

RAYS of LIGHT

MARCH 1904

Volume 5 No. 4



McPherson College
McPHERSON, KANSAS



The origin of the word "Yankee" comes from the pronunciation of "English" by the Massachusetts Indians, who called it "Yenghies", which became "Yankees". In this country it was first applied to the Englishers; then the South applied it to the Northerners, and Europe applies it to our entire population.

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KANSAS.

RAYS OF LIGHT.

VOL. V.

MARCH, 1904.

No. 4.

THE PLACE OF IDEALS

By S. W. HIGH

As we go amidst all the most beautiful scenes of nature, we find that each individual has a different opinion as to the most beautiful characteristic of the object which he beholds. Each has a preference, and each one grants to the other that their choice does appeal to them somewhat, but that their own has something of greater significance. Those who do not wish to specify any particular one, say that every thing is beautiful; but it is very doubtful whether they have not something appeals to their sense of beauty more than some others. A few questions with answers will prove this, for soon they will make some statement, showing that there is held a preference and a distinction.

It is true no doubt that the greatest of all restful means is to get away from cares and labors that engage our constant attention. This may all be brought about successfully by directing our minds upon ourselves and our ideals, which will cause us to enter a new line of thought.

Every rational mind has the power to form mental images. Let us see and experiment for a moment. Do we not instantly form an image of that flower whose fragrance and beauty we so much admire; the innocence and helplessness of that baby in whom is vested the strength and power of some great hero. However a feeling of discontent may come over us, because we may fail to see the true indications of the future possibilities. What we see and place as good to day may be lost, misplaced as bad to-morrow. The boy of today delights in a bicycle, but has not means wherewith to secure one; the man of to-morrow has sufficient means but desires no more a bicycle. His ideal has been changed and with something to satisfy the desire of the past.

When the goal becomes a reality the prize is less valued, and a feeling of disappointment creeps over us; but it does not come as a permanent remain; for sometimes before the passing of an hour's time or the rising or setting of the sun, the ever progressive soul has discerned a thing of greater worth in the distance, and the journey begins only to meet the same result. The

beat is just beyond our present reach and always remains so but nothing but efforts to attain it can afford real satisfaction.

We can not free ourselves from this cause. It is a means of urging us on and on, little by little, until we more nearly reach perfection. If we recognize the force of this statement it will give us new mental visions, and make room in our minds for greater and more rapid development and hasten us on to perfection. It will serve rid us of some old hobby or dislodge some old rubbish, which is not always so easily dealt with; but now with a little effort you will be able to place it aside like an article that has once served its purpose. A little while and you will have forgotten the place it once held in your mind.

Every one who stops to think finds himself the possessor of an ideal world. And as we have reached the hill top and look down into the valleys everything has a different appearance and all assumes a new aspect. So too when we allow ourselves to revel in the ideal world and behold its beauty and appreciate its value. A worthy ideal purpose will enable us to find our particular sphere in life, and broaden much our field of action. There must needs be time accompanied by a firm purpose and then by our own adaptability we use our present circumstances as stepping stones to success, leading to the summit.

It is impossible to judge what may and can be accomplished until an attempt is made. There is a nameless something, an imperative, a power that

we cannot define, urging us ever onward to the more worthy purpose. Follow it; your ideal will never desert you; it is present day and night, and stronger than your will. You doubtless have often become wearied of this endless longing for something you could not achieve, and put it out of your mind; but you have failed, utterly failed; you are forced to give it a place and at some time an opportunity to find expression in birth.

Endeavor to know your true worth; look deep down into your soul and allow the fragments of a mighty force to be realized and given its asserted rights. The fountain is inexhaustible and awaits your command. Demand the highest and the light will gently lead you on, penetrating the darkened shadows that may rise before you, and transform your nature into beauty and usefulness. If we fail in this the oppression becomes heavy and only expression can overcome it.

The attitude that we should assume is to allow the laws suggested to us to be the mode of procedure. It may be during our seasons of loneliness that the germ takes root; or perhaps when our minds are led out by some sweet strain of music, or as we listen to some great man who is expanding our thoughts for the longing that is just beyond our reach. The ideal is the forerunner that has wrought wonders in men's lives and led the way over the rocky ledges to fame and success.

