

Its Leaf Does Not Wither

1946-1953

Fair old Cornell, fair old Cornell,
Our hearts with rapture swell
Thy wooded slope, thy templed steep
Call back to Old Cornell.
Thy vine-clad walls, thy storied halls,
Stand where the shadows slant across the hill,
At old Cornell, fair old Cornell.

Far through the haze of student days,
We love to linger still
Where eye met eye, where heart took heart,
'Twas there, at old Cornell.
Those bygone times seem like thy chimes,
Far fading out beyond the sunset hill,
At old Cornell, fair old Cornell.

HORACE LOZIER

Plans for the celebration of Cornell's centennial year were begun by a resolution of the Board of Trustees in November, 1944. The celebration includes the raising of a centennial fund of \$2,000,000, needed for endowment, for scholarships, and for new buildings. Under the able leadership of President Russell D. Cole and Vice-President Earle A. Baker this fund, as of March, 1953, has reached \$1,500,000, with three-fourths of the amount cash in hand. Of this total, alumni

have contributed \$400,000. The Methodist churches of the North Iowa Conference have been responsible for about the same amount. True to the Cornell tradition, the emphasis is on participation by many, regardless of the size of the gift. Some 13,000 persons have thus far shared in the effort. Those contributing a hundred dollars or more are designated as "tower builders."

Important among the larger gifts received is that of more than \$300,000 by bequest from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. Francis F. Ebersole and Professor and Mrs. William S. Ebersole, to be used for the construction and maintenance of a student health center. Work on this needed addition to the campus equipment will be started at once.

Alumni who have designated their gifts for the library are hopeful that a similar large contribution will make possible soon the much-needed additions to the library building. Others envision a new fireproof building for chemistry, and others a May Music Festival Endowment Fund in memory of Dr. Frederick A. Stock.

The cornerstone of a new field house was laid in October, 1952, with the expectation of completing and dedicating it during this centennial year. Among the Cornellians present at that ceremony was Edward R. Ristine ('96), former head of the commercial department, who will celebrate his hundredth birthday on October 31, 1953 — just fourteen days ahead of the official birthday of the

college. His face has been familiar to all students on the campus since 1891. Truly his leaf does not wither. Alert and eager to share in the centennial activities, he is a symbol of Cornell's perennial youth.

From about \$40,000 in 1853, Cornell's total assets have grown to nearly \$5,000,000. But in spite of the importance of tangible assets, the centennial celebration is chiefly concerned with achievements of a less tangible nature and with dedication for the future. A college is not primarily campus and buildings and endowment but faculty and students and alumni.

Cornell students have always come and still come largely from Iowa and her neighboring states, chiefly Illinois; yet almost every state in the Union has been represented on the campus in the past ten years, as well as seventeen foreign lands. Likewise, Cornell alumni live and work all over the world, although by far the largest number (3,580) are at home in Iowa.

Statistics based on a sampling of representative alumni show that the largest number work in the field of education, the next in business, with the fields of church, medicine, and science following next in numbers.

A total of 387 graduates and former students have served or are serving in the ministry of the Christian church. These include missionaries in more than a dozen countries. Two Methodist

bishops and five college presidents are counted among the alumni of a single college generation.

A survey made by two men of Wesleyan University and published in May, 1951, showed that Cornell stands fourteenth among fifty colleges and universities of the United States which rank highest in the number of Ph.D. scientists produced per thousand students graduated. Another survey indicated that Cornell placed twenty-fifth among all colleges and universities in the United States ranked according to the proportion of their living alumni listed in *Who's Who*.

Intellectual leaders of all these groups were doubtless in the thought of Dr. W. H. Norton, whose life (1856-1944) nearly spanned the Cornell century, when he wrote in "Memories and Sketches" as yet unpublished:

There are many worthy charities which aid the suffering, the needy, the underprivileged, and appeal strongly to our sympathies. Yet in the human struggle to drive back the powers of darkness, it is not the wounded who win the victory. . . . The coming century may be the century of the common man, but it will not be the common man who brings it in, or who guides it. The common man is greatly advantaged by the age of electricity, but it is the uncommon man who created, directs, and will advance it. Contributions to the institutions which discover and train uncommon men will, I think, count the most. These institutions are primarily the colleges. . . . In the Midlands these have been notoriously ill-equipped. What better use, then, of money can be made than to help one of the most promising of them train its share of the men and

women on whom the advance of the future will depend!

Dr. Norton was one of many trustees of the college who, giving generously of time, talent, and means, have helped to frame and guide Cornell policies through the years. The full story of their labors will be a part of the complete history of the college when it is written.

Certainly Iowa has been enriched because of the vision of Elder Bowman and his gallant workers a century ago. The influence of Cornell upon Iowa was already felt in 1904, when Leslie M. Shaw spoke at Cornell's Semi-Centennial celebration and told an anecdote that fitted the occasion. "It is reported that some one asked President Garfield, 'Why does Ohio exercise such influence?' and that he replied, 'Because Ohio has so many small colleges and no great university.' " Today, of course, only part of the President's remark would be applicable because of the rise of great state universities throughout the nation. But Speaker Shaw and his audience found great satisfaction in recalling Garfield's words, for in 1904 the state universities were rapidly outdistancing many small colleges which lacked the resources of state-supported institutions.

