

WHY THE SMALL COLLEGE?

(Leading Editorial In High School Issue of The Blue Stocking, By Editor-in-Chief, C. W. Grafton)

Every high school graduate who plans to continue his education must decide between the large university, on the one hand, and the small college, on the other. It is not a new problem, for boys and girls have been deciding it ever since colleges began. The fact that there are students attending both types of institutions is a sufficient indication that there is difference of opinion.

However, it is, we think, the small college whose case is usually slighted by the public. There is something vastly impressive and alluring about the campus of a great university; and this, in itself, is enough to cause many students to decide in its favor. One likes to think of brushing against thousands, perhaps, and of walking blocks to classes, and of watching the respectful expression that people will register when you tell them you are from some place of world-wide fame. But the points in favor of a small college are seldom brought to notice, and so we shall venture to enumerate some of them here.

Responsibility

A great many boys pass through college as if it were an amusement park. They neither seek nor receive the slightest responsibility; and when they have gone their respective ways they do not seem to realize that they have missed one of the greatest things a boy can get out of college. It is often too late to wait until you have graduated to learn to be responsible for things. You ought to spend four years at college, always reaching for work—work on the athletic field, or work on the debating platform—work in the laboratory or upon the paper. Instead of shying from responsibility, you ought to search for it and then show people that you are to be trusted. In other words, you ought to try to BE somebody on the campus. And that is one point for the small college—it gives you a better chance to learn to be a leader.

Professors

Many students favor the large institutions because of the renowned

faculties they have. Perhaps they do not realize, however, under just what handicaps such professors work. They mount the platform two or three times a week to lecture before a large class. Their classes number so many students that they can become familiar with only a few, if any at all. Oftentimes papers are graded by an assistant, so that the professor actually has little contact either with the mind or the personality of the undergraduate. A boy named Jones, let us say, may perhaps be known to his professor as an individual with glasses who sits on the second row of English 305 and received a "D" last semester.

In a small college the situation is radically different. Teachers often know the entire student body by name, and have personal contact with many of them. Jones, under such conditions, is no longer simply a bespectacled young man on the second row. He becomes, let us say, "a good student, but one who needs prodding. Does excellent work when made to." A professor in a small college thus has an opportunity to help students through an intimate knowledge of their strong points and their failings.

Athletics

Whether you are in a large college or a small one, there are eleven men on the football team. In the first case, you must compete with several hundred men. If you are already a finished player, you may have a chance to play before the season is over; but unless you are already a football star, there is little chance to become one. The very fact that there are so many aspirants to athletic fame makes it impossible to give real attention to the developing of a man. If you have the goods, well and good—if you can't produce top-notch stuff, step aside, for there are plenty of others who can.

Perhaps the teams that represent a small college are not, as a rule, as strong as those that represent her larger neighbor. Nevertheless they more nearly fill the need for college sports. In a small college, the coach, more often than not, has to make his own team. He is not given a group of stars, but a group of men who want to play football. He is lucky if he has two or three men who are football stars, to begin with. Hence he must develop and study each man. This gives everyone a chance to get physical attention and advice. The small college offers a more democratic system of physical training.

Associations

In a small college you are familiar with everyone. You learn to know your friends because you live with them and eat with them and work with them and play with them. There is an atmosphere of close-knit friendship that cannot be attained unless everyone knows everyone else. In a large university, you may, at best, know the names and faces of a hundred or so of those with whom you are most frequently thrown. The rest of the student body is a vast crowd of strangers. If you met them in another town, there would be nothing to identify them as students of your college. You might be in the same class with a man for six months and never know as much as his name. Such things are not idle hypotheses—they are actual facts. Which do you like the best?

What To Consider

Leaving aside for the present the question of size, let us think of the things a student should consider when he is choosing his future Alma Mater. Before you pick your college there are about four main things to investigate.

First, the reputation. What do people think of it? What has it done? Do its teams show real sportsmanship? Do the students you know from that college strike you as gentlemen? Is it a college you will be proud to claim as your own?

Second, the equipment. Ask yourself if the material equipment is sufficient. Find out if there are adequate facilities for laboratory work, or for athletic work. Ask yourself if the dormitories are such that you will not be dissatisfied.

Third, the faculty. Find out what kind of men will teach you. Will you be able to make friends with them? Are they the kind who will help you out of trouble or help you solve your problems? Do they know what they are talking about?

Fourth, the students. This is the hardest of all, and yet one of the most necessary. Try to get into contact with some of the students. Ask yourself if they are clean, straight men. Would you be proud to ask any of them to visit in your home? How many of them are the kind that can get next to your skin and win your admiration?

When you have satisfied yourself on these points, see if you can possibly go there and look things over first hand. Make sure it's a good place

and one that you can sincerely learn to love. Try to imagine how it would be to live there for four years. Then decide.

WHAT P. C. CLAIMS

Presbyterian college does not claim to be the greatest on earth. In fact, she would like it better if she needed to make no claims at all. P. C. is perfectly content to have prospective students make up their minds on the grounds of things they can see and feel. Nothing would be more satisfactory to the college authorities than that every high school student should come and stroll over the campus and walk through the buildings.

There are things in Clinton that speak for themselves. We need not brag, for some things do their own bragging. For example, Presbyterian college is not afraid to match Leroy Springs gymnasium with any in South Carolina. Smyth hall, the new, modern, fire-proof dormitory, erected in 1924, is in a class with the best that has been built anywhere. Presbyterian's track is unequalled, not only in the Palmetto state, but in other states that could be mentioned. It is significant that five state track meets and one S. I. A. A. contest have been held in Clinton. This spring P. C. will again be host to both meets.

Perhaps you are familiar with the

P. C. slogan—"Where men are made." It is not a meaningless phrase that is used simply because it sounds well. It is one of the beliefs that we hold most dear. If you want to laugh at it, "race a few P. C. alumni and see if they haven't made good. Take a dozen graduates of Presbyterian college at random and try to look at their records with a fair and open mind.

See For Yourself

This is a "see-for-yourself" issue of our college paper. We are trying to show you just what we have, and just what it looks like. Remember that you can't fool a camera. We could fill these pages with column after column of description, but you might doubt that. Instead, we are taking it for granted that you are all from Missouri. We want to SHOW you.

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