

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia



ANNUAL REPORT  
TO  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 25, 1923



DR. F. H. GAINES

May 10, 1923.

The Board of Trustees:

By direction of the Executive Committee of the Board, I have the honor to present the Annual Report of the College for the session 1922-1923.

### THREE OUTSTANDING EVENTS

There have been three matters of unusual importance in the life of the College that have occurred since the last annual meeting of our Board. Any one of these would be sufficient to make the year notable, but the coming of all three within the space of a few months will make it long remembered. The most noteworthy event of the year is of course the death of Dr. F. H. Gaines on April 14, 1923. The losing of his presence, his personal influence, his executive force, and his strong spiritual touch is no doubt the keenest blow the College has ever had, though the passing of Col. George W. Scott, Mr. S. M. Inman, Mr. G. B. Scott, and others has taught us what loss means. This report is not the place for a eulogy of Dr. Gaines or an attempt to summarize his achievements; and a special committee has been appointed from the Board to prepare a memorial paper. It is proper, however, to record our gratitude that he was spared to us so long. For nearly thirty-four years, his hand has been largely guiding the institution, and this is several times the length of service allotted to most college executives. Of the original group who launched the institution in 1889, only two survive—Hon. C. M. Candler, who has been continuously a Trustee, and Miss Nannette Hopkins, the first Principal and still Dean of the institution. We cannot be too grateful for these and other associates and co-workers whom Dr. Gaines gathered around him, for one of his strong points was the inspiring of others and winning their confidence and support.

On April 30, last, we lost through death Dr. J. D. M. Armistead, for eighteen years the Professor and Head of the English Department. He came to us during the first year of the life of the institution under its college charter, and he was largely instrumental in building up the high standard of Agnes Scott. We have perhaps never had a teacher who was more beloved than he. Almost every girl in Agnes Scott since it became an institution of college rank has passed under his instruction, and his place will be hard indeed to fill.

One of the most encouraging and stimulating events of the year is the legacy of Miss Jane Walker Inman. In her will probated August 2, 1922, she made Agnes Scott College her residuary legatee. It is conservatively estimated that the gift will at the present time amount to more than \$100,000; and her will created a life estate in \$50,000 that will eventually come to the College. It is one of the largest gifts ever made in the South by any woman for the cause of Christian education; and it is doubtless the largest ever made by any citizen of Atlanta for the training of young women. The friends of the College are profoundly grateful to this noble woman for her generous foundation; and it is all the more acceptable because it is to be a memorial of a former Chairman of this Board, Mr. S. M. Inman, beloved by every friend of Agnes Scott.

## THE COLLEGE

Since the death of Dr. Gaines brings us face to face with many new problems, and since we need the fullest co-operation and best thought of every member of our Board, it has seemed to me wise to "take stock" as it were and let this Report deal more with our general situation and conditions than with the facts and figures of a single year—to take what former President Schurman of Cornell University used to call "a perambulation of the institution."

The College would be listed by any educational expert as one of the foremost colleges for women in the whole country. It has been a member of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for the Southern States since 1907. It has been put on the approved list of the Association of American Universities. Its graduates are at once eligible to membership in the American Association of University Women. Our work is fully recognized by all the great universities. We have all the recognition that an institution may gain in academic matters except a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and we are now arranging for our institution to be placed before the society at its next meeting. We are fully qualified for membership, but we have never made application.

**Position of Agnes Scott in the Nation**      association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for the Southern States since 1907. It has been put on the approved

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There can be little doubt that Agnes Scott is the largest and best recognized college for women under Presbyterian control in the entire world. This fact alone

**Place in the Presbyterian World**      would not necessarily put us high in rank, for Presbyterians in all lands have neglected education for women. Our position gives us great opportunities and responsibilities as a leader not only in our Southern church but wherever Presbyterians are found.

The latest statistics show that Agnes Scott now distinctly leads every other Southern Presbyterian college in material equipment and financial assets.

**In Our Southern Church**      It is one of the great forces of the denomination; and we have a wonderful opportunity to aid the other institutions

of the church by supplying fine teachers, by setting a worthy example, and by co-operating as fully as may be possible.

There is little doubt that Agnes Scott has an opportunity to become the greatest college for women in the world of any denomination. We are ideally located near a large city, with ready means of access and with the best climate of our whole country. We are four hundred miles from

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serious competition. We are surrounded by a homogeneous population and not with mixed races as in the East. We are in the heart of the Anglo-Saxon peoples in America. Our section of country stands largely for the separate education of men and women rather than for the co-education that dominates the West. Southern people furnish more orthodox girls in religion than any other part of our country; and as an institution standing for pure religion we have a field almost our own among colleges of our rank. Surely the College needs our best thought and efforts.

## THE TRUSTEES

Having noticed briefly our achievements hitherto and our prospects for the future, we may review the resources with which we may hope to make further progress; and first of all we should consider the Board of Trustees.

Our Board really constitute the College. In their official capacity, the Trustees own all the property that has been accumulated through the years; and **Constitute the College** theoretically at least they exercise all the powers of the institution. In most commercial corporations, the Directors do not own the entire business; and the Board of Directors is not identical with the corporation itself. In many church institutions, the title to the property rests in the Synods or other church courts. The Trustees of Agnes Scott have as full powers and as great responsibilities as it is possible to grant to a board.

In the best American colleges, the Board of Trustees assume rather direct management of the **Manage the Business** business affairs. The investment of money, the care of buildings and grounds, and the supervision of budget making are well recognized duties of Trustees.

The means for growth are essential to any live institution. In denominational colleges, the church or denomination usually looks after this. In state institutions, the legislature should provide the funds. In the relatively few independent colleges for men, like Washington and Lee or Princeton, the alumni have generally assumed the important task. In time to come the graduates of colleges for women may be able to assist largely in this work, but at present the Agnes Scott alumnae are too few and young as a rule to assume leadership, though they are wonderful supporters of the work. For this reason, a relatively young college for women is more dependent on its Trustees for guidance and growth than any other kind of college.

**Provide for Growth**

Our new charter provides that the membership of the Board may not exceed twenty-seven. Three of these possible members were to be chosen only on condition that either the Synod of Florida or that of Tennessee should ask for representation on our Board. Since no action has been taken by these synods, for all practical purposes now our maximum number is twenty-four members. At present we have twenty-one in service. Under our charter provisions, we must rearrange our members into groups on the basis of "Corporate" and "Synodical" and "Alumnae" Trustees, and the groups also for the various terms of service must be made. This will necessitate also some changes in our committee personnel.

**Organization**

Without changing essentially our self-perpetuating character or altering our general powers, we arranged last year to have four representatives from the Synod of Alabama. Those elected by us and confirmed by the Synod were Mr. W. A. Bellingrath, Dr. Dunbar H. Ogden, Dr. W. R. Dobyms, and Mr. H. C. Armstrong. The last named found it impossible to serve, but the other three have been

active in their co-operation since the Synod confirmed their election in October, and we are exceedingly fortunate to have them as co-workers for Agnes Scott. At the coming meeting, some one from Alabama should be elected instead of Mr. Armstrong.

At the last meeting of the Synod of Georgia, a plan was adopted whereby the Synod will have representation on the Board in the same manner as Alabama.

**Georgia To Be Represented** There must be chosen from the Synod of Georgia four representatives for our Board. These do not have to be new appointments. We may select some of our own strong Georgia members to especially represent the Synod also.

## THE FACULTY

According to our Agnes Scott by-laws, the Faculty has been given by our Board general charge of instruction, the discipline of the College, and the general social and religious welfare of the institution. As we have noted, the Trustees are the College; but in a sense the saying is true that "the faculty makes the college." The art of teaching is rare and difficult to attain, and the maintaining of a strong faculty is no simple problem.

To meet the requirements for a place in Agnes Scott necessitates a long and expensive training. The usual high school and college courses are but the foundation. On top of that we expect from two to four years of graduate study and at least two years of successful experience. In addition we require membership in some evangelical church and the acceptance of the essentials of our faith; such as, the deity of Jesus Christ, the atonement as the way of salvation, and the historicity of the Scriptures. People may accept these tenets, however, without being very active in their faith,



and hence we plan to interview personally every teacher before employment. Our religious qualifications cut out nearly two-thirds of those whom we otherwise might consider and make it very difficult to maintain our high scholastic requirements. The increases in salary have helped, however, in this matter.

There is hardly any problem before us that calls for as much care as our faculty. A number of our best teachers have only the M. A. degree. The Southern Association is pressing for all heads of departments to have the Ph.D. We ought to devise some way of helping these teachers go on with their study. Some of them are not financially able to take leave of absence without any pay. As soon as our finances justify it, we ought perhaps to help them to some extent. We need more men on the faculty. At least half of our professors ought to be men. We need also more married people so that there may be more homes on the campus where students may go for friendly visiting and counsel.

We have not been able as yet to fill the place of Dr. Armistead. It is perhaps the most important place on the faculty, and it will take time for a proper choice.

**Changes in Faculty** Prof. S. G. Stukes has been asked to assist temporarily with the work of Registrar. Miss Elizabeth Jackson, Ph.D., has been chosen Assistant Professor of History to succeed Miss Lois Gibbons; Miss Mary Campbell of Vassar College will fill the place of Miss Catherine Torrance in Greek and Latin for the next session, as the latter has been granted leave of absence for a year. Miss Margaret Phythian, M.A., and Miss Margaret Bland, two of our graduates, will be instructors in French for 1923-1924 instead of Misses Margaret Culberson and Gwendolen Glendenning, who have resigned. Miss Strehel Walton of the Conservatory of Toronto will assist in the departments of Voice and Piano, taking the place of Misses

Kathrine Sutphen and Eunice Curry, since our Music work does not justify the two assistants. Miss Ruth Pirkle, one of our recent graduates, will become Assistant in Biology instead of Miss Fannie McCaa, who has resigned.

While Campbell Morgan is not one of our faculty, he has suggested that he would be glad for his coming to the college to be an annual event; and we have secured him for a series of addresses on Fundamentals during next November.

## THE PRESIDENT

In American colleges, there is the greatest variety of duties exercised by the President. In all cases he is the executive officer in carrying out directions of the Board of Trustees, and in practically all cases he has the responsibility of nominating the members of the faculty. There are a great many other directions in which he may spend his energies.

The most inviting field of service for a president is in providing spiritual leadership for the college. There can be no finer work than that of helping splendid young women to develop their spiritual natures and to find places of service and of happiness in the Kingdom. Unless definite efforts are made to permeate the college life with religious interest, the so-called Christian institution may not be more influential in spiritual things than state institutions.

The modern college should have constant contact with the public, and one like ours should also be in close touch with the church. An institution owes something to its constituency, and from it must gain its ultimate support. A very active president may easily spend all of his time in meeting the public, and his engagements might be helpful to his institution and possibly also to the community and the church.

The function of securing funds for support and development has been greatly emphasized in recent years, and it is much deplored by educational experts. The Carnegie Corporation recently expressed the fear that its great gifts have perhaps done more harm than good because they have taken college presidents from their tasks of running the educational work and made them field agents. The work is very absorbing, and success in it means the devoting of nearly all one's time to it.

**Money  
Raiser**

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The most important problem before the Board at the annual meeting this year is the selection of a President for the College, or the taking of steps looking to this end. For the present at least, he or she will have to serve in the three-fold capacity outlined above; but there is no doubt that the work should be more and more concentrated on developing the characters of our students. If we fail in that, it will be of little use for us to gain money or reputation or size. There is no hurry in making a selection. Things are in very good shape temporarily. The position is one of the best within the bounds of the Southern Presbyterian church, and it will command almost any one who may be called to it. There are no commitments in any way either as to person or salary, and the field is entirely open for an unrestricted choice.

**Agnes Scott's  
Situation**

to this end. For the present at least, he or she will have to serve in the three-fold capacity outlined above; but there is no

## THE STUDENTS

For the young women who make up our student body, the College is run. Without them there would be no need of President, Faculty, or Trustees. The quality of the student body has a most important bearing on the output of our institution.

**Importance**

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If we consider our equipment and endowment as capital, a reasonable assumption, and if we assume five per cent as a fair rate of interest, each student costs us about \$250 per year more than we charge her. In addition she takes our time and effort. We do not wish to waste either our time or money; and we cannot take all who apply to us, so it is very important that we select only worthy students. We are not promising any spaces before June 15th of each year, and on that date we pick the best applicants from our list who are registered. We are taking these only from schools which are known to do good work. In addition we use the psychological tests to help us get the leaders for our students. After all, we must depend largely on our friends, including Trustees, patrons, and others, to help us find girls who are worthy of our training.

Even with our rigid process of selection, we can see that the time is approaching when we must take care of more girls. We will soon be having excess applications from girls of such quality that we cannot afford to turn them away. This is true of all the best colleges for women in our country, and it will not be many years before we must face it. We are in the heart of a rapidly growing city and community, and we cannot afford to turn away fine girls from our very midst.

The past few years have been trying ones for those who are striving to train young people. Post war conditions have upset many moral and social standards. We have fared remarkably well, and we are thankful for it. The thing we notice most is the tendency on the part of our students to go into outside activities instead of concentrating on their studies; but even this practice, mistaken though it is in policy, is due largely to a desire to serve the community rather than to the spirit of neglecting duty.

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Many of our problems, while quite real, can wait for later solution; but it is necessary that some questions concerning our grounds and buildings be decided promptly. The rapid development of both Decatur and Atlanta will soon make our situation grave unless we plan wisely.

Agnes Scott is very young as an institution of college rank, and it has had a phenomenal growth. During the last three years, we have considerably more than doubled our assets. No one can tell what is before us, but there is every reason to believe that we have a wonderful future.

We ought to plan so that our own dreams and those of Trustees to follow us may have opportunity for coming true. Last spring some of us were thrilled with the suggestion which came from our Northern friends of acquiring a large site and building a fire-proof plant from the ground up, with unlimited room for development. Since we could not unite whole-heartedly on that plan, we ought to develop our present location with our prospects and opportunities fully in mind.

As all of the Trustees probably know, Dr. Ralph A. Cram, of Boston, one of the best known architects in any country, visited Agnes Scott last fall and has drawn plans for our immediate needs; and he has outlined, though not on paper, something of what can be done for the future. He believes that we can make a very attractive and serviceable plant where we are at present, taking care of considerable increase in attendance and expansion. His outline sketch will be presented by the Committee on Buildings and Grounds. Dr. Cram advises us to get a fuller plan of development, showing a bird's-eye view of the proposals, with details of the various buildings and some estimate of their cost. This

would enable us to approach prospective givers with something definite in hand. I believe this would be a good investment for us. Since we are not attempting a new plant with its challenge to Atlanta, the church, and especially our Northern friends, we need to work all the harder and to rely more largely on our own forces—our Trustees, Alumnae, and more local friends. These resources are sufficient if we can have hearty support of our plans.

The greatest single hindrance to progress where we are is the Georgia Railroad, and that cannot be disposed of; but Dr. Cram thinks its inconvenience can be somewhat relieved. The next most difficult problem is the South Decatur car line; and the time seems ripe to try through the City of Decatur to get it off our grounds and off Candler street if possible. By operating with the city we can make better terms than if we initiate proposals ourselves.

It has been more than ten years since we began any building of major importance on the campus, and all our competitors have been making substantial progress. A first-class college ought to do some building every four or five years unless it is far better equipped than we are. We ought to have a Gymnasium **at once**. Our present building is only about 30% of what we need in point of size, and it is not worthy in any way of our College. Another real need which ought to have our prompt attention is a house for Day Students. This is not a major undertaking in point of size or expense, and a temporary building might serve the purpose for the present. We have three times as many day students as four years ago, and the number is increasing. We are dependent on Atlanta and Decatur for much of our support, and we need enthusiasm among the local girls, while at present they are not thoroughly enough in touch with college life to be as happy and enthusiastic as they ought to be. You will recall that last year they undertook to raise \$3,000, and we agreed to help them if they achieved this result. They have about half of the amount in sight, but seem unable to go forward. I fear that a sense of failure and dis-

couragement may be harmful to their *esprit de corps* if we do not do something for them.

We must make it a part of our budget plan to save some money each year for expansion. Most of the strong colleges do this, and I will mention it later. At the same time it is essential for us to find some friends who will appreciate our fine work and our urgent needs and will assist by putting up individual or memorial buildings.

**How Can We Build?**

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## FINANCES

Miss Inman's donation has been mentioned in an earlier part of this Report. I understand that a considerable part of the residuum coming to us will be in relatively unimproved land. As the College has to pay taxes on such an investment and as the income is disproportionately small, the Finance Committee or some other one should perhaps be authorized to dispose of the property if a satisfactory price can be secured.

**Miss Inman's Gift**

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Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lindsey, Decatur, Ga., have given the College \$2,000 worth of stock in the Lindsey-Beverly Printing Company for a scholarship, and they guarantee the income to be sufficient to pay the full tuition of a student, preference being given to Decatur or Atlanta girls. This is a most generous contribution and is already being put to work. Mrs. Martha Wynunee Bergstrom of Atlanta has also contributed \$1,000 for a scholarship fund on the annuity plan. At her death it will establish a memorial for two of her children. The students of the College are raising a fund to establish a memorial scholarship fund for Miss Martha Bowen, one of our students who died this spring. They are making good progress, but they have not yet reached the needed amount.

**Scholarship Gifts**

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Our gross subscriptions from all sources amounted to \$858,151.50. Our total collections from all sources to date are \$642,851.61. We have had to cancel pledges amounting to \$6,364.02, leaving yet to be secured in cash \$208,935.82. Of the last named sum, \$55,840.69 is due by the General Education Board provided we make corresponding collections. We cannot afford to fail in these collections. Too much is at stake for our future. During the fall and early winter I gave a good deal of time and personal effort to this work, and we made fair progress; but this spring it has been impossible to do much at it on account of the pressure of other things.

The Synod of Georgia has announced its purpose to raise \$1,000,000 for education. Our relation to this effort ought to be carefully considered while the plans are in a formative state. If the Board can do this at the annual meeting, it would be wise; if not, it might be practicable to authorize the Executive Committee or some other that might be named to act for us. Whether we enter the Georgia Educational Campaign or not, we will have to face the need for enlarging our resources as soon as a strong effort is possible. Practically all our competitors already have endowments ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000, and nearly all of them are laying plans for further growth. Our endowment at the present time is about \$730,000.

On the whole we are having a good year. We are blessed with fine business officers. Our collections to July 1st, 1923, are already 100%. Provisions, coal, wages, and salaries of teachers are all running higher this year than last; and the prospect is that our bank balance will not be as large as last year. We think that it will show about \$10,000, a sum sufficient for ordinary repairs and improvements during the summer, but not allowing for a large margin. This



is the last year we shall have the annual gift of the General Education Board of \$13,750, and we are increasing salaries to some extent next year to bring them to the Southern Association requirement, so that care will be needed for 1923-1924.

If we are to clear any money on our yearly budget for building purposes and for a margin of safety, we may consider an increase of rates beginning with September, 1924. Perhaps no action should be passed now, but the matter may be taken under advisement. We charge for tuition much less than most other colleges and universities of our class. If we advanced the price \$50 per year, it would probably not be felt by new students coming in; but girls already in college would likely regard the increase as burdensome. When other institutions make increases, they sometimes allow the administration authority to grant scholarship help to worthy young women already in college as a temporary expedient while the adjustment is being made. If we should make some such arrangement, I think the increase could be carried through without any friction or complaint. I would like very much to see us have a surplus each year of about \$25,000. This would be moderate in comparison with many others. If this could be done regularly, we would be in position every four or five years to put up a building of major importance or to buy land that might come on the market. From a business standpoint, this policy would make for satisfied and happy Trustees, enthusiasm among the alumnae and students, and steady progress in the educational world.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As this report is already long, and as it deals with matters of a general nature, it has seemed wise to add an Appendix for the listing of certain information that some may wish to have, but which the whole Board may not care to study.

In view of our temporary organization, and of the efficiency of our standing Committees, it has seemed wise for me to make no formal recommendations, but to submit to the appropriate Committees such matters as need definite action at this time.

In closing I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the help and co-operation which have been given by members of the Board and by the Faculty and Students during these trying days since the death of Dr. Gaines.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. McCAIN,  
Acting President.

# APPENDIX

Our enrollment and average attendance have been the largest in the history of the institution.

**Attendance**      The distribution by states will be of interest.

Georgia .....	270	Louisiana .....	2
Alabama .....	47	Massachusetts .....	4
North Carolina .....	29	Oklahoma .....	3
South Carolina .....	24	Texas .....	6
Virginia .....	15	West Virginia .....	3
Florida .....	14	Pennsylvania .....	2
Mississippi .....	14	Canada .....	1
Tennessee .....	13	Japan .....	2
Arkansas .....	8	Korea .....	1
Kentucky .....	7		465

Resident Students .....	339
Non-Resident .....	126
	465
Total .....	465

It will be gratifying to know that we have now on our list of applicants for next September many more than we can accommodate in our buildings. Others will be applying later, and we will have to turn away about the usual number no doubt.

We have on our campus eight brick buildings and sixteen frame structures—twenty-four in all. We have acquired three cottages since the last annual meeting of the Board. Two of these are being used by teachers, and the other is rented on a commercial basis for the present. Since our buildings are so numerous and scattered, it is expensive to supply heat for them, and we are not able to furnish steam for several cottages which really ought to have it. Our wooden buildings also require frequent painting and recovering, and these items alone are very large each summer.

The engineer's topographical survey which we had made last fall shows that we have just about twenty-five acres in our campus. We need very much to have improvements made in beautifying the grounds and in planning more harmoniously our systems of walks, drives, and flower beds. Mr. Cram's plans will be of considerable help to us in these matters, and perhaps no action ought to be taken until we have accepted or rejected his program.

The Board will learn with interest and appreciation the fact that Dr. J. D. M. Armistead in his will left his library to Agnes Scott College. It will be a valuable addition, especially to our English collections; and we plan to keep it intact for the present at least in a separate room, but with an adequate card index and cross references with the general index of the Library.

We now have in the Library 11,740 volumes, 793 having been added during the past year, and not including the gift of Dr. Armistead. Our fund for purchases amounts to about \$1500 annually. This is small, but much better than it was a few years ago. In Miss Genevieve White we have a most efficient Librarian, and her monthly reports are most illuminating. From the opening of college to the middle of April, 92,816 books had been charged to students, indicating the incessant use of the library by our girls.

In addition to books and the regular small replacements, we spent last year about \$7,000 in new equipment for laboratories, pianos, house-keeping equipment, and class room furniture. We ought to spend even more this summer, but will not likely have the funds available.

During the past two years, the demand for scholarship and loan aid has been very notable and pressing. We are not able to take care of many worthy cases.

**Scholarships** We need very much some endowments that would provide in large measure the entire expenses of a girl here. At present the utmost help that we can give any one is \$150, and usually we give about \$75 to each. We give assistance only to those who will prove worthy of our time and attention, and as a rule the girls are about the best in college. Some of our own Trustees have been leading in this fine work, but in the most quiet and unobtrusive manner possible.