

The COLLEGE GIRL

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Thoughts from a Graduate

In attempting to grant the request that I should say something to the University students from a graduate's point of view, I am aware that I have indeed a large undertaking.

The message of a graduate is often rather discouraging. It seems to be the fashion to be cynical as to youthful hopes and ideals, and to be ashamed of any weakness in this direction, though I must admit that I myself am unable to see just why it is a particularly promising sign for either a college student or a college graduate to say simply that they have no special interests, and no plans for the future.

But it is to another class of students that I wish to speak, to those who have, it seems to me, to stand more than a fair share of unfavorable and often unkindly criticism.

I mean those students who leave college with high conceptions and lofty ideals, and who are filled with the enthusiastic and earnest desire to give these conceptions and ideals actual form. They are undoubtedly those for whom college life has done most, and yet they are often looked upon as visionaries for whom the practical world has no place.

And the experience of many graduates would seem to justify this. So many have to tell of disappointed hopes and unattained ideals, and of the disillusioning brought about by contact with actual life. And many do not hesitate to declare that this disappointment is due to the fact that the ideals inculcated by college life are such as are inevitably doomed to failure.

I often wondered if this were true. Surely the ideals with which we start life should serve to strengthen and encourage, not to sap and undermine will and resolution. If this is the case, there must be something radically wrong with our ideals.

When I had reached this stage I chanced upon a few remarks in a modern novel which set me thinking, and furnished something like a clue to the labyrinth. The idea was that there are two kinds of ideals: those that come to us first as vague longings for the unattainable, absolutely unrealizable visions—these the writer compared to stars. Then with experience of life, come ideals which represent the degree of perfection we may attain, the highest good which lies within our reach—these are the candles which serve to light us on our way.

And this conception seems to me to explain some of the difficulties in the matter under con-

sideration. College-trained young people start out in life, sometimes with ideals that, like the stars, are high and lofty, but like them also, are absolutely unattainable and often vague. They are unprovided with experience and knowledge of actual conditions, and in the first shock, when the utter remoteness, the impossibility of these early ideals is realized, there is the recoil, the disappointment, the loss of hope.

But as time passes, and we come to see how all life is relative, how all is done little by little, even the small measure of good, of progress, of success, attainable in the limits of our narrow life, comes to seem worth while. This degree of good is our candle—to follow the fanciful language of the metaphor.

And so as years pass, and we see a certain amount of our life-work attempted and done, though far short of what we could wish, yet with the wisdom gained by life and experience, we can look back to our youthful hopes and ideals, and say without bitterness:

"What I aspired to be

And was not, comforts me."

N. H., '95.



The regular meeting of the Y.W.C.A. was held on Tuesday, Jan. 24th, with the president in the chair. After the business had been disposed of the lesson for the day was presented by Miss Ross.

Miss Ross' thoughts were based on the words, "Wherefore let him who thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall," 1 Cor. x. 12. She spoke of the care which was necessary in our spiritual life even when we attain great spiritual strength, because very often it is then temptation comes. Temptation, however, is not to be deprecated, because through it we are made conscious of our own need and that of others, and so seek God's guidance. It also strengthens our moral nature. As safeguards against temptation, she suggested prayer, scriptural reading and work, and especially "the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit."

Our president then spoke to us on "Fragments," basing her remarks on the text, "When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto Him, twelve." From this she brought out the thought that the disciples were rather prodigal with small things, but Christ never was. He was careful of everything, and as a result was able to help many who otherwise might have lacked. Imitating Christ in this respect we should care for our spiritual and physical life, our opportunities and our time. There is not one of us who does not possess a small or great talent and were they all consecrated to God they would accomplish much for Him.