

# Moral Education Need In Colleges---Dr. Kohn

Dr. Jacob Kohn, Rabbi of the Anshe Chesed Temple of New York and vice-president of the United Synagogue of America, expressed the dual purpose of an institution of higher learning as transmitting the wealth of human culture to its student body and in recognizing that these students are young men and women in whose veins the tides of life run high and to provide such moral discipline and inspiration as will insure their healthy development toward maturity in his talk Sunday evening.

For the morning service he dwelt upon the way of the World. It was not a theme of worldliness but as he said the courtesy in human intercourse and the delicacy of human conduct. The entire service was filled with readings from rabbinic literature to bring out the features which he wished to express.

"Study and Moral Life" His sermon follows: "It is a fallacy to regard these two functions as entirely distinct. It is desirable above all things to provide for the moral life in addition to the intellectual life but to develop the moral implications in intellectual activities and to show how the intellectual life itself may redound to moral enrichment of the student and the community.

"There is an ancient rabbinic saying that 'If thou meetest Satan on the way drag him with thee into the house of study,' which means that the atmosphere of study and intellectual occupation, can best overcome the grosser temptations which assail

men. If the written book and the search for truth are evidence of man's higher faculty, intensive occupation with these will tend to purge the soul of the lower and more animal preoccupations.

"The man busy with mastering the intricacies of a new tongue, the mind intent upon following the mystic trails of higher mathematics, the student in the laboratory dealing in minute and exact tests and measurements upon which success or failure depends, cannot permit the more sensual aspects of his nature to disturb the fine balance of his mind. The discipline of thought can win victory for the divine truth over animal desire. Mental exertion like physical exertion becomes the wholesome balance wheel of mental life. Beautiful study combined with labor, for the weariness induced by the brain cautions sin to be forgotten," said Rabbi Gamliel.

"From discipline there is often a lapse and therefore the love of study must be transmitted into the passion for truth. Man's mind is not merely divided into the intellectual and passionate faculties. There is the passion of the intellect—Spinoza's intellectual love of God. The passion that has made the martyrs of science and scientific research.

Moral Responsibility "The ethical results, however, of the ethical life are not merely confined to the individual. The university has the obligation to endow with the moral responsibility the new freedom. I use this much abused term in its legitimate sense, for freedom which men claim and youth most studiously than all question and challenge the authority of accepted tradition in the sphere of religion, science and politics.

"It must be pointed out, however, that only he who is willing to submit to the discipline of study, to enter into the intellectual tradition that meets us in institutions of higher learning has earned the moral right to challenge and criticize. Docility may rest upon ignorance but rebellion, if it is not mere anarchy, must rest upon profound knowledge

Knowledge enslaves no man but sets every man free

"Gilbert Murray says: 'First, we may say, the chains of the mind are not broken by any form of ignorance. The chains of the mind are broken by understanding. And so far as men are unduly enslaved by the past it is through an understanding of the past that they may hope to be freed. But secondly, it is never really the past—the true past—that enslaves us, it is always the present.

"But the thing that enslaves most, narrows the range of our thought, cramps our capacities and lowers our standards, is the mere present—the present that is all around us, accepted and taken for granted, as we in London accept the grit in the air and the dust on our hands and faces. The material present, the thing that is omnipotent over us, not because it is either good or evil, but just because it happens to be there, is the great jailer and imprisoner of man's mind, and the only true method of escape from him is the contemplation of things that are not present."

"Free thought alone cannot insure progress unless it has first mastered the traditions of the subject upon which it is engaged. There are outworn heresies as well as outworn orthodoxies. It is the duty of the university to encourage freedom of thought under the ethical discipline of the intellectual traditions which alone can make such freedom responsible and therefore productive.

Basis of Toleration "The pursuit of learning, however, must be stressed likewise as being the chief basis of that toleration which is one of the bulwarks of our democracy. Toleration requires more than good-will. Here as in so many other spheres, the path to Hell is paved with good intentions. Understanding is a more difficult and more necessary element than mere sympathy. A cultured man seeks to achieve tolerance through understanding.

"We may love our country with the utmost passion, we may have all the legitimate pride of race, we may be loyal to the religion in which we have been bred, we may be enthusiastic partisans holding to theories, scientific and political, but whether we approve or disapprove of our fellow man and his Weltanschauung, we dare not escape the duty of trying to understand him if the brotherhood of man under God's divine Fatherhood shall have any meaning.

"To be truly cultured means to have at least some of the keys to which lead to such understanding—to know the history of other peoples than our own—to know something of the language and literature of races other than that from which we have sprung—to be able to hear the songs of other faiths voice their aspirations in their own way—to know the theories and points of view of our opponents and the roots of their thoughts and aspirations. It is only on the slow and painful and laborious path of study that such understanding can be found."

