Alpha Theta Chapter

OF THE

Sigma Chi Fraternity

BULLETIN

MAY 1, 1914
Alpha Theta Bulletin
OF SIGMA CHI
Boston, Mass., May 1, 1914

THE CHAPTER'S PROBLEM.

What Shall the Solution Be?

Several months ago a copy of The Tech, showing in detail the proposed plans for the new Technology on the banks of the Charles river, was mailed to each alumnus. This was done to let each man understand the real character of the great work undertaken by President Mac- laurin.

This removal from a site occupied for fifty years will mean much to the Institute, and it presents serious problems to every fraternity chapter in Technology, for within two years from the time ground was broken, the autumn of 1913, it is expected instruction will begin in the new buildings. The Trustees of Alpha Theta have been preparing to meet the changed conditions and they feel the time is at hand when some definite plan must be undertaken to help the chapter to secure better quarters nearer the new Institute. As the chapter is not hamp- ered in any way by the ownership of real estate, the members will be free to adapt themselves to any change which may be decided upon. While the educational buildings of the new plant are to be completed by the autumn of 1915, the whole scheme will not be finished for perhaps five years. Until we know more definitely what provision is to be made for the fraternities, we deem it unwise to bind ourselves to any plan which will not permit changes to be made to meet conditions, but we feel that a tentative plan should be adopted now and the effort to raise the needed money (which always takes time) should be started without further delay. This tentative plan will be laid before the Alumni shortly in detail; but this statement is intended simply as a preliminary one to draw attention to the problem to be considered.

Three courses seem to be open to the chapter:

1. The present rented house in Brookline may be retained. While the new site will be but a trifle farther from this house than the present Tech., access to it will be more difficult because a change of cars will be necessary. Then, too, student life at the new site will be centered about the buildings and any chapter with a house more distant than across the Charles will be considered without the sphere of influence and looked upon with disfavor.

2. Land may be bought in Cambridge and a new house erected. This may be considered the ideal solution; but available land is held at $2.50 a foot and a house suited to our needs cannot be erected for less than $25,000 or $30,000. The Delta Psi Chapter, through the generosity of one of its Alumni, has erected a house on the Esplanade at a cost of $40,000. A house such as this will be burden enough for the men to maintain, owing to the high as-
sessments and very high tax rates prevailing in Cambridge. But were we to add to this burden a heavy mortgage, it will be plain why we believe this plan prohibitive for us. The purchase of a house already built is open to the same objections as the above scheme.

3. A better house, nearer the new site may be rented at a higher rental than is paid for the present house. This last plan, which we believe to be the safest and most logical, has the hearty support of our Alumni Trustees, Dr. Henry M. Chase and John B. McPherson, and of the numerous other brothers about Boston interested in our welfare. If helped financially, the chapter can, they feel, secure a suitable house within easy reach of the new Institute at a rental which would not put an excessive burden on the shoulders of the active men. To do this, an endowment fund, to be invested in good bonds by Alumni Trustees should be raised, the interest only being used to aid the chapter. The Trustees, as well as we ourselves, feel that the safety and standing of the chapter at the Institute will be assured by the adoption of this plan, the advantages of which may be briefly summarized as follows:

(a). Loss of money subscribed by the Alumni is most remote.

(b). The chapter will be able to maintain a creditable chapter house without an excessive cost to the members.

(c). While it provides for Alumni assistance, it also requires the active chapter to bear its share of the expense.

(d). It relieves, to a great extent, the inexperienced active men from important business duties incident to the ownership of property.

The details of this plan will be presented to the Alumni a little later and we bespeak for it the careful consideration and the support we feel it merits.

WORK ON THE NEW TECHNOLOGY.

The annexed article is taken from the April number of the Technology Monthly and the cut showing how the work described is being pushed by the Stone & Webster Corporation is used by the courtesy of its editors.

"The new Technology buildings are to be completed by the end of the year 1915! This is according to a promise made to the Alumni, in order that they may plan a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of our great school, to be held in the new buildings.

