

A speech by William Moseley Brown at the founding of Atlantic University. Atlantic University was founded by a large donation from Morton Blementhal. Dr. William Brown was a philosophy professor at Washington and Lee. This speech was recorded by Thomas Sugrue. Dr. Brown became the president of Atlantic University.

“This is a great occasion, and a happy one. I congratulate the founders of this movement – and they are here among us - for the vision which they have conceived of the possibilities of the new line of study and investigation. I honor those who have contributed of their time and means to bring about the realization, at least to some extent, of a dream of years. I believe that this experimental laboratory, which has as its chief object the utilization of any knowledge, any discovery, any invention, which will make life fuller and richer for human beings, will become renowned as a center of truth and wisdom and, to use the expression of Emerson, the world will make a beaten path to its front door.

Religion and science, philosophy and psychology, the truths discovered by the ancients as well as by the moderns, will be equally welcome here. Nothing is banned except trickery, sham and falsehood. All truth will be used so far as it may be applicable to the betterment of human life, no matter who was its discoverer or in what country or age it was found. An ambitious project, you say. Ah, yes, but unless we can bring together under one roof, as it were, and in one laboratory, religious, scientific, philosophic, and every other kind of truth, we shall not have that integration of human knowledge which is the *sin qua non* on all human progress. Here, then, we have a pioneer institution in the field of human endeavor. As human life itself is a most complex process involving all kinds of experience, so we find here a kind of laboratory in which human life will go forward, but unless observable and controlled conditions, so far as possible. This is not merely a physical or a psychological or even a theological laboratory, as such. Much more than that, it is a center in which the rather unusual attempt is made to bring every kind of truth together as needed in the solution of the particular problem under investigation. Always, however, the motif is the betterment of human life and all other endeavors are to be subsidiary to this chief aim. So far as I am aware, such an undertaking has never been attempted before in this country, and probably in the entire world. Here will be your expert in medicine, another expert in psychology, another in theology, another in chemistry, another in psychiatry, and so on as many as may be needed and can be provided with the funds in hand. There are in this country today thousands of specialized laboratories, each of which limits itself to one particular field of investigation, but never before has there been a concerted and successful effort to bring together in one single laboratory every kind of discovery possible which will give the patient, or the subject, relief from his trouble, be it physical, mental, or spiritual. Surely, this is a pioneer enterprise and more; it is even daring in its scope and it has every possibility and probability of success!

‘Who can compass the possibilities of such an organization and such a center? Only time can tell the story adequately. It may be that the results of the work done here in this place will mark the beginning of a new era for the cause of humanity. Others will undoubtedly come to observe the methods used and the effects achieved. The advances in the entire realm of human endeavor over the past twenty-five years lead me to believe that we have but scratched the surfaces of what will be known and achieved within the next century. The radio, the airplane, the automobile, television and all the advances which are being made in this ‘era of electricity’ are but an image of many still greater things to come. Who can say what we shall soon find out as to mental telepathy, the characteristics of the subconscious mind, the influence of mind on body, and a thousand and one similar things? Indeed, I have come literally to

believe that all things are possible to him that believeth. The millennium will be upon us ere we are aware of it!

The day of miracles is not past, but has only begun and I recall that, on one occasion, the Master Himself said: 'The works that I do shall ye do also, and greater things than these shall ye do, because I go unto my Father.' Greater things than these, you will notice; that is, greater things even than the miracles which His humble followers had seen Him perform as He walked up and down in the little country of Palestine and by the shores of the Lake of Galilee. We have witnessed in our own day the actual fulfillment of these words: 'The blind shall see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.' Are not all these things true today, just as they were nineteen hundred years ago? Yea, verily and more so.

This building and this spot are here and now dedicated to the bringing to pass of these 'greater things.'"

-WMB

William Moseley Brown was a faculty member of Columbia University, Washington and Lee University, University of Virginia, George Washington University, University of Guadalajara, Mexico and Elon College, North Carolina. He also served as president of Atlantic University, president of the Virginia Academy of Science and president of the Association of Virginia Colleges.

Additionally, Brown worked as a correspondent for the Baltimore Sun, as well as for other newspapers, and was a staff member of the Committee for National Morale, a research associate for the National Committee on Law Observance and Enforcement and an executive of the Vick Chemical Company of New York. He ran for Governor of Virginia in 1929 and was a candidate for the United States House of Representatives in 1932.