

# Alumni Bulletin

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No. 2

## RECOGNITION AND CHALLENGE

W. W. PATTY, Director

Physical Welfare Training Department  
and

Normal College of the American  
Gymnastic Union, Indiana University

Eighty-five years ago the North American Gymnastic Union, through its representatives assembled in national convention at Rochester, New York, took official action for the establishment of a normal school of gymnastics. The "War Between the States" interfered, but the Normal School of the North American Gymnastic Union was reorganized in 1866. Thus the first institution for the training of teachers of physical education in America began to function in a program for human betterment.

### Proud War Records

It is interesting to note that the delay from 1860 to 1866, in actually inaugurating the program of teacher-training was caused by the fact that 60 per cent of the total membership of the North American Gymnastic Union enlisted in the Union Army.

During World War I, in addition to the military service of many alumni, all of the men students and potential men students excepting one, engaged in the war effort. The student body of Normal College during that period consisted of 65 women and one man.

We are now engaged in the most tremendous war that the world has ever witnessed. As far as America, at least, is concerned, it is an honest effort to conserve a way of life in which individual and group welfare and opportunities are respected. Our college war record shows that many of our alumni are doing their full share both

in military service and out. At the college three men, classified as 4-F, carry the responsibility for keeping up its tradition as a co-educational institution. Twenty-five young women constitute the remainder of the enrollments of freshmen and sophomore classes at Indianapolis. On the Bloomington campus where the junior and senior classes complete their work, only two men, one an honorably discharged Navy man, have been enrolled this year of the Normal College group. The remainder are women.

Alumni, students and potential students of Normal College are making a proud record of military patriotism and efficiency in this war. Several women, as well as men, are in active military and war services this time. Hardly a week passes but news comes back to the school concerning alumni or students who have won promotions for merit or decorations for especial bravery in action.

### War Recognizes Physical Education Training

This is a total war. Everybody in America has a place in the program. Many of our alumni and students are making valuable contributions by helping in production and by outstanding professional and civic services.

It is significant to the college and its friends, however, that the special value of physical education training has been definitely recognized during this period. Several of our alumni were commissioned direct from civilian life for physical fitness and recreation work in the armed forces. Others earned commissions for duty of this sort after induction. Many were granted petty officer rank for this type of work.

Another recognition has been the place accorded to alumni in the civilian physical fitness program, especially in public schools. Never before has a nation-wide program for physical fitness been stressed in the United States of America. Army, Navy and Air Corps authorities have demanded an expansion and intensification of physical education. Moreover, it was discovered that the types of knowledge, skills and physical development stressed by the Normal College were second to none. Alumni of Normal College have played important roles in providing some of the most valuable leadership in the civilian program for physical fitness.

#### Current Recognition for Physical Education

We should all be pleased that the war has brought a renewed recognition of the value of physical fitness. We should all be glad that the Normal College program of physical education and of teacher-training have ranked high in this crisis. We should be proud that the Normal College alumni and faculty have made important contributions to the development of better physical fitness among Americans during this war emergency. But, what about the future? What about post-war America? What about the post-war world? Are not health, physical development, and wholesome recreation important during peace as well as war?

The Nation is becoming increasingly concerned about the problems of juvenile delinquency. Among the factors causing an apparent increase in anti-social conduct by youths is the so-called "breakdown" of the American family. Not only do parents and children seldom work together — they rarely play together. As an unprejudiced observer it seems to me that no organization has ever been effected in America that has provided as definitely and effectively for family physical development and health and for family recreation as the Turn-

ers. It would seem that, in addition to development of park systems and general community centers, increased support should be given to Turner organizations where all of the members of friendly families can come together for wholesome recreation.

Another source of satisfaction to friends of the Normal College and its program is the definite recognition given currently by educational leaders to physical education. Apparently it is to be accorded an increasingly important place in the school program of the future.

During 1944 two publications of special importance appeared. One of these, "Education for All American Youth," was developed by the Education Policies Commission of the National Education Association of the United States. On page 277 of this volume one finds the following statement:

"Physical Education is an indispensable part of the health program of the American City schools."

