A psychological barrier lies astride the American college system of education. It has arisen from all the attitudes and the environment that allow extra-curricular activities to outweigh academic accomplishment in importance and esteem. It is adversely affecting the ability of many students to determine what is significant in education and life careers.

American colleges and universities have taken great pride in the product of their educational systems. The characteristics most hoped for in this product were social adjustment and sense of responsibility, a well-rounded training including leadership training, and the "gift of gab." George F. Babbitt, the characterization of the American businessman by Sinclair Lewis, stands as a memorial. To realize this masterpiece, our institutions have emphasized the importance of extra-curricular activities—student government, clubs, fraternities, football fetish (as player or onlooker), dances, and bull sessions for the other fellow's point of view.

Regardless of the forces that erected it, the barrier now constitutes a self-sustaining philosophy, and students hew to it mightily. But like a rapidly rotating flywheel of ever increasing momentum, it has arrived at the speed of disintegration. Symptoms of its fragmentation can be seen in widely different sections of the United States. As reflected in the students' judgment of what is worthwhile, the symptoms are as follows:

1. Small attendance at convocations featuring distinguished speakers.
2. Lack of participation in religious groups by a majority of the most able students, alongside vigorous social activity. While "religion week" (of all denominations) is observed on many campuses, adoption of this as by some curriculum groups appears to place religion and profession in gory on a competitive basis.
3. Inadequate support for groups which were the strongest student organizations; the success of the clubs depends on too few students whose accomplishments, both in the club and in the classroom, suffer accordingly.
4. Readiness of a peripheral group to start a new club, publication, conference, or exposition, while a deserving activity already organized flounders for lack of support.
5. Aberrations, such as "panty raids" or dances to be related to the general immaturity at times.

To some degree, at least, these symptoms are results of the emphasis on becoming well-rounded and socially adjusted—emphasis on extra-curricular activities.

Undergraduate Agronomy Clubs, which send delegates to the national meetings of the Society, are themselves testimonials of the esteem in which extra-curricular activities are held. Crop and livestock judging teams travel far and wide during the school year.