

Dr. Charles E. Diehl Quotations

"The basic purpose of a liberal education is to develop a well-rounded personality. It begins with discipline and leads to self-discipline. The building of character is its most important purpose."
(Rotary Club Speech. April 20, 1943)

"Appropriate and beautiful surroundings will have a transforming influence upon generation after generation of students and upon the very character of the institution itself. Beauty, like truth and goodness, needs to be expressed."
(McIlwain, Shields. A Man and a College. A Tribute to Charles Edward Diehl 1875-1964)

Southwestern "Was not willing to be merely another college. It determined to be another kind of college, worthy of its new home and of the citizens who made possible its transplanting."
(The Case of Southwestern. Abstract of Address of President Diehl at Southwestern Dinner. Friday, February 23, 1934)

"In conclusion I want to quote the closing words of my address twenty-five years ago on "The Ideals of Southwestern" which are quite pertinent today:

With high resolve and honest purpose Southwestern opens her doors in Memphis. She holds aloft the unpurchasables as the objects of desire and bears an unfaltering testimony to the value of spiritual ideals. She seeks to prepare for generations yet unborn by handing down unsullied to this generation our rich heritage of the past. She labors to send out men and women with strong characters and disciplined minds which are to be put at the disposal of the world's need for the solution of its desperate problems, for the alleviation of its myriad ills, and for the bringing in of that better day when wrong shall cease, and liberty and love and truth and right o'er all the earth are known as in their throne above."
(Speech at Opening Convocation. September 23, 1950)

"As in the old days, the College in Memphis believes that education and religion belong together, and that, while it is vitally concerned with sound scholarship, a disciplined mind, a freed soul, and a broadened personality, it is even more concerned with character and an upright life. It was and is an institution which believes in the Bible, in God as revealed through Jesus Christ, in the life eternal, and consequently, in real moral values; an institution which stands for the essential permanence of truth, beauty, and goodness."
(Speech at Opening Convocation. September 23, 1950)

"The teacher is always the most important part of the college. He is the college in the active sense; all other things are circumstances, machinery, arrangements. He is the mind that learns and teaches, the character and personality that influences, and becomes a never to be forgotten memory for good or ill. If he does well, then all is well; if he does ill, the college fails."
(Speech at Opening Convocation. September 23, 1950)

"What is the use of liberal arts education? The answer is that it is the education for free Men, the only sort of education that will give that broad understanding which fits Men of Women for worthy living".
(Rotary Club speech, April 20, 1943)