

regarded as largely speculative. Such outlines are, however, suggestive of the myriads of questions that science attempts to answer. And the answers, when found, are the means of correcting these outlines that they may coincide more nearly with the truth. It is to the attainment of this general truth that establishments such as the Scripps Institution are dedicated. May the increased facilities that we celebrate to-day yield an ample and worthy return.

G. H. PARKER

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**A SHORT ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, 1917**

IT is on occasions such as this, at certain eras in the lives of young men, that we compel them to listen to words of counsel, however this ultimate end of giving counsel may be concealed in verbiage. Older men, in which class I have been rather reluctantly compelled to put myself, are generally selected to give utterance to these words, from the fact that, having had a wider experience, their views will have a greater importance, and indeed many of them and even their hearers really believe this. It must be said that there is no demand for this on your part and these addresses, like lectures, are forced upon you; at least I do not think you would rise up and clamor for them, but you passively submit.

If one looks over the literature of addresses—and the sum of the published ones would almost fill the Alexandrian Library—there is great similarity in the matter and in the form of presentation. In recent years there has been some decline in attempts at eloquence and you are no longer told that medicine is a useful and noble profession, with citation of examples, or that you are a vessel embarking on the sea of life, this associated with descriptions of

lighthouses, cross currents, storms, etc. I speak feelingly, for on looking over some old addresses of mine I found that I also had once spoken of ships and storms and lighthouses, and I should like to humbly apologize to my former auditors.

This desire of ours to talk is partly due to the garrulousness of age, which is compelled to substitute words for action, and having found how much easier the process is, and how pleasant, indulges itself in the vice; and partly to the persistence of an utterly mistaken view of education. The idea that education, that process which aims at the development of the individual with the view that he shall be capable of greater service and of greater individual happiness, can be attained by telling the aspiring student things or having him study merely the product that others have wrought, has unfortunately not entirely passed. If I have learned anything in my now somewhat long life as a teacher it is that the process of education consists in giving the student opportunity, the material to study, be it mankind, books, ants or dead bodies, and in every way assisting him in the study, always recollecting that the result must be individual, the product of the material which his brain has received, digested and assimilated. We must not think that we can give him in words merely the conceptions which we have arrived at, although he may derive some profit by comparing our concepts with his own.

We should not think that in an address we can give a young man any thing of real value. What we are depends upon the individuality of our living material and the result of the action upon this of the special matter which education gives plus the more generalized influences of the environment. It is particularly now, when such enormous changes in environmental conditions, as compared with those under which

we have lived, exist and are in process of creation, that the futility of attempts to force our views upon you must be apparent. As I see the great struggle now it is not only between democracy and imperialism, but underlying this a still greater struggle between socialism and individualism. This is apparent in medicine as it is in every other domain of life and what will be the outcome no man can say. The currents in the sea are so vast in extent and power, the winds so variable, that there is the temptation to merely stand aloof and be swept along. I think I can advise you, reluctant as I am to attempt advice, to resist this; plunge in and struggle for what seems to you the right, remembering that general conditions of social environment depend upon the actions of individuals and it is you who are the creative force—on you rests the responsibility.

With this as a preamble it would give me great pleasure to pursue the subject further, for I really like to talk, and as I look around and see you I recall many happy hours which are associated with you and I am grateful to you for having given me this happiness. But fortunately for us all time passes, changes, it is now gone, and I have been spared the chance of giving you opinions which are probably erroneous and possibly productive of injury.

I think, however, it is only right that I should tell you that addresses may have a great importance and even determine future events, as the following example shows. Some time ago I happened to be in the capital of a Brazilian state just after a gubernatorial election. There had been the usual phenomena which such an event in a Brazilian city produces. Some fifty people killed, three times as many wounded, a newspaper office blown up and on numerous houses the peculiar pits made by the modern jacketed bullet. At the time I

reached there, two weeks after the inauguration, everything was going on as usual. It seems that full arrangements were made to blow up the governor on his way home after the inaugural address. But the importance of the address had not been properly considered. The governor spoke long, giving the history of the country from its discovery, the modern conditions and the hopes of the future. The matter was dull, hours which seemed like weeks and minutes which seemed like days passed and he continued to speak without the audience being able to see any hope of cessation. The conspirators were nervous, the exciting events had deprived many of them of their wonted calm siestas, and under the soothing influence of the orator many slept; others were not able to endure the absence of alcohol for so long a period and these departed to look for it; for others so long a period of silence on their part could not be endured and these departed to gather up an audience; others felt they might be missed at home and these sought the presence of the household gods. In short the conspiracy was broken up, the audience gradually departed with the taxis which were to have formed the procession, and the governor was finally left speaking to a single close friend who went home with him by a back way, and the country for a time was saved. The party newspapers which printed the speech said it was a masterly effort; the opposition was silent, for their newspaper had been blown up.

W. T. COUNCILMAN

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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#### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL SERVICE ON THE PART OF ZOOLOGISTS AND ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

IN an article in the *New Republic* for March 31 last entitled "America Prepares" William Hard pokes fun at the enthusiasm for organization which has taken possession of the coun-