

THE FORENSIC

SERIES 9

NUMBER 4



OF
PI KAPPA DELTA

MARCH, 1924

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LOCAL CHAPTERS

Arkansas

- Alpha—Henderson-Brown College, Arkadelphia.
Beta—Ouchita College, Arkadelphia.

California

- Alpha—University of Redlands, Redlands.
Beta—Occidental College, Los Angeles.
Gamma—California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.
Delta—College of the Pacific, San Jose.
Epsilon—University of California Southern Branch, Los Angeles.

Colorado

- Alpha—Colorado Agricultural College, Ft. Collins.
Beta—Colorado Teachers' College, Greeley.

Connecticut

- Alpha—Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs.

Illinois

- Alpha—Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington.
Beta—Eureka College, Eureka.
Gamma—Carthage College, Carthage.
Delta—Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria.
Epsilon—Hedding College, Abingdon.
Zeta—Monmouth College, Monmouth.
Eta—Illinois State Normal University, Normal.

Indiana

- Alpha—Franklin College, Franklin.

Iowa

- Alpha—Iowa Wesleyan, Mount Pleasant.
Beta—Central College, Pella.
Gamma—Des Moines University, Des Moines.
Delta—Morningside College, Sioux City.
Epsilon—Simpson College, Indianola.
Zeta—Parsons College, Fairfield.
Eta—Upper Iowa University, Fayette.
Theta—Coe College, Cedar Rapids.

Directory of Pi Kappa Delta

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LOCAL CHAPTERS

Kansas

Alpha—Ottawa University, Ottawa.
Beta—Washburn College, Topeka.
Gamma—Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan.
Delta—Southwestern College, Winfield.
Epsilon—Fairmount College, Wichita.
Zeta—Kansas State Teachers' College, Emporia.
Eta—Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina.
Theta—Kansas State Teachers' College, Pittsburg.
Iota—College of Emporia, Emporia.
Kappa—Baker University, Baldwin.
Lambda—Sterling College, Sterling.
Mu—Bethany College, Lindsborg.

Kentucky

Alpha—Georgetown College, Georgetown.
Beta—Center College, Danville.
Gamma—Kentucky Wesleyan College, Winchester.

Maine

Alpha—Colby College, Waterville.

Michigan

Alpha—Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo.
Beta—Olivet College, Olivet.
Gamma—Hope College, Holland.
Delta—Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing.
Epsilon—Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti.
Zeta—College of the City of Detroit, Detroit.

Minnesota

Alpha—Macalaster College, St. Paul.
Beta—St. Olaf's College, Northfield.
Gamma—Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter.
Delta—Hamline University, St. Paul.

Missouri

Alpha—Westminster College, Fulton.
Beta—Park College, Parkville.
Gamma—Central College, Fayette.
Delta—William Jewell College, Liberty.
Epsilon—Missouri Wesleyan College, Cameron.
Zeta—Culver-Stockton College, Canton.

Montana

Alpha—Montana Wesleyan College, Helena.
Beta—Montana State College, Bozeman.

Nebraska

Alpha—Nebraska Wesleyan University, University Place.
Beta—Cotner College, Bethany.
Gamma—Doane College, Crete.
Delta—Hastings College, Hastings.
Epsilon—Grand Island College, Grand Island.
Zeta—Kearney State Normal, Kearney.

North Dakota

Alpha—Jamestown College, Jamestown.

Ohio

Alpha—Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea.
Beta—Heidelberg University, Tiffin.
Gamma—Hiram College, Hiram.
Delta—University of Akron, Akron.
Epsilon—Otterbein College, Westerville.

Oklahoma

Alpha—Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater.
Beta—University of Tulsa, Tulsa.
Gamma—Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.
Delta—Northwest State Teachers' College, Alva.
Epsilon—Oklahoma City College, Oklahoma City.

Oregon

Alpha—Linfield College, MacMinville.

Pennsylvania

Alpha—Grove City College, Grove City.

South Carolina

Alpha—Wofford College, Spartanburg.
Beta—Presbyterian College of South Carolina, Clinton.
Gamma—Newbury College, Newberry.

South Dakota

Alpha—Dakota Wesleyan College, Mitchell.
Beta—Huron College, Huron.
Gamma—Yankton College, Yankton.
Delta—South Dakota State College, Brookings.
Epsilon—Sioux Falls College, Sioux Falls.
Zeta—Northern Normal & Industrial School, Aberdeen.

Tennessee

Alpha—Maryville College, Maryville.
Beta—Tusculum College, Tusculum.

Texas

Alpha—Southwestern University, Georgetown.

Washington

Alpha—College of Puget Sound, Tacoma.

Wisconsin

Alpha—Ripon College, Ripon.

