

A GREAT FIELD OF ACTIVITY

The Purpose of the Y. M. C. A. is to
Help Every Student, Whether a
Member or Not

By Pres. Curtis A. Gardner

It is well to call to mind occasionally the relation the Young Men's Christian Association bears to the student-body in general. The purpose of the Association is pretty generally known. It may be stated thus: To take care of the spiritual man.

Now if this be the Y. M. C. A.'s purpose, in order to accomplish that purpose it must be a spiritual uplift to the students, not only to members but to

less we substantiate that policy by actual performance of the work and have results to show for our work we can lay no claims to being a factor in the student-body's welfare.

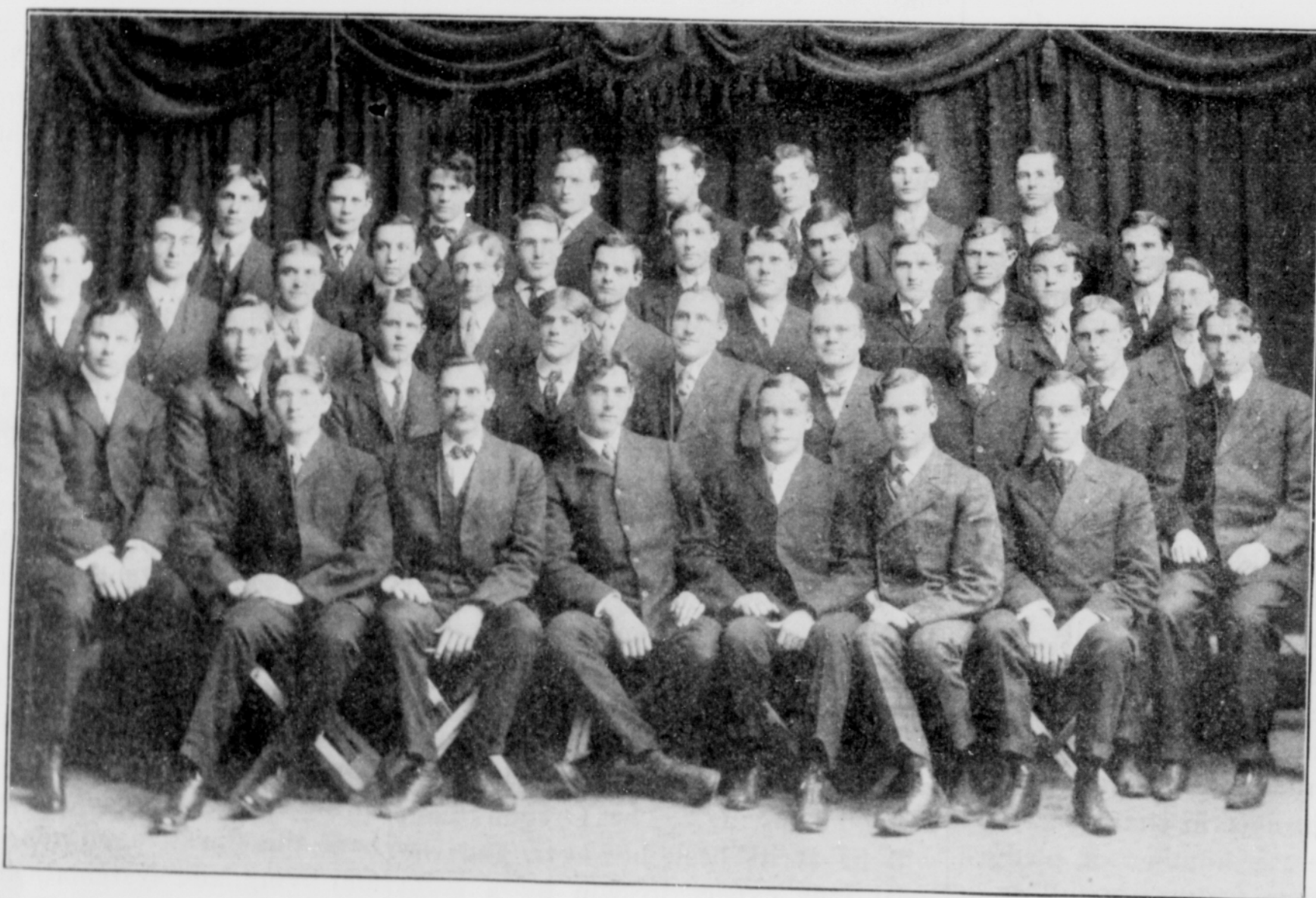
Before stating the work which our Association is carrying on, and will continue to carry on, it will be well to consider, perhaps, for a moment the need of such a factor in a student-body like ours.

State universities do not provide any means in their curricula for spiritual development. Their primary object is to give students technical training, and to do this best they give them sufficient physical exercise to be able to receive this training. So the field of spiritual training is left open, hence the opening for some organization or

Bearing these facts in mind it may help us to see the more clearly the manner and cause of the growth of the Young Men's Christian Associations. Now let us determine the relation the Association should bear to the student-body. First, it should show an active interest in student-body activities, should give what aid it can, should prepare a schedule of public Association meetings which will deserve the patronage of the students, and should always have the interests of all in mind.

Since the office of general secretary has been created more work has been undertaken. The regular departments of work are:

1—The Friday evening meetings led mainly by prominent speakers and at



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

the whole student-body, for if the Association confines its attention to members alone it will bring about its own defeat, simply because, in order to gain spiritual strength it is absolutely necessary that one take a deep interest in his brother's welfare. "No Association," says F. W. Ober, "stands for itself alone, and at best it has to do with a man's life for but a brief period, but that period is the character forming time. It is a servant to society. As it finds the needs of young men it is to serve them then. When it becomes a club to coddle and serve its members alone then its power and place as a Christian force is lost."

It would be easy to go on and discuss generally how the Y. M. C. A. could help its fellow students, but un-

force which will secure this training, for we all believe in all around development. The Young Men's Christian Association is the institution which has grown up in response to this demand and the demand has been so great that not only in all the state universities and agricultural colleges of our country have there been Y. M. C. A.'s organized, but also in high schools and colleges of nearly every kind. In the United States and Canada today there are 54,300 college Associations with a membership of 415,000. In the last six years the per cent of gain in membership has been 54 per cent.

College Associations are organized and run by college men. They found the Christian life is most conducive to spiritual development.

other times by students.

2—Bible study courses conducted by trained leaders.

3—Mission study.

4—Boys' work.

5—Work of the general secretary in the office.

We have good reasons for believing that the coming year will find a stronger Association than ever before. At least the increase made the last year would indicate such a growth. With a membership of 96 and a budget of about \$600, and hearty co-operation from our faculty and student-body we will hope for a quality of work which shall be up to the standard of our other student-body activities.

PAY UP.