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DOES A TECHNICAL COURSE EDUCATE?*

Before we can answer the question ‘Does a Technical Course Educate?’ it is necessary that we understand what education should mean. We do not need to trace this word back to its root, to find its derivation in some ancient language and to learn its exact meaning in that tongue, but rather to find what it has stood for in the thoughts of men, what processes have been necessary to produce it and what its value has been to those possessing it. If we take a brief look at some of the methods and ideals of education in the past we may receive light upon its proper meaning to-day. Education is for the benefit of the individual or for the benefit of the state. In Persia, in Egypt, in Greece, in Rome, the individual was nothing, the state was everything. The hopes, the desires, the wishes of men were not considered; the growth and prosperity of the state were paramount. In Persia and Sparta education was for war. The education of the body was for the many; the education of the mind for the few. Aristotle was the first to teach that the ultimate end of education is the ability to enjoy the blessings of peace.

Society derives its ideals of education at any epoch from the limits of knowledge at that epoch. A man can teach only what he knows. If he knows but little he can teach but little; if the sum of human knowledge is small, there is but little to be taught, although there is much to learn. In the early days of Greece the Trivium and the Quadrivium embraced all knowl-

*Inaugural address of the president of Case School of Applied Science, May 11, 1904.
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