

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

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This Issue Goes to 75,100 Members

WINTER · 1937

Was Φ BK Worth While?

HAROLD A. LARRABEE, *Harvard '16*

Author of *What Philosophy Is*

ALREADY educators who do not hesitate to use what might be called the "scholarship pays" argument have begun to quote passages from John R. Tunis' provocative volume entitled *Was College Worth While?** Since Φ BK audiences are likely to hear a good deal more about this stimulating study of the Harvard class of 1911 twenty-five years after graduation, it may be worth our while to see exactly what Mr. Tunis has to report and what his results may be said to prove. For it may be that they are open to interpretations very different from those which have so far been placed upon them.

The sentences which seem to be doomed to extensive quotation in future exhortations to lagging college students are the following: Of the four groups sampled — the athletes, the Φ BK men, the clubmen, and the average unheard-of men —

financially the Phi Beta Kappas lead the field, and not by a small margin. . . . If you desire to be prominent and well known in later life, it seems to pay to make Phi Beta Kappa when in college. . . . Possibly this class is not an exact criterion, but if it is, you had better urge your son to give up football practice and concentrate upon his courses. . . . The earnings of the Phi Beta Kappa men from our class appearing in *Who's Who* averaged recently over \$6,000 a year, well above the average class income. . . . It seems as if the men who resolutely refused to go all out for money are actually better off financially than many of us who did.

Superficially considered, the case for the cash-value of the key would seem to be surprisingly confirmed, but a closer examination of the data raises certain doubts. In the first place Mr. Tunis, who is often distressingly vague about his methods, describes his technique of sampling thus:

In order to obtain some basis of comparison between then and now, I dug out an old Class Album issued our senior year in college, and picked at random a hundred names from four different groups.

Apparently this means 25 names from each group. Since only 27 members of the class of 1911 were elected to Φ BK, a "random sample" of 25 must include practically all the living

*Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York, 1936. (\$2).

members of the group. Moreover, the whole sample of 100 names comprises less than one-sixth of the living membership of the class, which numbers 629 in all.

The comparisons of income among the four sample groups were made on the basis of replies to an unsigned questionnaire sent out by a member of the class, to which 70 per cent of the class replied, giving figures concerning their receipts in the year 1934. Add to this the consideration that all averages of as few as 25 items may be seriously distorted by the extreme cases at the ends of the income-scale, and the reasons for distrusting Mr. Tunis' conclusions, simply from elementary statistical caution, begin to be apparent.

But one might waive all such doubts and accept the quoted statements at their face value, yet still question the alleged significance of the "moral" commonly drawn from them, for one of the most striking revelations made by Mr. Tunis is that in 1934 the total yearly earnings of the class of 1911 probably averaged less than \$4,000 per man.

(Continued on page 6)



Φ BK Satirized

HOWARD CUSHMAN

THE key of Φ BK — an over-sized papier-mâché replica three feet long — was lightheartedly introduced into the recent production of the Living Newspaper of the WPA Federal Theatre. This unexpected event transpires in an otherwise grim labor production called *Injunction Granted!* which ran for twelve weeks at the Biltmore Theatre in New York City.

Injunction Granted! and the Living Newspaper require a little explaining. The Living Newspaper is a Federal Theatre project unique to New York City and is sponsored by the New York Newspaper Guild, an A. F. of L. union of editorial workers. Its several productions this year have been liberal and intense dramatization of controversial news subjects, an adaptation of the March of Time technique to the use of living actors in a theatre. The actors, of course, as well as the Living Newspaper's staff of playwrights and research workers are drawn mostly from the relief rolls.

In *Injunction Granted!*, latest of its bills, the Living News-

In this Issue: "Mark-Grabbers" Not Wanted Reviews of
American Acres, Kittredge's Shakespeare, Wheelock's Poems

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paper attempted a dramatized history of the relation of American labor to the courts, stressing anti-labor injunctions, repressive legislation, and the invalidation by the courts of legislation favorable to labor. That was *Injunction Granted!*, a rapid series of thirty stylized scenes summing up the case for labor and against the courts. With a cast of 100 the play is acted in nearly 100 "scenes" or groupings and 500 lighting cues on a single unit set.

Liberal organs and liberal audiences acclaimed the production vociferously; anti-Administration critics saw in the play the use of government funds to promote so-called "radical" ideas; dramatic critics, even while disagreeing with the play's argument, generally regarded the technique and presentation an interesting experiment done with considerable skill.

