

The Barnard Bulletin

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VOL. XVII. No. 8

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 1912

PRICE 5 CENTS

Firelight Club

On Wednesday, November 6, more than a score of Firelights, including Miss Fox and Miss Sturtevant, gathered around the fire (at a discreet distance) for their second enjoyable evening. The only business was the election of Corinne Reinheimer, '14, and Lillian Soskin, '15, to the Executive Committee.

Dr. Brown of the Philosophy Department was announced as willing to speak on Philosophy and Literature, but had, in true Firelight fashion, changed his mind. He began with the thesis, "College Is an Obstacle to an Education." Very properly, here followed his definition of an educated person, who would be marked by three things, a lively intellectual curiosity, tolerance of others' opinion and thorough knowledge of some one subject or special field of knowledge. So far every one agreed with the speaker. The college, however, he declared, fails to turn out such a desirable product. It fails through each of its three elements, the administrative machinery, the faculty and the students. The mechanism of points, cuts and courses tends to obscure the real value and purpose of what the student is getting. The instructors give too much instruction—of the kind which can come just as well from textbooks as from note-books—and too little inspiration. The students fail by regarding a course as six points, by doing a great deal of writing and a very little thinking, and by developing the "compartmental mind" to fit the departmental system.

In contrast to this gloomy picture Dr. Brown sketched his ideal college, where there would be a minimum of machinery and a maximum of learning; where there would be no cramping "college spirit" which forces one to detest a professor or an institution just because "every one does it," where lecturers would suggest and guide towards enchanting fields of knowledge, and—oh, lots of things quite possible in the firelight now and in reality sometime. The latter part of this discourse was accompanied by the refreshing tinkle of lemonade classes, for—tell it softly—there were refreshments! While the members unobtrusively made away with cakes and fudge they plunged into that which is meat and drink to their souls—Discussion! They led Dr. Brown a merry chase from exams, to Herbert Spencer, and from science to the giddy heights of philosophy, where they were forced to leave him, for the back log had crumbled and the president had turned on the lights.

As those interested may have noticed, each of these meetings is entirely different from every other meeting—so don't fail to attend the next one!

Societe Francaise Entertainment

The audience assembled in the theatre on Wednesday afternoon, November 6, for the Societe Francaise entertainment to the college, showed audible signs of approval when Edith Thomas, '14, announced that the entertainment was to be a one-act play, "L'Anplais tel qu'on le parle." What with posters of French railroads and steamship lines, with *Figaros* and a telephone on the table, the pink scenery showed a new face to the public. Many of the spectators were greatly relieved, however, when, shortly after the curtain rose, the conversation on the stage changed from French to English, the heroine being a young English girl who had eloped to Paris with a Frenchman. But those who understood French undoubtedly had an advantage, as most of the jokes in this exceedingly humorous farce were French, as the principal comedian, who posed as an interpreter, knew very little English except yes, yes, baseball, turkey trot

(Concluded on Page 8 Column 2)

Chapel

On Thursday, November 7, the Dean spoke in Academic Chapel; her subject was fraternities. A general interest in the question of fraternities was evident, she said, from articles in the *Bear* and in the BULLETIN and also from various talks that she had had with students in her office. It is an interesting subject and the Dean sees no earthly reason for not discussing it frankly. It gives us all an excellent opportunity to show that we are really intelligent and civilized, that we can discuss a question that perhaps affects us personally in a perfectly fair, sensible and good tempered manner, with a courteous respect for the honest opinions of other people who differ with us, and with an unselfish desire to arrange matters in whatsoever way shall seem best for Barnard.

