

# THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

VOLUME III · NUMBER 2

This Issue Goes to 79,000 Members

SPRING · 1938

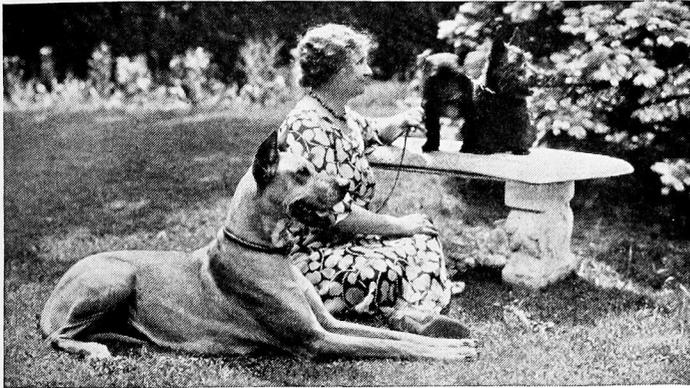
## We . . . Blind and Seeing

HELEN KELLER,  $\Phi$  B K Radcliffe

Dear Editor:

**Y**OUR letter [concerning blind members of  $\Phi$  B K] appeals to me in a very special way. It is a thrilling testimonial to what the handicapped may accomplish.

Not only am I proud of the blind who have become members of Phi Beta Kappa, I also realize anew that the sightless



are more and more winning a charter no doom can annul to the splendid dominions of higher knowledge. The last twenty years of organized good-will and intelligence have provided them with expert assistance in research and with Braille literature on every subject. Truly an Eldorado has been created for them in the desert they once traversed.

But the thought often comes to me overpoweringly that we are all far from making the most of the knowledge God has entrusted to us. We differ, blind and seeing, not so much in the senses we possess as in the way we vitalize what we know. We may explore all philosophies and all secrets of nature and yet, weighed in the scales of wisdom, be found wanting, like Faust when he bargained away his noble passion of service for intellectual and material power. Knowledge alone is not enough. Only when it is quickened with independent thinking and embodied in service to our fellow-creatures does it acquire real significance.

It is true that the end for which you, the seeing and the blind, are striving is a vital one — the promotion of sound scholarship in America. By holding fast to the best standards of learning and insisting upon opportunity for everyone you will elevate the educational status of this country. But let us remember to include among our standards the highest truth

— that human welfare is the only adequate goal, the sole justification for the immense enthusiasm and the great sacrifices laid upon the altar of learning. Civilization expands or collapses according as we foster or neglect the central ideal — to multiply the blessings and lessen the calamities of mankind. Scholarship remains ineffective unless it trains us to investigate and experiment with all our institutions and to apply our knowledge fearlessly. The momentous need to which all our present problems point is to gather all philosophies, ethics and knowledges into a Science of Man. Is not this the highest scholarship which shall bring sanity, peace and healing to a fear-driven, bewildered world? It fits the height, breadth and depth of Mind, and is the one clear purpose amid the turmoil in which we are now living.

Full of faith in Youth as the hope of the world, I am, with cordial greetings to you all,

Very sincerely your friend,

*Helen Keller*

## “Let the Fair Creatures In”

EUNICE FULLER BARNARD,  $\Phi$  B K Smith

Education Editor, *The New York Times*

**O**F ALL the barred doors which woman has forced in her century's struggle to become a citizen of the world none have yielded so easily as those of the college and of  $\Phi$  B K. Though for weary years she had to use intellectual



ELLEN HAMILTON

LIDA MASON

*The First Women Members of  $\Phi$  B K*

**In This Issue:**      *News of  $\Phi$ BK Blind*      *Louis Untermeyer reviews*  
**Recognition of Robert Frost;**      *Burton E. Livingston, Madame Curie*

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battering-rams to gain admittance to the vote, to certain legal rights and to many occupations, she had only to knock politely at the academic gates to gain a diploma and a key.

The difference in her reception perhaps corresponds to that in the circles she was trying to penetrate. In the former cases she had to apply to the general society of men; in the latter to the exclusive company of scholars and gentlemen.

The centennial of woman's painless entrance into the college classroom was celebrated last Fall when Oberlin dedicated a monumental gateway and amphitheatre in memory of the first four "coeds." By simply taking their places in Greek, Latin and Hebrew classes beside the boys in a small pioneering college in the Ohio forest, the four demure girls of 1837 passed into history at the head of a procession of millions of their sisters who have since forced long-barred university gates in almost every country of the globe.