As in all Living Newspaper productions, public figures were presented on the stage speaking authentic lines as reported in their public utterances, among whom appeared Hugh S. Johnson, introduced as administrator of the N.R.A., in 1935 guaranteeing a square deal to labor. "The right to strike is inviolate, like the law of self-defense!" boomed the stage caricature of Johnson,

for this one-half of one per cent of our population to try to strangle the rest of us into submission by such means as these!

Worker enters left and crosses to right on next lines.

WORKER. The funny part of it is that he's right, absolutely! The only question is, who is the one-half of one per cent? The sixty million people who work for a livin' and want to get paid for that work or the small minority that are out to see that they don't! . . . There may be a lot of things wrong with the guy, but his mathematics is just about perfect!

Light up on top ramp, where the president of the University of California beckons to Johnson, who ascends ramp to position just below him.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT. General Johnson, the University of California is honored to present to you today this key of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. . . .

Clown opens hatch between Johnson and President and hands Johnson large Phi Beta Kappa key.

WORKER (as tableau is held). . . . for proficiency in mathematics! *Worker goes off right.*

VOICE OF LIVING NEWSPAPER (Loudspeaker). General Johnson resigns as NRA Administrator. . . . Donald S. Richberg replaces him. . . .

University President goes off ramp. Clown strikes Johnson over head with slapstick. Johnson goes off.



gloriously attired in frock coat with gold epaulettes.

But when San Francisco was helpless in the grip of a general strike one year later, General Johnson reappeared in the play to proclaim that the strike was a threat to the community, that it was civil war. From scene 24:

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON. This is a bloody insurrection! It would be safer for a cotton-tailed rabbit to slap a wild-cat in the face, than

"Mark-Grabbers" Not Wanted

AN EFFORT to exclude from Φ B K the "mark-grabbers" and students unable to excel in advanced courses and to include the occasional genuine scholar who for good reason may fall below an arbitrary grade standard, is evident in the following excerpts from a revision of the Colby Chapter By-Laws as reported by the secretary, Dr. Carl J. Weber. The Chapter Constitution states that scholarship and good moral character are the qualifications for membership.

"A Membership Committee shall consist of five faculty members elected for overlapping terms of five years. . . . Membership on the Committee shall, so far as possible, be distributed among the various major groups into which the curriculum naturally falls, at least one member representing the language and literature group, one the social science group, and one the natural science group. . . .

"Undergraduate Members shall be selected by the following procedure: Immediately after the recording of the mid-year marks by the Registrar, the chairman of the Membership Committee shall request of the Registrar a list, in order of rank, of the top 20 per cent of the Senior class. The chairman of the committee shall also invite all heads of departments to submit the names of any students whom they deem worthy of election to Φ B K. . . . At a

Clown rolls down ramp, murmuring "Crackdown! Crackdown!" landing off ramp at center.

Here it must be acknowledged that the Living Newspaper lapsed from its usual insistence on authenticity in recorded speeches and events. The record shows (and the *California Monthly* was the source of the research) that in July 1934 General Johnson, California '15, spoke in the Greek theatre on the Berkeley campus where nineteen years earlier he had taken his doctorate. Preceding this public address Johnson was elected to alumni membership in ΦBK in a ceremony presided over by Dr. Franz Schneider, associate professor of German and president of the U. C. Chapter of the Society. The Living Newspaper's dramatists used this event as the basis of the key presentation on the stage, in its program indicating (and inadvertently) that the presentation was made by the president of the University of California.

preliminary meeting the names of those Seniors who, by unanimous consent of the committee, are regarded as obviously unqualified for election to the society may be removed from the list. . . .

"Each member of the committee shall then proceed to learn all he can regarding the qualifications of the students assigned to him. He shall proceed in the following manner:

(a) Examine carefully the student's record in the Registrar's office, noting not only his average (e.g. 92, or 90, or 88) for three and a half years of his college work, but also other factors of importance, such as the character of the courses taken, the distribution of courses from the point of view of the extent to which they have provided a liberal training, the progress of the student (i.e., whether his work improved as he went on from year to year or not) and any unusual features of the record which may be of value in determining the desirability of the student as a candidate for election to Φ B K.

(b) Consult the head of the department in which the student has majored, asking for information regarding the character, ability, work, and interest of the student.

(c) Consult other members of the faculty with whom the student has taken courses, asking for similar information. . . .

(Continued on page 6)

The Idea: An Ode

To the Alpha of Virginia
The College of William and Mary

SALLY BRUCE KINSOLVING

"Come again, come again,
Ye children of men . . ."