*Consolidation of Township Schools
With Transportation of Children
vs. Common Schools.*

By E. D. BALDWIN

The question is, can our common school system be improved, by centralizing the schools of each township and having one large school building in the center of each to do the same work and accomplish it more effectually than the nine smaller ones are now doing.

As the townships of McPherson County are all of the same size and those not containing towns have about the same population, what will apply to one will apply to the others. At present we are supposed to have nine school houses in each township, employing nine teachers which accommodate on an average, about twenty pupils each. These pupils walk to school each morning, some having as much as two miles to go and some not having a mile. If the weather is nice, they are likely to loiter along the way, arriving late at the school house or not going in at all, or if the weather is cold, they suffer much and sometimes freeze their finger tips or parts of their faces. If the roads are muddy they come in with wet feet or if it rains they sometimes get soaked to the skin. The school buildings are often small and crowded, not properly heated or ventilated, the cold wind blows in one side and the sun shines in on the other, while those close to the stove are too warm and the others farther away are shivering. The

teachers are usually the cheapest that can be hired, for the farmers cannot afford to hire expensive men to teach fifteen or eighteen children. These often do not make proper use of the charts, globes, maps, and other apparatus in the school house and as they do their own janitor work often leave things very uncomfortable for the children.

Nevertheless, much good is accomplished in these little country school houses, and many children graduate from them at the age of fourteen or fifteen and then go off to the colleges or higher places of learning to continue their education. But before we go any farther, let us glance at a few statistics and see how many of these children do get through the common school and go on with their education.

There are 510,000 youths in Kansas between the ages of five and twenty-one. Of these, there are only 880,000 enrolled in any of the public schools, and of these 880,000 who are supposed to be in school, actually, there are only 260,000 in average daily attendance; i. e., there are 260,000 youth between the ages of five and twenty-one, in the state of Kansas, who are not in school.

But how long do these Kansas youths stay in school and how far up the grades do they go? There are 27,000 pupils enrolled in the first grade. By the time the fifth grade is reached 18,000 or almost half have dropped out. By the time the eighth grade is reached 4,000 more have been lost to the schools; i. e., of the 27,000 children that the Kansas schools started with in the first grade, nearly two thirds have dropped

out, leaving only 10,000 children advanced to the eighth grade; of these only 1,800 ever graduate from the high schools and less than three hundred of them ever finish the true college course. There are 82,500 Kansas people over the ages of ten years who cannot read or write and 14,000 of our voters are unable to read the ballot they cast.

It will not take an intelligent person long to comprehend that this is not an ideal state of affairs for the statistics go on to show that the uneducated child in the United States has only one chance in 150,000 of attaining distinction as a factor in the progress of the age while the educated boy has more than eight hundred times the same chance. It is also an interesting fact to know that of the 7,850 notable persons in the United States, those who have gained more than national reputation, over 4,800 belong to the class of full college graduates, while only thirty one come from the class of illiterates, which is nearly five times the greater of the two.

Upon the education of the people, the fate of the nation depends; it is next in importance to freedom and justice, for without it freedom and justice can never be maintained, therefore, let us look to the betterment of our common schools, for it is here, that the young minds are moulded that in future generations will rule the state.

This idea of consolidation of schools and transportation of children, is no longer an experiment but is an actual working fact in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and other of the North Central States. It gives much better schools and in

most cases an actual decrease in cost to the township.

The drivers who carry the children to school are hired by the board of education, who exercise almost as much care in the selection as they do in hiring the teachers, for they put them under bond to be careful with the children; to have safe teams; to provide suitable wagons covered and equipped with curtains, and containing hot bricks or soapstones and lap robes for the cold weather. They must be men of good character, must not chew, smoke, or use obscene language, must stop at every farm house where there are school children and must arrive at the school grounds not later than 8:45. Thus no children will be tardy; none come with wet feet or clothing, and the attendance will be greatly increased and much more regular. They leave for home at 8:45 and as they are under the control of responsible men there is no opportunity for vicious conversation or the terrorizing of the little ones, by some bully, as they trudge homeward through the snow and mud, and indecent and obscene language being prohibited in the wagons, all opportunities for quarrelling or improper conduct on the way to and from school are removed.

