“A Fossil from the Tertiary”

But a Power in Education Today

JOHN KIRKLAND CLARK, Yale ’99

President, New York State Board of Law Examiners

A fossil from the Tertiary” Edward Everett Hale designated ΦΒΚ (The Atlantic Monthly, 1879). Yet half a century later, it shows marvelous life and power. In the last two years, ΦΒΚ has led me, a hard-working lawyer, to give it thousands of dollars of time and effort in consultation and committee activities.

If you think for a moment, ΦΒΚ is a fossil, why should such leaders of thought, today, as Owen D. Young, John H. Finley, John Erskine, Mary E. Woolley, and dozens of other outstanding personalities give days of time and effort of estimable value to its work? They will tell you that, far from being a “fossil” — and Edward Everett Hale himself later regretted having used that title! — ΦΒΚ is one of the most active, potent, and effective forces in American education and life. That’s not overdrawn, as I might have believed, two years ago. The evidence is conclusive.

ΦΒΚ may itself have been to blame for being thought, by some, a fossil. Even though modern publicity had been employed, the 78,000 members, scattered soon after their election, to every corner of the earth, would still be uninformed concerning ΦΒΚ had not the United Chapters undertaken a systematic and continued effort to tell them of its activities and its values. This KEY REPORTER appeared none too soon.

The fact is that the 78,000 wearers of the key, chosen on the basis of scholarship and liberal culture from the best tenth of the students in the best tenth of our colleges, exercise a tremendous influence, individually and especially when organized in chapters or graduate associations. Do you know what these graduate groups, embracing several thousands, are doing in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Southern California, the Philippines, Japan, Iran, and 75 other communities?

Every one of the 122 chapters established in the 160 years of the Society’s life is now in active existence and prized highly by the college or university which it marks with distinction.

Many students, with good records elsewhere, transfer to colleges with chapters of ΦΒΚ, to enable them to win its coveted prize. Do you know that hundreds of colleges and universities are eager to get ΦΒΚ — that scores have submitted to investigations, prepared voluminous reports, striven to strengthen faculty, curriculum, library, laboratories, student selection and (Continued on page 2)

The Scholar and the Specialist

JAMES ROWLAND ANGELL

President, Yale University

From an address sponsored by ΦΒΚ in connection with the winter meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Atlantic City, N. J., December 30, 1936. For the complete address see the Summer 1937 issue of The American Scholar.

One remembers the familiar observation attributed to Darwin, that, after years devoted to his biological studies, he found his earlier appreciation of poetry had unwittingly disappeared. . . . Almost all of us who have for years energetically pursued a specialty must have had similar experiences, which are often much more than the mere change (Continued on page 6)
morale, records of students in graduate work, financial stability, in order to stand high in the estimation of the Φ B K Committee on Qualifications? Most significant of all, among the students themselves, Φ B K is voted, year after year, the greatest prize in college life — more desirable even than the highest athletic honors.

To show my right to speak, I may say that, after undergraduate experience with the Yale Chapter, years of service in the New York Alumni Association, and attendance as its delegate to three triennial sessions of the National Council, I was elected a Φ B K Senator in 1934 and have served on several committees of the United Chapters, including the executive and finance boards. Some of the committee sessions have been long — one lasted 14 and another 18 hours!

Why have we devoted so much time and labor to Φ B K? The reason is clear — the more we have learned about the purposes, methods, and significance of Φ B K, the more satisfaction we have derived from the work.

17 Feet of Data

Think of the arduous hours contributed by our talented Committee on Qualifications — Dean Chase of Harvard, Dean Ford of Minnesota, Dr. Graves, New York State Commissioner of Education, President Jack of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Dean Lipman of California, and President Robertson of Goucher. They study the claims of the scores of institutions which are striving to obtain new chapters in this "fossil" organization! The Chairman reported recently to the Senate that in the past two years they had studied "17 feet" (filing cabinet space) of reports and data on 45 colleges and universities, had visited many, had held three meetings, one lasting two days; and all this without financial compensation. Tell them that Φ B K is a fossil!

Consider, too, the brilliant Editorial Board of The American Scholar, rapidly becoming known as one of America's most distinguished magazines for the intellectually alert. How did it get 6,000 subscribers during the depression (1,200 last year)? The news of its rich quality in content and appearance has quietly made its way from friend to friend. And whence the quality? The editorial policy elicits cooperation of many minds, including Harry Woodburn Chase, Ada L.

with the unveiling of two tablets on the walls of the Φ B K Memorial Building at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, on December 5, 1936, the 160th anniversary of the birth of Φ B K and the 10th of the dedication of the Building, the Fifty Founders of the first Greek letter society in America were given permanent and fitting recognition. The beautifully wrought bronze tablets were given to the College of William and Mary by the United Chapters of Φ B K.