For the first time in the centuries of higher education women studied the same lessons, took the same examinations and gained the same degrees as men. Thus, with hardly a murmur of opposition, women gained a realm long withheld from them, merely by accepting literally the dictum of the Oberlin founder, who announced as one of the college objectives: "the elevation of the female character, by bringing within the reach of the misjudged and neglected sex all the instructive privileges which have hitherto unreasonably distinguished the leading sex from theirs."

With even less difficulty some forty years later woman strolled, by invitation, into the select scholastic company of  $\Phi$  B K. The incident seems to have occurred, without outside comment, at the University of Vermont in 1875. Then at a meeting of the local Chapter two young women, Lida Mason and Ellen Hamilton, whose academic standing made them eligible for the honor, were gallantly elected to membership. At the same time a resolution was passed and communicated to other chapters that "in the opinion of this Chapter all the graduates of this University should be eligible to membership without regard to sex."

It was as easy as that, though five years later when the Cornell Chapter was founded, one Herbert Tuttle wrote to a friend, Robert Roberts, at the University of Vermont questioning the soundness of the practice, as follows:

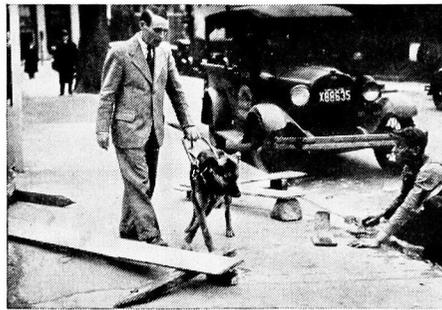
(Continued on page 5)

## The Seeing Eye Goes to College

DOROTHY HARRISON EUSTIS

President, The Seeing Eye

A VISITOR at a large eastern university during commencement ceremonies saw a young man in cap and gown come running down the steps of the administration building. The student was holding to a big dog and was singing as he went. It was with amazement that the visitor saw the student was blind. A letter describing the incident was sent to "The Seeing Eye," at Morristown, New Jersey,



where dogs are educated to guide the blind and the blind are taught to use them.

But that one boy who was graduating from an old and renowned New England school was only one of nearly a score of blind college students who have found a new independence and an aid to obtaining a college degree in the last few years, through ownership of "Seeing Eye" dogs.

Graduates of The Seeing Eye school have attended such institutions as Harvard, University of Virginia, Rutgers, University of Pittsburgh, University of Washington, Brown, Radcliffe, University of California, and the University of Pennsylvania.

One of the principal values of the Seeing Eye dogs to the blind in the colleges, it has been learned, is as a help to their owners and companions in the making and keeping of friendships. One of these students expressed it this way to Morris S. Frank, the first blind American to use one of the dogs, and now an officer of The Seeing Eye: "Before I had a dog I was blind. Now I'm just the fellow with the dog."

It is this new freedom and extension of powers that has encouraged persons far beyond the normal undergraduate age to essay a college course. A Seeing Eye graduate who attended the Univer-

sity of Pennsylvania was thirty-five years old. He had started to go to college when he was twenty-one, full of hope and ambition. He had not anticipated his utter dependence on hired human guides and the difficulty he would encounter in going from class to class. He quit at the end of a year, and did not return for the next fourteen.

Some of these blind students, guided by their dogs, obtain high college honors both in their studies and in student activities. A Seeing Eye graduate at a small eastern college was one of the leaders of his freshman class, scoring three A's and two B's in his studies. He joined one of the college fraternities and went through the normal freshman chores about the fraternity house, sweeping the snow from the walks at the behest of the upper classmen and asking no odds because of his physical handicap. He had also the ability and time to take part in debating.

A graduate of The Seeing Eye who attended Radcliffe was a reporter for the college newspaper, played in the orchestra, and was a member of the college debating society. She found her way without difficulty around the campus, the tortuous streets of Cambridge, and into Boston.

The problem of keeping these dog guides in college presents no different aspect from that of keeping them at home. College authorities, once they have seen the dogs at their faithful and intelligent labors, have welcomed them. In fact, in several colleges blind students applying for admission have been advised by the deans to obtain the Seeing Eye dogs, so that they might take a more normal part in undergraduate activities, and thus get the most out of campus experience.

### "Bayta" Won't Down

IN THE announcement in the Winter issue that the Council delegates had expressed a preference of 123 to 42 for "Phy Bayta Kappa" it was stated that 11 voted for a uniform pronunciation to 48 against. The figure for the affirmative vote should have been 111.

