

# COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

*BY ERMAN J. RIDGWAY.*

THE SOCIETIES, MOST OF THEM SECRET, THAT PLAY SO LARGE A PART IN THE SOCIAL LIFE OF OUR AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES—THEIR HISTORY, THEIR CEREMONIES, THEIR GENERAL CHARACTER, AND THEIR VALUE TO THE MEMBERS.

THE idea is entertained in many quarters that men go to college to learn things out of books. If the college graduate depended upon remembering the facts learned while at college for earning his daily bread, his diet would be likely to consist largely of free lunches and ozone. After five years' study of Greek, the writer remembers two words—*enteuthen exelaunei*—and those only because they occurred so frequently in Xenophon's "Anabasis," and it was grateful to translate the phrase without referring to the lexicon.

Men go to college to learn how to do things. The entering classes of all the colleges are larger each succeeding year, not because college graduates are regarded as magazines of information, but for the reason that college men are seen to be taking leading places in business and the professions. College life gives a man something he cannot get anywhere else. Not only does it train the mind, but it fashions the whole man. Brain cultivated at the expense of soul and body starts its owner into the big world top heavy. Associating with the other students, brushing up against every variety of temperament and disposition, mingling in all the activities outside the class room—these are the things that strike the balance and round out the man.

College life is full of fierce strife, keen anxiety, and bitter disappointment, no matter in what form ambition seeks expression. If a man would excel in

scholarship, he finds on the same bench with him the born scholar whose mind concentrates automatically and assimilates while he reads. To excel means to excel this man. The competition for the places of honor within the gift of the student body is keenly fought out. To match the fertile inventions, the subtle schemes, the brilliant coups, of college politics would tax the genius of an old campaigner. In athletics, one may be strong as an ox and wiry as a panther, and yet be as so much clay in the hands of a scientific opponent.

## THE VALUE OF FRATERNITY LIFE.

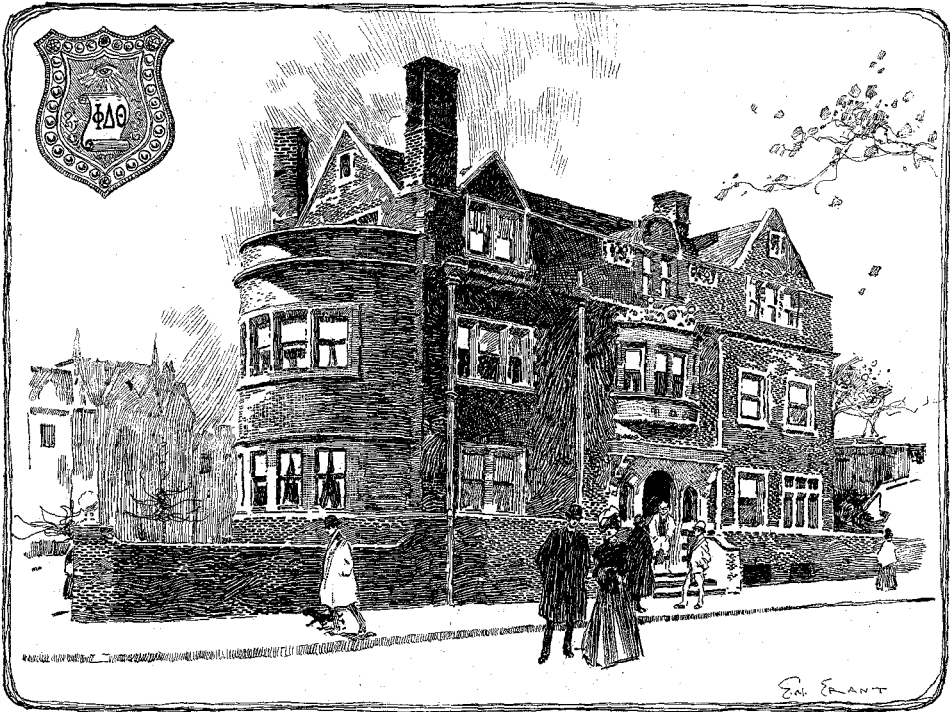
The man who takes his four years in college seriously has a contract on his hands that would dishearten him utterly if, at the beginning, he could see what was before him. A young man comes from his home into a life absolutely new to him. His parents may have taught him self reliance or self distrust, or they may have taught him nothing in particular and sent him to college to get rid of him. The faculty cannot direct him except in a general way. Here the fraternities find their place. The student's associates must look out for him, and it is to their credit that they do it well. Trust them to find out what sort of a fellow he is, and trust his fraternity to do all that human aid ever can to make of him the sort of fellow he ought to be.

Whenever men are thrown together, whether in city or college, congenial spirits will seek out one another and

form clubs, societies, or fraternities. The purposes of the different organizations may be as varied as human nature itself, but the underlying spirit is forever the same. Originally, in the col-

organized or affiliated with a club of like aims and purposes.

In the early history of these clubs the idea of secrecy was a prominent feature. The location of the meeting place or



