

The Barnard Bulletin

VOL. XX. No. 28

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 15th, 1916

PRICE 5 CENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 16—
 1917 Class Meeting, 330 at 12.
 1918 Class Meeting, Lunch Room at 12.
 Feminist Forum, Electrical Laboratory at 12.
 Wigs and Cues, 134 at 12:30.
 C. S. A., Theatre at 4.
 Phil. Club, Lunch Room at 12.
Wednesday, May 17—
 Athletic Association, 139 at 12:30.
 Debating Club, 134 at 12.
 Firelight Club, 135 at 12.
Thursday, May 18—
 Fraternity Discussion Meeting under auspices of Social Science League, at 12, Electrical Laboratory.
 Journalism Club 138 at 4.
 Dean's Tea to Seniors, Theatre at 4.
 Voting on Fraternity Question.
Friday, May 19—
 Athletic Association, Theatre, 4 to 6.
Monday, May 22—
 Final examinations begin.

SENIOR WEEK

Senior Play, June 2 and 3
 Dust, *Maid*—a Pastoral Play by Katharine McGiffert/
 Music by Ruth Salom.
 Chairmen—Marie Hellner, staging; Jeanne Jacoby, Esther Wallach, Ruth Salom, music and costuming; Helen Smith, dancing.

Cast for Show

Hermes.....Selma Cohen
 Calliste.....Carol Lorenz
 Peleus.....Louise Talbot
 Phillida.....Elma Klopfer
 Maid.....Beatrice Rittenberg
 Shepherdess.....Catharine McEntegart
 The play is being produced under the direction of Miss Florence Gerrish.

Senior Dance, June 5

Chairman—Evelyn Haring Lillian Shrive, Ruth Washburn, Louise Lucey, Gertrude Ross.

Senior Banquet, June 8

Chairman—Beatrice Rittenberg, Edna Thomson, Helen Youngs, Jeanne Roscnbaum, Susanne Weinstein.

Class Day, June 6

Chairman—Juliet Steintal; Dorothy Blondel, Dorothy Myers, Emma Seipp.
 Ex-officio on all committees—Mary Powell and Gertrude Schuyler.

Class Day Speakers

Class History.....Emma Seipp
 Presentation of Gift.....Louise Talbot

Gift to Classes

Salutatory.....Mary Powell
 Valedictory.....Carol Lorenz
 Knocks.....Juliet Steintal

The Senior Committee requests that no caps and gowns be worn by any but Seniors during Senior Week.

All class day and play ushers are requested to wear white.

BLUE BOOK NOTICE

The editors of the Blue Book for next year are:

Editor-in-Chief—Marie Bernholz, '18.
 Business Manager—Eliza Marquess, '17.

Associate Editors—Harriet Van Nstrand, '18; Freda Wobber, '17; Bertha Mann, '19.

All suggestions for the improvement of the Blue Book will be gratefully received. Secretaries of the various clubs and organizations are requested to send the lists of officers for the coming year to Marie Bernholz, locker 26 Sophomore Study.

ALIAS FRATERNITIES

Quite a large audience gathered to hear the Alumnae discuss the question of Student Social Organizations Friday afternoon. After two hours of attempting—in vain!—to remember that this was not a fraternity meeting, but an occasion for the presentation of constructive plans the meeting adjourned. Two impressions remained uppermost in many minds—one of sheer amusement and one of confusion. The gathering was stamped with muddle-headedness. An indefinite letter from Alpha Phi was read, stating the opinion of that sorority that the question would better hang over a year or so more. We were then asked to omit purely fraternity items, but the Alumnae, very naturally, knowing that phase and feeling strongly pro and con, talked almost exclusively on them.

The first speaker was Miss Jean Miller, 1903, who regarded sceptically the "death-bed conversion" of the fraternities themselves and proceeded with some acerbity to give reasons against their presence in Barnard. Her main objection was on the ground that they work against the higher education of Jewish women by not recognizing them socially when they come to college. She also brought out the political rivalry and control of the Alumnae Association by fraternities and the admitted violation of Pan-Hellenic rules.

The next speaker, Mrs. Hoffman, also 1903, spoke of the need for frats in general, because of the distractions of home and city life, and the instincts of human nature for social organization. She asserted that local societies would be subject to all the "mistakenly imputed ills" of the National Sororities. She considered the secrecy too trivial to be objected to.

Sarah Butler, 1915, next gave a clear exposition of one of the main objections to social organizations. Experimentation that wholesome rubbing up against new types of girls is one of the most valuable of college experiences and is interfered with by crystallization into social groups, and a settling down in a too easily congenial and similar atmosphere. She suggested the expansion of our Department Clubs to fill the needs for sociability and contact with the Alumnae, à la English and Botany Clubs.