Again on page 278 the following quotation constitutes a partial index to current attitudes toward physical education:

"Each student follows a program of physical conditioning based on the results of his health examination and on information gained by the physical education teacher from other tests and from observation. This program is composed largely of group activities, yet it is made to suit the individual. Each student has his own schedule of activities, designed to develop strength, endurance, mastery of body mechanics, skills of physical performance and habits of exercise conducive to continuing health and fitness, all according to his own particular needs."

One finds physical education and health mentioned on approximately 75 of the 410 pages in this publication.

Another significant educational pub-

lication of 1944 is "Planning For American Youth," published by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. On page 33 of this pamphlet the suggested daily schedule provides that seven-seventieths of the school year be devoted to "family life, health and mental hygiene," and ten-seventieths be used for physical education in small high schools. For city secondary schools, according to the time schedule on page 47, one-sixth of the time for each year for every pupil is assigned to "health and physical fitness."

### The Challenge

From the foregoing it would appear that physical education not only should, but will continue to grow in importance.

The Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union has played an important role during pioneer years of physical education in America. It was the first teacher-training institution in this field in the United States. Its alumni started the first classes in physical education in public schools of the Nation at St. Louis. Its alumni, students and friends have made outstanding contributions to America's success in three major wars. Its products have led in solving physical fitness problems of World War II. Its trainees have helped to give leadership for almost a century in Turner Societies as effective family recreation agencies.

What shall be the role of Normal College in the future program of physical education, health and recreation? The answer is largely in the hands of students, alumni and friends of the College. The school has a proud past. Its program has never enjoyed as general an approval as at present. It is now a school of Indiana University, and as such enjoys the highest of academic and professional ratings. It is being operated as an autonomous school by the University during its freshman and sophomore years as a protection to the policies and practices developed during

almost a century. The university officials have continued generous, uncomplaining financial support to the college during this war period of reduced enrollments. At the present time there is the greatest demand for its graduates in history.

Indications are that the physical education program of the United States will continue to grow and improve. It would seem that Normal College should have an important part in that development. Its contribution will depend chiefly upon the number and quality of its students. Alumni, friends and faculty can make Normal College live and achieve in post-war America.

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### BOOK REVIEWS

Fundamentals of Bacteriology by Martin Frobisher. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia (\$4).

This is a comprehensive but simplified review of bacteriology which includes the practical as well as the theoretical aspect of this subject. It has brought the subject well up to date including the molds and yeast organisms including Penicillin which has been brought to the attention of all readers in the past few years. The material is well organized and presented in an understanding manner. The book covers almost all of the important aspects of its field without giving too much detail which so often detracts the interest of the reader who is just starting in this work. For a student it gives a very good generalized picture of what the bacteriological field covers. A book of this calibre would be a welcome addition to the library of all interested individuals.

Dr. C. E. Kime.

Laboratory Manual for General Bacteriology, by the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology of the University of Minnesota. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia (\$1).

This is an excellent manual for any

individual who is interested or is starting in the bacteriological field of study. For the beginning student this gives him an excellent insight of the subject. The organization of this manual has been carefully done in order to present the material in the most instructive and understanding manner.

The work is organized by starting with the most simple organizations and progressing to the more complicated growths. The student is given ample opportunity to learn the staining, growing and sterile technique. When used with a bacteriological text the student has a very good understanding of this subject.

Dr. C. E. Kime.

Encyclopedia of Sports, by Frank G. Menke. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. 628 pages (\$3.50).

This book is a revised and enlarged edition of the encyclopedia first published in 1930 under the title All Sports Record Book. At that time, Mr. Menke included 19 sports; now the book contains the background, history, rules and statistics of 118 sports; also the names of the champions for different years. In it one can find practically all available information about any sport.

How To Relax, by Wm. H. Miller, A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. 99 pages. (\$2).

As player and coach, "Bill" Miller wondered why certain athletes could achieve perfection in their fields; studying their methods he found that they instinctively did everything easily because they were not muscle-bound. For the last five years he has taught people how to relax and now publishes his method. He gives various exercises for this purpose.

