

He came to see clearly that to throw upon the world a boy or a girl incapable of doing well some one thing is to give that boy or girl the most unfavorable start possible in the only life they have to live, and it is believed that, when Mr. Lewis returned to Chicago, he had fully determined to set on foot a project that should lead directly to the establishment of a unique school. This school was to train boys and girls for lifework, and to train them so well that failure would be contingent upon lack of personal effort only.

Mr. Lewis felt that such a school must needs have ample funds or it would fail. In accordance with this wise foresight he constrained himself to go slowly. His business was lucrative, and with wife, child and other near relatives gone, he gave himself up to it that he might thereby further his plans for a school, and when he died, in 1876, it was found that very nearly all of his fortune of about \$600,000 had been given to found a school, as previously outlined. Mr. Lewis had inserted clauses in his will which required that the money should rest as he had invested it until such time as it had reached a certain value. He felt that it would be useless to build and operate a school with less than, say, \$800,000. In 1896 the trustees of the bequest prepared to carry out the plan of Mr. Lewis and found that the sum in hand amounted to nearly three times the amount he left at his death. After some difficulty regarding a site had been met, the southeast corner of Robey and Madison streets was chosen; a serviceable building was erected and George Noble Carman was made director of the Lewis Institute.

In fulfilling the mission planned for it by its founder, the Lewis Institute has come to occupy a unique position among schools. It is essentially broad in its conception, being not an academy merely, nor a technical school, nor a college, but a closely combined union of the three. It receives boys and girls from the grammar school, and, after taking them through the preparatory course, offers either literary or scientific work through two years of college, or the engineering course to the degree of M. E. During the first two years of study, all engineering students are expected to take literary work with the technical. This affords them the opportunity to make a careful decision as to their course of study, and at the same time gives them a less one-sided training than would be possible in a strictly technical school. Besides this, the Lewis arrangement allows the literary student to take up some work not strictly literary, or the technical student some work not strictly technical, in departments far better organized than would be possible in an exclusively literary or technical school.

This close relationship existing between the literary and engineering departments makes possible the association of all the students in the literary societies, musical and athletic organizations, and in the social life generally, a pleasant relationship which is kept up by the alumni association.