"The shallow man is content to view the creeds and theories and civilization of strange peoples through the lenses of prejudices fostered by his own society. The cultured man is interested not alone in knowing what value the Anglo-Saxon of a Slav may place upon civilization, but in understanding what the Chinaman thinks of the West and what values to him are mirrored in his own culture.

"The cultured Jew is eager to know not what the rabbinic tradition has to say with regard to the Christian heresy but he will want to understand the psychology and the motives of St. Paul from the original sources, no matter how loyally rooted he may be in his ancestral faith.

"And so the Christian of today ought not to be content to learn of the Pharisaees, those founders of Jewish tradition, merely from the literature of the Christian polemics but through the actual writings and sayings of the sages from whom I have so largely quoted."

## ZONA GALE LEADS CLASS IN NOVEL-WRITING WORK

(Continued from first page) both here and abroad. Mr. Davison's course will cover the field of English poetry, treating particularly the work of contemporary poets.

"Harvest of Youth," first edition of Mr. Davison's latest collection of verse, as well as many of the literary productions of Miss Zona Gale, Mrs. Katherine Gerould, Margaret Wideman, who will teach here the week of August second, are or will soon be on sale at the various book stores of the town.

Under the auspices of the English Institute, Mr. John O. Bealy, M. A., Ph. D., is conducting an interesting course in poetry for graduate students only. Mr. Bealy, one of the visiting members of the summer faculty, is widely known as a professor of English at Southern Methodist university and as the author of several books on poetry and the drama.

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# DEAN KERN RETURNS TO ASSUME DUTIES

Returning to Penn State after a year of absence, Dean F. D. Kern, head of the Graduate School, assumes his duties after much research in Porto Rico where he was acting dean of the Agricultural College at the University of Porto Rico.

Accompanied by Dr. J. C. Arthur of Purdue university, Indiana, Dr. Kern spent two months in Europe in consultation with the leading botanists of nearly all the countries for the purpose of gathering materials on rusts for a new book which is being prepared by the two men in collaboration.

Heartily Endorsed The project was heartily sponsored by the National Research Council, although efforts to partly or wholly finance the journey were fruitless, chiefly due to the brief interval after the plan was developed. The available time to be employed was necessarily limited, permitting but six weeks on European soil and consequently it was possible to visit only Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and England.

Fortunately the men were able during this short time to consult with most of the mycologists of these countries who have given marked attention to the rusts, especially in regard to their intimate structure, their modes of development and their relationships. Letters were sent a few days ahead announcing their coming and the purpose of the visit.

In each case the consultations were individual and occupied from two to four hours on an average. Dr. Arthur and Dr. Kern carried with them six typewritten articles which were the preliminary drafts of two chapters of the forthcoming handbook on rusts, one giving a brief synopsis and one the forms and their habits; a re-statement of the first chapter, together with the same in German; a much condensed statement of views regarding rust development and the terminology required, couched in the shape of a dictionary; and a somewhat elaborated and changed form of the latter, all of which were considered by them to be of a tentative nature.

These were used as a convenient basis for discussion and to expedite the presentation of the views of the two writers. One or more of the papers being brought out at a time as seemed best, the elaborate dicta most of all.

No Propaganda There was no attempt at propaganda. What was desired was frank expression of opinion regarding the deductions that may reasonably be drawn at the present time regarding the fundamental forms of the rusts, their general course of development and the terms best suited for indicating such conceptions. There has been and still is a wide divergence of opinion regarding these matters.

Within the knowledge of Dr. Arthur and Dr. Kern this is the first undertaking of its kind. It brings forward a novel way of viewing rusts and naturally the authors felt great uncertainty about the kind of reception such views were likely to meet, even presupposing the nationality of their advocates had no adverse influence.

Cordially Received In every instance Dr. Arthur and Dr. Kern were greeted with the utmost cordiality and the object of the mission given respectful and unbiased consideration. They stated that it

## FARM LEASE SURVEYS STARTED BY COLLEGE

A state-wide study of farm leases and contracts used by Pennsylvania farmers was announced yesterday by the department of agricultural economics at the Pennsylvania State College.

Aimed at obtaining information that will be of help to both landlord and tenant, students and faculty members of the department are to survey a dozen or more Pennsylvania counties this summer. There are many different forms of contracts being used in this State between owner and tenant, and one purpose of the study will be to prepare forms that may be used as a guide for tenants and landlords.

The counties that are being studied this summer are Chester, Montgomery, Berks, Bucks, Northampton, York, Lancaster, Lehigh, Cumberland, Juniata, Mifflin and perhaps one or two others.

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