

PENN STUDENT, JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES, OVERCOMING ALL OBSTACLES IN FIGHT TO WIN HIS M. D. DEGREE

Robert B. Cadman Has Sold Blood and Cleaned Streets to Get an Education

VERSATILITY OFTEN CAME TO HIS RESCUE

Spent Summer Vacations in Soft-Coal Mines and Sailed Sea in Cattle Boats

MANY students have worked their way through the University of Pennsylvania.

But it is extremely doubtful if any one has had a more remarkable career than Robert B. Cadman, a senior in the Medical School. He has fought every inch of the way for seven years.

Everything that a college man can do to earn money he has done. He has suffered and sacrificed cheerfully for the sake of a college education. He has even sold his own life's blood to pay his expenses.

Six times since school started this year he has given his blood for transfusion operations. Without sentiment or sentimentality, he goes to the medical laboratories and takes his blood count. If he finds a sufficient number of red corpuscles he agrees to submit to the operation. Otherwise he waits until the number comes up to par.

In a case of emergency, he gave his blood twice within two weeks. This is all the more remarkable when it is considered that last winter he suffered a breakdown and was in the University Hospital for more than a month with pneumonia.

"I guess I have tried about everything there is in the way of odd jobs," Cadman exclaimed without the slightest trace of boasting. "I worked three summers in a soft-coal mine. That was a dirty job, all right."

"During the fall of 1914 I had it tough. I walked the streets of Philadelphia for two whole weeks looking for work and there was none to be had. Finally I landed something. I don't recall just what it was, but it saved the day. Otherwise I would have had to give up my college course."

"Generally speaking, though, I have discovered that a fellow can always find something to do if he wants it badly enough. If you are hungry and you don't know where your next meal is coming from, you will hustle around. When you get real hungry, you will take most anything."

"I have gone into restaurants many a time and offered to wash dishes or scrub the floor for a meal and they have never refused me."

Scrubbed Cafe Floors and Cleaned Streets

"At one time I couldn't find anything else to do so I donned overalls and cleaned streets here in Philadelphia. There's nothing like variety."

"I was a bouncer in a Negro restaurant for a while. That was entertaining. Then I turned to writing. I was campus reporter for several newspapers. I wrote some fiction and actually sold it. I'm afraid it wasn't very high-class literature. But those stories were thrillers."

"Heaven only knows how many tons of coal I have shoveled into cellars and how many tons of ashes I have shoveled out of furnaces that I have tended since I entered college."

"For a time I had a job as an assistant pharmacist in a drug store on the strength of the chemistry I had taken in college."

"This is the way I have figured it out: If you don't know all about a thing when you apply for a job, you'll soon learn the rest if you have any brains or ability at all."

"One summer I went out West and worked in the Dakota wheat fields. I had a chance to get some land in Montana for fifty cents an acre and for a while I thought I would give up medicine and settle down as a farmer. But I soon gave up that idea."

Made Several Trips Abroad on Cattle Boats

"I have had my share of selling, too—maps, aluminum ware, books and brushes."

"To go back to my days in Northumberland—I clerked in a grocery store and sold newspapers for a long time. I worked my way across the Atlantic on a cattleboat three or four different times. I earned my passage to South America one summer and tried selling typewriters. There wasn't a very heavy demand for them, however, so we tried renting them. We had to teach the



Robert B. Cadman, senior of medical school, University of Pennsylvania, in one of his studious moods in his room

Arrived at University With Capital of \$44

So as a boy of seventeen Cadman appeared at the office of admissions of the University in the fall of 1913. There he met his first snag. His entrance requirements were not altogether satisfactory. He lacked one unit in mathematics. Only four days remained

He also wrestled, boxed and swam. And he found time to take charge of a boys' class in a settlement house in South Philadelphia. There he taught them manual training and various games.

"I never missed a single Shakespearean performance during my whole freshman year," he said. "I used to go to the Philadelphia Orchestra regularly—in fact, I still do."

At the beginning of his fourth year Cadman left college, crossed the border and enlisted in the Canadian cavalry. That was in the fall of 1918 when the outlook was darkest. He served with the Canadian forces until the United States entered the war.

Then he was transferred to the American Aviation Corps and trained at Kelly Field near San Antonio, Tex. During a trial flight his plane crashed 2000 feet to the ground. He was not seriously injured, although his eyes were affected so that he had to give up flying.

While he was at Kelly Field he played guard on the Southeastern Division championship football team. On this team were a number of former All-American players in college.

He became wrestling champion in his particular class while he was at Kelly Field. Later he wrestled for the Southeastern Division in France.