The presentation address was made by Dr. John H. Finley, associate editor of The New York Times and Senator of Φ B K, and the tablets were unveiled by students of the College, — Elizabeth Warner Gregory, descendant of John Comstock, John Erskine, John Finley, Christian Gauss, Will D. Howe, Alvin Johnson, Burton Livingston, Archibald MacLeish, Dumas Malone, William Allan Neilson, J. Herman Randall, Irita Van Doren, Frederick J. E. Woodbridge. Can you match that list? They could not be more devoted to the magazine if they were paid for the work.

They Do Work

And believe me, they do work. Every member attends four-hour editorial meetings on the quarterly issues and reads his share of MSS. An absolute rule: No article or poem is accepted without being approved by at least two members of the board. That group of editors is seeking and getting articles which money couldn't buy. They are publishing a quarterly for $2.00 which is worth much more. Ask any one of that Editorial Board why he gives so much time to Φ B K.

Some five years ago, the Senate appointed a famous committee "to make a study of the criteria and methods whereby new chapters shall be authorized and members elected." The blow it struck still reverberate. Its personnel: Dr. Frank P. Graves, President Frank Aydelotte, Dean George H. Chase, Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick, and Professor Adam Leroy Jones. Their first creation was that hard-working Committee on Qualifications, which is indirectly but
effectively improving the standards and strengthening the liberal arts and sciences in our colleges and universities. The second was the proposal that the Phi Beta Kappa chapters be encouraged to improve their methods of selecting students for membership.

**Laws and Practices Revised**

In 1933, the Committee on Criteria and Methods published a 160-page study of the laws and practices of all the chapters. The Committee's recommendations have led to a complete revision of the general laws, a task to which three college and university presidents, two deans, four professors and three lawyers have given, literally, days of work — in strenuous sessions, one of them a 16-hour drive. Far-reaching results are expected if the Council acts favorably next September. Course marks would no longer be approved as the sole basis of measuring a student's achievement and therefore of motivating his efforts; the maximum elections permitted would be reduced from 25 per cent of the class to 15 per cent; election of alumni and honorary members restricted and safeguarded; graduate associations given a dignified status; Senators chosen with more regard to geographical and active chapter representation; power would be given the Council to suspend and withdraw charters if institutions should deteriorate; and many other procedures would be improved. This three-year discussion has stimulated many chapters to study their methods and effect reforms. These facts and other information are reported to all chapter and association officers by frequent bulletins from the United Chapters headquarters. There was never more vigor and forward-looking enthusiasm in Phi Beta Kappa.

**Signs of Life**

Many other signs of life could be mentioned — planning the administration of a fellowship recently bequeathed Phi Beta K; compiling a complete history of Phi Beta K by Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees; a study by a committee under Dean Gauss of ways of encouraging the liberal or cultural emphasis in education; a study by Dr. Shepardson and committee of the stimulation of scholarship through cooperation with fraternities and honor societies and of scholarship in secondary schools through the graduate associations. On the associations, their actualities and potentialities, my great Phi Beta K enthusiasm, I dare not begin! Yet, after all, we must bear in mind that the most important work of the Society is done by the chapters. One further question will interest you.

Do you know that the United Chapters' annual budget is about $45,000; that the office (six rooms in New York City) is staffed with 12 workers, most of them college graduates, including members of the Harvard, Wellesley, and Oregon Chapters? Do you ask why all that is needed?

The executive, finance, and budget committees — including Mr. Owen D. Young, Dr. John H. Finley, President Frank Aydelotte, Dr. Will D. Howe, Professor Hollon A. Farr, and ex officio President Clark S. Northup and the Treasurer, Dr. W. Randolph Burgess, Vice-President of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and myself, chairman of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation — have asked and answered that question to our own satisfaction and to that of the Senate. The sheer volume of daily mail is staggering, much of it from chapter officers, college presidents, and authors of articles. Think of handling records and fees of 78,000 members, 3,400 new ones each year; annual "key" orders totaling $20,000; more than $10,000 annually in $2 magazine subscriptions; addressing quarterly 78,000 Key Reporters and 6,000 American Scholars; the editorial and business and promotional work; and the endless mass of material concerning colleges seeking chapters. The mystery is that so much is accomplished so well on so small a budget.