Miss Edith Valet, 1912, then enumerated sundry services of "fraternities": to bring out reserved girls—the "modest violet" has never seemed a large constituent—to cut class lines, which are singularly weak in Barnard anyway, and to give personal touch with the Alumnae. She further pointed out the use of national affiliations for the reputation of Barnard, and the convenience of its students. She suggested that there be enough of these small "social organizations to include every one" and that the membership be by some nebulous scheme of joint application and invitation.

Miss Poyntz, speaking in lieu of Freda Kirchwey Clark, who was ill, then gave as an old fraternity member a strong talk against the reinstatement of fraternities. They bring out the worst of girls; they accentuate the Jewish problem; they interfere with a broad view of college and class. Barnard Miss Poyntz continued, seems to her to be on the eve of a healthy social development "Let it grow," she said, "and do not support this effort of sororities to appeal to another class of girls—a select, approved group."

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

The Trustees are arranging a brief ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone of the Students Hall, at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Commencement Day. There will be short addresses by Mr. Schiff, by some representative of Columbia University as a whole, and by Miss Carol Lorenz on behalf of the students of Barnard College.

Plans are being made for the participation of the undergraduates in these exercises. It is hoped that as many of the students as possibly can will assemble in academic costume to join in the procession and in the singing. Miss Beatrice Lowndes, 1917, is the representative of the undergraduates in charge of the arrangements. Detailed instructions will be announced in the near future.

V. C. GILDERSLEEVE,
 Dean.

SENIOR CHAPEL

On Thursday, at the last Chapel services of the year, Dean Gildersleeve addressed the class of 1916. At the Commencement exercises Barnard merges her individuality into the unity of Columbia University, so that it seems fitting to have the last Chapel ceremony given up to Barnard alone, for a personal good-bye to the senior class.

1916 ELECTS ALUMNAE OFFICERS

At their last regular class meeting 1916 adopted their Alumnae constitution, presented by the Executive Committee and elected the following Alumnae officers:

President, Carol Lorenz; Vice-President, Mary Powell; Secretary, Catherine McEntegart; Treasurer, Evelyn Haring.

The various Senior Week Chairmen made final reports, and the meeting adjourned at one o'clock.

SOCIAL SCIENCE LEAGUE ELECTION

OFFICERS FOR 1916-17

President—Dorothy Teall.
 Secretary-Treasurer—Lucy Karr.
 Chairman of Group on Student Organizations—E. Wright.
 Chairman of Literature and Art Group—Lena Brodsky.
 Chairman of Politics Group (including war and labor)—E. Sachs.
 Chairman of Women's Problems Group—Meta Pennock.
 Chairman of Education Group—Claire Patterson.

Further business transacted at the meeting was the authorization of the President to appoint a Decoration Committee for the future club room, now the Electrical Laboratory. It was suggested that the groups have closed membership, but no action on that question was taken. A motion was passed providing for leaflets stating the purpose and plans of the League and asking for co-operation in the various groups, and for the contribution of rugs, china, books, chairs, pillows, hassocks, posters, and money for curtains—all subject to rejection by the Decoration Committee. These leaflets were to be sent out to the incoming Freshmen and others next fall. Miss Teall then took the chair, asked for the co-operation of the League in expanding its work next year, and then the meeting was adjourned.

BARNARD BULLETIN

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 15th, 1916

The present agitation for "organizations primarily social" has been fermented by unusually confused currents of thinking and of talk. Some of us are busy naming new names to gloss over the special significances of certain rather old institutions, recently in disfavor. Others are industrious in an equal measure, conveying new meanings to the ancient titles, suggesting with amazing fertility new, more-improved features, later additions, wings to ancient structures.

The term social organization, as now so variously and widely employed, is totally devoid of any definite meaning that may have originally pertained to it. We believe it would be impossible to get a consensus of sincere opinion from twenty individuals, desiring the introduction of such institutions into Barnard that would be convincingly clear as to their nature—their form, their basis of membership, their local or national affiliations, or even in the last analysis their purpose.

However, it is plain that there are activating impulses underlying this revival of a question to some extent settled three years ago. A broad social feeling may be stirring the college to-day,

seeking an outlet toward more definite, more vital organization than Barnard now affords. It is, nevertheless, difficult to comprehend the relation between such a new and ideal striving and the return-to-fraternity movement which, we need not blind ourselves, is the clearest tendency in the present turmoil. Until such a striving, if it exists, manifests itself in a crystallized demand for fresh forms of activity, it cannot be thoughtfully considered. At all events the revival of fraternities must not be permitted to borrow from its vague broadness a hypocritical glamour. This revival should be recognized as definite and distinct and should be met as a clear-cut issue.

