

Between these two difficulties the committee must grope its way. It must not hand out money for idle men to become more idle still. It must not expect those who work hard already to make sacrifices still greater.

The choice can be made. The thing can be achieved. But it is hard. The committee must invite those who want to work to state what they want to do and how they want to do it. It must estimate as best it can the value of what they propose. It must accept or reject. Where work is accepted the committee can arrange for assistance. In this it may use a liberal hand. It may offer the services of graduate fellows without fear of misuse for here it is filling a double purpose. The graduate student who spends a part of his time in technical assistance to a research worker, is himself in pursuit of a higher degree and helps to build up a graduate school.

But within this frame work, I think that the best line of opportunity will be found in straining to the utmost the meaning of the word research. In all the historical and social and economic sciences, I would widen it to include studies of a technical nature involving general material, and not necessarily implying the search for new single facts. In this sense I would call a life of General Wolfe, or a book on the "Banking System of the United States", research. I would aid a professor to write a history of Emigration to America, or a critical biography of Tennyson. I would carry this process just as far as the frame of the endowment could be stretched. The field thus enlarged would attract any number of workers. It would invite much sacrifice. It would offer a goal to industry and ambition. It would light a lamp that would shine from the windows of the college. There would be no difficulty in setting it to work except that of selecting without favor, and judging without discrimination, and rejecting without offence.

If I summarize what I say, it is this. We must dismiss the idea that research is for all: that it is an obligation on a department: a duty of every professor. We must dismiss equally the idea that research is done by students: