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COLLEGE LIFE A TRAINING FOR SERVICE.

A COLLEGE course is, for the majority of students, a training for some professional career, and the sacrifices that are often made to secure it are made freely, in the expectation that they will be fully compensated by the professional rewards that may follow. And yet a college course means far more than the mere training required for this or that profession. Even those who enter on it with this narrow view soon find that they have gained more than they sought and have built better than they knew. College life means higher learning, familiarity with the best that has come down to us from the past, and knowledge of the latest standpoint to which men of light and leading have brought their inquiries. It means development of faculty, with wider outlook, clearer vision and a loftier sky, larger power for initiation and for achievement, making the most and the best of oneself. It means fellowship, intimacies formed at a time and under conditions peculiarly favourable, friendships that give pledge of permanence and that broaden and enrich our sympathies. It means character, the ripening sense of responsibility and the wiser use of freedom, preparation for that larger field of life and work that awaits the student a little further on.

College life is the best experience through which to pass as the transition from the training at home to the work of the broad and busy world in which we must bear our part. Our early years are spent in the safety and shelter of home, but sooner or later we must pass out into that larger field that we call the world, must fight life's battle for ourselves, must take our place in many relations with our fellowmen. To conduct ourselves worthily in this broad world of intercourse with others we must learn how to use our freedom, how to bear responsibility, and this not by conforming to mere outward rules, but by cherishing lofty purposes and ideals. Now, for this period of apprenticeship, this time of training that is to develop the lad into the citizen, this preparation for taking our fitting place among our fellowmen, there is nothing,—at least there should be nothing,—equal to a college course. No doubt there are some who have found outside of college the discipline that contains much of what is best in college life. And, on the other hand, there are those who pass through college and yet fail to acquire the standpoint, the vision, the ideals and character that should be the outcome of college life. But certainly a college course ought to be the most