

was limited and their graduates all found places in their chosen professions, they were regarded as manual training schools far below the intellectual plane of the universities, but since their graduates have begun to forge to the front in the affairs of the nation and to enter the lists with the alumni of the leading colleges as broad-minded men of culture, these technical institutions have gained such strength and popularity that even the authorities of the older institutions are wiping the dust from their spectacles and observing the change. We occasionally read essays, elegant in diction and replete with quotations in languages long since dead, in which the claim is made that in this practical age our boys are being educated within the narrow lines of specialism, and that we are losing sight of the true objects of an education. If this is true, it is sad, but is it? I think not.

The objects of a higher education are to develop and strengthen the mind, to train it to think and to adapt it for research and study. Upon this broad foundation there is almost sure to be erected, by subsequent development, true culture and citizenship. It seems reasonable to say that a course in a technical university, for instance our own Alma Mater, as fully equips a man for this development as in any of the older institutions. It is not what is actually learned at college, for much of this is forgotten in the struggle that follows, but the creation of habits of thought, and capacity of properly acquiring knowledge, that constitute the true value of collegiate education. It is easier to cultivate on the young mind a fondness for study when the practical application of what he learns follows the text book. I would not underestimate the classics for all knowledge is good, but I contend that too much time has been heretofore devoted to the study of Latin and Greek and pure mathematics. That it is as healthy a mental exercise, as broadening to the mind to understand and discuss the details of a great engineering work, as it is to translate Horace or Homer, and far more useful. That the student of Sanskrit poring over the pages of the dim past is as much a specialist as the man who devotes his life to the improvement of methods of using steam, and is not a more useful or more cultured citizen. A mind properly trained ever thirsts for more knowl-