

the advancement of civilization, or even to prevent its deterioration.

Phillips Brooks has well said, "Sad indeed is that day which has come in the life of any person when they are absolutely satisfied with the life that they are living and the deeds that they are doing, when there is not forever beating at the door of their souls a desire to do something bigger and better which each of them knows they were made and meant to do."

What is noble? 'Tis the finer portion of our mind
and heart
Linked with something still diviner than mere
language can impart;
Ever-seeing, ever-prompting, some improvement
yet to plan
To uplift our fellow being and like man to feel
for man.

The final thought I would like to leave with you is that we cannot put too much emphasis on the desirability of building up in the minds of our people a conception of their real worth as individuals in a well-balanced social and economic order. I hope that day will soon come when every Virginian, whatever his vocation, and whether he lives in an urban or a rural community, will feel that he is truly a real part of a great Commonwealth. To do this Virginians must really know Virginia—her natural resources, her history, her traditions, and her attractions. We must make of ourselves ardent students and protagonists of the Old Dominion.

WILBUR C. HALL

HAPPINESS AT HOME

He who never leaves his home repines at his monotonous existence and envies the traveler, whose life is a constant tissue of wonder and adventure; while he who is tossed about the world looks back with many a sigh to the safe and quiet shore he has abandoned. I cannot help thinking, however, that the man who stays at home and cultivates the comforts and pleasures daily springing up about him, stands the best chance for happiness.—IRVING, in *Bracebridge Hall*.

"THE GREEKS HAD A LETTER FOR IT"

ALTHOUGH a football team from the State of Virginia has never tossed passes or crashed the line in the Rose Bowl, or even the Sugar or Orange Bowls, and the closest an Old Dominion squad has come to the national championship was in 1915 when Washington and Lee's Generals went down before Cornell in a title tilt, the State's contribution to the education field places it high among the leaders in the college world. Yet shrouded in obscurity is one phase of development in campus life in which Virginia has played an important role.

This field is that of the Greek letter fraternity; an institution praised by many and denounced in no uncertain terms by some critics; an institution which has grown into a gigantic business whose influence is felt on nearly every campus in the United States and on many Canadian ones, also. Approximately eighty national men's fraternities owning \$75,000,000 worth of property make the Greek clubs an impressive array of financial as well as social importance.

But this is not a financial article. This month, over the many scattered campuses of the State, hundreds of students will begin wearing curiously wrought badges; some of which are plain Greek letters cut in gold and others are studded with diamonds, pearls, and rubies. Examinations in the halls of learning concluded and a new semester underway, "hell week," a not-too-pleasant memory, the pledges (new men) to the various fraternities have stepped, or are ready to step, into the select group of "the old men."

When one thinks about the beginning of American college fraternities, outside of Phi Beta Kappa, their growth seems something in which the State had no vital part, but investigation shows that more than a score of college clubs, both social and honorary and including those for women, have

as their place of birth an Old Dominion school.

William and Mary Started It In 1776

It all started back in 1776 on December 5 at the College of William and Mary when the first Greek letter society in America was formed. This was Phi Beta Kappa which succeeded an organization known as The Flat Hat and which included among its members such men as Thomas Jefferson, St. George Tucker, George Wythe and Edmund Randolph. Phi Beta Kappa was said to combine "the charm and mystery of secrecy, a ritual, oaths of fidelity, a motto, a badge for external display, a background of high idealism, a strong tie of friendship and comradeship, and an urge for sharing its values through nationwide expansion."

The Williamsburg society expanded to Yale in 1779 and then to Harvard. Soon after that it became the honorary scholastic society which has placed it in a unique position among the college organizations. The society established other chapters in Virginia at the university in 1909, Washington and Lee in 1911, R. M. W. C. in 1917 and the University of Richmond in 1929. We understand that this year it will go on the lovely boxwooded campus at Sweet Briar. Today there are over 50,000 living members of Phi Beta Kappa, all of whom let the golden key dangle from their watch chains.

Four State schools hold the lion's share of fraternity birthplaces; Virginia, Virginia Military Institute, Washington and Lee, and Virginia Normal College at Farmville (which was a leader in establishing women's clubs).

Although P. B. K. was the first Greek letter society to be formed "across the water," from Europe, the cornerstone for the fraternity system was laid at Union College in New York State when Kappa Alpha was founded in 1825 and Sigma Phi and Delta Phi in 1827. Following this, various secret groups were organized and in opposition to them arose The Social Fraternity, a non-secret organization at

Williams, which developed into the now strong club, Delta Upsilon. Miami College at Oxford, Ohio, witnessed the founding of Phi Delta Theta, Beta Theta Pi, and Sigma Chi, the "Miami Triad."