## Education for the Blind

F. FRASER BOND

*American Foundation for the Blind*



May Fielder at 19 is the recipient of the 1937-38 Elisha Parmele Prize which is awarded annually at the College of William and Mary by the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. Miss Fielder was elected to  $\Phi\text{BK}$  in November and has been consistently the highest ranking student since she entered college. Dramatics and student publications, as well as curricular studies, have claimed her time. Last summer she was one of fourteen students from the United States to be sent to Geneva, Switzerland, to study international relations.

### News of 25 $\Phi\text{BK}$ Blind

**T**HE blind are literally leading the blind along the road to usefulness and cheerfulness in New Jersey.

"Each month 700 sightless people are encouraged and instructed by 22 teachers who, like their pupils, have learned that to be blind is not necessarily to be helpless. . . . Typical of these instructors is MISS LOUISE CURCIO of Newark, blind graduate of the New Jersey College for Women, a Phi Beta Kappa [1926], and winner of a Master Arts Institute scholarship in voice and piano." — *New Brunswick News*.

"MISS HELEN KELLER [ $\Phi\text{BK}$  Radcliffe], who by all ordinary standards is blind, deaf and mute, paid a visit . . . to the annual meeting of the New York Association for the Blind. . . . Besides telling of her recent visit to Japan, Miss Keller, unaided, demonstrated her appreciation of music. . . . When Edward Tolkin played Gluck's 'Gavotte' on a 'cello, Miss Keller . . . placed her right hand on the head of the 'cello, and with her left hand kept time to the music. A smile passed over her face as she sensed the movements." — *The New York Times*.

(Continued on page 6)

**A**LTHOUGH the blind citizens of the United States number nearly one tenth of one per cent of the total population, blind students who achieve the distinction of Phi Beta Kappa would seem to rank in the academic population in a far larger percentage. Just what this ratio is has never been ascertained. Neither has any definite answer followed the query as to why blind students do so well in their examinations.

Possibly some bright spirit, plodding Ph.D.-wards, will leave the overplowed fields of the usual research, and add an interesting thesis as well as a new Ph.D. to the world. The usual assumption is that the blind, having from infancy to rely on an accurate memory, have developed their retentive faculty to an uncanny degree. Of course memory, while highly important, is not the "be all and end all" of education.

In this connection it may be not without interest to look into some of the unique methods applied to the education of the blind. Blind students differ from other students in that information must reach them through hearing and touch rather than by sight, and in the early stages the sense of touch stands out as perhaps the most important.

Robert B. Irwin (A.B., University of Washington, 1906; M.A., Harvard University, 1907), who has been without sight since early childhood, is Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind, which is the only organization dealing nationally with the problems of the blind. The Foundation keeps constant tab on, and through its publications gives constant inspiration and information to, all engaged in educational work for the sightless.

How can geography be taught by touch? To judge from the latest findings, the answer is: very well indeed. Little fingers traveling over maps on which the mountain ranges rise as real mountains, and the rivers run their zigzag course through real valleys, on which state boundaries stand sufficiently rigid to repel even the strongest opposers of states rights, and where towns and cities dot the landscape with tactually comprehensible markings, gain an impression of the dimensional aspects of geography

possibly more interesting and lasting than does the seeing child who surveys Texas as a flat pink expanse, Ohio as a yellow central splotch, and Maine or Vermont as small but true-blue irregularities to the northeast.

Similarly in mathematics, in music and other fields, models and embossed outlines take the place of the teacher's chalking on the blackboard. It is during these early stages that teaching methods differ from those employed to teach sighted children. This use of models covers even the fashionable psychology tests. Dr. Samuel P. Hayes, the consulting psychologist of the American Foundation for the Blind, has adapted the Binet test to sightless children. Instead of asking the child "What is the matter with this picture?" the question in his case is "What is the matter with this object?" and in the child's inquisitive fingers is placed a doll that may lack eyes, fingers, nose, or ears which have been subtracted from the figure to prepare it for the test.

When the student passes the preliminary stages — when he has learned to see the world through his finger-tips and can comprehend instruction that comes largely from the spoken word, his course does not differ greatly from that of the sighted individual. Helen Keller, one of the leading officers of the American Foundation for the Blind, is, of course, unique. Here, deafness proved almost as great a handicap to overcome as her lack of sight. The blind student with good hearing can benefit as much by classroom lectures and discussions as his seeing neighbors. He can make notes on his Braille slate. He can recopy those notes with his Braille typewriter. He can write his class themes and essays on a regular typewriter, and he has access to ever-increasing libraries for the blind.

