

**ADDRESSES DELIVERED IN 1903 AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING;  
AND LETTERS, CONCERNING THE VALUE  
OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649313082

Addresses Delivered in 1903 at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for the extension of university teaching; And Letters, Concerning the Value of the Society's Work by W. Hudson Shaw & Frederick H. Sykes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**W. HUDSON SHAW & FREDERICK H. SYKES**

**ADDRESSES DELIVERED IN 1903 AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING;  
AND LETTERS, CONCERNING THE VALUE  
OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK**



# ADDRESSES

Delivered in 1903 at the Annual Meeting

OF

## The American Society for the Extension of University Teaching

BY

FREDERICK H. SYKES, PH.D.  
REV. W. HUDSON SHAW, M.A.

AND

## LETTERS

Concerning the Value of the Society's Work

---

1903

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING  
111 SOUTH FIFTEENTH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA

Exch.  
Library  
Teachers' College  
Columbia University  
9-19-1935

An Appeal for the Maintenance and Endowment of University Extension.  
Address by Dr. Frederick H. Sykes.

DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING, PHILADELPHIA,  
JANUARY 31, 1903.

*Mr. Chairman, Directors and Members of our University Extension Society, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

It is a rare event for Extension lecturers to be privileged to enjoy what I may call, in this company, the pleasure of their own Society. But to-day the railways miss some accustomed fares. In halls and libraries, in chapels and churches, to-night, all is dark and deserted. Queen Elizabeth is not moved by lectures on her Age. At Assisi, St Francis sleeps with his bones. Rome does not rise to-night, nor is modern Europe awakened. The child, oblivious of his undeveloped ethics, lies happily tucked in bed. Upon their accustomed beat the moral leaders are not found. Shakspeare's sock is off. Wagner is not expounded; the nations do not sing or dance; nor do we care to learn to listen to music, for there is none to listen to. The voice of the Extension lecturer is hushed in the land.

The reason that brings us here to-night is no slight one.

It is understood by us all that, on the administrative side of University Extension, we are face to face with what I may call a grave crisis. This crisis does not exist in Extension teaching itself. Never has the work been more thorough, never have the centres been in better condition, never has the attendance been so great. Thirteen years ago we had forty-two courses of lectures attended by nine thousand people (9297). This year we are already assured of ninety-five courses attended by twenty-five thousand people. The average attendance at our lectures during the first ten years was 194. The average attendance at the lectures of this year is 265.

We have gone to communities large and small, in the great cities—Philadelphia and New York and Baltimore, and in the towns and even villages through an area extending for two hundred miles about Philadelphia. Wherever we have gone, we have gone only after local initiative and local responsibility have been awakened. Our lectures, it must be remembered, are not given by this Society; they are arranged and held by local centres. We have therefore got together, in every centre, a small body of men and women, devoting time and effort, without reward except for the joy of well-doing, to the higher life of their community. All praise for our local secretaries, to whose devotion and energy and self-sacrifice our movement owes much of its success! Through that local initiative, local management, and local support University Extension ceases to be an exotic, foisted on the local community; it enters into the life of the community; it sup-

plies what the local leaders of the community believe the community requires and will support. When these local leaders, or the locality itself, cease to believe in it, work for it, pay for it, our cause is over. We must carry the community with us or our work ends.

We work under the most diverse conditions, and with most varied audiences. We must live up to the maxim of that first Extension lecturer who preached all things to all men. We go to great centres like Association Local in Philadelphia,—a centre that after thirteen years of continuous activity gathers together this year for courses of thirty-two historical lectures, a thousand auditors—an audience in character and standing and intellectual interest not to be paralleled elsewhere in this country, if in the world. That is a testimony of University Extension of which no member of this Society need be ashamed.