The chief claim the fraternity makes for its existence is the quality of the social life that centers about it. This may be charged as artificial on so many grounds that the most flagrant evil must be chosen—the emphasis that just such sociability makes on class lines. The fraternity makes superlatively conscious all the social distinctions that such a great merging educational experiment as Barnard attempts to make latent: it makes the strictures so firm that class tends to assume the rigidity of class.

For what gain? For the exclusive intimacy and overzealous activities of a few individuals, fundamentally similar by exactly such qualifications as are necessary for the preservation of exactly such groups. That this peculiarity is the chief characteristic of these groups not only for outsiders, but for the initiates also, is fairly demonstrated by the ranking of these organizations, the most exclusive being the most highly prized.

At Barnard the social question is delicately complicated with that of Anti-Semitism. Now, individuals belonging to these societies have on occasion gracefully denied the existence of these latter as a reality. Overlooking this kindness, we may turn to the membership lists of Pan Hellenic, and find there effective silent witness. That we have here an embryonic race problem is so obvious, that those who would rush us heedlessly back into an aggravation of it, such as fraternities actively engender, must be at once recognized as too reckless, too foolish, or too hard to be entrusted with the furtherance of any social interest.

Matters having intimate connection with the alumnae, with our not having dormitories in as great a number as other colleges do, with our unorganized groups having no place to give entertainments, no way of forever perpetuating themselves, etc., etc.—these are all no doubt pressing; they are certainly in the air raised with such vehemence as fraternities can lend. And, no doubt they should and will receive consideration. However, an agitation which is being carried on under the aspect of social significances, should be weighted heavily with sound social thought and endeavor.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

(Reprinted from the February "Bear.")

Some years ago before he moved to the White House, President Wilson once remarked of "extra curricular" activities of students and their effect on academic work, that there was danger, in our collegiate circus, lest the "side shows should swallow up the main tent." Every college officer must feel at times, I suppose, this peril of having the sober substance of the curriculum engulfed in the maelstrom of student activities. The whirl of youthful energy and enthusiasm must certainly be regulated and checked, lest a student should, for example, spend all her days and nights rehearsing plays. But I have always believed that, with due regulation, these student activities have a real educational value. They supplement the curriculum with other varieties of training and experience. I

have been struck by the fact that prospective employers often realize this and inquire concerning the extra-curricular achievements of Barnard graduates whom they are considering for positions.

The Faculty and the administration should, I think, frankly and fully recognize the possible educational uses of this work and by their interest, advice and co-operation help to develop it in the most beneficial way. To some extent this is already done, but there are even greater possibilities open. The modern language clubs, for example, should accomplish valuable and delightful service in bringing students in touch with the atmosphere of foreign cultures and making them hear and speak foreign languages. A Spanish Club should be created and the French and German Clubs made more vital. With greater assistance from the undergraduates as a whole and from the Faculty the publications might give to more students sounder experience in writing, proof-reading and editorial judgment. Dramatics, athletics, the activities of the Religious and Philanthropic Organizations, the debates and conferences of the Social Science League, Greek Games, and the interesting political problems involved in student government, may all, when properly conducted, give not only pleasure but training that will prove helpful in after years when our graduates grapple with the world's work.

Our present Student Council is interested in this question and has already taken steps to improve the value of student activities, beginning with our outside philanthropic work. Several difficulties confront us, but they are not insuperable. The first is the problem of getting the work done in an efficient manner without having so much supervision and direction that the students lose the experience of responsibility and initiative. Slovenly, neglectful, incompetent methods are not good training for anything, but are positively harmful and demoralizing. Yet the students must be made to devise plans and do things for themselves, without an older guide constantly at their elbow. Another need which conflicts with efficiency is that of distributing the work among as many students as possible, so that everyone may have some valuable experience in organizing a committee, for example, or presiding over a meeting, or acting in a play. If this work is of educational value, it should not be preempted by a few. This whole question of the most effective utilization of these student activities is worth careful and intelligent consideration.

Besides these of the more purely intellectual type, there is another class of student organizations—the social clubs, illustrated at various colleges by national fraternity chapters, "eating clubs," and a great variety of other forms. No institution for women, so far as I know, has solved with complete satisfaction the problem of this kind of organization. As I look back over the last five years it seems to me that perhaps the most perplexing question which has confronted Barnard has been that involved in the suspension of the form of social club which for a long period was very dear to the hearts of many Barnard students and very irritating to many others—the fraternity chapters.

In several respects the fraternities were certainly a nuisance. They sometimes offended democratic sensibilities, they caused, in the process of getting in new members, confusion, bad manners, and occasional hysterics, and their secrets, trivial in themselves, inspired bitter suspicion in many members of the college community. Something radical had to be done to remedy the troubles.

