



NEWSLETTER, JULY 1958. Recently Dr. Constantine Alexopoulos, head of the Botany Department at Iowa University, asked us to give a brief explanation of the "purpose" of the Escuela Agricola Panamericana. This was something like asking a grandfather to confine his remarks on his grandson to one sentence and receiving the reply: "It's impossible!"

However, a gift we received this month and an examination of that gift, found us Dr. Alexopoulos' answer. . .

Raymond Fosdick, in his "The Story of the Rockefeller Foundation", tells how the interest of the Foundation in Agriculture developed as a secondary thought. Back in 1903, the newly formed Rockefeller Board for General Education was interested in the educational needs of the southern part of the U.S.

The General Education Board, Fosdick says, "had no thought of an agricultural program; it was interested only in schools. But the officers had not proceeded far before they realized that the improvement of school systems supported by taxation was inextricably interrelated with the improvement of economic conditions, and since agriculture was the principle source of the South's livelihood, little could be done about the interest in education until something was done about agriculture." (This situation was remarkably similar to Latin America today which is likewise dependent upon her agriculture for the future).

As a result, fifty years ago the Rockefeller Foundation was assisting in the support of nearly one hundred thousand demonstration farms throughout the southern United States.

And this association between agriculture and education is, in other forms, still being maintained.

Thus, it is with considerable pleasure that we take this opportunity of announcing that the Rockefeller Foundation has, this month, given the Escuela Agricola Panamericana a grant of \$20,900 for awarding, at our discretion, scholarships to our graduates for further study. This money will markedly enhance our program by allowing a few of our outstanding students to further develop their abilities and their capacities by studying in the U.S.

And when we award these scholarships, let us remember the purpose of the Rockefeller Foundation. . . which is, in fact, the purpose of every educational institution as well. So, Dr. Alexopoulos, to answer your question, I quote the purpose of the Rockefeller Foundation:

"To promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

And should this not also be the purpose of every adult in this turbulent world of ours?