Health Counseling for Girls, by Margaret Leonard. 130 pages, A. S. Barnes & Co., New York (\$1.50).

This small volume is well worth reading. Any teacher associated with adolescent girls can gain a more complete picture of the health problems of girls of this age. The first part of the book is

concerned with personal interviews with girls who are examples of typical problems found in any high school. The remainder of the book deals with the organization and administration of a health counseling program and its problems.

C. L. H.

#### RICHARD LIEBER MEMORIAL

A memorial to Col. Richard Lieber, founder of the state park system in Indiana and nationally known conservation advocate, has been established at Indiana University by his widow, Mrs. Emma Lieber (sister of our friend, Leo M. Rappaport). The memorial will include the extensive library on conservation gathered by Col. Lieber as well as valuable historical material dealing with the German immigration to America during the Nineteenth century. As a part of the memorial, the University will expand its department of Botany with the added instruction in the field of conservation, based on the Lieber material.

A few years before his death in April, 1944, Mr. Lieber published a book on conservation, "America's Natural Wealth," in which he wrote:

"From the sun and from the earth, the one the provider and the other the common mother, come our very life. This one fact, at least, must be clear to all, to the thinker as well as the toiler, to the grateful and careful user as well as the most prodigal despoiler and reckless exploiter of her bounty. The earth, down to the deepest mine, every drop of water in her lakes, seas and rivers, the air itself which sweeps and energizes all things—these are not only our living abode, not only our last resting place, but the source of maintenance, our happiness and our prosperity. Like a living mother, the earth keeps a well-filled larder of wonderful variety to gratify our needs, our comforts, even our whims and the desire for luxuries. The earth is our common mother and her riches, therefore, belong commonly to all her children."

## PERSONALS

## Appointments and Transfers

Arnold Trummer has been appointed instructor of the Moline, Ill., Turner Society.

Georgia Veatch has given up teaching Physical Education and is now the adjustment teacher at Thorpe school in Chicago.

Working in the newest high school in Rochester, built in 1935, Joseph M. Ulrich is head of the department of Health and Physical Education. The school has fine facilities including two large gymnasiums, an athletic field, a swimming pool, two corrective rooms, a laundry and two classrooms for teaching Hygiene. The staff consists of four women and three men.

Hilda Deibig Sharrock and Helen Walker Vornheder are substituting in the Cincinnati schools; Hilda is also busy with Scout work.

Mrs. Irene Doup Price is now employed in the Indianapolis schools.

Mrs. Herbert Broadwell (Dotty Spaulding) is teaching in the Webster Groves, Mo., high school.

## Weddings

Roberta Brogan has resigned her position in the Buffalo schools and was married Feb. 3 to Lt. W. R. VanNosttrand, Jr. She moved to Charleston, S. C., where her husband is in the A.A.F.

Betty Barnard and Henry Montoye were married in June in Indianapolis.

Another Normal College romance culminated in the marriage of Virginia Schaub and Albert Coakley, Dec. 31.

Bill Kleinman is also married, his wife's maiden name was Bernice Lieberman, from Hartford, Conn. She is a Ph. M. 3/c with the WAVES and also stationed at Sampson, N. Y.

## Births

Paul David arrived September 22 for Capt. and Mrs. Bertram Chalmer. Capt. Chalmer is now somewhere in the Pacific war area.

A little girl arrived September 21 at

the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pump in Syracuse.

Evelyn Larkin (Mrs. Chas. E. Bridges), of Vincennes, Ind., now has a little girl, born November 14. The Bridges have two boys, Billie, 9 years, and Stephen, 3 years.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Clara L. Hester has been elected secretary of the Indiana Student Health Council.

Leo Zwarg has two sons overseas. One is in Europe and one in the South Pacific.

Edward Krueck who has been on the sick list, is in Los Angeles on a three-month leave.

Mrs. Marian Dadeker Schoenly is substituting at Olney High School in Philadelphia.

Henry O. Meyer received his B. S. degree from Northwestern University in December.