**Leave a Memorial**

The staff is overworked and underpaid; the offices, although attractively located, are no longer adequate. Aside from the prosaic need for more space for records, files, and office work, the need is great for reception and conference rooms for the many visitors — chapter and college officials, authors, and members; for editorial and library space; a Senate Chamber and Committee room; shipping facilities; a safe for valuable documents, keys, and records; and conveniences available to members visiting or living in New York. Some member has here a unique opportunity to leave a notable memorial in the form of a beautiful and practical headquarters building or endowed suite of offices.

The business and financial management is in excellent hands (excepting mine!). The small endowment of approximately $269,000 is managed by

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A Fossil... But a Power...

(Continued from page 3)

the Treasurer, Dr. Burgess, in consultation with Mr. Young and myself, as representatives of the Senate and the Trustees of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation, a corporation chartered in New York for the administration of the Society's trust funds. The fifteen trustees are elected by the Senators from their own number. Our securities are held in custody by the Chase National Bank, and auditing is managed by Haskins & Sells' accountant, Mr. George P. Auld, a member of P B K who was assistant to Mr. Young as first agent-general for reparation payments.

Add a Codicil

Trust funds could be entrusted to no safer hands than these Senators and Trustees. Every P B K who can, should leave a bequest, however small, to the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation for its general purpose of promoting P B K ideals, or to endow keys for students or memorial fellowships. The usual tax exemptions for educational institutions apply.

The unrestricted annual income from the endowment before the depression was about $12,000; now it is only $9,000. Last year an appeal to a small fraction of the membership for contributions to the current budget brought from 1,408 members $10,720. We hope that in the near future at least $125,000 additional in capital funds can be secured to restore the endowment income to the pre-depression level.

Adequate financing is required, not for an elaborate program of "activities," but merely to enable us to perform present duties with a degree of excellence worthy of the Society's ideals. The colleges of liberal arts and sciences never needed P B K's support more than they do today. The Society has an influence in America comparable to the special honors degrees in England. P B K helps to save the better students from the leveling-down tendency of our great democratic educational system, helps to obtain for them the exceptional opportunities needed for the development of their special talents, stimulates thousands of students annually to enrich their scholarship in the quest of our key, and thus helps to encourage the highest developments of the leadership talents democracy needs in every field.

Phi Beta Kappa needs your understanding and cooperation in order to make an ever finer contribution to liberal scholarship and culture — in order to make the key increasingly significant in America.

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Personal Note for Members

THE P B K Senate at its December meeting acted favorably upon a recommendation of the Executive and Finance Committees (see Mr. Clark's article, page 1ff.) that each member be invited to make a contribution to help the Society through the last stage of its tenth national depression and place it upon an adequate and permanent financial basis.

Although at least $125,000 is needed as capital funds to restore the income to the pre-depression level, any amount will be welcome, even though only $1.00 to pay for The Key Reporter for 5 years (20 numbers).

While this is not an appeal for subscriptions, the response will enable us also to send The American Scholar for a year to contributors of $10 or more.

P B K members are rarely asked to help the Society financially and a generous response to this appeal may make another forever unnecessary. Won't you encourage your Senators, officers, and committeemen, and give P B K the strength it deserves, by mailing now this coupon or the enclosed envelope (no postage needed) with check, money order, or cash?

In 1877 Elihu Root, with Judge Willard Bartlett (Columbia '69) and Judge Ernest H. Crosby (N. Y. U. '76), prepared the plans for the establishment of the first graduate P B K association, the P B K Alumni of New York, whose distinguished membership and 60 years of uninterrupted activity have stimulated the founding of 80 similar P B K associations, 9 of them in foreign countries. The movement Mr. Root helped to start promises to enhance the significance of the key for American education and life.
A 17th and 20th Century Woman

As an authority on the modern detective story, Dean Nicolson is clearly of the 20th Century. She has even been caught murmuring about the "quantum theory." But her mind is not a "very opal," for whatever its various and contrasting colors, it burns with a consistent flame for the cause of education and enlightenment.

The Eight Best

Of the 928 American colleges and universities, 679 are accredited by regional associations and 255 by the Association of American Universities. In the latter group are all the 122 F B K institutions. Of the 133 others, 45 were thoroughly investigated by the F B K Committee on Qualifications, and the following 8 — chosen as the best on the basis of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, of interest in F B K ideals of scholarship and liberal culture — have been nominated by the Senate for charters, final action to be taken by the National Council at its triennial session in Atlanta, Georgia, September 8-11, 1937: Birmingham-Southern College, University of Buffalo, University of Florida, George Washington University, Pennsylvania State College, Reed College, College of St. Catherine, and Washington and Jefferson College.

