

There is, however, one phase of the college problem that is so closely connected with that of the university that I cannot avoid some reference to it. There is a marked and rapidly growing tendency to make college work the basis of the work in professional schools. As is well known, some of our medical schools now require a college degree for admission. The average age of graduation from our leading colleges is so high that the students cannot begin their professional courses until they are from twenty-two to twenty-three years of age on the average. Then, too, the length of the professional courses is greater than it formerly was, so that some of the best years of life are taken up in preparatory work. One thing seems to admit of no denial, and that is that, in so far as it prevents students from beginning their professional studies or their work in business life until they have attained the age of twenty-two or twenty-three, our present system is seriously defective. The defect is one that must be remedied. Various efforts are now being made looking to improvement, but it is not yet clear how the problem will be solved.

In this country the name university in the new sense is frequently applied to one department, and that is the philosophical department. This has to deal with philology, philosophy, history, economics, mathematics, physics, geology, chemistry, &c.; in short, it comprises all branches that do not form an essential part of the work of the departments of medicine, law and theology. A fully developed university, to be sure, includes at least four departments—the medical, the legal, the theological, and the philosophical; or, in other words, the university faculty comprises faculties of medicine, of law, of theology and of philosophy.

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This meets the needs of those students who, having completed the college course, and having, therefore, had a good general training that fits them for more advanced study, wish to go forward in the paths of learning, and, so far as this may be possible, to become masters of some special branch. Most of these students are preparing to teach in colleges and elsewhere, so that the philosophical department of the university is today a professional school just as much as the medical or the legal department. On the completion of the college course, the student holds the same relation to the philosophical department of the university as to the other departments, or to the professional schools, and the age question is fully as important in the case of the student in the philosophical faculty as in the case of those who are to enter the professional schools. Now, if it be conceded, that the training of specialists—not necessarily narrow specialists, but necessarily those who are thoroughly grounded in some one subject—I say, if it be conceded that the training of specialists is essential to the growth of the highest scholar-

ship, then by advancing the age of graduation from our colleges, we are interfering with the development of scholarship in the highest sense, because the greater the age of graduation from the colleges the less will these graduates be inclined, or be able, to take up the advanced work that is essential to convert them into scholars. But let me close what I have to say on this subject by the safe prediction that the time will come when the work of our colleges will be adjusted to the work of the various faculties of the university so that the passage from the one to the other will not involve something unnatural—either hardship to the student or a telescoping of college and university which now on the whole furnishes the best way out of the existing difficulty.

I have said that the new thing in educational work in this country is the philosophical faculty of our universities. The growth of the work of the philosophical faculty has, however, undoubtedly influenced that of the other faculties—more particularly the medical. Gradually the medical schools, those connected with the universities at least, are adopting university standards. The same is true to some extent of schools of law and of theology, so that, I think, it is safe to assert that the great activity that has characterized the work of the philosophical faculties of our universities has tended in no small measure to the improvement of the work of our professional schools. It has lifted them to a higher level, and that is a result that the world at large may congratulate itself upon.

One of the most remarkable facts in connection with what we may call the development of the university idea in this country, is the surprisingly rapid increase in the attendance upon the courses offered by our philosophical faculties during the last few years. In what I shall have to say I shall for the present use the term graduate student in the restricted sense which it has come to have, meaning a college graduate who is following courses offered by the philosophical faculty of some university, and excluding, therefore, those who are studying medicine, or law, or theology in universities.

I have recently asked the United States Commissioner of Education to help me answer the following questions:

1. How many graduate students were in the United States in the year 1850?
2. How many in 1875?
3. How many in 1900?

The answers are these:

1. In 1850 there were 8 graduate students in all of the colleges of the country. Of these 3 were enrolled at Harvard, 3 at Yale, 1 at the University of Virginia and 1 at Trinity College.

2. In 1875 the number had increased to 399.

3. In 1900 the number enrolled was 5,668.

At present the number cannot be far from 6,000.