

from the hill tops, bringing health and refreshment. Something might be done in the way of reading circles. Something, too, might be done in the way of providing lectures, if only the people were more united about it, and combined to secure one good course of lectures, instead of having, as you sometimes see, several courses running feebly abreast in connection with as many congregations. Some say that "the lecture business is played out." Perhaps it has, in many quarters, been done to death; but there is still room, if only the right lecturers can be found, for making this a source of pleasure and profit to a community. No doubt, many people would rather be amused than instructed, and wholesome amusement is of great service; but the desire for instruction, and for interesting information, can be cultivated, if only some of the educated in any place will work together for the common good.

Is it not the case, however, that there is often little intercourse among the educated men of a community regarding subjects of public welfare? It is difficult to bring together such men as editors, lawyers, doctors, leading business men and ministers to discuss the higher interests of the citizens. We tend to grow as selfish over our intellectual treasures as rich men do over their money, and feel as little of the divine impulse to share them with our less favoured neighbors. We give ourselves up to the miserly enjoyment of our books, instead of trying, by what we know of science, literature or art, to bring brightness into the lives of the less educated. We pour out our condemnation on the moneyed man who refuses to contribute for some public purpose, but we may have no blame for the man of education who may do as little, though possessing larger power, for the general good. Is there not here a kind of work that ministers might do, a function of citizenship that they might discharge more effectively than others, if only they would work together, each trying to influence some men of his acquaintance? There is nothing that opens our eyes so quickly to the virtues of our neighbor as joining with him in some effort for the good of others; and there is nothing that so promotes public spirit, and so raises the general conception of citizenship as the presence and activity of even a few earnest, united, self-denying men, who take a zealous interest and an honest pride in the welfare of their community.