

EINSTEIN STRESSES CRITICAL THINKING

Opposing Early Specialties, He Says College Must Aim at 'Harmonious' Personality

By BENJAMIN FINE

Albert Einstein opposes premature specialization for the college student. A good education, he maintains, will teach young men and women the importance of independent, critical thinking.

In an interview on education at his office in the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., where Dr. Einstein is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Theoretical Science, the scientist declared:

"It is not enough to teach man a specialty. Through it he may become a kind of useful machine, but not a harmoniously developed personality. It is essential that the student acquire an understanding of and a lively feeling for values. He must acquire a vivid sense of the beautiful and of the morally good."

"Otherwise he—with his specialized knowledge—more closely resembles a well-trained dog than a harmoniously developed person. He must learn to understand the motives of human beings, their illusions and their sufferings in order to acquire a proper relationship to individual fellow men and to the community."

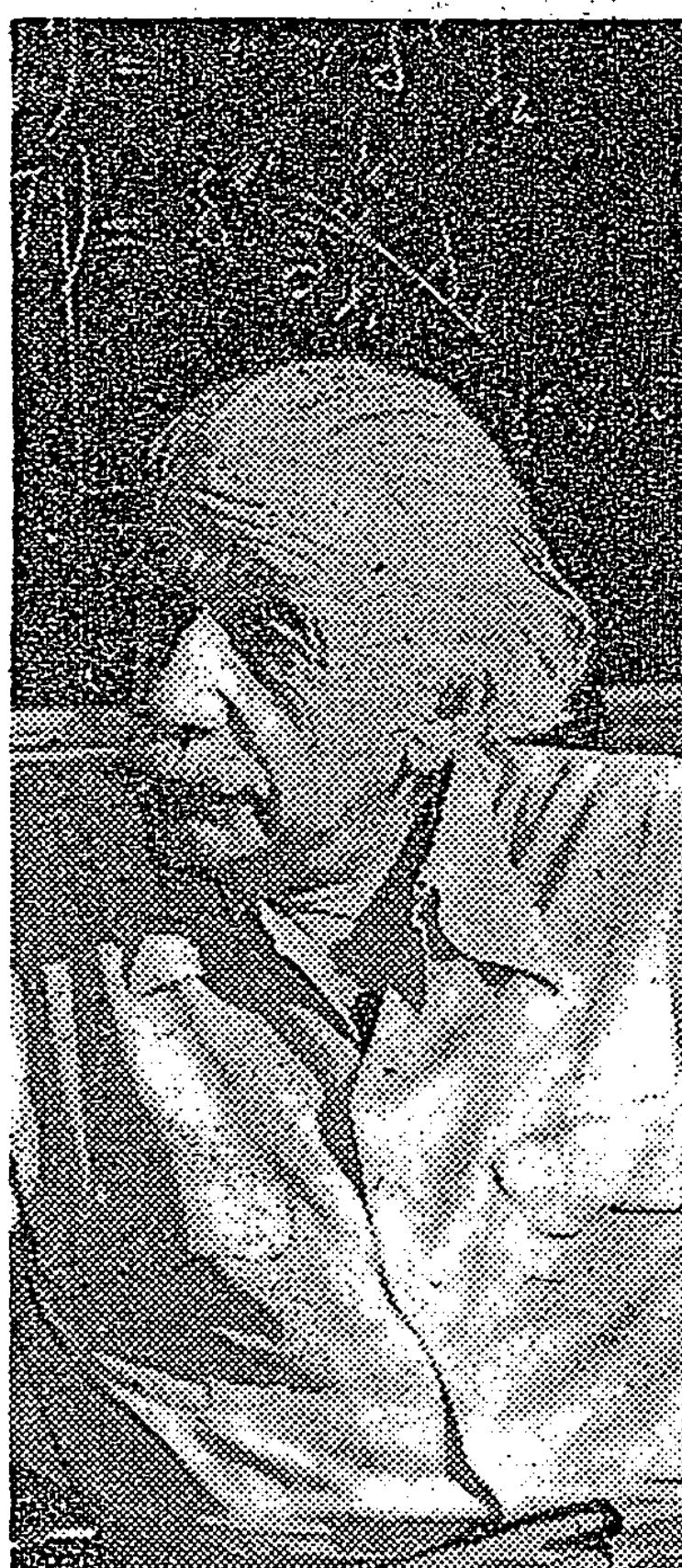
"These precious things are conveyed to the younger generation through personal contact with those who teach, not—or at least not in the main—through textbooks. It is this that primarily constitutes and preserves culture. This is what I have in mind when I recommend the 'humanities' as important, not just dry specialized knowledge in the fields of history and philosophy."

In opposing early specialization, Dr. Einstein declared:

"Overemphasis on the competitive system and premature specialization on the ground of immediate usefulness kill the spirit on which all cultural life depends, specialized knowledge included."

"It is also vital to a valuable education that independent critical thinking be developed in the young human being, a development that is greatly jeopardized by overburdening with too much and too varied subjects [point system]. Overburdening necessarily leads to superficiality. Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift, and not as a hard duty."

Recently Dr. Einstein became national honorary chairman of Yeshiva University's projected College of Medicine. In cooperation with New York City, a new medical center is being established in the northeast section of the Bronx. The city is building two hospitals, with space for 1,250 beds, at a cost of \$37,500,000. Yeshiva University is raising \$25,000,000 to build a medical school, a dental school, a



DISCUSSES EDUCATION: Dr.

Albert Einstein in his office at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J.