

PLEA FOR THE FRATERNITIES

GOOD POINTS OF SECRET SOCIETIES OF STUDENTS.

The College Fraternity and the Princeton Club System Compared—Many Evils of the Former Said to Have Been Eliminated—The Matter of Extravagance.

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Aug. 3.—The upper class club system at Princeton was described in THE SUN recently. Here is an account of its rival development, the college fraternity, which may be said to have become a factor in the social life of the American college since Kappa Alpha was founded at Union in 1825.

This form of the student club, which was ruled out of Princeton at a time when it threatened to become an academic evil, has in other colleges met with increasing popularity and success, until its aggregate membership roll, including the dead and the living, now numbers more than 250,000 names. In many ways it closely resembles the Princeton club, but its adherents attribute to it a more useful place and influence in the college world.

In point of luxury it is not much behind the Princeton club. The Chi Psi house at Cornell, which burned down last winter, was said to have cost \$250,000. It was the finest fraternity house in the country. At both Columbia and the Sheffield Scientific School, the home of Delta Psi—generally known as St. Anthony Hall—is noteworthy and other examples of fine fraternity architecture are plentiful throughout the country.

Here the fraternities have taken possession of Main Street with its extensive lawns and covering alleys, and the fraternity houses in dignity and beauty are quite on a level with the college buildings. Kappa Alpha, through its recent purchase of the colonial Proctor mansion, takes the lead for expensive quarters, though its new move in this direction has been much criticised. This house contains fifty-five rooms and is said to have cost \$120,000 and it is easily worth \$40,000 more. House and land were purchased this year for about \$60,000.

Other notable fraternity houses are the Sigma Phi house, valued at about \$100,000, and the home of Alpha Delta Phi, which is often pointed out as the finest adaptation of the colonial style to the needs and uses of the college fraternity. The other lodges—there are twelve in all—possess each some distinctive feature that lends a charm of its own.

As at Princeton, there appears the same constant desire for more expensive quarters, so that now there are two new houses in course of erection and other societies have the same move in contemplation. But even now, though there are degrees of luxury, the interior of almost every house has its own atmosphere of ease and comfort.

Years ago, when the Greek letter fraternities first sprang into prominence, they met with opposition on all sides. They were few in number and tended to exclusiveness and arrogance, a spirit contrary to all ideals of democracy in college life. Almost immediately a student organization opposed to their methods arose in every college where they existed, soon uniting under the motto "Dikaia Upobeleke (Justice our foundation), to form a new national fraternity known as Delta Upsilon. Almost seventy-three years old, this

fraternity is now represented by chapters in thirty-seven colleges and universities and is one of the strongest and most prosperous ones in the country. Today it differs little, if at all, from the other fraternities, and the advocates of the system point to this fact as evidence that the old evils of fraternity life have disappeared. And members of Delta Upsilon heartily acquiesce in this. Extreme secrecy, snobishness, exclusiveness are less and less sought after by fraternities because they have been found to be in the end harmful. With the increased number of societies at an institution the strength of any one of them must depend first of all on the extent to which its members are known and liked throughout the college body. The first

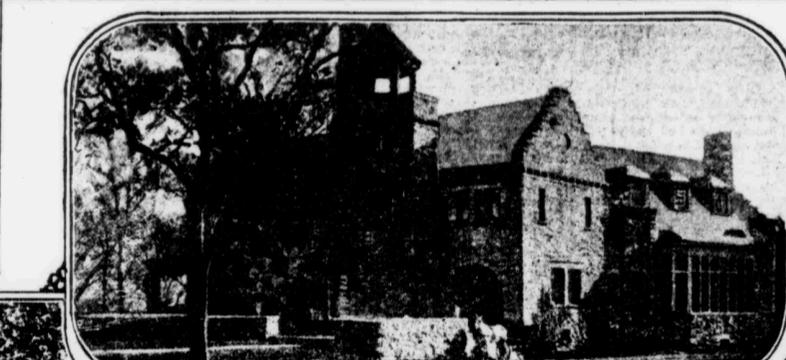
thought of a fraternity nowadays, next to seeing that its men satisfy the requirements of the curriculum, is to make them get on into college activities and mix with their fellow students in a democratic way. In other words the aim of the fraternity is to secure for its members a reputation for congenial temper, character and energy, so that when lined up with the other societies they shall rank as a fine set of men.