Mrs. Nellie Passant Jessop is delighted with being a housewife. She resigned from teaching last year.

Fred Flessa who has been with General Motors in Buffalo for the last three years, has been transferred to St. Louis.

William A. Stecher writes constructive letters to members of the profession. At 87 he still has plenty to offer.

Gladys Lang has been elected secretary of the Central New York District of the Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Fred Foertsch is chairman of the Research Division of the Eastern District AAHPER. Capt. Fred, Jr., is with the Army Medical Corps in Hawaii.

Christmas greetings were received from Mrs. John Hobson (Mary Alice Shively) who lives in Los Banos, Cal., and has two children, Johnny and Mary Ann.

Alumni will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Franklin Vonnegut died in December. Mr. Vonnegut was for many years president of the Normal College Board of Trustees.



Doris Boettjer, critic teacher in the Indiana University's school in Bloomington, is now also conducting a correspondence course in Health Education for the University.

Early last fall Lucille Spillman made a very welcome change from Vocational High School in St. Louis to Beaumont High, where she is able to do a much more effective job of teaching.

Martha Gable is helping to plan a health area in the Philadelphia Workshop this summer. Martie also is chairman of Public Relations for the National Section of Women's Athletics.

The Cincinnati Physical Education department is preparing for the post-war work. Committees have been appointed to formulate plans for meeting the problems of the period after the war.

The older daughter of Arch and Mildred (Jost) McCartney, Mary Jane, was married in December to Lt. Wesley A. Schaefer and has resigned from her position as recreation director in Cincinnati.

George Vonnegut had the misfortune of breaking an arm as he fell down a stair in his home. He has fully recuperated and is as busy as ever in the big wholesale house of the Vonnegut Hardware Company.

Having moved seven times in the last four years, and three times in the last year, Mrs. John Tuthill (Elsa Hoyler) likes her new home in Old Hickory, near Nashville, Tenn. She has two daughters, Ruth and Jean.

Apparently not having enough work with teaching regularly at Senn High School and the Forward Turners, Carl Klafs has taken on a third job at the Austin Y. M. C. A. where he teaches swimming and gymnasium classes.

After spending one year in the Army, Nathan Goldberg received a medical discharge and is now teaching in Philadelphia at the Martin School where he handles Physical Education for deaf

and sight-saving children. He is also preparing to open his Camp Skymount for the sixth season. His twin daughters are blossoming out as gymnasts and are hoping for a trip some years hence to Indianapolis.

Dr. Carl B. Sputh took time off in January and he and Mrs. Sputh spent two weeks in New York "to relax." They visited Mr. Stecher in Philadelphia. They were entertained there by a group of Alumni and PEK brothers.

Grover Mueller has just been appointed to a nine-man committee in Philadelphia to plan for additional recreation facilities and opportunities. Schools, Bureau of Recreation and Fairmount Park Commission are represented.

After having undergone a minor operation in August, George Heeschen is working harder than ever, nine hours a day at a war plant and as instructor of the Cleveland East Side Turners. He and Lucille as well as their children are fine.

All the St. Louis Alumni are disappointed because they were looking forward to a good old-fashioned Normal College Reunion at the time of the National Conference in St. Louis in April. Now word has been received that the Conference will not be held.

Dr. Alexander J. Stoddard, Superintendent of Schools in Philadelphia, recently appointed a committee to plan for post-war building of physical education facilities. On the committee are principals, staff members and teachers. Grover Mueller, Fred Foertsch, Martha Gable are members.

We are very sorry to report the death in action of Lt. Alfred E. Townsend, husband of Elfriede Wandrey. Mrs. Townsend lives in Buffalo and teaches in the Gardenville school. She received an honorable discharge from the WACs. Her daughter, Suzanne Adair, is now over 10 months old.

During the fall term Louis Kittlaus, who had been teaching in the Harris Teachers' and Junior Colleges, was appointed director of Physical Education and Recreation of the St. Louis Public Schools. All of the St. Louis Normal College friends are happy to see him in his new position and wish the best for him.

