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June 17, 1940

Miss Emma K. Temple
Hunter College
Two Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Temple:

I am glad to enclose a copy of my Commencement address,
which I trust is satisfactory.

Cordially yours,

Ordway Tead

Ordway Tead
Editor, Economic Books

OT:dc

Why not release it in the?

HOW TO KEEP ON GROWING

Address by Ordway Tead, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, at Hunter College
Commencement on Wed., June 19, at 10:30 A.M. - Carnegie Hall

At every family festival until the last year or two, I venture that fond relatives have greeted you in tones of mild surprise with, "My, how you have grown!"

I am sure that many of your faculty friends are this morning echoing gratefully the same thought - "Yes, you have grown."

And those of us here who are parents are wistfully recalling the hurrying years and are proud this morning to murmur, "Yes, now you are grown."

Your own emotions on this memorable morning are no doubt mixed. But most of you surely have high hopes and zealous desires to push forward into adventure. The very uncertainty and difficulty of the era offer you a challenge. You sense the truth that tomorrow's ~~rap~~ responsibilities will supply further occasions of growth. My concern, therefore, is only to leave one thought with you: As the years go on, how will you be sure that your growth is still going on?

When you come back for your fifth and your tenth reunion, I want to have the gratifying experience of knowing that you are still alive and growing. ^{you}

But if you are to know this, you must have paid some attention to growing in the interval.

And if one wants to grow, what are some of the self-searching questions one occasionally asks of one's mirror, in the effort to be sure that as the milestones of age are being passed, the quality of one's growth is being assured? I can only suggest a few questions, but I have tried to select these with care. I have tried to offer questions which, if you and I will put them candidly to ourselves every so often, their answers should help us to keep up the good work of growth. Here they are:

1. Is my body progressively a fit and obedient instrument of my will?
2. Is my capacity to appreciate increasing so that I feel more ^{deeply} ~~stiply~~ and discriminatingly in response to things of beauty?
3. Have I some task in the world which I try to do with unique distinction?
4. Does my capacity to love people increase in depth and breadth and warmth

with the passing of the years?

5. Is my capacity to think straight and secure rational answers to problems increasing?
6. Have I a deep and growing faith in some great purpose in life, in realizing which I may share?
7. Is my sense of proportion - or of humor- increasing so that I can be completely zealous without being a crank, can feel summoned to a great mission yet not take myself too seriously?

These seven questions have to do with some of the most crucial factors in living a life - with your reaction to your body, your appreciative powers, your creative work, your relations to people, your capacity for reflection, your religious sense and your sense of humor.

Nearly every one of these is subject to conscious improvement. The ongoing of the years can and should show real maturing of these capacities. But such maturing does not come by chance, nor by ignoring the tests of growth.

It is literally true of human personality that its growth and development are dynamic facts. Either growth is proceeding or it is not. There are few, if any, plateaus in personality growth - and they are dangerous spots to find oneself in.

My own observation is that the growth ~~is~~ problem after college afflicts both ~~xx~~ sexes and at all times. There is no cure for beginning to go to sleep inside but the determination to stay awake inside. There has to be a will to mental and spiritual survival. And that, I trust and pray, may be your priceless possession. "Oh, God," let us pray, "help me always to keep growing."

Ask yourself a year hence - when you read of the Hunter Commencement in the paper - "Have I kept growing?" Take the question, I beseech you, into your closet - where you are quite alone, and when there is time to add up what the growth items are.

I am suggesting all this not to disturb the elation of today's achievement, which is splendid. But I want for you that next year's stocktaking shall not be

an anti-climax. Happiness, if it is to come, comes in the growth efforts. That sense of personal worthwhileness which each of us struggles so to get and to hold, comes as a by-product of growth.

I want the dear old family phrase to be kept alive for you, so that deans and professors and classmates in the ensuing years will continue to join in the familiar refrain and greet you with, "My, how you have ~~ix~~ grown!"