Now while this bears a close resemblance to the aims of an upperclass club at Princeton, in other ways, say fraternity men, the two forms are widely different in their effects. Under the Princeton system members are chosen at the end of sophomore year, and those who have failed of an election at that time—and there must necessarily be many—are apt to feel that they have been tried and found wanting by their fellow students. Inevitably college spirit is weakened.

It is claimed for the fraternity, on the other hand, that it is far more agreeable presence to the man who is not a member. In most colleges a fraternity elects nearly all its new members as soon as they enter college, or within a month or so afterward. The basis for judgment is by no means adequate. Sometimes a new man has a friend in the fraternity, sometimes his personal appearance and manners gain him admission and sometimes he comes with a reputation for proficiency in athletics or literary work. This may result to men are invariably overlooked.

Not uncommonly a man refuses to join a fraternity until he has been a year or two in college. There are others whose families object, and still others who think they cannot stand the expense. In addition to these a large class of non-fraternity men is comprised of those who show small promise as freshmen, but develop by the time they become upper class men. In these ways, it is explained, the non-fraternity man, or neutral, has no reason to feel that he is in any sense an outcast. He is in very good company, and there are

plenty of reasons to explain the fact that he is not a member of any fraternity. Moreover, there is always the possibility of a man's being invited to join later on in his course. But this, it is asserted, presents only an incomplete view of the situation. There is much more to commend the system. Membership in a fraternity does not come as the goal of under class ambition and failure to attain it does not necessarily



ST. ANTHONY HALL, HOME OF WILLIAMS CHAPTER OF DELTA PSI.



DELTA Upsilon HOUSE, WILLIAMS COLLEGE.



DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY HOUSE, WILLIAMS COLLEGE.



DELTA Upsilon CHAPTER HOUSE AT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

and it is along these lines that his friendships deepen. The result is in the end a hearty comradeship between fraternity men and neutrals. Thus a system of election which is haphazard achieves its own useful ends. It removes the stigma of the term non-fraternity. And in addition it serves as a great levelling influence among the fraternities themselves, for when freshmen are the candidates each fraternity has an even chance to get its share of the desirable men. Moreover, the system brings all four classes into close relation, giving freshmen the benefits of upper class supervision.

These are the arguments put forth by the adherents of the system to prove its superiority as a form of student club life. But it has further advantages. These are the opportunities it gives for intercourse and friendships throughout the collegiate world, and the exceptional privileges it lays before the graduate.

In Williams, for example, all the fraternities but one are national, that is, they are merely chapters of a fraternity that is represented in the same way at other colleges and universities all over the country. Each fraternity holds a yearly convention, at which delegates from all of its chapters are present. In visiting another college a fraternity delegate naturally goes to the chapter house and is welcomed for as long a time as he cares to stay.

The broadening influence of such a condition is obvious; an undergraduate at Williams cannot fail to gain much from a comparison of ideas with a fellow student from the University of California. The same is true of alumni. When in a college town they drop in at their fraternity house, stay to dinner, perhaps, and are thus brought into touch with the undergraduate world.

But they also have a little world of their own, for in most cities of any size graduate members of a large national fraternity are organized into fraternity alumni clubs, which have dinners and smokers and occasionally have quarters of their own. A good instance of this is the dinner given to Gov. Hughes by the Delta Upsilon Club of New York last March.

Extreme secrecy has disappeared and fraternity men and neutrals frequently laugh together over some funny incident that happened "up at the house." They are frequently each other's guests at meal times. Therefore many of those who are in touch with academic life are inclined to ridicule the fears of some modern critics. The American college fraternity has been developing for more than seventy-five years, and during that time has rid itself of its worst evils, they say.

Association with men of his own fraternity being to tender to the situation. A chapter building a house generally finds it necessary to borrow. This places a heavy financial burden on the active membership. To obviate this the house is built with living accommodations for a large proportion of members, the increased revenue from rentals making it an easy matter to carry the obligation and eventually pay it off. As a result, where a dozen years ago it was exceptional to have more than seven men out of twenty-five or so rooming at the house, the newer lodges are built to house from fifteen to twenty or even more.

