

cowardly surrender on the part of liberal culture of the training of the man as a man, to utilitarian demands for specialized adaptation to narrow callings. There is nothing in any one study or any one calling which makes it in and of itself low or meanly practical. It is all a question of its isolation or of its setting. It is not the mere syntactical structure or etymological content of the Latin language which has made it for centuries such an unrivaled educational instrument. There are dialects of semi-barbarous tribes which in intricacy of sentential structure and delicacy of relationship, are quite equal to Latin in this respect. It is the context of the Latin language, the wealth of association and suggestion belonging to it from its position in the history of human civilization that freight it with such meaning.

Now the callings that are represented by manual training and commercial studies are absolutely indispensable to human life. They afford the most permanent and persistent occupations of the great majority of human kind. They present man with his most perplexing problems; they stimulate him to the most strenuous putting forth of effort. To indict a whole nation were a grateful task compared with labeling such occupations as low or narrow—lacking in all that makes for training and culture. The professed and professional representative of "culture" may well hesitate to cast the first stone. It may be that it is nothing in these pursuits themselves which gives them utilitarian and materialistic quality, but rather

the exclusive selfishness with which he has endeavored to hold on to and monopolize the fruits of the spirit.

And so with the corresponding studies in the High School. Isolated, they may be chargeable with the defects of which they are accused. But they are convicted in this respect only because they have first been condemned to isolation. As representatives of serious and permanent interest of humanity, they possess an intrinsic dignity which is the business of the educator to take an account of. To ignore them, to deny them a rightful position in the educational circle, is to maintain with society that very cleft between so-called material and spiritual interests which it is the business of education to strive to overcome. These studies root themselves in science; they have their trunk in human history, and they flower in the worthiest and fairest forms of human service.

It is for these various reasons that I believe the introduction of the new problem of adjustment of studies will help instead of hinder the settlement of the older controversies. We have been trying for a long time to fix a curriculum upon a basis of certain vague and general educational ideals; information, utility, discipline, culture. I believe that much of our ill success has been due to the lack of any well-defined and controllable meaning attaching to these terms. The discussion remains necessarily in the region of mere opinion when the measuring rods are subject to change with the standpoint and wishes of the individual. Take