THE CHAPTER HOUSE OF THE PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

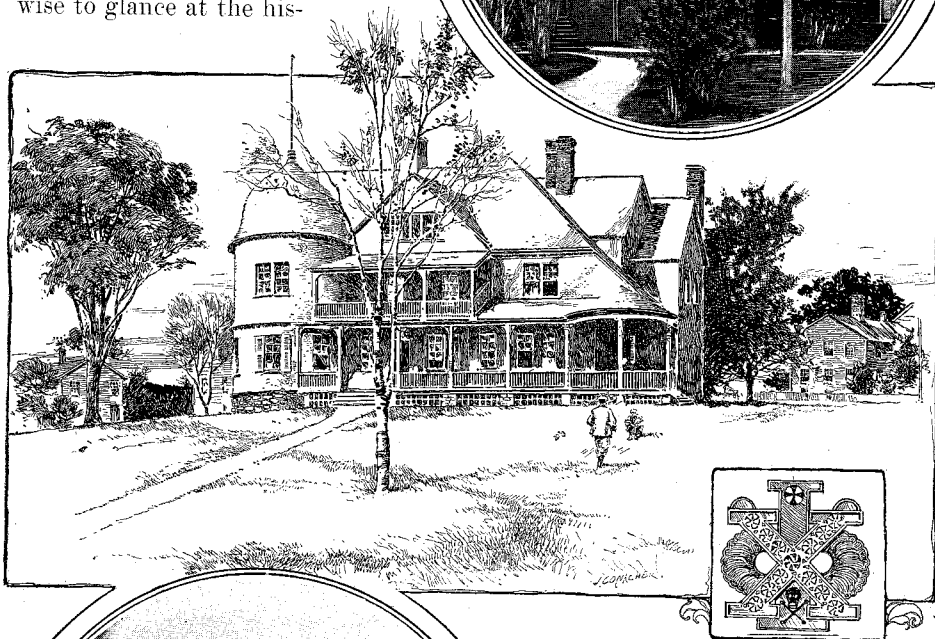
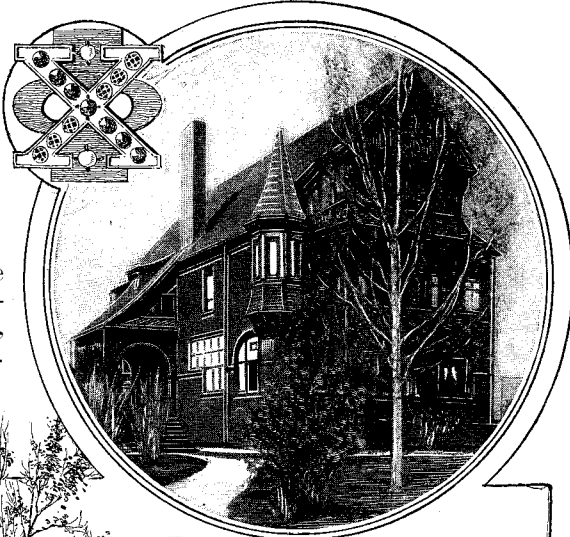
leges, these organizations were literary societies. There were two in each college, with the student body about equally divided. Their rivalry in debate, declamation, and oratory developed many of the stirring speakers who today grace the public platform. As the number of students increased and the literary societies became larger, inner cliques were formed for special purposes—sometimes literary, sometimes social, often political—for controlling the society elections. Clique organized to oppose clique; loyalty to the clique supplanted loyalty to the society; gradually the parent society went to pieces, and the pieces constructed themselves into the beginnings of the vast fraternity system of today. The clique rose to the dignity of a club, and, after perfecting its organization, selecting a name, and crystallizing its aims and purposes into a constitution, it reached out to a neighboring college and

lodge was known only to the members of the society, while the membership itself was not surely known by the college at large. But as the number of societies increased, rivalry grew apace. The fight over society elections was transferred to the elections of class officers, and the choice of men for college honors in oratory and athletics, until it became difficult, and finally impossible, to preserve absolute secrecy except as to what went on within each of the society halls. With a view, possibly, to surrounding the system with additional mystery and glamour, the societies selected Greek mottoes and Greek names, the latter being usually a grouping of the first letters of the words composing the motto. It is remarkable what a part this idea of mystery and secrecy plays even in the practical world. With numberless brotherhoods and lodges, with "sir" this and "most worshipful"

that, and with all the regalia and formality behind closed doors, it would seem like trumpery and fiddledeedee, did not its universality prove how essential it is.

#### THE EARLIEST COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

When a society gave its name to similar societies in other colleges, and affected a union of all, the group was called a fraternity. At this point it may be wise to glance at the his-



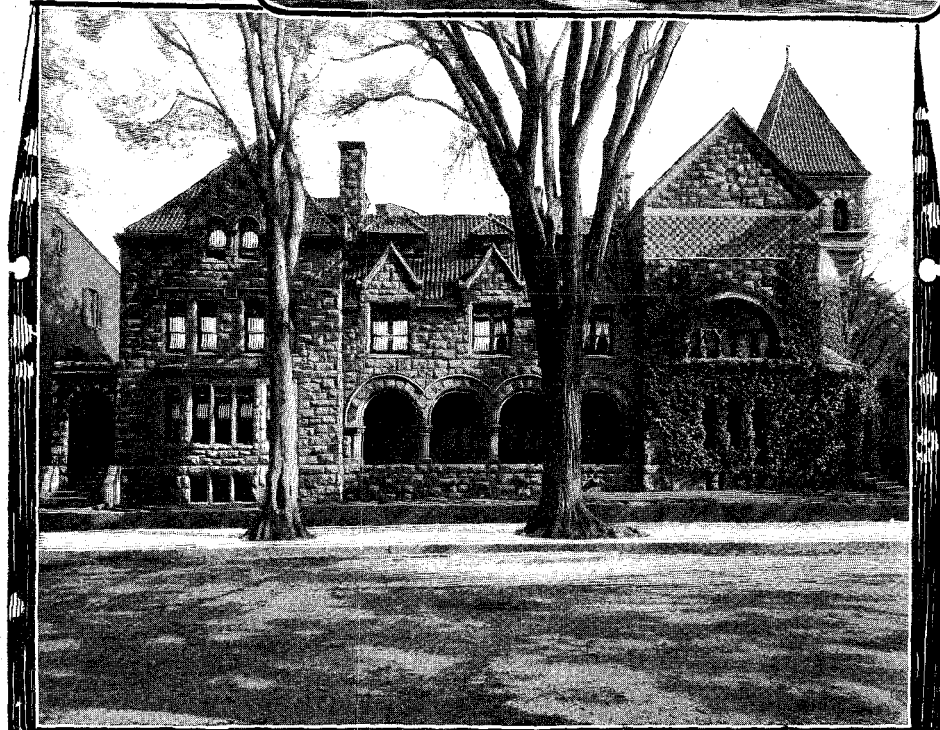
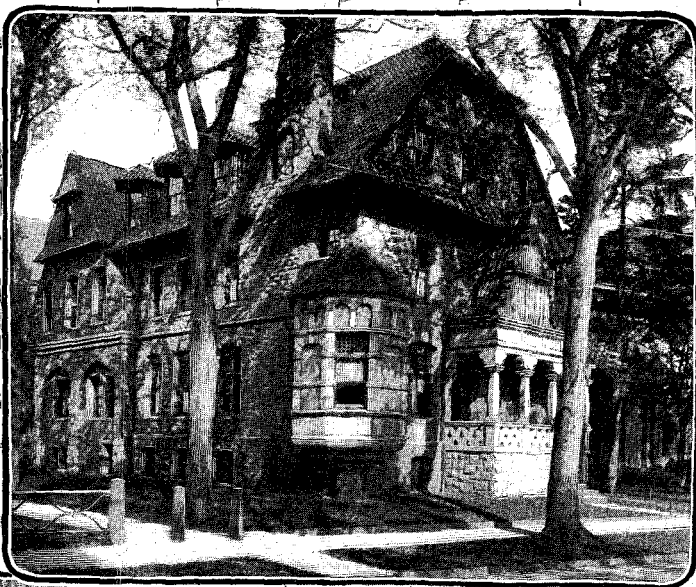
THE HOMES OF THREE PROMINENT FRATERNITIES AT AMHERST—THE CHI PHI ABOVE, THE CHI PSI IN THE CENTER, AND THE ALPHA DELTA PHI BELOW.

