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FROM THE COMMISSION'S MAILBAG

Excerpts from Letters Edited with Comments by Brand Blanshard

IN THE course of its work, the Commission on the Function of Philosophy in Liberal Education sought advice in very various quarters. It consulted not only the members of its parent body, the American Philosophical Association, but also journalists and congressmen, clergymen and social workers, scientists and business men, university presidents and deans. The response was a generous flood of letters. The advice was not asked with a view to committing it to print, but solely to clear the minds of the inquiring group about the subjects of their study. These subjects covered a wide field. What philosophy is, what its place and value are in the college curriculum, how effectively it is being taught, what are the demands and criticisms that are currently made upon it, how instruction in it, both graduate and undergraduate, may be improved, what role it should have in the postwar world—these were only a few of the larger topics that fell within the scope of the inquiry.

The results of that inquiry are recorded in a volume soon to be published by Harper and Brothers on *Philosophy in American Education*. It will be clear from the many extracts appearing in that volume how much its writers owe to the hundreds of letters they have received. But the letters contained far more than could be used in the form of occasional quotations; indeed they gave so useful a picture of the state of opinion in the country about philosophy and its offices that it seemed unjust to the philosophical public that they should fall under our eyes alone. We have therefore asked the writers' permission to print an anthology of their suggestions and comments.

In justice to these writers, certain facts should be borne in