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THE NEW PLAN

How many of us have given much thought to the new plan for a house to accommodate those who want to live more simply than is possible at Brooks? It ought to interest a great many girls here at college. I, myself, know quite a number who are living away from home (for the most part rooming in the nearby vicinity who would be glad of the chance to secure pleasanter quarters and the companionship such an arrangement would afford.

It must be also that many parents who now prefer to have their daughters commuting to boarding in unknown places would be glad to fall in with such a scheme. So don't think you are one of a small number. There are ever so many more just like you, and if you all report as requested on Monday and Tuesday you should make a goodly showing. Have some ideas and suggestions to offer if possible, and let's put the thing through now so that the details can be worked out during the summer.

MARGARET M. MOSES.

THE CAROLINE GALLUP REED PRIZE

The Trustees have accepted from Mrs. William Barclay Parsons a gift of \$1,000 to establish the Caroline Gallup Reed Prize, in memory of the mother of Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Sylvanus Reed, who was for many years the principal of an important school for girls in New York City. The prize is to be awarded each year to the student in Barnard College who, under certain conditions to be determined later, writes the best essay on some topic connected with the origin of Christianity or early Church History. A detailed announcement will be issued in the near future, for the guidance of students who desire to compete next year for this prize.

SOCIALIST CLUB

At a meeting of the Socialist Club on Friday, Evelyn Salzman, '17, was elected president for the coming year; Frances Fineman, '19, is the new secretary-treasurer, and Ruth Budinoff, '18' chairman of the Executive Committee.

Those present at the meeting unanimously declared themselves to be opposed to the formation of any chartered social organizations in Barnard College, as they were of the opinion that organized social groups would tend to produce the spirit of exclusiveness fostered by fraternities.

FRESHMAN ELECTIONS

At a meeting Tuesday noon '19 chose the following officers for next year: Treasurer, Marion Townsend; Vice-President, Frances Rule; Recording Secretary, Marion Warren; Corresponding Secretary and Historian, Pamela Thomas; Chairman of Mysteries, Bertha Mann.

1917 CLASS MEETING

At a special class meeting, Frida Wobber was elected 1917's class treasurer, and Elinor Brewer, recording secretary. The chairman of the senior week announced that she, Miss Geer and Miss Curnow would present at the next meeting a list of nominees for chairmen of each day. Nominations from the floor will also be in order at that time.

CUM LAUDE

The Debating Club held the last try-outs of the year on Tuesday last. The following, by virtue of the delivery, coherence and interest of their speeches, were admitted to membership: Selma Cohen, '16; Elinor Sachs, '17; Bernice Despres, '18; Mary R. Griffiths, '18, and Pauline Grossman, '18.

"FRAT" MEETING

Do you remember the wish that was expressed at the mass meeting Friday afternoon for discussion meetings on social organizations? Come Thursday noon to the Electrical Laboratory (bring your lunch), where anybody with impersonal scientific spirit can come to offer their constructive ideas about student organizations, social or otherwise. Definite suggestions can be given to officers of Social Science League beforehand.

CRAGIE CLUB

At the meeting of the Cragie Club on Wednesday, the members discussed attendance at the summer school at Cliff Haven, and elected the officers for next year. The elections were as follows

President—Elsa Becker, '17.
Vice-President—Rosemary Laurence, '17.
Treasurer—Lucille Hart, '18.
Secretary—Gladys Cripps, '18.
The sub-treasurers are—for 1917—Mary Dwyer, and for 1919, Elesia Carr

FRENCH CLUB

At the French Club meeting on Wednesday the officers for next year were elected:

President—Florence Oppenheimer.
Vice-President—Aline Buchman.
Secretary—Vivian Tappan.
Treasurer—M. La Fontaine.

There was some discussion of the French Club's not applying for a charter renewal because of lack of interest.

BOTANY CLUB

A very delightful tea was given by the Botany Club on Wednesday afternoon. There was a large attendance, and the club was glad to entertain many Alumnae and notables unconnected with college, among whom was Miss Elsie Kujfer, the president of the club.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Continued from Page 2, Column 3

The suspension of the chapters for three years was however, a painful wrench, naturally distressing to many of our most interested and loyal alumnae.

All who are closely concerned with the problems of student life have watched with interest to see what would grow up in the place of the chapters. As yet nothing has developed to perform certain of their valuable functions, though efforts are now being made to satisfy some of these needs. The greatest service performed by the fraternities was the bridging of the gap between the classes. This gave to some undergraduates opportunities for the formation of close and congenial friendships not only in a student's own class but in all the others. As I watch the personal problems of many students I frequently see the need, in our rather scattered community, of some social machinery to bring about close and friendly intercourse with a fairly wide group, and prevent the isolation of girls in twos or threes, or their being helplessly stranded without any congenial companionship whatsoever. Were we all living together at college halls, this need would not, of course, be so pressing.

