

COLLEGE TRAINING AND THE WAR.

The Great War has brought about a new appreciation of the value of college training. It is likely that, as a result of the experiences through which we are now going, the aids that modern civilization has provided for man's advancement, will be held in higher esteem than before.

The operations of this war, fearful in the destruction of life and property rest upon the applications of the great natural laws, which during the last few generations have been discovered and taught in academic halls. Out of the din and confusion of the war comes the testimony of the greatness of man's intellectual conquest of the earth and all that pertains to it.

Today, after we have been in the war a little more than one year, the War Department has instituted a nation-wide campaign to urge upon the young men and women of the country, high school training, to enter upon college courses, and to make it possible for those who are in college, especially those who are studying subjects of importance in warfare, to continue their studies until they graduate. There can be no finer evidence of the necessity of the trained mind in big human affairs than this appeal of the War Department at the present time.

However, if it be true that the war is being fought out along lines of intellectual power, it must come home to every teacher and to every institution of learning, whether it be of high or low degree, that now is the time to shape and to reshape our academic ideals, so that our country may be more largely served in its great struggle for human freedom. A new sincerity and a new seriousness must enter into our educational efforts; for only sincere and serious men are going to win the battles against the evil forces that false ideals and dishonest teachings have loosed upon the earth.

This is not a time for school men to adhere too closely to the methods of the past. Whatever is good and of present value, should, of course, be kept; but there should be no hesitation to lay aside, at least for the present, and possible forever, that which does not bear a vital relationship to the needs of the race. Undoubtedly the war will compel us to lay aside, temporarily, some of the subjects of instruction that deal most directly with the spirit of things; for only with material aids directly can the war be won. Therefore, engineering, medicine, chemistry, physics, manufacturing, commerce, agriculture, and human nutrition must be dignified beyond any old measure.

Yet, be it also remembered that each one of these applied professions will be used at this time as never before, in the interests of a great cause, backed by great spiritual world needs, and that each one of these applied professions will be transformed because of the new soul that will be given to it, as it is applied in the securing of a full and permanent freedom for the children of men. It may be that the great duty of the colleges in this day is to make all subjects in the curriculum spiritually alive, in that they are made to take their places whether in war or peace in carrying out a program for liberty, without which a man cannot rise to heights of greatness.

This thought also justifies, in and of itself, the variety of war service to which the colleges are now giving themselves; military training, the Red Cross work, Hoover lectures, caring for the soldier boys, sending out information bearing on the issues and the progress of the war, and the many other incidental activities in which the colleges are engaged.

Whatever may be the direction of the activity of any particular institution, this one thought must remain uppermost in the minds of students, faculty, and trustees, that when our country is at war, every institution of that country must also be in the war, and must contribute directly to the present need. All must be sacrificed if needs be, that a righteous victory may be ours. Whatever institution fails in this, be it a state, or private institution, is a slacker and disloyal to the land which harbors it.