In the township schools all the large boys play base ball on the play grounds. Think what it is in the country to get all the boys of the township together, on one playground where they will grow up together each being stronger for having studied and played with other boys of the entire township. In a great many districts, where there are hardly

enough boys to play two-cornered cat, is it any wonder that they get tired of school after a certain age? The campus should have about three acres, with shade trees, school decorations, library, gymnasium, etc., and it can be made the social, literary, and musical centre of the entire township.

So far I have said nothing of the school building itself, but just at this time it seems very proper to compare the costs of the two systems, as far as school buildings are concerned. Nine district school buildings, at \$900 a piece, is a total cost of over \$8,000. A good substantial large two story frame building, accommodating two hundred pupils, can be built and furnished for \$3,000, or better still, a fine brick building with a basement and heated with a furnace, can be built for \$6,000. It does not require very much calculation to prove that one large furnace in a central building is cheaper than furnaces or stoves in nine different buildings. Then in some school districts the directors are compelled to sink wells at a cost running around one hundred dollars. Now one well at a central building is cheaper than wells at each of nine different buildings. And so on for many other items of expense, everything going together to lessen the general cost of repair.

Kingsville Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio, reports that after its schools were consolidated the incidental expenses decreased, from \$1,000 to \$500 per year and in the first three years following the adoption of the law they actually saved \$1,000

Madison Township in Lake County reports that under the new plan the total cost to their township was about the same as under the old, but that the cost per pupil was much less. This is easily understood when we learn that the attendance increased from 200 to 800 pupils, after the consolidation was effected.

In the centralized school where the work is graded, four good teachers at seventy-five or eighty dollars per month can easily take care of the children, and five or six drivers at twenty-five or thirty dollars per month can transport them to and from the school. As to the character of the school, who could claim that the nine scattered schools could do the work of a well graded four room school, to say nothing of the sanitary improvement in the way of seating, lighting, heating and ventilation. There is absolutely no comparison. Not many years ago sensible people said that a man was a fool to think about binding grain by machinery. They were not ignorant, they were simply mistaken. So those who were opposed to centralization of schools in Illinois, for there are always those who are opposed to progress, now frankly acknowledge their mistake and are found among the staunchest supporters. A committee, sent to inspect the Gustavus township school in Trumbull county, traveled over the township and talked with the people, many of whom were at first opposed to the plan and out of fifty-four families interviewed only one person was dissatisfied. The plan is sim-

(CONCLUDED ON PAGE 886.)

* RAYS * OF * LIGHT. *

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST.
by The Rays of Light Publishing Company

McPherson College, McPherson, Kans.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN
ADVANCE; SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.

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PHONETIC SPELLING. The Rays of Light adopts phonetic spelling of the following words recommended by the National Educational Associations program, tho, altho, thoro, thorefore, thordy, thru, thruout, catalog, prolog, demagog, decalog, pedagog.

COMMUNICATIONS Literary articles and information regarding Alumni are respectfully solicited. Items of Alumni news should be addressed to the Alumni editor. Literary articles should be addressed to the Literary editor. Communications regarding subscriptions should be addressed to the Business manager; concerning advertising, to the Advertising solicitor.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE OF McPHERSON, KANSAS, AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

E D I T O R I A L

We extend our sympathies to our friends at Bethany who are mourning the loss of their president, Dr. Swenson. From experience we have learned that it is hard to see why powerful, noble leaders are called from us in the prime of their work. But does not God do all things for our good? It certainly is inspiring to look at the lives of those who have lived so true and faithfully and worked so earnestly for the good of their fellow-men.

Self-reliance, self-restraint, self-discipline, these constitute an educated will.

One the night of Feb. 27 our students had the exquisite pleasure of listening to Dr. Morgan Wood's lecture on the "Average Man." No one who has any life could listen to this lecture without coming away with new enthusiasm and a burning desire to make something out of life.

The next and last number of our Lyceum Course for this season was a musical number given by the Nellie Peck Saunders Co., March 8. It was exceptionally fine.

