

The Professional Fraternity

by

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THE PROFESSIONAL FRATERNITY

INTRODUCTION

In all of man's association and contacts with others in life's activities, overtly or secretly, he wishes to feel that he is wanted; that he belongs. Happiness, success or satisfaction from efforts to serve can only be achieved through a knowledge that his contributions are desirable and acceptable in the sight of fellow men. The personal satisfaction of being sought out for the pleasure of companionship or the value of ability cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents or material things. There is the abstract value of the knowledge that moral, social and professional standards maintained have been recognized by others. In competition with fellow men the qualifications sighted and properly exhibited exemplify a dignity and respect for what is worthwhile in life. On this side of the ledger is personal gain and satisfaction, a happiness and security in the everyday business of living.

APPRAISAL

Opportunities to improve one's position in society, in his profession or in his position among men in any particular matter come through recognition for services well performed. Other men want to know what you have done and what are the contributions that qualify you for special consideration. Of special concern is your attitude toward your fellow men, toward your work, toward religion, toward your peers. Whether or not you have been accepted among men is an indication of your attitude and effort as wholesome and well directed. Membership in organizations of your profession is one evidence of the fact that you have been accepted and that you do have the right attitude, personality and character for further opportunities. It is a measure of worth to others.

Through affiliation with others in an association there comes a broadening of acquaintance of matters of interest to many. The knowledge of the problems common to others with similar interest develops a keen insight for solutions not otherwise possible. Special contacts divulge important matters from the broad thinking of others to make it possible to take a stand and to help make decisions. Understanding and reasoning result through mutual aid and exchange of ideas.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Experience in organizational activities is of special value in the development of a person. Only through organization can movements of mutual benefit be effective. One needs to learn to work with others. Improvement in a profession or in the laws or statutes governing rules and regulations on a state and federal level, among other things, have been effective through organizational activity. Such experience fits one to be a leader, to make a contribution to a community, and in general to be better informed and a more valuable citizen. Greater accomplishments are possible, individually and collectively through participation and experience in organizational procedure.

MILITARY AND FRATERNITY MEN

A recent national news publication carried an interview type article in which a high ranking officer of the United States military command who had made a special study stated that G.I.s in prison camps in Japan and Korea seemed less organized than other soldiers of other nationalities. He stated that the seriously ill among American G.I.s were sometimes placed away from the others and left to suffer with little or no nursing care. There were G.I.s in prison camps who became stooges for their captors to curry favor from the enemy. This state, the officer said, occurred in a significant number of cases and appeared to stem from the background and early life of the American soldier. He grew up less concerned about his fellow men in distress. This situation is created when one fails to learn to live with his fellow man. Life among fraternity brothers engenders a closer human relationship, a brotherly love. In the opinion of your writer, fraternity men would less likely be responsible for such demoralizing action. Fraternization teaches respect and admiration for others and for things. This is one of life's most cherished attributes.

ATTRIBUTES OF MEMBERSHIP IN A PROFESSIONAL FRATERNITY

The professional fraternity is unique in that it makes available all of the benefits of fraternal affiliation. It offers, in addition, the unusual benefits which belong to a membership comprised exclusively of men who have chosen the same profession. A closer faculty relationship is possible, which dispels the invisible barrier that often exists. Scholarship is perhaps the primary requisite of college training and it is interesting to note that records of professional

fraternity members reveal that they usually maintain scholastic averages above the general student body. This is not only the result of individual efforts, but also the encouragement of members to achieve scholastic excellence in order that credit may be brought to the fraternity and to the profession.

Experience in working with others is another of the important contributions of the fraternity system. Scientists in all fields find it necessary to seek the advice of others on special problems. Through professional fraternity affiliation there will always be someone who can be reached that would take a more personal interest in the individual and his problem.

Membership in professional fraternities promotes greater knowledge through a free exchange of ideas and information. A mutual understanding often binds them together in lifelong business, professional and social relationships.

CONCLUSION

We believe these are the essential elements in the growth development from the formative years to a mature, sound, rational individual who can help to make a good society and to make the greatest contribution to the welfare of mankind. To become a worthy citizen and a respected member of society should be the goal of every good American. The professional fraternity will serve to guide human conduct in the early years to produce a man who individually and collectively can be depended upon to serve with distinction in his chosen profession and as a citizen. Call these advantages listed idealistic if you will, but they certainly represent a goal to strive for, and it is true that the fraternity man develops these characteristics to a greater degree than is possible by other means. It is a measure of personality and character that distinguishes a fraternity man from many other college men without similar experience.

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