

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING STRESSED FOR NEGRO

## Symposium On Higher Education

By CARTER G. WOODSON

I have just returned from Johnson C. Smith University where was staged a symposium on "Higher Education among Negroes" in celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the presidency of Dr. H. L. McCrory. The first speaker clearly distinguished the "Higher Education of the Negro" from that of "Higher Education among Negroes." Higher Education is higher education, he contended, whether you are educating Chinese or Hindoos. In the accredited Negro institution of this country, he said, you find no such distinction, for they have men of the scholarship and the point of view of the best professors of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton; and these men are trying to develop for the Negroes in the South the same sort of institutions.

Thereupon I protested against any such imitation or duplication. There is no need in the Cotton Belt for such an institution as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, or Princeton. Most of what such universities teach as language, mathematics, and science may serve a good purpose anywhere, but much of what they teach as economics, history, literature, religion, and philosophy is propaganda and that would involve a waste of time and mislead the Negro race for years to come.

And even in the certitude of science or mathematics the approach to the Negro should not be borrowed from a foreign pedagogy. To teach the youth you have to take into consideration the people themselves and the circumstances under which they live. For example, the teaching of arithmetic in the fifth grade in Washington County, Mississippi, would mean one thing in the Negro school and decidedly different things in the white school. The Negro children as a rule, come from the homes of tenants and peons who have to migrate annually from plantation to plantation, looking for light which they have never seen. The children from the homes of white planters and merchants live permanently in the midst of calculations, family budgets, and the like which enable them sometimes to learn more by contact than the Negro can acquire in school. Instead of teaching such Negro children less arithmetic, they should be taught much more and even longer than the white children who attend a graded school consolidated by free transportation when the Negroes go from one room rented hovels to be taught without equipment and by incompetent teachers educated scarcely beyond the eighth grade.

Northern institutions which Negroes attend take up rural education, but they restrict themselves mainly to the problems of their race just as they do in dealing with other subjects of life. The majority of courses which students of our race pursue at such institutions, therefore, have no bearing upon their life in the past, present or future. The more time a Negro spends wearing his brains out in such an unprofitable exercise, then, the less time and energy he has to learn something about his own people whom he must understand if he is to function among them as a leverage to bring them to higher ground.

Kelley Miller was there to participate in this symposium; and, of course, he advocated both sides of the question in his peculiar way, endorsing both as one hundred per cent sound; but he stood for neither side. We must continue to imitate, and we must be original at the same time. No sensible man has ever advocated that Negroes should stop studying the multiplication table or the law of falling bodies. Our Northern universities did not produce these. We can wipe these institutions off the map and still have a great system of education based upon the discoveries of the ancients, many of whom were persons of color.

Negro education has been a downright failure because the promoters have not yet emerged from the monetary stage of imitation. They go to schools like Harvard, Yale or Columbia and acquire what information these professors can give, and when they go down into South Carolina or

Georgia and meet workers what somebody told them about something else, they fail gloriously. As these mis-educated Negroes see it, education is merely imparting to another what some one tells you. They do not think about the persons taught. They merely attempt to inject so much of the stuff into their heads as we do vaccine into the veins and then await results. Now, persons who have no better sense than this should not be in the schoolroom. They should be committed for insanity.

Nothing illustrates this better than the failure of the Negro educators to enlighten the youth on their economic situation and their opportunity for advancement in the commercial sphere; and yet we have had teachers who excelled in such studies in school. They failed, however, to excel in their knowledge of Negroes and the method of reaching them. The teaching of Economics to Negroes in the United States is a different proposition from that of teaching whites. It ought not to be so, but it is so.

Of all the Negroes who have studied Economics at Harvard, Yale, and Columbia, I have never yet known one to profit sufficiently thereby to work out a solution for the problems confronting his people in life. With most of them Economics 6 or Economics 114 was merely course which they had in Room 124 or 127. By use of a good memory they made a high mark in it, obtained their degrees with a Phi Beta Kappa standing or Summa Cum Laude, and then forgot it.