Miss Gildersleeve said that the study of social conditions in other colleges was interesting and in some degree enlightening, but we are struck in such a study by two things: First, that conditions differ so widely that it is hard to learn much from other colleges; and, second, that names really have little to do with the situation and that whether our social organizations were eating clubs, or departmental clubs, or fraternities, our problems would probably be much the same. The aim of all such clubs and societies is to promote friendship and desirable intellectual, stimulating intercourse between the students. They help to foster sound traditions and high ideals. At Barnard such organizations are particularly necessary. We are too large to make friends or even acquaintances with every member of the college, and the fact that a large majority of the students are non-resident makes some definite social system particularly desirable. Our classes do meet the need to a certain extent, but even here the unit is too large and there is danger of class feeling becoming so strong that it divides the college. Clubs, then, that can cut across class lines are excellent things, and this is done by religious and philanthropic societies, by departmental clubs and by the fraternities. The fraternities, however, are more avowedly social than are the other clubs, they aim to promote friendship between their members and loyalty to Barnard. Some of the undergraduates and alumnae think in all honesty that fraternities are good in that they achieve worthy ends. Other undergraduates and alumnae think just as honestly that they are harmful. Who is to decide? Our attitude toward fraternities must be like our attitude toward all clubs, etc. Any group of girls may organize anything, provided it doesn't hurt them or the college. Who shall decide whether fraternities are filling these requirements or not? The jurisdiction over student affairs is held by Student Council, and back of them the Faculty Committee on Student Organizations; this committee in turn is responsible to the faculty as a whole, and the trustees form a final court of appeal. Student Council and the Faculty Committee are both too busy to deal with this question as fully and carefully as necessary. A special investigating committee, therefore, has been suggested to deal with the subject.

The make-up of this committee is a difficult and serious question, in order that its work may be effective it must have the approval and confidence of the student body as a whole. The present suggestion is that the committee shall consist of two alumnae, two undergraduates and two or three faculty members. The members will have to be chosen by their official positions and must represent about equally the fraternity and non-fraternity element in college. The work of the committee shall be to investigate conditions here, to listen to reports

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Senior Entertainment to Freshmen

On last Friday afternoon at four o'clock the Freshmen and Seniors assembled in the theatre to witness the much advertised "Ad. Party" with which '13 was to entertain '16. The Freshmen sat on one side of the theatre and the Seniors on the other, which at first seemed unsocial, but proved very beneficial to the singing and dancing at the end of the performance threw the classes together. After "Hurry up, Curtain, Won't You Please Rise" had been sung particularly appealingly the curtain did rise on a most realistic soda water fountain scene, with a black Cream of Wheat man (Harriet Seibert) behind the counter. Miss Phoebe Snow soon appeared (Rhoda Freudenthal) upon her way to Buffalo and was met and wooed by the Arrow Collar man. In the course of their talk, however, Miss Phoebe's spotless white dress was stained with chocolate syrup. Immediately a chorus of cleaners was summoned on the stage, in the lead the Gold Dust Twins, who danced most amusingly, and finally retired while Bon Ami hopped about the stage, like a little chick in the "haven't scratched yet" age. Next the villain and villainess were introduced, "Oh, You Spearmint Kiddo" (Jean Savage) and Mr. Holbrook of Worcestershire (Edith Halfpenny) filling the parts admirably. Miss Spearmint, who had once loved Arrow, vows vengeance on Phoebe and plans to prevent their elopement.

The next scene opens in a railroad station, where Miss "Twenty or Forty" helps the hero and heroine to evade the irate father Herpicide (Harriet Goldman). Arrow changes coats and hats with the station master (August Magid) while Miss Pompeian Twenty or Forty is disguised as Phoebe. As the train realistically steams out of the station, Herpicide, thinking he sees his daughter's hat in the window, jumps on the train and is carried off with Twenty or Forty, while the young couple are left safely behind.

In the third act the Spearmint Kiddo tries to get her revenge by offering to clean Miss Phoebe Snow's dress with some explosive fluid, to which she tries to set fire. Her plan, however, is frustrated and the audience understood why when she exclaimed, "Curses! Carbona!" At this critical juncture Herpicide and Miss Twenty or Forty appear, not in anger as expected, but much infatuated with each other, so that the fierce father actually smiles on the suit of Mr. Arrow, and the play closes with even the Spearmint Kiddo and Mr. Holbrook in a good humor, and the whole cast joins in singing a very funny parody, "Everybody's Chewing It Now!" This brought down the house and the curtain fell amid roars of laughter and applause. The chorus was introduced several times during the play and was very amusing. Edith London and Lillian Warring were leaders of the chorus and did some good dancing.

The audience was requested to keep its seat while refreshments were passed, and when every one had had enough the chairs were pushed back as usual and dancing followed. The Freshmen were delightfully enthusiastic partly because they were Freshmen, partly because it really was an unusually clever and amusing show, both the committee and actors deserve credit for the performance.

1916's Party to 1914

"It was the night when spirits walk"—or rather it was supposed to be. It really wasn't considerate of Father Time to hurry over Hallowe'en and tuck in another week before the Freshmen had a chance to give their party. But the genuine atmosphere was there, so why worry over such mere trifles as calendars.