tory of the societies. The oldest is Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776 in the College of William and Mary, and established at Yale and Harvard three years later. It still survives, having no fewer than forty chapters, but it is now a purely honorary society, its members being chosen in the junior or senior year for excellence in scholarship.

Kappa Alpha was formed in Union College in 1825, along the lines of Phi Beta Kappa, and it has preserved its original character, so that it is regarded as the original college fraternity. Always conservative, it now has but seven chapters,

tory of the societies. The oldest is Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776 in the Col-





TWO OF THE HANDSOME FRATERNITY HOUSES BELONGING TO THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT OF YALE—THE CLOISTER, IN THE UPPER ENGRAVING, WHICH IS THE HOME OF SIGMA DELTA CHI, BETTER KNOWN AS 'THE BOOK AND SNAKE'; AND THE DELTA PSI HOUSE, IN THE LOWER.

some of its younger rivals—like Phi Delta Theta and Beta Theta Pi—having nearly ten times as many.

The largest of the fraternities, Delta Kappa Epsilon, founded at Yale in 1844, has a membership of nearly fourteen

thousand. In all there are twenty nine general fraternities in the United States, with eight hundred and six chapters, and a total membership of about a hundred and forty thousand. These figures do not include organizations of a purely

local character, fraternities in the graduate schools, or women's societies, usually called sororities, which would bring the total up to nearly two hundred thousand.

At first the parent chapter looked

chapter of the fraternity. At these conventions the laws are made, the constitution is amended, new policies are discussed, and new chapters admitted. Fraternities are very conservative about admitting new chapters.



THE ALPHA DELTA PHI HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN—ALPHA DELTA PHI IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST WIDE SPREAD OF THE COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

after the welfare of each of the offspring, and settled upon the policy of government for the group. But as the youngsters became vigorous and self reliant, they demanded a voice in the general councils of the fraternity. While each

fraternity has features of government peculiar to itself, all are republican in form. Annual or biennial conventions are held and officers chosen by representatives from each

Not only are the men who apply for the charter carefully weighed, but their college must measure up to a fixed standard as well. Most fraternities require a unanimous vote of all the chapters to admit a new chapter. The application for a charter may be denied when both the men and their college, so far as an outsider can see, appear entirely desirable.

Many of the fraternities







publish journals, monthly or quarterly, devoted to chapter news and to articles bearing on fraternity life. An exchange department informs the members as to what other fraternities are doing. The editors of the several publications are frequently on cordial terms, and many graceful compliments are exchanged.

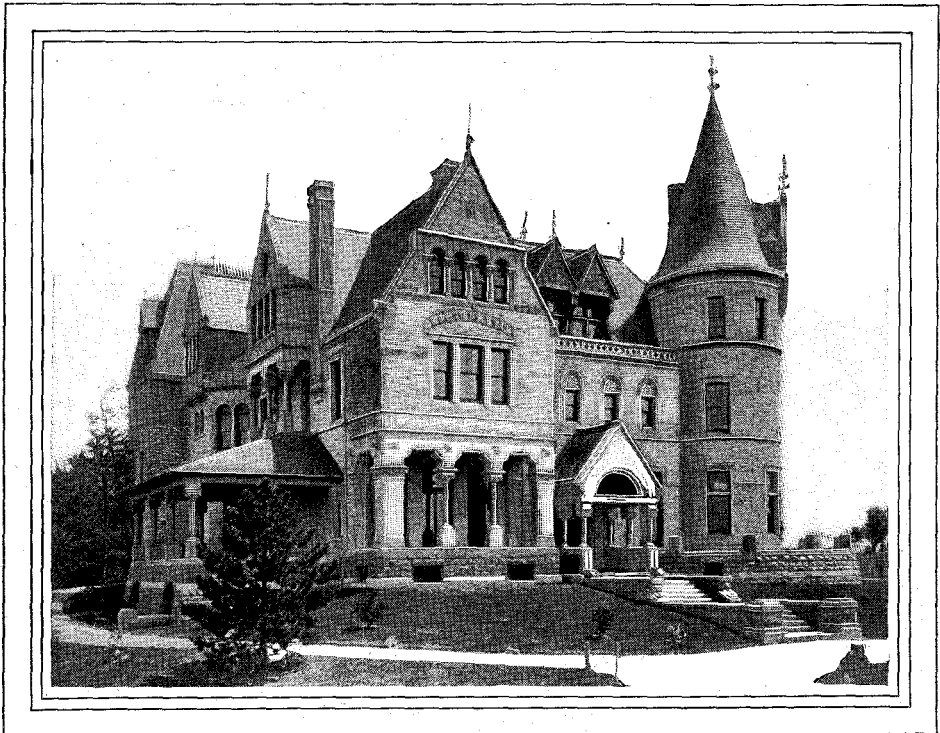
The evolution from the secret lodge of the original society to the handsome and well appointed chapter houses of today is perhaps the most marked fea-

a selection running from Chopin to "rag time," a well chosen library, and a commodious diningroom, complete the appointment. One of the boys is chosen to act as steward, and if the cuisine is not maintained at the proper standard there is a speedy change in stewards.



