael

IN *The Education of Henry Adams* the umbrageous chapter "The Dynamo and the Virgin" has many references to Samuel Pierpont Langley, the third Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Adams says: "While he was thus meditating chaos, Langley came by, and showed it to him." This was written when our century was new and when the then recently discovered properties of uranium and radium were first shaking the old familiar science of immutable elements.

This paper is written by one of Langley's successors, the seventh Secretary of the Smithsonian, at a time when the products of uranium are not only better known to science but also more emotionally considered than they were fifty years ago. Uranium and chaos are not as strange words to use in one sentence as they were in 1900. Adams further says: "Langley seemed prepared for anything, even for an indeterminate number of universes interfused — physics stark mad in metaphysics." All this ends in the sentence, "Langley could not help him."

In spite of the warning of this failure of one of my predecessors to solve the problems raised by the new science in its effect on human values, some dark imperative seems to urge me to look once again at certain aspects of this problem, which has become more, rather than less, sharp as the years pass.

I shall, therefore, try to consider a few areas of impact where science and scholarship forever hammer at the structure of human society. Before Henry Adams' book, much had already been written about the part played by science in the dynamics of social change. But the study of human organizations has another side. In society, as in biology, evolutionary development implies stability as well as change. Conservative structures and functions which have worked well and been useful in the past are the base on which future new

adaptive developments are built, both in organisms and in society.

If the creation of new plants and animals is the greatest wonder of the living world, the second marvel is surely the amazing genetic stability of organic forms. The preservation, unchanged, of some species of organisms during many hundreds of centuries of violently altering earth conditions is a startling fact. The chromosomes of the reproductive cells of animals and plants are unstable, complex, and very specific chemical packets. Somehow, often through literally millions of generations, such chromosomal patterns have maintained themselves with absolute fidelity. While the globe has seen mountains thrust up and worn away, oceans rise and fall, icecaps advance and retreat, certain animal and plant forms have remained constant and unchanged. This conservatism is not of structure only. No biologist can doubt that the habits and indeed the social behavior of certain fishes, crabs, and ants are essentially the same today as they were millions of years ago when these organisms first appeared with the effective bodily forms that they still maintain.

In spite of the amazing genetic stability and reproduction of form and pattern in sensitive and complex protoplasm, biology has more often been used by social philosophers as exemplifying evolution, mutation, and change than as a pattern for stability and conservation in society. The same emphasis on change has characterized those who have popularized the study of the inorganic world. Astronomers, physicists, chemists, and geologists, notwithstanding the often startling constancy of the phenomena with which they deal, have not infrequently captured man's imagination by describing the cosmic alterations and movements with which their sciences are concerned. Students of society have especially been fascinated by social change itself.

The part played by science itself in determining social change has been important only in recent decades. Frederick Albert Lange's notable *History of Materialism* summarized the rise and development, from Thales and Anaximander, of naturalistic and scientific attitudes toward the world and man. Many of the early naturalistic and scientific thinkers were also anxious to be reformers of society. This was true of Lucretius, as we see in his great didactic poem on man and nature. Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis* is also not an isolated example of Utopian social thinking in a pioneer of modern science. The French Encyclopedists exemplified the contact between philosophy and life. These reformers placed a strong emphasis on science and the social usefulness of technology.

THE DYNAMIC, strangely influential, vagabond philosopher, Rousseau, also had an exciting role in the verbal part of this still relatively recent intellectual revolution. He turned his back on the Christian tradition, which holds that each man is responsible for his own moral life and must strive to avoid personal evil and sin if he is to achieve goodness. Instead of this old and tested doctrine, Rousseau made himself believe that man is born good and is corrupted only by a bad society. This speculation, as popularized by Rousseau, clearly has no scientific basis, but it has been taken over and developed by many later advocates of social change who, strange as it may seem, in other ways like to pride themselves on their complete rationalism and objectivity. During the whole nineteenth century this idea found many supporters. Some of the reformers who espoused it believed that by violent alterations in economic conditions or in types of government, and without the need for any hard struggle against evil by human individuals themselves, a golden age could be conjured up on the earth. Present-day Communists and Socialists have taken not a few of their basic assumptions from this strange fantasy-laden theory, which has been called the dynamic sociology of meliorism.