Among the white students in the same class in Economics with these Negroes, the result was different. In a good many cases, the whites came from homes of merchants, bankers, and brokers; and when Carver, Taussig, or Seligman in taking up the production and distribution of wealth touched the life which they were living at home it meant something to these whites, and they brought back from school some new thought for the improvement of the economic condition. The Negro students in returning to the land of peonage, tenancy, trades union proscription, social ostracism, and commercial isolation find themselves bewildered with problems which they cannot understand. Such Negroes develop, therefore, into fault finders or jobseekers, and then drift to other parts—to Washington, to States Street in Chicago, or to Harlem.

Harvard, Yale, and Columbia have no times for such matters as concerns Negroes especially. They are dealing primarily with matters which concern the large majority of their constituency—with problems which confront merchants like Wanamaker and Marshall Field and manufacturers like Ford and Schwab. A Negro university patterned after these institutions then, is out of place in the South. Mordecai W. Johnson may bring Harvard to Howard, John Hope may duplicate Columbia at Atlanta, Will W. Alexander may reproduce Princeton at Dillard, and Thomas E. Jones may transplant Chicago to Fisk; but the Negroes will drift backward until we find some one of vision to understand and educate them.

**ON SICK LIST**  
Mrs. Robert W. Roberts is getting along as well as could be expected at her home on Eugene street. She is able to sit up in her room.

Mrs. Bessie Johnson, or 101 E. 78th St. North is ill with a touch of the influenza.

Mrs. Harriet Simms of Montavilla, 60, was committed to the hospital for the insane at Salem on Friday, April 14th. Mrs. Simms suffered a state of melancholia. She formerly suffered the same kind of trouble several years ago. Mrs. Simms is said to own a nice little home on East 78th street.

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## "AS NOTED"

by Ralph C. Clyde  
City Commissioner

### BETTER THAN "WITHOUT COST" TO TAXPAYERS

Three new towns have been heard from. They are New Glenwood, Wisconsin; Waterville, Washington; and Tarrington, Wyoming. These cities report they will have no local taxes this year, because of surplus earnings from their municipally-owned utilities. I have said that publicly-owned light and power systems are built through the profits the service makes and therefore are "built without cost to the taxpayers," but the above three cities are doing better than that—they are taking the rest of the city cost from the backs of the taxpayers. As Walter Winchell says, "Good Luck, Wisconsin, Washington and Wyoming."

**DAYLIGHT DELIVERY**  
The City Council is considering regulation forbidding deliveries by trucks on the streets of Portland from 11:00 at night to 9:00 in the morning.

The intent of the ordinance is to put a stop to the noisy delivery of milk at all hours of the night. In order to make this rule effective, it was found that the proposed law must include all classes of deliveries, otherwise it would be class legislation.

The appeal asking for such regulation is widespread, as the drivers have circulated questionnaires, and nine out of every ten consumers have voted for daylight delivery. Other cities have daylight delivery, and Portland should follow suit.

**POLITICAL "DOUBLE CROSSING"**  
There are a lot of charges of "double crossing" made by candidates and their friends. In this connection, I wish to say "double crossing" in politics, or in any other walk of life, is a stigma and one not easily wiped off by success or the lack of it.

I do not approve of this sort of policy. I have had numerous opportunities to throw the movement down. Every man in public life has similar propositions, so it is not unusual thing, but it is not so much a case of "double crossing" my following as it was a case where I did not want to "double cross" myself.

I want to retain my own self respect, and if I betrayed the noble men and women who fought shoulder to shoulder with me for the Cause of Humanity, I would feel like the grocery clerk, who was employed by an old lady, and who "pinched" pennies out of the till.

I do not "double cross" in a case such as the one I can succeed in the long run. He may seem to get by at the start, but eventually he will go down to doom and oblivion.

**BISHOP SUMNER SPEAKS**  
Bishop Walter Taylor Sumner addressed the regular meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People last Sunday afternoon at the Williams Avenue branch Y. W. C. A.

He told of his work among the colored people of Chicago and also of his work with St. Phillips Mission in Portland.

On learning of the cut in the Howard University budget by the Senate Committee, Bishop Sumner stated that he would have his diocese send its protest to Oregon Senators against the cut. The local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. of which Clarence E. Nye is the president wired its protest against the Howard budget cut to Oregon Senators also.

The meeting was well attended and proved to be one of the most interesting ones of the season.

"Sonny Boy" Unthank has recovered from an attack of the measles. George Orr Latimer, local Bahai leader left yesterday morning for Chicago to attend the National convention of Bahais.

