

Tale til President Spænn og Trøe 4.
ved deres besøk i Trondheim

The rising number of Rotaryclubs and the rising number of Rotarians are often mentioned within Rotary. It is mentioned with satisfaction because we take it as a proof that there is still a fertile soil for the seed which was sown by Paul Harris: Friendship and goodwill. Rotary International is to-day managing various funds with varying aims, but the principal aim of Rotary International is to manage the fund of international goodwill, the existence of which is proved by the increasing number of Rotarians. It therefore seems natural to me to receive the highest offices of Rotary International as an ambassador of friendship and goodwill.

The prearranged friendship between members of a Rotaryclub is in my opinion the most noticeable feature in Rotary. Usually a Rotarian has reached an age when it is difficult for him to form new friendships. Over the friendship of our youthful days there rests a glamour of romance which in riper years is not easy to reconstruct. The friendships of our youth stand in a light that gives them precedence in comparison to those we form in later life. The disappointment we may have met, may have affected not only our selfconfidence but also, that we should feel in our friends.

Through the friendship which Rotary offers, thousands who have joined Rotary in their wish to serve have regained this lost confidence in friendship. In the aims and objects plan Rotary is offering us various forms of service but in these days Rotary's 6th aim International Service is most vital to us all. The western culture which is the source of rotarian ideal, is being threatened, and millions of people are living in need as displaced persons or fugitives.

The need in Europe has inspired us to new dreams under the names of Moral Rearmement - One World Movement - European Movement and so on.

The U. S. A. have taken the lead where the defence of western culture is concerned, and they are attacking the evil at its root by meeting the material need in Europe and helping the backward peoples.

They are to-day carrying the chief burden in the fight for individual liberty which again is the foundation of Rotary. It therefore seems natural to me first of all to direct a warm vote of thanks to you Mr. Spain as citizen of the U. S. A., for the material sacrifices your people to-day are making to our common cause, showing the world that there is a real will behind your goodwill.

I have once had the honour of visiting the head quarters of Rotary International and there acquired an idea of the daily work and the duties of a president of Rotary International. The knowledge then acquired, gives us the right of expressing the gratitude of our little club, for your willingness to give a year of your life to Rotary.

We wish you good health and great success in your self-sacrificing work, and we ask you to take back to our American fellow rotarians our heartiest greetings and our votes of gratitude. Lady guests - fellow Rotarians - I propose a toast for Rotary International and address it to our guest, president Spain.