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THE UNIVERSITY AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION¹

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THE university has always been the best expression of the intelligence of a community. The university first appeared in ancient Greece, later became highly developed in Alexandria, survived the upheavals of the Dark Ages, and under Moslem influence reappeared at Salerno in 1120, where it proved to be the first step toward the revival of learning and the Renaissance, while in later centuries it has been the chief agent in the advance of knowledge. There must be some very substantial qualities in an institution which has survived all these vicissitudes, and it is worth while inquiring into the nature of the qualities. What is a university and what is the university idea?

¹ Anniversary address, New York Academy of Medicine, November 5, 1931. The historical basis of many of the statements in this address has been omitted from the present copy. The full text may be found in the Bulletin of the Academy, January, 1932.

The university idea involves the cooperative intellectual and moral effort to collect, disseminate and apply knowledge for man's needs.

Cooperation between the various branches of knowledge is perhaps the first essential of a university and becomes more necessary as the complexity of problems increases. Most of the great advances in medicine have resulted from the reflection of new knowledge in one science upon the problems of another. In order to have cooperation, the men in a university must have the social instinct and understand the significance of the social relation. Here, at the outset, is a very difficult and complex problem, how to secure voluntary united effort among scholars, without interfering with individual effort and ambition. It can not be secured by mandate, but it may be conserved by deliberate efforts of university organ-

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