William Jacobsen spends two-thirds of his time in Washington and one-third in his home town, Clinton, Iowa. When he was a member of the Navy Committee of the House of Representatives, he visited all Naval stations, including the islands in the Pacific and Atlantic. He has done 75,000 miles of air travel.

Dr. Lena Hoernig who retired from the Kansas City Public School system last year is very busy these days. Not only is she still swimming her mile a month, she is also teaching life saving for the Red Cross at some of the Kansas City high schools. Studying French and Spanish have been added to her routine and at the present writing she is taking a conducted tour through Mexico.

Marie Hanss and Louis Kittlaus, working at Teachers College in St. Louis, have developed a minor in Physical Education at the college which will supply trained physical education teachers for the elementary schools of St. Louis. This will represent a great step forward over physical education being handled by regular classroom teachers. In order to publicize their new course, Miss Hanss has invited interested groups of girls from all the H. S. to participate with her girls in several afternoon programs of dance, physical fitness, and sports. The programs of activity have been well received by the girls invited.

## CAMP BROSIUS

Another big season at Camp Brosius is assured for this year. Ever since fall, inquiries keep coming about both the children's camp and the resort hotel.

Last season, a total of 63 children attended the camp, some of them for part time. The College intends to limit enrollment to fifty and to admit children only for the full term of six weeks. The fee for this period which was \$150.00 until now, will probably be increased to \$175.00. Mrs. Clara L. Hester will be in charge of the camp again. Alumni who wish to recommend children for the camp should write to the College office soon.

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Lt. Caryl Gaines is now at the Quartermaster Depot in Jeffersonville, Ind.

Lorraine Smith is with the Red Cross in the South Pacific.

Fay Skerker is a Petty Officer 1/c in the Physical Education Department at Hunter College, training WAVES.

Lavinia Davidson is with the Red Cross in France.

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## STECHER'S GAMES AND DANCES

The revised (fifth) edition of Stecher's Games and Dances is an attractive and valuable volume. Before he and Grover Mueller started on the revision, Mr. Mueller asked a large number of department heads for their opinions regarding the material. Some of it was then eliminated and new games, dances and other features were added. The first editions of the book have therefore become obsolete. Every teacher of physical education should have the new edition and it should be in the libraries of schools and colleges. This book has many features not found in other books of this type.

It is published by the Theo. Presser Co., Philadelphia, and the price is \$3.00.

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Every P. E. teacher should be a member of the national association.

Its Journal alone is worth the money.

# ALUMNI BULLETIN

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OFFICERS: Gladys B. Larsen, Chicago, President; Lucille Spillman, St. Louis, Vice-President; Meta Greiner, Chicago, Secretary; Curt Toll, Indianapolis, Treasurer.

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Address all Communications to

ALUMNI BULLETIN

415 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis 4, Ind.

## CORRESPONDENTS

Buffalo—Roberta Brogan, 792 Ellicott St. (3)  
Chicago—Gladys Larsen, 2016 Greenleaf Ave. (45)

Cincinnati—Hazel C. Orr, 1319 Avon Dr. (29)  
Cleveland and Vicinity—Mrs. Ralph Shafer, 26 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, O.

Detroit—Emil L. Pletzt, 8735 E. Jefferson Ave.

Indianapolis—Mrs. Evelyn Romelser, 2437 E. Riverside Drive (8).

Kansas City—Ruth Ann Frasier, Northeast Jr. H. S. (1).

Milwaukee—Esther Heiden, 1525 W. Wright St.

Philadelphia—Dr. Henry C. Schneider, 1084 Granite St.

Pittsburgh—Mrs. Harvey Lecollier, 620 St. Louisworth Ave., Mt. Lebanon, Pa. (16).

St. Louis—Vera Ulbricht, 4008 Giles Ave.  
Syracuse—Francis Mulholland, 112 Wellesley Rd.

## COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE?

The question of introducing compulsory military training for our young men has caused spirited discussion among educators as well as in other quarters. One can hardly pick up any educational journal without seeing some reference to this important subject. Our friend Bill Streit, Director of Physical Education in the Cincinnati Schools, has distributed a symposium favoring military service, from which the following is reprinted.