When men eat, sleep and study in the same house it is clear that in the end it will become harder for them to mingle with their other fellow students. This tendency is growing so that there are many leaders in educational work who believe that eventually fifty or a hundred years hence, perhaps—the fraternities will resolve themselves into separate colleges, as at Oxford and Cambridge. It is not an unusual thing at the present time for graduate students—candidates for the master's degree—to be living in the fraternity house in the capacity of advisor and tutor to the undergraduate members. In this the prophets see the nucleus of a separate faculty.

With all the criticism of the fraternity system it is an interesting fact that thirty or forty years ago, before the question had attracted the attention of the outside world, open hostility between the fraternity and non-fraternity elements was not uncommon, actual rows even taking place, while to-day the two are on the friendliest of terms. The fraternity man is careful that his manner shall betray no suggestion of distinction between the two, and if the subject comes up in conversation it is mentioned in a humorous, matter of fact way that carries no offence.

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MAKING A FORMAL GARDEN

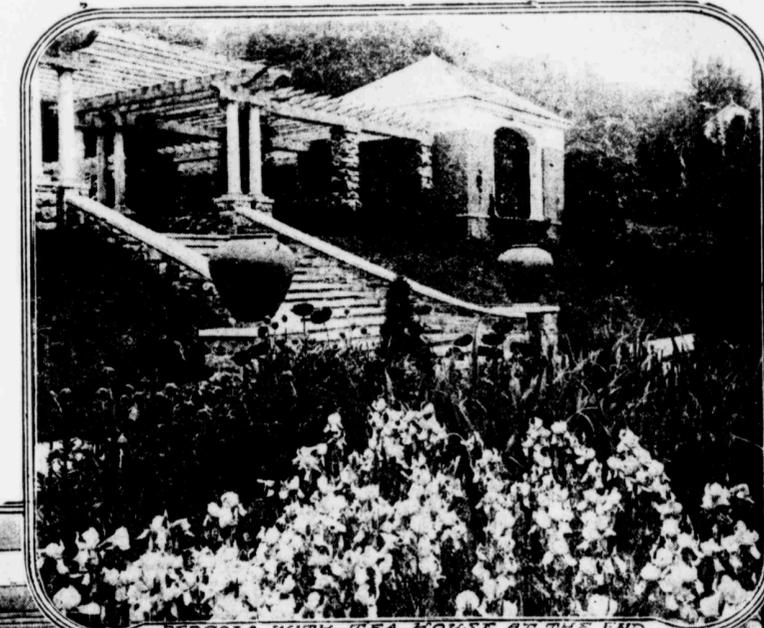
DR. LANGTON'S WORK AT THE HOME OF C. W. McALPIN.

Some Unusual Effects Produced With Native Stone—Pergola With a Tea House at Either End—Landscape Architects Who Are Ignorant of Their Materials.

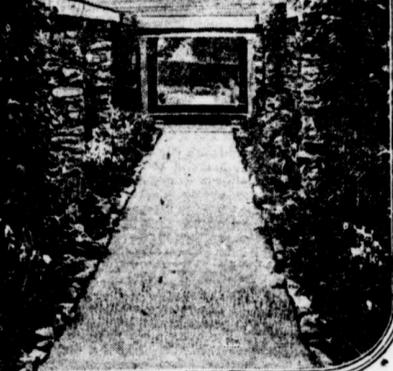
These pictures show three views of the gardens at the home of C. W. McAlpin, near Morristown. They were designed by Dr. Daniel W. Langton, the landscape architect, and gave him a very interesting problem in his profession. The home of Mr. McAlpin adjoins that of his relative, J. T. Pyle, and the families live in close intimacy. Thus the gardens are intended to connect the two houses.

Following the principle that a garden is an outdoor room and should therefore possess in a degree the privacy of a room, the gardens are in the rear of the house, although there are views of the garden to be had from certain points on the road. The places of Mr. McAlpin and Mr. Pyle are about three miles out from Morristown, on the road to Bernardville.