Men come and go
And linger only
Less briefly than snow.
Their bones
Lie in the ground
and rot.
They are forgot.
The idea alone
Perisheth not.

A few spirits
Hardier than the rest
Sailed towards the west
To encounter the breath
Of a new world,
Danger and death.

They builded a town
That faded, and was dying.

Yet, springs return
In white, in fine-spun rain.
Children gather violets
and cowslips again.
Orchards blow their scent,
Seeds take root.
Summers burn
In splendour;
Autumns bear fruit:
Once more, the creative mind,
The hand that drew
Designs anew.

We see the city rise,
Moulded to thought
That endures,
To purpose that allures
The heart of man;
Born himself of Order and Plan,
Breathed upon
By the Infinite, Creative One.

* * *

Then there is one
Who enters the race
And dares to dream,
To follow a plan
With eyes on the goal:
The will to believe
In God and man.
Not for himself, but for others,
To better the whole,
That towers may rise
Against the skies,
And a City Beautiful,
Caught between heaven and earth,
May come again to the birth.

* * *

Youth, take heart,
Go apart . . .
Be not afraid to stand alone.
Heed not the pack
Of wolves that pursue,
Voices of lust and greed.
Guard the word, the deed,
Be the essential you.

* * *

Yours is an heritage of sea and star!
Let your will be purposed,
Your way patterned,
Your end Control,
Your Idea beyond what you are.

NOTE. — Part of a poem read by the author
before the William and Mary Chapter.

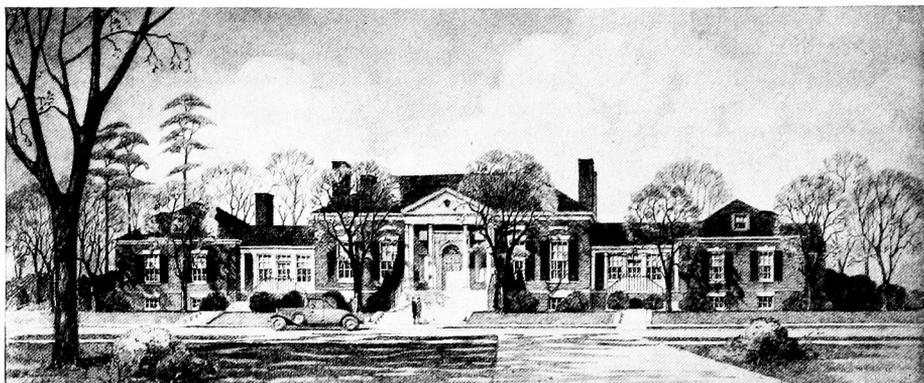
A College's Mark of Maturity

DR. GEORGE A. UNDERWOOD, *Missouri '05*

President, Greensboro Section, Alpha of North Carolina

DOES the Triennial Council of
Φ B K share vicariously the joy
it brings to the group of men
and women it authorizes to create a new
Chapter? The coming to our campus of
the famous national society meant that

"The Great Experiment." He gave a
review of democratic government in the
past. Dr. Jack stated that the problem
involved was that of effecting a suitable
adjustment of a number of wills rather
than an adherence to what may be



WOMAN'S COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

the final word had been written in the
history of the growth to full maturity of
the Woman's College of the University of
North Carolina. The forty odd years
of preliminary work were approved
by Φ B K's Committee on Qualifications,
a singularly competent and non-partisan
body of judges. Our group of Φ B K
became the Woman's College Section
of Alpha of North Carolina, established
in 1904. This procedure was in harmony
with the new status of the University of
North Carolina, which now includes,
in addition to the Campus at Chapel
Hill, the liberal arts college for women
at Greensboro and the Schools of
Engineering and Agriculture at Raleigh.

Installation of the Section took place
on the afternoon and evening of Decem-
ber 12, 1934. Dr. Theodore H. Jack,
president of Randolph-Macon Woman's
College and Φ B K Senator, officiated,
using the dignified ritual of the Society.
Attending guests at this cap and gown
affair represented the University at
Chapel Hill, Randolph-Macon Wom-
an's College, Duke University, Univer-
sity of South Carolina, Westhampton
College of the University of Richmond,
University of Virginia, College of Wil-
liam and Mary, and Washington and
Lee University.

The Great Experiment

Dr. Theodore H. Jack delivered the
main address, choosing for his subject

fallaciously called "the popular will."
He believes democracy has succeeded
reasonably well in countries which have
tried it for some length of time.