He also wrote poetry. Here is a poem that was published in "The Rhymer," a book of Pennsylvania Verse" for 1920. It was edited by Dr. Cornelius Weyand, professor of English at the University:

Even, the Eternal An ear ring, at church in prayer, I should have thought of God. How did I get it? How the old lady would have blushed. I saw her prima sister. Blue, blue, passion stirring. Seductive of the white Nile. Her fan was red cockatoo feathers. Her nose were carmine. Her eyes. How they beckoned and trained. The awe, the grace of her abandon. The power in her tierer crouch. And what days. From that young blood could flow again. And yet it there. That dainty ear ring. Which hangs on such unconcern. From that shrine, as such unconcern. That dainty ear ring. Salve. Salve. Salve.

mediately settled. He would go to Penn! "They just happened to ask me the questions I had studied." This remark was characteristic. He speaks of all his experiences in an absolutely impersonal manner.

He matriculated in the college department of the University. After arranging his roster with all the work they would permit him to carry, he went around to individual professors and asked them if he might attend their lectures. They hesitated at first,

but he scoured around and found something to do. But that did not prevent him from taking part in athletics. He had played football a little in high school. When he entered Penn he went out with the squad and in his second and third years played on the second team.

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Tramped South America and Europe on Proceeds of Odd Jobs

ANY SORT OF WORK CAN BE MASTERED, IS HIS DOCTRINE

Husky Medical Senior Pursues Studies So He Can Aid Children

"Robert Cadman has the finest mind of any man I have met on this campus," asserts the Rev. E. Guy Cutshall, Methodist secretary of the Christian Association. "He thinks in terms of principles. He also goes into the details. There you have the perfect combination."

Chose His Vocation to Help Weak Children

"He has a most altruistic viewpoint. He told me once why he chose medicine as a profession. He wants to help children who are weak and frail to get all there is out of life. That is the reason he is going to specialize in pediatrics after he graduates from the medical school."

"He is strongly non-sectarian, but he believes firmly in a applied Christianity," Dr. Cutshall added. "He has done wonderful work at the settlement house. I cannot, for the life of me, see how he accomplishes so much."

Cadman was one of the two student doctors who looked after the aches and pains of the kiddies at Camp Happy at Forresville last summer. The camp is maintained for undernourished children by the Philadelphia Health Council and Tuberculosis Committee in conjunction with the Department of Public Welfare.

Cadman resembles in no way the proverbial studious type. He is husky. He does not wear bone-rimmed spectacles with thick lenses. He is not a pale-face. His shoulders are broad and he walks with a military stride. His eyes are bright and his jaw firm. Determination, independence and endurance are stamped on his face.

In spite of the fact that he attends school days and works nights, he never becomes physically tired. "I have gone for seventeen days without regular sleep, just snatching a couple hours here and there," he said. "I do suffer from nervousness and that upsets my digestion. Then I cut out eating altogether."

"It was because I went for a year with only one square meal a day that I had a breakdown last year. But I had a month's rest in the hospital and now I feel as strong as ever. "The two subjects which interested me most during my undergraduate days were English literature and history. I started in early reading everything; I could lay my hands on. My father encouraged me to start a library, so I gathered books here and there. I happened to be and sent them home."

"I guess I took all the English courses that I could fit into my roster. There is no one particular type of literature that I especially prefer. I read a good many novels."

Likes European Novelists Better Than American

"European novelists appeal to me more than do the American. I am especially fond of H. G. Wells, George Meredith and Anatole France. American writers of the present day seem altogether too much about the form and utterly neglect the matter. The great European novelists like France and Meredith show us something besides surfaces. They penetrate deep and really portray character."

On the table in Cadman's room there are a variety of pipes. Also a variety of books. Voluntas on anatomy, pathology, pediatrics and kindred subjects. A novel in German and a magazine in Spanish. He has at odd moments French, German and Spanish. He learned Spanish when he spent a summer vacation in South America selling typewriters.

German he picked up in school and in Germany after the armistice. When he was in high school he rigged up the first radio set that was owned in his neighborhood. That was long before radio became popular. There were no concerts being broadcast at those early days—just straight dots and dashes.

He saw a photograph in a newspaper of the airplane in which the Wright brothers made their initial flight. Without plans or designs of any kind he made a small model of the airplane. And it worked. His father always encouraged him to make things. He spent his time as every normal American boy does in his workshop.

Before he was twelve years old he started out to take notes on his work. His mother strongly objected, but his father came to his rescue. "If he can't take care of himself he won't go very far—and if he can, he will be all right," father declared.

So with \$1.17 in his pocket he set out to see his native State. That only kindled his appetite for more travel. By the time he entered Penn as a freshman he had been to England, Spain and Italy. "Cadman has a system of his own when it comes to studying. He started in to take notes in his freshman year but he found that they were a hindrance rather than a help. Consequently, he threw away his notebooks and relied altogether upon his memory. In class he listens attentively and makes mental notes of the highlights in the lectures. Then he tries to gather all related facts on a subject in his mind. "The only time he actually studies is when he is out of a job for a week. Then he reads medicine for ten or twelve hours at a stretch. When he finds something to do he puts away the books. "Cadman was elected vice president of his first year medical class. When the president left school, he succeeded to that office. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Sigma Medical Fraternity."

Two views of Robert Cadman at work gratifying his life ambition to become a physician