The interclass connection also helped, in many cases, to give to older students a feeling of responsibility for guiding and helping younger ones. Without some definite organization in smaller groups it is hard to secure this valuable influence of upperclassmen on sophomores and freshmen. The organizations, moreover, provided for some of the alumnae a living and personal bond with the undergraduates, and thus kept them interested in the college. A good fraternity chapter, finally, had a definite feeling of responsibility towards the community and sometimes helped to crystallize sound public opinion through the different classes, and support good causes.

Is it possible, I wonder, to develop some simpler type of organization which will perform these useful functions without undue commotion and offence, and without the unnecessary device of secrecy? The problem is perhaps a difficult one. It is certainly an interesting sociological study. Officers and alumnae can only watch its workings and wait to see how the undergraduates will solve it. If the need is a real one it must certainly be felt by the students and ultimately met.

VIRGINIA C. GILDERSLEEVE.

To the Editor of the Bulletin:

In the Bulletin of May 8th, I called attention to certain outstanding reasons why the type of society best represented by fraternities is undesirable in Barnard College. Fraternities were cited less on their own account than as an example of the evils which may accompany the presence in our college of any social secret societies that are mutually exclusive and that have national affiliations.

A much more important matter than the specific question of fraternities confronts Barnard College at this present moment, that of social organizations. Some work of the kind we take pride in calling "constructive" is apparently to be done. As is usual in such cases, it is well to have some idea of what experience has taught us to avoid. If possible, such questions should be discussed without reference to "college loyalty," "college spirit," "social service," "cementing friendships," "organizations," "the necessity of a social scheme" and other phrases that often cast a spell over the minds of individuals.

Looking at the question, then, as a matter of fact, the following dangers, particularly in social organizations, seem to have been outstanding in the history of our college:

I. Over-organization and over-stressing of the need of some social scheme. The true purpose of organization is clearly to enable business of whatever kind to be transacted effectively. Instances will occur in the mind of every student of cases where organization has become an end in societies, where, for example, the framing of the constitution and by-laws becomes more important than any business which they are designing to protect and facilitate. Especially in purely social matters should all organization be as informal and flexible as possible, since, manifestly, the only real possible reason for such organization is to get acquainted with interesting people and to enjoy the company of those one likes. No elaborate regime is necessary for that very important object.

II. Secrecy is obviously bad. If the secrets are good, they should be shared; if they are bad, they should not be tolerated.

III. Mutually exclusive membership, except in societies which are antagonistic by nature as, say, the Republican and Democratic parties, is undesirable. Even in the example cited, a man is free to change his party allegiance. Constructively, any girl should have as much opportunity among the various societies, as among individuals, as she has time and talent to enjoy.

IV. National affiliation among undergraduate clubs is of doubtful value. There is usually too much interference from the outside. Possibly in well established religious societies such affiliations are harmless, as also in learned societies. But the case remains to be made out for organizations of almost every other description.

V. Methods of election that involve competition for so-called desirable students have very little in their favor. Constructively, again, it would be a great blessing if Barnard College fostered only such formal societies as meet a real need and are of sufficient strength and dignity to attract really interested students to their membership. An altogether too common form of society among us has to go out and seek members, to sustain a dwindling and unimportant existence.

No society, therefore, which is secret, membership in which artificially excludes students from societies of a like character, or which too eagerly pursues members, can long be desirable among us. In a less measure societies with national affiliations and social organizations with the stress placed on organization, should be discouraged.

On the other hand, there seem to be certain positive principles. Within the limits indicated there should be the utmost freedom. Everything possible should be done to encourage a frank, open social life among students. The furtherance of a free spirit of friendliness among students, ready and unrestricted provision for wholesome amusement, the establishment of societies that meet serious intellectual needs, are in a high degree desirable. Such provision exists now in the special clubs formed within different departments, in the dramatic, athletic, and religious organizations, in the "Bear" and the "Bulletin." These give fine opportunity for the individual both intellectually and socially, in an entirely sound meaning of the words. Many of these are really honorable in a sense not like that in which Phi Beta Kappa is honorable. We are fortunately coming more and more to recognize that societies of interest and societies of merit, both meeting a genuine need, are about the only ones that call for definite organization.

The more I consider these matters the less it appears to me to be desirable that there should exist in Barnard College any formal social organizations. Even the return of fraternities as local

social clubs without secrecy or national affiliation would tend to restore the fundamental evils which accompanied the presence of rival and formal secret societies. A very good rule to follow in all human concerns is not to organize unless you have to. Why substitute for the fun of informality the stiffness of regime?