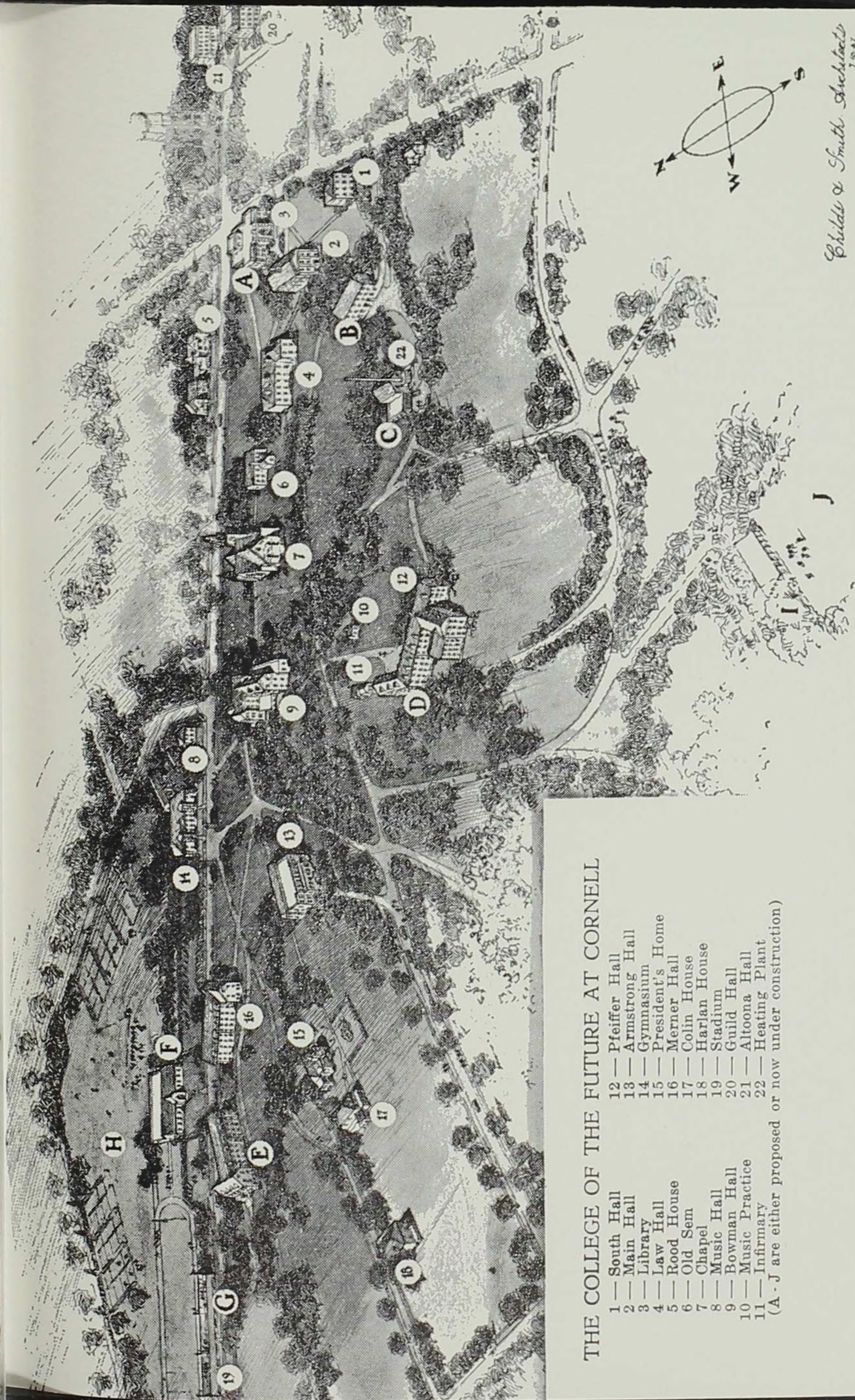
The problem which the Semi-Centennial speaker touched only briefly in 1904 is fundamental, and today the question is sometimes raised: Is there a place for privately endowed liberal arts colleges in America today? President

Cole recently answered that question as follows:

In an era of increasing government encroachment . . . we must realistically face this vital question. If we are to continue with a system of education which combines tax-supported schools with privately endowed colleges and universities, far-sighted Americans must support colleges such as Cornell. There is more at stake than the perpetuation of a single institution. . . . Freedom of education, in the opinion of many thoughtful citizens, is a priceless American heritage. The right to teach according to the dictates of our minds, free from government or political control, has been the key to progress in America.

Through the currents and eddies of educational theory, Cornell has held a comparatively steady course in the true traditions of the liberal arts college, privately endowed and Christian in foundation, in principles, and in practice. Today the need for leaders nurtured in this tradition is imperative. The purpose of Cornell College as she begins another century is to help meet that need.

MARJORIE MEDARY



THE COLLEGE OF THE FUTURE AT CORNELL

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 — South Hall | 12 — Pfeiffer Hall |
| 2 — Main Hall | 13 — Armstrong Hall |
| 3 — Library | 14 — Gymnasium |
| 4 — Law Hall | 15 — President's Home |
| 5 — Rood House | 16 — Merner Hall |
| 6 — Old Sem | 17 — Colin House |
| 7 — Chapel | 18 — Harlan House |
| 8 — Music Hall | 19 — Stadium |
| 9 — Bowman Hall | 20 — Guild Hall |
| 10 — Music Practice | 21 — Altoona Hall |
| 11 — Infirmary | 22 — Heating Plant |

(A-J are either proposed or now under construction)

Childs & Smith Architects
1897