

speedily and almost totally ruined. The cases cited and the illustrations shown to prove the contention are, for the most part, taken from non-glaciated regions where the soil is, in general, a loose homogeneous residual sand or clay such, for example, as in Kentucky and North Carolina, or homogeneous, incoherent sediments such as occur on our eastern coastal plain; the implication being that this effect is universal. In the regions cited there seems to be no question that the erosive power of the streams has been greatly increased as the vegetal covering has been removed and that large areas, formerly more or less fertile, have become so gullied and denuded of their soil as to render them of little value.

In New England, however, this is true only to a very limited extent. In the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, where the relief is so strong that landslides occasionally occur, one often sees a mountain side so thoroughly denuded of its trees and brush that at a distance it looks like a hay field with the hay in windrows. Under such conditions—a steep slope and lack of vegetation—the conditions are extremely favorable for erosion. However, in spite of these conditions, the mountain streams are beautifully clear except immediately after a heavy rain and are never like the muddy streams of the southern Appalachians where erosion is proceeding rapidly.

The reason for this difference in the amount of erosion under similar conditions of slope and vegetation between glaciated New England and the non-glaciated regions to the south is to be found in the soil and climate. The heterogeneous character of the till of New England is not favorable to erosion because the pebbles and boulders of the till are constantly diverting the water of the run off and are, consequently, lessening its velocity; and also because after gulying has begun the bottom of the gully is protected from further excessive erosion by the pavement of stones derived from the till in which it was cut. Moreover, the moister climate of New England favors a rapid growth of vegetation which soon again binds the soil. In many places in the Berkshires and in Vermont and

New Hampshire mountain slopes which rise from 700 to 1,000 feet in one quarter of a mile have been several times stripped of their forest growth with little, though doubtless some, injury to the soil.

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WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.,

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#### QUOTATIONS

##### THE FIGHT ON THE COLLEGES

"THERE is no spectacle in American life to-day more pitiful than the contrast between what the college advertises to do and what it performs." "The teaching by our college professors is the poorest in the country." "The average third-year boy in the high school is more able to think, discuss, and express an idea than the average college student two years older." "The young man learns in college that he need not work, he comes to regard his college as a social and sporting club." "Colleges with their narrow and false ideals of culture, . . . their denomination has reached a degree of intolerable impertinence." "The high schools in desperation have been drawing a line of cleavage between those fitting for college and those who are not. This is unnecessary, unfitting and undemocratic."

These are not extracts from an article in a muckraking magazine; they are taken from two addresses delivered yesterday at the meeting of the department of secondary education of the National Education Association in Boston; one by the principal of a New York high school, the other by the state superintendent of public schools in Wisconsin. What was in view in the last of the above quotations may be judged from a resolution almost unanimously adopted at the meeting, declaring in favor of the recognition as electives in college-entrance requirements "of all subjects well taught in the high schools"; some of the subjects especially mentioned in the preamble being manual training, "commercial branches," and agriculture, and the requirement of two languages other than English being expressly objected to. And the situation presented both by the addresses

from which we have quoted, and by the resolutions adopted with practically no dissenting vote, is one with which our college presidents, and all persons interested in college education, will do well to reckon promptly and seriously. . . .

Like all human institutions, the American college is full of imperfections; like them all, it has to undergo change with the passage of time. But it should not bow humbly to every passing wind of popular doctrine. It has a history of which it has ample reason to be proud; it has deserved well of the country, and the work that it has been doing there is still need for it to do. Agricultural schools, industrial schools, technological schools, have grown up alongside of it, and other kinds of schools may be equally necessary, and may meet the needs of a far greater number of individuals. There is no compulsion on any one to go to college, nor is it desirable that every one should have a college education. But out of the thousands who have had this opportunity, a very large proportion have derived from it something that they could not otherwise have got, something that they have prized as an invaluable possession to themselves, and something that has supplied to the country an element without which American life would have been immeasurably poorer. Nor do the confident but reckless assertions of educational muckrakers furnish any reason for believing that the day of its usefulness is past, or for abandoning that spirit of loyalty to the traditions of culture which, until very recently, has been the general possession of our college men.—New York *Evening Post*.

#### THE ORGANIZATION OF ILL-HEALTH

THERE are a number of commercial interests in this country that do not want an independent national Department of Health. In recent years we have had many exposures of the patent medicine swindle. We have learned that most of the most popular patent medicines, the so-called tonics, were nothing more than dilute alcohol with certain bitter drugs so as to make them taste medicinal. Physicians have seen alcohol habits formed as a

consequence of freely imbibing these alcoholic preparations. Some of them were meant particularly for women's diseases, and the consequence has been a feminine nipping at alcoholic products that has worked serious harm to the women of the country. We have also found that the headache powders so commonly advertised were composed of drugs which, when taken as freely as was advised on the labels of many of these preparations, were seriously dangerous. We have had not a few, but many, deaths as a consequence of them. The soothing syrups for children mostly contained opium and were seriously injuring the growing child at an important period of its development, and adding to the number of nervous wrecks with tendencies to drug addictions in after life that we had in this country.

For a time after these exposures the patent medicine swindlers were very quiet. In many cases their advertisements disappeared from their usual places. Now they are gaining courage again. The American people have proverbially a very short memory for such exposures. The patent medicine people dread very much the organization of a national Department of Health, because this will sadly interfere with their now happy prospect of reviving their business and fattening their purses at the cost of the health of our people. This is one element in the opposition organized for ill-health.

There are others. There are a number of people in this country who would like to be freer to foist drugs, impure foods and questionable products of many kinds on our inhabitants, so as to make money, cost what it might in the health of those who consumed them. The consumer's purse they are interested in, but not his health. The organization of the national Bureau of Health, with its strict enforcement of the Pure Food and Drugs Act, and its sure tendency to further protect by legislation the health of our people, is a dread specter to such exploiters of the public, and, of course, they want to lay it off as possible.

The League for Medical Freedom has a rallying cry. It is that the doctors are trying