The end of the 18th century saw more than hot, cutting words of a bookish debate about social change. The flowing blood of the French Revolution seeped over the intellectual world creating a political and economic turmoil which was not chargeable alone to the new science or technology of the age or to

Leonard Carmichael, ΦBK Tufts '21, is secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. This article is an abridgement of the Phi Beta Kappa address delivered by Dr. Carmichael on December 30, 1953, in Boston at the midwinter meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The full text of the address will be published in the *Scientific Monthly*.

a half-intellectual denial of the teachings of orthodox religion. Real and deeply rooted economic injustice made the conflagration possible. Those who see the present-day dangers of revolutionary political systems and the importance of maintaining the highest values of true civilization at its best must ever be the first guardians of social and economic justice. The French mania, however, once ignited, soon raged out of Paris and fired thinkers throughout the western world. Its sparks fell where social injustice was not real. Thus, even America was not exempt.

In the decades since this time the pendulum of radicalism and conservatism has oscillated back and forth. Today, at last, as we look at these swinging cycles, new clear lenses seem to be held to our eyes. Some of us begin to wonder if ideas and speculations about man's inborn and acquired nature and about society should not be recognized as important and as having a direct effect on our political and economic institutions.

So far we have considered the effect of essentially philosophical and political ideas upon changes in man's social order. There can be no doubt, however, that the special methods of science as such, especially in the past fifteen decades, have themselves been important factors in promoting social change. The industrial revolution and the consequent shift of large populations from rural to urban living rapidly altered many traditional human ways of doing things. The substitution of machines and new energy sources for the age-old labor of straining human muscles brought with it our modern world of factories, easy transportation, and quick worldwide communication. The development of physics, chemistry, and other sciences in large measure made possible this industrial and technological progress. During these same momentous decades the physical and biological sciences as applied in medicine and in public-health fields began to change world population figures by reducing infant mortality and extending life expectancy.

This great scientific and technological development and the human and social movements that came with it were in general advantageous to man and to society. Undesirable effects there undeniably were as by-products of quick industrialization, but these are outweighed by the human gains that have come from the employment of

modern machines, the proper use of modern energy sources, and good medical science.

Unlike some of the other revolutionary social changes that we have just considered this development of pure science and of technology is conservatively based. Science must build on previous scientific fact and theory. The bomb makers of Los Alamos would have been unable to perform their work without a scientific library.

Thus, because of science we stand on the threshold of a new atomic age that may well bring great benefits to mankind, if such potential human gains are not snatched away by war or a social disorder that may itself be based on an incomplete science of man. More labor-saving devices for brains as well as muscles and a further conquest of human disease and pain certainly lie ahead for all mankind everywhere if man himself does not make this substantial and real progress impossible.

I am not unaware that the picture so far painted in this paper has been done with a broad and coarse brush. Many of its colors and contours might well be modified. Essentially, however, I have attempted to say that physical and organic nature is old and sometimes truly conservative. This often neglected fact may give new meaning to the words deeply cut in the gray stone of the monumental Archives Building of the Federal Government in Washington: "What is past is prologue." We cannot be as sure as we once were that all change is progress. If social improvement is to be insured, it seems clear that we must seriously review the psychological and biological presuppositions about man that are basic to some of the difficulties of this age.

I CHOSE the title "Science and Social Conservatism" for this paper because I am convinced that just such new study of the more enduring aspects of our human world is now needed. In many quarters the view is gaining adherents that the sympathetic study of religion, philosophy, literature, history, music, and art has been too much neglected in the recent past. There are even those who have made a good case for the fact that some of the deep social and political troubles of the modern world may be tracked back to our recent neglect of the classics and of the other humanistic studies.