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BARNARD BULLETIN

Published Weekly throughout the College Year, except the last two weeks in January, by the Students of Barnard College

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Entered as second-class matter October 21st, 1908, at the Post Office, New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3rd, 1897.

Address all communications to
BARNARD BULLETIN
Barnard College, Columbia University,
N. Y., Broadway and 119th Street

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13th, 1912

A few weeks ago a letter appeared in the BULLETIN complaining of cases where girls came to parties not given to the class to which they belonged. It may sound very inhospitable to insist on such a rule, but the question was brought forcibly to our notice at the Senior-Freshman party on Friday. Here the Evens clustered about the pantry door, hindering those who were serving enormously and many of them being fed before the Freshmen who were inside the theatre had had a mouthful to eat. Such lack of thoughtfulness and common courtesy at our college functions is inexcusable. Every one must know that it is not because any class begrudges any other all the food they want, provided the invited guests are served first, but to be blocked and hindered, almost to be forcibly attacked by the uninvited guests, is sorely trying to the patience of the Entertainment Committee.

And may we refer here to a letter published late last spring in the BULLETIN which has also seemed to be forgotten. The letter was an excellent one and made this suggestion, that students should remove their hats when at college. There are two good reasons for doing this: First, the purely utilitarian, for hats are often a real disadvantage to anyone behind them in class, and many a student has to peer around or over curious headgears in order to see the blackboard. Secondly, hats do give our girls a most fleeting appearance; it does not look at all as if we were at home when we wear hats and carry our coats over our arms to all our recitations. The locker rooms are unattractive, we know, and better ones will be one of the things a new building may make possible, but for the present let us put up with what we have and make use of them.

We apologize for an unoriginal editorial, but both the matters mentioned deserve attention, and if a reminder will help any we hope that those who read these words will remember.

One More!

To the Editor of the Barnard BULLETIN:
May I say a few words about the vexed question of fraternities?

So far as I can remember, the greatest objections raised against fraternities, either by members or non-members, are, the spirit of rivalry between fraternities often made too apparent, and the feeling that fraternities foster or emphasize a social distinction between members of a fraternity and non-members. The lesser questions of too much time spent in "rushing," etc., are obviated at Barnard by the second year pledge, day and moderate rushing rules, and other questions of disagreement are always settled honorably and quite often amicably by the fraternities themselves; so that the chief point of unhappy protest is between the fraternity and the non-fraternity girl.

It should be frankly admitted that fraternities have evil aspects; but individuals in the fraternities are responsible for them and not the organization itself. No member of any fraternity can question that high standards of womanhood and scholarship exist in fraternities as inherent motives of inspiration.

What would happen if fraternities were abolished? Just what occurs in the colleges where no fraternities exist? They establish clubs, or "societies," or failing those, "cliques." It is perfectly natural for persons with similar interests, tastes and opinions to congregate; and it is foolish and absurd for any one excluded from such a group to feel any irritation and lack of self-respect because of such exclusion, whether it be voluntary or involuntary; or if it is a question of feeling any social discrepancy, why look for the fault in the organization?

The woman of character and spirit will not find herself excluded from the companionship she wishes to seek, whether she wears a fraternity pin or not; fraternities are neither inherently snobbish nor wilfully malevolent or unkind. But are the individuals sometimes at fault? Yes! I think they often are! Some are too prone to impute unjust motives and actions to other fraternities. Some are too fraternity-centred and so lose the larger aspect of their duty and privilege in the college world—companionship with all college and classmates. There is the kind of girl who shuts herself up in a fraternity and cares only for the members of her own fraternity. Yes, it is a great loss, but the girl suffers it alone.

When the non-fraternity girls feel no loss of self-respect and so harbor no ill-feeling because they are "nons," realizing that "cliques" are natural to human nature, and that clique-formation is an open field; when fraternities may be viewed not only as well-intentioned and harmless, but often as incentive-giving organizations, not always well represented by the aberrations of one or more members; when rivalry between fraternities weakens, as being petty and unjust; when certain members of fraternities learn that the evils of fraternities can be effectively changed by control of actions and erasure of mistakes, as by the abolition of fraternities; then peace may once more reign at Barnard.

And after all, the fraternity question is not so important as passing one's final examinations, procuring a new building for Barnard, or striving for character and scholarship. Now is it? J. D., 1907.

