

St. John's Collegian

Vol. LVII—No. 12

ANNAPOLIS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1944

Price: 10c

The Quadrivial Arts

A week ago Wednesday Mr. Klein gave a lecture for the freshmen on the quadrivium: the four arts, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy. He gave the meaning of the Greek word *episteme* as understanding, knowledge, or science. *Tekne* comes from the root *tek*, meaning to generate, and its meaning is production, or knowledge how. In contrasting the trivium with the quadrivium, the former are arts, while the latter have more the character of sciences. It would seem that, insofar as each involve both "know-how" and "know that," this distinction would not be valid, but it is harder to expound the science in the trivium than to expound its art, while the opposite holds true in the case of the quadrivium.

Mr. Klein then went on to explain the dual system of positional notation in an effort to show the arbitrary character of signs and symbols. He showed that for the number *three* there are at least four different signs, but the real nature of "three" is not contained in these signs. The number itself has neither position nor shape, while the sign has both. He stated that men must use signs; this is obvious in the case of communication, but it would seem that a man could think within himself in terms of the ideas themselves rather than the signs for the ideas.

The quadrivium only seems ambiguous in the case of false operation, because of its precise and scientific nature, while the trivium enjoys ambiguity as do puns, which are a low form of the trivium.

The lecturer went on to describe the nature of the four parts of the quadrivium. Shapes and position have nothing to do with arithmetic; they are in the realm of geometry.

The ability to understand the nature of a circle is due to a sort of spatial intuition. He asked if circles exist. The answer would obviously be, "What do you mean by exist?" The modern idea on this subject is that the mathematical or abstract circle is taken out of the concrete "circle," the word here being used to indicate anything which closely resembles the mathematical circle. This is one of the incredible powers of the human mind; as is counting, which is one of the greatest mysteries. Mathematics arose by a sort of abstract formulation of the "pattern of ideas" applied to material things, whose properties may be apprehended by the senses. The unit is the most important entity of mathematics; yet it has no definition: Cf. Euclid, Bk. 7, Def. 1: "A unit is that by virtue of which each of the things that exist is called one."

Physics is the science of movable bodies, while geometry is the science of shapes abstracted from these bodies; therefore physics depends upon geometry, and geometry depends upon arithmetic, since number is prior to form.

Astronomy is an old name for physics, since it is "the science which handles movable shapes within this universe. Therefore astronomy depends upon geometry and arithmetic.

Music, in the extended sense of the word, is that which treats of ratio and harmony in material things, while ratio and harmony among numbers is a part of arithmetic. The fifth book of Euclid is the greatest example of harmonics. It seems that the eyes "see" numbers, while the ears "hear" ratio, but it may be contended that the eyes see ratio also, since the eyes perceive the beauty of the golden rectangle, and that the ears hear number, as in rhythm. Mr. Klein described music as being "numbers in motion."

P. P.

War Meeting

Last Sunday, the program of short lectures on the progress of the war was resumed. Colonel William N. Taylor, one-time European representative of the Dupont munitions cartel, was the speaker.

Colonel Taylor started with the cold fact that there always has been war. There have been 1300 years of it since the birth of Christ, in contrast to only 700 years of peace.

It is under this fundamental precept, that a science of war has been established. As the German General Staff has perfected this science to the utmost degree, the speaker covered primarily the theories of its chief exponent, General von Clausewitz.

War is a legal function, and as such should be waged only for the good of the state; and after all diplomatic means have failed. The important point in this consideration is the fact that it makes little difference whether the war is "won" or "lost" on the tactical level. If the peace is won (i. e., the state derives some good from the conflict) the war is considered to have been victorious.

There are two kinds of war: Real war, waged intelligently by professional soldiers, and entered into only when no other means could achieve the political and economic end of the state; and false war, violating these principles, and which, according to Clausewitz should be avoided.

Once a state has committed itself to war, the military assumes control, and plans the strategy. The essence of strategy is to impose one's will on the enemy. In other words, it is to fight when and where success seems most probable. Tactics is the means to fulfil the commands of strategy. To illustrate this, Col. Taylor cited an example from the Russo-Polish war in 1920. Although it was primarily a tribute to one Lesky And His Motorcycle, it served as partial demonstration of the theories just propounded.

