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STANDARDIZATION VERSUS MEDICAL EDUCATION¹

By Dr. CHARLES R. STOCKARD

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE

THE very agreeable task has fallen upon me to welcome you here to-day. When welcoming strangers, newcomers or initiates into one's castle or into one's clan it seems to me both cordial and fair to openly consider what manner of place it is to which you are being welcomed and to presume something as to why you seek welcome here. The simple tone of welcome does not always indicate the kind of consequences to follow—some of you may recall the very gracefully poetic invitation of the spider to the fly.

This place is one of those ancient human arrangements in which a group of somewhat mentally mature and experienced persons undertakes to encourage and lead a larger group of youthful aspirants into the knowledge and methods of a learned profession. This kind of arrangement has been jealously perpetuated throughout the generations of human history to be handed down to us. It has been accepted as necessary

¹ Address delivered at the opening of the session of Cornell University Medical College, New York City, on September 29, 1930.

in the existence of tribes, kingdoms, empires and free states. And it belongs to that order of things commonly called schools.

All of you have had far beyond the average experience in schools, and in this place you are not altogether strangers. But have you stopped on the threshold to ask yourselves what differences there are between this place and the schools you have already attended—and, more important still, what are the different reasons for your having been in the different grades of schools? All schools are not alike and we attend each for a different reason to ourselves and to the state.

Attendance in the elementary school is compulsory and is demanded by almost all enlightened governments. The state requires and supplies a certain amount of education. But, as in the case of most things forced upon us, the child frequently assumes that he is attending school for the state or the law or surely for some one other than himself. In the ele-

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By ROSS C. WHITMAN, M.D.

*Professor of Bacteriology
University of Colorado*

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From his own experience in teaching hygiene to non-medical students, Dr. Whitman has found a real need for an intermediate textbook in this subject,—one that is not so bulky and technical as those written primarily for medical students, and yet is not too elementary and limited in scope to be suitable for university courses. In his new book, "Hygiene," the author aims to bridge this gap. He presents a text that is detailed without being too technical, that stimulates the student to think and to reason for himself rather than to accept the ready-made opinions of others, and one that is a practical exposition of the problems with which the layman is most likely to meet in everyday life.

The book is general in scope. Dr. Whitman has not confined his treatment to any particular field of hygiene such as personal or public hygiene or epidemiology, but has selected the most important phases of each. The author believes that a knowledge of technical terms is quite as essential in this subject as it is in botany, zoology, chemistry, etc. He has therefore included most of these terms, but has given sufficient definitions along with them to relieve the reader of the burden of looking them up in the dictionary. The nature of protoplasm as the physical and chemical basis of life, and a short discussion of the nature of disease processes are treated in a few chapters to give a general background to the reader who has not had a thorough foundation in biology, physics, chemistry, anatomy, etc. Heredity and eugenics have been given considerable emphasis in this text.

CONTENTS

Introduction; Health and Disease; The Physical and Chemical Basis of Life; Death; On the Nature of Disease; Endogenous Causes of Disease; The Hereditary Diseases of Man; The Problem of the Defective; Defects of Character, Mental Hygiene; Eugenics; The Exogenous Causes of Disease; The Air; Carbon Monoxide; Light; Food and Exercise; Food Poisoning and the Diseases Transmitted by Them; Water; Milk; The Morphology and Physiology of Bacteria; The Mechanism of Infection; Immunity; Dissemination of Bacteria, Portals of Entry; Methods of Control; Small-pox and Hydrophobia; Tuberculosis; The Pneumonias and Influenza; Diphtheria; Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever and Measles; The Water-Borne Diseases; The Insect-Borne Diseases of Man; Infections Associated With the Soil, The Anaerobes; Sectarian Medicine.

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