"I wonder if we all realize the magnitude of the task thus imposed on the architect and engineers chosen to execute this work. It means that within a little over two and a half years, they must provide Technology with a magnificent new home, and that it must be carefully and efficiently planned, in order to allow for the reception of the different departments, with all the special apparatus and equipment necessary to each, so that they move into their new quarters and con-
tinue instruction without loss of time. The above promise was made possible, first, because the architect chosen was known to be a man of broad training, and great ability, who would enthusiastically and conscientiously devote himself to the problem; and second, because the engineering corporation selected to carry on the constructive work, was composed largely of Technology men, who have risen high in their profession, and who are capable, by means of their efficient organization, of pushing the work ahead with untiring energy. And thus it is, that the site on the banks of the Charles river has presented a scene of such marvelous and ever-increasing activity, during the last five months. Before many months more, there will begin to appear above ground, the superstructure of the most impressive group of educational buildings in the country.

“Although the new Technology is to be housed under one roof, yet the plans allow for a logical division of the buildings into different groups. The general plan is thus divided into twenty-one different sections, and each section is treated as a separate building in the preparation of floor plans, and in carrying out operations on the site.
"In this way operations may be carried on simultaneously over the entire site. Three hundred men are at present engaged in excavating, filling and driving piles. There are four railroad tracks traversing the site, which total a mile and a half of track. A switching locomotive is operated exclusively for hauling immense amounts of building materials to different portions of the site. Fifty-three thousand yards of fill have been distributed already, in order to raise the grade of the main court, and thirty-five thousand in addition have been deposited over the remainder of the lot. Four thousand piles have been driven, and sixteen thousand more are awaiting the blows of the nine pile drivers which are kept constantly busy. One thousand tons of steel lie ready for use on the ground. These few statistics may serve to indicate the magnitude of the work.

"It is through the utopian scheme of cooperation between all the vital forces necessary to the erection of this magnificent "White City on the Charles," that is made possible the assertion that in 1915, Technology will move into a new home, splendidly equipped and ennobled by the serene tranquility of its architecture."

ALPHA THETA AND THE FACULTY.

It is quite generally agreed that membership in a strong fraternity of high ideals and honorable history distinctly enhances a young man's prospects of success in the long run of life. Unfortunately there is no such unanimous agreement that his success in the primary concerns of college life is similarly assisted. To borrow President Wilson's figure, it has often been thought that the fraternities have set up a series of side-shows whose attendants hardly knew what was going on in the main tent. Let no such opinions be held concerning fraternity life at the Institute. From long observation Dean Burton states his belief that fraternity men lead a much more wholesome existence at Technology than the men outside.

Alumni of Alpha Theta may feel assured that if this is true of the fraternity group as a whole it is doubly true of our group of Sigs. It has been a source of much satisfaction to the writer to observe that Alpha Theta men have sustained in recent years, a standard of scholarship somewhat above the general average of the Institute as a whole and decidedly in the best group of the fraternities, and this with a share in the incidental activities of Institute life which is highly creditable. Members of the chapter have received relatively few adverse faculty votes. Tributes of a gratifying character have been paid by conservative members of the faculty to many members of the chapter.

Membership in Alpha Theta chapter is not only a great personal and social asset to any man, but it is a highly valuable asset in his career as an Institute student.

W. E. WicKendEN, M. U. '04.
Asst. Professor of Electrical Engineering.
THE DEAN’S VIEWS OF FRATERNITIES.

At this time when misconception of a fraternity’s aims is quite general and opposition to them is marked in some states, it will re-assure the Alumni of Alpha Theta to know what the views of Dean Burton are. In a recent report in speaking of the removal of the Institute to Cambridge, which makes very real the problem of fraternity life at the Technology, he said:

“Although chapters of fraternities were established at the Institute of Technology as early as 1873, it was not until 1885 that their influence began to be felt among the students generally. In the very earliest days fraternities were not looked upon with much favor by the Faculty or administrative officers but no official action was taken with reference to them; in fact, the Faculty of the Institute has never taken any steps tending to influence or regulate student life outside of the laboratories and recitation rooms.

“The fraternities were the outgrowth of a real need felt by the undergraduate himself, and the growth of the fraternity system at the Institute has been practically unassisted and unhampere by Faculty action since its beginning. At first there was a tendency for the student to regard his fraternity as a club house which gave him greater license and freedom than any hotel or boarding-house. It soon began to dawn upon him, however, that the exigencies of work at the Institute were gradually reducing the membership of his fraternity; indeed its very existence seemed to be threatened. The result was that rules of conduct were introduced, restrictions were imposed upon the younger men by their seniors, and the fraternity as a whole began to assume the responsibilities and duties usually delegated to college proctors.

“As the years went on, the Alumni, increasing in numbers, were aroused to a serious interest in the welfare of their different chapters. They helped them in material ways and by advice; they enabled the undergraduates to choose houses suited to their needs, and to either purchase them or rent them on long leases. Some of the Alumni later became members of the Instructing Staff and were still welcomed by the undergraduates to the fraternity houses and several of the chapters elected older professors as honorary members of their chapters, thus securing interest and helpful assistance in the conduct of their affairs.

“At the present time there are sixteen chapters of the general Greek Letter fraternities at the Institute and four local fraternities. The total membership of all the fraternities at the Institute last year was four hundred and forty-nine.

“The fraternity man at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has already taken a long step towards self-government and responsibility, and he has to a certain extent, secured graduate and Faculty interest and assistance. I, personally, have no hesitancy in saying that at the present time a new student coming to Boston from a distance without
friends or acquaintances in the city, lives a saner and more healthful existence in a fraternity house than in the majority of boardinghouses or bachelor hotels. He at least has secured the close companionship of men of like interests and ambitions, and has been freed from the dangers of a purely selfish and solitary life. He often develops a spirit of loyalty and helpfulness to others, and is forced by general student sentiment to take his share in class and Institute affairs."

THE 1913 DELEGATION.

We know that the delegation initiated last October is a good one and we are confident that they will make themselves felt not only in the chapter, but in the class and in the Institute. The following facts respecting them and their Institute activities will show the Alumni on what we base our expectations and predictions:


Leonard, Paul C., '17, Lakeville, Mass. Prepared at Chauncy Hall. Class treasurer. Brother Leonard is one of the promoters of the Freshman "Glee," to be given by the Freshmen the night of the Junior Prom, as only Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors are allowed at Prom.


Angell, Cyril M., '17, Attleboro, Mass. Prepared at Chauncy Hall. Brother Angell was obliged to leave early in January for family reasons, but expects to be with us again next fall.


Anderson, Carl Nathaniel, '14. Portland, Oregon. B.S. Oregon Agricultural College. Brother Anderson has just completed his research work here under a fellowship from the Oregon Agricultural College, and is leaving for Alaska to take charge of a mine development for a Portland syndicate. He was recently accorded the hon-
or of membership in the American Institute of Mining Engineers on the recommendation of both Professor Richards and Professor Hofman of the Mining Department.

OUR CHAMPION WRESTLING TEAM.

Within two years Technology wrestlers have been developed from an inexperienced group of undeveloped men into a team which in that period has never been defeated in a single one of their many arduous contests. Much of this success is due to the enthusiasm and experience of Brother John G. Kelly, who affiliated with Alpha Theta from the Beta Iota chapter at the University of Oregon.

For two successive seasons the best amateur wrestling teams in Boston and surrounding towns have been met and defeated. Twice has a decided victory been won from Harvard. Brown yielded to its superior skill, losing eight of the nine matches, and Yale was likewise defeated after a hard contest.

Brother Kelly, captain during this past very successful season, has not lost a match during the two years, and he won a decision over the amateur champion of New England in the 135 pound class, though Kelly weighed in ten pounds lighter. To him much of the credit for making wrestling a major sport at the Institute is undoubtedly due. Starting with crowded quarters, inferior and insufficient mats, very little recognition by the Athletic Association, and no financial backing, he has overcome all the difficulties and not only made wrestling one of the three major sports at the Institute, one in which the insignia "T" is awarded to men of merit, but also produced a well rounded team qualified to give all opponents a strenuous contest and entitled to the intercollegiate championship of the East.

RUSHING AND PLEDGING.

Our work in rushing and pledging new men in the fall of the year would be very much facilitated if our alumni or brothers from other chapters would write us as soon as possible concerning any man about to come to the Institute and who they believe would make a good Sigma Chi.

TECH AND HARVARD TO CO-OPERATE IN FOUR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS.

The plan of coöperation between Technology and Harvard recently arranged, is so little understood that some details may be welcomed by our alumni. When first announced many protested strongly against it, feeling that it was but the first step toward a complete consolidation with Harvard, but after President Maclaurin's explanation it was accepted as the most important forward educational movement which the country has witnessed for many years.
As outlined the plan involves co-operation in the conduct of the four courses leading to degrees in Civil and Sanitary, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering, and Mining and Metallurgy, as well as in the promotion of research in these branches of applied science.

The two institutions have already co-operated in the School for Health Officers which has been eminently successful in its initial year; but the new arrangement, in its comprehensive scope and far-reaching consequences and in its single purpose of advancing the interests of the whole community, is a complete novelty in this hemisphere at least. Its greatness of conception, particularly in its unselfish effacement of private considerations for common good, make its accomplishment the mark of a new era in education.

Neither institution is affected at all in individual identity, organization, name, title to property, or complete control of its own financial resources, or in any way not specifically mentioned in the agreement. Each is to be absolutely independent in regulating the courses leading to its own degrees. The co-operation is definitely limited to the four branches of engineering mentioned above.

**USE NEW INSTITUTE BUILDINGS.**

The tremendous unnecessary expense of acquiring and maintaining for these branches complete separate instructing staffs, laboratorics and equipment by each institution has led to this endeavor to concentrate effort and eliminate waste and lost motion. The agreement provides that all work of education and research in the aforesaid departments shall be carried on in the Institute's new buildings to be erected in Cambridge, which will undoubtedly surpass in fitness for their purpose the best already existing in the world.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.**

For the maintenance and equipment of these laboratorics and for the payment of salaries, the University agrees to set aside practically all the money that it would otherwise be free to devote to education of this type. Technology, on its part, agrees to devote to the same general purpose all the funds or the income of funds that it now holds for carrying on work in these departments. Both institutions agree that their respective measures of support may be increased from time to time if disposable funds are available.

For business convenience the money available is to be expended by the Bursar of the Institute.

**ADMINISTRATION.**

The use of Institute buildings also rendered it advisable to put the executive control of the combination into the hands of the President of the Institute. As an evidence of his double responsibility the President is to make an annual report to both corporations. Also, when in future the Corporation of the Institute is selecting its President, the President of Harvard is to be invited to sit with the committee that recommends the appointment.
FACULTY AND APPOINTMENTS.

The Faculty of Technology shall be enlarged by the addition to it of the Professors, Assistant Professors and Associate Professors of the four departments in the Harvard Schools of Applied Science, who, retaining their titles and privileges in Harvard University, will acquire the corresponding titles and privileges in the Institute. Similarly, the officers of corresponding rank in the four departments in the Institute will acquire the same titles and privileges in the University. The work of instruction and the laying down of courses leading to degrees is entrusted to the enlarged Faculty of the Institute. Outside the departments of engineering that have been named, the Faculty of the Institute will be appointed as at present—solely by the Corporation of the Institute.

PRESIDENT MACLAURIN'S STATEMENT.

In behalf of Technology President MacLaurin speaks thus of the arrangement:

"The advantages of coöperation between the Institute and Harvard have long been the subject of discussion. With reference to the present plan of coöperation, I beg to make the following statements:

"1. The Honorable Richard Olney, in a carefully considered legal opinion, says, 'Coöperation between educational institutions for a legitimate purpose common to both is certainly not illegal and in this case wholly desirable. The Agreement seems to me to spell coöperation and nothing more, involves no merger of corporations or their property interests and can be carried into effect without violation of charters or of the trusts upon which funds are held.'

"2. Its adoption by the Corporation is unanimously recommended by the Executive Committee.