Still More Contributors (Continued from Winter Number)

Here are a few more of the 1,408 members who in the last year contributed $10,720 to F B K.

Harry M. Cantor, Randolph-Macon '23, Washington, D. C.
Herman Garlan, Harvard '29, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Leo J. Carlin, Chicago '17, Chicago, Ill.
Charles W. Carter, Jr., Harvard '30, New York

Dr. Marjorie Hope Nicolson was chosen by the F B K Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of President Ellen Fitz Pendleton and is already a working member of a Committee on the Mary Israel Sibley Fellowship and of a Committee on the Encouragement of Scholarship.

A World in the Moon: A Study of the Changing Attitude Toward the Moon in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries (Smith College Studies 1936).

Conway Letters (Yale Press 1930).
of taste which comes with increasing age. . . . As a consequence of specialization I found myself in constant danger of obvious intellectual insularity, and much tempted to look down my nose at the labs of scholars in fields somewhat remote from my own. . . .

There is practically nothing in raiment, food, shelter, and unhappily the wholesale destruction of life, which the machine has not put within our easy reach.

Now all these things have come to pass in consequence of the most intense specialization. . . . As in so many other excellent things, the danger here resides not in the fact or quality itself, but in an exaggeration, an excess which is ultimately destructive of the very ends actually sought. . . .

If one be a specialist of any kind there is something to be said for taking out a sort of intellectual life insurance. . . . It would consist in the agreement with oneself to pay over year by year certain hours of the week or month for increasing the range of one's knowledge and taste outside of one's own sphere of action. . . .

The man of letters often obtains a specious reputation for breadth of learning, because the field in which he is competent is likely to be relatively intelligible to all educated folk. . . . Nevertheless, if the world of science is largely closed to him . . . then I do not think we can accord him that unequivocal recognition for catholicity of learning which he has frequently enjoyed. . . .

From the point of view of the specialist as a man, I think . . . he will be a more effective person intellectually and a happier person in his own life if he possesses a sound general culture which will serve to enrich and enlarge his outlook and his capacities, both of apprehension and of appreciation. I think he is reasonably certain to be a more fruitful person in his scholarly and creative work. . . . Therefore, I think our educational institutions . . . must be concerned to discover and determine a wholesome balance between the processes of concentrated specialization and those of general training in breadth of knowledge and taste, that the individual may reach his highest development in the most fruitful service to the social order.
Books to Own

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

For the reader's convenience, orders for any books or magazines will be filled postpaid by The Key Reporter. A free introductory personal or gift subscription to The American Scholar will be sent with any order of at least $6.00.

THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS

The Unfinished Business of Science

By C. C. Furnas, Reynal and Hitchcock, New York, 1936. $3.

Much is being written and said about recent achievements in all fields of scientific effort; we even show pride in what has been accomplished in the last century or two. It must be clear, however, that our achievements represent only a fairly good beginning and that what remains to be accomplished is infinite. The advance of knowledge, understanding and appreciation concerning our relations to our surroundings lags far behind increase in populations, and thoughtless waste of the natural resources of our planet continues. The future promises lasting scientific and technological achievement far more significant than anything thus far accomplished.

In the book before me Professor Furnas has presented a remarkably broad outlook over science and many of the more obvious implications and quasi promises of science. This book differs from many others about science in that it is not greatly concerned with retrospect; it looks out of the present into the future. Interest is in "the discoveries yet unmade, the developments not completed, the things that must still be done..."

Professor Furnas' prognostications are not only easy to read, they are even exciting. Thanks to a fortunate choice of topics, to a sprightly sort of philosophical approach and to an unusually clear and challenging literary style, the pictures drawn of science to come will not be easily forgotten. But no reader will agree with the author throughout; many of these thoughts about tomorrow and the next day are debatable. Statements of fact are in general quite as reliable as one has any right to expect in a study of this kind. In lieu of documentation, a brief but incisively and humorously annotated "Reading List" is appended.

Biological, chemical, physical, engineering and the general social implications and consequences of science are the main fields considered, in terms of such topics as: infectious diseases, what to do about insects, diseases of plants and animals, the competition between the emotional and the rational in ourselves; artificial chemical products, labor-saving, sources of power and light, transportation and communication, mineral resources; the farm and its usefulness, what to do about the weather, social consequences of invention and industry, leisure and the life of assurance.

Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University
Editors Note.—Dr. Furnas is the author of "Science Imminent, By Not For Man" in The American Scholar, Winter 1937.

The familiar McGuffey cover reappears on the anniversary edition of Old Favorites from the McGuffey Readers, $3.50. Or $5 boxed with the companion volume, William Holmes McGuffey and His Readers ($2.25). Both are edited by Harvey C. Minnich and published by the American Book Company, New York City, 1936.

SEVEN YEARS' HARVEST


Only three courses, it seems, are open and possible for the reader who would form valid opinions upon the imagination operating in America today... He can firmly cast out all modernism as of the devil and his works, repudiating his own times entire, and admitting
his own weakness in his failure either to dominate or adjust. . . Or he can throw down all standards except success in self-expression, and urge art to follow science in a great pragmatic experiment. . . Or, finally, he can be willing to take counsel from the mistakes as well as the certainties of the past, and regard his own age as just another turn of the kaleidoscope, in which the principles which govern composition must be studied out anew. They are the same principles, but the patterns have changed, and if not to his liking it is his duty, not to curse the box, but to find out the reason for their ugliness, if ugly they really are.

From Henry Seidel Canby's Seven Years' Harvest, in which this passage occurs, there emerges, clear and sharp, the form of his literary and critical standards, the standards of a man who has always followed the third course. These essays, which with one exception originally appeared in the Saturday Review of Literature, are, as their author says, his intellectual diary; they are the "record of the days when the writer seemed to see an order and significance in the confusion of events." He finds that order, that significance, in the stability of principles. His standards are, in consequence, positive, whether he is speculating on the future of writing or seeking the reasons for the ugly negations in the literature of disillusion. He finds significance, too, in certain hopes — for a new proletarian literature, for instance, without class consciousness, taking life as life, not as social maladjustment, or for a new literature of conservatism, a fighting conservatism eager to preserve or restore threatened or lost values.

In a harvest such as this, some of the ears of wheat are inevitably inferior to others. Mr. Canby is least original — even rather platitudinous — when he is writing of the problems of style, least vigorous when he is dealing with abstract ideas. He writes most strongly and clearly when he is discussing individual authors. His best comments on style are to be found in scattered phrases, such as this, with its reminiscence of Longinus: "that sense of wings spreading in the imagination which is the effect of great art."

One closes this book with regret that its publication marks the end of Mr. Canby's service as editor of the Saturday Review of Literature and with gratitude that it preserves these essays by a critic who has, in his own words, admitted "that he is a part of the time he criticizes" and yet has kept his independence of judgment.

Elizabeth Ritchie,
Professor of English, Goucher College.

Recent Harvard Books

PUSHKIN
By Ernest J. Simmons
In this brilliant account of the stormy career of Russia's greatest poet, Mr. Simmons depicts Pushkin's outer life and traces the genesis and development of his great works, gives enough of the story of each one to make the reader feel familiar with it, and places them all in the background of the intellectual development of the time.

$4.00

THREE CENTURIES OF HARVARD
By Samuel Eliot Morison

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CHASING THE BOWHEAD
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By Wm. G. Land
A convenient guidebook to the university, together with much incidental historical and architectural description and enough illustrations to give an idea of the grounds and buildings.

$1.50

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By William Brewster
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOLERATION IN ENGLAND (1603-1640)
By Wilbur K. Jordan
"His discussion, presented with the cool and accurate objectivity of the scientific historian, lays bare a series of attitudes and procedures operative three hundred years ago that deserve consideration on the part of everyone vitally interested in some of our most crucial modern problems." — Shirley Jackson Case, in New York Herald-Tribune.

$5.00

HUTCHINSON'S HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY
Edited by Lawrence S. Mayo
"I have used the original volumes for years, but the new edition is such a delight to the eye and the printing is so clear and well spaced that I have been lured into reading the three volumes through from cover to cover, a feat I have never attempted to perform before." — Charles M. Andrews, in New England Quarterly. 3 volumes.

$15.00 a set.

FORCE OR REASON
By Hans Kohn
A challenging consideration of the immense and unprecedented difficulties facing modern civilization in its attempt to enlarge democracy and all that it implies of liberty and equality, dignity and happiness, both internationally and socially to arrive at equal opportunity for all men and all classes.

$1.50

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.