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COLLEGE SETTLEMENT—ITS AIMS

Establishment in Lincoln of an Institution Which Has for
Its Purpose the Amelioration of
Some of the Distressing Conditions that Confront the Poor

The announcement of the approaching completion of the house erected at the corner of Twentieth and N streets, by the College Settlement association for its new home, has occasioned so many inquiries that it is believed a brief review of the association and its plans will be a topic of real interest to the people of Lincoln. A word of preface in regard to the origin of the idea may not be amiss, as doubtless there are those unacquainted with its aims and methods.

The initiative in this movement was taken by Arnold Toynbee—an Oxford student—who, conceiving the idea that the poor might be brought to a betterment of their social and industrial condition through the example and influence of a model home established in their midst, devoted his short life to the work in the worst section of East London. "Toynbee Hall," erected as a memorial of his life and idea, became the centre for redeeming East London, and the parent of the "halls" now scattered all over the world. In America the eastern colleges first took up the work, and located "settlements" in the worst districts of the great cities. Today these centres may be found connected with every important college and university in the land, and have extended from large to small city, and even to rural communities. Men and women of wealth, social position, and educational acquirements become "residents" in these "settlements" and thus a living part of the people of the neighborhood. The aim of all is to help those less fortunate to help themselves. The idea of charity is wholly absent. Those who are often so widely separated into social classes are brought together and questions of mutual or diverse interests are presented and discussed from all points of view. Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, stands today as the most noted leader of this movement. Great buildings on Halstead street have sprung into being under her magic touch. Summer outings, mothers' clubs, reading and amusement rooms, recreation and play grounds, cleaner streets, and better government indicate a few of the lines of work and results of Hull House. Graham Taylor, of "Chicago Commons," has reformed in large part the life of a ward, and so strong has become his work, that the University of Michigan has established a fellowship, the holder of which lives for a half year or more at the "Commons" to study college settlement methods. Under Mr. Taylor's direction investigations are carried on by more than thirty "residents," who give their time and strength to the work in hand. Whole neighborhoods have been transformed in every city in our land, and yet not a worker of the hundreds in this movement receives payment for

his services. In some cases expenses are provided for, but salaries are never given.

The work was first taken up in the University of Nebraska in 1896 by Professor Wolfe, who, accepting Professor James' theory that emotion without effort is enervating, sought in settlement work the means of giving expression to student altruism. The social needs of Lincoln were in no way the needs of a larger city, and the result of student effort upon the classes among whom they worked was for the time regarded as of less importance than the influence of the endeavor upon the students themselves. Preliminary investigations by Professors Wolfe, Fossler, Hodgman, and others, led to the calling of a faculty conference, and, soon after, to the adoption of a constitution and a formal organization. After a period of introductory activity on the part of the faculty alone, the working board was reorganized, so as to include three faculty and four student members, and the latter at once pressed into active service through the

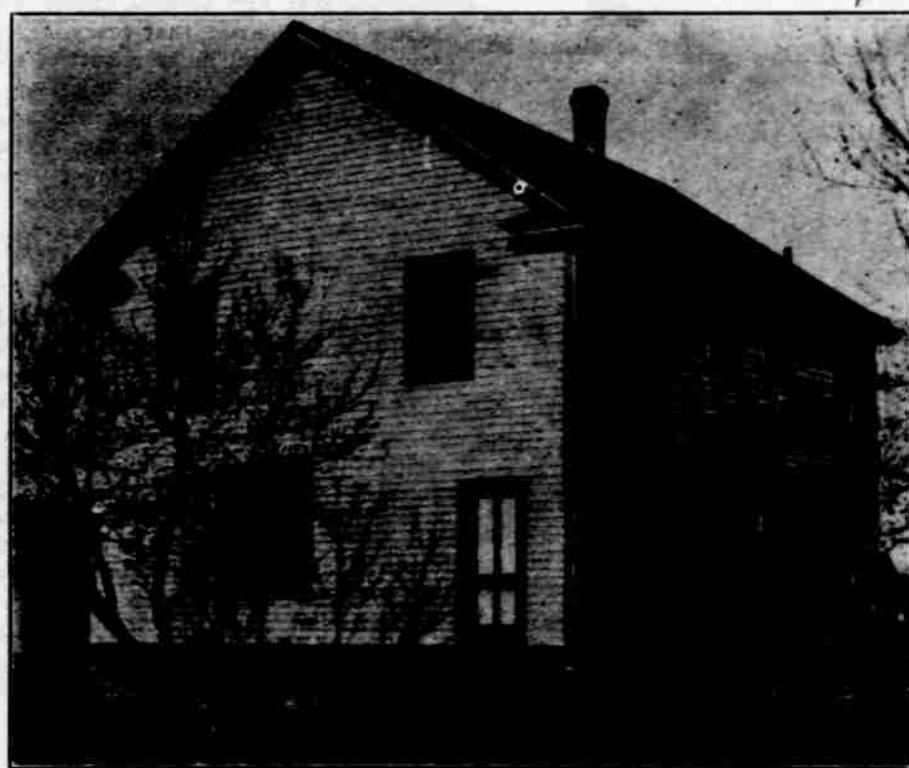
has been of more practical value or more popular than that in manual training, begun at first with the simple Sloyd system and the use of ordinary jackknives, and quickly rising from an initial attendance of ten to the uncomfortably crowded number of forty, with still others desiring to join. A reading room supplied with some two hundred bound volumes and numerous magazines, and a collection of pictures, loaned out in turn among the various homes, were additional methods of neighborhood instruction and elevation.

