

The second collateral to general university instruction is co-operation by individuals, through such societies as your own. They are very important, for cultural and personal reasons. They bring kindred spirits together, they show one individual how another works and thinks and they surround the younger members with a wholesome atmosphere of tradition.

In every science and in every faculty of a university many subjects are today taught. As all human knowledge has extended, it become more complicated and specialized, the number of subjects presented to the student, and demanded of him, have become more and more numerous. One criticism, and a just criticism, which has been made of our modern University is that it gradually buries the student under a great mass of specialties. To a certain extent this is true, but it need not be so if both lecturers and students appreciate their responsibilities. For it is as true today as it ever was that the duty of a university is principally education and not information. He who goes to the university with the idea of acquiring a number of practical facts, dogmatically presented, to be followed by him during the rest of his existence, falls back to the system of the middle ages. Even if it were possible to do this completely in all the specialties, it would leave the man in hopeless condition a few years after his graduation, for he will never be able to advance with any subject.

That is unfortunately the case in many instances. There are today too large a number of practitioners of medicine, graduated only ten years ago, who are lost in the medicine of today, because they do not know how to progress and keep pace with the development of their science. They were content during their university curriculum to acquire what they then thought were the necessary facts for their practice. They find now, only a few years after graduation that things are changed, that they did not appreciate what was given to them in its true value, for they never had made any effort to cultivate their mind, and to enter and understand any subject. They are thus