

TALKS ON COLLEGE LOYALTY

PROFESSOR RUSSELL GIVES A SERIES OF CHAPEL TALKS ON "COLLEGE LOYALTY"

Loyalty to School Implies a Willing-
ness to Sacrifice For its Sake—
Means More Than Joy at Vic-
tory and Sorrow at Defeat—
Loyalty Outlives Defeat

The following is a summary of last week's chapel talks on college loyalty by Prof. R. Russell, head of the department of history and political science.

College loyalty and "pep" are not one and the same. "Pep" is a display of physical energy, artificially stimulated, for the purpose of creating an impression of wild enthusiasm for a cause in which those who give the display may or may not take deep interest. Loyalty is devotion to a cause. Loyalty in the college corresponds to patriotism in the state, civic spirit in the city or esprit de corps in a military unit. Loyalty to a college implies a subscription, in the main, to the purpose and ideals of the school, a desire to see it grow and achieve, and a willingness to sacrifice personal ease or convenience for its sake. Loyalty to the college football team, for example, means more than joy at its victories and sorrow for its defeats. The loyal student feels personally injured if his team fails to live up to the college traditions of sportsmanship. Loyalty survives defeat. The loyal students does not demand an unbroken string of victories as the price of his fealty; he demands only that the team to do its best and fight to the last.

Reasons may be given for the loyalty of a student body. It is natural for one to be loyal to the group with which he is constantly associated or in which he is active. The college may be worthy of the loyalty of its students. Loyalty may be inspired and inculcated. The school must be made worthy. Just as immigrants must be naturalized before they become American citizens, so Freshmen must be naturalized. They must be taught the customs, traditions, and ideals of the institution. Upper classmen have a duty to perform in this respect. The question may be raised whether we in O. U. talk enough about the history, the heroes, and the ideals of our school.

It goes without saying that a loyal student body is desired by the officials of a college. But loyalty is of benefit, also, to the one who feels it. It is a quality we all admire. Loyalty to a good cause ennobles many a life. It draws out the best that is in an individual and enables him to live up to his possibilities. College loyalty leaves a permanent impress on character. The trait developed in college may later shine forth in the form of devotion to the service of the state, the church, or other cause.

Can one be too loyal of his college? Yes. He must also be loyal to his family, to the life work he has chosen, to the nation, for examples. Ordinarily college loyalty will not interfere with these other loyalties; but it

may. In that case choice must be made. Does the loyal student ever criticize? Certainly. But he does not criticize for the purpose of hurting his school. Should every loyal student accept without question all the student practices, customs, and traditions? A student, or a group of students, might well refuse to fall in with those customs and practices which seem especially absurd or undesirable.
