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UNIVERSITY IDEALS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS¹

WHEN I was asked to address the "Forum," it was with a thrill of pleasure that I accepted, for I felt that this invitation would give me the opportunity of addressing the soul of the student body, for this student body has a youthful, forceful soul, where a clearly conceived and beautiful idealism aspires to adequate self-expression.

It may seem unnatural to some of you that I should find it possible to speak to-day upon a topic which has no *special* relation to the great war. In so doing, however, I have merely followed the example of Professor George Sarton, who so recently delighted and instructed us in his lectures on "The New Humanism," and my special reason for imitating this distinguished Belgian is that, whatever may be our part in the great struggle now in progress, our outlook on this or any other crisis must of necessity be from the point of view of university men, men whose acts are directed and whose thoughts are inspired by university ideals. It is therefore as imperative at this time as at any other to enquire into the nature of these university ideals, which have been our heritage from the past and form our background in the present and whose influence is none the less profound in that we are generally quite unconscious of its operation.

The terms "university" and "state university" are quite distinct. The institutions so named may have very little in

¹ Address delivered before "The Wisconsin Forum," January 20, 1918, at the University of Wisconsin.