#### "RUSHING" CANDIDATES FOR FRATERNITIES.

The time and the manner of pledging members to the fraternities vary with



THE CHI PSI HOUSE AT CORNELL, ONE OF THE FINEST BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH THE UNIVERSITY.

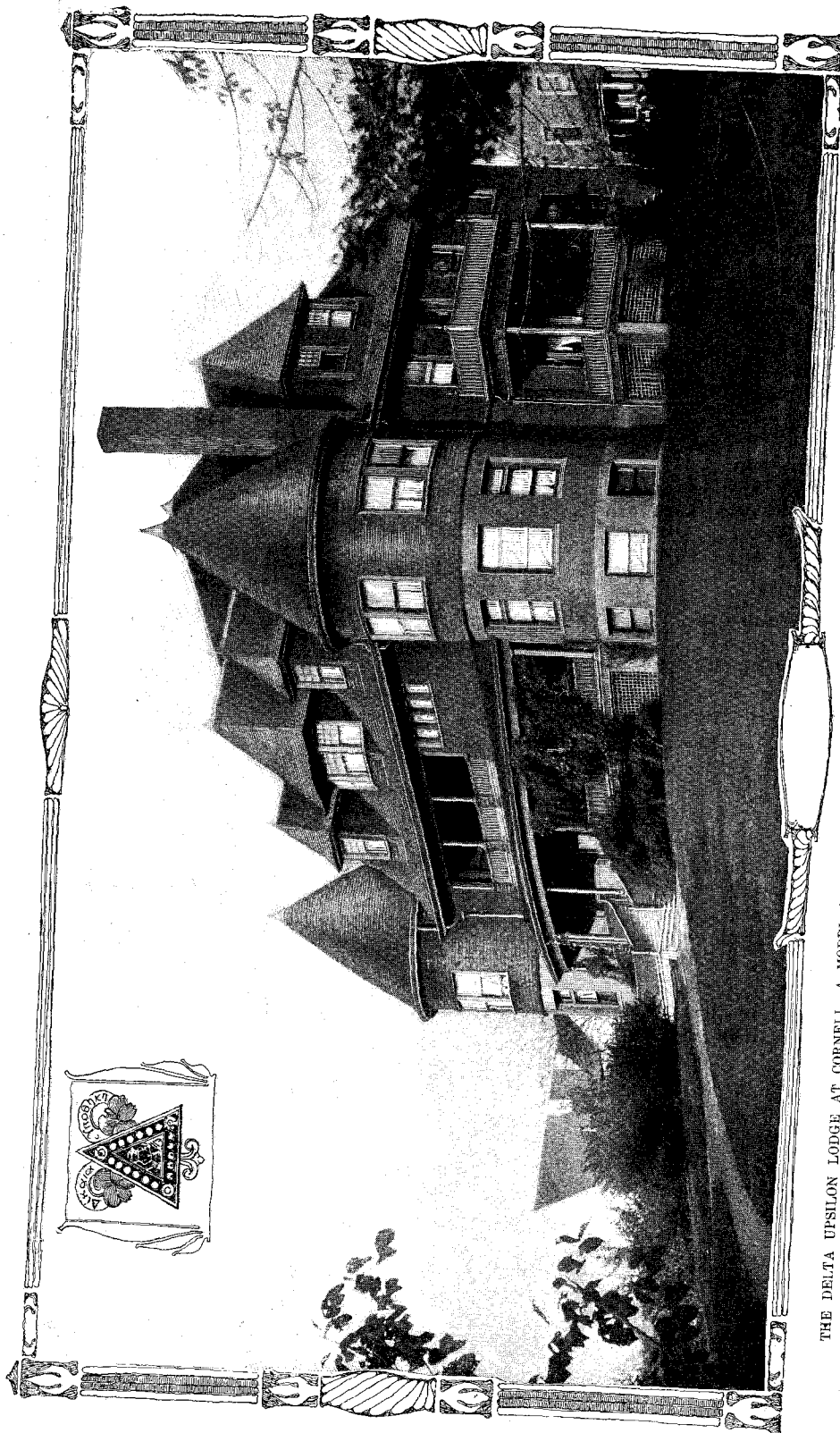
ture of the whole fraternity system. Many of the chapters own their houses outright, and no expense has been spared to make them ideal homes for college men. The private rooms for members are large and well equipped. The reception room is invitingly furnished. A



spacious hall for weekly chapter meetings is so arranged that it can be used for private theatricals or dancing on club nights. A music room supplied with

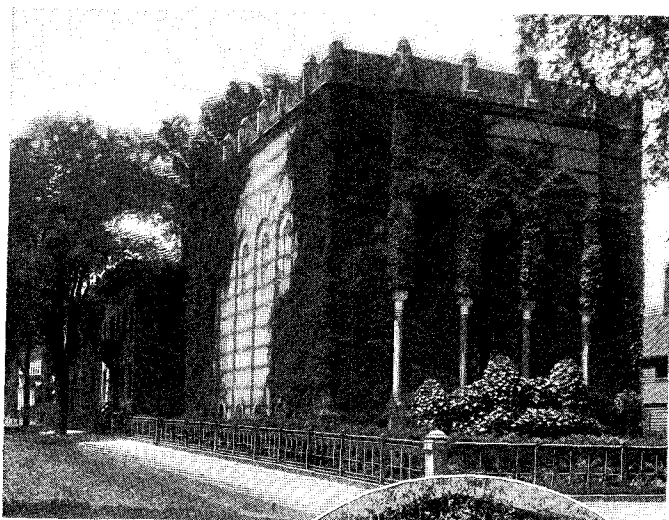
different colleges. As a rule, the work begins before the freshman has unpacked his trunk; sometimes before he leaves home. There are usually several men in each class whose fame has preceded them. They promise to take honors in scholarship, in debate, or in athletics. The fraternities are on the lookout for such men, and make a rush for them. Rushing is a mad game. The campaign committees of the various





THE DELTA UPSILON LODGE AT CORNELL, A MODEL CHAPTER HOUSE PLANNED AND CONSTRUCTED BY THE ALUMNI MEMBERS OF THE FRATERNITY.