### Bill Streit Says Yes

Peace is a splendid ideal, but unfortunately we are not living in a world where our desire for peace insures our having it. We wanted peace in 1917 and again in 1939, but each time we were unprepared and so we had war. We will again want peace when this war is over, but we will be a stupid people indeed if, for

the third time in a generation, we are again impotent before a war-mongering enemy.

With universal conscription, about a million young men would be under training at any given time, and if we supplement this actual and potential (reserve) army with a professional army, navy and air force, we will be prepared for any emergency which may arise in the unstable, unpredictable world of tomorrow.

While military preparedness may not prevent wars entirely, it undoubtedly will make other nations afraid to attack us, or afraid to start trouble if they know we are ready and willing to act against them.

Only 10% of our young men enter college. A year of service in the army or navy would provide for developing technical skills and would give experience in many activities which could be applied to the business of making a living in civilian life—motors, radio, keeping records, running messes, dealing with personnel. This intensive vocational education would benefit each individual and would augment the industrial power of the nation.

A year of military training for all would lessen the dangers of unemployment. At any given time, a million young men would be removed from job competition.

A year of military training will afford discipline which American youth needs. We hear much of the delinquency and crime which hits its peak in the late teens. While not a cure-all by any means, the training would accustom the youth to discipline which has been lacking in home and school; it would tend to develop consideration for others; it would cause them to realize the value of working together and it would develop a respect for authority, attention to duty, obedience to superiors, and faithful execution of orders; in short, a more law-abiding citizenry.



A year of military service, to which all young men, rich or poor or of whatever race, might be subjected, would have a democratizing influence. Here they would share the same living accommodations, the same food, the same duties, the same pleasures and the same hardships. Through practice, which is the best teacher, they would learn what service means. They would learn by experience to serve the nation as well as themselves.

Streit continues by stressing the resultant improvement in health and by giving figures on various polls, especially among educators, favoring compulsory military training, but he concludes by saying: "Regardless of whether we have military training or not, I believe that an adequate, continuous and graded program of health and physical education in our schools from Kindergarten through college is absolutely essential to national preservation and is a necessary foundation to protective military strength."

#### President Morgan Says No

Opposition to compulsory service comes from church groups, some educators, labor unions, groups of liberals, and others. One argument is that it will tend to militarize the nation; that it will not give the men training for civilian life as the Army is now opposed to give them any but training for combat during their service year. The opponents also say that after this war de-militarization should be compulsory for all nations so that an attack as that of the Germans and the Japanese can not occur again. They also demand that decision on this important question should be delayed until the 11 million men in service are home and can voice their opinions. One of the opponents is Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, president of Antioch College and for a number of years one of the directors of TVA. Dr. Morgan writes in "Antioch Notes":

Announcement is made of plans for a

permanent program of universal compulsory military training for one year for all boys of seventeen or eighteen. Since the enactment of this proposed legislation would profoundly change our national tradition, the American system of education, and the structure of our national life, it is important that the content of the program and the way in which it is formulated should have full and careful deliberation by the American people. Lack of such consideration would endanger some of the best qualities of American life.

Purely military control of eighteen-year-old boys twenty-four hours a day for twelve months, with an intensive program of indoctrination, would largely fix life outlooks. It does so in other countries, and would here. Yet of this crucial period the War Department states: "There will be no place in a sound universal military training program for activities that are non-essential to the task of preparing our young men for combat."

For a country to lose perspective and go "all out" for any one element of the national life, no matter how important, is unwise. In designing a program of universal training all major national interests should share. The coordinating power should not be any one interest, such as the military, but a permanent commission of national policy which can keep a sense of proportion for the whole.

At most crucial points in the U. S. Army, West Point men and attitudes control. Dominating the regular army, they would dominate universal military training if the army were in control.

The pattern of training at West Point originated more than a century ago when the chief precedents were European autocracies bent on indoctrinating abject obedience and maintaining rigid social caste. West Point adopted the then nearly universal attitudes. Taking the able boys of eighteen with immature, easily molded

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### THOSE IN SERVICE

Fred Ploetz is still with the Army Air Force in China, but now with the rank of major. Congratulations!