The people of Lincoln have throughout entered very heartily into the college settlement work, aiding it by their contributions and encouragement, and assisting in its development, until the movement has become much more than a mere university affair. A second reorganization of the board has recently been made to include three members from the city—Messrs. J. E. Miller, G. W. Rhodes, and Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, and with its new home the work enters upon a new and larger

home, a view and plans of which are presented in the accompanying illustrations, is a large house, 25x36 feet square, two stories in height, with ten rooms, besides basement and garret. Both of the latter will be put to good use, the basement being intended for the manual training work, for which ten benches and a full supply of excellent tools for ten workers afford a most encouraging equipment. Furnace heat, gas lights, and sanitary sewerage will assist in making a model dwelling. The ground floor rooms may be used for reading, study, or games, or may be thrown into practically one large room for auditorium purposes.

The association regards the outlook for the coming year as most encouraging. The board has succeeded in securing Mr. Prevey, the efficient secretary of the Charity society, as the "resident," to begin his duties in the fall. His wide experience in social work, and his still wider sympathy with those who will be his neighbors in the true sense of the word promise by far the most successful year in the history of the "settlement." But it is not alone in the fact that an efficient "resident" has come to the aid of the association that success may be predicated. The new house, the better equipment, the more central location, and above all the deep sympathy shown by faculty, students, and citizens cannot help but inspire all to renewed energy.

The settlement is not an "institution" or a "home" in the sense of a charity home, but a real home with its doors always open to neighbors, rich and poor alike. The college settlement does not aim to duplicate any work now under way by other associations. Its purpose is unique, and its field unoccupied. It does not disburse charity. It strives to make charity unnecessary. It does not enter directly into the religious field, yet its every effort will be to make for morality, and against the low and the vulgar. In its educational efforts it will not duplicate the work now carried on, but strive to reach those who cannot take advantage of the public schools. Evening classes will be formed, and instruction given in manual training and domestic service. Those who believe in this movement,—and all are rapidly coming to be its friends—wish to offer a common ground of meeting for radical and conservative; for worker and employer where one is just the equal of the other in rights; for the refined and those whose advantages have been less. In short the plan requires sacrifice and devotion; not a spirit of patronage or of pride. The common brotherhood must ever be in mind, and the welfare of city, state, and nation the goal towards which all efforts shall tend.



COLLEGE SETTLEMENT BUILDING.
Twentieth and N Streets.

organization of numerous committees for the conduct of various lines of the work. Mr. and Mrs. Fauquet first took up the actual "resident" duties in the location chosen at Eighth and X streets, and night schools, sewing school, entertainments, games, and other means of social inspiration and betterment gradually introduced. Of the numerous lines of instruction none

field. Instead of a mere "model home," the intention is to now make it a sort of social "clearing house"—a place where different social strata may meet for amusement and instruction, where boys and girls may find attractions sufficient to keep them from the streets and, if necessity demands, a place where mothers may leave their children during working hours. The new