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OUR EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE

HISTORICAL MATERIAL
Nazarene Headquarters
Latham - Wiley H. Wilson

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The Church of the Nazarene has from its very beginnings been greatly interested in the education of its youth. The distinctive character of this church as committed to the so-called "second blessing concept of holiness," has for its mission the preaching of this doctrine and experience, and therefore early recognized the necessity of training its own ministry. [No other church could or would attempt this. As a consequence, our first institutions of learning were concerned chiefly with the training of the ministry.]

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But the necessity of its educational work, found its true motive even deeper than this. The Holy Spirit by whom the work of holiness is begun and continued in the hearts of God's people, is also the "Spirit of truth." Hence dwelling in the purified hearts of His people, He inspires a love for the truth,-- lovers of truth in nature, in social relationships and in divine things. It was therefore held by the founders of this denomination, that an intense and enthusiastic devotion to Jesus Christ is not a hindrance as sometimes held, but rather a help to intellectual development. This led at once to a primary emphasis upon the development of symmetrical Christian character and whole hearted devotion to Jesus Christ.

Dr. Bresee as a great spiritual leader was by his connection with colleges and universities eminently fitted to lay down the principles of education to be observed by our colleges. "The first thing we prize," he says, "is a royal atmosphere, full of intellectual and spiritual ozone. A pure atmosphere, reinforced from ocean depths and mountain tops, means much for intellectual and spiritual conditions. Men and women are to be so trained as to be immune from intellectual and spiritual diseases. [It is sought that intellectually and spiritually diseased men shall be debarred from creating influences here.] Men and women who exude microbes of worldly or low ideals, or of doubt, or of phariseeism, or of selfishness, are to be excluded. We want nothing second-rate or doubtful here. This platform is not a free forum, except in the sense

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of freedom toward the best, the purest, the noblest. The vagaries of such abnormalities as I have mentioned are not expected to find a place here; but truth, saving truth, ~~is~~ luminous with the light of love and the glory of God...But we do not live on atmosphere alone, vital as it is. In this atmosphere we have arrangements for intellectual nourishment. ⁴ [First, there is the Word of Life. Here the standard is the word of God. It is appealed to, honored and studied. It is the standard of experience, morals, life.

Within this framework, our educational institutions have made excellent progress. From year to year, the scholarship has been upgraded, until now we have many loyal men and women on our faculties with the highest academic degrees. Buildings and equipment have been furnished to provide the material necessities for the rapid growth in attendance. Holding fast to the simple educational principles laid down by the eminent ~~spiritual~~ founders of our church, our young people, spiritual and qualified are more and more coming into positions of wide influence and outstanding spiritual opportunities for service to God and the church.

** Volume, this can be cut out if necessary. I have already cut some. S.Th.*