The history of the College divides
naturally into three periods: its founda-
tion in 1891 as the North Carolina
College for Women and the formative
initial years under Dr. Charles D.
McIver, the first president, who was
supported by Governor Charles B.
Aycock — two men who had much to
do with the "Renaissance" of North
Carolina; the development, 1906-1932,
under Dr. Julius I. Foust, the second
president, to its present strong position
among Southern colleges educating
women; and the present, with the
institution a liberal arts college for
women in the state university. Dean
W. C. Jackson, an outstanding man of
our region, and President Frank P.
Graham of the Greater University
of North Carolina, are working effec-
tively for the upbuilding of the Col-
lege.

A large majority of the approximately
1500 students take the liberal arts
course. An A. B. (in prospect) is a
condition of eligibility for election to
Φ B K. This recognition of the pre-
eminence of liberal scholarship is ex-
pected to lead even those students
interested primarily in professional train-
ing, to lay firmer foundations in the
liberal arts and sciences.

An Educational "Dual"

EDITORIAL

AN ALL-UNIVERSITY Professional School" of so-called "Education," a substitution for the usual coordinate college, involving "dual professors" and "dual enrolment" in, for example, liberal arts and "education," is described in *School and Society* for October 10, 1936 by its Dean Harry S. Ganders, B. Ed., Teachers College Ph.D. from Columbia.

All who believe that the college of liberal arts and sciences should nourish American life with the pure milk of knowledge and cultural appreciation will detect evidence of a typical instance of watering in the following words of Dean Ganders.

"Through the dual professors the curricula of the freshman and sophomore years may be influenced not alone towards special teaching fields but also towards broadly cultural lines. The control of the junior, senior and fifth years" is largely in the faculty of the "School of Education" which provides in cooperation with other colleges of Syracuse University (1) "upper division curricula for all students preparing for teaching" and (2) "continuously revised students' programs of study as changing conditions make it advisable."

"Dual professors must be primarily interested in teacher preparation, preferably experienced in teaching adolescents, must be students of public-school trends and thoroughly prepared in the subject-matter of the academic and special areas they represent. . . .

"In a real sense the dual-professorship is the key to the success of a school such as is here described. It is the dual-professor who must personify that union of academic and professional interests which is essential in teacher training. It is he who must get academic departments to understand (1) why numerous courses which may be deemed desirable for general liberal arts students may not represent the optimum selection of courses for prospective teachers; (2) and why the content of other academic courses must be modified to serve prospective teachers."

Dean Ganders concludes: "The unit gives prestige to teacher education beyond that which could be given by any single coordinate college." But whence the prestige and whither the liberal spirit of the arts and sciences? Here the duel between the liberal college and the teachers college threatens to leave both exhausted.

COUNCIL DATE CHANGED

The Nineteenth Triennial Council of $\Phi B K$ will meet at Atlanta, Georgia, on September 8 to 11, 1937, instead of 10 to 13 as previously announced.



"Kappa" Stevens (Lloyd Nolan), Margot Graham, and Gene Morgan in Columbia's motion picture "Counterfeit." "Kappa," a college man and a wearer of a $\Phi B K$ key, is the brains of a huge counterfeiting ring. But even a $\Phi B K$ criminal is no match for the Federal agents!

Contributors in 1936-37

(Continued from Autumn Number)

The following members are among the 1,285 who, since last June, have made financial contributions toward saving the United Chapters from the unfortunate effects of the depression until the hoped-for gifts and bequests (the usual tax reductions apply) have given the Society an adequate endowment. The Chapter, year of election, and place of residence are given.

