dance that will enable it to assist pupils to decide whether they wish to prepare for entrance in institutions of higher learning, or for those occupations for which a college education is not essential. The program of the small high school must remain a limited one and should stress general rather than special training. The program of the large cosmopolitan high school should provide both general preparatory training and general vocational training. It seems to be clear that the high school as now constituted should not attempt any further expansion of its specialized or vocational program for its non-college bound pupils, but that it should attempt to inaugurate for these pupils a program calling for general vocational training. This is predicated on the assumption that it will be rather difficult for the secondary schools to offer differentiated vocational courses that will prepare students for successful entrance into occupations that are changing almost overnight. This does not mean that the secondary school must abandon its program of vocational education; it indicates rather that it should reorganize its present inadequate vocational courses into programs that will provide in a more adequate way general vocational training.

WILLIAM R. SMITHEY

The more ideals a man has, the more contemptible, on the whole, do you continue to deem him, if the matter ends there for him, and if none of the laboring man’s virtues are called into action on his part—no courage shown, no privations undergone, no dirt or scars contracted in the attempt to get them realized.—WILLIAM JAMES.

The child runs away from home for the same reason that the dog bolts in the hunting field. It is usually because his rights have not been respected. The dog becomes a self-hunter and the child becomes antisocial.—LESLEY D. KLINE.

GIRLS OF TODAY MOVE AHEAD

The Girl Scout movement symbolizes the coming generation, free, strong, competent, and clean . . . The day of the cloistered woman is past. Hail to the Scout!

The Girl Scouts and hundreds of thousands of their sisters enrolled in similar groups, such as Girl Reserves, Campfire Girls, and 4-H clubs, are about the best phase of the growth of womanhood since Susan B. Anthony announced that women are people. These girls are growing every day into a finer and more competent people, for they have found their legs and arms—and the freedom of the out-of-doors in which to swing them. They have found, too, the freedom to discover and to develop their natural gifts and faculties.

There was a time, not so long ago but it is clear in my memory, when a girl thought if she were strong enough to step over a curbstone, it were better to disguise that ugly fact and cling to the sturdy arm of her escort. If she had a good appetite, she concealed it; and if she could run fast enough to catch up to what she wanted, nobody had ever seen her do it. She had to hide her fitness to live and to do her work in the world if she were to be happy in it.

Those were the stupid days.

Within the last twenty years the world has altered until it seems a new planet. Girl Scouts and like-minded groups have helped young generations of girls to adapt to new conditions and to take advantage of unprecedented opportunities. That they have filled a real need is indicated by their steady growth. The first Girl Scout group of eight girls was organized twenty-two years ago this March in Savannah, Georgia. Today there are many more than a million Girl Scouts and ex-Girl Scouts. The
country is dotted with their “little houses,” cabins, and camps.

Like their brothers, these girls have learned to swim, to manage boats and canoes, to climb mountains, to tramp afield, and when night comes to chop firewood and camp comfortably and safely. Not one in the lot would scream at the sight of a field mouse or a harmless snake. They have learned the home-making arts that their grandmothers knew, and they have learned techniques of citizenship of which their grandmothers never dreamed.

The Girl Scouts have done their part to bring about a new day in which a girl no longer is handicapped by the idea that she must hide the truth about herself, but is free to keep step and stride with her mate—to beat him to the goal if she can. She can stretch her arms and legs and back and grow in real grace and beauty without fear of losing caste. Health is no longer disgraceful. It is even nosing out the old standards of beauty. The beautiful girl of today is one with sun-tanned, wind-swept, rain-washed cheeks; one in whose eyes shines the light of a disciplined and ripened self-consciousness; one who looks straight out on the world without blinkers and knows it for what it is. Thrice-armed, body, mind, and spirit, the Girl Scout goes out to bear a hand in the scuffle.

“I can’t see why my daughter should join any such organization. She gets all the training she needs at school and at home. We are real companions to our children. There’s something just a little public about girls marching in bands and camping out and doing all sorts of things like that. I can’t see it for my girl.”

Well, your girl is being cheated out of something vital to her growth and complete usefulness. The day of the cloistered woman is past. In this scurrying day she can no longer function. Her home and her children, her work and her play, her experience and her education, are all touched with this something that you call “a little public.” We have all become a bit more conscious of each other and each other’s happiness and need, and it is that public consciousness from which you shrink and toward which I would push you. The world has gone out into the market-place, and if the woman is to keep a home she will have to be heard and felt and seen in the councils of the fathers and the mothers.

Girls do not grow into qualified women overnight. They must serve through the apprenticeship of adolescence, the most trying and least understood phase of a girl’s growth. The adolescent girl is beset by moods and feelings, by associations, urges and desires for which she has no ready response. She is ignorant of the meaning of much of what she has been taught. Experience alone can enlighten the matter of living, and time must bring experience gradually, sparingly, grudgingly. During those difficult years, she must have the opportunity to build a seasoned body and a tempered soul.

This is a process that is best fostered in the open air among her own kind. It was a wise woman who led the way along the trail to the campfire and the balsam bed. It was someone who knew the spiritual reward of the mountain-climb, the comforting weariness of the evening swim, who led the girls to the hills.

A scout is one who goes ahead to look out and bring back word of what lies ahead. I never see a group of Girl Scouts swinging along in their woods-green uniforms without wondering what it is they see ahead on the road. What good news do they gather? The light in their eyes, the joy in their lifting stride brings a responsive glow to my heart.

The Girl Scouts and their like are the symbols of the coming generation, free, strong, competent, and clean. We of the older day salute them. May their numbers increase.

Angelo Patri