

spirit of inquiry so manifest everywhere, the growing interest of the people in higher education, not to mention the strong competition of our age with its necessity for accurate knowledge, and effective power, —these demands of our times call for opportunity to concentrate developed faculties upon particular lines of research. These are the demands which are causing educational institutions of various grades to offer special courses of study leading to the advanced degrees. It is not long since the demand for special study included only the three professions, medicine, law, and the ministry. In the revival of learning due to scientific discovery the whole field of inquiry has been immeasurably widened. The countless forces of nature are being brought into the service of man. The earth has opened its treasured secrets to the key of patient investigation. Industry and commerce have re-conquered the world. Western civilization has recovered from the narrowness and despair of the Middle Ages. Social, political, and religious life have caught the inspiring spirit of progress. With this revival of life, education has taken a new form and has incorporated methods fitted to the new wants of man. Instead of the ministry, medicine, and law occupying the sphere of special and advanced study, to-day students representing every phase of investigation are busy mastering new problems and striving to add something to existing knowledge. The praiseworthy attempts of scientists in this direction have been followed by the efforts of students of history, language, literature, and religion. So far has this work advanced that a scholarly reputation no longer rests upon a general knowledge of all subjects, but upon a special mastery of some one branch of inquiry. One does not now venture an opinion concerning a technical educational subject unless he has devoted to it considerable special investigation. The teacher no longer is supposed to be a general encyclopedist, but is required to know some one thing better than someone else. Ours is an age of specialization in every department of learning, and we who are interested in forming and directing the intellectual life of the people are being forced to make provision for this work in the best possible way.

This condition of things directs our attention to the reasons for emphasizing graduate study. In brief, such study may be defined as the application and concentration of developed mental powers in the pursuit of special intellectual research. The governing ideal in such work is the acquisition of knowledge and the discovery of truth. As we shall point out later this differs from college work, the aim of which is more extensive in range and less intensive in character. Graduate study has an immediately practical end to serve, namely, the fitting of an individual for service to the world.

Graduate study is important when we consider its reflex influence on educational standards and spirit. In order that the worth of education may flourish and increase in efficiency in the elementary, sec-