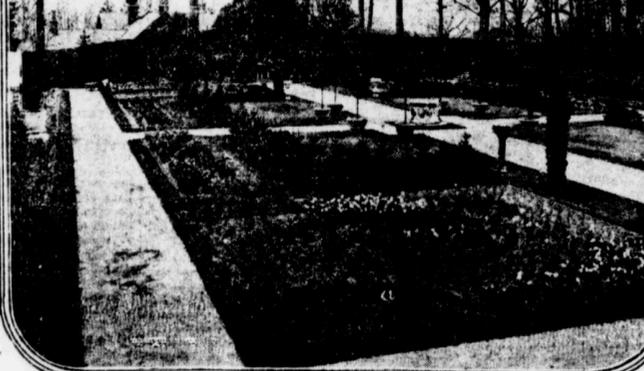
The pergola which overlooks the formal garden is finished at both ends with a tea house like that shown in the picture. The bed of poppies and iris in the formal



PERGOLA WITH TEA HOUSE AT THE END.



INTERIOR OF PERGOLA.



FORMAL GARDEN BELOW PERGOLA.

garden, which is especially interesting in the use of sward in a formal garden. This has been rarely attempted in this country, where flowers and the gravel walks are the inevitable ornaments of the formal garden. The use of the sward in this case had a particular purpose and was not put into the garden merely for its beauty. On the elevation at the side of the garden is a tennis court. It was desired that this should be of turf. It was to preserve the unity of style in the garden that rectangles of sward

were put into the garden. The tennis court is reached by a flight of marble steps and these are ornamented with two urns. In the centre of the garden is the old Italian well, and the other decorations, in addition to the six palms, are the Italian stone fountains. The picture shown here was taken early this spring, before the flowers had reached the perfection they show at a later date. In spite of the use of the sward there is no lack of color in the

garden. The arbor vine hedge which separates the formal garden from the house is not of course the result of any recent landscape work. The same ground served formerly for a kitchen garden and the hedge attained its growth then. Overlooking the formal garden is the pergola. It encloses a rectangle of sward 100 feet broad by 120 feet long. At either end of the front of the pergola are the two houses. They are in red brick faced with stone. Their purpose is not purely social

as they are also arranged to serve for storing garden tools. They cannot be closed whatever the weather may be. The pergola is made of field stone which was gathered in the neighborhood. The pergolas are covered with various kinds of blooming vines. Their breadth is one peculiarity of the construction. The average pergola is too small for more than one person to walk with comfort on the path it covers. Dr. Langton, who has always been prejudiced against these narrow

scapes architect to understand his field as it is for an architect to be able to make his specifications. Yet some of the men who accomplished most in landscape architecture had slight knowledge of how to work in their materials. Landscape architecture is becoming more of a science every year, however; men are learning all its branches. It still happens, however, that many men who do landscape architecture are no more than florists working under the direction of architects.

CAUGHT AN OCEAN SUNFISH.

Young Visitor at the Aquarium Tells of an Interesting Little Sea Trip.

There dropped in at the Aquarium the other day a fine, healthy looking boy of 15 or so, his face bronzed by wind and weather, who wanted to see if he could find in the Aquarium's collections a fish like one he saw caught recently while he was making a little sea trip. He had sailed with a captain he knew on a four masted Baltimore schooner from Baltimore to Charleston, S. C., and thence to this port; his visit to the Aquarium was made while the schooner was lying here unloading.

They showed him around, all over the building, but in all the pools and tanks there was no fish like the one he sought. Then they showed him a lot of pictures of fishes of the various sorts that frequent the waters in which the boy had sailed, and presently, at sight of one of them:

"That's the fish," said the boy. "We caught one like that that weighed 500 pounds. Captain sighted it one day when we were coming out and he headed the schooner for it and got out the harpoon and the man harpooned it and we hauled it on deck."

The big fish that the boy had thus seen taken and whose general appearance he had accurately described was an ocean sunfish. The ocean sunfish is at home in tropical and sub-tropical waters, but it occasionally strays further north; in these waters one was taken some years ago off Rockaway Beach.

It is an odd appearing fish, shaped somewhat like a globe flattened at the sides, making it very deep and thick bodied. It has a tall fin rising from the upper part of its body and a long fin depending from the lower, but instead of the familiar sort of tail fin it has around that end of its body a narrow wavy fin something like a ruffle.

