Fraternity System Sharply Criticized

Faculty Committee at Rollins College Lists the Evils It Regards as Characteristic.

One side of the much-discussed question of whether fraternities are a menace or an asset in college life has just had a careful restatement at the hands of a faculty committee of Rollins College, a committee that believes they are an evil influence and should be abolished.

The bill of charges was drawn up at the invitation of President Hamilton Holt. It amounts to a bearding of a group of lions in an otherwise hospitable den, for Dr. Holt has been a friend of fraternities. Rollins under his leadership has fostered them with an offer to deed land to national groups wishing to install local chapters. The lone national fraternity on the campus when he became president in 1925 now has seven companions, and the number of local chapters has also grown.

The List of “Charges”.

1. That the system is undemocratic and therefore out of harmony with what American college life should be, and with Rollins in particular.

2. That the system subordinates individuality to the group and produces types, not personalities.

3. That the rushing season emphasizes the undemocratic nature of the system, disorganizes college work and mentally and physically unfits the student for serious application to more important duties.

4. That fraternity secrecy and symbolism results in immature attitudes at variance with modern educational standards.

5. That the menace of undesirable leaders is increased by reason of the peculiar form of fraternity organization.

6. That the fraternity sets up a divided loyalty which is highly detrimental to the college and may be to the student.

7. That the consequences of withdrawal are so serious as to amount to a practical barrier against it.

8. That the playing of college politics by the fraternities in their own clannish interests is an evil that will grow with the growth of fraternity groups.

9. That the fraternity system is expensive and results either in the exclusion of poor but deserving students or in an unfair form of subsidy by the college, as well as in large amounts of money going into national organization treasuries.

10. That permitting the fraternities to acquire a property interest on the campus would be another form of subsidy to the

(Continued on page 4, col. 2)
Fate of Children In the Depression

Observers in New York Say Emergency Health Work Is Saving a Bad Situation.

In the midst of the discussions of roads to economic recovery many prominent persons have paused in the last few weeks to ask how the children are faring in the depression. For New York City the reply, based on observations obtained from persons actively dealing with children in large numbers, and especially with public school children, is that the picture, on the surface at least, is still fairly bright. Health is, in the main, holding up—with the aid of strong measures—and it is acting as a buoy to morale.

Not all the facts are on the bright side, however. A word of caution as to the potential seriousness of the situation comes from Commissioner Wayne himself. Malnutrition, despite the efforts to combat it, has, as he said in a recent speech, shown a gain this year. Of the children examined by his department—numbering between 300,000 and 400,000 a year—the proportion afflicted by it rose from a fairly stable average of 13.5 per cent in 1927, 1928 and 1929, to 16.1 per cent in 1930, 17.1 per cent in 1931 and 20.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1932.

"We are, in effect, watching an enormous experiment," says Dr. Wayne. "We cannot predict exactly how continued malnutrition will show itself years later. It may show itself in less resistance to tuberculosis and other diseases. Acute disease, such as scarlet fever, measles, are not affected by depressions. A continuation of the depression for a period of years, with continued malnutrition and attendant handicaps, will probably send up the death rate, or at any rate stop its decrease, which has been impressive in recent years."

A sign that morale has suffered at least a partial setback comes from George H. Chatfield, director of attendance in the city schools.

"For several years commitments to the parental school had been decreasing," he says, "but during the past year they increased by 100, or about 40 per cent. How much of the truancy this represents is due to the depression it is difficult to say. Figures are not entirely conclusive. We know that some people are running away from responsibility. Take a family that has been getting along in a normal manner. The father loses his job, or he deserts his wife and children. There is a breakdown of family control. The whole morale of the family situation is shot. There is no respect for property. Children take things. There is no one to make them go to school. There has been a good deal of doubling up of families with resultant wrangling, crowded conditions which are bad for children who need quiet and peace and ordered routine. If times get worse conditions will get worse and naturally pupil standards will be affected."

A Social Worker's View.

Owen R. Lovejoy, secretary of the Children's Aid Society, calls attention to a number of somber shadows in the picture.

"It is true," he says, "that many mothers who would ordinarily leave their children to our care in order to get work away from home are now at home with their children because outside employment is impossible. On the other hand, applications for temporary boarding care for children are brought to us by people unknown to charitable organizations and often the pitiful condition of these children through a loss of the sense of security unquestionably deteriorates their health."

"In our convalescent homes for boys at Valhalla and for girls at Chappaqua we have been accustomed to receiving children five to ten pounds underweight from malnutrition or convalescing from chronic or
New Chicago Plan Hailed as Success

Self-Education by Students Is Producing Better Work, Dean of College Says.

By C. S. BOUCHER, Dean of the College, the University of Chicago.

This year's freshman class at the University of Chicago has furnished the "guinea pigs" for an educational experiment that has proved extremely exhilarating to those conducting it and to the "guinea pigs" as well. Indeed the "guinea pigs" have so thrived under the experiment that our original faith in the soundness of the basic principles of the new plan has been converted into a conviction that we are on the right track. We shall begin our second year in many of our fears and reservations eliminated and with enthusiasm strengthened by the satisfaction of having attained a degree of success even greater than we dared hope would be possible.

Our leading "educational statesmen" have been remarking, in fact: "We seem to have cleared the ways of God to man. I will do what is in my power to make His holy light pervades me. I am of His chosen people, seeing eye to eye with Him. I will do what is in my power to make clear the ways of God to man."

N. B. Quote Milton in my next editorial. N. B. And Shakespeare.

Monday

Noticed a student who was drowsing quietly in the library rudely awakened by a library assistant inconsiderately rattling a newspaper. I think something should be done about this. Are we not free men? Are we babies to be still under the rule of Petti-coats? Down with the — I'll write an editorial.

Tuesday

Wrote an editorial against the library, entitled "To Sleep or Not to Sleep". Started a questionnaire among the leading athletes of the college getting their response to the question "When do you sleep?" Wrote both sides of an argument on the alienable rights of students. Asked the psychology professor to write an article on "The Nirvana of Sleep". Came home feeling highly elated with myself.

Wednesday.

Just finished reading the New York Times Book Review—or was it the New Yorker?.. .

(A DIARY (with certain characteristics)

Sunday

God's holy light pervades me. I am of His chosen people, seeing eye to eye with Him. I will do what is in my power to make clear the ways of God to man.

N. B. Quote Milton in my next editorial. N. B. And Shakespeare.

Monday

Noticed a student who was drowsing quietly in the library rudely awakened by a library assistant inconsiderately rattling a newspaper. I think something should be done about this. Are we not free men? Are we babies to be still under the rule of Petticoats? Down with the — I'll write an editorial.

Tuesday

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(Continued Next Week)

CHICAGO PLAN

divorce of the examination function (which has been placed in the control of a board of examinations) from the instructional function.

5. Four new courses: A year course in each of four large fields of thought—the biological sciences, the humanities, the physical sciences and the social sciences—have been specially designed to serve the needs of the student in regard to general education with instructional methods varying according to the objectives to be attained.

6. A carefully prepared syllabus with appropriate bibliographical citations for every course at the junior college level is available for each student.

7. A faculty adviser is specially selected for each student in the light of his educational needs and ambitions—one who takes his responsibilities seriously and is ready at all times to play the role of guide, counselor and friends.—N. Y. Times.

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acute illness. During the past six months, however, it is not at all unusual to have them come from fifteen to twenty-five pounds underweight. These are children usually from 10 to 14 years of age. Many other evidences indicate that they are suffering far more from lack of proper and sufficient food than in ordinary times.

"In order to meet this need we are feeding about 1,600 children daily in our nine centres. Many are too young to be cared for in school, others are physically handicapped still others are sent by the public schools because their own facilities are inadequate. This latter group is paid for from the emergency fund provided by the school teachers.

Depression and Delinquency

"Commissioner Mulrooney has recently shown that this depressed situation bears a relation to juvenile delinquency. We are enlarging our thirteen playgrounds and boys' and girls' club facilities in congested neighborhoods, but no one agency can provide sufficient facilities. Every school playground and every vacant lot in the city should be open all Summer for properly supervised recreation.

"Nor would any discussion of the effect of the depression upon children be complete without mention of the increasing number of homeless boys between the ages of 16 and 20. They drift into our city from all parts of the country—homeless, jobless—many of them desperate. We have cared for more than a thousand such boys at our Newsboys' Lodging House in the past year. Some of them are from the Municipal Lodging House, some from the Crime Prevention Bureau and the Travelers Aid Society. For only a few are jobs to be found in the city in these times.

"It would require a confirmed optimist to contend that the present depression has been a blessing to children," he says, turning to the brighter side, "and yet one good result has been to focus attention on child life and its needs. The recent White House conference did much to bring together the various agencies seeking to serve children, and when teachers, parents, social workers, churches, doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists once get together and pool their ideas great things may be in store for the children."