THE VALUE OF THE MUSEUM

By Dr. ROBERT MAYNARD HUTCHINS

President of the University of Chicago

We meet to-night to celebrate the birthday of one of the great educational and scientific institutions of the world. Through its researches and publications it has advanced the four sciences to which it is devoted. Through its exhibitions and instruction it has enriched the life of the community it serves. The museum can boast that for two generations no child could grow up in Chicago without coming under its influence. We record to-night our gratitude to the founder and his family, to the hundreds of generous citizens associated with them and to the distinguished scholars who have made these contributions to the enlightenment of our city and the world.

As an educational institution Field Museum possesses certain special advantages. It has no football team. It gives no course credits or course examinations and awards no degrees. Its labors are not encumbered by the elaborate apparatus of academic bookkeeping which has resulted in education by the adding machine. The students of the museum come here to learn. They do not ask the museum to help them make friends, get a better job or give them a leg up the social ladder. The students come to the museum from the cradle to the grave. Formal education in schools, colleges and universities is something you finish. It is like the mumps, measles, whooping-cough or chicken-pox. Having had education once you need not, indeed you cannot, have it again. You put it behind you with your other juvenile troubles, praise the Lord that it is over at last, and proceed to the really important tasks of life. The museum is free from this regrettable tradition. The museum is seduc-
98 (2546)

*Science* 98 (2546), 331-350.

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*Science* (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.