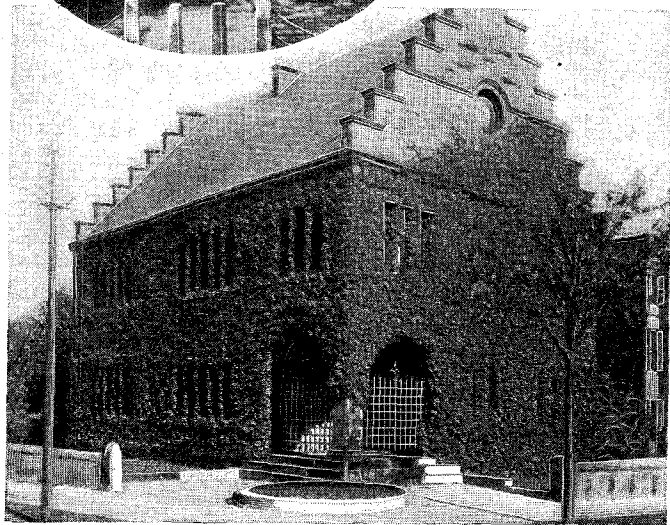
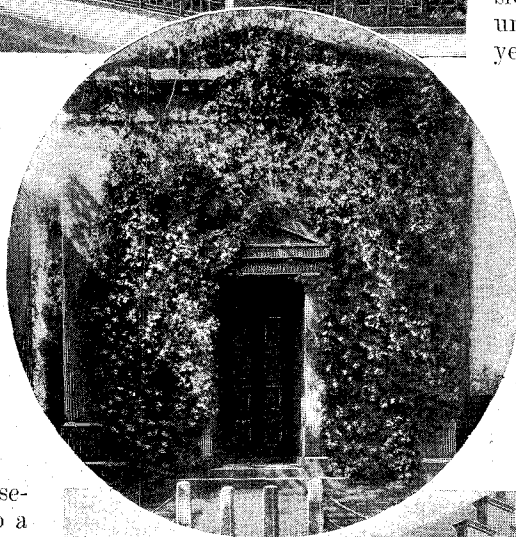




THE SCROLL AND KEY  
HOUSE AT YALE.

fraternities swoop down upon the candidate and leave him little time for study, or even for sleep, until he has made his choice.

But not all the men who enter college with a good reputation secure an election to a fraternity. During the rushing period the fraternities are sizing up their man. The rushing is planned to develop his bad points as well as his good ones, and it is not unusual to see a prominent candidate suddenly dropped by all the fraternities at the height of the rushing season. On the other hand, the unheralded freshmen are not overlooked. Among them are sure to be many destined to take high places in



THE CENTRAL ENGRAVING SHOWS THE SKULL AND BONES SOCIETY HOUSE;  
THE LOWER, THAT OF THE WOLF'S HEAD. SKULL AND BONES, SCROLL  
AND KEY, AND WOLF'S HEAD ARE THE THREE GREAT SENIOR  
SOCIETIES AT YALE, THE MOST EXCLUSIVE OF ALL  
COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

the college world. The discernment shown by campaign committees in picking out these future leaders is remarkable. They find the merit behind the modesty of the diffident man who shuts himself in his shell. The brusque man meets them coldly, but they see the heart behind the hard exterior. Some who flower slowly are not elected until junior or senior year. Nearly every

freshman class has its diamond in the rough, and fortunate is the fraternity that recognizes him.

From three to fifteen men are selected from each incoming class. These, with the additions that are made during the



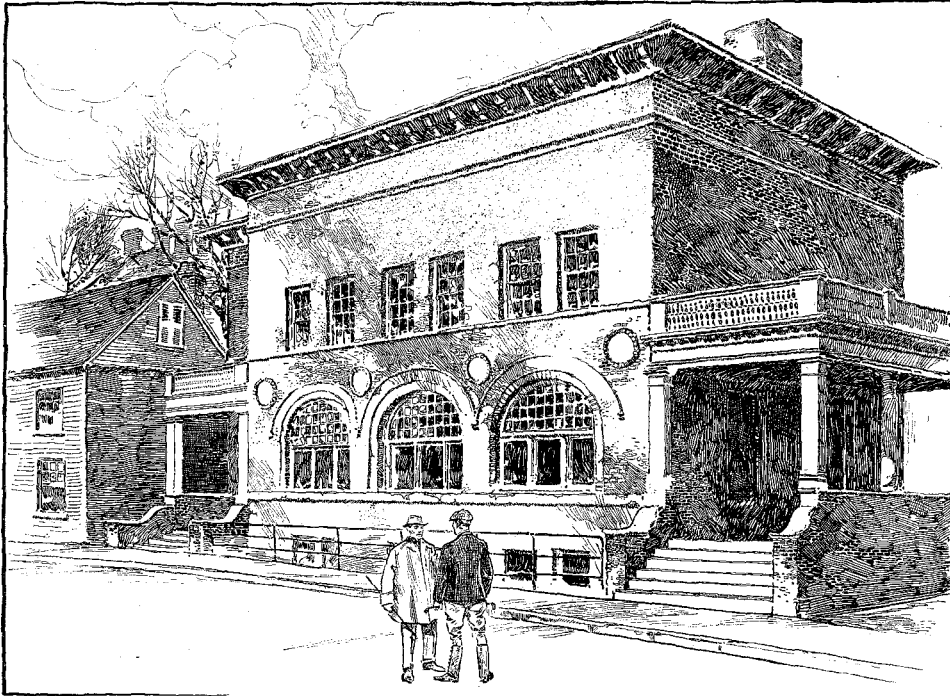
year, keep the average membership of the chapters at from twenty five to thirty, allowing for those who drop out before completing the course.

