Three Gifts to the Rice Institute

that to a lifelong friend he should have accorded the privilege of devising a fitting memorial to his nearest of kin. And it would seem to be singularly in keeping with the interests of his well-ordered life that to an institution of learning should be entrusted the means whereby he sought to preserve in living memory, not himself, but his mother, father, and brother. Nor will his example of filial devotion fail of emulation by the Rice undergraduates, some of whom directly, and all indirectly, are to share in the benefits of Mr. Hohenthal’s benefaction to their Alma Mater. And in their local traditions of song and story the students and scholars will also pay tribute to the donor’s fine tribute to friendship, and celebrate another instance of his friend’s friendly interest in the college.

III

THE SHARP LECTURESHIP IN CIVICS AND PHILANTHROPY

In a letter addressed to the Trustees of the Rice Institute in June, 1918, Mrs. Estelle B. Sharp, of Houston, expressed her desire to place in the hands of the Trustees funds for the provision of a lectureship in civics and philanthropy, and in the same letter Mrs. Sharp intimated her willingness to secure under this lectureship four annual scholarships. This generous gift of an endowed lectureship, the first of its kind in the history of the new institution, and its accompanying scholarships, the Trustees have gratefully accepted.

Mrs. Sharp’s donation of the Sharp Lectureship in Civics and Philanthropy makes possible the expansion of the university’s educational programme along lines of usefulness for which immediate provision could not otherwise have
The Sharp Lectureship

been made. It is the purpose of the new department, whose foundations are thus being laid, to train Southern social workers for social welfare work in the South, and to place the academic training of these social workers on a graduate basis. The successful prosecution of this plan will be greatly facilitated by the scholarships which Mrs. Sharp is proposing to associate with the Sharp Lectureship. These scholarships will be open to graduates of the Rice Institute and to graduates of other institutions maintaining similar standards and requirements. They will be awarded primarily for high standing in scholarship, but in making the award account will also be taken of personal qualifications for the direction of organized charity, relief, and settlement work in city and rural communities. Both young men and young women will be eligible to the scholarships, and at present properly qualified undergraduates may be considered among the applicants. The annual stipend of each scholarship will be two hundred and fifty dollars.

There is thus to be continued and developed at the Rice Institute work undertaken by the Texas School of Civics and Philanthropy, which was organized and incorporated a few years ago under Mrs. Sharp's leadership. The good will of the earlier organization goes with her splendid gift to the Institute, and with the inauguration of the new work at Rice the Texas School of Civics and Philanthropy dissolves. Throughout its career the latter institution enjoyed cordial coöperation on the part of members of the faculty of the Rice Institute: Mr. Caldwell was chairman of the board of trustees, Mr. Ward, a trustee, and Mr. Axson, a member of the advisory committee, while Messrs. Edwards, Miller, Tsanoff, and Watkin also gave courses of lectures: accordingly, the merging of the Texas School appears as a very natural stage in the development of its work, while at the
same time Mrs. Sharp's further initiative in civics and philanthropy serves to enrich, and on the side of the social sciences, the scientific programme of this university of liberal and technical learning. To all friends of the university it comes as a most heartening and auspicious omen that this noble gentlewoman, universally known for her philanthropic work on which she is daily bent in quietness, confidence, and strength, should have singled out this new institution as a permanent ally in that humanitarian endeavor. And to all lovers of humanity it is a most cheering prospect to see that, much earlier than could have been anticipated, the Rice Institute, through Mrs. Sharp's beneficent action, is about to realize its early hope of participating in the advancement of humanitarian movements in city, or State, or nation, or world.