

## University Group Looks at Rotary Club of Chicago

Of particular interest to Rotary clubs is "Rotary?" written by seven University of Chicago professors (survey committee) and published recently by the University of Chicago Press. The book gives a history of the Chicago club and describes its strength and weaknesses. There are also answers to practical questions which are asked by every Rotary club such as "Who Should Be Rotarians? Why?" "Should Rotary be reorganized?" "What is Rotary for, anyway?"—etc. There are many questions of immediate interest answered.

Some of the subjects discussed by the committee are the origin and growth of Chicago Rotary, its personnel and the appeal of Rotary, the purposes of Rotary, the problems of membership, business leadership, civic leadership and world-citizenship. There are numerous maps and graphs and other illustrations.

The Survey committee recommends that the Rotary club of Chicago take a much more active interest in political and governmental questions than it has done in the past, and also that it seek out new opportunities for service in the social field. The committee is of the opinion that the programs of the Chicago Rotary have been excellent. The strength of Rotary lies in its service, and when that becomes subordinate one of the greatest purposes of Rotary is lost, the committee believes.

### Members of Committee

The Survey committee was composed of Louis Brownlow, Frank Bane, Carl F. Huth, Frederick L. Schuman, Charles E. Merriam, Donald Slesinger, and Charles S. Ascher.

George L. Treadwell, of Winnetka, secretary of the Rotary club of Chicago, writes the following about "Rotary?"—

"This is the first survey of Rotary ever made by an outside agency (at an expense of \$3,000.) It is the product of a year's work by a committee of distinguished, practical social scientists from the Public Administration Clearing house and the University of Chicago. This committee was commissioned by our club to undertake this research without any strings tied to its methods or findings.

"The significance of this local study lies in the fact that the founder and members of the Rotary Club of Chicago laid many of the foundation stones of the present world Rotary movement; in many aspects, therefore, its history is the history of the entire movement. The research of the university committee, therefore, deals very largely with the underlying philosophy, principles, and practices of the whole movement; consequently, it is a valuable contribution to the education of the individual Rotarian and the Rotary club wherever located.

### Rotary in 76 Countries

"Our club, the oldest and largest of all clubs of its type in the world, is peculiarly a Chicago institution from which all clubs of its type (such as Kiwanis, Lions, Exchange, Gyro, Zonta, etc.) grew. Rotary has spread to seventy-six countries in the world in its twenty-nine years of existence. For this reason we believe it possesses special interest as a review of an important social institution composed of business executives.

"This survey committee has placed Rotary and its fundamental philosophy, aims, and objects under the microscope. What it has found will have a permanent effect on Rotary, Kiwanis, Gyro, Lions, and all such typical expressions of this movement, because the findings will influence the thinking of such clubs and members everywhere and will illuminate many of the questions raised by Sinclair Lewis, H. L. Mencken, and other critics."

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