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THE FORENSIC

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No. 4

SHALL AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES ADOPT THE BRITISH SYSTEM OF DEBATING?

(Extracts from an address delivered by Professor A. Craig Baird of Bates College to the National Association of Teachers of Speech at their convention in New York City, December 28, 1922.)

"The chief advantage claimed for the Oxford system," he said after describing the superficial side of debating in the Oxford Union society, "is that it 'lifts debate from the field of sport into the realm of sincere discussion of important questions.' It eliminates competition. Debating as a game, with time-limits, judges, team-work, and debating strategy, is regarded as inconsistent with the sincere and effective presentation of individual conviction.

British Banish Judges

"Accordingly the judges, however few or many they may be, are banished. Now it is clear that you cannot have a real football game with split teams, no officials and no goal posts. It is clear that you have no debating contest after you have scrapped the machinery. Oxford has no intercollegiate contests, as we understand contests. Neither would meetings between colleges be longer needed or justified here. The issue, then, is, do we wish to abandon the game of intercollegiate debate?

"Critics," said Professor Baird, "point to the decadence of our student debates. Therefore it is necessary, in passing, to remind ourselves of the facts—that debating for a decision has beyond question raised the standard of forensics set by the older college literary societies; that audiences attending the more important contests are larger than formerly and are steadily increasing; that competition for the teams has been keen enough to draw out large numbers of representative university men; that the game commands the respect of most of our leaders of thought; that the argumentative sport has spurred the student on to that educational discipline and intellectual curiosity for which the liberal college chiefly exists.

Americans Practical and Legal

"Two other incidental advantages claimed for the British system are that it makes for better style and better delivery. The English debating style is philosophical and literary, just as ours is practical and legal. The Englishman has behind him his classical schooling, his intimacy with Greek and Roman orators and poets, his own rich literature and culture. His style, therefore, is comparatively pure, dignified, original, at times even poetic.

"The first Oxford speaker in debate with Bates in September showed familiarity with Lincoln, Walt Whitman, Barrie, Plato, Arnold, Browning, Huxley, the Bible and other sources. Our undergraduate's texts are not so much 'Plato's Republic,' Arnold's 'Culture and Anarchy,' Shaw's 'Man and Superman,' as the 'Federalist Papers,' Lowell's 'Essays On Government,' and standard works on economics. His style, in as far as it is original and virile, is the expression of his peculiar political and educational inheritance.

"Our faith in a rigid constitution, our exaltation of the Supreme Court,

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our distrust until recently of primaries and referendums, explain sufficiently the character and popularity of our judicial style of debate. Even if our colleges should adopt the British debate formula, our speakers would continue to echo the language of Hamilton and Lincoln rather than that of Pitt or Morley.

Break Excessive Rigidity

"Certainly much improvement needs to be made in this matter of style. We must break the excessive rigidity that is neither American nor literary. The mechanics of brief-making and the debating terminology that clutter the way must be removed. More and more we must establish an alliance between literature, philosophy and argument. Our debaters must prepare for the fray by reading Plato and Shakespeare as well as by poring over the Statistical Abstract. The problem, however, is mainly one of revising the college curriculum in the direction of cultural emphasis rather than that of imposing a literary style on a debater.

"In delivery, too, we may take a leaf from Oxford. We must admit that our speakers neglect the graces of public speech—the play of personality.' The Oxford man takes time on the platform to reflect, to cultivate delightful informality and spontaneity. Here again, however, the social and political background may explain somewhat the difference. To get the proper accent and inflection the Yankee would need also to import the cabinet system of government and the spirit of Hyde Park.

Make Speakers Human

"Surely, though, we can and must overhaul our performance so that our speakers shall at least be human, conversational and within limits, even humorous. To this end let us have two speakers on a side incorporate the rebuttals in lengthened main speeches, encourage questions from the floor, append a forum, and encourage a popular vote. These things, I believe, can be done without the sacrifice of a compact, logical style and the other virtues of our native debate.

"In conclusion, if debating here and there is suffering an eclipse, the speakers, the artificiality if the reason lies not in the mendacity of game, or the presence of judges, but rather in the complexities and confusing distractions of undergraduate life. A sure remedy lies in having adequate faculty of supervision and guidance, for the neglect of which duty some of our public speaking departments should be held criminally responsible. Give the students a philosophical and cultural background through a so-called 'unifying' course in the curriculum, preferably a course in the department of argumentation."—(Quoted from "The Gavel" of Delta Sigma Rho.)

