

SCIENCE

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RESEARCH, AN EDUCATIONAL ASSET¹

It is eminently fitting that the university should pause in the midst of its busy life to do honor to those students who have won distinction by their scholarly achievements. Educators of our day have complained that the "side shows" of our educational system are attracting more attention and receiving more generous support than the main purposes for which the system itself was established. Many a bitter complaint has been registered against the custom of lionizing the athletic hero and ignoring the student who has outstripped his fellows in the intellectual pursuits of the classroom. That such a tendency exists few will deny, but the evil, if such it be, can never be corrected by complaint nor by eulogizing the intellectual giants of the good old days when higher education was the privilege of the select few and the masses of the people were denied the educational advantages of which our modern democratic civilization is so proud. The purposes of Honor's Day and its associations are to recognize excellence in scholarship and to furnish in some tangible fashion a reward for leadership in the intellectual pursuits of college life.

There have been many definitions of the term education, but the ones that appeal most to me are those which take into account the development of the human mind as a preparation for better living. That person may be considered educated who has learned to adjust himself to his surroundings, who can live comfortably and successfully under unusual conditions, who can turn defeat into victory and use obstacles as stepping stones to success. We may consider any one undeveloped educationally who has not learned to accommodate himself to the conditions under which he must live and to meet the problems of life with a stout heart and firm determination to do his part in making the world a better place in which to live. It is to one of these factors in mental development that I desire to call your attention for a few minutes this morning.

Much has been written concerning the value of research and its place in a modern educational system. There seems to be little doubt concerning the value of investigations which have to do with the control of diseases, the utilization of by-products or the increase of food production. The successful completion of such a project prolongs life, decreases the cost of living or tends to increase human happiness and so

¹ Honor's Day address at the University of Illinois.

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Write for Bulletin 273

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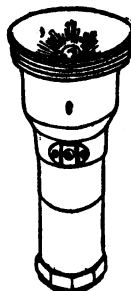
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