

men and women, whose name must never be mentioned. Moslems of devout scruple are careful not to pronounce the awful syllables which indicate the Deity. A similar privilege has been extended by the authority of the law to the gentleman, whoever he be, respectfully indicated by the letters, A. B. Approach this distinguished person, dead or alive, with all reverence. He is sacrosanct. Even Parliament must not dare to inquire

into the identity of this carefully guarded and illustrious recluse. Who is A. B.? Or who was he in the year 1908? Until the whole of the memorandum of John Thomson Trench is published, without either asterisks or other devices for hiding that to which the public opinion of two nations is entitled, the restless spirit of Miss Gilchrist will continue to haunt the halls where justice was denied to her memory.



## Dead Letters

BY THEDA KENYON

FRAIL things of yellowed paper and pale ink,  
 One with the distant cylinders of clay  
 And picture writings of a long spent day,  
 Whose eager messages have lost their link  
 With human needs, and hover on the brink  
 Of dim forgetfulness—whose writers, gay  
 Or sad, can never wholly cease to say  
 The things which they have long since ceased to think:

You hold imprisoned in your deathless power  
 Loves that are cold, tears that no longer flow—  
 The broken petals of a faded flower  
 From whose seed buds can never hope to blow. . . .  
 Yet . . . you hold safe until the Final Hour  
 Moons that are dark, suns that no more may glow. . . .

This letter, round whose pages rose-scent clings,  
 Might once have saved some love now long time dead,  
 Had not its tender lines remained unread,  
 And so set free a host of happenings;  
 And this—who knows?—might have dethroned great kings,  
 So slyly strong the writing, though has fled  
 The writer; and this other, had it sped,  
 Could have foretold the beating of gaunt wings. . . .

I wonder—had you filled your destiny,  
 And carried from far lips to waiting ears  
 Your messages—what difference there would be,  
 What widening-circles of new hopes and fears . . .  
 Like death-sealed lips, you hold your mystery  
 Unanswered, through the swiftly-weaving years. . . .

# Tired Business Men of the Campus

BY MAX MCCONN

*Dean of Lehigh University*

*Being a defense of Greek Letters for Go Getters—How our college fraternities have outwitted the faculty, circumvented the higher learning, and made university life the best of all business success schools*

THE Greek language has very nearly passed out of our American colleges, except for the alphabet. But the alphabet flourishes exceedingly. Every freshman learns his letters in that ancient tongue—learns them from handsome brass plates which adorn magnificent mansions, and from resplendent jeweled pins on the waistcoats of magnificent young men who issue forth from the mansions to rule the college scene.

The fraternities, in whose nomenclature the alphabet of Plato survives among us, have long been a subject of controversy. Their members—those fine young men with the jeweled pins—will tell you they are temples of a mystical brotherhood. But there are others who whisper—or sometimes shout—that they are rather schools of snobbishness and parking space for lounge lizards. What is the truth?

And, further, what is the significance of this impressive institution, the fraternity, with respect to the colleges in whose shadow it has grown up and prospered so mightily? Within

recent years the college itself has become nearly as controversial a topic as the fraternity. Is there any connection between the two controversies?

In my opinion the connection is fundamental, so that the two subjects can most profitably be discussed together.

FUNDAMENTALLY, the local chapters of the Greek letter fraternities are what college officers call “living groups”. As such they are classified with the college dormitories. In effect, indeed, the chapter houses constitute important additions to the dormitory facilities. From one-third to two-thirds of the total enrollment may be housed in this way. These houses constitute one of the gifts which these modern Greeks have brought to the colleges.

But the fraternities differ from other living groups in that membership is attainable only by invitation, and it may be worth while to consider the criteria by which certain freshmen are selected for the privileges of fraternity membership, while the rest are relegated to the outer darkness of