



## \* \* \* The Chapter House. \* \* \*

**T**HIS college year marks the beginning of an era in the life of college fraternities at the University which presents important possibilities of development, and likewise entails serious responsibilities in the management and direction of fraternity policies. A majority of the fraternities in the University have given up their halls and lodgings down town and have gone out on the various resident streets of the town, and have rented some of the handsomest residences of the city, which they have furnished for their purpose and adopted as Chapter Houses. All of the fraternities have not yet adopted this method, but those which have not done so have expressed intentions of doing so at an early day, and perhaps it would be safe to predict that before the close of another college year all the fraternities will be living in Chapter Houses. While we think the inception of this movement marks an important date in the history of fraternities, still one can easily see by a little observation that it is not so great an innovation in college life as a casual observer would probably think. Conditions favorable to the adoption of this method of living have been ripening through a series of years, and the final result can be seen to be but the logical consequence of perfectly natural and legitimate tendencies. The transition is a perfectly easy one. Boys belonging to the same fraternity have for a long time chosen to live at the same boarding-house, for the simple reason that congenial spirits naturally seek each other's presence and influence. Of course this division was never complete owing to the fact that the interests of persons conducting boarding-houses would not permit them to restrict the courtesies of their houses simply to the members of one fraternity. Other causes might be mentioned which conspired to prevent the boys from segregating themselves completely along the lines of fraternity affiliations under the former regime, but it is sufficient here for us to note that this general idea of separation along the lines indicated, has always been clearly traceable. Hence, nothing is more natural than that the fraternities should conceive the idea of renting and controlling homes of their own.

To add to this natural tendency the fact that fraternities in other institutions have in many instances entirely adopted this method of living, has had its influence also. The introduction of the Chapter House, then, is not to be regarded as a revolution in our college life, but rather as an evidence of fraternity development keeping pace with the progress of the institution with which the fraternities are connected.

These houses have been beautifully furnished, perhaps in every instance at the expense of the fraternities' alumni, which fact alone is sufficient to indicate their unreserved endorsement of the idea. The principle upon which the adoption of this method of college life is based is not a new one. It is one that has been found to be safe under a great variety of circumstances and conditions. It has been adopted in so many institutions of learning and for such a long time, that the simple idea of Chapter-house life is certainly not one of experiment. The only question that presents itself in this particular instance is one of practical applicability, and the brief experience of one year has almost shown that this phase of the question is not attended with any serious difficulty.

In other institutions of learning in the South we know the system has proven to be an admirable success, and thus far we have every reason to believe that its adoption in our University will be attended with like results. However, the success of this movement must depend in each instance upon a keen perception and proper appreciation of the real purpose and intention of the Chapter House by those boys who adopt this method of living while in college. If the boys properly appreciate the advantages

to be had, and endeavor to improve them, then the effect of Chapter-house life upon the college will be beneficial and desirable.

Various phases of this question present themselves for discussion, but the scope of this article forbids a complete review of the subject in all of its relations. Without stopping to discuss fraternities and their relation to the institution in which they are located, we take it as generally understood what their mission is and now notice only the effects of this new movement in enlarging the possibilities of fraternity enterprises. Fraternities work for the interest of the college; for the life and the success of the one is dependent upon the success of the other. The adoption of the Chapter House will make the work of the fraternities for the college more effective. Already the Chapter House has contributed to the very important purpose of bringing many of Georgia's alumni into a closer relation to the University and to intensify their interest in all of her institutions and enterprises. Many of them have doubtless contributed their money in support of the movement and they feel that they have acquired a stake in the institutions of the University and thus their interest and devotion has been revived. If this enterprise has contributed anything to this end, as we believe it has, it is a strong argument commending the idea; for whatever serves to identify our alumni with the interests of our University adds greatly to our hope for continued prosperity and success.

But by far the most important effect of this movement is its influence upon the individual; for after all this is the moving principle which has brought into existence the new order of things and upon this idea its destiny must depend. If the Chapter House filled no higher purpose than simply to furnish a lodging-place for students while they are in college, such a purpose would not justify their existence. The Chapter House has a much broader purpose than that of contributing to the temporal welfare of those who live in them. When properly appropriated they add dignity and an interest to college life that is elevating and inspiring to the student. Life in the Chapter House constitutes an important factor in the student's education, and it is only in this light that the real purpose and intention of the Chapter House is properly appreciated. It is here that the student finds the nearest approach to the influence of home-life that it is possible for him to realize outside of the home itself. Here it is that he finds a home which he can justly take pride in beautifying and making attractive. Here it is that he can receive his friends when his work is finished and feel the exhilaration of extending the hospitality of his own home. It is here that congenial spirits form pleasing associations and strengthen the ties of mutual friendship which add to the joys of college life, and fill the future with pleasing recollections. Here it is that each one learns while in college as he can do in no other way, the lessons of mutual forbearance and courtesy, and each one gathers something that is admirable in the lives of his associates, and adds it to his own. The influence of the Chapter House goes beyond the mere technical instruction of the college, and lays the foundation for a deeper and more liberal culture. It is under this influence that representatives of every phase of college life meet and exercise mutual restraints and give mutual encouragement along every line of legitimate college endeavor, and thus produce the highest type of college youth and of subsequent manhood.

H. D.