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## BOOK REVIEW

"GINGERTOWN"  
(By Claude McKay)

Reviewed for The Advocate by CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL  
This is a collection of twelve short stories and a collection of twelve that were written by Claude McKay, who will at once know the kind of stories they are, for McKay has a reputation of being a realist. Those who object to the stories as not being true to life will call his efforts a ridiculous caricature of some Negro characters.

The first six stories, namely, "Brownskin Blues"; "The Prince of Porto Rico"; "Mattie and Her Sweetman"; "Near-white"; "Highball" and the "Truant" have their setting in Harlem, and, of course, are filled with nice-life, gay women, loose morals, high life, low life and real life. For the next four stories, "The Agriculture Show"; "Crazy Mary"; "When I Pounded the Pavement" and "The Strange Burial of Sue," McKay takes us down to Jamaica, and there we are introduced to various characters in and around the village of "Gingertown," from which the book gets its name.

When I say that the Jamaican stories are replete with free love, Jamaican run, and the propagation of children, they are fully explained, which, together with a little "color caste" make them very interesting.

The last two stories, "Nigger Love" and "Little Shiek," are drawn from life in far off Morocco, and rounding out twelve tales of "Gingertown" fiction by the author of "Home to Harlem."

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## KEEPING -FIT-

A Health Column  
By DeNorval Unthank, M. D.

### THE HEART AND ITS LESIONS.

Editor's note: Mr. Gilmore is a senior student in the department of Pharmacy at North Pacific college, Portland, Oregon and is today's guest contributor to Dr. DeNorval Unthank's department.

(By Robert Franklin Gilmore)

The heart is the living pump—it's rhythmic pulsation forces the essence of life or the blood through the arteries to all parts of the body and back again through the veins. This pump commences to function long before actual birth. The heart is a hollow muscular organ, when contracted about the size of the fist, lying in the upper part of the chest, nearly in the middle. The amount of work that this little mass of muscle performs is simply stupendous. Every minute each ventricle pumps about seven quarts of blood. In a day, the normal equivalent of seven and one half tons of blood. This enormous amount of work is accomplished by a mass of flesh weighing less than twelve ounces.

Diseases of the heart are increasing at an alarming rate. In the statistics of the United States department of public health, heart disease has risen from fourth to first place in the causes of death. There is a similar and scarcely less striking increase in the number of deaths of disease of the arteries.

Diseases of the heart may be divided into two classes: those in which the membranes are primarily affected and those which chiefly affect the muscle. Inflammation of this membrane is called Endocarditis. Among the most frequent causes of endocarditis, mention should be made of rheumatic fever, tonsillitis, gonorrhea, scarlet fever, septicemia and so forth. In view of the fact that the endocardium covers also the valves of the heart, these inflammations often lead to deformities and leaky valves, which remain as a permanent disability. Individuals with this type of heart lesion must remember that the heart is working at a disadvantage, and should avoid unnecessary strains as by violent physical exertion or excessive smoking.

Diseases of the heart muscle are of such wide variety of types and of so different degrees of danger that it is very difficult to give any brief outline. Young people may recover from them, with no apparent remaining ill effect. But in the later years of life as a rule they are more serious than the valvular defects. Muscular lesions are caused by various poisons, as tobacco, headache tablets, and alcohol. The amount of disability which results from disease of the heart muscle may range from a scarcely perceptible reduction of normal activity to complete incapacitation.

In concluding may I write your attention to another type of cardiac lesion, because it is so common a complication of many disease of the heart and is frequently the indication of the beginning of the end. In technical language it is known as Dilatation or stretching of the myocardium or heart muscle itself. Each time the heart is called on to perform a super-normal amount of work it must stretch to accommodate the abnormal amount of blood which it is unable to evacuate. As the heart gives larger its muscle closure becomes thinner, just as when you inflate a toy balloon, the larger it gets the thinner its walls. As the walls become thinner they lose a considerable degree of the efficiency, therefore less able to perform their function.

A study of the statistics of deaths from heart disease shows that the great increase has been in persons above forty years of age.