Today, if his fingers tire while traversing the raised dots of Braille — and Miss Keller sometimes had to read, she tells us, until her finger-tips bled — he can turn on his talking book and let it read his assigned chapters to him. The talking books, which consist of long-playing discs somewhat resembling a phonograph record, are placed on an electric reading machine which can be easily manipulated by touch alone. On these



# Birmingham-Southern Chapter Installed

E. SYDNOR OWNBEY,  $\Phi$  B K *Vanderbilt*

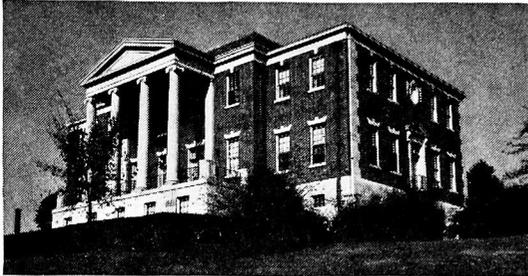
*Secretary, Birmingham-Southern Chapter*

FOR the specified purpose of promoting "literature, science, morality, and religion" Southern University was founded at Greensboro, Alabama, by the Methodists in 1859. In the towered and battlemented brick building, which constituted the entire physical plant of the institution, a faculty of six M.A.'s offered courses in ancient and modern languages, moral philosophy, mathematics, biblical literature, law, and natural philosophy. But before the fifty students of the first class could complete their second year, the Civil War began. The new University had to stand the shock of both the War and Reconstruction. However, by limiting the scope of its offerings to those of a college, the institution managed to survive.

In 1898 a new Methodist college was established in Birmingham. Twenty years later, Southern College was brought to the campus of the younger college, a hill-top in the western part of the city, and of the union Birmingham-Southern College came into being.

Under the administration of the second president of Birmingham-Southern College, Dr. Guy E. Snavelly, great progress was made. Endowment assets increased, new buildings were erected, a fine library was assembled, and, most

important of all, a well-trained faculty was built up. Gradually recognition came in the form of accreditations, foundation grants, and scholarship awards to graduates. Finally, in September 1937, shortly before the opening of the eighty-first college year, came conclusive evidence of the college's maturity. At that time the Nineteenth Triennial Council of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, meeting in Atlanta, voted to establish a chapter of  $\Phi$  B K at Birmingham-Southern College.



"On the Hilltop at Birmingham-Southern"

The Beta of Alabama Chapter was formally installed on November 26, when Dr. Frank P. Graves, President of the United Chapters, presented the charter to the nine charter members and initiated nineteen foundation members and six members-in-course. A dinner, at which representatives from numerous southern chapters of  $\Phi$  B K were present, followed the installation. Dr. Guy E. Snavelly, President of the College and of the new Chapter, presided. Speeches were delivered by Dr. Snavelly, President Gilbert W. Mead of Washington College, formerly Dean of Birmingham-Southern College, President Richard Foster of the University of Alabama, and Dr. Graves, who gave the formal literary address of the occasion, on "An Aristocracy of Service."

## Woman!

MOTHER of 12 children, member of  $\Phi$  B K, holder of 8 degrees (B.Litt., M.Litt., Ph.D., Sc.D., M.Engrg., Dr.Engrg., LL.D.) from California, Brown, Michigan, Rutgers, and Russell Sage, author of 6 books and many articles, an engineer of international reputation, member of the President's unemployment organization and of the New Jersey State Board of Regents, lecturer, professor, corporation president, is Dr. Lillian M. Gilbreth, who recently addressed the Women's Section of the University of Pennsylvania Chapter of  $\Phi$  B K. She spoke on research and cooperation between production and consumption as the cure for unemployment, but, says Laura Lee in the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, "They were almost as enthralled by her animation, her beautiful carriage, and her youthful figure as they were by her eager message."

A Phi Beta Kappa key is a good thing to have for a souvenir, but if the truth were known there are a good many people who never saw the inside of a college who know more than some of the men and women who have won this symbol. — *Bridgeton (Me.) News*

## "Let the Fair Creatures In"

(Continued from page 2)

"We have just established a Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa here, your servant being one of the founders; and we have obtained our Charter from Union College. The question of admitting women came up. It was stated that there was one precedent for it, and only one, viz.: Burlington, and it was stated that the Harvard Chapter made no objection to it. I happened to know nothing about your experience at the U. V. M. and rather hastily it was voted to accept the precedent and let the fair creatures in. Personally I have doubts about the wisdom of such a course. It seems to me in the first place absurd to admit women to a *Fraternity*, and, secondly, that the whole traditions and character of the concern make it exclusively a male affair.

