

THE FORUM

A Challenge!

Will the students of Nebraska please read the article in the present issue of the "Nebraskan" giving a list of the graduates of our University who are now in missionary work in foreign lands? Some of these men and women, you will notice, are engaged in teaching, some are medical missionaries, some are ministers, others are doing educational work of various kinds connected with the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. Would it not be well for the under graduate student to compare the opportunities for service in the various professions of the home country and these foreign countries? We graduate in our American colleges more than ten thousand men and women from the medical colleges. The country actually needs two thousand five hundred, in order that we may have a physician and surgeon to every six hundred of our population. China now has one physician and surgeon to every two and a half million people. Some opportunity for the practice of medicine in China. Our surplus output might be well employed in China alone. The late Justice Brewer of the U. S. supreme court declared that we have sufficient legal business in the United States for thirty thousand lawyers, and we have a supply of sixty thousand lawyers. There are fifty times as many teachers in our school supplying the educational need of a hundred million people as are to be found in the whole non-christian world with its thousand million population. Some day the coal supply of China, which will last the world a thousand years, will need to be mined and engineers will find greater opportunities there than anywhere in the world.

We have in America one minister for every three hundred persons. In the non-christian world the church is supplying one minister to two hundred thousand of the population. Today there are seven hundred eighty-three known positions in missionary service waiting to be filled by those who will volunteer for such service. How does the great commission read? It is this: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The challenge to the christian students of the world is this: the evangelization of the world in this generation. It can be done if the thousands of christian students throughout the world are willing to help do it.

STANHOPE R. PIER.

There is not one student in the University of Nebraska but in whose subconsciousness, at least, there lurks a recognition of some factor which controls his life, some standard which he strives more or less earnestly to attain. This standard and its attainment he commonly regards as his religion. There are a good many of us, however, whose religion does not manifest itself very much above our subconsciousness. It is simply a smoldering something to which we pay little or no attention in so far as our daily actions are concerned. On Sunday, when we have nothing else in particular to do, we let a breath of air pass over that almost extinguished source of warmth. A tiny flame breaks out, only to be suffocated again ere we reach our eight o'clock class.

This condition within our lives, lamentable to those spiritually interested in us, and yet not even recognized by others, is rather a puzzling problem in psychology to the great religious leaders in educational life. Moreover this condition is peculiar to college students. We, of all the classes in this complexity of modern life, are said to be the most indifferent, the most irreceptable to an appeal for more vital Christian living. And yet they say of us that we are to be the leaders within our community and are to mould the destinies of our fellow-men. Quite so—that is the reason we

are enjoying the privilege of a higher education. At the same time, we forget that we are neglecting to develop the spiritual side of our lives. Surely we have come to realize that the great leaders of the movement for the betterment of the human race recognize a Supreme Being.

The reason, fellows, for this spirit of indifference which predominates the universities like ours is chiefly due to three things: First, to the in-born attitude of self-satisfaction which is individually assumed by so many of us; second, to the distraction of school and social activities, especially as we carry them to excess; and last, but primarily, to our ignorance of the practical reality of a Christian life.

The first reason may be discarded with but a remark. The attitude of self-satisfaction, although bad enough in itself, is nothing more than a surface trait, which may be easily overcome. Let us rather believe that there is no such spirit very deeply ingrained within our lives. The second reason, however, is one which weighs more heavily upon us.

Amidst the perplexities of school activities and social engagements, we are apt to forget the things that seriously affect our future welfare. We forgot our studies, or more often, we intentionally neglect them. We fail to remember that in our home town most of us were affiliated with and quite regularly attended some church. Then, too, those of us who are fraternity men find in our respective houses the comradeship and good times which leave little desire for Christian service and ideals. We are too liable to follow the lines of least resistance—lie in bed on Sunday morning until noon or lounge around the house half dressed, when we do get up. It has been said, "What gets your attention, gets you." That is the reason why so many of us lead an indifferent and doubtful spiritual life. It has not got our attention. We are more or less ignorant as to just what it means to lead a vital Christian life. We have never felt the necessity of it and we think we fare very nicely without it. But, fellows, it is something worth while, something worth our very earnest attention, and we should be willing to investigate its claims at least.

One of the best ways we can become acquainted with what it really means to live such a life is to examine the fellow next to us, whom we feel certain is an example of Christian ideals. He may not be hot and heavy in spring track work, or on some University publication, but as far as will-power, character and general efficiency is concerned, he very likely has the edge on the other man. We all recognize the presence of sin in one form or another and know how much easier it is for the fellow who is a vital Christian to overcome the temptations that bob up in our college life than for one who is not. So let us step back on high ground for a minute and "take stock," that we may see ourselves as our fellow-students see us. Then try to stay on high ground. It isn't how well we get along WITHOUT recognizing a Divine power to whom we can turn in time of trouble, but how much better we can get along WITH the spirit of Christ in our daily life and WITH Him for a guide in our every action. And, fellows, we can't lead a Christian life without practicing it, any more than we can become an "N" man or a Kosmet "lead" without practice. By practice, we mean, a conscientious effort to better our habits, recognizing Christ, the while, as our guide to those ends.

GLENN S. EVERTS.

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Eight Week Clubs and Service

Eight Week Clubs are groups of girls organized during the summer in the small towns or in the country. The leader is a college girl and a member of a Young Women's Christian Association.

The club has social meetings, follows some little course of study, and does something for community service. Probably the matter of service is the thing which appeals most to Nebraska girls.

Two years ago a University of Nebraska girl had the best club in the United States. It was up in the sandhills and was made up of girls of several different nationalities and of various religious creeds. These girls wished to do something in the way of dramatics, and being hampered by too small a knowledge of English, they gave a pantomime.

This same club is working now to get a consolidated rural high school for their community.

One club started a Sunday school, which has made a splendid record; another gave a successful "old time" program for the old people of the town.

But whatever the girls are doing, whether it is getting better street lights, better books or better playgrounds, in the very service they themselves are growing closer together. The college girl is getting reacquainted with the girls "back home" and the girls are getting a glimpse of college and all are learning something of the bigger meaning of sisterhood.

Captain-elect McCormack of Nebraska Wesleyan is the newly elected president of the Young Men's Christian Association and is an untiring worker for the promotion of religious life among the men of the University.



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