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DOES EDUCATION PAY?

BY JOHN CULLEY.*

Various and many attempts have been made in recent years to answer the question, "Does Education Pay?" meaning education acquired in schools and colleges or other institutions of classified learning. It is freely admitted and undeniable that there is a profit in mental superiority and spiritual satisfaction to the person having a college education. Mental appreciation increases proportionately with the increase in the degree of education.

It is also freely admitted, and therefore requires no further proof, that education radiates a beneficent influence on everyone with whom it comes in contact. But does it pay financially is the great question.

The latest and most successful attempt to answer the question by means of a scientifically conducted research was undertaken recently by the Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity in Commerce. The investigation covered and compared the various periods in life with regard to the earning capacity of elementary school, high-school and college graduates, and even those with higher educational training.

Between 7000 and 8000 persons engaged in professional, scientific, teaching and business occupations were investigated. Their earnings were classified with regard to the amount of education, in order to analyze the relationship between education and income.

The following interesting facts and figures obtained from this investigation prove "the dollar spent for education by the public or the individual goes out only to bring back ten."

The conclusions formulated from the investigation, while not at all unexpected, are very enlightening:

It shows that the high-school graduate, without further schooling, earns up to the age of 60, an average of \$1100 per year *more* than does the elementary-school graduate.

* Utah Board of Pharmacy.