

THE ARCHITECTS' STATEMENT

To plan a school one must study the whole subject of education. Our health, our efficiency and our character are all affected by the sort of building we live in and do our work in. It therefore becomes a rather heavy responsibility to plan buildings in which our fellow beings are to spend a good part of their lives.

Now let me tell you some of the reasons why planning the new buildings for Kobe College has been a special pleasure to us: I do not hesitate to place *first* of all the fact that Kobe College has the purpose and the possibility of developing well rounded characters. To help provide the equipment for increased efficiency in such an enterprise is a real inspiration. I think I should put *second* the possibilities offered by the beautiful site on which we have been privileged to erect the new plant. In the *third* place we had the opportunity to develop a completely new plant unhampered by any old buildings or antiquated precedents. A *fourth* reason is the pleasure we have had in working with the College Building Committee. They have furnished a great deal of the detail and decisions, and their judgments and tastes have determined much of the most important part of the work; yet they have never forced opinions against expert experience nor questioned the integrity of their chosen architects. *Fifth*, the buildings themselves, if they are successful, ought to exert a positive influence upon the pupils who will spend a number of years within their walls. To be too luxurious is almost as bad as to be too bare and ugly; but to be perfectly proportioned, artistic in the truest sense, can have only a beneficial influence.

If these buildings are truly successful, one of their most important functions should be to develop through the years in the inner consciousness of the graduates such an innate sense of proportion and good taste that its effects will be discernable in the homes which they shall eventually establish throughout Japan.

We are hopeful that the ensemble effects as well as many of the

details do contain elements of constructive value which will foster the esthetic, and so indirectly the spiritual, life of the College.

We sincerely hope that the student body may not only live in these buildings as shelters and work-shops, but may seek to gain from them direct educational values.

Wm. Merrell Vories