"If the Burlington precedent has been misunderstood, or your experience should be unfavorable to the plans, we might reconsider our decision. . . . Only write immediately, or it may be too late."

Apparently Mr. Roberts stood staunchly

## Know of an Opening?

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

RESEARCH — See also 118, 136

131. Morris Ziff, Dep't of Chemistry, New York University. N.Y.U. '34; Ph.D. '37 in organic and physiological chemistry. Member Sigma Xi. Exp. — graduate assistant in chemistry department, N.Y.U. for 3 yrs.; publications in physiological activity of drugs, etc. Wants research or teaching in organic or physiological chemistry.

### SOCIAL SERVICE

132. (Mr., New York City) A.B., Wisconsin '22; A.M., Columbia '30; majors, English, psychology. Exp. — university extension instructor, editorial, book reviewing, psychologist in institution for delinquents. Wants psychological counselling in private school, tutoring problem boys.

TEACHING, TUTORING — See also 131, 132

118. (Mrs., Rochester, N. Y.) A.B., Vassar '26; Ph.D. in English, Yale. Exp. — high school and college teaching. Wants also research.

133. Miss Mary E. Dolan, 401 N. State St., Jerseyville, Ill. Washington Univ. '31; A.M., '32. Exp. — 5 yrs. teaching, office and newspaper work. Wants work as companion or tutor in French and English.

134. Richard L. Hall, Madison, Nebr. B.S. in education, Univ. of Nebraska '27; M.A., '35; major, political science; minor, mathematics. Exp. — 11 yrs. teaching. Wants teaching in high school or junior college.

135. (Miss, New York City) A.B., Hunter '37; major, French; minor, German. Exp. — practice teaching in French. Wants teaching in secondary school in N. Y., N. J., or Conn.

136. Sidney H. Levy, 408 Potomac Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. A.B., Johns Hopkins '37; major, history; minors, economics, political science. Wants also research in social sciences or work in publishing or journalism.

A graduate student ( $\Phi$  B K '36) in one of the leading departments of physics desires a loan of \$500 to \$1500 to enable him to continue with a program of research leading to a Ph.D. thesis. Loan to be repaid within three years of subsequent remunerative employment. Testimonial as to applicant's worth, promise and reliability will be furnished by a well-known physicist. Address Member 130, Phi Beta Kappa, 145 West 55th St., New York, N. Y.

by the ladies, thus (as was later observed) adhering to the tenet of an old constitution of the order, which holds that the "liberal principles of our Society should not be confined to any particular place, Men or Description of Men, but should be extended to the



FIRST COED — CAROLINE MARY RUDD

wise and virtuous of whatever community."

Today women, with 32,905 of the sex enrolled, proudly constitute forty per cent of the living members of the Society. And with such names as Judge Florence E. Allen, Pearl Buck, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Frances Perkins, Dr. Florence R. Sabin and Ida M. Tarbell among the members, they are attempting to do their part in maintaining the lustre of the order.

## News of 25 ΦBK Blind

(Continued from page 3)

"Blind since childhood, Justice of the Peace PLYN J. MOORE read a newspaper today with the aid of telescopic glasses. Despite his blindness, which resulted from a cap pistol accident, he won Phi Beta Kappa honors in Cornell University [1927] and was graduated from the Law College in 1931. An operation . . . permitted him to see light and the new glasses partially restored his sight." — *Lewiston, Maine, Journal*.

"Signal honor was paid a newspaper woman recently, when H. KATHERINE SMITH [Vassar '27], sightless Sunday columnist for the *Buffalo Courier-Express*, received a \$500 heroism award from Kate Smith, together with a New York

trip and a nation-wide radio broadcast. The award was made for two reasons: because Miss Smith, as far as is known, is the only newspaper woman without sight in the United States, in competition with those who can see, and because she taught a man who was deaf, dumb and blind to read Braille." — *New York City Editor and Publisher*.

"CARL WEISS, 26, the college graduate who advertised for a job as a stenographer, seemed to have carried his point that stenography is a field which should not be closed to the blind. He has accepted a semi-permanent position as a secretary-copyist. . . . Mr. Weiss was graduated from Rutgers University with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1934, and earned a Master of Arts degree at Princeton University before taking up shorthand and stenography." — *New York World-Telegram*.

JOSEPH BARTLETT, Dartmouth '10, who as an undergraduate achieved success in a performance of *Ædipus Tyrannus*, is now a teacher at Antioch College.