THE COMPOSITE JUDGE SYSTEM—A COMBINATION OF THINGS THAT ARE NEW

By E. R. Nichols

What about a combination judge plan? Everybody is trying to revolutionize the judge system in the interests of somebody or something and nobody seems to be satisfied with anybody or anything in this matter of judges for debates—so here goes for the wildest suggestion of them all—and the one most likely to pacify everybody. I'm not joking—I mean it. The only thing that is wrong with the system I am about to propose is that no one has had the courage yet to give it a trial. I think I shall the first time I can find another college that has equal nerve to try it with one of my teams.

Now listen—everybody—my plan calls for three judges—but oh, what a

combination—listen again! One of the judges is to be the crowd (excuse me), the people who hear the debate and wish to vote. One of the judges is to be Critic Judge, who is to act exactly as if he were the sole judge, and is to announce his decision after the audience has cast its vote—in fact while the tellers are counting the ballots. The third judge is the Balance Judge. All he has to do is listen to the debate and cast his ballot as usual in the old three judge system. Of course he votes before the Critic Judge speaks. When the Critic Judge has announced his decision, the Chairman announces how the audience has voted, and also how the Balance Judge has voted.

If all three are in agreement the Chairman announces that the Affirmative or Negative has won three to nothing. If the Critic Judge and the Balance Judge agree and the audience has voted for the home team the decision is two to one for the visitors. In fact any combination that is possible is O. K. The home team by getting out a good crowd of boosters is sure of a split decision at least, provided their own crowd doesn't turn on them, as sometimes happens I am told. However, the home team can't win merely by the vote of the home crowd, so the disadvantage of the audience system of deciding is overcome and its advantage in stimulating the audience to greater interest is retained. The Critic Judge is better satisfied because everything does not depend upon him. It will be easier to find a man who is willing to criticize the debate and explain his decision if he knows that all does not depend on his decision. Few men like to run the gauntlet of coaches and debaters on this one judge proposition. The worst feature of the one judge plan is—"Find the judge." My plan keeps the interesting and beneficial feature, the explained decision. The Balance Judge should be chosen with care and should be as competent as the critic judge if possible. He may be picked from the type of man who is a fine listener, an excellent judge, but one who is adverse to speaking, and would "never in the world" consent to be critic judge despite the fact that he is competent. He is there to correct the mistake of the enthusiastic audience, or possibly the error of the Critic Judge. You know even an expert can make a mistake.

This plan ought to satisfy the most fastidious knocker on the debate judge plans. It holds something for everybody; lets everybody in on the game. It does not rob a debate of its sporting chance, nor does it make the debate a peplless and dehydrated thing as the "no-decision plan" does. It doesn't require any mixed or scrambled teams to insure justice, or any neutral place for the meet. As the college boys say, "It's the cat's whiskers." What do you say we give it a trial—all we reformers? Quit laughing at me. I am fooled into thinking I have struck a real idea.

(MacWeekly)

Pi Kappa Delta plans for a debate circuit are being rapidly formulated, with the idea of attending the national contest being uppermost in the minds of the forensic men. The National convention will be held in Peoria, Illinois, in April, and Macalester will be represented by a debate team and perhaps by an extemporaneous speaker. The sending of these men will involve much work on their part, but will also mean a good forensic advertisement for the college.

To date, debates for the men have been scheduled at Parsons College, and with Superior Normal. Both of these schools are reputed to have strong teams, since Superior won the state championship of Wisconsin last year, and are out for a high place in the nationals.

The Kansas State Agricultural College won both ends of its annual debate with Iowa State College on the proposition: Resolved, that the guarantee provision of the railway transportation act of 1920 be repealed.

TAKING THE LID OFF THE COUNCIL'S CORRESPONDENCE

A SYMPOSIUM

The editor thought it would interest the members of Pi Kappa Delta to get a glimpse into the correspondence of the National Council. For several years it has been the practice of the national officers to have carbon copies made of all official letters that they write and to send one of them to each of the Council. In this way, every officer knows what is being done. We are, therefore, printing a number of extracts which will show the problems which these officers face and may suggest some matters for discussion at Peoria.

(From the National Secretary-Treasurer)

I have a recent letter from the president of your local chapter, saying that they would pay annual dues some time before the convention next spring. This was in response to my letter calling attention to the fact that the constitution provided that these dues should be paid November 1. I wonder if you won't help to bring to his attention the necessity of complying with the constitution. In the past we have not insisted on this point. As a result, we have not collected all we should. I hope to get the chapters accustomed to the practice this year. I expect to be thru with this job pretty soon. The one who succeeds me will be grateful to me if he finds the practice established, as collecting money is never very pleasant, especially if people don't feel obligated to pay it.

