

***LEWIS PORTER GOOD**

By A. P. BLACK, *Grand Chancellor-Historian*

Just seventeen years ago, in December 1919, two young men were engaged in an animated discussion in a room on the campus of Davidson College. They had a common vision and a common purpose, that of founding a national honorary chemical fraternity. Theirs was the opportunity, eagerly seized upon, to create from the warp and woof of their own enthusiasm and their love for chemistry an organization which should reward scholarship and character and which should bind its members together with bonds of good fellowship. One of these men was Lewis Porter Good; the other was M. A. Siske. The records in the archives of the fraternity leave no doubt that Good was the leader and the guiding spirit. It was he who suggested that they approach Dr. H. B. Arbuckle, Head of the Department of Chemistry, for advice and assistance. It was he who, in Dr. Arbuckle's own words, "was ready with a solution for every difficulty". It was he who took up the study of heraldry in order that an appropriate Coat-of-Arms for the new fraternity might be prepared. It was he who became the first Worthy Grand Alchemist of Gamma Sigma Epsilon and who headed the fraternity during the first six years of its existence. It is he whose proud privilege it is, as the first initiate, to wear key number 1. It is he whom you are to meet, through the pages of THE RAY; a little older and more mature, but a young man still; keen, vigorous, alert, devoting in full measure to his profession of surgery that energy, enthusiasm and

*The first of a series of sketches dealing with the personalities and accomplishments of the founders of the fraternity, with the circumstances leading to its establishment, and with its early history. Others will appear in succeeding issues of THE RAY.



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capacity for work which characterized his earlier formative years.

He was born in York, South Carolina, May 27, 1896. After completing his high school education in Wofford College Fitting School at Spartanburg, he entered Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina, in the fall of 1915. His work there was interrupted by the war and he volunteered for service and spent a year abroad as a member of the American Expeditionary Forces. Following the armistice he continued his studies in France and in 1919 received a certificate of Residence Study from Aix-Marseille. He then returned to America and re-entered Davidson, where he received the degrees B.Sc. and M.A. in 1920.

He must have known, even before his return to Davidson, that he was not to follow chemistry as a profession, since the following year found him enrolled as a medical student at Johns Hopkins, and yet it was during this last year at Davidson that he and his two associates, assisted by Professor Thies and Dr. Arbuckle, founded the fraternity. Siske was from Troy, New York and M. R. Doubles the third member of the group, was from Richmond, Virginia. It seems both fortunate and prophetic that the little group should have represented both the North and the South, but a new North and a new South, no longer divided but unified, not only by the patriotic fervor engendered by the war just ended, but also by a science which recognizes no boundaries but the boundaries of truth and no laws but the laws of nature.

Good received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins in 1924 and spent the following year as an Interne in the hospital there, specializing in Gynecology. Throughout this entire period he had retained his position as Worthy Grand Alchemist of the young fraternity and had interested himself actively in its affairs. This

is evidenced by the establishment of Gamma Alpha Chapter at Johns Hopkins in 1923, a chapter later lost through the reorganization of the university, and by the following excerpt from a letter written to another member of the Grand Council in October 1925. "Won't you write me a long letter regarding Gamma Sigma Epsilon? I am losing hope fast. The organization is sound in principle and has a big field. Will we develop it? My time is very limited, and I suppose all the others are as well occupied. However, I am willing to put in all of my spare moments for its advancement. Won't you pledge the same?"

This letter was written from Pierre, South Dakota, where he had just gone to accept the position of Resident Physician in St. Mary's Hospital. The following year found him a Fellow in surgery at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, where he remained for three years. The year 1929 witnessed three important milestones in his life. He received the degree Master of Science in surgery from the University of Minnesota, he married Miss Dorothy Dean, of St. Paul, and he moved to Texarkana, Texas-Ark., to become surgeon and partner in the Southern Clinic located in that city. It was there that the writer found him in early September of this year; a busy, successful surgeon and civic leader; proud father of two daughters, Louise Dean, age four, and Dorothy, age two; and deeply and keenly interested, as he has always been, in the fraternity which he helped to found.

The assistance of his secretary makes it possible to present some details of a professional record which, through characteristic modesty, he was reluctant to reveal. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the Southern Medical Association, the Johns Hopkins Surgical Society, the Texas Medical Association, the Bowie

County Medical Society and has both Resident and Ex-resident Association with the Mayo Clinic. His biography appears in *America's Young Men* and in *Who's Who in Industrial Surgery*. He has published a number of papers, and for the benefit of those of our members who contemplate going into Medicine, some of the titles are:

1. *Ganglioneuroma of Mediastinum Requiring Surgical Intervention for Relief of Obstructive Symptoms*, Archives of Surgery, Vol. 19, pp. 309-320, 1929.
2. *Actinomycosis of the Thorax*, Archives of Surgery, Vol. 21, pp. 786-800, 1930.
3. *Actinomycosis of the Abdomen*, Archives of Surgery, Vol. 22, pp. 307-313, 1930.
4. *Actinomycosis of the Abdomen and Thorax*, Collected Papers Mayo Clinic, W. B. Saunders & Co., Philadelphia, 1930.
5. *Thoracic Actinomycosis with Report of a Case of the Primary Type*, Texas State Journal of Medicine, Vol. 30, pp. 245-250, 1934.
6. *The Essential Points in the Management of the Surgical Thyroid Patient*, Tri-State Medical Journal, Vol. 8, No. 5, February, 1936.

He is active in civic and fraternal affairs, being a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Music Association, and the Masonic Fraternity. His hobby, he confessed with a twinkle in his eye, is "vacations", but no reader of this sketch will be surprised to learn that they are usually spent beside Minnesota Lakes and never far removed from the Mayo Clinic. His brusquest professional manner does not succeed in masking a genial and engaging personality and more than a suggestion of the manner of speech so characteristic of the state of his birth.

To the Atlanta Convention, in November 1927, he wired from Rochester as follows: "Greetings to the ever-growing light of THE RAY. Congratulations to the members and officers for the efficient direction of

the fraternity policies. Confidence in the transactions of the present convention. With you in spirit." And he is. His interest in the fraternity is as keen today, his enthusiasm as vital, as in those December days of 1919 when this interest and this enthusiasm gave it birth.



Two golfers at our college sliced their drives into the rough where the zoology professor was hunting bugs. The golfers and caddies hunted the balls without success, much to the interest of the professor. Finally he said, "I do not want to bother you gentlemen, but would you consider it cheating if I told you where the balls are?"



A lot of auto wrecks result because the driver hugs the wrong curve. Then, too, don't imagine that the train has already passed because you can see its tracks. Strive for careful driving. The most careful driver we know is a fellow who can take a nervous and sensitive girl to ride in an Austin and not get slapped when he shifts gears.



"Laugh that off," said the fat man's wife as she sewed on his vest button with a wire.



Love without kisses is Platonic. Kisses without love is Plutonic.



Society motto: "Marry in haste, repeat at leisure".