CATHERINE G. BURKE, Columbia '22, is now living in Golfe Juan, Alpes Maritimes, France.

EDWARD K. CAMPBELL, Cornell University '23, who taught in preparatory schools and the New York Institute for the Blind, died at his home in Ithaca, N. Y., on November 27 last.

MARY JOSEPHINE CURCIO of Newark, N. J., N. J. C. '25, sister of Louise Curcio (see news item), graduated from college with special honors in Italian.

DOROTHY D. DANIELS of Worcester, Mass., Radcliffe '37, graduated *magna cum laude* in English.

PAUL N. DERRING of Blacksburg, Va., William and Mary '27, received his M.A. degree at Vanderbilt and is now General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

ROY J. GILLEN of Wellston, Ohio, Ohio University '31, practiced law after graduation, was elected to the Ohio State Senate, now serves as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Jackson County, and has been a candidate for a place on the bench of the District Court of Appeals.

ELIZABETH SHIELDS HALL, Oregon '32, has taught in the Oregon School for the Blind and in the New York Institute for the Blind.

WILLARD ICE of Decatur, Ill., Illinois College '36, worked for his board and room at college, was a member of a literary society and of the debate team, completed his course in three years with a straight A average, and is now

leading his class at the Law School of the University of Illinois.

ANNA J. JOHNSON of Chicago, Northwestern '11, commuted during her college years, and is now a State Home Teacher for the Blind in Illinois.

WALTER D. KALLENBACH of Philadelphia, Virginia '31, worked his way through college and several seminaries and is now an evangelist.

OLAF L. LARSEN of Brooklyn, Columbia '31, will furnish free legal advice to the poor and plans to devote his life to promulgate legislation for the blind.

LAWRENCE F. LONDON of Pittsboro, N. C., University of North Carolina '31, has received an A.M. and a Ph.D. degree, with specialization in American and European history.

MARY GRACE MANSFIELD of Colorado Springs, Colorado College '35, has filled the requirements for a teacher's certificate.

BETTY MCGUIRE of St. Louis, Washington University '22, is now a dramatic reader, radio entertainer, lecturer, teacher of expression, and staff lecturer on eye health for the Missouri Commission for the Blind.

FRANK MOBLEY of Colorado Springs, Colorado College '21, is now a lawyer and served formerly as a member of the State Legislature.

DONALD MORGAN of Watertown, N. Y., Cornell University '33, is now at the Perkins Institution.

DON SMITH of Portland, Oregon, University of Oregon '31, is a merchant and a teacher in SERA adult education classes.

JOHN SMITH of Provo, Utah, was elected to membership by the Colorado College Chapter in '33.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, JR. of Media, Pa., Swarthmore '32, has passed the Pennsylvania bar examinations and hopes to be admitted to the State Supreme Court.

### THIS KEY REPORTER GOES TO 79,000 ΦBK'S

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**"It came into him, life; it went out from him, truth."**

—Ralph Waldo Emerson in his address, "THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR," 1837

THERE was a recent item pertinent to THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR and its editorial problems in "The Pleasures of Publishing," the informative bulletin printed up each week by The Columbia University Press.

THE essential difference between the vulgarizer and the scholar is that the former tells you what he has learned from others, whereas the latter is giving you the whole and sound kernels which he himself has winnowed out of the great jumble of truth, lies, suspicions, hopes, fears, doubts, rumors, and all the other things which go to make up the mass of information, and which is inherently contradictory and confusing. . . .

THE scholar must first be discriminating. . . . If it is truth which people seek, they have a better chance of finding it in scholarly writing."

WE agree that there is a place for popularizing, or "vulgarizing." But we also believe that there are people — and we hope it is not unduly optimistic to number the members of Phi Beta Kappa among them — who seek the truth. THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR, Phi Beta Kappa's general quarterly magazine, is edited in that belief.

AND speaking of THE SCHOLAR, which it happens to be our job and our pleasure to do, the forthcoming Spring issue will contain a wealth of thought-provoking articles. For example:

FUROR OR EFFICIENCY IN TREATY MAKING?, *Harold H. Sprout*

THE GENTLE ART OF GETTING ON, *John Hodgdon Bradley*

SURREALISM — OR THE REASON FOR UNREASON, *Jean Charlot*

IS IT CHANCE OR ESP?, *Edward V. Huntington*

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING UNPRINCIPLED IN POLITICS, *J. Herman Randall, Jr.*

ARCHEOLOGY CONFRONTS THE PRESENT, *W. F. Albright*

SPIRITUAL DUALISM AND DAILY BREAD, *Nicholas Berdyaev*

THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR

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The Reader

MADAME CURIE

By EVE CURIE, translated by VINCENT SHEEAN. Doubleday, Doran and Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1937. \$3.50.