In youth the heart, even when diseased, temporarily overburdened will recuperate rapidly if relieved of its strain, but in later life a heart once overtaxed returns but slowly if at all to its former strength. As our air turns gray we must learn, if we wish to live useful lives, that we cannot overstrain, even for a short length of time, our hearts with impunity. Least some should quote me as recommending a life of sloth as the gateway to longevity, let me add with special emphasis that disease of our functions is as deadly to their efficiency as over use. If we take no

exercise our muscles will atrophy, grow weaker. The heart is no exception. The proper choice of an exercise that is healthful and beneficial and not too exciting and overexerting is a matter that requires careful and in most cases professional consideration.

Prevention of disease is a new aspect of Medical and Pharmaceutical science; its tremendous value has not yet been fully appreciated. In China the Physician is paid to keep his client well, not to bring him back to the state of health. May I impress upon you that disease is preventable—death is postponable—and health is purchasable. The money that buys health and postpones death is spent for prevention. The only avenue to Vitality—Strength—and Personal Efficiency is living within the natural stream of life. My closing compliments are:—may you live in the confidence that "Health" is the enjoyment of everlasting happiness, and remember that life is a gift of nature, but beautiful living is a gift of wisdom.

## Helpful hints

By NANCY LEE

Marge writes her husband is selfish, lazy and mean and she wants to know what some of our readers think she should do—stay with him with no outlook for the future, or leave him and begin all over. After supporting him for years she finds he has been lax in his morals "stepping out" with flashy looking girls while she paid the bills.

As Marge has asked for advice from our readers I am going to leave it up to them. Let us hear from you and learn how different ones have solved this "hushed over" problem. Don't be afraid to write. All names will be kept a secret and guarded with my life.

NANCY LEE

**Theatres**

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**UNITED ARTISTS**  
—Leo Carrillo and Lupe Velez—  
Melvin Douglas in  
"THE BROKEN WING"

**ORPHEUM THEATRE**  
Joe Cooper, prominent northwest theatre executive, Wednesday assumed management of the RKO Orpheum theatre in Portland, succeeding Ted Gamble, who resigned several days ago to operate the Rialto theatre.

For the past four years, Cooper has been northwest exploitation manager for RKO-Orpheum in charge of houses in Seattle, Portland, Tacoma and Spokane.

Two years ago, Cooper managed the local theatre for a period of about five months.

Advocate readers who visit the local RKO Orpheum will be glad to welcome the new manager.

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## SAYS URBAN LEAGUE HELPS

(By Clifford Mitchell)

One of the printed invitations sent out by the National Urban League to attend their annual conference in Pittsburgh, May 12th - 14th, has reached me and being unable to attend but desiring to contribute to their efforts I take this opportunity to call the attention of the readers of this column, the Vocational Opportunity Campaign which is being conducted by the Urban League, nationally, during the current week of April 17th to 24th.

At the present writing, despite the intensive political campaign interest; the publicity campaigns of the fraternal, religious and protest organizations, there is no topic before the American Negro that is so worthy of his serious thought as the theme of Vocational Opportunity for without a sound economic basis, all other efforts will have about as much force as excessive steam, being able to "pop-off" when danger is in sight but calling on others to do something.

One can hardly pick up a paper these days without reading that in some community, colored help has been replaced by others. It is not only one or two inefficient employees being laid off but the entire colored group of similar workers is being replaced.

And there is no organization, that I have been able to observe, which is doing more to offset these conditions by cementing a good-will relation between the colored employees and the white employers, than the National Urban League. Here and there I have observed, and noted, local factional disputes, but in the main this League is accomplishing some worthwhile results, if nothing more than by keeping us statistically informed on the changing labor situation throughout the country.

By compiling and studying the reports of this organization, one will become convinced that the time has arrived when the Negro must create and maintain his own vocational opportunities, not from a strictly racial angle, but from an efficient competitive basis.

Where possible, one of the best methods of achieving vocational opportunities is to cooperate with and through the various systems of ownership, merely trading with, or refusing to trade with, a store, a factory, or an industry, is not nearly as powerful a weapon as being a part owner of such an enterprise.

In some communities, where our people predominate, we have active organizations, leagues, associations, etc., who are blazing the way by teaching our people how to successfully compete with others in the various avenues of trade and where such activities are conducted, our vocational opportunities have increased in proportion.

Each community has its own problems and must be solved in their own way but in every community the problem of increasing the vocational opportunities of the race should take precedence over all other activities and in this the National Urban League can materially help.

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