

thène, Phillippe de Macédoine, Eschine, Cicéron et combien d'autres. Parmi les contemporains qu'il suffise de nommer : Hitler, Mussoline, Salazar. Tous n'ont pas des buts louables, mais rien n'empêche qu'ils en sont arrivés à imposer leurs peult avec une telle arme, accomplir beaucoup si elle est mise au service de la bonne cause. Enfin l'éloquence demeure une force redoutable et son efficacité dans l'action est en proportion des obstacles qu'il faut briser pour l'acquérir.

ROBERT B. LAFRENIÈRE, '45

THE BENEFITS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

One of the most important and instructive courses on the curriculum of St. Dunstan's College is the public speaking course, which is arranged according to classes. Each class has a public speaking society and also the assistance of a faculty-adviser who instructs in fundamentals and criticizes faults, so that we have an opportunity to learn how to express our thoughts in public.

There is little doubt that a well-conducted course in public speaking in a college is responsible for better training in citizenship and democratic principles than any of the other courses. It is self-taught and thus contributes to the building of character. Perhaps the greatest merit of such a course is that it makes us conscious of that most marvellous of all instruments, the human voice. You may think of any man you wish who is held up as a model of usefulness to his fellow men, and you will find that his ability to-speak contributed in no small measure to his eminence.

Public speaking also has a very obvious value in a democratic country. Perhaps it is unnecessary to say that especially in our form of government is skill in public speaking of supreme value, not only to the most distinguished citizen but also to the most lowly. In ancient Greece and Rome and in modern England and America, great thoughts which have influenced the thinking and acting of citizens have been uttered from the platform. "Give me liberty, or give me death!" was spoken, not written. And "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish

from the earth," was also a public utterance. In times of great emergency men take to the platform not to pen and paper to discuss their views. Free speech is at the root of our form of government; but of what good is this right if men and women are not trained to exercise it?

One word more than other characterizes the nature of public speaking, and that word is adaptation. The entire study of public speaking is aimed at teaching us the art of adapting our materials to the audience and the occasion. As a result of adaptation we have collaboration. The speaker, the audience, and the occasion all work together to produce the speech. Training in public speaking helps us in securing the participation of the audience, instead of just dumping words upon them and getting no response. Public speaking is a two-way conversation. It is true that an audience does not ordinarily use vocal signs to make known its response; but it does respond, and we learn through training to be on the lookout for signs of response.

A course in public speaking may serve as a clearing house for our ideas. It helps us to become intellectually self-supporting; it shows us what ideas we have and how to use these ideas. Public speaking helps us to do our own thinking. Too often we pass back to the professor what he has retailed to us. It is a common belief that in order to get good marks we must carefully edit what the professor has said and give it back to him. Ideas pass through our minds, but we do not possess them.

Through public speaking we discover that we can find a path of greater usefulness to our fellow men. By training ourselves to express our thought in public, we grow in power over ourselves and others. If we can train ourselves to stand before our fellow men and speak our own ideas, then we add materially to our development as persons of consequence in society. Besides teaching us self-control, public speaking also teaches us social control. In fact, all of us throughout the course of our lives will use speech to control the actions of others.

Public speaking trains us in the development of self-confidence, character, and mental alertness, all wrapped up in a single course. We are not truly educated if we have not

a certain amount of skill in public speaking. We may have an abundance of knowledge stored in the cerebrum, but if we are not able to apply this knowledge in speech when necessary, then we have missed an important part of our education.

Let, us, then, with this golden opportunity for public speaking which is offered us, get up and express our views before an audience and without consternation. Let us firmly resolve that we will work hard in this particular phase of our training, so that when we depart from college life shall be able to express our thoughts on our feet without the use of nerve pills.

FRANCIS BOLGER, '47

COULD IT REALLY HAPPEN HERE?

I returned thoughtfully to my room and, arrived there, seated myself heavily in my desk chair. It was one of those signs that was bothering me again, you know, one of those war posters. One usually becomes used to them and, sad to say, does not always think as much about their import as he should. But this afternoon I was unusually pensive, and as I was returning to college my eye fell on a sign illustrating some Nazi atrocity and stating beneath, "It Could Happen Here." I started thinking on the words, and while, of course, they were meant to refer to the atrocities committed in countries overridden by our enemies, I somehow confused them and applied them in my mind to the state of affairs in Germany itself.

How awful, I thought, to have our whole countryside, our vast plains, our meadowed lowlands, our rugged mountain districts, and our thriving little seaside cities and towns no longer the haunts of peace and freedom but to have them become the sanctuary of tyranny plotting the world's overthrow. No longer a country loved and admired by its inhabitants, but so many acres of fertile and arid soil, so many power-producing streams, so many fields capable of yielding food enough to support the army that was the very life interest, not of the inhabitants, but of their overlords—their mechanizers.