THE Y. M. C. A. A POWERFUL FORCE

By EDGAR W. TURLINGTON

E. W. TURLINGTON, President

loose from home influences and precip- ing influence, necessarily issues in its itated into the freedom of the campus, third great service, the development ties for real development, but at the The student who yields himself thus same time he encounters grave dangers. far to the influence of the Y. M. C. A. There comes a tendency to drift, to experiences a real growth in his regrow careless with regard to the deep- ligious life. He is developing, furthest things in life and to feel no interest ermore, into a potential religious leadin the things of religion except a de- er in his community in after years. tached, impersonal sort of academic Again, he has opportunities for actual interest in them as striking phenomena, experience in leadership. The work to become inactive in religious work must have leaders, men of ability to to stop growing religiously. At this direct its work, to lead Bible Classes, critical period there is need of some to look after finances, to see to all its powerful force to steady, to make ac- workings. To these leaders the Y. tive and to develop the college man in M. C. A. gives invaluable training in his religious life.

This powerful force the Young Men's Christian Association undertakes to be. It should be interesting to see to what extent it succeeds in its great undertaking.

How does the Y. M. C. A. steady a man? First of all, by means of the intangible but no less considerable influence which it exerts over him as a conscious unit in its organization.

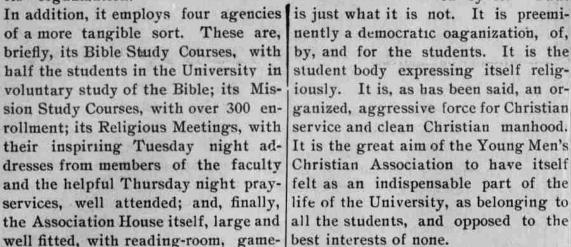
of a more tangible sort. These are, nently a democratic oaganization, of, briefly, its Bible Study Courses, with by, and for the students. It is the half the students in the University in student body expressing itself religvoluntary study of the Bible; its Mis- iously. It is, as has been said, an orsion Study Courses, with over 300 en- ganized, aggressive force for Christian rollment; its Religious Meetings, with service and clean Christian manhood. their inspiring Tuesday night ad- It is the great aim of the Young Men's dresses from members of the faculty Christian Association to have itself and the helpful Thursday night pray- felt as an indispensable part of the services, well attended; and, finally, life of the University, as belonging to the Association House itself, large and all the students, and opposed to the well fitted, with reading-room, gameroom, and lobby, the center of the social life of the campus, where all may meet in a real and uplifting fellowship. These agencies the Y. M. C. A. employs to steady the college man in the critical period of his life. The immense deepening of the whole moral tone of the University in recent years has been due quite largely to this steadying work of the Y. M. C. A.

The second mission of the Y. M. C. A. is to make the college man active in his religious life. Steadying him is by no means the whole of the battle. He must have work to do, if for no other reason, because it will keep him firm. The Y. M. C. A. puts men into definite Christian work. It makes them feel that it is their first duty to be of service. It uses them in the work of the Book Exchange, of the Publications, of the countless "little unremembered acts of kindness and of love" for their fellow students. It uses them in getting the freshmen comfortably settled in their new home, and in providing for those who must work their way through college facilities for helping themselves. It uses many men as leaders of Bible Classes. It sends several out into the country around Chapel Hill to conduct Sunday Schools and thus to extend the enlightening and uplifting influence of the University. Finally, its crowning service is the support of a Y. M. C. A. missionary in China. Much work the Y. M. C. A. does, and all of it through the students.

A man's college days mark a crit- | This work of the Y. M. C. A., folical period in his religious life. Cut lowing and cooperating with its steadythe student finds glorious opportuni- of the student in his religious life.

constructive leadership. While developing all, these men it especially develops.

What, it may be asked, is this Young Men's Christian Association, this organization that plays such a large part in a man's life at this critical period, steadying, making active, and developing him? Is it an organization from the outside, begging him to support it and be helped by it? That



A Working Organization

I regard the Young Men's Christian Association as one of the most valuable factors in the organization of the University. Its influence is always for good. It stands for cleanliness of life, for fidelity to duty. This large body of strong christian young men, banded together for mutual helpfulness in right living and spiritual culture means more than I can well express in the life of the University.

It is truly a working association. The sum total of christian work done is most noteworthy. A large percentage of the student gathered each Sunday for the study of the Bible, mission classes held, Sunday schools supported, prayer meetings conducted, churches built, besides a number of other activities-all of these influence deeply the life both of the University and the community.

I rejoice in the prosperity of the Association and am glad to promote its welfare in any way in my power.

F. P. VENABLE, President of the University.

At the recent Christmas meeting of the American Society of Zoologists (Eastern Branch), held at Cornell University, Professor H. V. Wilson read a paper "On the Regenerative Power of the Dissociated Cells in Hydroids." of the society.

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