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There were several Thursday and Friday nights along late in May when a campus visitor would have had a hard time trying to find any of the popular public speakers on the faculty. They scattered all over the state to make commencement addresses. Stewart Harral, director of the University news service and assistant professor of journalism, widely known over the state as "the genial philosopher," filled speaking engagements on eight consecutive nights except for one intervening Sunday. However, the commencement address season comes but once a year and who knows what inspiration the youngsters may get from those who look down into their shining faces!

Eugene Ledbetter, '14law, president of the Board of Regents, made a hit at the alumni-senior luncheon when he introduced Mrs. Ledbetter, who used to go to school here herself when she was Helen Beattie. Mr. Ledbetter introduced her as "the reason why I used to violate the no-date rule." . . . Guess it's all right to tell this, since the regents abandoned the no-date rule last year.

What he alleged to be the real reason for one of those major cracks in the walls of Old Science Hall was related by John F. Pendleton, '14law, of Nowata, during the commencement reunions. A curious student of pharmacy and chemistry got to wondering whether he could make guncotton, Mr. Pendleton recalled. The student mixed up a lot of stuff, tried it out, and sure enough it was guncotton! The force of the explosion shot up a ventilation shaft and the wall of the building has never been the same since.

George Norris, Jr., of Norman, exercised some ingenuity in sending out his graduation announcements. He used a block print showing a tortoise grasping a college diploma, with the inscription below: "Folks, we made it."

President Bizzell, who has to congratulate more than a thousand graduating seniors at commencement exercises, bears up well under the strain. There's a trick to it, he reveals. "I shake hands with them-I don't let them shake hands with me.'

Next month Sooner Magazine will issue the first Medical Alumni Directory, including a list of alumnae of the School of Nurses. Doctors and nurses should notify the Alumni Office right away if their correct addresses are not already not file.

–R. C.

# The SOONER MAGAZINE

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Roscoe CATE, '26, Editor-Manager Staff Writers: Harold Keith, Frances Hunt, S. R. Hadsell

### Not Practical Enough?

A prominent alumnus of the University, back on the campus for commencement events, was asked what he believed to be the most important one thing that needs to be done to give the people of Oklahoma a better understanding of their state university.

"Your main difficulty is that the people-particularly the business men-believe that most of the university courses are too theoretical and that you do not teach enough practical things," said this alumnus, who is a successful business man himself.

Then he added: "I think personally that this impression is unfair to the University, but it exists and the removal of that viewpoint on the part of business men and the general public is the most important thing that could be done to improve the institution's relations with the public.'

Here is something that alumni ought to be thinking about.

The financing of higher education has become increasingly difficult. As President Bizzell says, everyone wants to come to college, but no one wants to pay the bill. And the general public of Oklahoma is never going to be very enthusiastic about paying the bill until it is convinced that the University's services are a good investment.

Certainly many phases of the University's instruction are practical in every sense of the word. Petroleum engineering students working in grease stained overalls on a model refinery that is actually producing gasoline are getting practical training and experience. The girl studying nutrition or dress manufacture in home economics laboratories is learning things that will be of practical value for a lifetime.

The law student trying a case in the practice courtroom, the pharmacy student working in a laboratory and a model drug store, the journalism student working on the Oklahoma Daily and in photographic darkrooms, the geologist working on actual rock samples and visiting nature's laboratory in the Arbuckle mountains, the business administration student learning to operate modern business machines and solve intricate problems in business accounting-surely all these are learning something of practical value.

Of course the University also gives instruction in the physical and social sciences and in cultural subjects, and these courses are, by their very nature, somewhat theoretical. They are theoretical in the sense that they sum up man's best available knowledge in these fields of study.

The universities are responsible for advancing the frontiers of knowledge. In order to do this, they must work at times in the so-called theoretical fields, and not devote all of their attention to instruction that has an immediate practical application.

This two-fold function of a university-theoretical work along with practical instruction-is one not well understood by the public. Anything that alumni of O. U. can do to explain it more clearly to the people of Oklahoma is a distinctly valuable service to the University.

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