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SUCCESS IN SCIENCE¹

MANY books have been written on success. How to be a successful salesman, how to be a successful author, how to be a successful this, that and the other. Very appealing are rules by which those who have not may hope to join the ranks of those who have. The higher the so-called civilization of a race or nation the greater the average desire of its individuals to get more than they have, to become more than they are.

In the strict sense success is the accomplishment of the attempted, but in the humanistic sense the thing attempted is taken into consideration. A criminal may be successful in committing a crime, or the miser may be successful in amassing treasure. But the generally accepted meaning of the expression, a successful man, includes something more than mere accomplishment. The accomplishment must be thought worth while by society. In our own civilization success has come to mean rather more than keeping ourselves and our families provided with the usual physical necessities of life, even though this may require a considerable degree of efficiency. The average man desires bodily comforts and makes an effort to obtain them. Having obtained them his efforts are confined in the main to maintaining his position. In a broad way we may say that the average man is satisfied to maintain himself and his family in average conditions for the society in which he moves. Such a man is successful in the sense that he has not failed; but the expression, a successful man, brings to mind accomplishment greater than that of maintaining the *status quo*. It is clear that a small portion of society is impelled by some inner force to go beyond the average and attempt to accomplish many things that are not required to satisfy physical wants.

We find at once that we are dealing with what are generally known as spiritual things. We are satisfying a spiritual rather than a physical or bodily need. The progress of the race is directly connected with this force. The reward obtained from material success is the joy of possession; the reward from spiritual success is the joy of achievement. The unthinking may assume that the successful man of business, the financial giant, is pushed on solely by his desire to possess material things. Far more probable is it that he is impelled by a desire to do

¹ Abridged from the address of the retiring president of the Washington Alumni Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, May 12, 1925.

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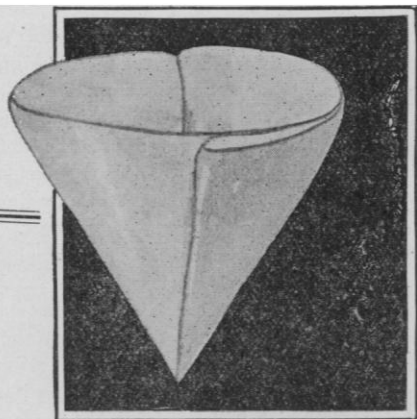
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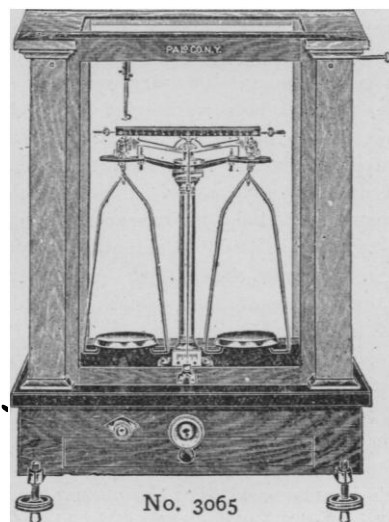
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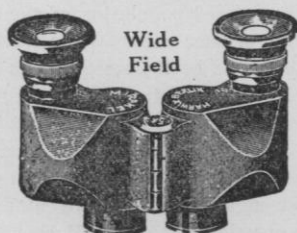
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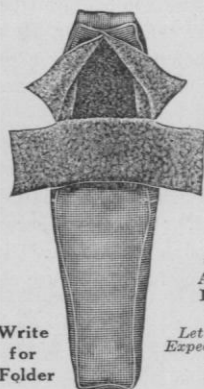
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