

The Challenge of the Carnegie Report

President Franklin Parker Day

I feel that it is a great honour to be asked to make this speech on such an important subject before such an important society, but while my vanity has been flattered by Dean Nicolson's invitation, I have suffered since my acceptance a good many qualms of sprit. I realized that, as an intense lover of games myself, I was not clear as to what kind of an athletic situation I wanted; I found myself carrying water upon both my mental shoulders—I encourage the students to excel in whatever they undertake; how can I hope that they will excel if I in any way remove the means of their excelling? I have moreover realized that I may get myself into trouble through this speech, and that I may offend some of the loyal alumni of my college. I have been president of a college for such a short time that I wrote Dean Nicolson in accepting that I felt like a fledgling leaving the nest on untried wing. Moreover this has been such an eventful year for me and so crowded with new projects, that I feel like exclaiming with Falstaff: "There is not a dangerous action can peep out his head, but I am thrust upon it." However, Father Daedalus in the person of Dean Nicolson has launched young Icarus into midair, the sun is hot, already the wax that binds wings to shoulders is melting, and far below me I catch glimpses of the deep blue Icarian Sea.

College athletics is a subject upon which people are peculiarly sensitive, and it has been a stumbling block for many presidents and administrators of colleges. We have now presented to us, however, by impartial judges, namely the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, this momentous Report on American College Athletics, and it reveals beyond doubt that we are in a parlous state. We all know perfectly well that, while there may be some possible errors in the matter of detail, the