SUNDAY CALL
THE MAGAZINE SECTION
MARCH 18, 1900.

FRATERNITY LIFE AT BERKELEY

A TYPICAL COLLEGE ROOM.

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RECEPTION HALL OF PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY HOUSE.

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MUSIC ROOM OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA FRATERNITY.

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PARLORS AND BILLIARD ROOM OF ZETA PSI FRATERNITY HOUSE.

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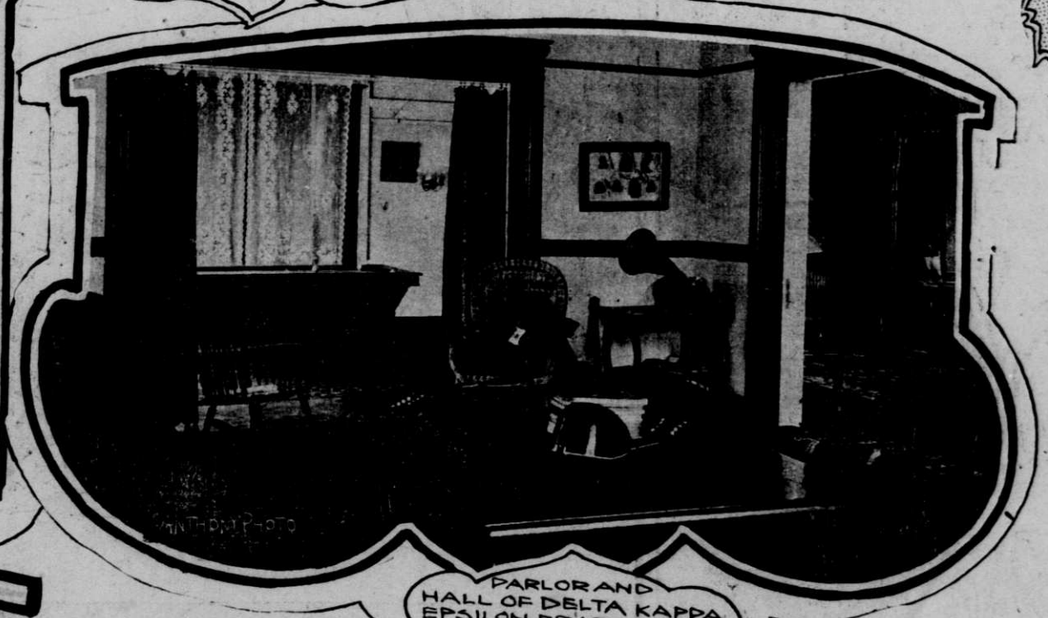

PARLOR AND HALL OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY HOUSE.

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BETA THETA PI HOUSE.

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STUDENT life is a topic interesting at all times. Not only is it interesting to the college man, but to the student of human nature as well. In it all kinds and conditions of mankind are concentrated. Here the happy-go-lucky fellow is found hand in hand with the quiet, deep student; here the millionaire's son associates as carelessly with the poor fellow working his way through. All exist on a common basis; no distinction is drawn. This is ideal college life.

At Princeton, Yale and some other colleges this ideal can be realized through the dormitories where all the students live. In the majority of universities, however, there are three subdivisions of student life; those who are dependent upon themselves, those who live at home or in boarding houses, and those who live in club or fraternity houses. The percentage of students who are dependent in part or entirely upon themselves is larger at the University of California than in any other college in the United States. Fully 400 students, men and women alike, graduate from college by working at odd jobs.

At Berkeley there are no dormitories and the ideal college life exists only in the clubs and fraternities. The distinction between the clubs and fraternities is that the fraternities are established institutions—usually Greek letter secret societies. They are represented in a number of colleges and have a common bond. The clubs exist only while the members are in college. They are organized for two reasons—that the members, usually not more than a dozen, may live more cheaply, and that something may be derived from the association.

Some of the fraternities have been established sixty or seventy years, and but few have sprung into existence in the past twenty years. Many of the fraternities are represented in fifty or sixty colleges, while the more conservative do not extend into more than a dozen. The fraternity, like the Masonic order, may have representatives of the various generations of a family. Usually a son becomes a member of his father's fraternity, though there are many exceptions to this rule.

The regulations of some universities do not permit fraternities or secret societies of any kind. Princeton is the most prominent college that has an edict against this, but on acount of the splendid dormitory system there she does not need them. The college spirit of that institution is much more emphasized than in any other college, just because the students are brought very close together.

Where there are no dormitories the fraternities form a nucleus for the life of the college.

The clubs and the fraternities are the two extremes. The manner of living, the men and the environments are often entirely opposite. In one of the clubs the living of its members is on a most scientific, economical basis. There are six members who rent a small cottage within a few blocks of the university. The members do their own cooking, washing and house-cleaning, and thereby reduce the living expenses to the minimum.

They average not more than $10 each a month. All take turns at the various details of work. One will act as cook for a month, another washes the dishes, another attends to the buying, and so on, each sharing the burdens with his companions. As these men have no one to call upon for money they work at odd jobs about the university at 25 cents an hour. They attend college regularly and are often among the best students and very popular with their classmates. There have been instances where one of these club men was a leader in class politics or in athletics. Of course the members of other clubs are better off and live in the same manner as the average student.

As an instance of the other extreme, the members of the fraternities are often compelled to pay $40 to $50 a month for living expenses. The majority of fraternities, however, are managed on a basis as low as the best boarding houses, averaging about $30. Each fraternity employs from one to three servants, according to the size of the house and the number of members. A manager, one of the members, is elected annually, who takes entire charge of the finances. He buys the provisions, hires the servants and attends to regulating the monthly bills.

Four of the fraternities at the University of California—Zeta Psi, Beta Theta Pi, Phi Delta Theta, and Delta Kappa Epsilon—own their own houses, which have been bought by the fraternities' alumni bonded into a corporation. A rental is paid to the corporation, which is used for repairs and improvements. The active members run the house to suit themselves and at an expense as large as their pockets will permit. They have a complete organization, which is responsible to itself only.

Each fraternity, and there are fourteen, averages a membership of about twenty, ten of whom are resident members—that is, live in the house—and on these largely depends the support of the fraternity.

One of the most interesting features of fraternity life is the rivalry which exists. At the opening of the fall term, when the freshmen enter, there is always a struggle for the best and most available men. Often a very good man will be invited to become a member of several organizations. Then it is that the fight becomes interesting. Each fraternity will present facts which it thinks will influence the candidate to join.

As each fraternity is characteristic of a certain type of man, the fortunate freshmen joins the crowd which he thinks most congenial or has the most influence on him. This is called "rushing," and is one of the most exciting seasons of the college year to the fraternity man. The success of his chapter depends largely upon the number and caliber of men it

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