Good education indeed may be thought of as a name for a complex

process by which all promising members of each new generation are given as individuals the best possible understanding of that which is good and valid in the past and at the same time encouraged to have the desire and wisdom to try to go forward to better things.

Anthropologists and psychologists have described and measured many of the basic characteristics of human beings. One result of such studies is the conclusion that during historic times, at any rate, biological evolution has made no fundamental change in man's physiological and psychological capacities or aptitudes. Skeletal remains show that even in recent prehistoric times the variability of measurement of human races in height, weight, and presumably in strength, is no greater than is the variability found between individuals in the total human family today. Further, there is no reason to believe that the acuity of man's senses has changed during the centuries.

Physiological psychologists and human engineers have in recent years also made detailed studies of man's motor skills. In these studies there is no suggestion that there has been any fundamental change for many centuries in human beings that can be attributed to organic evolution.

Thus, in his original nature each man is limited because he is man. By heredity he gets his particular sensory capacity, his motor ability, and the power of his own brain to learn. His ability to withstand alterations of temperature and humidity certainly have changed very little, if at all, in historic time. Drugs that were known to the ancients still have the same physiological effect on modern men that they had then. Tobacco was presumably just as pleasing and just as deleterious to the pre-Columbian Indian as it is to the modern smoker. There is no literature that suggests any change in the implications of the old adage *in vino veritas*.

The immediate span of human memory is definitely limited, as is also the degree to which it can be improved by practice. Effects of disease and malnutrition, except insofar as modern science and medicine have modified these conditions, are probably much the same today as in the dim past. Man's need for food, water, air, exercise of his muscles, and the voidance of waste products are probably much the same

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Geology Comes Alive

MINNESOTA'S ROCKS AND WATERS by George M. Schwartz
and George A. Thiel. *Minnesota*. \$4.

A review by Kirtley F. Mather

FOR MANY reasons the American people are becoming increasingly aware of their inescapable dependence upon the earth's resources in this age of rapid technologic progress. Whether or not they are employed in any of the extractive industries engaged in procuring metals, mineral fuels or other non-metallic minerals from the earth, they are learning something about the problems that result from the geographic distribution of the limited and non-renewable sources of industrial prosperity. Whether or not they themselves till the ground, they have been hearing much about soil erosion and soil conservation. The rocks and soils and waters of any country are now widely recognized as the foundation of its inhabitants' well-being, the hope of their future. America is coming of age in these years of our lives.

This is a sufficient reason for the writing of such a book as this. How much greater would be the interest of millions of citizens in their work if they understood the geological origins, conditions and relationships of the materials with which they labor! But there is another reason which for many may have even greater force. One may admire the scenery of mountains or of plains, the beauty of a waterfall or a wave-beat headland, but to appreciate fully one's natural surroundings, one must know something of the processes that formed them. In these days of unprecedented opportunity for travel, an understanding of geology becomes a well-nigh universal desire. For the majority of Americans, its aesthetic values and intellectual satisfactions transcend its utilitarian services.

True it is that this book deals specifically with the geological features of only one of the forty-eight states. It is, however, a state with a large population, with unusual mineral resources, and with notable attraction for tourists, especially in the summer months. Moreover, it happens to be located close to the center of the continent and in its

geology it epitomizes the results of almost every geological process that has ever been operative anywhere. To know and understand the geology of Minnesota is quite sufficient preparation for an enriching appreciation of the landscapes and rocks of at least the northeastern quarter of the United States.

Drs. Schwartz and Thiel have attained their objectives with great skill. The former is director of the Minnesota Geological Survey; the latter, chairman of the Department of Geology in the University of Minnesota. They have held technical terms "to a minimum in order to make the text intelligible to those unfamiliar with detailed geological terminology." They make their science come alive with all its fascination for those who are curious to learn "how the world was made" and with much of its significant values.

