

functions as a focus of culture and as a place of research. It must combine a balanced general education with specialized training in some particular department of study. The important and difficult matter is the combination of the two; for it is not enough to provide a general education for some students while offering specialized training for others. It must provide both for its students.

This analysis of the functions of a university looks rather to the future than to the past. There are clear signs that great changes in social structure and social outlook are taking place which will alter the demands that are made upon our universities. The new synthesis must be very different from the old. These are strong evidences that the tide is turning and that a period of social and therefore of cultural unification lies before us. To stress the cultural function of the university now is not to hanker after the past, but to look to the future. Any suggestions as to how these functions can be effectively carried out in modern universities under modern conditions have been deliberately omitted. Such suggestion would be premature. We must first agree upon our goal before we can fruitfully discuss how to reach it. When we reach this goal, which, it is hoped, will be very soon, then we can determine how the functions can be effectively achieved.

—FRANCIS BOLGER, '47.

### THE HABIT OF BORROWING

Among the parasites that infest all classes of society few are more thoroughly and universally despised than the habitual borrowers.

Now borrowing is something which everyone must occasionally do. It is an expression, in a concrete way, of our faith in our neighbor's co-operation and friendliness. But carried to excess its effects are most serious.

Who does not sometimes lose his temper when, on going to use some piece of equipment he finds that his neighbor has borrowed it, and neglected to return it? This latter seems to be a corollary to the borrowing habit. How many friendships have been broken through the medium of the borrowing habit in one of the partners?

Besides, the borrowing habit has a degrading influence on the character of the one who cultivates it. It leads to carelessness in a man, lack of appreciation of the rights and the property of others, and an almost entire disregard of



the repute in which his neighbors hold him. Surely the chronic borrower knows that he is lent things, not in a spirit of charity, but merely to prevent undesired quarrels. Borrowing dulls the spirit of providence, for why be careful and saving of one's property when one can easily borrow that of another? It is also a stumbling block to neighborliness, for who desires dealing with one who knows neither when nor how to return what was lent him? It is a hindrance to prosperity, for by the slovenliness and dependence it brings, it greatly lessens the productivity of the borrower. Thus it injures not only the individual but society as a whole.

Unfortunately, too, as I have already said, these habitual borrowers are very prevalent in all classes and places. They are found in town and country. The town variety borrows his neighbor's lawn mower with many promises of prompt return. Needless to say these promises are never kept. I have in mind a particular case of a country borrower who specialized in tea. She borrowed tea and more tea until she was refused again and again. Then she worked on the next neighbor, and so on. The lady who put dried twist in the tea she lent her was undoubtedly a wise philosopher. Our college, too, has its share of this type of person. Not the least reprehensible among them are those who continuously borrow notes, essays, and experimental data. Of course they seem to think this the smart thing to do. Maybe it is, but I for one fail to see how such action is going to benefit the borrower to any extent, and I can easily foresee the injury it will do him.

If there is a remedy for this habit, I confess that I have never seen it put into practice, nor have I read of it. Physical violence has possibilities, but may lead to disagreeable repercussions. Insults are useless, for the borrowing type is impervious to them. Undoubtedly all would benefit were we to put into action Polonius' advice to his son;

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be:  
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,  
And borrowing dulls the end of husbandry."

—JOSEPH CAIRNS '49

### FROM ONE LIFE TO ANOTHER

One o'clock . . . two o'clock . . . three o'clock . . . the big clock ticked off the hours, hours which were only sixty minutes, but which seemed like days to Bill Mallory, and every one of these days brought Bill Mallory closer to a new life. Hour after hour Bill turned and twisted, sat up,