

The Daily Nebraskan

Property of THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA Lincoln

C. A. SORENSON Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor.....Cloyd Stewart
Associate Editor.....R. V. Koupal
Associate Editor.....L. O. Chatt
Athletic Editor.....Henry Kyle

Business Manager.....Frank S. Perkins
Asst. Business Manager.....Russell F. Clark

Subscription price \$2.00 per year,
payable in advance.
Single copies, 5 cents each.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1914.

"Chew the Rag" all you want to but subscribe for it first.

We wonder if the Lord is neutral. Napoleon once said that God was on the side of the heaviest battalions. That isn't fair. If he is going to help at all, he ought to help the under dog.

FLOWER IN THE CRANNED WALL.

Flower in the cranned wall,
I pluck you of the crannies;
Hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower, but if I could understand,
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.
—Alfred Tennyson.

RENEWED INTEREST.

The Greek language, historians and philologists to the contrary, is not a dead one. The multiplication of Greek letter organizations and the feverish anxiety of University boys and girls to decorate themselves with Greek badges is an indication of the growing interest in the Greek alphabet. It is even rumored that Dr. Laes will soon introduce a course in Greek signs and letters. Practical work will be given in the reading of fraternity and sorority pins.

The wearing of Greek pins brings happiness. It's a sign that you are different or better or worse than somebody else. Now why not increase the sum total of student body happiness by organizing another half-dozen Greek letter societies?

We suggest that the Scandinavians, the Bohemians, the Low Germans, the High Germans, and the Ulster Irish, organize themselves into exclusive and inclusive fraternities and sororities. And why not the Blondes and Brunettes? They have nothing in common. A Brunetta Kappa Si sorority would make a hit. But no more than the Blonda Chi Phis.

There is one more fraternity that we insist should be organized. The Fatta Mana Nu. The room where they should meet ought to have two entrances,—one by a door of moderate size, and the other by double doors. If a candidate for this elite but corpulent fraternity could make his entrance through the first, he should be looked upon with disdain as unqualified; but if he stuck in the doorway and couldn't force his way through, the double doors should immediately be thrown open for his entrance and welcome, and all should salute him as brother, tell him of their distinguished fat alumni, and diplomatically inquire whether the new brother wanted to pay the trifling initiation fee of \$50.00 that day or the next.

A LETTER TO STUDENTS.

By Dr. H. B. Alexander.

Students and professors returning to the University of Nebraska this fall will see little change in the outward aspect of things. The college yard and buildings are the the yard and buildings of former years; the sights of the town are the familiar sights. Except that Nebraska is blessed with a peaceful abundance which gives us all a more than ordinary feeling of security, this year is externally like the years of the past; and the students' duties, we may suppose, will follow the routine which time has made familiar.

And yet an intense, if unseen, change has taken place. We may fall into customary grooves, but the spirit with which we do so will be unlike that of any former year. The problems of life, and above all, the problems of education have suddenly presented an aspect which they never wore before, and student and professor alike is face to face with issues calling for every intellectual effort of which each is capable.

Outwardly we can not realize this European war; inwardly it is yet vague to us; but the certainty that it is bound to alter the whole course of our lives, individual and national, few will deny. Perhaps the most far-reaching feature of the conflict, and certainly its deepest significance to us, is hardly indicated in the daily news. I mean its relation to the maintenance and progress of those arts and sciences which are the heart and life of our civilization. Men are prone to gauge progress by its outer glories—feats of engineering, expansion of commerce, stabilization of governments; but we should never forget that behind the bridge is the mathematical formula, supporting commerce is scientific investigation, and nourishing statecraft is the wisdom which comes from the preservation of human experience in human history. Without the intellectual substructure the outward pomp of our culture would vanish like a mirage.

And what does this war mean for the intellect of the world? France, England and Germany have carried this earth's intellectual burdens and achieved its intellectual triumphs for the past five centuries. The training of a mind is not accomplished in a day; its gift to society is the slow labor of years. Can anyone doubt that whatever the outcome of the present war in a political way its effects upon the trained minds of western Europe can be only disastrous. The higher works of peace, when peace is restored, will suffer more terribly than all else. Science, scholarship, literature, art, these must give way to the more pressing needs of political and economic and social reconstruction; the machine must be rebuilt before its product can be manufactured, the garden must be regrown before its fruits can be forthcoming. Partly this will be due to economic stress, for mental achievement is only possible in well-provisioned societies; partly it will be due to actual loss of trained minds, the young men of university training whose lives are lost or maimed, the gifted children to whom education must be denied, the many hundreds of men whose nervous and mental strength will be permanently weakened by the stress of war; and in part it will be due to the fact that Europe will require all its surviving intellectual powers to repair its immediate ills. France, exhausted by the Napoleonic wars, required the long lethargy of the reign of Louis Philippe to partially regain its lost spiritual energy. Can any man think that the present war will not be far more deadly to the spirit of modern Europe?

