

11-16-1937

UA1B3/5 As Practical Philosopher

Arndt Stickle

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Speech and Rhetorical Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stickle, Arndt, "UA1B3/5 As Practical Philosopher" (1937). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 4129.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/4129

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact todd.seguin@wku.edu.

At finally given
now radio on
Nov. 16, 1937.

AS PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHER

Deep into the mind and soul of Henry Hardin Cherry was born the instinct of purpose. If that purpose could be expressed as manifest throughout a long career, it could perhaps be best stated in the words "do something for others". Denied college training and the opportunity of drinking deeply at the fountain of knowledge and exploring its recesses, for compensation, he exerted himself in studying man in his own locale. Never a student of what great philosophers have said or done, he found his own conclusions at the deeper source of all accepted truth in observing the actions of men.

He did become, perhaps inadvertently, a lover and student of Epictetus. That philosopher, though held in bondage, refused to let the clanking of his chains be the knell of a dwarfed soul. He constantly preached to the lowly a love of good and a hatred of evil. Above all, the Greek philosopher taught that man's greatest possession is his purpose and that the individual cannot make that concrete or secure his own interests unless he contribute to the general welfare of others. He would see things as they are in their sheer ugliness and teach their transformation through service of the individual. His scheme of a good world encompassed moral righteousness through the elevation of the lowliest. Who then that knew and valued the life of him for whom this memorial is erected should be surprised that he loved the great yet humble Greek and quoted him freely?

Such was his philosophic bent and so well balanced was he in judgment that his outlook upon life seldom had a trait of pessimism in it. He would leave his office when sick and tired of body, go to a chapel exercise where the inspiration of youth before him caused a forgetfulness of pain and illness and make a stirring, eloquent appeal for leadership and the more abundant life. He came away from the chapel strengthened, since gloom and

despondency had no part in his enduring scheme of life. He was tolerant of almost anything that would not injure the cause of the institution he reared, nursed through tortuous and devious days, and presided over. There was in his nature faith and love for all if convinced of their honesty and sincerity of purpose. His friends honored and trusted him absolutely and made him a confidante when they would confide in no one else. When betrayed he suffered as those only can when confidence is violated. Those who knew him best wanted to be near him; felt a loneliness when long absent from his presence. Perhaps if encomiums were heaped upon him today by thousands of his former students among them would be this sincere tribute; you found us with an ambitious spirit but discouraged and so enveloped in gloom that there was no light shining through our forest of cypress trees; you not only provided us a lamp but became our guide as well.

This memorial in enduring bronze unveiled and dedicated today offers him who cares an opportunity to commune with the dynamic, unconquerable spirit of Henry Hardin Cherry, founder of what he may see by looking about. In communion with the Past lies strength born of knowledge and experience. In mute appeal the statue of the founder of this institution speaks to the innermost depths of the soul its message of a great life ended. In the living Present and for tomorrow comes from the same source an appeal to the sons and daughters of Western in clear, trumpet tones, that if ye loved me and believed in me, move onward and upward, be loyal to her best traditions and semper Fidelis.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. D. Tucker", written in dark ink at the bottom right of the page.