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Opportunity: A Journal of Negro Life

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OPPORTUNITY
A JOURNAL OF NEGRO LIFE

ALEXANDER DUMAS

CONTEST NUMBER
MAY 1925
that East High has met the standards set in hygienic conditions, laboratory and library facilities; units of graduation, tone and spirit, salary, qualifications of principal, teachers, pupils per teacher, pupil teacher ratio and problem of studies and adequacy of teaching staff.

Countee Cullen has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholarship fraternity, by the New York University chapter. Mr. Cullen has won many prizes for poetry. While in high school his poem "I Have a Rendezvous with Life" took a prize offered by the Federation of Women's Clubs; he has won second place in the last two contests conducted by the Poetry Society of America for undergraduate verse, and also the second prize in the Witter Bynner undergraduate poetry contest. "Fancy Fair," in its June issue, is devoting an entire page to the poems of Countee Cullen. Harper Brothers is publishing in the fall the first collection of his poems.

Other Negroes admitted this year to Phi Beta Kappa are: Emile Holley, at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont; Mortimer Weaver at Williams College, Washington, D. C., and Walter R. Thornhill at the University of Illinois.

Roland Hayes is the tenth assignee to receive the Spingarn medal, awarded each year to the American of African descent who has to his credit some notable achievement. Others thus honored have been: Dr. E. E. Just, biologist, Howard University; the late Colonel Charles E. Young, United States Army; Harry T. Burleigh, composer; J. Stanley Braithwaite, poet; Archibald H. Grimke, author; W. E. B. Du Bois, author; Charles E. Gilpin, actor; the late Mary B. Talbert; Professor George W. Carver, scientist, Tuskegee. The award, which was instituted in 1914, is the gift of J. E. Spingarn, treasurer of the N. A. A. C. I., and was presented to Mr. Hayes by Walter Damrosch, director of the New York Symphony Orchestra. The medal was awarded to Mr. Hayes last year, but due to his absence abroad, was not presented to him personally until this year.

Burnedene Mason, contralto, has recently made her debut at Aeolian Hall, New York City, in a program including five operatic numbers, a group of spirituals, and miscellaneous songs. According to one of the New York papers: "Miss Mason gave evidence of a voice of unusual quality, with a notably smooth and rich tone and lower notes of effective depth, as well as interpretative skill. Her talent seemed, however, lyrical rather than dramatic, with a metallic timbre and sense of effort invading her voice if pushed too far, as was shown in some top notes of "My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice," from "Samson et Delila." But Gretchaninoff's 'The Captive' was well sung, likewise the spirituals, arranged by H. T. Burleigh, and the song 'Goin' Home,' arranged by W. A. Fisher from the slow movement of Dvorak's 'New World' symphony, with the mellowness of the singer's tone displayed to advantage in its sustained passages."

At a general assembly of faculty and students of Dunbar High School, Washington, D. C., Cortez W. Peters was awarded the Underwood diamond medal emblem for accuracy and speed in a typing test given at the Washington office of the Underwood Typewriter Company during March. Mr. Peters is a graduate of the Department of Business practice of Dunbar High School, and in the test maintained a net speed of one hundred nine five-stroke words a minute for thirty minutes, the requirement to qualify being only one hundred words a minute. In addition to the Underwood Diamond Medal, Mr. Peters has won the Woodstock Gold Jewelled Pin, Royal Gold Medal, Remington Certificate, Remington Standard No. 12 Typewriter, Underwood Certificate, Underwood Gold Button, Order Accurate Typhists, Underwood Accurate Typhists Gold Engraved Certificate, Underwood Bronze Medal, Underwood Silver Medal and the Underwood Gold Medal. As coaching speed typist for the various awards of the different companies, he is concerned with the problems that confront others interested in the tests.