The book is in two parts. First there is an excellent introduction to geological materials and processes, followed by a chronological account of the history of Minnesota from the time of origin of its ancient pre-Cambrian rocks to the close of the "Great Ice Age," ten thousand years ago. The final chapter in this part describes concisely the state's mineral resources, ranging from iron ores to glacial clays. Part 2 consists of seven chapters, descriptive of "geological excursions" throughout the state. These pinpoint for the local residents and visitors the features of interest for interpretation and appreciation.

The book sets a high standard, both in its smoothly flowing text and its wealth of fine photographs and diagrams. The time is ripe for several other regional treatments, in this excellent pattern, by other geologists competent to do a similar thing for the states and areas with which they are familiar.

Kirtley F. Mather, professor of geology at Harvard University, formerly book review editor of the *American Scientist*, is a Senator of ΦBK.

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**Recommended
Reading**



FICTION, POETRY, AND THE FINE ARTS
John Cournos

ROMANTIC EGOISTS. By Louis Auchincloss. *Houghton Mifflin*. \$3.

Eight short stories, somewhat Jamesian in mood, with stress on character and integrity.

FUTURE INDEFINITE. By Noel Coward. *Doubleday*. \$4.50.

Continuation of autobiography begun in *Present Indicative*. Emphasis on playwright's versatility, as shown in world's affairs as on the stage.

THE DOLLMAKER. By Harriette Arnow. *Macmillan*. \$5.

Story, laid in Kentucky hills, of remarkable power and good writing.

PICTURES FROM AN INSTITUTION. By Randall Jarrell. *Knopf*. \$3.50.

Not strictly speaking a novel, this is a series of brilliant and witty impressions of college life.

MAJOR BRITISH WRITERS (2 VOLS.). Edited by G. B. Harrison. *Harcourt, Brace*. \$12.50.

Superb anthology — Chaucer to Eliot — with brief biographies and illuminating critical comments by distinguished scholars.

THE ETERNAL SMILE AND OTHER STORIES. By Pär Lagerkvist. *Random House*. \$4.50.

Adequately rendered by various translators, these tales by the Swedish Nobel Prize winner are paradoxical, baffling, mystical, symbolical, and often luminous. Essentially religious in character, they range, in length, from a single page to 75 pages.

A TIME TO LOVE AND A TIME TO DIE. By Erich Maria Remarque. *Harcourt, Brace*. \$3.95.

Companion piece to *All Quiet on the Western Front* tells a story of life and death about the time of Germany's military debacle in Russia.

FIVE PLAYS. By Edmund Wilson. *Farrar, Straus*. \$6.50.

Studies of American manners during the 'twenties and after, better for the study than for the stage.

AN ITALIAN VISIT. By C. Day Lewis. *Harper*. \$2.

Series of poems present the gifted writer's impressions of Italian landscape and art.

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LITERARY HISTORY AND CRITICISM

David McCord

THE APPRENTICESHIP OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY. By Charles A. Fenton. *Farrar, Straus & Young*. \$5.

A remarkable, vigorous, and exhaustive but not exhausting study of Hemingway's formative years (1916-1923). Whether Hemingway is your bronze god — as Alfred Kazin called him — or just another writer, this is surely a writer's notebook, and fit company for that instructive brace of books by Maugham and C. E. Montague.

THE ENGLISH NOVEL. By Dorothy Van Ghent. *Rinehart*. \$4.

Clear and discerning observations on Don Quixote and seventeen great English novels from *The Pilgrim's Progress* to *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. The author achieves an integration and cumulative interpretation quite miraculous. "Technique," she says, "is vision," and she sets out to prove it. She writes too well and learnedly not to finalize her interest in words like tenebrosities, cognizable, conceptualize, fragmentariness, concretize, and defaultment.

JULES LAFORGUE AND THE IRONIC INHERITANCE. By Warren Ramsey. *Oxford*. \$5.