A story of very great human achievement accomplished through terribly persistent purpose under difficulties that were often stupendous, an always fascinating and scholarly account of the whole life of one of the greatest women of our times — that is what Eve Curie, her youngest daughter, has given us in the biography of Madame Marie Sklodovski Curie. The daughter, who is an accomplished musician and music critic, has brought to this great work a literary skill and a fine devotion that are worthy of her subject. Here is the true romance of a full life, beginning in the very modest home of a poor high-school professor in the subjugated Warsaw of 1867 and ending in the world of 1934. It accurately recounts Madame Curie's scientific achievements and just as accurately portrays her constant self-immolation and her tender and devoted character as steadfast friend and guide to her children and to all who ever came within her reach.

In Eve Curie's introduction to this book she writes: "I have not related a single anecdote of which I am not sure. I have not deformed a single essential phrase or so much as invented the color

of a dress. The facts are as stated; the quoted words were actually pronounced. . . . I hope that the reader may constantly feel . . . what in Marie Curie was even more rare than her work or her life: the immovable structure of a character; the stubborn effort of an intelligence; the free immolation of a being that could give all and take nothing. . . ."

Many of those who are already familiar with Madame Curie's scientific discoveries, with the astounding new world that her work opened to science and to our appreciation of this universe in which we live, and with the equally amazing advancement in the alleviation of human suffering that medical science has already achieved from what she gave — many of those must be deeply grateful for this story of the personal background of this greatest of women scientists. And the rest of us must be doubly grateful to Eve Curie, for her excellent account of this remarkable woman's scientific development and progress as well as for her fascinating picture of a wonderful character.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,  
*Johns Hopkins University*

RECOGNITION OF ROBERT FROST

Edited by RICHARD THORNTON. *Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1937. \$2.50.*

This book is, first of all, a surprise. When it was announced it promised little; it seemed to suggest a cross between a publisher's advertisement of its pet author and a first aid to thesis-makers too lazy or too incompetent to undertake their own researches. Almost in spite of the editor the book has assumed large proportions and implications to match. It is not merely a résumé of reviews — a summary of recognitions — but a many-faceted picture of Robert Frost, the man, the teacher, the poet, and the influence. It is as if Frost had "sat" quite unconsciously for some thirty painters and they had given us thirty portraits, each from a different angle, each placing the sitter in another light, and all contributing toward a final composite portrait.

The editor has accomplished this effect by cleverly arranged divisions. The book begins with a semi-prophetic foreword by Mark Van Doren on "The Permanence of Robert Frost." This is followed by a three-part "Early Recognition," including first reviews by William Dean Howells and Edward



Thomas, and a revealing letter by Maurice Thompson to William Hayes Ward, editor of the *New York Independent* in 1894 when Frost was twenty. The next section contains three "Tributes in Verse" by three English poets. "Home Places," as the title indicates, is more neighborly, and "fixes" the poet as resident of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Michigan, England (as bird-of-passage) and (as spiritual Wayfarer) "the dark woods." Frederick Melcher and David Lambuth contribute two "Bibliographical" passages, and four varied personal illuminations are offered by Sidney Cox, Elizabeth Shepley Sargent, Padraic Colum, and John Farrar. The next section is the nubbin; eighteen estimates of the man in relation to his work and the work in relation to the man are grouped under "The Idea." Almost one hundred pages of shrewd comment and sensitive analysis are furnished by G. R. Elliott, Gorham B. Munson, Ludwig Lewisohn, John Freeman, Christopher Morley, James Southall Wilson, and others. There are three "Continental Recognitions," and the book ends (weakly, I believe) with four prefaces by three young English poets and one even younger American (Paul Engle) to *Selected Poems* published in England about a year ago.

Except for the anti-climactic conclusion the book is a model of assembly and arrangement. I disagree with the editor that "the most discerning of the early reviewers" of *North of Boston* was Edward Garnett. Garnett's review was the most important of the early notices, chiefly because it appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, but Lascelles Abercrombie's in the London *Nation* was the most discerning. The earliest — it anticipated Garnett's by more than a year — it remains one of the most delicate appraisals of Frost ever written. (Why has no one echoed Abercrombie's description of Frost's bucolic monologs as "psychological idylls"?) But this is only one phase of a rich and rewarding book. No admirer of Frost, no student of contemporary American poetry, can afford to be without it.

