

THE
CHICAGO LITERARY
CLUB

ITS HISTORY

FROM THE SEASON OF 1924-1925
TO THE SEASON OF 1945-1946

By PAYSON SIBLEY WILD



CHICAGO
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Tibi, Clio, fidelis fui—meo ipsius modo

FOREWORD

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**F**ORTUNATE is the historian who has lived through and been a small part of the history he essays to write. So is he able to view his material subjectively, and to interpret it in accordance with his own exegetical bias. So also is he able to look at his material objectively, since it is altogether factual. From this double vantage ground it will be the aim of this historian to review both outstanding and minor events as they appear in the written records of the Club between the end of the 1923-1924 season and the end of the 1944-1945 season; to honor the memory of our members who have died within that period; to laud the work of those whose contributions have been of significant value to the Club; and to comment ad libitum et amanter on any or all other matters that may seem to be worthy of note.

The Chicago Literary Club was founded in 1874 and has been a live and thriving organism ever since. The story of its first fifty years, of its formative, pioneer, hilarious, turbulent, never uninteresting periods, has been told in masterly fashion and in charmingly Boswellian detail by this historian's predecessor, Frederick William Gookin, for forty years, from 1880 to 1920, our Club's unrivalled Secretary and Treasurer. He saw the Club through storm and stress, through healthy development until at last when he laid down his pen our *Navis Litteraria* rested in quiet waters. It is now the duty of this historian to carry on and to tell his twenty-year tale as faithfully and truly as he may.

PAYSON S. WILD

Chicago, June 1, 1946



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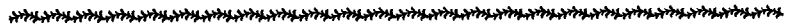
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