The first fraternity chapter in the South was at Emory College when The Mystic Seven put a branch there in 1841 and which later expanded to Franklin College (the University of Georgia) three years later.

Alpha Tau, Novice of '65, One of Largest

Probably the first group, after Phi Beta Kappa, to organize in this State was Epsilon Kappa, founded at the University of Virginia in 1855. This was followed four years later by Sigma Alpha, or the Black Badge Fraternity at Roanoke College in 1859 and Delta Epsilon, also at Salem, in 1862. The War between the States halted expansion in the South and extinguished most of the chapters in this section of the country.

The first fraternity after Appomattox was the work of a group of Richmond men. On September 11, 1865, Allan Glazebrook, Alfred Marshall, and Erskine M. Ross founded Alpha Tau Omega in the capital and the first chapter was placed at V. M. I. and the second at Washington and Lee. This novice of 1865 has grown into one of the largest clubs with over 90 chapters now.

In 1867 Kappa Sigma Kappa started on the military campus at Lexington and two years later Sigma Nu there entered its notable life in the college world. With nearly 100 chapters the national organization of Sigma Nu last year paid honor to the founders at Virginia Military Institute.

Washington and Lee became the natal place of Kappa Alpha (Southern) in 1865, a club which is now among the strongest in Dixie campusdom; and two years later over Afton Mountain at Charlottesville powerful Kappa Sigma, which numbers over 100 colleges in its fold, was begun. A year later another high ranking fraternity drew its

first breath of life at Thomas Jefferson's School, Pi Kappa Alpha.

About 1885 a fraternity which spread to Roanoke, Randolph-Macon, Virginia, and Hampden-Sydney was founded at Washington and Lee, but Psi Theta Psi disbanded after a 10-year life span. After 1900 national fraternities sprang up rapidly over the nation, but two noteworthy clubs among the newer organizations are a product of this State. Sigma Phi Epsilon, which can boast over 60 chapters and 13,000 members, began at the University of Richmond in 1901; Square and Compass, with over 50 active chapters, was founded at Washington and Lee in 1917. Also a State born fraternity, Alpha Phi Epsilon, originated at the University of Virginia in 1921.

Farmville Normal Starts Sororities

Let us change complexion for a paragraph or two and look at the sororities—the sisters of the fraternity men.

Two of the most prominent sororities in the country had their inception at Virginia State Normal at Farmville. The first—Delta Kappa which has grown since 1897 to over 60 chapters, and the second—Zeta Tau Alpha which started a year later at the same school. This organization was known, while the founders were poring over the Greek alphabet hunting a cognomen, as the ??? (The Three Question Mark Girls). Zeta Tau Alpha was the first sorority chartered in the State and the first chartered by a special act of the legislature.

These two groups were antedated by Phi Mu Gamma at Hollins in 1890, but little is known about this organization which apparently did not prosper throughout the years as did the other sororities.

Although this concludes the list of social fraternities for men and women, a number of honorary and professional organizations have had their conception in this State. (A student can be a member of only one social fraternity, but he may belong to as many honoraries as he gets invitations. He does

not have to belong to a social club to get a bid to an honorary club.)

Virginia Medical Founds Theta Kappa Psi

The Virginia Medical College now enters our picture for the first time. Theta Kappa Psi was founded there in 1879. Organized by John E. Coles, Charles W. Astrop and Barksdale Hales, this affiliation now has around 100 college and graduate chapters. At V. M. C. Kappa Psi, the first Greek letter club in the school of pharmacy, started in the same year.

One of the most prominent honorary fraternities is Omicron Delta Kappa, known as O. D. K., a leadership fraternity which was founded at Washington and Lee in 1914 and which has at present some 30 branches.

At Ashland Chi Beta Phi, a scientific society, was inaugurated at Randolph-Macon College in 1916 and Tau Kappa Iota, biological, started at Washington and Lee in 1923.

The college at Farmville steps into a large spotlight when one considers the women's honoraries. Sigma Sigma Sigma, an educational group, was banded together in 1898 and Alpha Sigma Alpha, also education, started in 1901.

FRANK CUNNINGHAM,
in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*,
Sunday Magazine.

CAT VS. SQUIRREL

This business of conversation is a very serious matter. There are men that it weakens one to talk with for an hour, more than a day's fasting would do. . . . They are the talkers who have what might be called *jerky* minds. They say bright things on all possible subjects, but their jiggzags rack you to death. After a jolting half-hour with one of these companions, talking with a dull friend affords great relief. It is like taking the cat in your lap after holding a squirrel.—HOLMES, in *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*.