

## WHAT SHOULD BE THE IDEAL OF A UNIVERSITY STUDENT?

To the thoughtful student of an institution like ours, there are one or two questions which have often arisen. As he looks around him he sees that for every one whom a kindly fortune has permitted to enter the halls of learning, there are hundreds on every hand to whom access is denied. In the light of such a circumstance each of us must often have asked himself: "How is it that I am enjoying a privilege denied to so many others? What does this privilege mean to me, and what use should I make of it?" Passing over the former of these questions, we shall at once approach the latter—a question of immense practical importance, for on the result arrived at depends the life-work of each of us—and endeavor to give a few stray hints as to its proper solution, *i.e.*, to set forth what should be the ideal of every student of this University.

And, in the first place, we owe it as a duty to ourselves to make the most of the opportunities afforded us. The higher nature of man, all that raises him above the beasts of the field, is susceptible of infinite development. In every man lie slumbering powers and capacities that are but waiting to be roused. We, whose fortune it is to be able to attend an institution like this, have set before us the best possible opportunities for this self-development. We owe it, therefore, as a duty to ourselves to grasp them while we may, to utilize them to the best advantage, to put forth our utmost efforts for that grandest of all tasks—the development of a *man*. Each of us is a sculptor set before the rude block of marble wherein lies yet imprisoned the ideal of himself. Each stroke of the chisel is either approaching the attainment of that ideal, or marring the block so that the ideal becomes impossible. Surely, when every stroke bears with it such momentous consequences, we should joyfully accept any teaching that will help us in the accomplishment of our aim. Here, as students of this University, an opportunity of such teaching is afforded us; it is incumbent on us, therefore, to not let it pass unheeded.

But again, we have a duty to fulfil, not to ourselves alone, but to the world at large. It is impossible for any human being to confine to himself the influences of which he is the author. Silently, imperceptibly, but yet resistlessly, they pass beyond the individual control to enter as factors into the grand sum-total of human agencies. It is the peculiar glory of our modern civilization that it is the first system which has made any endeavor to embody this principle in its actions, to recognize the brotherhood of man. Imperfect though our conception of it may be, yet to have grasped the principle is a mighty step towards its realization. If we regard the literature of an era as an accurate gauge wherewith to measure it, and compare ancient authors with modern in reference to this point, we shall at once recognize the difference. So far was Plato, the prince of Greek philosophers, from apprehending any such idea, that we find his model state upreared on the foundation of human slavery. What a contrast is this with the highest fruit of our own literature on the same subject! It is said that the "Biglow Papers" of James Russell Lowell had half battered down the walls of American slavery ere yet the fight began. And turning from the touchstone of literature to the world of actual fact, the same contrast is there presented. In all ancient social systems slavery was an essential element; and so strong was the sentiment thus engendered that it remained in vogue almost up to our own day, despite all efforts to the contrary. It was reserved for the Anglo-Saxon race to vindicate, in the motherland at the cost of money, in the new world by the unstinted expenditure of a treasure far more precious, the right of every member of the human race to be treated as a *man*, not as a beast.

The progress of the world, then, is towards the more and more extended recognition of social rights and claims: it is for us, therefore, if we would be in touch with the age, to give the most earnest heed to our duty in this respect. Nor let us think that simple negligence will be a harmless

way of escaping this obligation. In no sphere is the maxim more true, "He that is not with us is against us; and he that gathereth not in scattereth abroad." And surely, even were neutral ground possible, no one who has any lofty conception of his duty towards his fellows would ever attempt to take up such a position. Cowardly indeed would he be, who in the hour of deadly conflict between right and wrong would desert the toil of the battlefield for the luxury of inglorious ease.

And while this duty rests upon every man, it lies in a more special sense on the students of our Universities. It is to the educated of mankind that the great mass look for precept and example. It is they who should be ever foremost in the conflict, encouraging others by word and deed to more strenuous exertions.

Here, then, lies a sphere of duty and labor worthy our utmost efforts. When we look abroad upon the world we see that the harvest indeed is plenteous and the laborers but few. But we should not despair because there is so much to be done and so few to do it. As the coral-reef, that rises from the ocean-bed, is the life-work of innumerable insects, so this greatest of all revolutions, the elevation of mankind, is to be wrought by the united endeavors of successive generations. To build our life-work into this wondrous structure is surely an attainment grand enough to satisfy our loftiest ambitions.

J. H. BROWN.

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## MEDICAL NOTES.

The second meeting of the Toronto University Medical Society was held in the Medical Building on Gerrard Street on Friday, the 13th; the President, Dr. G. A. Peters occupying the chair. After the usual preliminaries, the chairman called upon Mr. T. H. Middlebro, who read an excellent and most instructive paper on "The Formation of the Fœtal Membranes." Mr. Middlebro illustrated his paper by artistic diagrams in colored chalks on the black-board, and was listened to with marked attention throughout, a tribute due to so thoroughly and well prepared a paper. The second feature of the evening was a paper by Dr. Primrose on the drainage of wounds. This subject was of special interest to Final men, but Primary men also could not have failed to be interested on this occasion. The history of the drainage tube was traced back some centuries, and its use in those days illustrated by very amusing stories. The doctor was deservedly thanked for his kindness in presenting a paper on so interesting a subject, and the hope was expressed that the Society would again have the pleasure of listening to a paper from so able and enthusiastic a writer. As many of the students had left the city for Thanksgiving, the attendance was not so large as the excellent character of the programme merited. The Society adjourned, to meet again in a fortnight.

A somewhat unusual and unexpected diversion was given the Second year medicals on Wednesday, when, instead of the usual lecture on Physiology, a discourse on the investigations of Prof. Koch was given by Prof. Ramsay Wright. The new apparatus for projecting photographs on the screen was used with beautiful effect on this occasion, the lecturer illustrating each step in the process of investigation which was pursued by Prof. Koch and which led to his great discovery, by projecting a bacteriological culture on the circular screen. Many beautifully stained specimens of different bacteria were shown, among which was the staphylococcus, pyogenes aureus. The lecture was thoroughly enjoyed by all, though some regret was felt that it had been necessary to postpone one of Prof. A. B. McCallum's valued and instructive lectures, which stand forth among the brightest features of our Primary course. The vast importance of Physiology in medicine and its bearing upon the science are daily becoming better demonstrated, and we may congratulate ourselves that this department of our course is so fully up to the high standard of scientific investigation required by the times.