And in view of this, what is our part? America is ill-prepared to become the bearer of the light of culture; it is to no trained runner that the torch is cast. Yet it is obvious that the race is to us. For the next

generation, perhaps for the next century, or five centuries, we must stand in the forefront of progress, performing a great, if not the greater share of the world's mental labors—this, if the work is to be performed at all. It would be the idlest of conceits for us to suppose that we can succeed in such a task without the most intense and serious effort; we are as yet far from the van of progress, and must achieve what the other nations are losing before we can pass them; the immediate future of the world, despite our best, is certain to be a period of retrogression; nevertheless, if we persist, we may hope eventually to save the loss, and better it with gain. In any case the duty of effort is clear.

But what is the first step?

It is one the students must take—a step for our youth. I have already said that the training of minds is slow. It is slowest of all for work in those fields which require long and impersonal effort; for work in science and scholarship and the patient analysis of history. Without work of this character, civilization must perish; hitherto, we have borrowed its fruits from generous fatherlands; now we must mature them by our own toils. The task of the generation calls for a certain amount of abnegation of personal interest and prospect; it calls for a willingness on the part of our young men and women to undertake the most laborious paths of knowledge, to prepare themselves with even a painful thoroughness for handling problems for which no preparation can be altogether adequate, and finally to find their contentment not in immediate advantage to themselves but in the final gain of the race. We have fed upon the sugars of culture; let us now make its honest bread.

For each individual the problem of the advantageous route must be a private problem. Each must decide, from the best light of his own reason and the best thoughts of friends and advisers, in what immediate direction his studies shall work. The main requirements from the individual are, first, a willingness to give oneself wholly to the evident need, and second, a resolve to act only upon the maturest judgment which nature concedes. Starting with such a spirit the right way will sooner or later be found.

But while all is thus general, I wish none the less to indicate one great gap in our national preparation for the task that is ours—as I think, the greatest gap. More than any great folk we are in need of men and women with a clear sense of the sources and promptings of our civilization, with a developed historical sense, in its richest meaning. What differentiates civilized man from the savage is the civilized man's knowledge of his own history; such knowledge is the only sure anchor of culture. We can not know ourselves until we know the past not only of those who were our physical fathers, but above all of those people who have given us our spiritual heritage. This is no light nor easy study. It calls for knowledge of languages, ancient and modern; it calls for devotion to political, economic and social history, and to the logical analysis of fact; it calls for familiarity with the literatures, arts and philosophies of western peoples, from Greek and Hebrew to the English and German; and it calls for a power of effective use of this knowledge. Not all is open to one student, though he gives a lifetime to the field; but if many students, from many angles, give earnest effort to this central task of preserving, as living thought, the hard-earned experience of generations, then indeed we may be certain that whether America's addition to the world's culture be great or little, it will yet have won the gratitude of future generations by preserving in time of threatening darkness man's most precious wisdom.

H. B. ALEXANDER.

THE University School of Music

Established 1894

Opposite the University Campus — Eleventh and R

Instruction given in all branches of music. Students may enroll at any time. Beginners accepted. Prices reasonable

WILLARD KIMBALL, Director

CO-OP BOOK STORE

Has anything a student needs. Buy and sell second hand books.

Watch This Space Every Day

318 North 11th St. Lincoln

University Y.M.C.A. Cafeteria

IN THE TEMPLE

FOR UNIVERSITY FOLKS ONLY

Quality Economy Convenience

MEAL HOURS 7-8:30 11-1:30 5:30-7.

All Souls Church

A Free Religious Society
12th & H Sts.

Arthur L. Weatherly, Minister

Morning Service at 10:45

The Students' Liberal Religious Union meets every Sunday from 12:00 to 12:45 for the free discussion of religious problems.

A University opens wide its doors to all seekers after the truth. It binds its members by no formula of belief. Its face is not toward the past, but toward the future. It holds in honor those who discover new truth. It reveres the attainments of the past but uses them to secure progress in the present. ALL SOULS' CHURCH seeks to realize this university ideal in the field of religion.

Opening Service of the year, Sept. 20th

Subject—"The Fundamentals of the Religion of Democracy,"
A Sermon for Youth

You Are Invited

RUSH!

—TO—

GRAVES PRINTERY

For Program's, Menu's, Etc., for RUSH WEEK

* To All New Students. * Can you write good English? *
* We extend a most cordial invitation to visit our store. To all * Will you work faithfully an hour *
* returning students we extend the * each day? If so, we want your *
* glad hand. George Brothers, * services as reporter on the Daily *
* Printing, Engraving, Stationery, * Nebraskan. Apply today at Ne- *
* School Supplies, 1212 N street. * braskan office, University Hall, *
* * * * * between 2:00 and 5:00 o'clock. *
* * * * * 1-3 *

HALLETT

Uni. Jeweler

Established 1871

1143 O