Humane and sensible examination of an undeniable French genius who said of himself: "I live by an absolute philosophy and not by nervous twitchings; I am a plain blunt man, not too spirited to lay a finger on [a trait not passed to all his disciples]; love, for me, is not yellow but white and deep-mourning violet." LaForgue's influence on our own modern poetry is much larger and more specific than one reader had imagined. Other readers will probably agree that the unpoetic (pale orange) translations of the verse-fragments scattered throughout would be less distracting in an appendix.

THE UNICORN: WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS' SEARCH FOR REALITY. By Virginia Moore. *Macmillan*. \$6.50.

Yeats studied philosophy from sixty to seventy; but this vast, well documented, though at times inchoate study substantiates the idea that the great poet was a consistently expanding philosophic force. Not for the layman, therefore, but indispensable to the serious student of Yeats, his doctrinal sources, and every facet of the living and druidic man.

Address Changes

In notifying Phi Beta Kappa of a change of residence, members are reminded that, whenever they are not able to indicate this change on a **KEY REPORTER** stencil, they should send not only their new address but the one to which their Phi Beta Kappa mail was previously sent; also chapter and year of initiation. This information should be directed to Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa Hall, Williamsburg, Virginia.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Eric F. Goldman

THE NEGRO AND THE SCHOOLS. By Harry S. Ashmore. *North Carolina*. \$2.75 cloth; \$1.50 paperbound.

A superlative summary and interpretation of the findings of forty-five scholars on this fundamental problem.

RAILROAD LEADERS, 1845-1890. By Thomas C. Cochran. *Harvard*. \$7.50.

A pioneering study of great importance, both for the social science methods it suggests and for the fresh materials it provides about the managerial class.

SECRETARY STIMSON: A STUDY IN STATECRAFT. By Richard N. Current. *Rutgers*. \$4.50.

A fascinating, if highly debatable, critique of one of the towering figures of American diplomacy.

INSIDE LINCOLN'S CABINET: THE CIVIL WAR DIARIES OF SALMON P. CHASE. Edited by David Donald. *Longmans, Green*. \$6.50.

The brilliantly edited diaries of a figure who moved in the innermost circles of power during Civil War years.

IS THERE A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY? By Louis Harris. *Harper*. \$3.50.

A shrewd and imaginative use of polling statistics that says a good deal about present-day political trends.

STUDIES IN CHINESE THOUGHT. Edited by Arthur F. Wright. *Chicago*. \$4.

A group of essays, planned by anthropologists, which provides the most revealing picture of Chinese thought yet written in the United States.

1886-1954

Alain Locke, ΦBK Harvard '08, educator, philosopher, and author, died on June 9 in New York City after an illness of several weeks. Professor of philosophy, emeritus, at Howard University, Dr. Locke had served on the Book Committee of THE KEY REPORTER from 1948 until the time of his death. One of the wisest analysts of the cultural achievements of the Negro and of his relations with other races, Dr. Locke was the author of *The Negro in America*, *The Negro and His Music*, *The Negro in Art*, and other books on racial problems.

Woodrow Wilson Fellowships

The National Woodrow Wilson Fellowships Program, operating under the Association of Graduate Schools of the Association of American Universities, will open its canvassing for nominations toward fellowships for the academic year 1955-56 with the start of the academic year this September. Approximately 150 fellowships will be granted in the coming year's competition, for study under the sponsorship of the program now going into its third year as a national program.

Awarded upon invitation only, subsequent to the nominations by faculty members of promising candidates, the fellowships are restricted for study in the fields of the social sciences and humanities, and are for those who have not yet begun formal graduate work. The program provides an opportunity for young men and women to undertake a year of advanced study in a graduate school of their own choice to determine whether they wish to enter the profession of teaching and scholarship.

Fellows are selected on the basis of intellect, character, and personality, and are appointed only after a personal interview before one of the twelve regional committees which carry on the work of recruitment and selection. Each fellow will be granted a sum of money sufficient to guarantee him an adequate living for his year of study, the normal stipend being \$1,250 plus an amount to cover tuition. Adjustments in the stipend are made for married fellows and in case of other special considerations.