"3. It is approved by each of the last five presidents of the Alumni Association, and by the President-elect. The President of the Alumni Association, Mr. Frederic H. Fay, writes: 'I heartily commend this effort on your part, and I believe that when it is found that an agreement, such as you have proposed, can be carried out to the satisfaction of the authorities of both institutions, you will find that you have the great body of Tech. Alumni behind you, and that you will have added to the prestige and usefulness and strength of the Institute.'

"4. It is approved by all the Heads of the Institute's Departments that are directly affected and by all the other senior members of the Faculty who have been consulted with reference to it.

"5. It leaves the Institute so entirely independent that it can appoint any officer or instructor that it pleases with reference to the courses leading to its degree.

"I believe that the adoption of this agreement is a forward step of very great import to the future of education in this country. Incidentally, it would be of great advantage to each of the coöperating institutions,
but it would be especially significant in the emphasis that it would give to the fact, so often overlooked, that educational institutions do not exist for themselves and that their sole duty is to make the best provision that can possibly be made for those who are rising to manhood and for their successors. Under the scheme of coöperation here proposed, it would be possible to maintain a much stronger school of applied science than either institution alone could furnish, and it would be possible to keep that school practically unrivalled in America—and indeed, in the world.”

THE HARVARD GROUP.

March, 1900, was windy. Hats rolled about the “yard” at Cambridge and it seemed as though the new century were dusting itself preparatory to its long run.

But the weather brought blessings as well as discomforts, for it was due to old Boreas that the coats of Brothers L. R. Moore and A. W. Moulton flashed open as they were passing each other, disclosing on the breast of each the white cross. After learning each other’s name they made plans to meet the other Sigs in Harvard. A third recruit was soon found in “Scotty” McQueen and these three inserted in The Crimson this notice: “Sigma Chi Fraternity. All members of the fraternity now in the University are requested to meet Tuesday, November 28, at 8 P. M. in Room 8, Roberts Hall.” Re-inforcements were secured and during the evening the following officers were chosen: Consul, A. W. Moulton, Alpha Alpha, ’97; Pro Consul, H. K. Brent, Lambda Lambda, ’98; Annotator, L. R. Moore, Alpha Zeta, ’98; Tribune, J. H. Marshall, Kappa Kappa, ’98; Questor, J. W. McQueen, Alpha Zeta, ’00; Custos, W. W. Bray, Omega, ex. ’02.

Later it was learned that a similar attempt had been made to get the Sigs together in 1896. This had not been successful, for the organization did not last more than a few years. But from this small beginning in 1900 a large, thriving body of Sigma Chis has continued to flourish, without a serious set-back, as the “Harvard Group.” At the present time the membership numbers close to thirty, coming from about twenty chapters in all quarters of the country. The members, consisting of students in the college and all the graduate departments, are too scattered to warrant the renting of a house or club rooms. This year an attempt has been made to have most of the brothers eat at the same table in Memorial Hall, and next year a real Sig table will be attempted.

This year’s officers are: President, George Kahin, Lambda, ’13; Secretary, Arne B. Hoisholt, Alpha Beta, ’12; Treasurer, J. L. Stewart, Phi, ’12. E. B. Fowler, Beta Gamma, ’11, and Stafford Smith, Omega, ’13, were named a committee to look after meetings and festivities. Monthly parties have been held and two enjoyable dinners, at one of which several Alpha Theta members were present, were given in Boston. Their members have at-
tended our initiations and informal smokers and the two groups are now planning a joint dinner at our chapter house.

The Harvard men have taken an active interest in fraternity affairs; they sent delegates to visit the petitioners at Brown and at two business meetings discussed the petition.

The brothers from across the Charles have helped Alpha Theta in various ways and their assistance has been appreciated. When the new Technology is completed in Cambridge and our interests are centered there, and when Harvard has cooperated with the Institute, as she plans to do in several engineering courses, there should be still greater opportunities for fraternityization between the members of Alpha Theta and the brothers of the Harvard group.

A NEW ATHLETIC FIELD.

Plans for the athletic field at the new Technology, just given out by Major Frank Briggs, call for one of the best athletic fields in the country and the very best track it is possible to make. F. W. Rubien, who built the running tracks at both the St. Louis and Jamestown Expositions, will have charge of the work which is expected to be far enough completed by next fall so that the track can be used at the beginning of the new school year.

