

only half truths. The statement that "most students enter college with a future mapped out" is almost if not quite false. Students may enter college with a definite life work before them. But, very few, even at the end of the senior year, can answer definitely the question students so often put to each other: "What are you going to be?"

A census taken this year in the agricultural college of Kansas showed that eighty per cent of the students had not yet determined upon what they should do when they left the college halls. Please to notice, also, that this fact is found in an agricultural college, where many of the students are farmer boys. They have had like environment and, it would be supposed, would have similar and definite ambitions. But facts prove that, however much they despised or loved the farm, when they left it for college; however determined they were when they entered college doors, to be a doctor, a lawyer, or a merchant, all definite aim deserted eighty per cent of them after but a glance at the educational field.

The great number of "I don't know's" given in our institution in answer to the definite question "what are you going to be" leads me to say that not seventy five per cent. of our students are determined upon any definite life work. Many of them have vague desires, and plans still more vague. Most of them are in college because father sends them, or because an undefined desire for knowledge prompts them to search for it.

This sounds very different from the language of the writer whose lines I quote. It may be my thoughts in but the other half of the truth his words convey. But I think not. I would almost wager that he himself is not sure what he will do when he has his B. L. degree, or, if he is sure of it now that he will change his mind.

Three of the smartest men that graduated with the classes of last year and the year before, took courses preparatory to science and to law, but are now preparing for the ministry. This is but one of many illustrations of the natural uncertainty of a student's purpose. What a student thinks he will be when he is a sophomore, is not what he will be, even if he prepares for it by electing all the hours of the junior and senior years in that special line. He will be what his individual character and capability naturally fit him for, or he will be nothing at all. When a student has reached a mature age, and has learned his own disposition and nature, he is fit to choose his life work, and will choose it, even though that choice makes all his special training in electives vain.

Then for the A.B., B.L. and B.Sc. degrees, colleges should prescribe courses that will give a student a ground work for every educational occupation. To this is opened the objection "Life is too short." Too short for what? Not to make sure of what nature has fitted you to do, and to prepare to do it. The old adage "Make sure you are right and then go ahead," if heeded, would remove many college men from uncongenial occupation, and put them where they could use their powers to the good of mankind.

The objection "Life is too short to get a general foundation for special work" is a miserable one. Believing and acting on that supposition, colleges foisted upon the world hundreds of specialists that prove to be special frauds. "Life is too short" has lowered the standard of education, and made degrees worthless. So little faith have the people in men with bachelor and doctor appendages to their names, that a graduate of this institution said he would be better off without a degree. This is what specializing before a student has an idea to specialize is doing for education.

This age of the world demands specialists it is true; but it is making sorry use of the specialists who study grape millens before learning botany and who study law before they

do civil government. Not specialists are wanted, but men specially prepared by a general and a special course of training that will enable them to become something more than mimics encrusted in a special shell.

If elective courses have been adopted in our institution that students may begin to specialize earlier, they will prove a source of evil rather than of good.

CURRENT COMMENT.

There are few transactions that are more calmly, coolly, and practically effected than the borrowing and lending of money. Sentiment and excitement, as a rule, have but little effect upon such transactions. Hard-headed, close-fisted business principles govern in them almost entirely. The exception proves the rule. In the month of October a notable exception occurred. Russia desired to float a loan of \$100,000,000. It had been impossible to secure it in Germany. German capitalists and bankers had at first been somewhat disposed to subscribe the loan. The German press, however, took up the subject and denounced the proposed loan. No patriotic German, they declared, should help Russia, the alleged friend of France. Russia alleged that the money was to be used for railways and public improvements. The Germans were strongly inclined to disbelieve this. They mistrusted that the money was to go to strengthen Russia's preparations for war. The loan, accordingly, could not be secured in Germany on account of the feeling of resentment there. The Russian minister of finance at once went to Paris to secure the money. France was, of course, highly pleased at the opportunity to help Russia; the more so, no doubt, because Germany had refused to. Considerable excitement was caused by the matter in France. So eager were the French people to show their spite toward Germany and their friendliness toward Russia that they subscribed over seven times the amount that the Russian minister asked for. This they did in spite of the fact that Russia was floating the loan at a lower rate of interest than she had ever paid before.

Owing to their persecution in Russia, many Jews have migrated from that country to Jerusalem. Departing penniless or nearly so, they arrived in Palestine more so. One writer says: "Two hundred families more were reported at Jaffa a few days ago in a worse condition than any before, utterly destitute, many of them lying in streets and by-ways starving and dying, without clothes to hide their nakedness." If the Jews of Russia continue to migrate to Palestine Baron Hirsch will find ample use for his ample millions. A more wretched plight than these Russian Jews will be in as they arrive in Palestine can hardly be imagined. Palestine of to-day is neither well populated nor well cultivated. Its once fertile fields have, under the rule of the desert-making Moslem, grown up in large part to rank tropical vegetation. The population of the country is neither thrifty, civilized, nor humane. Truly the Russian Jews as they come to Palestine will find nothing but suffering, destitution, even death staring them in the face. The country of their fathers knows them not; they will come to know their parental land by a sad and a woeful experience.

To most people the famine and destitution in the peasant districts of Russia will appear a just retribution for the barbarous persecution of the Jews. It is the innocent peasants, though, that are the sufferers. Those responsible for the persecutions are not affected by the famine. Drouth in these Russian districts spoiled this year's crops almost entirely. That is the cause of the present suffering. In addition to