Clara Beranger, Goucher '07, New York
 Irving H. Berg, N.Y.U. '23, New Rochelle, N. Y.
 Philip Bernstein, Yale '26, Chicago, Ill.
 Evelyn W. Betts, Goucher '10, Baltimore, Md.
 Walter L. Bierring, Drake '28, Des Moines, Ia.
 Kenneth M. Bissell, Yale '07, Hollywood, Cal.
 Edwin F. Blair, Yale '24, New York
 Alice Bochringer, Bar. '23, Springfield Gdns., L. I.
 Eugene L. Bondy, Columbia '06, New York
 Wm. G. Bonelli, So. Cal. '31, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Florence Bounds, Lawrence '05, Appleton, Wis.
 John V. Bouvier, Jr., Columbia '86, New York
 John F. Boyer, Washington U. '27, New York
 W. L. Braerton, Kansas '03, Denver, Colo.
 Claude R. Branch, Brown '07, Providence, R. I.
 Edgar Ewing Brandon, Miami '11, Oxford, O.
 Millard Brelsford, Denison '11, Granville, O.
 Kingman Brewster, Amherst '06, Washington, D. C.
 Ralph O. Brewster, Bowdoin '09, Dexter, Me.
 Dorothy Brockway, Barnard '19, New York
 D. Bronson, Cornell C. '24, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Ernest Brown, Oklahoma '29, Shortsville, N. Y.
 Silas B. Brown, Lafayette '90, Montclair, N. J.
 Charles A. Browne, Wms. '92, Washington, D. C.
 B. R. Buckingham, Wesleyan '23, Boston, Mass.
 Edgar Buckingham, Hvd. '87, Chevy Chase, Md.
 Louis A. Buie, S. Carolina '35, Rochester, Minn.
 C. W. Bunn, Wisconsin '13, St. Paul, Minn.
 W. Randolph Burgess, Brown '12, New York
 James M. Burke, Cal. Berk. '08, Visalia, Cal.
 Charles C. Burlingham, Harvard '79, New York
 Addison Burnham, Harvard '90, Boston, Mass.
 Lee D. Butler, Princeton '22, Chevy Chase, Md.
 Nicholas Murray Butler, Columbia '82, New York
 Sperry Butler, Amherst '25, New Rochelle, N. Y.
 Jos. L. Buttenwieser, C.C.N.Y. '83, New York
 Leo M. Butzel, Michigan '09, Detroit, Mich.
 James Byrne, Harvard '77, New York
 Hugh Cabot, Harvard '19, Rochester, Minn.
 Edward Caldwell, Knox '27, New York
 Louis G. Caldwell, Amherst '13, Washington, D. C.
 Ernest E. Calkins, Wisconsin '99, Delaware, Wis.
 Katharine Calvin, Allegheny '03, Akron, Ohio
 Mrs. T. D. Cameron, Wellesley '17, Albany, N. Y.
 Ernest R. Campbell, Davidson '28, Denver, Colo.
 John Campbell, Iowa '02, Denver, Colo.
 W. W. Campbell, Cal. Berk. '25, San Francisco, Cal.
 Elsie D. Canan, Chicago '21, Johnstown, Pa.
 (To be continued)

A Painless Plan for Continuing Your Education

BEFORE you throw too many brickbats at that headline give us an opportunity to explain. We immediately grant that education is either painful or painless, as you prefer. That doesn't mean we have no personal conviction on the subject, merely that we are in a hurry to get to the point.

As an undergraduate you were elected to $\Phi B K$. That means that your I. Q. is at least normal, with very good probability that it is a bit above. Moreover, it means that once your interests were probably along broad cultural lines; that you were equipped with a background which should enable you to maintain interest in most of the important fields of thought and action.

The question is—have you? Ordinarily there is only one way to do it and that is by reading. Are you one of those who say, "I haven't time to read?"

Your magazine, THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR, the general-interest magazine sponsored by $\Phi B K$, is a quarterly of which Charles P. Taft says "It is not a smelungus"; Ellen Glasgow says "It is my favorite magazine"; Walter Lippmann says "I read it regularly." THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR comes to you only four times a year. It takes only a few hours to read, but its pages will keep you in touch with the significant developments of year after year. It will bring you, not the gossip of the daily newspaper nor the breathlessness of weekly or monthly publications, but the matured thought of minds dealing intelligently and interestingly with all phases of today's culture and tomorrow's trends.

THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR is not a has-been on an academic stool, it is a vigorous personality in the prime of life; it is not a pedantic publication filled with learned discussions of the life-cycle of the Tasmanian bi-valve, it is a stimulating publication for anyone with a $\Phi B K$ intelligence.

The December issue will discuss "The Two Men Who Formed Hitler," "Recent Recordings of Music," "Subsidies to American Business," "Science of Tomorrow" and several other subjects—all in a lively, modern way.

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KRW37

Following the Founders

LAURENCE A. HARPER, *California '22*

WHEN originally established by "a small number of very worthy students" at William and Mary, Φ B K was an active society. Its objective was "social and improving intercourse." Its members met frequently and discussed subjects on which they had reflected, ranging from the necessity of religion in government to the naturalness of polygamy. But as the society expanded most chapters left the path of the Founders. They concentrated upon the award of the key, the traditional banquet and oration, and an occasional poem.