Nominations for the 1955-56 fellowships must be entered prior to November 15, 1954. If the address of the regional chairman for your area is not available, nominations may be sent to Professor Robert F. Goheen, National Director, National Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program, South Reunion Hall, Princeton, New Jersey.

THE KEY REPORTER

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Editor: Hazel Ryan. Book Committee: John Cournos, Eric F. Goldman, Kirtley F. Mather, David McCord. Consulting Editor: Carl Billman.

CHAPTERS and PEOPLE

Brown's Quiz Bowl team won six straight contests and \$3,000 on NBC's intercollegiate tournament this year. Members of the Brown-Pembroke Varsity team were Jane Baltzell, Tom McCormack, Judy Thorsen, and Cal Woodhouse; alternates were Mary Segal and John Semonche. All six "quiz kids" are members of Phi Beta Kappa.

A Civic Award was presented for the first time this year by Altrusa, service club of Fort Worth, Texas, to Miss Lollar Frances Smith, ΦBK William and Mary '42, for her work in founding Fort Worth's Foundation for Visually Handicapped Children. Having lost her sight while still in school, Miss Smith has worked constantly for the blind and her dream has now become a reality. The foundation offers help and guidance to all blind children and is the first service of its kind in the Southwest for children and parents. Miss Smith works with the children and their parents, with their teachers and doctors.

A Surprise Honor Was Conferred on Mrs. Emily Ann Brayton, a first-year medical student at Indiana University, at her initiation into ΦBK. Dr. William Lowe Bryan, president emeritus of the Hoosier University, presented her with the key that had



Courtesy of Indiana University

belonged to the late Mrs. Bryan. As a student Mrs. Bryan had been described by the president, David Starr Jordan, as the brightest woman student to be graduated up to that time. Mrs. Brayton was honored by Dr. Bryan as the outstanding woman member of her Phi Beta Kappa class.

Character Readings are given by Helen Yun, ΦBK Vanderbilt '25, as a nightly entertainment feature at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu. A Korean graphologist, Miss Yun in colorful, native costume helps to provide fun for guests from all over the world. Having majored in psychology and sociology while an undergraduate, she often finds herself dealing with personal problems and acting as counselor or psychiatrist as well as keeping visitors happy and amused.

CENTER OF INTEREST



Courtesy of Providence Journal

at the March 4 initiation of the Brown University chapter is William T. Hastings, Vice-President of the United Chapters, who shows his Brown ΦBK key of fifty years ago and the replica of the silver Harvard medal of 1781 bearing the name of his distant relative, Seth Hastings, a Foundation Member of Alpha of Massachusetts. Miss Annadele Horndahl and Mr. Norman Sprinthall, both '54 initiates, examine the keys, while Goodrich C. White, President of the United Chapters and guest speaker at the initiation ceremonies, looks on.

Particular Recognition to Professor Grace E. Ray, ΦBK Oklahoma '20, who retired after 30 years as secretary-treasurer of alpha of Oklahoma . . . to Hampden-Sydney chapter on the establishment of an annual ΦBK prize of \$50 to be awarded to a student with the best scholastic average at the end of the sophomore year . . . to the Cleveland, Ohio, association which encourages intellectual activity among young people by awarding annually to high school students a grand prize of \$100 and six prizes of \$25 each . . . to A. Grove Day, ΦBK Stanford '26, president of the chapter at the University of Hawaii, who is the proprietor of the White Knight Press, the first private press set up in the Hawaiian Islands . . . and to the Beloit College chapter for establishing a scholarship of \$100 to be awarded each year to the outstanding scholar of the junior class.

A Chapter Celebration was held during the past year to honor the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Emory University chapter. The year-long program, inaugurated in November by Professor Ross H. McLean, professor of history at Emory University, included the February initiation at which William T. Hastings, professor of English emeritus at Brown University and Vice-President of the United Chapters, was the guest speaker. This was followed in April by an all-day meeting, held in three sessions with papers and panel discussions. The anniversary year was brought to a close in May with the spring initiation ceremonies at which Goodrich C. White, President of the United Chapters and also of Emory University, delivered the address.

