

Merits Of History

"History is of paramount importance in preparation for life because it, about all other subjects, reveals the nature of man and his relationship to reality, therefore enabling him to adjust himself to reality and to derive at a philosophy of life which is more important than making a living."

These were the words of Professor William F. Troutman, Jr., head of the Department of History at Gardner-Webb College, when asked how his subject rated in the overall preparation for life.

Mr. Troutman went on to say that history considers man as a whole. It is not a study of man's ideals alone, nor of man's failings alone. Neither is it a study of physical nature nor of spiritual nature alone, but it is a combination of these; accordingly, in the preparation for life, history is the subject which prepares the student for an understanding of man as he faces life on earth. It is not of special significance from a utilitarian point of view, because it cannot well be utilized from an economic standpoint, but it has special significance as a study which presents a whole view of life. In a Christian college this consideration is of paramount importance.

History teaches man even better than specific courses in religion that there is an Absolute Power who establishes the standards which have been set up as a guide for right actions. These standard sources of ideals and the bases of corrections for man's failures and faults. "History does not supplant the Bible as a revelation of reality," said Mr. Troutman, "but it certainly endorses it and establishes it; therefore, the study of history reveals to man his relative competence to attain to the standards of the creator of the universe and the creator of a plan of life and a purpose for each individual." History makes one humble because it shows that man can only relatively reach absolute perfection and goodness and power which are characteristic of God alone. "In other words," declared Mr. Troutman, "it reveals that man is a creature who is dependent upon his Creator and obligated to live according to God's purpose for him.

According to Mr. Troutman, a Christian student should be appreciative of history because in the field of religion man is especially inclined to absolutism. History can serve as a corrective for the idolization of religious dogmas, systems, and organizations.

"In the long run," said Mr. Troutman, "history is an essential source by which the realities of life are intimated to man. It is essentially a dialogue between God and man. The study reveals a challenge which God has put before man and it reveals man's response or lack of response to God's will. In the ultimate analysis then, history becomes the preeminent study by which man refines his relationship to reality."

Suggested Changes

More tutoring in culture, poise, and grace seems to be the main desire of Gardner-Webb students as shown in a recent poll of opinion of five students of that college. The students seem to feel the need of learning how to act and how to behave gracefully and they feel that college is the place to learn it. A preparatory course in industrial and rural education and a course in college government were also considered as important.

"I would like to see violin lessons offered at Gardner-Webb," said Miss Virginia Huggins. "If the college did offer these lessons it would probably help draw a much greater student body and may bring about the probability of a school orchestra which would add much to the culture of the school. Then too, one would expect violin lessons to be offered in college."

"Gardner-Webb needs a discovery of creative ability," said Miss Gail Baucous. "An art class would be important not only as a means of preparation for art majors for some senior college, but it would be practical since there are many fields which include artistic talent."

"A preparatory course in industrial and rural recreation would help the school a lot," was the opinion of Mr. Harold Pearson. "It would tend to develop responsibility in the stu-

The Role Of Science In Life

Each instructor in the science department of Gardner-Webb College thinks that the subject which he teaches is one of the most important one offered in the school curriculum, and is most necessary to the student's preparation for life. This was the decision reached by a reporter after interviewing the various instructors in the science department.

The question which was proposed was "In the overall preparation for life what part does your subject play?" and the persons to whom it was directed were Mr. M. A. Moseley, professor of chemistry, and Mr. P. J. Stacy, professor of biology.

Mr. Moseley said that "chemistry is a subject of the present for the present. The past trouble has been that people look to science as something abstract. This viewpoint must be changed because chemistry is the deciding factor in our modern civilization. The culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans was built around philosophy and law. However, the culture of our modern civilization is based upon science. A person of modern times must be acquainted with chemistry to be informed about the objects and processes which form his environment. Chemistry is basic, and is the complete difference between primitive times and our modern day. Due to this fact, I'd go so far as to say that chemistry is one of the most important subjects taught anywhere. That's why I teach it!"

Mr. Stacy, the congenial biology professor, opined that all life is biological, thus a study of biology important to improve our lives. He stated that "everybody should have at least a year or two of biology. The sheer enjoyment of the beautiful in nature is enough to make anyone want to study it. The information gained in this course leads to the understanding of other subjects and is beneficial in ANY endeavor. Finally, and especially, biology lends the opportunity for research to lengthen the life span and improve the general health of mankind."

Values Of Foreign Languages

The study of foreign languages very definitely has linguistic and cultural values, according to statements related by Dr. Thomas C. Holland and Mrs. Elma Harper Pollock, members of the Foreign Language Department of Gardner-Webb College.

They stated also that the practical values were great and that much pleasure would be derived from the study of foreign languages.

Dr. Holland, professor of Latin, to further substantiate his statement, declared that Latin is basic to all other language work. It is a good approach to the study of Greek. All Romance languages are derived from Latin. About sixty percent of English is derived from Latin.

Mrs. Pollock, teacher of French and Spanish, declared that a knowledge of these languages help in understanding the grammatical construction and the vocabulary of our own language.

"Latin's practical values as applied to law, medicine and theology can not be estimated," further declared Dr. Holland.

Aside from practical value of teaching foreign languages, it is beneficial in many professions, in diplomatic circles and in commercial fields. All importing and exporting businesses have to employ linguists. Publishing houses employ translators and even like for their representatives to know languages. In federal service there are countless positions open to those who are skilled interpreters and translators. The government employs numerous secretaries capable of handling its foreign correspondence. Mrs. Pollock concluded with the statement that in the diplomatic and consular service there are good positions for those who have a thorough knowledge of languages, people and diplomacy.

dent because he would have to learn to deal with children. Then too, the field is open for recreation directors in rural schools."

"Every student should know the legislative, judicial, and executive branches which govern his well being," voiced another student. "Therefore, I think a course in School Government should be taught in order to enable the student to understand just how the organization of his school is set up to enable him to take a greater part in his school's activities."