The Alpha Chapter at — College has caused me considerable worry. I could get no response from them last spring. I failed to get any response for a long time this fall. I finally got a very indifferent letter attempting to evade all responsibility. I immediately sent back a rather sharp letter, calling attention to the delinquencies of the chapter, and asking the members there if they did not feel that it would be better for them to drop the chapter rather than attempt to keep alive an organization they seemed unwilling to support, one that the national officers had to keep alive by efforts from national headquarters. This, as I hoped it would, changed their attitude. They said the trouble was due to the dereliction of last year's officers, who collected the initiation fees and dues, but failed to send them in. I urged them to make these officers make restitution. Today I received \$22 in payment of fees that should have been paid last spring. The chapter seems to be active now and willing to do all that is required of it. It plans to have representatives at Peoria.

Mr. President, this misappropriation of national dues by local officers is an old story. It is too serious to be passed over lightly. It has occurred several times. The result is that those who have paid are very much dissatisfied. I therefore move, that the president appoint a committee to investigate the facts in this case, to write to the treasurer, and to report to the council. If the man is guilty as charged, I move that his key be taken from him, his name be dropped from the membership roll, and that this fact be published in the Forensic.

Marsh asked about our suggestions about the constitution. I have no amendments to propose, but do raise the question of the interpretation of one section over which Marsh and I have had difficulty. (Smile.) Turn to page five, Article IV, Division C, sections 3 and 4. I quote the part in parenthesis. "It being permissible to substitute participation in a recognized intercollegiate oratorical contest for one debate, and to count third

in a contest of six or more contestants, and second in a contest of less than six, as a winning debate for the candidate." Marsh interprets this to mean that a man who gets the degree of honor in this fashion should have it in one order only, namely debating, that when he substitutes his participation in oratory for debating, that he loses his standing in the order of oratory. On the other hand, it seems to me that the purpose of this is to allow a man who has participated in both debate and oratory, to combine his work to obtain a higher degree. His key, for example, should have the emerald for honor and the turquoise for two orders. I'll admit that the constitution is not clear here. Literally, the wording favors Marsh, but the spirit of the section, as I get it, is in favor of my interpretation. I don't care which way it is interpreted. I do suggest that the point be cleared up so that there can be no more misunderstanding over it. I have no arguments to advance in favor of one plan over the other. It used to result in Marsh giving a man one ranking and in me giving him a different one. Our constitution should be written so that all national officers have to interpret it alike.

I have also suggested previously and now renew the suggestion, that the constitution after it is amended at Peoria, be printed in a small, convenient, pocket size, and that each new member be presented with a copy. Altho each member signs a statement that he has read the constitution, you probably know, as I do, that that is not always true, and that many of our members are painfully ignorant as to what that immortal document contains.

(From the National President)

It was the first debate I have witnessed where the decision was left with the audience. My first impression is that this feature adds an element of interest, both on the part of the speakers and the listeners. Speakers are more inclined to address the entire audience, rather than to direct their discussion simply to the three judges. The audience follows the discussion with more interest, inasmuch as each member is expected to cast a ballot. Were it possible to hold debates before neutral audiences, or were audiences able to lay aside their prejudices concerning the teams and judge only on the merits of the debate, I believe this system is to be preferred over the old plan. I am aware that in some instances audiences have awarded decisions to visiting teams, but I think where debates were at all close the home team would have a decided advantage. I am not sure whether under this new system it is practicable to expect audiences to judge on the "merits of the debate" rather than on the "merits of the question." I am wondering if in general audiences there is not a good percent who will vote in accordance with their opinions on the question itself.

I am simply suggesting some problems which occur to me. I have long desired to see this new system of judging given a fair trial, but there are not many colleges which will consent to it. Your university is to be congratulated on your willingness to leave the decision to an audience made up largely of supporters of the opposing team. I am hoping that other institutions will try the plan for I believe it has promise of giving more satisfactory results.

(From the Second Vice-President)

I am going to be very frank in stating four suggestions with regard to THE FORENSIC, as follows: First, the paper is poorly printed, that is, dully printed. That front cover looks like a badge of mourning. The paper used inside is not of the right surface to take the size type used,

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and the result is a dirty looking page. Paper that will take the half tones should be used and a large type. I would like to see a first-class looking paper that will attract the attention of students everywhere. Second, the magazine should be issued every month or every two months at the least. Only in so doing can the affairs of the Society be best kept before our members. Third, the magazine should be sent direct to the members, not to the coaches with request for distribution. This is good psychology. College men are not impressed by the other method. Fourth, the larger problems of the Society and of the work it is seeking to extend should be discussed in well written articles. I do not attach much importance to the chapter letters. They should be sent regularly to the editor and he in turn should publish such excerpts from them as he judges best. Henceforth we must move on to higher ground. It is high time the Society, through THE FORENSIC, should be playing a leading role the country over. The editor needs a staff of writers, fellows who will furnish him with special articles of a high character that have to do with the important work of the Society. Now all these suggestions I make because I am expected to look after the interchapter affairs. Such a magazine as I have suggested would do vastly more in toning up the chapters than any committee could ever hope to accomplish.

