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Y. W. C. A., A FACTOR FOR GOOD

An Interesting Discussion on Work of The Young Women's Christian Association

It is sometimes thought and asserted that a State University is not adapted by nature to a deeply spiritual atmosphere for its students or even to a so-called religious atmosphere. This assertion is based on the relation of our state to the national doctrine that religion must not be taught in our public schools. And so it sometimes follows that a State University is charged with being a godless school.

But is this reasoning founded on real or fancied conditions? To be sure, sectarianism or denominationalism is not taught in our public schools and the pure American spirit would not tolerate such teaching. But in the very denial to teach the creed or peculiar tenets of any sect is there not a promise of the largest religious freedom? The very freedom of a State University is a species of the genus Liberty. It is rather a tree on which the spirit of religion which is the highest kind of liberty may engraft itself.

Christ died to make all men free. And it is in free civilizations, free governments, free institutions that the Christian religion makes its largest and surest growth. Hence, it is, that in our day schools and colleges founded by denominations are for the purpose not of promulgating sectarianism but rather religion. They welcome students enriched by the religious belief of all denominations and seek to deepen an abiding spiritual faith. The State University from its freedom and its large representation of many denominations is peculiarly adapted to the development of strong religious thinking and devoted religious character.

It has been said that the mixture of many races in America will tend to produce the most highly organized people in history. By analogy, will it not be tenable that the cosmopolitanism of a State University registering students of all creeds and conditions, of diverse races, inheritances, and temperaments may be a field for the culture of a spiritual character in large numbers of students? Be it borne in mind that the daily life of students is

confronted by truths hidden or revealed which they are to search after. Truth is their demand; they wish to reject the false. Will it not come about that the more significant and more blessed the truth the more earnest their search for it? Surely, if they can be made to know the significance and blessedness.

The State University is a rich field for the work of the Christian Associations. For the Y. W. C. A. of our own University there is an ever widening opportunity to contribute toward the Christian influence of the womanhood of the Northwest. As the number of women grows to represent many times every community the Association will need ever renewed consecration to the work before it. There are now enrolled one hundred and fifty-five women; in a few years there will be five hundred. If this is a day of small things for the Y. W. C. A. let it have large hopes. But no day is small that sends a few women from these halls consecrated to God and his righteousness, devoted to lofty character and



STUDENTS AT GEARHART CONFERENCE, 1907.

disinterested service, fortified by an ability to think carefully and with serenity.

One peculiar possibility in this organization is the common fellowship into which it may bring girls of all classes—whatever be the social or intellectual standing or controlling ambition. Blest be the tie that binds. It is the woman of warm, broad sympathies, cultivated by knowing many problems, the disappointments and joys of many, who can find the good everywhere and do good everywhere.

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THE Y. M. C. A. CONFERENCE

A Source of Instruction, Inspiration and Pleasure—An Annual Occurrence.

Twelve delegates represented the University of Oregon Y. M. C. A. at the Student Convention held at Gearhart last June. White hats with green bands and other distinctive gear made the Oregon men easy to find among the crowd of some three hundred delegates. For a week these three hundred students lived at Gearhart, apart from the outside world and not even seeing the daily newspapers, devoting their entire time to conference work. Fred B. Smith and other powerful leaders were there and exercised a profound influence on the lives of all the men. Plans were laid for work in various local associations which have since been productive of good results. Pleasant features of the conference were the talks at evening on Sunset Crest, surf-bathing, and a track-meet on the beach in which the colleges of Western Oregon defeated all comers.

Just where the conference will be held this year is as yet uncertain but the program will be practically the same as last year. The local Y. M. C. A. hopes to send a large delegation, as the inspiration gained at such a conference is always reflected in the next year's work of the delegates.

The men who attended last year's conference at Gearhart were wonderfully developed and have been mainstays of the work during the year. Mr. Lyman is in correspondence with I. B. Rhodes, state secretary for Oregon and Idaho, with regard to the place of holding the conference, and a definite announcement is expected in a few

days. Generally money is advanced to delegates desiring to go. This plan will probably be followed this year.

Washington and California will meet in debate soon, which will probably mean more laurels for Idaho.

Spring vacation is now on at Washington, and just over at O. A. C.

The Oregon Tablet for Seniors at LINN DRUG CO.