You will understand that in this letter as in the preceding I am writing for the information of the students based on long experience with Barnard College. I have the added animus of desiring to see individual students protected from the drag of a regime in which they may not be interested, which consumes their time, which troubles them with factitious questions of conduct. For in addition to other opportunities we should surely try so far as possible to safe-guard the individual in doing as she thinks wise for her individual welfare. By all means let those who wish experiment, very freely, with clubs of all kinds. May the good survive! But let us beware of sanctioning a system that might bring back the old evils under a new guise, that might mean undue control from outside, and that might interfere with the period of free experimentation that the college needs, that might add to the burdens of already over-worked undergraduate officers.

As I see the true interest of the undergraduates, I hope that every student will vote **no** on the questions to be submitted next Thursday. Safety, freedom and opportunity lie in that way.

I am, with thanks for your courtesy in publishing these views,

Very sincerely yours,
WILLIAM T. BREWSTER,
Provost.

Dear Editor:

Everyone at Barnard, I think, Faculty and students alike, expects, in a week or so, to hear the final dying peal of the swan-song of fraternities. Fraternities! The very word is like a knell. They do not want to come back, and we do not want to have them. Their official ostracism is little more than a formality.

The burning and imminent question is, Shall anything take their place? Some say, emphatically, No. They wish to confine college activities to departmental and curricular interests. Others favor social organizations, and think that, like Sentimental Tommy, they can "find a way." The great majority, however, as I think, would like some such institution at Barnard, but have nothing to propose. They feel that the problem is as many-sided as a prism and each side too impregnable for the human mind to attack. This is laziness, and deserves no other name.

The foremost consideration is: Are social organizations, founded on congeniality as a basis of admission, in themselves undemocratic? If so, avault! Every Barnard girl feels that Barnard must protect democracy as she would protect her honor. It is the immediate jewel of her soul. But I cannot see that such societies would be a menace to it. They merely recognize and utilize what already exists. What is democracy? I do not mean democracy at large, but democracy at Barnard. I conceive it to be equal opportunity for all, equal opportunity to make friends, equal opportunity in college politics. Here in Barnard, that is, democracy sets us all on the same plane, and forbids man or demon to deny or abridge our rights because of wealth, position, race, color, or previous condition of servitude. We have not quite achieved this high ideal, but it is not unattainable, and we are working for it, and working, for the most part, together.

The old fraternity-system certainly put a spoke in the wheel of these honest endeavors, and this makes us all chary of taking any step which might develop a

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Continued from Page 8, Column 2

of its evils. Whether, with forethought, or merely by chance, these race lines and fortified barriers of mediaeval origin. But it seems to us that we could have here at Barnard a system of social organizations which would be the first step towards the demolition of these barriers. Why is it that those who have this interest most at heart do not feel this, too, and throw the whole weight of their influence into an effort to establish a system in which no line would be drawn between Jew and non-Jew? Now is the moment. Now the iron is white-hot. Barnard's mind will be, in the Lockian idiom, a "tabula rasa" when this whole college will turn its face eagerly to every new idea, with ready ears for every new suggestion? Hardly.

Of course, from the Jewish standpoint, and from the standpoint of all Jewish sympathizers, Barnard without any societies, or any social life of any kind, is a better place than Barnard with fraternities. But if we could have societies here, not, of necessity, "mutually exclusive," but admitting one girl's belonging to several societies free of racial prejudice, meeting together for any purpose or interest whatsoever, it could not fail to strike a blow at racemongers. These societies now would have to spring up from within the college. A system of admissions might be arranged whereby they should grow and flourish all ways in this way, so that groups in every class arising within the class, would seek membership in the club of their choice as a body, according to which was most congenial.

Perhaps this is impracticable; perhaps it could not be done. But something can be done. We need something here in college to make life a little warmer and a little pleasanter for us all, but especially for those girls who are naturally social, but diffident, who wish to make friendships at college, but are inhibited by their reserve. We need something to bind the alumnae to the undergraduates and to the college; we need something to perpetuate the friendships we have formed.

No one person can say whether these clubs shall be "mutually exclusive" or not. If they are, let there be enough so that everyone who wants to may belong to one. If they are not, let there be enough so that everyone who wants to may belong to two or three. I am not presenting any plan. This is not a one-man job. Only the general public can settle the problem. Nothing can be imposed on the college. It needs thought, it needs work, it needs cooperation. Difficulties should not discourage us. It is like woman suffrage, which certainly will entail confusion and upheaval for the state, perhaps increased bitterness. But which, we believe, will bring a good overbalancing the evil. The opportunity is before us. Every girl who wants any organizations primarily social world work to attain her end. The problem is in her hands to mould, as she can to her will. If the outcome be not to her liking, she can vote against it then. But she ought to try to bring about the outcome she desires.

CORNELIA GEER, 1917.