George Farkas has received his commission and is now in a training school for the Merchant Marine in Mississippi. He visited in Indianapolis for a few weeks before going there.

Another visitor during January was Fred Martin who did not know at the time where he will be sent next.

Richard Frazier has recently been promoted to a captaincy in the Army; he is with the forces on the west front.

Two of the Buffalo graduates, Lt. Kenneth Schreiber and Pfc. Joseph Ciesielski, received medical discharges from the Army and are now teaching in Buffalo high schools.

Lt. Jack Brogan has been appointed Executive Officer at his new Naval Base in New Guinea where he is in charge of 44 officers and 600 enlisted men. He thinks the most important result of his promotion is the possession of a Quonset hut all by himself, complete with radio, electric refrigerator and shower.

The New York Times printed a dispatch from its correspondent for the Philippines who had been aboard a patrol torpedo boat running missions about Leyte Island and the bay of Mindanao. The commander of the boat was our Victor Mikity.

Donald Heintz who is on duty on the Atlantic, wants to know whether the Alumni Bulletin is still published; he had not seen one for some time. His mail is held in New York now until his return from trips, and the last Bulletin was immediately sent to him.

### Favors Home-Coming

In a recent letter addressed to Alumni Treasurer Curt Toll, Lt. Harry Warnken writes:

"Just wanted to tell you, the editor and all the contributors to the Alumni Bulletin how much I enjoy reading each copy of the Bulletin from our beloved

Normal College. I trust my membership is now up to date, and I hope all Normalites, wherever they may be, are supporting The Bulletin in order that we may all retain contact with our Alma Mater, and indirectly, with our many friends of college days.

"As I am still fighting the 'Battle of Sheppard Field,' my experiences in the service are anything but newsworthy. My stay in this state has been of such length that I'm even beginning to talk like a native son.

"The greatest event of 1944 in Texas as far as my wife and I are concerned, was the arrival of our second boy, Robert Bruce, on the nineteenth of December. Perhaps there will still be a Normal College for him and his brother to attend when that time comes.

"An answer to the editor's question in The November Bulletin, I for one should like to see a large Homecoming planned as soon as practical after the end of the war."

Herbert Broadwell has been promoted to Lieut. (j.g.) in the Navy.

Stationed at Fort Ord, Cal., for a long time, Sgt. Huntley Riley is now overseas.

Christmas greetings came from Len Pielmeier who is Red Cross Field Director with the Infantry; he has been in England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

### Another Bulletin Friend

Robert Casey, Ph. M. 1/c, is another former student who likes to read The Alumni Bulletin. He wrote:

"I have just received The Bulletin. It is nice to know the whereabouts of class-mates. I also enjoy reading of the many who are in service. By the way, Normal College must by now have quite a number in the services. I was recently thinking what a grand Homecoming the Normal College will have some day and I am anxious to participate in the joyous event.

"I am still on a ship used in training

crews in minecraft. Although there is little color in such work, it is very interesting and dangerous. As there is no medical officer on board I have quite a responsibility. I am approached many times for advice on many subjects, even such as properly belong to a chaplain. Me—a chaplain!"

Lt. Robert Klingler got the jungle fever on Saipan where he was stationed for several months; he is now in a hospital in Honolulu and will remain there for another two or three months before he will be fit again for active service.

Warren Steele has had enough of service in Alaska and is glad for transfer to the University of Washington in Seattle.

Tom Holevas and Robert Marx are now in training at Camp Lejeune, N. C.

Frank Bosse is in France, in General Patton's Army.

Lieut. Barret Diehl has been transferred to Columbus, Ohio.