The Alpha of California followed the more recent precedents until 1924, when the undergraduates decided that they, like the Founders, had something to contribute to the life of their University. They looked about them and saw that the campus, with probably more than a tinge of envy, was scoffing at the "student," who retaliated by withdrawing to his books. Some one had to bridge the gap between classroom and campus and by combining the best features of both, socialize the studious and make scholarship "respectable."

The Φ B K undergraduates undertook the task. Faculty-student teas, picnics, and other social gatherings brought professors and students together outside the classroom. Small discussion groups promoted intellectual endeavor, and

larger luncheons afforded opportunities to discuss politics with Oswald Garrison Villard and Norman Thomas, to visit the Eskimos with Captain MacMillan, to discover the secrets of the harem with von Hoffman, and to survey the universe with de Sitter.

Opportunities were also found for service. The students cooperated in promoting scholarship in the high schools by sending speakers to conventions of the California Scholarship Federation, by entertaining its societies when they visited the campus, and by giving special encouragement to the Federation's Seal Bearers during their freshman year. Each semester the students helped the faculty advise the lower classmen, and throughout the year they maintained a Student Advisory Bureau where freshmen and others with academic difficulties could confess their ignorance to a fellow-student instead of exposing its depths to an instructor.

As the functions of the Φ B K group increased all students on the University Honor List were invited to participate, thereby dividing the work and at the same time uniting all the Honor Students in one group.

In short, California's experience during the past twelve years has demonstrated anew that the Founders were right in emphasizing the element of

fraternity. Scholarship has become respectable. The opinion of the Honor Group has been sought on various occasions by both University authorities and campus leaders. Most important of all, the policy of encouraging honor student activity has done what no merely formal recognition of scholastic achievement could do. It has created an organization of well-rounded personalities, able and ready to carry on the best traditions of liberal scholarship.

Know of an Opening?

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

ACTUARIAL

87. Edward Rubendall, Jr., 1027 W. Lincoln Blvd., Freeport, Ill. A.B., Illinois College '32; major, mathematics. Exp. — insurance accounting. Wants actuarial work with life or casualty company.

EDITORIAL—See also 89

88. (Miss) B.A. and M.A., Cornell Univ.; major, English; minor, psychology; languages, French, Spanish, German. Exp. — newspaper copywriting, reporting, editing; free-lancing, high school teaching. Wants also editorial work.

89. (Mr.) B.A., Univ. of Georgia '32; M.A. '33; major, English; minors, French, psychology. Exp. — tutoring, newspaper reporting and book reviewing, clerical, typing. Wants also high school or college teaching, general office work.

RESEARCH

90. Mrs. Martha Teach Gnudi, 1409 E. 14th St., Long Beach, Calif. A.B., Univ. of Southern Calif. '29; graduate work '29-'30; Laurea in Lettere, Univ. of Bologna '31. Exp. — Research, writing.

91. Dorothy Sheridan, 31 Linden Ave., Pelham, N. Y. A.B., Cornell Univ. '33; major, economics. Knowl. statistics, accounting, foreign exchange. Exp. — tutoring. Wants also investment analysis, statistical work.

SECRETARIAL

92. (Miss) M.A., Brown '06. Exp. — stenography, filing, research; 14 yrs. in last position.

TEACHING

93. Clara G. Wurman, 2092 Davidson Ave., Bronx, N. Y. Hunter '35. Wants teach mathematics; office work, statistical work, or tutoring.

"Any Honest Professor Is a Little Restive at the Heroics

so often ascribed to his profession," says Dixon Wecter, professor of English literature, University of Colorado.



"In the first place most college professors are incurably lazy. Since the days of Socrates, greatest of them all, they have . . . preferred talking to . . . writing or action."

"... every professor complains in whimsical despair of being engulfed in themes, reports, test papers — given either to his assistant reader or to the wastebasket."

"Some . . ., having worked pretty hard in their student days collecting Φ B K keys . . ., seem to be left in a state of chronic fatigue."

"Still I would not willingly change my profession for any other in the world."

(For complete article see *The Forum Magazine* or *The Northwestern University Alumni Review* for October 1936.)

ΦBK Worth While?

(Continued from page 1)

Several samplings yielded a figure around \$4,500, but the author holds that the non-reporting "failures" would bring that mark down materially. The top income mentioned is one of \$125,000; and there is one class-member who reports himself "a tramp, who has not slept in bed for five years."