OUR SOCIAL PROBLEM

"There is no fraternity question"—that remark we all hear frequently—but most people do not hear the qualifying, "that is, fraternities as they used to be, for nobody wants them back and they don't want to come back." But that there is a vital social question, and one soon to be voted on, has not aroused much comment.

The students are now to decide, since they do not want fraternities, just what sort of social organization they do want. Why have any organization at all? In the first place, you may say, be-

undergraduates and the alumnae. But Wellesley has a loyal alumnae and they have no purely social organization, their societies being on a scholarship basis with a vague "done something for the college" qualification thrown in. Smith has a loyal alumnae, and although it has "bating" societies and "invitation houses," the membership in these is so tiny, compared with the entire student body, that they cannot claim the credit for their alumnae's hearty interest in Smith. Vassar has loyal alumnae and no social organization at all! The same is true of Bryn Mawr. Is there anything in the matter with Barnard that it needs a special bond to hold the interest of its former students? Is it sick, that it needs a social tonic? I think Barnard is strong enough to live long, without any artificial stimulation.

In the second place, you may say Barnard needs social organization because it is broken up into factions, because the commuters (who make the college) and the Brooks Hall students don't mix, and, therefore, some social organization is needed to bind it together. I think the Brooks Hall problem will go when the new building comes. And as to the factions in Barnard, surely any organization of a purely social nature would tend to foster lines of demarcation already existing and in time split the college up into still more divisions.

In the third place, you may say that we need social organizations because we all have friends, because it is natural and right for us to form ourselves into groups. But organization for social purposes defeats its own end. The minute you formalize friendship, which must be essentially spontaneous, you make a mockery of it. Why make such a fuss over your friendships? You will be friends with a person as long as the friendship lasts, and when it dies it is dead, no matter how many vows you may have made to keep it alive. Another absurdity of purely social organizations is the assumption that it is possible to get more than a very few people who are really congenial. Because you happen to be intimate with one girl, it does not follow that you like all of her best friends. Where can you draw the line? Somebody is sure to be left out whom somebody else thinks ought to be included.

It seems to me that the pleasure a few get out of purely social organizations is more than overbalanced by the pain they cause the majority. For it is hot and dispute that the meaningless, brazenly purposeless societies are the ones that it hurts to be left out of. People may be disappointed, but they are not hurt, if they fail to make a society that means something—for we are most of us not conceited enough to be heartbroken if honors are not thrust upon us. But the purely social groups, those formed for nothing but a good time, are the ones that build up the unseen barriers and make the heartaches. And all this misery, for it is misery of a kind, is so unnecessary! If a certain set of girls have a good time together, let them play together, and the more there are of them, and the more fun they have, the better. But as soon as they start tying themselves up with pledges and by-laws, they will find themselves weighted down with all sorts of ridiculous restrictions on free, unself-conscious intercourse with their companions. Therefore, I think Barnard is well rid of these social plagues and I hope it will remain so.

E. KETTERLINUS.

To the Editor of the Bulletin:
If the undergraduates of Barnard want social organizations why don't they retain the good and discard the evil of the fraternity system?
In this way we can hold for Barnard the valuable interest of many of our Alumnae and derive at the same time the benefits of the national affiliation.

The element of secrecy that gives concern to those outside and means little to those inside, at present stands for two things, the Greek letter name and the form of taking in new members. Two years ago the Barnard Chapters, realizing the antagonism caused by secrecy volunteered to do all in their power with the national fraternities toward the abolition of these two remaining secrets.

Since that time one of our Barnard Chapters has achieved the abolition of one of these secrets.

In all probability it will be a matter of only one or two years before all the Chapters could also accomplish the abolition of both secrets. It is merely a question of bearing with these secrets for a few years, or of breaking off national affiliations because of these trivialities.

It is doubtful if fraternities will be "relegated to the region of curious institutions," for at present their growth is continuing throughout the country. The tendency of the times, however, is to do away with secrecy. Consequently it certainly seems wiser for Barnard to be the pioneer in the college world in the matter of abolishing secrecy than to break away from affiliations which are of great benefit to her, namely the interest of many of her Alumnae and the benefits derived from national affiliations. For the present, though, we cannot have one without the other, so if you vote affirmatively on question A it will be of no use without an affirmative vote on question B.

An erroneous impression exists at Barnard in regard to the national aspect of the fraternity situation. This comes as a result of the rule of national Y. W. C. A. against the admission of Jewish girls as active members.

The fraternity nationals have no such roles. Everything is left to the local Chapters, which means the undergraduates decide who and how many are to be taken in. There are no disadvantages, but only advantages derived from national affiliations. These advantages are:

- (1) The broadening influence of being able to meet and have interests in common with women from other parts of the country.
- (2) The fact that fraternity affiliations made it easier for fraternity members to form valuable friendships in other cities.
- (3) Particular considerations, as for example, the better accommodations to be had at summer schools through fraternity connection, the greater ease in obtaining positions, the availability of individuals obtaining financial assistance, supplementary to students' aid.