### George Kuhn in Belgium

A very interesting letter came from George W. Kuhn, now with the Second Evacuation Hospital in Belgium. He wrote on December 31:

"Suppose everyone back home has plans for this evening and intends to usher in the new year in a big way. During the holiday season we over here wish that we could be home. Of course, we have our celebrations in a small way, but nothing like old times. Our Christmas was enjoyed, but all thoughts were of the folks at home. Everyone did his best to cheer the patients in our hospital by decorating rooms, hallways, vestibule, operating room, etc., with Christmas things. We had a big tree, decorated by the boys of our group, which we placed at the entrance to the hospital. Our messhall, consisting of two yard tents placed together, was decked out with bells, tinsel, etc., and even had sheets on the tables. The evening meal consisted of rice soup, turkey, dressing, salad, potatoes, cran-

berries, pie and coffee. Just like we would expect if we were at home. An officer who has charge of the operating room, gave the boys a bottle of Scotch which was disposed of in short order. The doctor I work with gave me a bottle of white wine which we drank before dinner. The spirit at this time was great, but after a few hours we realized that it was just another day. Let's hope that this year will bring a quick end of the conflict.

"Yesterday I received The Alumni Bulletin and it did my heart good to read the news. I read it through three times for fear I would miss something. The Bulletin is one thing I look forward to and enjoy reading. Things I would skip formerly are now read with interest. The news about the boys in service is read over and over and brings back memories of each man mentioned. Let's have more of it.

"During my length of service in the Army, three years, I have spent two and one-half years overseas and lived in quite a few places: Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, France, Belgium and damn nearly in Germany. The only place I really enjoyed was Scotland. You can't beat the people there for hospitality and friendliness. That old saying that the Scots are tight is all wrong; they were the most generous people we have met.

"Spent six months over here on the continent so far; that alone entitles one to an overseas bar of which our outfit has five. Came over to France on D-17—should have been here four days sooner, but the old channel kicked up a bit at that time, so we just had to anchor until the storm died down. No doubt you read about this worst storm in 40 years, well we were in it. Our first job was taking care of wounded in the St. Lo sector where we had quite a battle. What a sight it was when the Flying Forts came over 3,000 strong; the sky was dotted with an endless stream of them."

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Dr. Herman B Wells, President  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana

### Compulsory Military Service?

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personalities, West Point puts them through four habit-forming years, so compelling conformity and intensively indoctrinating the West Point temper and social and political outlook that this pattern of mind is fixed for life, except for unusually vigorous personalities. With the inbreeding of faculty at West Point this pattern has been largely maintained. In some respects it is fine. Seldom is there evidence of cowardice, dishonesty, or treasonable action, and there is vigor and decision; but also there is an anti-democratic, inflexible, dogmatic attitude, deadly to the spirit of inquiry.

#### Army Undemocratic

In its social and political outlook West Point is foreign to the free, democratic spirit of America. Unquestioning subjection to superiors on duty, and undemocratic social stratification off duty, are well known. Regular army domination of a universal training program would transmit these traits to all America. The regular army opinion of democracy is expressed in the army training manual in use about a decade ago:

"Democracy: A government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any other form of direct expression. Results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic, negating property rights . . . Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy."

This unguarded public expression was eliminated after public opposition, but the spirit remains.

The West Point process of training is inherently deadening to originality. In peace times the U. S. Army Engineers—West Point men—controlled vast engineering works. That control has been characterized for three quarters of a century by unimaginative conformity and conservatism, ponderous expenditure in place of creative design and economy, the heavy hand of authority, and resistance to new ideas. Except in explicitly military matters, the alert, creative spirit of civilian electrical, mechanical, and automotive engineering is largely absent. The present superiority of American equipment is chiefly the product of civilian engineering, research and initiative, often over the opposition of the regular army. In crisis, civilian America comes to the rescue in engineering, organization, transportation, and psychology.

Universal military training would deeply affect education, social and industrial life, and resources for other needs. If educators should try to dictate military strategy, military men would object. Neither should military men assume exclusive authority on training which affects citizenship, health, and other vital interests.

This program is not needed for the present war. Existing legislation is adequate. It is for permanent national policy. To press it when America is too preoccupied with war to safeguard other interests would be cynical strategy, appropriate, perhaps, to catch an enemy off guard, but not in dealing with the American people.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE