

MRS. MINA OLSON of Chicago was proud of her students and collected a few of their class talks for us to share.

Faith Hoffman said she learned some startling new ideas on the cause of poverty, enjoyed the method of studying the lessons, joined in some exhilarating discussions, and hopes that because of this she can do something constructive about "our ancient, out-of-date social system."

Andy Rausch said for him the most important point in *Progress and Poverty* was the part that rent plays, and how, going back into history, it has been the major cause of poverty and the ruination of empires. "In order to have equal distribution of wealth," he wrote, "we must make it worth while for capital to invest and for labor to be fully paid for what it produces. This may not eliminate poverty entirely, but it could bring it down to a bare minimum."

Gloria Handzlik said she was grateful for the opportunity to take this course as it had made her aware of some of the biggest causes of economic problems, such as unfair taxation and land speculation. The first kills incentive and reduces purchasing power — the second, land speculation, is the parent of inflation, and throws the economy out of balance. "Wouldn't it be nice," she asks, "if some of our so-called men of influence could believe that we should leave this world in a condition somewhat better than we found it in?"

H. Handzlik seemed surprised by the simplicity of this idea and said man

has always wound up in the same dark alley of taxation. Since Henry George's views seemed the soundest and fairest, three questions came to mind: 1) Why is the land value taxation so difficult for our political statesmen to absorb and put to effect? 2) Is this idea, after it's put into effect, as good as it sounds? 3) What seems to be the big obstacle standing in the way of putting this totally to work?

Many interesting talks were also given at the commencement in New York last term. Here is a sampling from one which happened to reach HGN. It was by Essie Harris in Francis Nicosia's class.

"In every age and civilization there has been the haves and have-nots. There has always been plenty, and yet for some there is so little. These situations are found throughout the world. We know that aid in the form of food and clothes is being sent to the so-called poverty areas abroad as well as to our large cities.

"Henry George, who was one of America's great economists, referred to this as a social evil, and in order to get rid of it he said the causes would have to be eliminated. He denied that the evil resulted from insufficient capital or low production or too many people. But he did claim it was caused by unjust and unequal distribution of wealth.

"Some things he said would help eliminate poverty were association in equality and chances to increase knowledge and skill through education. Unless we have cooperation there cannot be a healthy and flourishing society."