(From the National Counsel)

Nichols writes at length about the code of ethics that Libby is preparing. I certainly feel the need of something like that in the colleges which I have visited and still more in the high schools. A short code of ethics which could be printed on a card the size of a postcard and be known as the Pi Kappa Delta code of ethics and scattered throughout the country among debaters and teachers in both high schools and colleges, would be valuable in reminding beginners of their duties in forensics and giving them the proper attitude on the subject. I have seen judges greatly hurt by criticism coming from the students or the coach of the debating team which was defeated. It makes one wish that both sides could be defeated on all debates for a few years so that they could learn the proper mental attitude toward all forensic contests. A person who cannot be happy when he loses, is yet a child. I read over the Rotary Code today and think that it is a good example of the kind of a code of ethics that we need.

I am asking each one of you for information and suggestions on the subject on which my committee is to work. I would like a brief statement from each of you on the comparative advantages of the one judge plan, and the three or five judge plan. I would like your opinion on this question and also your experience on it. Next, I would like some statement as to what essentials should be used or kept in mind by a judge while judging a debate. We will limit this present discussion to debates. I want to know what a single judge making his speech to the audience when he makes his decision should explain to the audience as the basis for his decision. I want you to be specific in answering this letter. Name, for instance, the four things on which you would judge a debate, such as (1) Analysis, (2) Evidence, (3) Delivery, (4) Refutation and Adaptation. Two reasons why I want this matter from you members of the national council who are or should be critics of debate: first, I want to show Marsh that I am making some effort to work on his committee; second, I do a good deal of judging debates on the one judge plan and I want to be able to do it better, because of the instruction I receive from the Pi Kappa Delta Council.

(From the National Historian)

Have you noticed what a slaughter there is in coaches at our various

chapters this year? Marvin is not the only one to leave and fail to send us his good-bye. McGrew is gone from Huron. Ross from Southwestern, Schonberger from Washburn, Brings from Aberdeen, Murray Hunter from Hiram, Van Kirk from Heidelberg, and Summers and Somerville have changed colleges. Also Lynn Harris has left Franklin to become president of Beaver College, Pennsylvania. Will send the Forensic to these men if I can find out their addresses. Please let me know if any of you discover their whereabouts.

Secretary Westfall's Latest On the Convention

Gentlemen: So far twenty-three Chapters have replied to the questionnaire I sent out. This number includes Bradley. The twenty-two without Bradley promise sixty-six delegates, with tentative promises of twelve others. The twelve come in when a chapter, for instance, says it is sending one delegate and hopes to be able to send a second one if finances allow. This seems to promise a big convention. We hope to have seven there. Redlands plans to send five. College of the Pacific talks of three, Dakota Wesleyan and Morningside six each. Morningside is cutting under its original estimate. Two chapters report that they do not intend to send any delegates, Hiram and Newberry. I am working on them. If any of the rest of you have any pulling power, use it. I believe if we push hard and persistently from now on, we shall be able to have at least 90 per cent of the chapters represented. Later returns will probably not keep up this average, altho I haven't heard from many of the schools close to Peoria.

Marsh might as well buy his four cups. These twenty-three schools report fourteen in the men's oratorical, eleven in the men's extempore contest, with two other possible entrees, four in the women's oratorical, with two other possibilities, and, behold Marsh, seven in the extempore, with one other probable entry.

The cause of this letter is this: As these chapters have replied, we have sent them letters urging them to get delegates to Peoria in as large numbers as possible. I need some selling points. I have told them how many delegates would be there, of the contests, of the acquaintances that can be formed, of the inspiration, but I need something else. It seems to me that we ought to be able to tell the chapters that are not planning to send any delegates or who plan only one delegate, that they are going to miss something if they are not there. I wish we could tell them that we are going to plan some progressive movements and that we shall hear from some of the forensic leaders of the country. I believe we could do some things that would make it possible for us to claim these things. I know our program is quite full, but I believe we could crowd in a number of short addresses. For example, why not ask Summers to give fifteen minutes on the future of oratory. I should like to have Libby speak on inter-forensic relations, Coon on judging, Nichols on the future of debating, Veatch on getting student support, Ross on getting publicity. Understand that I don't suggest this program as I have outlined it. Perhaps there are others that should be suggested or other topics. What I want is something besides business and contests. I want something inspirational, constructive, forward looking. I believe it would be well to have one fifteen-minute address at each of the morning and afternoon business meetings. If some suggestions like these were added to the program, then I could write to these uninterested chapters that some information was going to be turned loose at the convention that they could not afford to miss. Here is my position: We are going to bring a lot of people a long ways to Peoria and we expect to keep them there three days. I think we ought to try to give them as much as possible. We should have more than business and contests. I want to give them as much as they can carry home and set to

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working on their own campuses. Therefore I should like to have one fifteen minute address at each general meeting, perhaps two if we can find the time. I should like to have the speakers selected now and told to get to work. I want to make the convention so important that a chapter can't afford to miss it.