A number of college men never become fraternity men. Some do not flower until they have finished their college work; some are piqued because they have not been rushed as hard as



maintain an "anti secret" fraternity—the Delta Upsilon—which is a vigorous organization today, and the only society of the sort that has lived. When the earlier secret societies gave up their *sub rosa* methods and came out into the open,

Delta Upsilon became non secret instead of anti secret, and has since worked with the other fraternities, be-



THE HASTY PUDDING CLUB HOUSE AT HARVARD. THE BUILDING IS OF RECENT CONSTRUCTION, BUT THE SOCIETY DATES BACK TO THE EARLY DAYS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

their self esteem demands; some decide that they have not the time and money to afford what they esteem to be merely good fellowship. Often men refuse election to fraternities for the same reasons that business men give for not joining a lodge. They object to its principles, or to some of its membership, or to its secrecy.

This last is a frequent objection, and often an insurmountable one. It admits of little argument, for it is woven into the very nature of the man. Garfield, when in college, was so aggressively opposed to the idea of secrecy that he helped to

believing in the system, but not wishing to depart entirely from its distinctive characteristic. It would probably be impossible to establish another non secret fraternity.

#### THE INITIATION CEREMONY.

Following the rushing and the election is the initiation. As laughter is forever akin to tears, so is the initiation at once the most solemn and the most uproarious event of the fraternity year. The ceremony is stately and impressive. A man makes his vows to his fraternity in only a less de-



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gree of awe than to his wife. To one, as to the other, he pledges a loyalty that lasts through all the years; but when the initiation is finished, Bedlam breaks loose, and the new member is treated to a veritable "sorry go round" of mixed emotions. It is not permitted to more than suggest this indescribable hour. It is an unfortunate fact that there



week. A business session is followed by a literary session, and this in turn by a social session. Freshmen mingle on intimate terms with upper class men. Singing has a prominent place in the exercises. The whole chapter gives itself over to developing each of its members. There is nothing goody goody about a fraternity; far from it;



THE PI ETA HOUSE, THE HOME OF ANOTHER HARVARD FRATERNITY. WHILE OF PLAIN EXTERIOR, THIS HOUSE, WHICH IS KNOWN AS "THE ROOKERY," IS VERY COMFORTABLY FURNISHED WITHIN.

has sometimes been a serious or even fatal accident to the candidate, usually due to some action of his which his comrades could not have foreseen, but none the less deplorable on that account. It is a mooted question whether this part of the initiation should not be prohibited. Football is also a mooted question, but the good features of both institutions have kept them alive for years, and probably will keep them alive for years to come.

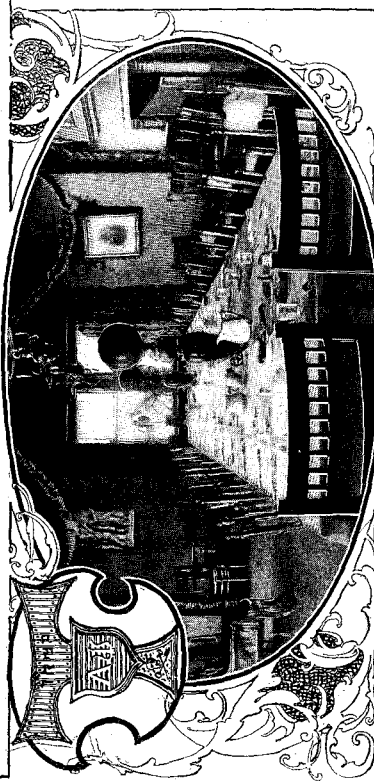
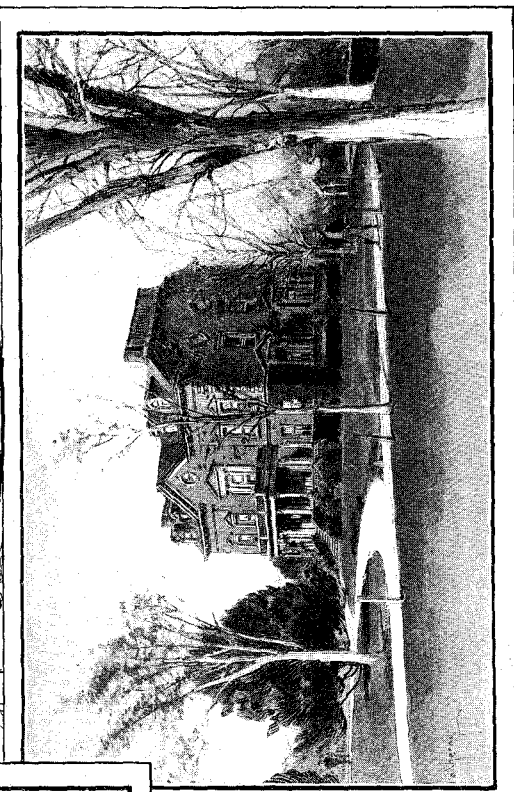
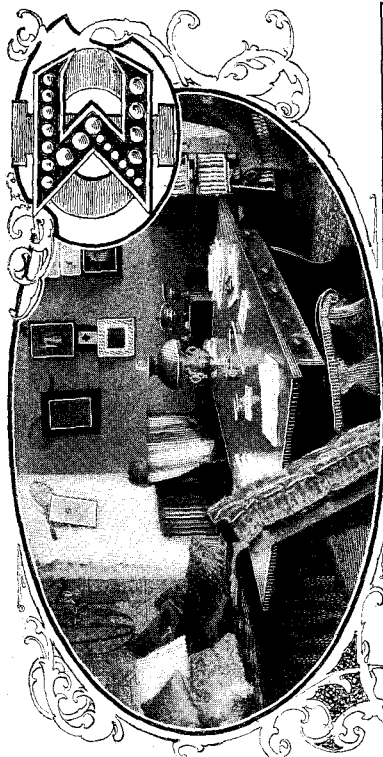
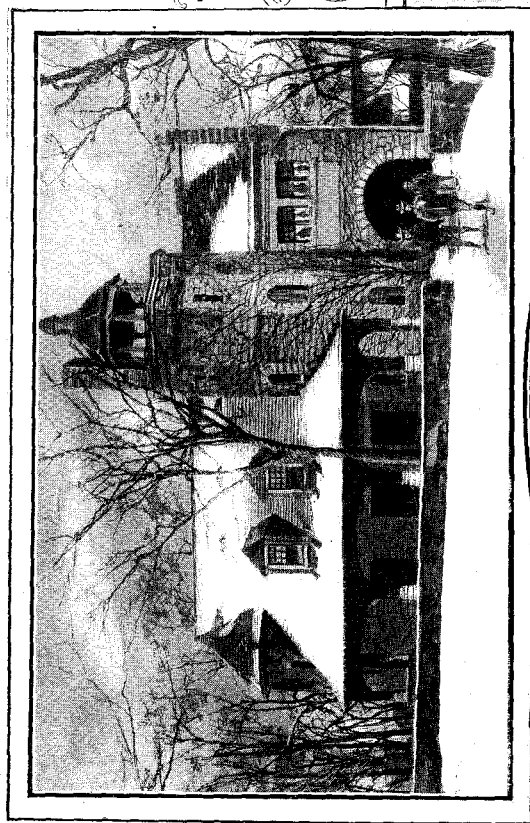