The field will be located in the eastern part of the lot with its longest dimension parallel to Tech Street, where the principal entrance to the stadium will be located. The stadium will be constructed of concrete and will have a seating capacity of four thousand. It will be three hundred feet long and fifty-two feet wide at one end and eighty feet wide at the other. This will take care of twice the number of men at the Institute.

The track, which is to be the fine point in the whole field, will be made as perfect as the Harvard track, with the added advantage of longer curves. The 220-yard straightaway will be wide enough to accommodate five runners instead of four in the hurdles. Another feature will be a concrete curb around the inside of the track.

Directly in front of the stadium, space will be reserved for the jumps and weight events. The gridiron will be inside of the track and ample room will be left over for a baseball diamond with room for two more diamonds in the va-
cant lots that may be added to the field. The tennis courts will be located between the gymnasium and dormitories.

A concrete fence will probably enclose the field, and in this fence will be placed the gate of the old Tech. field in Brookline. This gate, which was given by the class of 1881, will be removed the latter part of May and installed on the side of the enclosure that faces the river. The entrance to the stadium will not be through this gate, but direct from Tech Street.

The new track and field is expected to prove a big impetus to athletics at Technology. The present field in Brookline is very far away from the Institute and this fact keeps many men from coming out for the teams. With the start that is expected in the track showing this year the future looks bright. Probably record squads will try for places on the Field Day teams next year to have the honor of being the first class to win a Field Day on the new field. The stadium and enclosure will not be finished at this time, but the track and gridiron will be ready for use. There will also be a track in the new gymnasium, plans for which have not yet been completed.

John C. Stevens, '09, has a good position with the Interstate Commerce Commission on the railway valuation work. His headquarters are in Chicago, but when heard from recently he was at work at Eunice, Louisiana.

Philip M. Wentworth, '10, is located at Reno, Nevada, with the Stone & Webster Corporation. Brother Wentworth and Miss Helen Reynolds were married at Berwyn, Illinois on January 3, 1914.

Assistant Naval Constructor L. S. Border, '10, who was stationed at the Mare Island Navy Yard, California, left on December 16, for Shanghai, China, where he will superintend the construction of two United States gunboats. When they are completed he will go to the Olongpo station in the Philippines. He expects to be absent from this country for two years. While in China his address will be in care of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Company.

John M. Hargrave, '12, is manager of the Cincinnati Tool Company at Norwood, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Brother Henry Schumann-Heink, ex. '10, is at present well situated as the clerk of the Patterson, N. J. Recorder's Court.

Brother MacDonough, '12, is in Montreal, P. Q., with the Foundation Company, Ltd., at their offices in the Bank of Ottawa Building. In spite of the distance, "Clara Mac" came down for the initiation last fall.
Brother Allen W. Reid, '12, is with the F. Morgan-Smith Co., manufacturers of steam turbines, at York, Pa.

Brother Rudolph H. Fox, '12, has a good position with the Faffner Ball Bearing Company, Meriden. He lives at his home, 54 Oak Street, Hartford, Conn.

Brother Fred W. Ranno, '89, in a recent letter tells us that he is at present living at 135 N. Rutan Ave., Wichita, Kan.

Brother Thomas W. Foote, '02, of 1941 E. 71st Street, Cleveland, Ohio, is manager and treasurer of the G. M. Marble & Shattuck Chair Company, with offices at 96 Foster Avenue.

Brother Franklin B. Meade, '88, of 7720 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, is a well-known architect and is at present working on a plan for the Group Mall at Cleveland. He is a member of the firm of F. B. and J. M. Meade, with offices at 1002 Garfield Bldg.

Brother Richard G. B. Sheridan, '95, of 1893 E. 82d Street, Cleveland, Ohio, is general manager of the Brown Hoisting Machinery Company, with offices at 4403 St. Clair Avenue.

Brother Ralph H. Jones, ex. '15, of 2853 Coleridge Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is engaged in literary work and is at present novelizing a play which is to be produced in New York this Spring.