

THREE-STORY MEN¹

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It is a real pleasure to welcome you young people to this the sixtieth meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science. You represent the future progress of science in Tennessee. The members of the Tennessee Academy of Science are ready and willing to do all in their power to encourage your scientific development. To that end, we should like to take this opportunity to urge you to be "three-story men."

The expression "three-story men" is borrowed from a classification devised by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. According to Justice Holmes, there are one-story men, two-story men, and three-story men. The one-story men are fact collectors, men who have no aims beyond the accumulation of factual information. The two-story men are interpreters. They "compare, reason, and generalize, using the labors of the fact collectors as well as their own." The three-story men, the group to which we hope you will belong, are dreamers. They have vision and imagination. They use the materials of the collectors and the interpreters in building for the future, in directing the destiny of the world of tomorrow.

The question which immediately comes to your mind is this: How can I become a three-story man? The answer is: Use to the fullest extent possible the time which remains in your high school and undergraduate college training to receive a broad general education. You are really very fortunate. You are at the stage in your formal education where choices are possible. For those who are older and more advanced, that time has passed. The choices have already been made. By advising you to obtain a broad general education before the time for intensive specialization arrives, we are simply asking you to prepare yourselves to live effectively in a democratic society.

Learn to speak and write well for English is the tool by means of which you can transmit your ideas to others. Gain some appreciation of the masterpieces of the world's great literature that your leisure may be more enjoyable. In order to understand the present, you must know the history of the past. By all means, study the history of your country that you may know the principles which underlie the American way of life. In this day of conflicting ideologies, it is also well to be aware of the theories and practices of governments. Knowledge of mathematics is an essential tool for everyone. The relationships of peoples and the obligations of the individual to society merit your attention. Study a number of fields of science that you may appreciate the significance of the scientific method, that

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