Debating Club Alive

To the Editor of the BULLETIN:
It will be remembered that the Debating Club was hailed with delight when it organized last spring. At the present time many in college are wondering at its sudden and horrible death. Allow me, as a member, to assert that the club is not extinct, but merely awaiting the pleasure of its busy president for its active revival. In the meantime, let those of us who are interested remain loyal until the opportunity to debate presents itself.

OPTIMISTA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 14:

Chapel Speaker—Prof. H. S. Mussey.

Friday, November 15:

3 P. M.—Brinckerhoff Theatre—Sophomore Play, "His Excellency the Governor."

8.15 P. M.—Brinckerhoff Theatre—Sophomore Play, "His Excellency the Governor."

Sunday, November 17:

In the chapel of the Union Theological Seminary, on Clermont Avenue, between 120th and 121st streets, the Rev. Prof. Hugh Black, will speak at 11 o'clock.

At 4 o'clock in St. Paul's Chapel the Very Rev. Herbert Hensley Henson, Canon of Westminster Abbey, will deliver the sermon.

Monday, November 18:

Chapel Speaker—Dr. Henry Van Dyke.

Societe Francaise Notice

Owing to the fact that M. Réno Gallaud will be out of town on November 21, the Société française meeting at which he is to speak will be postponed until December 5.

Philolexian Play

The Philolexian play will be postponed from Saturday, November 16, and will be given on the afternoon and evening of November 23.

Chapel Notice

We are so particularly fortunate in our chapel speaker for next week that we wish to draw especial attention to the announcement in the Calendar of Events. On Monday the 18th Dr. Henry Van Dyke will speak to us; no further inducement to come is necessary. Prof. E. A. Steiner may be a little less familiar to us, but those who have read his books on immigration ("The Immigrant Tide" and "On the Trail of the Immigrant") will be anxious to hear him and every one ought to.

Mental Hygiene Conference and Exhibit

Under the direction of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and the Committee on Mental Hygiene of the New York State Charities Aid Association, which are conducting an endeavor to reduce the amount of mental impairment in the United States, a conference and exhibit will be held at the College of the City of New York November 8 to 15.

The exhibit, open from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M., gives a clear presentation of the extent of insanity, its nature, causes and means of prevention.

Meetings have been arranged at which the various phases of mental hygiene will be discussed by authorities on the subject. At the meeting planned especially for college women, to be held Thursday, November 14, at 4 P. M. in Room 105, Main Building, Dean Gildersleeve will preside and will make the opening address. Dr. Rose Pringle of Bloomingdale Hospital and Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe of Fordham University will also speak. Other important meetings will be held on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Programs may be obtained at the office of the secretary.

College Settlement Notice

Please read the C. S. A. notices in your studies. They are about Thanksgiving dinners and need your immediate attention.

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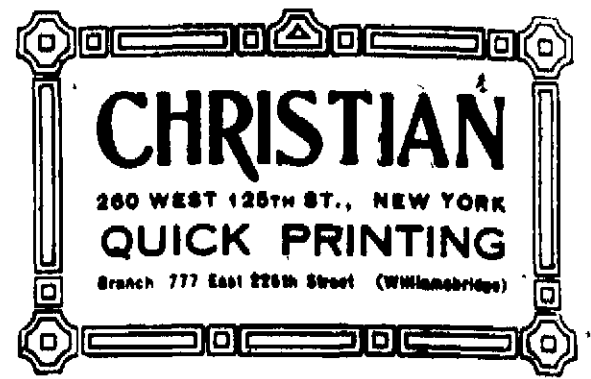
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Chapel

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

from undergraduates, alumnae and faculty, to look into social organizations in other colleges and finally to make recommendations to Student Council and to the Faculty Committee on the subject of fraternities. The Dean asked emphatically for criticism and suggestions on this plan and said that she would be glad to see students about the matter at any time.

After all, however, the Dean pointed out that the spirit of the college was the important thing, that if we are petty or snobbish or selfish fraternities or any other organizations are not going to help us, that neither the presence nor absence of such things make us democratic. The individuals who make up the college must be altruistic and broad-minded if the college as a whole is to be so.

Above all, we must not let our loyalty to the college be affected, or our power to work together for Barnard. The Dean closed by saying: "In a few weeks I shall probably be making public announcement of a great and inspiring movement for the good of Barnard, and I shall be appealing to you and to every daughter of the college for aid in carrying it to success. We must let no discord within sap our strength, let nothing prevent our standing shoulder to shoulder in loyal comradeship and devotion to Barnard and the ideals for which she stands."

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