LOUIS UNTERMEYER,  
Author and Editor

### Sir George Perley

A CANADIAN member of ΦΒΚ, Sir George Halsey Perley, Harvard '78, died in Ottawa on January 4. Sir George had served in three Cabinets, as Canadian High Commissioner in London, and as Acting Prime Minister.



Marion J. Harron (ΦΒΚ California 1924) was appointed recently to the United States Board of Tax Appeals. After making a survey of the administration of laws regulating industry in New York State, Miss Harron was for a year a member of the faculty of the Institute of Law at Johns Hopkins. She later served as adviser to the Textile Industries Division of the N R A, as assistant counsel in the Resettlement Administration, and as trustee for rural rehabilitation corporations in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

## This Simian World?

### Books ΦΒΚ's Read

HABITS in this world so often fall into simian patterns that it is gratifying to realize that the reading habits of Phi Beta Kappas at least are catholic and individual. Interested members responded to the request in the Winter issue for lists of books most enjoyed during the past five years, and their recommendations were cast for 447 different titles.

Of the list many are recognized best-sellers, but many others are little known and little appreciated works. Unfortunately we have space to list only 25 of the most frequently mentioned.

- The Flowering of New England*, Van Wyck Brooks, E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, \$4.
- Madame Curie*, Eve Curie, Doubleday, Doran & Co., Garden City, N. Y., \$3.50.
- Personal History*, Vincent Sheean, Doubleday, Doran & Co., Garden City, N. Y., \$1.
- My Country and My People*, Lin Yutang, Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc., New York, \$3.
- The Last Puritan*, George Santayana, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$2.75.
- An American Doctor's Odyssey*, Victor Heiser, W. W. Norton & Co., New York, \$3.50.
- Man the Unknown*, Alexis Carrel, Harper & Bros., New York, \$3.50.
- Midnight on the Desert*, J. B. Priestley, Harper & Bros., \$3.
- The Arts*, Hendrik Willem Van Loon, Simon & Schuster, New York, \$3.95.
- Gone With the Wind*, Margaret Mitchell, Macmillan Co., New York, \$3.

### The 20th Century Marlowe biography!

JOHN BAKELESS'S

## CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE:

### The Man in His Time

Read "with the greatest joy" by Prof. C. F. Tucker Brooke, of Yale; "a notable contribution to Elizabethan scholarship," according to Joseph Q. Adams, Director Folger Shakespeare Library; "there is no better book on Marlowe and no more honest one on any poet," says the Times Book Review. Richly illustrated — containing many original discoveries. At all bookstores — \$3.75 — or direct from the publishers.

WILLIAM MORROW AND COMPANY  
386 4th Avenue New York, N. Y.

- The Native's Return*, Louis Adamic, Harper & Bros., New York, \$2.75.
- An Almanac for Moderns*, Donald Culross Peattie, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, \$3.
- Audubon*, Constance Rourke, Harcourt Brace & Co., New York, \$3.
- Conversation at Midnight*, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Harper & Bros., New York, \$2.
- Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, Franz Werfel, Viking Press, Inc., New York, \$3. (Modern Library, \$1.25.)
- Something of Myself*, Rudyard Kipling, Doubleday, Doran & Co., Garden City, N. Y., \$2.50.
- Bread and Wine*, Ignazio Silone, Harper & Bros., New York, \$2.50.
- Goliath: The March of Fascism*, G. A. Borgese, Viking Press, Inc., New York, \$3.
- Inside Europe*, John Gunther, Harper & Bros., New York, \$3.50.
- Lost Horizon*, James Hilton, Little Brown & Co., New York, \$2.50. (Reprint 75¢.)
- Men of Good Will*, Jules Romains, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, \$3.
- Mexico: A Study of Two Americas*, Stuart Chase, Macmillan Co., New York, \$1.
- Rich Land, Poor Land*, Stuart Chase, McGraw Hill Co., New York, \$2.50.
- Northwest Passage*, Kenneth Roberts, Doubleday, Doran & Co., Garden City, N. Y., \$2.75.
- Drums Along the Mohawk*, Walter D. Edmonds, Little Brown & Co., New York, \$2.50.

We should like to make this list a permanent thing. Won't you fill out the form below with from one to ten titles of recent books you honestly and enthusiastically recommend? Your suggestions will aid in what is intended as a guide by intelligent readers for intelligent readers.

PHI BETA KAPPA Date.....  
145 West 55th St., New York, N. Y.

I recommend the following books:

Title Author Publisher

Name.....

Address.....