A Research Award was established this year by the graduate association of Dallas, Texas, to be given annually to a Phi Beta Kappa at Southern Methodist University who shows the greatest aptitude for research in any field. The association this year granted \$500 to a junior initiate, Miss Helen Bradberry.

Ranking Graduate in the June class of 350 students at Columbia University's School of General Studies, Mrs. Blanche Stanley won Phi Beta Kappa, the Alumni Key, and a Merle M. Hoover Scholarship. Helping to celebrate her award for highest



Courtesy of Columbia University

honors was Mrs. Stanley's granddaughter, eighteen-month-old Christine. "The adult mind," said Dean Louis M. Hacker, of the School of General Studies, "is as good as the youthful mind, if not better. It's time we stopped underestimating the potential mental growth of our adult men and women." Mrs. Stanley's record proves his point.

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Science continued

today as they always were. The same is true also of certain basic aspects of his concern for the reproduction and perpetuation of his species.

In the five or six thousand years, however, that man has been putting down statements about himself and his social life there has been a tremendous and rapidly accelerating growth in known facts that each new generation of little human brains must master. Thus today children and university students must be helped by not infrequently somewhat bewildered teachers to deal with mountains of knowledge which did not exist when our grandparents sat at school or college desks. The piling up of known facts is one of the problems of modern education that has brought about some of its present undeniably unpleasant and undesirable characteristics.

This increase in knowledge during the past century has occurred in almost every important area of study in the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, and in the humanities. This very increase in knowledge with which the unchanging brain of man must deal is an important factor in pushing out from established programs of study some of the very subjects which since the Renaissance had given many educated men and women a conservative feeling for the great and, in certain respects, unchanging values of human social living as seen in the literature of classical antiquity and in the Bible.

Thus in a mere fifteen decades or so many new factors have come to influence the intellectual life of biologically old human beings. The industrial revolution was pulling apart some of man's ancient patterns of life at the same time that certain interpretations of science and rationalism were challenging his ancient belief in God and his political acceptance of an organized and stratified society, in which privilege and responsibility were somewhat in balance. As all these mutations were in progress, education was forced to face the problem of passing on to each new generation not merely a gradually increasing store of information, but a great flood of new, useful, interesting but often not well assimilated knowledge.

But education must, it seems, accomplish the task of bringing order out of the world's present disorder, if it is to be done at all. The alternative to establishing values by fiat, or having

no settled values, seems to be that society must do a better job than in the recent past in showing the members of each new generation what the values are that have been judged to be valid in former ages. Teachers must thus select wisely from the vast and growing accumulation of human knowledge those materials which show how true wisdom of the past has developed and been expressed. Education must make clear how fundamental human and social problems have been solved in other ages. In this way inventive men and women of the present day will be encouraged to work out for themselves the solution of individual problems and social questions which now puzzle mankind but which are often seen on analysis to be very old except for the modern costumes they wear.

Science too as it learns more about man's inborn nature will help in this process. One of the world's most eminent biologists, Dr. G. H. Parker of Harvard, wrote a few years ago: "I have tried to evaluate that which we have by birth, that which we acquire from social contact, and I have concluded that we are perhaps about nine-tenths inborn and one-tenth acquired." All biologists and psychologists may not agree with this statement, but the state of science in this area is such that they will find it hard to disprove the assertion. Thus, in spite of the effort of many nineteenth-century reformers to pretend that heredity is irrelevant in human affairs, it now again seems that the very opposite may be true. Man's inborn nature may well turn out to be the most important of facts in formulating a sound personal or social philosophy or in setting up stable political and economic organizations.

In summary, therefore, if we are to try to glimpse even some aspects of an elusive cosmos through the chaos of our times is it not true that we must give full emphasis to all that is valid in the natural sciences and in the social sciences and the applied fields and professions that are related to these areas of study? Above all, however, it would be well to recognize more fully than we have the importance of vital instruction in the studies that record the most sensitive and subtle solutions of human problems as recorded in all fields of study we call the humanities.