An odd fish, sure enough, is the ocean sunfish, and it grows to large size and to very considerable weight. The boy didn't know how heavy it weighed the one that they caught on the schooner, but even counting its weight at 500 pounds it wasn't the biggest ever. Ocean sunfish have been taken measuring five or six feet in length and eight feet deep from tip to tip of their fins extended and weighing from 600 to 800 pounds.

"We had a great time harpooning this big fish and hoisting it in aboard," the boy said, "and when we had it lying there on deck with all hands looking at it, the cat came to take a look too—they've got a big cat aboard that sails with the schooner. And when the cat came along the cook slipped the end of its tail into the queer fish's mouth and the fish closed on it and held the cat fast."

"And that scared the cat, of course, but the fish didn't bite its tail very hard. I guess it didn't do it any damage, and in a minute it let go; and when the cat jumped the fish whistled like a steam whistle."

"We caught a porpoise going down and I skinned it to mount it, but I had hard work keeping that skin away from the cat. Cats like fish, you know, and wherever I put that porpoise skin to dry the cat would get at it, even when I tied it once in the rigging."

cat and that took away the bite of the pepper. The cook was a right hand, but a little joke but he wouldn't do the cat any harm.

"We did a little fishing on the way down, off Cape Hatteras. We struck head winds there and there wasn't any use in thrashing around in them and making no headway, so the captain anchored there with two anchors out and six or eight fathoms of chain on each and waited for better weather, and while we were waiting there the captain said I might try the black-fishing."

"The sea wasn't so very bad, but he wasn't taking any chances, so he tied a rope around my waist and then let me slide down to the side of the vessel, where I could get my line overboard. We didn't have any live bait and I got some cork from the cook and put some chunks of that on the hook. I had five hooks on one line, with a half pound sinker."

"Pay out on it till you feel the slack," the captain said, and I did, and the bait hadn't much more than touched bottom before I felt the biggest kind of a tug and began hauling in, and on that one drop of the line I got three blackfish weighing three or four pounds apiece. Good black-fishing there off Hatteras."

"You must have enjoyed the trip," they said to him at the Aquarium. "I certainly did," said the boy. "Fine captain, fine crew, fine schooner, best time I ever had. I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

And while they have many interesting visitors come to see them from many parts of the world the Aquarium's people wouldn't have liked to miss this little visit of the healthy, sunbrowned boy from Baltimore.

Harbor Seals From the Coast of Maine.

Four young harbor seals have lately been added to the Aquarium's attractions. They came from Boothbay, Me.

TO PROVIDE ARMY HORSES.

Gen. Aleshire's Plans for Improved Remount System.

The new Quartermaster-General of the army, Brigadier-General James B. Aleshire, entertaining some ideas of his own concerning what is known as the remount system; that is, the sources of supply of horses for military use.

Some idea of the number of horses needed, says Harper's Weekly, may be gained by the fact that there will be required to equip the army as at present organized riding horses as follows: Cavalry, 12,215; field artillery, 3,450; infantry, 600; engineers, 231; Signal Corps, 200; Medical Department, 430; hospital sections, 32; ambulance company sections, 44; division and department headquarters, 5; general depots, 40; 7; Military Academy, 215. Should an emergency require an increase in the army, it will be necessary to provide 8,324 riding horses, 72 draught horses, 4,100 draught mules, 122 pack mules and 187 riding mules.

It is General Aleshire's idea that there be established in his office a remount division which shall have charge of the establishment of depots for the purchase of young horses for both cavalry and artillery (from three to four years old) to conform with prescribed specifications, and to be held in depots until they are in condition and of suitable age for issue to troops (generally from six to nine months).

Among the places which are regarded as available are near Springfield, Ohio, in the vicinity of Lexington or Danville, Ky., in Virginia near Washington, near Plattsburg in Missouri, in the Sequoia National Park, and the Yosemite National Park in California.

The advantages of the remount system include the supply to the army of young, fresh, sound and well broken horses; the creation of a market for young horses; the prolongation of the life or period of duration of the animal with a corresponding reduction in expenditure; the affording of time and means to properly handle and break young horses; the establishment of uniformity as to conformation, action, etc.; and the standardization of a special type which would be understood by breeders and farmers; the shipment of horses in sanitary cars; and finally, the equipment of the United States Army with the best mounts of any army in the world.