We go to small centres, in towns like Moorestown, Parkesburg, Milford, Hatboro, Woodstown, Millville. We have centres even in remote country districts, where perhaps a carriage-house is the improvised lecture-room, and farmers and farmers' wives are the only auditors. And we have centres in artisan districts where the committee and audience are workingmen and working women. We go to centres where for the first time church divisions are broken down in a common cause. We co-operate with women's clubs, acting at times for the community, as at Oak Lane, West Chester, Media, Lancaster, Asbury Park, Williamsport. We co-operate with schools and colleges,



acting also at times for the community, as at Ogontz, Easton, Catonsville, Baltimore, Frederick, Indiana. We co-operate with teachers' organizations, as in the immense gatherings of the International Kindergarten Union of this city, and the union meetings at the Normal School of the teachers' organizations of Philadelphia. We co-operate with that splendid lecture institution, the Brooklyn Institute,—a foundation we should like to parallel in Philadelphia. We co-operate in that vast system of free lectures given by the Board of Education to the people of New York,—some day to have its fellow-system in this city.

Throughout these varied audiences and various centres we have done our work. We have held our audiences on the great lines of history, poetry, drama, the novel, music, economics, ethics, child study, and so on. We have stimulated systematic reading and study. We have developed study classes. We have in some measure met the demand for good books by our traveling libraries. We have shown communities the need and value of public libraries. We have co-operated with local libraries, often lecturing in their halls, to increase interest in reading and give guidance in the choice of books. We have given instruction through the personality of the trained teacher and trained speaker, so as to humanize knowledge, which books alone cannot do. "Mind grows like a spirit," said Carlyle, "by mysterious contact with spirit, thought kindling itself at the fire of living thought." We have offered something of the benefit and the delight of higher and continuous

education to men and women who desire it, without detaching them from their callings and their homes. Our work has made for a better public opinion and for a happier, because a more intelligent, social life.

The crisis does not lie in University Extension proper. Our work and our centres have no crisis. Our centres raise about \$30,000 annually for their work. They are solvent somewhat after Mr. Micawber's calculations: "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditures twenty ought and six, result misery; annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditures nineteen ought and six, result happiness." The crisis lies with the central office, the administration of our Society. The powerhouse of the whole movement lacks fuel, and the lights shining in the most distant places are threatened with extinction. The income of the central office has for thirteen years been steadily diminishing, and this year has fallen far below its inevitable cost. We get the means of support for the central administration from three sources of revenue: First, the fees of membership in our Society, \$5 and \$10 annually, amounting this year to \$1100; second, the fees of \$10 paid by the local centres, above the lecturer's fee, for each course they hold, amounting this year to something over \$600; third, subscriptions from a few generous and steadfast friends of education, who give from \$25 to \$500 annually, to the amount this year, so far assured, of \$3000. The total is \$4700, out of which the Society must provide a central office, secretaries, typewriters, etc., at a minimum cost of \$6500. That is the first part of the crisis. But the

real crisis is a greater one. We have come to realize that in the work of University Extension we are engaged in a national work, with an income little larger than that of a Philadelphia Society for the painless extinction of cats and dogs.

We have come, I repeat, to realize that we have entered upon the national work of adult education. University Extension is a great flexible system of education evolved to supplement the College where the College is practically powerless to serve the community at large. If men and women can give up three or four years of their lives, live upon capital, freed from duties of home or business, they may get a college education. And they will get an inestimable boon. But do we realize how few they are for whom college education is actually possible? That great boon exists for how many in our community? Can I say ten per cent.? No, nor five. Can I say two per cent.? No,—not even one per cent.

Our proper field is this great Atlantic division, made up of our wealthiest states, dotted over with colleges great and small. And what are the conditions? In the primary schools there are four million little boys and girls who get the rudiments (4,050,047); two hundred and thirty thousand (234,252) will reach the high schools; seventy thousand (70,183) will reach the preparatory and technical schools; and only thirty-six thousand (35,919) will attain to the colleges and universities.\* We maybe theorists and say

---

\*Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, 1900-1901.