**How Much Is Your Degree Worth?**

What determines the value of a college degree? This is a question that many people are asking today. It deserves an answer: Does the amount of knowledge that one has acquired in securing a degree measure its value? That, probably, is a reasonably satisfactory answer from the standpoint of the individual. The student who has made the most of his opportunities through four years of serious study must get more satisfaction out of his educational equipment than one who spends four years in haphazard effort securing a degree on low margins of preparation and accomplishment.

But, society applies another measure to the college man’s attainments. The standing of the institution from which a student receives his diploma is often given more weight by the public than is given to the academic record of the student. Obviously, this is not a very accurate way to judge the relative merits of college graduates. Two young men of relatively equal mentality might enter different institutions—one of high standards and excellent equipment and the other of limited reputation and poor equipment. It is impossible to think of the man entering the less favorable institution accomplishing more in the way of actual educational preparation than the one who attends the institution of better equipment and older traditions, but in the scale of social values, other things being equal, the man coming out of the institution with better traditions will probably have greater prestige than his more scholarly competitor from an inferior institution.

This situation has resulted in much confusion in the public mind with reference to the academic and professional value of college and university degrees. There are more than 650 degree granting institutions in the United States. They differ widely in academic tradition, scholastic ideals, qualification of faculty members and material equipment. All of these institutions award the customary academic degrees. But, in spite of the efforts of standardizing agencies, the degrees awarded by one are often hardly comparable to those awarded by others.

The A. B. and B. S. degrees are being awarded today to hundreds of students who represent a wide range of scholastic attainments. So far as the degree is concerned, academic recognition is very much the same whether the degree has been presented by a well equipped or a poorly equipped institution. The result of this situation is that the discriminating public does not know what a degree represents. Not only do our institutions represent a wide range of standards, but the requirements for a degree differ greatly in our several institutions. Probably, there is some disadvantage about carrying the process of standardization too far, but there is certainly a loss in prestige to the holder of an academic degree of any kind as a result of the present uncertainty of requirements.

It goes without saying that under ordinary conditions a student will get more out of his college life in an institution of sound traditions and good equipment. This suggests the question: What are the factors that determine a student’s choice of a college or university? Is the academic prestige of the institution a determining factor in the case of most students? Probably not. School friendships, athletics, fraternities and finances are some of the determining factors in this situation.

It is rather surprising how many people believe that the small college has many advantages over the large college. One frequently hears this argument used and offered as a reason for the choice of an institution, but the fact is that today the larger institutions are often better organized to take care of the student than many smaller institutions. Every large college has its hospital facilities and medical staff for safeguarding the health and providing for students when ill. Physical training for both men and women is provided with competent staffs and good facilities. Most of the larger institutions have a dean of men and dean of women who are constantly in touch with student life and student problems. The fact is that one of the marvelous developments of the age is the university organizations that have been provided for supplying the needs of student life problems.

It is not the purpose of this article to disparage small institutions. I believe in them. But, I am merely pointing out the falsity in the reasoning sometimes used by parents and others for the selection of a college. I sincerely believe that the state universities of the country have developed traditions and facilities that give them a commanding place as educational institutions. Their degrees have become a standard product in the academic and professional markets of the world. Fortunately, indeed, is the man or woman who holds a degree from one of these institutions.

The growing reputation of the University of Oklahoma has given a high market value to a degree from this institution. There is no question that the university will increase in facilities and academic standards in future years. It is the purpose of those of us who have won degrees here to take increasing pride in claiming it as their Alma Mater. The marketable value of a degree from the University of Oklahoma is above par today. It is one marketable commodity that will not fluctuate in the academic and professional markets of the world in future years. It represents an investment that is certain to increase as the years come and go.

**King’s College**

Kingfisher, Oklahoma

October 24, 1928

To the editor:

In the October The Sooner Magazine is a picture of two of the old Kingfisher college buildings with an italicized note beneath. The note is correct for one time, but the first "now" in it properly antedates the magazine itself by about five years. The physical body of the old Kingfisher college has been occupied since October, 1927, by King’s college, a Pentecostal Holiness institution, and the campus has never before more completely overflowed with glad young life.

At present nearly all the instruction is in preparatory work, but the intention is to provide college work soon. Yours truly,

Henry M. White

**On Research Paper**

Dr. Duane Roller, ’23 arts-sc., and now assistant professor of physics at the university, has been named the editor of a department of reviews of current researches in physics on School, Science and Mathematics Magazine staff.