Our students have rapidly grown to a realization of the value to be obtained from listening to world reputed artists and the most powerful men of today. By coming in contact with these personalities they receive an indispensable feature of their education which could not be obtained in any other way.

"It is said of the late Senator Hanna that he never contracted a debt to whose payment he could not see a clear way. It was a cardinal principle with him never to live beyond his income. No business obligation was ever dishonored and he never failed to keep an agreement either written or verbal. He found a pleasure in helping others and concealing the good he had done."

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(CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 337.)

ply a public improvement corresponding to rural free delivery of mail or county telephone system and when once instituted the people will not go back to the old system under any consideration.

Keep in mind that the school will not be in a village and while the children are scattered over thirty-six square miles of territory none will ever come in tardy or need to miss school on account of bad weather.

Any one who will look at this proposition with fairness must be convinced that here is the solution of the county school problem; that here is an opportunity for the big boys on the farm to get higher education and still be at home evenings, secure from the temptations and dissipations of city life; that here the higher branches of study can be taught by teachers more conversant with the needs of their profession, and pupils from every part of the country can enjoy graded school education, whether they live in the most remote corner of the township or at the very doors of the central school; that here the attendance will be increased, the school year lengthened, the best teachers be employed and, that we must come to the conclusion, that centralization is the best system is every respect.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

Recently we had the privilege of examining the McPherson County educational exhibit for the St. Louis Exposition. It consists of twelve large volumes of work done by the pupils of our public schools out side of the city. Eight volumes are by the Inman schools superintended by Prof. Claude J. Shirk who has completed three courses at McPherson College, having taken his Master's degree in 1902.

This work is to compete for the prize awarded to the High School sending the best work. If our 15 years experience in educational work gives us any right to judge we feel sure it cannot be excelled. Every text used in the school is worked out in full and the course of study is equal to that of almost any High School in the state. It includes Chemistry, Adv. Physiology and Adv. Physics in addition to the regular High School course.

The Inman school is almost wholly the work of Prof. Shirk and is one of the best equipped schools in the state. They own over \$850.00 worth of school apparatus. McPherson county won a Bronze Medal and certificate of award at the World's Fair in 1898 and the exhibit this year far surpasses the one sent then. Supt. T. O. Coons is doing excellent work for the schools of the county and we are justly proud of our college boys.

Thots Worth Remembering.

"What you have to do, then, is to

make up your mind that you will get out of your education the thing for which it is given you a richer, fuller, stronger life, of which the world shall receive the benefit."—Henry Van Dyke.

"Whoever works simply for his wages, no matter what his work be nor the amount of salary he receives, is a drudge."—Fasset A. Cotton.

"There is always a golden age, soon to be behind us, which at every period of our life is before us."

"It is a sad thing to begin life with low conceptions of it. It may not be possible for a young man to measure life; but it is possible to say, I am resolved to put life to its noblest and best use."

If a man empties his purse into his head no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

"Real geniuses are very scarce. Perhaps you may never become one. But you can become a member of the great class of faithful, diligent workers, and they are the people who are moving the world to-day."

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ASSETS.

Real Estate.—An inheritance in-

corruptible, and undefiled and that fadeth not away."—Pet. 1:4.

Cash in Bank.—"Gold tried in the fire."—Rev. 8:18.

LIABILITIES.

Unmerited Claims.—"All things are yours."—Cor. 8:21.

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genuine policies are stamped with a Blood Red Seal.

Persons claiming to have no souls held not apply.

Around The College

The visiting board consisting of Elds. Shirk, Keller and Davis spent a few days visiting us and investigating the work done. They expressed themselves as being well pleased with the progress the school is making. We are always glad to have them call and give us words of encouragement.

Prof. Clement and several of our students attended the program of the county teachers association which was held in the city recently.

Prof. B. S. Haugh has been elected to fill Prof. Krantz's place as teacher of music in the city schools.

Mrs. Lois Throne, a former student, spent a few days visiting her mother and renewing old college associations. She set a good example for all Alumni by subscribing for our paper.

Eld. M. B. Wagoner of Red Cloud, Neb., spent several days with his sons who are in college. He is well pleased with the work that is being done.

Mr. Noah Neher has moved his family from Rocky Ford, Colo., and has taken up his residence in the Hartor property. We welcome these excellent people to our city.