The only income figure actually given for Φ B K men is the average of "over \$6,000 a year" pertaining to the seven individuals who appear in *Who's Who*. Certainly the other 18 members of the Society in Mr. Tunis' "sample" group would bring that figure down substantially. But even granting a mark of \$5,000 a year for the Φ B K group in 1934, what is proved thereby? When their average is compared with random samples from the class athletes, the clubmen, and the unheard-of men, what really happens is that the whole of a highly-selected group is stacked up against chance pickings from much larger groups. It would be much fairer to compare the Φ B K men with the 25 best athletes, or the 25 richest clubmen.

Finally, even granting everything we have questioned, the whole survey which Mr. Tunis has made may be read, not as a picture of what scholarship normally pays in dividends to the gifted and industrious but as a panorama of the topsy-turvy state of our economic system in 1934. In what some people are prone to refer to longingly as "normal" times, the Φ B K group (Praises be!) contains too many individuals in the so-called "service" professions to give it a chance to compete successfully with business, finance, engineering, and the law in terms of garnered gold. Without going to the extreme of that pride which shows through the holes in one's cloak, and discounting all those rationalizations of failure which mock monetary success, it may be truly said that membership in the Society correlates fairly well with a preference for a high "psychic income" rather than a swollen pay-check from a dull or dreary calling. Mr. Tunis several times emphasizes the apparent happiness of the teachers, physicians, and scientists among his class-mates.

There are many who rejoice that this is so and who deeply deplore the tendency to "sell" scholarship on the dollars-and-cents basis.

What Mr. Tunis' book has proved, if indeed he can be said to have proved anything by his income data, is that "there is no such thing as security" for the individual in our economic system, and that this is especially true of business and investment. When a panic comes, however, enough individuals in the Φ B K group are to be found in relatively secure positions to make their average return seem comparatively high. But their temporary eminence, like that of the famous actor with the fifth-rate supporting cast, is "due almost entirely to the flatness of the surrounding country." An upswing in the economic cycle will present a very different picture; so would a study of the Harvard class of 1904 if it had been made in June, 1929. Of course a highly selected group of scholars should be expected to be above the average after 25 years, perhaps even in pecuniary rewards. But that they should find themselves at or near the top of the financial heap in 1934 merely emphasizes how completely, in that year of grace, the American world of business was upside down. And most of them would bristle at the suggestion that their fleeting good fortune should be taken as the measure of whether Φ B K was worth while.

"Mark-Grabbers"

(Continued from page 2)

(e) Make use of any further means possible to judge more accurately the desirability of the student as a member.

"After collecting this information, each member of the committee shall prepare a written report concerning each of the students assigned to him, summarizing his findings and calling attention to points of greatest importance. In each case the committee member shall conclude his report with the recommendation that the student be or be not nominated for membership. . . . [At a second meeting of the committee] each of these written reports shall be read, and each candidate (whether recommended or not by the report) discussed carefully. . . . A majority vote shall [nominate]. . . . The secretary will thereupon call all faculty members of the Chapter to a meeting to receive the report of the Membership Committee. Those students receiving a majority vote at this meeting shall be considered elected to membership."

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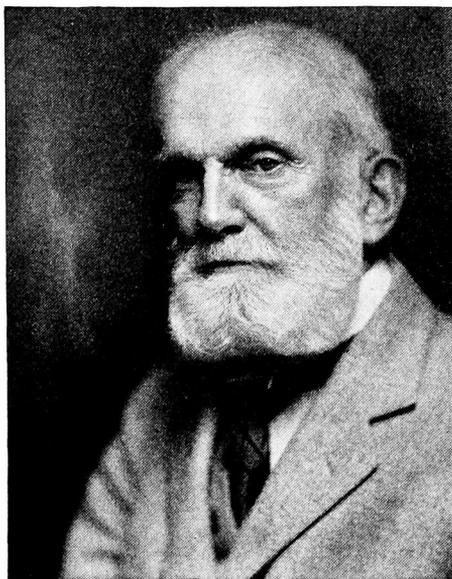
By LOUISE REDFIELD PEATTIE. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1936. \$2.50.

