

A generation ago students depended largely on text books for study and used the library for irregular collateral reading, but because of changes in methods of teaching due to the rapid expansion of all fields of knowledge and the urgent need of keeping abreast of the work and of the thought of the world, it may be said of the present day student that the whole library is his text-book. It is his laboratory where all educational problems are worked out.

The college library touches both faculty and students in every department of the institution; this touch is vital, stimulating, and informed. It supplements and enriches the formal processes of instruction; it provides and makes easily accessible for both student and faculty, standard cultural and recreative reading wholly apart from the fixed curriculum. It contains the materials

The problem of making Caesar's life and times interesting may be solved in the library. William Stern Davis' novel, "The Friend of Caesar," for instance, makes him as real as you or I; by showing him participating in the ordinary human relationships and by giving details of his daily life, the author has fitted Caesar into a background which explains and humanizes him. No student who reads this book will fail to find Caesar a great and even likable personality.

It is generally supposed that science does not permit the exercise of the imagination. This is, of course, true in regard to the principles taught and the laboratory work carried on, but there is a large group of books of the popular science type in the library which gives information and appeals to the imagination. By taking advantage



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and facilities for research in the fields which lie in the graduate program of the institution.

We may say the duty of the college library is to collect, preserve and distribute knowledge along all lines. Here in the library we find the best books of bibliographies and encyclopedias; philosophy, religion, sociology, philology, natural science, useful arts, fine arts, literature, and history. No branch of knowledge is omitted.

A student interested in some art or occupation will enjoy reading about people who have accomplished something in that field. The lives of Pasteur and Edison are of real interest to those to whom their genius is either an ideal or a challenge. Great lives have the quality of inspiration.

College libraries are stocked with books of travel. There is a fascination about distances and strange places that never grows stale.

In connection with history the reading of historical fiction will help to make historical events, movements, and personages real to the student.

of these books for extensive and free reading the science department can increase enormously the interest in pure science. Such books as DeKruif's "Microbe Hunters," have the surprising and very pleasing combination of scientific accuracy and imaginative appeal blended with the touch of humor that science usually lacks.

With such a collection of material to choose from the student can find exactly what he enjoys reading. Here there is no pressure, here he is free to choose or reject. By the voluntary reading the student does in the library the real evidence of his adaptation can be obtained.

We may say that the highest and best influence of the college library may be summed up in the single word "culture." No other word so well describes the influence of the diffusion of good reading among the students, giving tone and character to their intellectual life.