In total war, personal feelings must

be completely discounted. Lives are valuable, but there are instances where lives must be lost, and (this is especially true in defensive warfare). There it should be the plan of the commanding officer that his losses are sustained by second-line divisions, in order that the first-line troops can be used for offensive purposes.

In keeping with this theory on the purpose of war, Clausewitz advocates, that once a war is certain to end in defeat, it should be discontinued immediately; that the state may suffer as little unnecessary damage as possible. Planning for the next conflagration is begun at once.

This is the way the military command of defeated nations function, Col. Taylor stated. A victorious nation pushes aside the men who have won its war, and the statesmen take over; leaving this nation open to attack by the loser, who has kept his high command intact. This is the cycle of war.

The views expressed by Col. Taylor are shared by all competent professional soldiers. His ideas concerning the conduct of war must be accepted by civilians, for once a conflict is begun, "total war" must be used to bring it to a quick and successful ending. However, the tacit assumption that since there has always been war, therefore we shall of necessity continue in this way, is somewhat doubtful. The speaker's background leaves him no other alternative, but to statesmen, and to the peoples of the world, war has been mostly a thing to be abhorred, and innumerable efforts have been made to preserve peace. The speaker seemed to offer a natural reason and a justification for general staffs, and with this the German General Staff—denounced by the Allies as the cause of wars on the Continent of Europe. He also may be said to have advocated—although implicitly—the old formula that might makes right.

Col. Taylor's proposition, that the handling of peace should be done by the military, also sounded lucrative when he stated it. Upon closer investigation, however, we can arrive only at the conclusion, that peace would consist of a series of truces, during which bigger and better wars

Letter to the Editor

Before I proceed to the details in Mr. Thau's letter of July 20th, let me offer a few lines which concern it as a whole. The letter itself deserves a word of praise for it is the first sign of true interest which has come from the student group in regards to the political functioning of their cooperative. There has been a rather discouraging tendency to look at this organization from a standpoint of personal interest, with little or no regard as to its success as a body serving the entire community. This lack of interest was clearly evident at the meetings held for all cooperative members. At such gatherings, which were held only once or twice a term, only a handful of members would be present. Many students were unwilling to understand and support the organization of which they were a part. Mr. Thau has brought up a problem which concerns every member of the cooperative; and to a somewhat lesser degree, every member of the community. This problem can be solved successfully only if it is given interest and attention by the cooperative membership in its entirety. For any democratic institution can stand only so long as it receives the support and interest of its members.

Mr. Thau seems very concerned over the word "Cooperative" in the organization's title. He has offered two objections to the sense in which this word has been so far interpreted. First he states that "the manager must remember he is here to serve them

would be planned. To prevent this has been the aim of most Allied statesmen since the end of the last war. The extreme pacifist view of total disarmament is also erroneous, and an enforced peace, similar to the *Pax Romana* is perhaps the only way order can be maintained on the Continent for any length of time. This necessitates a military high command, but it should not be in the dominating position of that of Germany, nor should such an ordering body be neglected, as in the Allied nations during peace time.

C. H. B.

(the members), not to serve himself or to serve the townspeople (for their benefit is of secondary character in relation to the benefit of the members)." I think that it is clearly understood that the manager is a connecting link between the members and the townspeople. His entire purpose is to serve both groups with the greatest possible success. Should he place his personal interests above those of either group, it would be due to a misunderstanding in his own mind, rather than to any political weakness on the part of the cooperative. I find it hard to accept, as a simple fact, that the interests of the townspeople should be secondary to those of the members. For it is difficult to draw a line between the good of one and the other. If a student fails to report for a job or does not perform his duties, he is not only harming himself, but also his employer and the cooperative. The very word cooperative implies a *working together toward a common goal*. It is against the cooperative principle to place the interests of the individual over those of the group.