What do you think of a suggestion I made a few weeks ago, that we authorize Bradley to charge a registration fee which shall include the cost of the banquet. This will hold people. If they come to the convention they have to pay for the banquet. If they want to run off ahead of the banquet that is their loss. This system is used lots of places. It saves trouble and confusion in selling tickets and it tends to hold people until the end of the convention.

What did you fellows think of this last letter of mine to the chapters? I'll admit that it was rather elementary, but it is bringing results. A lot of chapters are paying their dues or promising to. Thanks, Nichols, for the response from Redlands. I hope one or two of you other national officers will prod your chapters along a bit. I expect to get out a letter to the chapters about February 20 and another about March 10.

I have caught a little enthusiasm for this convention. I am pushing it hard and I believe if we all get after it and push hard from now on in every way we can, we can make it difficult for a chapter to stay away. I believe we can muster 250 delegates.

An Open Letter to the Editor and Members of Pi Kappa Delta From One of the Founders

Having exercised my privilege as printer's devil and Business Manager to read the "Copy" before it is set, Mr. Editor, I am moved to take my typewriter in hand and write all the folks a letter, discussing, commenting on, and seconding some of your ideas and those of the council as expressed in the Symposium. If I do not agree with you all in everything—at least the folks will have one more point of view to consider.

The Remarks of the Secretary-Treasurer

Let us begin by sympathizing with him in this matter of dues collection. It is a difficult problem; we all admit that. Some fraternities and societies solve it by having the initiate pay his entire fee at the time he enters the order. Probably that is not practical for us, but the secretary-treasurer might have some figures on the average amount a member of Pi Kappa Delta pays in during his college course. The initiation fee is two dollars; the annual dues for three years are six dollars—this makes a total of eight dollars from a four-year member. However, many of our members do not make the order until they are sophomores or even upper classmen. Another group drops out of college before the full dues are paid. Would six dollars be an average of the amount paid by members? If so, could we collect it once and for all as an initiation fee? Would it keep new members out? Would it reduce our actual income by keeping members out or from any other reason? Would it reduce key sales? Would that be permanent or temporary? Would the member take more interest if he paid more, and desire more than ever to wear the key? Think it over.

The Classification Trouble

In the point of interpreting the constitution which the Secretary-Treasurer raises, I agree with his interpretation. Having been guilty of perpetrating that misleading clause, I must own up that the spirit of the matter as the Secretary puts it was the thing I had in mind. I agree that the clause should be corrected or clarified.

As to printing the constitution in a pocket edition, I concur.

The President's Suggestions On Judges

At another place in this issue whoever cares to read it may see my attitude toward the audience plan of judging by the things I left between the lines. I like the one judge plan, but I believe the combination plan that I have suggested is better, despite the fact that it came to me in a whimsical way.

The Second V.-P.'s Remarks

I can not concur in all of these remarks. Allow me to say that you have dug them out of an old letter, written almost two years ago, Mr. Editor, and that in my estimation "The Forensic" has improved a bit since then, and I believe the Second V. P. himself would admit it. The printer has used the size of type dictated up to this time by our own necessity of economy, that one which permits the most matter in a given space. A paper with a soft surface in my estimation prints better and easier than a gloss surface. The gloss surface stays "green" longer, and is more likely to smudge and blur as one sheet is piled on the other and naturally requires more care. Also, that kind of paper costs more. A change means added expense and a longer time in getting out each number. As Business Manager, I am obliged to say I do not consider the suggestion practical. As to the front cover the remark is just. The old cut was a gift. We have kept on using it out of petty economy that is not really justified. I serve notice that I am going to have a front cover design made by somebody before the next issue of "The Forensic" comes out. Why don't WE OFFER A PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRAWING SENT IN BY THE DATE OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION? I SUGGEST THAT THE TREASURY PUT UP TEN DOLLARS FOR THIS PURPOSE. MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED.

Anent the Monthly Magazine idea—we just can't afford it. However, a Monthly Bulletin might be mimeographed and sent out from the Secretary-Treasurer's office—that is when his salary is raised or his stenographer allowance made adequate to develop the service ideas that a number of us have been carrying in mind for some time.

