

the direction of the things that make for a sound mind in a sound body. The result is physical and intellectual culture. As a people, we should aim to cultivate the arts and sciences so that no longer we shall have to say to ourselves, "yes, we do not have national culture."

But what kind of pleasure do we acquire and derive from the arts? Clearly not the same as we take in having a good dinner or possessing a fine automobile. It is not a matter of physical well-being or of material success. Here is a picture, a cathedral, a drama or a fine opera. This particular kind of pleasure results from the fact that men find works of art beautiful and expressive. The meaning of life is revealed to us through art and in that sense it helps us to find ourselves.

"Living does not consist in barely meeting the necessities of our material existence; to live is to feel vibrantly throughout our being the inner significance of things, their appeal and welcome to the spirit."

We who are amateurs, we who are going to be teachers, lawyers, stenographers, doctors, salesmen, housewives, what shall we gain from studying the arts in school?

I shall discuss the art in which I have been most completely interested during my high school days—the study of dramatics. In the production of a play the other departments of the school invariably have a chance to participate. For example, the art department makes the scenery, the glee clubs and school orchestra furnish the music and often the dancing classes are called upon to offer their talent.

The value of dramatics and amateur acting, contrary to popular belief, lies in the educational value to the student and not in the pleasure it gives the audience. No matter what your sphere of life may be, you will need the following qualifications, and these, participation in dramatic activity may give you:

1. Poise—The ability to enter a room and remain in it without feeling that your arms and legs are insecurely fastened and that your clothes are wrong. This is a valuable asset in any walk of life.
2. Voice Training—Everyone realizes the value of a pleasant, well modulated voice.
3. Spirit of Co-operation—The production of a play does not depend upon any one person, but upon everyone concerned.
4. A Knowledge of Human Nature—There is no job where a knowledge of people is not of vital importance. The relation between employer and employee, between teacher and student, between parents and children depend on it, and one of the best ways to acquire it is by the study of character, motives, and emotion, which is the foundation of all acting. To put yourself into Juliet's



place, to think her thoughts, to experience through imagination her motives is to understand Juliet, and to understand Juliet on the stage is to understand many Julietish qualities off stage.

5. Acting with its Character Study Enriches the Life—Nearest to life of all of the arts, it gives one a sense of the pageant of human affairs, of the tragedy and comedy of human existence. Life can never be drab or uninteresting to the actor who can bridge the space from the play to the real world, for he has around him always characters in the greatest of plays, the drama of human existence we call life. Thus, we can truly say, "the play's the thing."

Likewise, various other students in this class might give a detailed account of the value and necessity of teaching the correlated arts of music, dancing, language, and painting; but as each supplants the other, we will generalize by saying that an appreciation, a love and understanding of the arts develops the individual's taste for better things which cannot be derived from the three R's of the Old fashion district school.

For, after all, of what use is education, if it does not point the way to happiness and contentment of it?

We, the members of the graduating class of 1953 wish to ex-

press our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our parents for their sacrifice, to the faculty for their co-operation with us, and to the Board of Education, for making possible the completion of our new addition. We know that you have all done this through the realization and foresight that "it is from the vision of youth that comes the inspiration to make tomorrow better than today." And so you all helped us to fulfill Plato's definition in our education beginnings, and today, at this commencement event, we pledge ourselves to justify these investments.

To the members of my class of 1953—Naturally, I would say that I wish you success in life, but I should like to tell you how you will find the secret of success. Behold it for yourselves. "And he pointed to the door on the inner side of which was labeled pull.

"To strive to go adventuring along unknown paths; to seek to make real a dream; to find the meaning of that wonderously patterned thing called life, these are desires which ever live in the heart of man. Ages ago, great souls felt its urge and went forth on pilgrimages, each to the shrine of his ideal.

And today, all over the world, those in whom the vision dwells, go forth in like manner, giving to the guest the added joy of fellowship. There may be difficulties to surmount to make the Pilgrim strong, but if he keeps burning, clear and bright, his soul's fire his faith and hopes shall be undimmed."

You have begun your pilgrimages to the shrines which you have chosen. And now as you go forward, may the spirit of our High School go with you, that you may cherish it, and that it may guide you to your goal.

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