There is now no question in regard to the New Swedish College being built here. Arrangements are being perfected and work will be begun next month. McPherson is one of the best college towns in the state. No town can boast of better side walks, strong churches, purer morals and nobler

citizens. We welcome our Sister College to our city.

Eld. and Mrs. J. C. Ullery have been quite ill but we are glad to note that they are improving.

Mrs. John L. Kuns made a visit with her son George at Lawrence and her daughter Fern at Topeka. She reports them getting along nicely both in their school work and domestic relations.

Mr. Ed. Heckethorn had charge of the college steam heating plant during the illness of Mr. Fox. Albert is again at his post and continues to provide comfort for us.

Mr. J. J. Frantz is taking some post graduate work in the college.

Among the Alumni who came in to attend Prof. Kemp's reading were Sup't. C. J. Shirk of Inman, Supt. D. H. Arnold and wife of Conway, Miss Flo Ramage of Little River, E. E. Yoder, R. C. Strohm, D. E. Bower and Miss Della McComber.

It will not be long until we have the opportunity of listening to another "Grand Concert" given under the direction of Prof. Muir. The last one was exceptionally good and well appreciated but the coming concert promises to exceed all former ones. This will be a rare opportunity for you to attend a good musical. Watch for the date and come.

Turner Arnold, a last year stenographic graduate, writes us that he has been promoted to a better position at Parson.

Prof. P. A. Kane '02, visited his Alma Mater recently.

Miss Flo Ramage, college '03, attended the lecture and visited the school. She reports her school at Little River progressing nicely.

Announcements are out announcing the marriage of Mr. Jesse Brubaker to Miss Ella Roseum on the ninth instant. Mr.

Brubaker is one of our oratorical graduates who has been making quite a reputation giving programs this winter. Miss Roscom was also one of our students. We extend our greetings to them and wish them success.

Mr. Frank Coler of Norton, Kan., has enrolled in the Bible department.

Dr. C. D. Weaver has moved his family to Galva to succeed Dr. J. C. Klumpinger who has been appointed R. R. surgeon by the O. R. I. & Pac. at Herington. Dr. Weaver is president of the Collegiate class '06 and intends to finish his course even yet. Dr. Weaver will be greatly missed by all and especially by the students both in the classroom and in the sickroom.

Elder, George Studebaker spent several days at the college in the interest of District Mission work.

Rev. Geo. S. Rinkes, of Wichita, spent a few days in McPherson in the interest of the Prison reform work.

The following officers were chosen for the Irving Society for the spring term, Pres., Minnie Bartels; Vice Pres., Vernon Vankman; Secy., Sylvia Müller; S. E. Müller; Chor., O. D. Buick.

Messrs. A. L. and D. L. Scheelenberg visited their Alma Mater last Sunday. They conducted the preaching services for the German students.

My terrestrial existence in the spring of 1886, on the 25th day of May. My parents lived on a farm near Virden, Ill., where I spent many happy hours down in the grove, by the pond, and in the old swing back of the house. My most vivid recollection of my early childhood, and I suppose not uncommon or unnatural, is my last little old red dress and ---, how I went out where the men were bailing hay and told them, "When this dress wears out then ---", how I ran a half mile to show Father, and the fuss that was sure to follow when the red dress was laid out instead of the new trousers.

When I was five years old my parents moved to McPherson; the next fall I entered the city schools and continued thru the ninth grade, entered M. C. in 1898 where I now expect to complete the college course in '06.

During my first year in the city schools the boys had considerable fun at my expense. I had learned to speak German, but by no amount of coaxing or scheming could I be induced to converse with any one except Father and Mother, however a 'dutch' word slipped in occasionally -- hence the fun. It didn't take much guying till I wouldn't say 'dutch' to any one, but now -- when that German primer comes around -- if I only could.

(CONCLUDED IN NEXT NUMBER)

ALUMNI NOTES

F. G. Kauffman has returned to his home in Ohio.

Miss Nellie McVey is teaching music in Lordsburg College, California.

BIOGRAPHIES OF MEMBERS OF NORMAL CLASS OF 1903.

O. S. Vaniman, '04 Normal,--I took up

Students Sunday Program.