The second of Mr. Thau's objections is to the financial principles of the cooperative. He states two basic concepts governing any cooperative. In brief these concepts are: (a) "one pays for services rendered, and not for membership privileges." (b) "payment shall be in proportion to services rendered, and not at an uniform rate." He states further that the present organization violates these two concepts. I must agree that, if these principles are interpreted in such a broad sense as to include the entire student body, and as to demand a carefully graduated system of payment, the Cooperative fails to completely fulfill them. Yet if these terms are interpreted in a somewhat different manner, I think it will be obvious that the Cooperative is making a definite effort to follow them out. It is true that only members have the power of voting at Cooperative elections; but membership is open to every student who is in good standing. In fact every opportunity is given to students to join. They become members, *with full voting powers*, after a very slight down payment; or with the payment of the "flat rate" for one job. If a student

has no desire to make this payment (which can usually be re-earned on one job), then it hardly seems reasonable to give him a voice in determining the affairs of the organization.

In regard to the statement that "payment should be in proportion to services rendered," I again believe an attempt is made to fulfill the principle upon which this statement rests. Expressed more simply, it demands that students be taxed according to the amount of money earned. Yet a basic principle of the Cooperative is that all jobs be distributed equally among members. Thus every member is given an opportunity to take a large number of jobs. All members are offered the same number of jobs. If one takes twenty, while another accepts only six, it seems only fair that the former be allowed the additional money which he earned. I cannot see the value of "taxing" a person who takes greater advantage of his opportunities than one who allows them to slip by.

As a consequence of these two suggestions, Mr. Thau has proposed the following changes: (a) that payment be made at the end of a term; (b) that payment be graduated in a ratio to the amount earned; and (c) that the Cooperative keep a constant balance of \$50. He states that if these changes are made, "-----everyone who takes a job becomes a member, and there can be no miscalculation as to the amount required, since a term's expenses will not have to be guessed at, but will be known definitely." The first of these results already exist, for upon taking a job a student automatically becomes a Cooperative member. It is difficult to see how such changes would bring about the second result; for one of the chief difficulties facing the organization is collection of dues from members. If this is postponed until the end of the term, the Cooperative will have to complete a tremendous task in a few hurried days. In addition the Cooperative would have no funds whatsoever to build upon during the earlier part of the term. Mr. Thau says that these difficulties can be easily solved in the former case by taking a student's debt from his caution fee, and in the latter instance by requesting \$50 as a financial basis from the College treas-

ury. This loan would be paid back as soon as possible. He states in the case of the caution fee, "I see no reason why the College should object to this, since it is but a transference of debt." But this is the very point to which I think an objection should be made. Once the College assumes the responsibility of serving as a financial support to the Cooperative, the organization ceases to exist for its title is the "St. John's Student Cooperative." Perhaps it would then be a true Cooperative, but it would no longer be a student organization.

WHITTLE JOHNSTON.

Backcampus

Chase-Stone's baseball aggregation continued to hold the attention of the college's athletically-minded students as they walloped out their fourth victory of the summer season over the vaunted new Freshman ball club on Friday afternoon. Durlach pitched an excellent game and set a season's record, turning in a one-hitter. Some credit is due also to Durlach's battery companion, Ned Eissler, who talked the Freshmen into losing. The West Pinkney team got off to an early start making two runs in the first inning. The runs were both unearned however and Durlach from then on had everything in control. The Chase-Stone boys bunched hits in the fourth, fifth and sixth to win 9-2. Note: Chase-Stone's recent performances are reminiscent of the showing of last fall's Paca-Carroll football team.

Two weeks ago, we gave away some orchids to a member of the West Pinkney softball team. Since then we have suffered much and have been accused of injecting hackneyed and trite phrases in what should be a column of literary perfection. This week we try again, hoping to establish a precedent of award-giving. An autographed baseball glove to the Chase-Stone team for their fine come-back.

By way of contrast we turn to the East Pinkney "nine old men" who lost their third game of the season to West Pinkney. Afield, aplate, and apitching, East Pinkney looked bad as they lost 7-2. Maybe it was the green and gold hats that the freshmen were wearing; or perhaps it was the sterling performance of people like Higman, Hungerford and Grover; but the East Pinkney team couldn't seem to click.