After the candidate is initiated, the real work of the fraternity begins. The chapters hold meetings on one night each

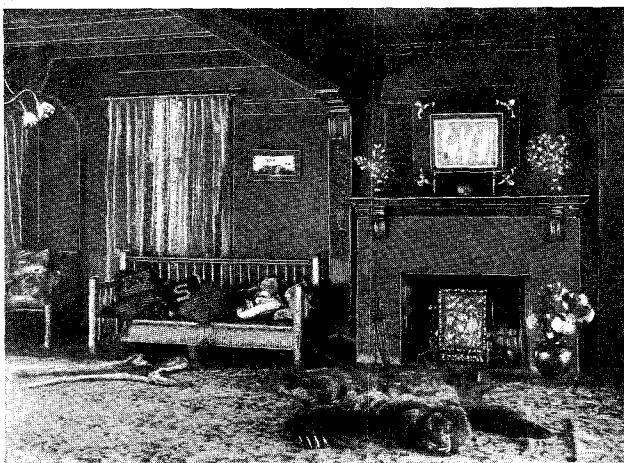
but when one of its members takes a false step, no matter in what direction, all its pride, all its interest, all its affection, are aroused. This vital sympathy carries many a man through hard places, and helps him over obstacles which, lacking it, he would not have had the courage to essay. The confidence of the fellows is each fellow's inspiration. Their affection sweetens his attitude towards his college mates. In college, as in business, the sour man digs his own grave. To many a man there comes, through his fraternity, honors that he might not otherwise have secured.







THE TWO ENGRAVINGS ON THE LEFT SHOW THE EXTERIOR AND THE DININGROOM OF THE DELTA PSI HOUSE AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE. ON THE RIGHT IS THE SIGMA PHI LODGE AT THE SAME COLLEGE, WITH A VIEW IN ONE OF ITS SITTING ROOMS.



Intercollegiate games and debates serve a good purpose in bringing the universities into closer touch, but the time and expense of long journeys restrict these events to a comparatively small circle. Fraternities, on the other hand, approaching the question from the side of

A CORNER OF THE CHAPTER HALL IN THE DELTA Upsilon FRATERNITY HOUSE AT THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY.



THE DELTA Upsilon HOUSE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

It would not be dignified for him to urge his own claims upon the college, but his brothers can urge them without loss of self respect.

#### THE FRATERNITIES AND THE COLLEGES.

In their relations to the colleges, the fraternities occupy a unique position.

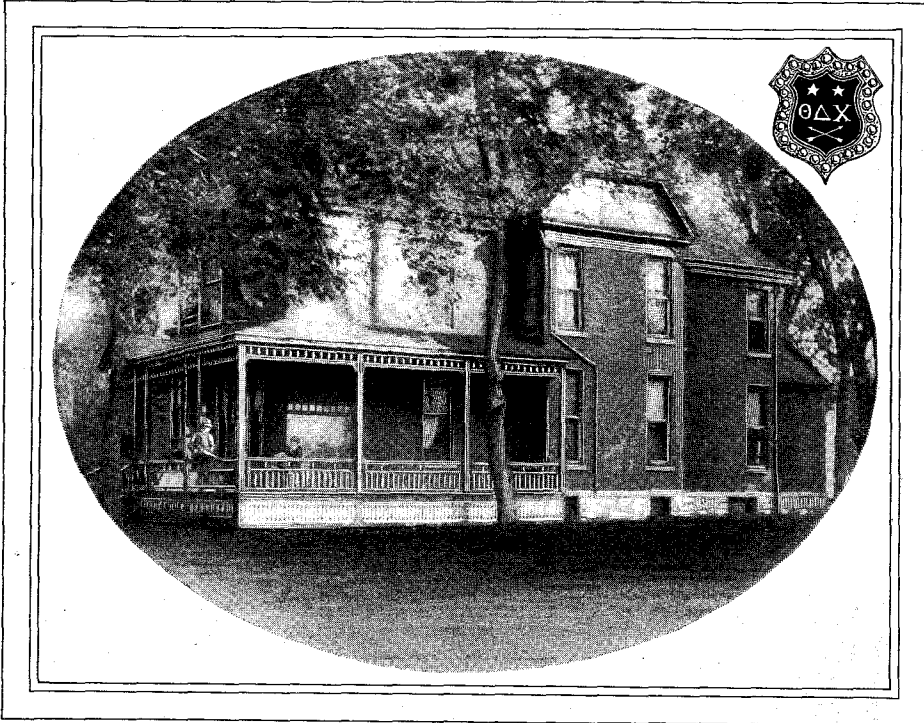


A STUDENT'S ROOM IN THE DELTA Upsilon HOUSE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY.



the non combatant, offer in their annual conventions an opportunity for representatives of colleges all over the country to meet on frank and confidential terms. Fraternity journals, too, while bringing the chapters into closer union,

based on good reasons; at the same time, it has made the need for the formation of new societies still more urgent. At Harvard, there are strong chapters of a few general fraternities, but the local societies have the larger membership.



THE THETA DELTI CHI CHAPTER HOUSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

serve quite as effectively to bring the colleges into closer and more friendly relations.

Princeton alone, of all the large colleges in the country, frowns upon fraternities. The scientific department of Yale has a splendid fraternity system and magnificent chapter houses. The academic department is not so well conditioned. Until recently, it has been working on a system of class societies—none in the freshman class and only three in each of the other classes, and with a very limited membership—so that three fourths of the student body is deprived of fraternity life. Recently the faculty has recognized the injustice of the system, and is at present engaged in an effort to put it on a proper basis. The first step, the recent move against the sophomore fraternities, was

At colleges situated in the heart of a large city, or where the dormitories furnish adequate accommodations, chapter house life has not taken the important place it fills in institutions not so located and equipped. Cornell approaches very closely to the ideal fraternity life in the relations that each fraternity bears to its own members, to the other fraternities, and to the college. The perfection of her fraternity system, if not the cause of her rapid progress along all the avenues of college activity, has certainly been coincident with it. Cornell is one of the few colleges that give to a vanquished crew or team the same royal welcome home that is accorded to victorious heroes.

The college is twice fortunate that numbers among her graduates a large proportion of fraternity men. Loyalty

to fraternity helps to keep alive the loyalty to alma mater, which is an invaluable endowment. The assurance that he will receive a warm welcome by his fraternity brothers brings many an old graduate back to his college home. That college is most successful in athletics whose graduates take a lively interest

success meets the recent graduate who has his spurs to win; the years that divide them vanish. Nothing that the youth can ask will be too much for the older man to grant. He may turn down a client with a dazzling retainer because he is rushed with work, but he will find the time to write letters of introduction,



THE HOUSE OF THE BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

in the crew and teams, and that fraternity is most prosperous whose alumni give of their time and interest to the chapters.

Most of the fraternities have alumni associations in the larger cities, and some of these have splendid club houses. A club of this sort is like no other club in the world. There are no dividing lines of caste, or wealth, or success. College men everywhere, to a certain extent, meet on common ground. Men of the same college foregather still more cordially, but when men of one fraternity meet, and especially when men of one chapter meet, there is a case of heart expansion that sweeps away all barriers. The eminent jurist who has made his

or will even go himself to secure a desirable interview for his young brother.

If this were a rare occurrence, an explanation might be found for it in the peculiar temperament of the principals; but it is so usual, so every day, so evidently natural, that its cause must be looked for in the perennial youthfulness of the fraternity spirit. As men get on in years we look to see their mad dreams sober, their enthusiasm falter, their ambitions flag; but in the fraternity world the process seems to be reversed. At the conventions and banquets the older men furnish enthusiasm out of proportion to their numbers. In the perspective of the years, the college days and the fraternity life take on an added glow.



# The British Foreign Office, and the Men Who Have Made It What It Now Is.\*

BY S. M. WILLIAMS.

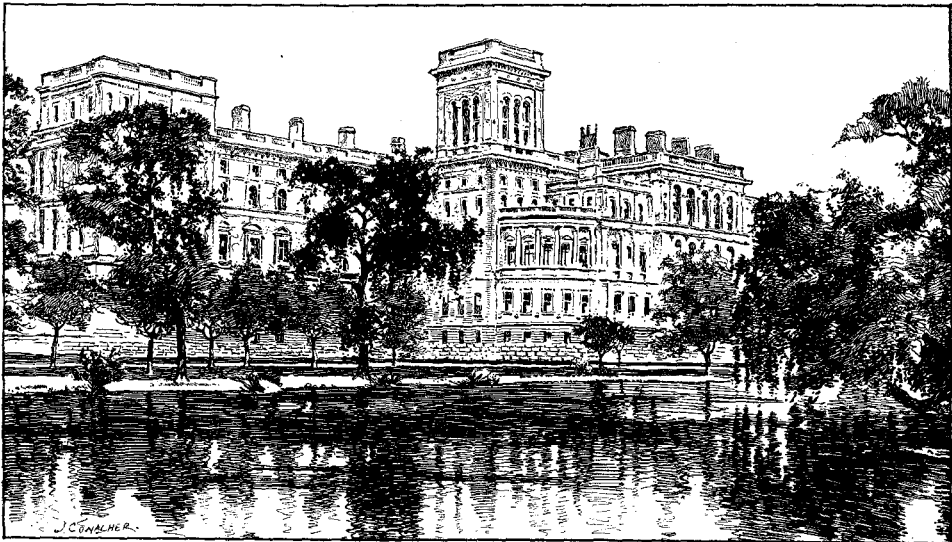
DOWNING STREET, THE LITTLE LONDON BYWAY WHERE THE SUN NEVER SHINES, AND WHERE IS CENTERED THE POWER OF AN EMPIRE ON WHICH THE SUN NEVER SETS.

THE London sun never shines in the little passageway known as Downing Street, the official center of the British Empire, on which the sun never sets. It is a queer, blind opening, this Downing Street, hemmed in between grim government buildings; but at the far end of it, overlooking St. James' Park, is the home of the British power and the British diplomacy that reach out into every part of the world.

On one side is an old brick building, once a row of three modest three story dwelling houses. This is No. 10 Downing Street. The power of the British Empire, with its eleven million square miles and its four hundred million people—more than one fifth of the land

of the globe and about a quarter of the human race—is not wielded in Windsor Castle or Buckingham Palace, but in this old fashioned brick dwelling that for more than a century has been the office and official residence of the English premiers. The White House at Washington, which we call democratically simple, is a palace compared with the home of the real ruler of the greatest empire the world has yet seen.

On the opposite side of the narrow street rises the massive modern pile known as the Foreign Office, a fitting headquarters for the most perfected diplomatic organization in the world. But there is such a close connection between the little old house on the right



THE LONDON FOREIGN OFFICE, FROM ST. JAMES' PARK.

\*The third of a series of articles on the great secular organizations of the world. "Tammany Hall" appeared in the October number, and "The German Army" in the December number, of THE MUNSEY.