- 10 a. m. Preaching Services.
- 11 a. m. Sunday School.
- 4 p. m. Devotional Meetings of the Young Men and the Young Womens Christian Associations.
- 7 p. m. Preaching Services.

Life is a series of surprises, and would not be worth taking or keeping, if it were not. God delights to isolate us every day, and keep from us the past and the future. He draws down before us an impenetrable screen of purest sky, and another behind us of purest sky.—Experience.

The best part of health is a fine disposition. It is more essential than talent, even in the works of talent. Nothing will supply the want of sunshine to peaches, and to make knowledge valuable, you must have the cheerfulness of wisdom.—Selected.

In an object lesson on the "Cat," the teacher asked:

"What boy can tell me to what family the cat belongs?"

A hand was raised.

"Well?" asked the teacher.

"I think the cat belongs to the family that owns it," was the diminutive pupil's answer.—Philadelphia Times.

mate and co-worker, Prof. S. J. Miller. In a pleasing little speech in which he referred briefly to his college career. The speaker then delivered a monologue entitled "Marse Chan." This is a very beautiful yet pathetic story of the late war, and many times the audience was moved to tears, yet throughout the whole selection is a vein of humor which makes it a very charming little story.

Then followed a duet by Prof. and Miss Gladys Muir, after which Mr. Kemp delivered eight selections closing with "After-whites" by James Whitcomb Riley and Eugene Field's "Good bye, God Bless You."

At the close of the entertainment a reception was given Mr. Kemp at the home of Prof. Miller.

Mr. Kemp has won for himself a national reputation and wherever he goes he receives nothing but words of highest praise.

His modest though courteous manner, his congenial and sympathetic disposition, and his persistent and determined effort insure him unbounded success in his chosen profession.

Every loyal student of McPherson college is justly proud of "Our Kemp" and assures him a hearty welcome should he ever return to the city.

Kemp's Recital Pleases

The people had long anticipated the coming of Prof. C. E. Kemp and all were expecting a rare treat. At last the time arrived and a large audience greeted the speaker.

To say that he came fully up to the expectation, expresses it but mildly.

The opening number was a piano duet by the Misses Cottingham and Matchette. Mr. Kemp was then introduced by his old class

Y. M. C. A. NOTES

F. A. Vaniman, President of the Peoples Bank and an active Y. M. C. A. worker, delivered another number of the Life-Work Series of lectures to the Y. M. C. A. His theme was "The Christian Business Man." He gave some very instructive and helpful shots to all who expect to engage in business, and clearly showed that the most successful business man is the one who is honest in all his dealings. His talk was much

appreciated by those present.

The members of the association have subscribed \$285 for missions.

A number of new books have been added to the missionary library.

The annual election of the Y. M. C. A. officers took place March 4. Those elected were S. C. Miller, Pres., Ray Strohm, Vice Pres., Foster Cline, Sec'y., and Otis Vaniman, Treasurer.

The association is well organized in every department, and is doing excellent work. A summary of the year shows that fifteen men have by its influence been led to Christ. Fifty have been led into association membership, thirty-five of these enrolled in bible study, and twelve led into active Christian service.

The personal workers band meets once each week and work of a practical nature is discussed, then thru the week this study is made practical. Only those in close contact with the work can appreciate and realize the good the association is doing. The retiring officers have faithfully performed their work and the officers elect have the good will and co-operation of the students. It is expected that they with their committeemen will do some excellent work the coming year.

EXCHANGES

Tell me what you like, and I will tell you what you are. —Ex.

The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to try what one has to do. —Ex.

Be such a man, live such a life, that if every man were such as you and every life a life like yours, this earth would be a paradise. —Indian Leader.

Positively refuse to permit your attention to be drawn away from the task it is engaged upon. Herein lies the secret of power, and of much so-called genius.—Industrialist.

It would be well for us if with Hood we would resolve that like the sun, so long as our days last we will look on the bright side of everything.—Wesleyan Advance.

The young man, as he faces the responsibilities of the world, should remember that to become great in the highest sense one must become a constructor, not a destroyer. —Students Herald.

WANTED

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DR. R. B. HULL

PHYSICIAN AND
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