

to face" interviews, especially when one has been fortunate enough to attend our convention and meet so many of the sisters from the East, West, North and South. A few of us were so privileged this summer and report a delightful time and new enthusiasm created for our common cause. The names we find in the chapter letters hereafter will cease to be mere names, but will be living pictures of their owners.

Trusting that you will be interested in hearing about the place where Pi assembles for its weekly meetings, we venture to follow the example set us by some of our sisters and give you a description of our chapter hall. The trustees of our college gave us space seven years ago at the time of our establishment on the fourth floor of one of our college buildings. The weary climb to reach it and the trip through an unfinished part of the building only makes us appreciate it the more. It reminds us of one of these cycloramic paintings where one is prepared for the beauty about to burst upon his view by being obliged to enter through a long, dark passage. When we are all snugly assembled within its walls, we feel perfectly free to talk and act as we please—so high up and far away from everybody that eaves-droppers are not thought of. We have in this out-of-the-way corner two good-sized rooms. The walls and ceiling are tinted a light pearl, while the furnishings are largely in black and gold. Group photographs of our chapter in former years, paintings and etchings adorn the walls, while a black and gold grate in one corner throws out a comfortable warmth and light upon a pile of black and gold cushions, making the whole scene the very embodiment of "coziness." We sometimes wish our hall were more accessible in order that we might entertain more easily, but we enjoy it very much just as it is.

Pi has been very successful this year. Although the height of the rushing season is past we are wide awake. We have added five to our ranks this term, and each one is a *jewel*. I never saw a more enthusiastic, congenial lot of girls. We have a good-sized chapter and hold our meetings on Thursday afternoons.

Our literary work is in the line of fraternity education. Each girl is required to report upon two chapters of our fraternity. She is expected to find out all about the institution in which the chapter is located, and also something about the chapter itself. We feel that the benefits we derive from this will be not a few. But this letter is growing lengthy, so with love and good wishes to all Thetas, we will say "auf wiedersehen."

Pi.

ETA.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR.

If Eta chapter had needed any spur to maintain the standard of Kappa Alpha Theta, it would have been enough to know that the older Theta sisters were undoubtedly watching us with an interest not unmixed with anxiety. I suppose on account of its historic birthplace Eta will go down in the annals of Kappa Alpha Theta history as the Columbian chapter. With such an auspicious send-off, our future prosperity ought to be assured.

We girls came back to Ann Arbor in October, with mixed feelings. We had expected that there would be nine of us here to help in making a worthy place for Kappa Alpha Theta in the fraternities of Michigan University. But from one cause or another, three of the nine were prevented from returning and we found ourselves only six strong when college opened. Rather a dubious outlook for an infant chapter. However, looking back, perhaps our lack of numbers has not been altogether an evil. It has served to bring us more closely together than we would have been in a large chapter, has made us work more energetically and earnestly, and as a consequence we appreciate that we have won much more highly than we would have done if it had been more easily gained.

Fortune has been very kind to us in several respects. Our patroness, Mrs. M. L. H. Walker, has been everything to us and

January, 1894

by her sympathy and interest has more than made up to us whatever hardship or disappointment we have had to meet. M Walker is not connected with the faculty but is a graduate of university, and during her residence in Ann Arbor has taken active part in the social side of University life and has identified herself especially with the girls of the university.

We had supposed that there were no members of the old Eta chapter living in Ann Arbor who had not identified themselves with Sorosis. We found, however, that Mrs. Adams, wife of Prof. Henry C. Adams, who is at the head of the political economy department here, had never withdrawn from Kappa Alpha Theta. She herself was uncertain as to whether she was a Theta or an Independent. We made haste to inquire at headquarters and were delighted to find that we could claim her as our resident member.

The other sororities received us very graciously and we were greeted either personally or formally by them all. As there are six Greek letter societies among the girls in the literary department, besides the Sorosis, there is a good deal of rivalry, but in almost every case the relations between the societies are very pleasant. There is some feeling, for the most part appearing in social intercourse, between the fraternities and the independents the fault being on both sides. It is one of our aims to break down as far as possible this distinction and to establish a more kindly feeling among the girls. As we were most of us independents for some time, we think we can perhaps appreciate the situation better than some others and will know best how to remedy the evil.

When we came back in the fall, we found that all the sororities except Gamma Phi Beta had signed an agreement in regard to rushing and pledging. There was to be no wearing of pins during the first two weeks, examination week and the first week of college; no rushing at the Freshman spread (a reception given every year by the Sophomore girls to the Freshman girls, where all the college girls meet), no rushing on the campus and no

pledging until the Friday before Thanksgiving. The Gamma Phi Beta agreed to the first part, but did not wish to bind themselves in regard to pledging. To understand the reason for this agreement it is necessary to know something about the extent to which the rushing has been carried here. Last year, especially, it was conducted in some cases in the most wholesale and irrational way. A general sentiment, especially among the faculty ladies, is very strong against such a system and the agreement is an outcome of this feeling. We felt that though it might be a disadvantage to us at first, it was a step in the right direction, and we ought to help the good work along, so we, too, signed the compact.

We determined from the very beginning, that the standard of Eta chapter should be a high one. Even for the sake of increasing our meagre numbers we would not take in any members who were not perfectly congenial and desirable. We realize that the character of the chapter is to be formed in this first year and everything depends on the kind of girls we take in. We have three girls wearing the yellow and black now—Dorothea Roth, Fanny Gale and Lina Gjems—all worthy to be Thetas, that is the best I can say of them. We do not feel at all discouraged because we cannot add more to our numbers right away, for we have been working under disadvantages, and then, too, we have the rest of the year before us. We find that the national reputation of our fraternity has helped us a great deal and has done much to counterbalance the reluctance to enter a new chapter.

We were all very much disappointed because Miss Dietrich of Tau could not be with us for a few days as she had planned and as we had hoped. We have often felt that if we only had an experienced sister with us we would have gone more easily over some of the rough places.

One of the Omega girls, Miss Ellsworth, visited in Ann Arbor for a day or so, but unfortunately we knew nothing of it until a very short time before she left. Then one of our girls met

her and had a few minutes' conversation; the rest of us were very sorry not to have seen our California sister.

Those who do not already know may be interested to learn that there are about thirty men's fraternities in Ann Arbor and eight among the college women, including the Sorosis and the medical fraternity. Last year the number of women students was six hundred and ten; of men students, about twenty-one hundred. The college women are fortunate in having the Women's League, an organization of all the women students and the faculty ladies. It aims at bringing the college women into closer relations with one another and with the ladies of the faculty. This year the League has undertaken the new branch of inter-collegiate work by organizing a scheme of correspondence of which many of you have heard.

We want to tell all our Theta sisters how much our fraternity life has meant to us this year, that in spite of the hard up-hill work—perhaps because of it—we have enjoyed our college experience as Thetas more than the years we spent as independents, and that we trust the Kappa Alpha Theta sisterhood will never be ashamed of the Eta chapter. We thank those to whom we have written for help in our perplexities and those who have written to us out of the kindness of their hearts.

With love to those and all other Theta sisters,

ETA.

UPSILON.

*Dear Theta Sisters:*

Great was my surprise on receiving the October JOURNAL to find so few chapter letters, Upsilon's being also one of the missing links in our chain of correspondence. The reason may be, as in my case, that the new secretaries are at a loss as to what is required of them at first and the necessary letter reaches our editor too late or not at all. The old corresponding secretary

should have the matter in charge and hold herself responsible to the fraternity as a whole for her share in the work.

The first three months have passed very swiftly but quietly at our beloved University of Minnesota. Very much study, a few parties, and the tale of our school-life is told. Now the girls have separated to eat Thanksgiving turkey and prepare for the winter term's work.

We have adopted the plan of holding a business meeting on Friday afternoon every two weeks, and a social "just for ourselves" on the Monday evening of the alternate week. We have found it more successful than anything previously tried.

Two changes were made last week in the university regime by the faculty. The one is that of discarding the name of Professor and addressing all teachers as Mr. The other forbids us to know our standings until the fall following any year's work. This is to avoid the "worship of marks," as our President expressed it. All below eighty per cent are notified by their teachers and required to take examinations. Dress reform is also being agitated.

Mrs. Ernest A. Nickerson, nee Miss Minnie Rexford '92, has returned to the city for a short time. Grace Walther '93 is back as an assistant in Sanitary Science. Lillian Martin '91 is in St. Joseph, Mo., in order to avoid the Minnesota winter and regain health and strength.

We are still sixteen, having initiated no one since October 2. We are rushing quietly, if such a phrase may be used, and hope to be able to record one or two new names next time.

With best wishes for the winter of '93-'94,

UPSILON.

KAPPA.

KANSAS UNIVERSITY, Dec. 16th, 1893.

DEAR THETA SISTERS:

Kappa has a very successful year to report to the fraternity. We carried the day against the combined opposition, and