

Comment by the Editor

THE FRUITS OF AVOCATION

Fortunate is the man whose vocation is his hobby. If employment is merely the means of earning a living it is drudgery, but if it is also a form of self-expression it is the surest way to find happiness. People do best what they like to do. The measure of achievement is apparently associated with the creative impulse, because the monotonous performance of routine duty leads to mediocrity and failure but the stimulating experience of invention or discovery develops the resourcefulness and confidence of leadership. With free initiative comes breadth of vision and expansion of interests which characterize the cultivated personality. A truly educated man is never at a loss for something to do.

By this standard Daniel W. Morehouse must have been a happy man, for he managed to weave his many interests into the pattern of his life. Though astronomy was his profession he utilized that knowledge to provide the opportunity to cultivate his talent for teaching, to apply his ability of administration, and to fulfill his ideals in Christian service. The very breadth of his living, as

Ben Hur Wilson says, produced the balance of his personality.

It is appropriate that this PALIMPSEST should be written by a disciple of Dr. Morehouse. As a graduate student at Drake, Mr. Wilson studied under Dr. Morehouse who encouraged him to give priority to his amateur interest in astronomy and geology. Trained as an engineer and by occupation an insurance adjuster, he became a teacher of science in the high school and junior college of Joliet, Illinois. In emulation of his preceptor he has exploited his talents and cultivated his versatility.

By avocation Mr. Wilson is a student of Iowa history. Throughout his busy career, he has found time to investigate many aspects of the past. He has talked with old settlers, explored libraries and attics, examined official records, searched newspaper files, and discovered obscure sources of information. In the course of his research he has traveled from Boston to Denver. He is, by his own admission, a history fan.

Ben Hur Wilson has written many articles for the publications of the State Historical Society of Iowa. His first story was printed in the PALIMPSEST twenty years ago. Since then he has contributed one or more stories every year. The subjects have ranged from transportation and

astronomy to politics and music. This full number is a particularly appropriate contribution on his twentieth anniversary. May his custom long continue.

J. E. B.