Sending "The Forensic" direct to members means added expense in the labor of mailing, and in the labor of compiling the chapter lists at the Secretary-Treasurer's office. Moreover, it cuts a lot of chapters out of The Forensic as they are horribly slow about sending in the lists. "No list no Forensic" might make the dilatory local officers more prompt. The idea has something to commend it. The Business Manager, however, would have some time keeping his card mailing list correct and up-to-date.

The fourth suggestion is already being put into practice. During the last two years numerous articles have been prepared and published in "The Forensic." The Editor and Business Manager have done all they could to get interesting articles. The trouble is—we can't get the coaches and the leading orators and debaters to submit the articles. One disappointment we have had is that the Second V. P. who made this suggestion has not contributed an article. I quite agree that well written articles and timely discussions will make "The Forensic" a power in the public speaking world.

A New Publication

While I am on the subject of Publications, let me say that I have had for a long time the idea of a Pi Kappa Debate and Oratory Annual. Mr. Raymond E. Untereiner, one of my old debaters, has offered to compile it. I think we should make it an official publication—that is, give it sanction and cooperate. The book will undoubtedly sell far beyond the boundaries of our own order. I speak from experience with debate annuals.

Code of Ethics

In this subject I am greatly interested. I like the National Counsel's

ideas on the subject. The Code should cover every matter of courtesy to opponents, judges, and audiences. Every matter of fairness and honesty in the conduct of a debate, in preparation, and in commenting upon it afterward. Let us have done with alibis, complaints, charges, spying, etc., and compel the editors of college papers to grant our contentions in these matters. Above all, it should be brief and to the point.

A Judge's Guide

The National Council is interested in a judges' code or guide. So am I. The pages of *The Forensic* are open, are they not, Mr. Editor, for a Forum discussion on this proposition. What should a judge consider? Let us have contributions that will grow into a pamphlet entitled "How to Judge a Debate." We could do immeasurable good by circulating such a pamphlet, as well as by compiling a catalog of Judges for the Entire Country, a project deserving our sanction and cooperation which Mr. Summers of K. S. A. C. is working on.

Some More Ideas

Now may I add to the Symposium, Mr. Editor, some things I have been thinking about? The matter of GRAND DISTINCTION, which I suggested at the last convention, is still in my mind as a desirable thing. A Fifth degree is becoming necessary. When we devised the Pi Kappa Delta plan the debate trip was comparatively unknown. A college held but few debates a year—four or five was a gigantic schedule. Now twelve to twenty doesn't seem too ambitious for even small colleges. Of course they are held on a comparatively few subjects—that occasioned our last change in the constitution relative to this matter of degrees. It is still easy enough to win Sp. D. We could make use of a degree still higher. The objection that it would complicate the jewelery of the key might be overcome by the use of the white gold key and possibly a minor change in the jewelery. Think this over.

Procedure in Admitting a New Chapter

The Vice-President has suggested that this matter needs revision. I believe he is right. Moreover, I think we should send better instructions to petitioning chapters with the blanks we send.

National Council Succession

Since you have opened up the subject, Mr. Editor, may I join in your discussion. I think I agree mostly with what you say, but I feel that some qualifying remarks should be made. The National Council governs Pi Kappa Delta nationally in the interim between conventions. Consequently it should never change personnel all at once for this would deprive us of experience. At the last convention when we approved the idea of centralization, and merged the office of Secretary-Treasurer, we had in mind as we continued the centralization of routine work to make this a salaried office and a long term office. We may even find it necessary to allow this officer to choose a deputy to assist him. As the other members of the council are relieved of a load they have been carrying heretofore by this change and centralization, they become a policy determining group. Now there are two views to take of the council. It is legislative and executive, or it is advisory and becomes the President's cabinet. The former has always been the Pi Kappa Delta conception, yet a strong minded and determined President can easily change it into the latter and can perpetuate his policy by a careful selection of a nominating committee. That is why, as a Founder, I am moved to make some remarks.

At the first convention nominations were made from the floor. At that time I announced, if re-elected, that two terms were the limit. I made

good that promise, Mr. Editor, and at the same time practically chose, nominated, and elected you as my successor. I did not do this all at once. I chose you at the first convention, and finished the job the second convention. If you will remember we had nominations from the floor at this second convention as well as from the chair. I hope the members of the order will not think I was an autocratic president. In those early days we had few to count on, few enough to rally about the order to put it over. It was my idea to make the council a real active organization and to get as many capable men as possible on the job to help me put Pi Kappa Delta over. I knew the job was too big for one man. It is more than ever too big for one man at the present writing. I do not want to see Pi Kappa Delta ever become a one-man organization. Some of us who have had experience with other organizations understand just what that means—ultimate insurrection and trouble.

I am glad that you and Marsh have maintained the original idea of the Pi Kappa Delta Council. With you men it remained a legislative and executive organization. However, the order has grown big and at Morningside, the third convention, and at Indialola, the fourth convention, you appointed nominating committees. The idea worked satisfactorily, but will it always do so? Perhaps it worked because the Council worked harmoniously and the nominating committee consulted the council. I **WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WE MAKE it a LAW** (written or unwritten) that the Nominating Committee shall advise with each member of the Council, and **SHALL HOLD A HEARING** in order to give **ANY MEMBER OF THE ORDER AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE IT** and urge any **NOMINATION** or present claims of any candidates. Moreover, I think the Committee should exercise the right to consult men considered for office and try to discover whether they have the time and inclination to take up the task. The Right of Nomination from the Floor should always be kept open, and not unduly discouraged.

Now as to promotion on the Council—that seems a good principle, yet I have observed that it has drawbacks in other organizations. I have seen some organizations abolish the office of Vice-President that the members might feel free to choose any one for office they wished without feeling constrained to promote the V. P. We have not built up the V. P. tradition—in fact we have worked it the other way, sending the President down the line when his term was over. We have chosen the Secretary for President. With the Centralization idea coming we shall perhaps abandon this custom, but I feel that we should have the right to choose which of the other three members of the Council should be advanced, and we should have the privilege of dropping members off and taking others on without advancing all of them. So we must exercise the promotion doctrine with care and limitation to my mind.

I am also of the opinion that we should come to the one term idea of the Presidency, the idea of changing the personnel of the Council as frequently as is consistent with keeping the requisite amount of experience in office. The Permanent Secretariat renders this idea of frequent change more practicable than formerly. We have many excellent men in coaching positions who should be advanced from Province offices where they have made good records to the Council.

Moreover, I do not feel that it is necessary to retain the office of Historian now that the History is written. That might be abandoned for a Third Vice-President, and the new President might be chosen at each convention from among the Three Vice-Presidents. I am in favor of the one term Presidency also because I feel that the office is less likely under that scheme to become an autocratic one. I do not think we want a President and an Advisory Cabinet that can not get its advice across—I should like to see our old idea of the Council continue.

Finally, there is nothing personal in my remarks and no reflections upon any member of our Council. Understand, I am talking the theory of government and the possibilities. I think we both realize that President Marsh has outdone us both in keeping his council on the job as the kind of council we have always stood for. I merely feel that the NOMINATING COMMITTEE as an institution should be set about with adequate safeguards.

As to our new Council, I feel very much as Westfall, our Secretary, and President Marsh do—that we must meet the conditions and contingencies that arise at the convention, and do the wisest thing we can under the circumstances. It may be that we shall want to delay final centralization of the Secretariat two more years and defer the one term idea. It may be that we are ready to work out new things.

As the two ex-Presidents, both greatly interested in Pi Kappa Delta, we have expressed our views in this number of the Forensic. Mine, no doubt, too greatly at length, but I hope everybody will forgive me. I don't want to become a nuisance or presume too much upon the distinction of being a founder. As the debater says, "I thank you." Fraternally,

E. R. NICHOLS.

(The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho)

In compiling the directory of Delta Sigma Rho we have concluded that the college debaters and orators do not enter forensic contests merely for the sake of college activities, but that the larger majority of them go into the contests to get real and vital training for their chosen profession. By far the larger percentage of our members take up law. The value of forensic contests to the coming lawyer is obvious. The next largest group become teachers, mostly of public speaking, economics, or law. A background of college debating or oratory is a material aid to the educator. The third largest group of our members are ministers. There can be no question of the value of clear, convincing platform presentation to the clergyman. A great many of our number are advertisers, who must know how to "put an idea across and make it stick;" a few Delta Sigma Rho members are business men, meeting daily economic and business problems that training in clear thinking and public discussion will help them to solve.

We believe that Delta Sigma Rho may take unto itself no little credit for the increased interest in debate and oratory which is being manifested in practically every college and university where the society has a chapter. Not only are international intercollegiate debates being held, and long cross-continent debating tours being conducted by a great number of colleges; but the method and system of the contest itself is changing and developing. Public interest is being aroused as to the best methods of conducting these forensic contests; whether the written, formal presentation of a subject, or the conversational informal discussion is the more worth while; whether the contest shall take the form of a sporting event with judges, or whether it shall be an open forum contest with the audience taking part in the argument. The important phase of all the public interest now being given intercollegiate forensics is not so much the decisions reached, as the interest itself. The college debate is now recognized as an important event, and the college debater as a leader in college activities and thought.

California Gamma is to present Sophocles' "Philoctetes" on February 28, 29 and March 1. The chapter chose this play as the students at the California Institute of Technology are all men and this is the only Greek tragedy with all male characters.