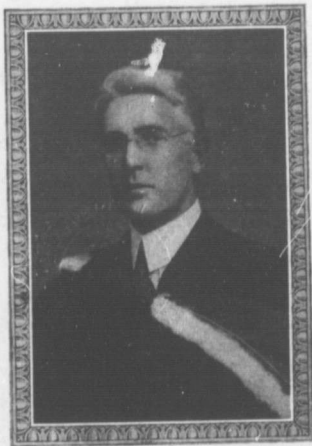


How To Take Notes

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THE editor has asked me to outline a few suggestions for the guidance of students in this important (?) phase of college work. I do so with some reluctance, for I realize that here is one side to the matter which involves the whole



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question of teaching both as to aim and to method. Restricting the discussion however, to the general scheme of instruction as carried on in Canadian colleges, that is the lecture method, perhaps the following remarks may be found of some service.

(1) DO NOT LET YOUR NOTE TAKING WEAKEN YOU MENTALLY

There is some danger of this. You are anxious naturally to do well in the final written examinations. You realize

that this is dependent to a considerable extent on knowing everything the instructor tells you in class, so you feverishly try to scribble down his last word. All the time your mind is busy in its effort at transcribing. It has been a conduit rather than a storage battery. Now a conduit has no potentialities within itself. A storage battery has. You can't recover anything from a mere transmission wire. You can from storage batteries, that's what you're at college for, to store up potentialities.

You will, therefore, require to offer some resistance to this tendency to take full notes. You will need to fortify yourself for this bravery too. Perhaps you think the professor's eye is on you, and that he thinks that you think his remarks are not deserving of recording. You do not want to hurt his feeling nor lose his regard—if you ever had it. But you realize that elaborate note taking is hindering you in grasping and holding instruction as it is given to you. You are allowing your powers of memory to slacken. You are getting a fat note book, but the "tablets of your mind" have only weak inscriptions. Even though there may be a chance of losing a few extra marks or of missing a little higher standing, it will be worth while developing your best powers. At some schools, students are not permitted to take notes. These remarks are not a condemnation of all note taking. There is note taking that is necessary in order to have an exact statement of fact regarding some technical matter. There is note taking, too, that is profitable