Contrary to many impressions, the national fraternity cannot interfere. Under our charter system, established the year fraternities went out, all social organizations are under Student Council jurisdiction. Every one, two or three years, as the case may be the social organizations come up before Student Council to have their charters renewed. If Student Council reforms these charters should not be repealed, out they go.

This seems an ideal system. Accept the good points of fraternities. Retain the symbols that mean something to the alumnae, the pin and the name, and discard the evils, rushing, and the too exclusive side. This should be left to the undergraduates to work out.

Any local clubs, unless regulated, would have these evils and lack the advantages fraternities give, the national aspect and the present spirit which certainly holds the alumnae interest.

As far as we know all large eastern women's colleges, except Bryn Mawr, have social organizations. Can Barnard in 1916 rebuild on the foundation of good in the old system social organizations which will bind together anew the alumnae and the student body for the better interest of the college.

HELEN JENKINS GEER, 1915.

MORE PAGEANT NEWS

Will all the court ladies, gallants, pages and heralds who would be interested in taking part in a pageant in Prospect Park on Saturday, May 20, at 3 P. M., communicate with Edna McKeene, '11, Willow Place Chapel House, 27 Columbus Place? No rehearsal will be necessary. All the settlements in Brooklyn expect to take part and a special car will be chartered to take the participants from the Chapel House to the park. If you cannot come, will you rent your costume?

The Pageant has several opportunities to rent costumes of every description: Robin Hood's band and glee singers emphatically included. If you are willing to lend us your costume, will you bring it as early this week as you can, marked with your name in ink, if you want it back? Costumes may be given to Margaret Fries, '16, or Rose Le Vino, '19.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO BARNARD STUDENTS

A number of scholarships and fellowships for graduate study have recently been won by Barnard students and alumnae. Margaret Cameron Cobb, 1915, has been awarded a fellowship in geology at Bryn Mawr; Isabel Dean, 1916 and Elise Tobin, 1915, have won Bryn Mawr graduate scholarships in classics and chemistry respectively. Three of the Curtis University Scholarships at Columbia have been awarded to Elizabeth Nitchie, 1910; Lillian Soskin, 1915; and Mabel Weil, 1916.

DEUTSCHER KREIS ELECTIONS

During the last meeting of the Kreis, it was moved to give a vote of thanks to Pauline Hattoff for the splendid way she managed the play. Ninety-three dollars was cleared by the Kreis. This was laid aside for the Deutscher Kreis Prize. The following people were elected for next year's officers:

President, Pauline Hattoff; vice-president, Tessie Mayer; treasurer, Anna Herman; secretary, Lucy Benzi; chairman of play, Sophie Amson; chairman of dance, Ruth Kanrofsky; chairman of entertainment committee, Frida Wobber.

ALIAS FRATERNITIES

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

Miss Poyntz concluded with a deprecation of National connections as exerting undue pressure.

Mrs. "Bab" Jenkins Geer, 1915, then made a witty speech "pro." We need social organizations, she said, because we are not a dormitory college; because we need more of college and less of New York. She criticized the "rushing" system, said Freshmen and Sophomores should have nothing to do with the societies. She felt our prejudices against National affiliations were due to the Y. W. C. A., and pointed out that the Pan-Hellenic does not object to Hebrews. The advantages of fraternity houses and conventions closed her talk.

The discussion which followed, though protracted, was not teeming with new plans. Further arguments in favor of no social organization, in favor of social organization without exclusive membership and not departmental (if such a thing be possible), and in favor of local clubs were given. It was pointed out that fraternities are opposed to the depersonalizing trend of the modern woman movement, that they foster the "my home, my friends" idea.

Few new ideas, much mess, a decided sentiment against fraternities as they have been and a considerable desire for some hazy organization, a good deal of earnestness and some saving wit, constituted the impression of the meeting.



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MATH CLUB MEETINGS

At the noon meeting of the Math Club on Monday the officers for the year 1916-17 were elected.

President—Charlotte Martens.
Vice-President—Helene Bausch.
Treasurer—Evelyn Davis.
Secretary—Beatrice Burroughs.

In the afternoon meeting Professor Kasner spoke on the relation of mathematics to physics. His talk was very stimulating and interesting.

A. A. MEMBERS

There will be an A. A. meeting, Wednesday at 12:30, in Room 139. All members are requested to attend and elect the officers for next year.



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JUNIOR PARTY TO SENIORS

Food, food, and again food! That was the predominant feature of 1917's tea to 1916 on the Campus, Thursday. Ice-cream, lemonade, cake, candies, flowers and sociability regaled people of all classes.