To give a solid picture of three generations such writers as John Galsworthy and Sigrid Undset have chosen the trilogy. Mrs. Peattie has confined her long story to one comparatively short volume and in doing so gives the impression of skimming rather than of compressing her material. The author moves back and forth through a century without creating any sense of time. She crosses continents and oceans in a page, moves from Illinois to Paris to Provence without feeling the levelling edge of different tongues, different customs, different nations. The young Amie, about whom the book revolves, is indulgently occupied with memories of that American place she visited when she was six, and though in the ten years that pass before her next visit there — ten years spent in Europe — other things must have entered her somewhat precocious mind, we are never allowed to see them. It would be a better book if the number of episodes of running off to another continent had been limited to one instead of three, with a fourth in the offing at the end of the story. It would also be a better book if those American acres of which Mrs. Peattie writes had been limited to a certain number, if she had told specifically the first crop that brought a profit and started the accumulation of Adoniram's wealth.

The last example illustrates the thinness that might have been avoided if the story had been written as a trilogy. For the reader should be told more of the pioneering Adoniram than that he rose in his stirrups and foresaw the generations; more of the Indians than that they portaged their canoes where Adoniram built his log house and staked out his claim; more of the food those people ate, the clothes they wore, the winters they had to endure. I do not mean to suggest that Mrs. Peattie should have written an historical novel; but one demands knowledge of these things in order to comprehend the

dwindling of the magnificent hardihood of the pioneers through the generations, to that point where the highest adventure is to bet your tailor-made shirt on a horse.

In the very title she chose this writer has assumed a responsibility other than that of telling a good story, and it is a responsibility she has not met satisfactorily. We see the terrifying casualness of Adoniram's descendants, but Mrs. Peattie does not seem to see. We



GEORGE LYMAN KITTREDGE

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE

Edited by GEORGE LYMAN KITTREDGE. Ginn and Co., New York, 1936. 1561 pp. \$6.

Something new in Shakespeare (other than a different spelling of the name!) deserves head-line prominence. With its usual advertising sagacity, Hollywood injected "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Romeo and Juliet" into current print. Broadway has become Shakespeare-conscious.

Doubtless the new edition of Shakespeare by Professor Kittredge of Harvard will not climb to such heights of popular patronage, but for readers throughout the world it should prove to be a volume of peculiar value and interest. Here in compact, readable form are all of Shakespeare's plays and poems. Each play is preceded by a history of its sources, publications, and productions; the text is interpreted where the original meaning is not clear; the punctuation, as well as the spelling, is modern. Read, for instance, these lines of Falstaff as they are punctuated in an ordinary edition, and then as Kittredge writes them: (Continued on page 8)

see the muscles of the third-generation pioneers tightened only by a game of tennis or croquet. And it is a warning and a challenge that no one can ignore. The fact that Mrs. Peattie can ignore it — and spend nearly half her book on the sadistic Evelyn from New York who never knew what a pioneer was, and on the reliably false expatriate Vin marries — is a thing to be deeply regretted. On the other hand she has allowed the reader to see the challenge, albeit dimly and through a haze of romantic writing, and for this she is to be commended. Perhaps she means to write a longer work; perhaps this is only the skeleton. If so it hangs together very well, and fattened up in ratio to its long bones would be a book worth reading.

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DOROTHY BLAIR

POEMS, 1911-1936

By JOHN HALL WHEELOCK.
Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1936. 245 pp. \$2.50.

Lovers of American poetry need no introduction to John Hall Wheelock, whose six published volumes manifest an integrity of spirit and a high standard of formal excellence all too rare in our time. Since the earlier books have long been out of print, this handsomely printed collection is especially welcome.

Mr. Wheelock, retaining those poems he wishes to preserve, has added a generous section hitherto not published in book form. These latest lyrics may well be compared with such widely known and justly famous predecessors as "Earth," "The Black Panther," and "The Fish-Hawk." I can perceive no loss of strength or skill; if anything, the spacious grandeur and sheer musical genius of the poet have been enhanced by the passage of years.

It is precisely this rich musical quality which distinguishes all great poetry. Shakespeare, Keats, Baudelaire, succeeded in capturing and isolating on the printed page that stuff which it may not be too hackneyed to call the music of the spheres. Mr. Wheelock is in the great tradition. His mood is sombre, brooding, introspective, as opposed to the brittle, flashy, hysterical mood so prevalent

among the poets of the younger generation. I believe that when the experimental warblings of the Left Wingers have dwindled away, the thrilling and majestic organ tones in this collection of poems by John Hall Wheelock will roll out full and strong to delight the ears and soothe the spirits of the ever increasing audience, whom the poet salutes with these lines:

"It is night, and we are alone together:
your head
Bends over the open book, your feeding
eyes devour
The substance of my dream. O sacred
hour
That makes us one—you, fleeting and I,
already fled!"

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