The methods of learning about values in art, literature, philosophy, and religion are not in all respects the same as those of science. In some of these

studies emotions and attitudes of appreciation and feeling as well as logic must be exercised. Thus, at least some of the perceptive members of each generation will gain, as in no other way, an inner enlightened understanding of the personal and social values which have always characterized mankind at its best and noblest.

In certain respects man's brain is the greatest and most basic fact in nature. Its capacity as we have seen has changed little, if at all, since before Neolithic times. Is it not possible, however, that this conservative and yet peculiarly human organ is still capable of rescuing mankind from its present-day social predicaments?

Let me end by putting this question in another way: Is it not conceivable that man's wit, cunning, and intelligence may still be able to save the human race from Henry Adams' chaos? If this is to be accomplished must we not recognize that although man is capable of infinite intellectual and spiritual insights, he is nevertheless at the same time an ancient mammal and must of necessity in many ways live conservatively if he is to be able to gain real personal dignity and true human freedom through membership in a sound, stable and achieving society?

National Offices continued

well as the editorial offices of *THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR* and *THE KEY REPORTER*. The house will also be open for meetings and allied activities.

This will be the first time that Phi Beta Kappa has ever had permanent quarters for the national offices. Until 1921, they were established wherever the Secretary of the United Chapters happened to live. From 1921 until 1951, offices were rented in New York City. Three years ago, through the courtesy of the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary, arrangements were made for temporary quarters in Phi Beta Kappa Hall in Williamsburg. Phi Beta Kappa Hall, which was largely destroyed by fire in December, 1953, belonged to the College of William and Mary, not to the Society. Plans are well under way for its reconstruction by the College. After the Phi Beta Kappa memorial building is reopened, it will continue to serve as a focal point in the cultural and educational life of the College as it has since its dedication on November 27, 1926.

THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR *Summer, 1954*

American Thought: THE ANGLE OF VISION

"Americans have a fear of rigidifying thought. They believe that forms are empty—an antipathy to formal thinking which has caused them to shy away from programs of long-range social change. Thus American thought is tentative, fragmented, directed at the immediate object, and open to change at both ends."
—Max Lerner

PAGES FROM THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ELLEN GLASGOW

"Although the primitive in art may be both interesting and impressive, as portrayed in American fiction it is conspicuous for dullness alone. Drab persons living drab lives, observed by drab minds and reported in drab writing—what other impression will be left in the memory?"
—Ellen Glasgow

CONSERVATION IS NOT ENOUGH

"In our society we pride ourselves upon having reached a point where we condemn an individual whose whole aim in life is to acquire material wealth for himself. But his vulgarity is only one step removed from that of a society which takes no thought for anything except increasing the material wealth of the community.... We must live for something besides making a living. If we do not permit the earth to produce beauty and joy, it will in the end not produce food either."
—Joseph Wood Krutch

REMBRANDT: EDUCATOR OF HUMANITY

Paul Leroy, writer and painter, interprets the theme and atmosphere of several of the Dutch master's works and reveals Rembrandt to be a clear-sighted, tough-minded seeker for truth.

A GLIMPSE OF INCOMPREHENSIBLES

George W. Corner, director of the department of embryology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, answers a humanist's question: Does the advance of science threaten to reduce all human activity to physico-chemical terms, thus destroying the humanities, the arts, all learning?

ON FIRST LOOKING INTO AMERICA

Ian Wilson, a young British economist now living in this country, combines nearness of observation with a certain remoteness of association to set down his most outstanding impressions of America.

REBUILDING AMERICAN CITIES

Nathaniel S. Keith, first director of the Federal Urban Redevelopment Program, sees the hard core of the crisis of American cities as the physical obsolescence of much of their central sections, and describes the various solutions which are being attempted.

THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR
Phi Beta Kappa Hall, Williamsburg, Va.

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