Turning from baseball, we see much activity this Saturday. At 10:00 A. M. there will be reading knowledge examinations, also a track meet. This is really an interesting clash and we are anxious to see whether Mr. Keiffer or Mr. Horney will get the bigger turnout. Anyway this is the first in a series of four track meets which is being held to prepare for the big meet the first week-end in September.

Two new faces are now behind the plate sticking up fingers. Mr. Benedict and Mr. Ross have been added to the athletic staff. We wish all the success we can muster to these two, and if they fail we will become a gadfly, but if they succeed we will be very free with the autographed baseball gloves.

Announcement

Immediately preceding Mr. Martin's lecture on Law on Friday evening at seven o'clock, a meeting will take place in the Great Hall which should be of political and ritualistic interest to every member of the community. The constitutional body of the Social Cooperative will meet to ratify the constitution, which has been drawn up in accordance with the cooperative idea. Every member of the college, student and tutor, is of necessity involved in this operation, which may have an interesting relationship to the lecture which will follow it.

College Meeting

Last night's meeting was started by Mr. Mack's statement concerning the new Cotillion Cooperative. He pointed out that since the resignation of the old Cotillion Board, all social activity depended on the students themselves. The impetus will be given by the newly-founded cooperative. Tonight at seven o'clock, the constitution of this organization will be presented to the College at large for ratification. It is urged that everybody attend, that all may have their voice in the forming of this new enterprise. The meeting will be held in the Great Hall.

The next speaker was Mr. Barr. He first spoke of the coming war-meeting this Sunday evening. Messrs. Kieffer, Klein, and Nabokov will discuss the present purge in the German General Staff—a fitting sequel to last week's speech by Col. Taylor, only discussed in more idealistic terms.

A note on war-meetings in general: They are held only when there is something worthwhile to be discussed. Suggestions as to the choice of subjects and speakers from the student body are welcomed and encouraged by the administration.

In the name of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Barr requested that everybody sit in their appointed places during lectures. This is to avoid being marked absent when not seated properly.

Then Mr. Barr launched into a short lecture on property—College property in particular. The point of his argument was, that property is only real, when it performs a useful function for its owner. This is in contrast to "false" property, held legally, but for no apparent utilitarian reason. He illustrated with references to the much beaten-upon Strohmeier and his Housing Project, College finances, the purchase of Annapolis antiques by St. John's and their resale, and so on. His closing statement was, that real property is dedicated to some function, and that we must learn to use it properly.

Your paraphrase of this is as good as ours, but our guess is, that it concerned doorknobs and furniture.

THE ST. JOHN'S COLLEGIAN is the official news organ of St. John's College, published every Friday during the academic year. Entered as second class matter October 15, 1919, at the Post Office at Annapolis, Maryland, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

CALENDAR

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Fri., Aug. 4—Sat., Aug. 12, 1944

Friday, August 4:

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Athletics

Back Campus

8:00 P. M.

Formal Lecture—*Laws and Not Men*—James S. Martin

Great Hall

Saturday, August 5:

10:00 A. M.—12:00 M.

Athletics

Back Campus

10:30 A. M.

Faculty Meeting

McDowell 24

8:30 P. M.

The Film Club presents *What Price Glory?*

Iglehart Hall

Sunday, August 6:

8:00 P. M.

Progress of the War—*Behind the German Purge*—John Kieffer, Jacob Klein, Nicolas NabokovKing Wm. Room
Woodward Hall

Monday, August 7:

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Athletics

Back Campus

Tuesday, August 8:

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Athletics

Back Campus

4:00-6:00 P. M.

Recorded Concert

Coogle Hall

Wednesday, August 9:

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Athletics

Back Campus

4:00-6:00 P. M.

Recorded Concert

Coogle Hall

Thursday, August 10:

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Athletics

Back Campus

7:30 P. M.

College Meeting

Great Hall

Friday, August 11:

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Athletics

Back Campus

4:00-6:00 P. M.

Recorded Concert

Coogle Hall

8:00 P. M.

Formal Lecture—*Virgil*
Jacob Klein

Great Hall

Saturday, August 12:

10:00 A. M.—12:00 M.

Athletics

Back Campus

4:00-6:00 P. M.

Recorded Concert

Coogle Hall