

The Naturalist's Directory. Compiled in 1914. Salem, Samuel E. Cassino, 1914.

This used to be a book useful to all naturalists, and there is no good reason why it should not continue to be so if the work were well done and the data edited with reasonable care. The new edition leaves one under the impression that the care taken with it was limited in amount and poor in quality. At page 127 under the general head of the scientific societies of the United States and Canada, and under the subhead "California" are given nine Canadian societies, while one other Canadian society is given on page 129 under the subhead "Canada." Under the "District of Columbia" at page 128 only one society is given; three others are put under "Canada" on page 129. The American Association for the Advancement of Science is listed under Massachusetts at page 130. The names and addresses in some of the foreign countries contain an unusually large number of errors. In one of those countries eight names and addresses contain twenty typographic errors. One only needs to look for the names of a few of the scientific societies he knows of or for a dozen or so of the naturalists he knows to find the weakness of the book. It is a great pity. A book such as this one pretends to be, and carefully edited, would be of great service to naturalists all over the world.

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FRATERNITY GRADES AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY

I HAVE read with considerable interest the recent article in SCIENCE on "Fraternities and Scholarships at the University of Illinois," by Professor Warnock, since a state of affairs somewhat similar to that he describes exists at Purdue University.

A report made in 1910 by the chairman of the committee on student organizations at Purdue showed a relatively low grade of scholarship in the fraternities. As no decimal grades are used on the registrar's books, the report took into account merely the percentage of A grades in the various groups. This aver-

age for the whole student body including the fraternities was 64 per cent.

The average for the honor fraternities, Tau Beta Phi and Alpha Zeta, was 85, and for one departmental fraternity, Triangle, 66 per cent.

All the other fraternities were below normal, ranging from 57 for Acacia to 31 for the solitary sorority. Furthermore, it was shown that although fraternity members constituted but 30 per cent. of the total attendance, 70 per cent. of all students dropped for poor scholarship were fraternity men.

The attention of the fraternities was called to this state of affairs and various efforts were made to stimulate greater interest in scholarship among the members.

The Alford trophy was first competed for in 1912 and won by the Delta Tau Delta. This is a bronze plaque suitably mounted and provided with a silver plate for inscriptions and was offered by Professor T. G. Alford. It is awarded each semester to the Greek-letter fraternity making the best record in scholarship, and must be won four times to give permanent possession. It has so far been held by the Delta Tau Delta, Phi Kappa Sigma, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Kappa Sigma.

In 1914, Professor James Troop offered a silver cup for special and honorary fraternities not eligible for the Alford trophy. This was won in the spring of 1914 by Alpha Gamma Rho, an agricultural fraternity.

A somewhat uniform plan for recording the monthly standing of their members was adopted by the various clubs and fraternities, and in general much more attention was paid to scholarship than had hitherto been the case.

Besides the standings given out by the registrar's office in connection with the awarding of the trophies, decimal ratings for all fraternity and club members are prepared by the chairman of the committee on student organizations and sent to the respective chapters. Comparisons are made showing whether the members and the chapter as a whole are gaining or losing, and attention is called to the standing relative to other organizations.

As far as can be judged from the returns, the various agencies mentioned have stimu-