

Agnes Scott College  
Decatur, Georgia



ANNUAL REPORT  
TO  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 23, 1924

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1923-1924

The Board of Trustees,

Agnes Scott College.

I have the honor to submit a brief outline of the work of the College for the session just closing.

The members of the Board have been most helpful in showing interest in the College and in co-operating for its welfare. Many good suggestions have been made by individuals, and practically every member has given sympathetic consideration to problems talked over by the President. Special acknowledgment should be made of the work done by the Chairman of the Board and by the chairmen of the various committees. Without their special labors, it would have been necessary to call perhaps a half dozen meetings of the whole Board.

At our meeting a year ago, we elected Mr. John H. Frye of Birmingham as a representative from the Synod of Alabama to serve until May, 1925. Mr. Frye was at first inclined to accept the place, but finally decided that he must decline. This position is to be filled at the meeting on May 23rd.

Attention is called to the fact that the terms of the following members will expire at this meeting: Mr. George E. King as a corporate Trustee, Dr. W. R. Dobyms as a member from Alabama, Mr. H. T. McIntosh as a representative of the Synod of Georgia, and Mrs. Harold B. Wey from the Alumnae Association. The Committee on Nominations will of course take care of this matter.

It was necessary to make twenty-one changes in our faculty last year, including additions. Dr. Gaines had filled about half of these before he died. Some of the positions were very important. We are grateful that the appointees have given excellent satisfaction; and all the faculty and officers have been untiring in their efforts for the upbuilding of the College. In a very real sense they "make" the institution, and we are thankful for their self sacrifice and loyalty.

It is gratifying that no changes of major importance will be needed for the next session, so far as we can now see.

Details of the changes made for 1923-1924 will be found in the Appendix to this report.

By using the house of Dr. Gaines for boarders and by making a recitation room out of the old Home Economics dining room, we were able to take about forty additional students this year. The enrollment for the session has been five hundred three. The increase in numbers has been needed to enlarge our income, but it has given us satisfaction to be able to take a few more of the fine girls whom we would have had to turn away.

The work of the session has been unusually good. It was the first year in which we have tried a strictly merit basis for admission, including psychological tests, and we are much pleased with the results. Our failures have been reduced about fifty per cent. The proportion of upper classmen in colleges is increasing, as should be the case; but we see that it will bring problems to us. The advanced electives are being crowded, and we will soon be facing faculty increases in work where the cost is higher than in giving work for Freshmen.

The students have shown a fine spirit of co-operation.

There have been very few cases of discipline. More seriousness of purpose is evident than a few years ago. Special mention should be made of the excellent service rendered by the leaders of the Student Government Association and of the Young Women's Christian Association.

(See Appendix for additional details regarding students.)

We have been pressing earnestly for the securing of enough land to develop a really great College on our present site. Since the last Annual Meeting of the Board, we have bought six lots, each with a residence on it. This property has cost about \$45,000, all of which has been paid except \$5,000 in mortgages not yet due and which the mortgagees will not allow to be paid off. In making these purchases, we used campaign funds to extent of about \$30,000, and the remaining \$15,000 we had to take from our current account. While it is very expensive to purchase property at such rates, we feel that it will never be cheaper, and we cannot afford to be hemmed in too much. In planning for growth for twenty-five years even, we are sure we ought to extend our holdings to Dougherty Street between Candler and McDonough Streets.

There are still a number of houses that ought to be eventually acquired in order to round out our holdings and protect us from commercial intrusion. There are four such places on McDonough Street, one on College Place, and six on Candler Street. It would probably take \$125,000 to go into the market and buy them now, as most of them are held at inflated prices and we have not the money available; but as they come on the market from the initiative of the owners we ought to buy if the prices are right. Some reserve fund is needed for such opportunities, but we have not yet been able to arrange it.

We face perhaps our greatest need in the erection of a gymnasium. Our present one was designed for about 200 students and we now have 500. Since it was built methods of teaching physical education have changed, and the arrangements are out of date. The swimming pool is a joke among the girls, and we are ashamed to take visitors to see the building.

Another need of almost equal importance is a large auditorium. We have about 560 officers and students, and our chapel will hold only 467. We have not sufficient room for ordinary exercises and worship, and we cannot invite visitors without fear of their having to endure discomfort.

It looks as if the time has come to build a gymnasium and to so arrange it that it can be used as a temporary auditorium until a permanent one can be provided. We are informed that such a combination can be erected at a cost of about \$100,000. We have available about \$70,000 which can be financed without calling on the current treasury, can be used for the purpose, and we have in sight interest income or good pledges for \$15,000 more by the first of November. We believe that the erection and equipment can be financed without calling on the current treasury, and without borrowing, if we can get \$15,000 subscribed.

There are other building needs which we must plan to meet soon if we are to maintain our standards of efficiency.

**Other Building Needs** The first of these is an Administration Building with plenty of room for recitation quarters. It is needed almost as much as the gymnasium-auditorium; but our plans call for the location of the administration building on the site of our present gymnasium and hence the latter should be replaced first in some other location. The sum of \$250,000 will probably be needed for the erection of an adequate building combining recitation class rooms and space for administration.

Engineers tell us that our present heating plant and power house cannot carry more than the proposed gymnasium-auditorium unit, and that it will have to be enlarged. It cannot stay in its present location as it would prevent the development of our plans for major buildings. It will probably cost about \$75,000 to move it to the corner of College Place and Dougherty Street; but we would gain in several ways besides more room, heat, and power. We could have gravity drainage in the proposed location and we could also avoid the drayage of our coal by bringing it in car load lots by trolley.

Still another improvement that should be planned for an early date is a new Chapel. It is hard to maintain the spirit of worship and reverence when our services are held as now in a room used for all sorts of other activities. Agnes Scott's strongest motive is religious, and hence we should by all means provide a Chapel as soon as possible. It would be most fitting if this building could be erected as a memorial for Dr. Gaines. We are discussing this with some of the Alumnae.

We are constantly pressed to take more boarding students, and we believe that the Agnes Scott influence would be a blessing to many of them; but we ought not to plan enlargement until the fundamental equipment needs mentioned above have been met.

In order to unify our campus, it is necessary that the South Decatur-Stone Mountain trolley line be moved. After a great deal of delay the City Commissioners have given their consent. The moving was vigorously opposed by prominent citizens. We tried earnestly to avoid inconveniencing them by working out some other route, but it was not possible, and hence we are paying for the removal of the tracks from Ansley Street to Dougherty Street, letting the line run on our own right of way. To effect this

plan we had to purchase the property of Mr. H. E. Taylor for \$15,000, and we will have to pay out approximately \$10,000 more perhaps, but it will give us relief for the present at least, and the last named expense will be met out of the income from the next fiscal year.

A comprehensive plan of beautifying the grounds has been prepared and about \$400 has been spent this spring in making a start on the work. The Alumnae **Campus Improvements** are helping to plan this program and they have been quite helpful in it. The interiors of some of our buildings are also being improved; for example, the parlors in Agnes Scott Hall. Income from the generous gift of Miss Jane Walker Inman has been used in this way.

The proceeds of the legacy of Miss Inman have been paid to the College during the last year. Mr. John A. Hynds, the Executor, proved to be most capable in handling this, and we were pleasantly surprised to find that the amount was larger than anticipated. The total sum was \$144,389.92, including the real estate on Harris Street. The latter is not producing much income, but the remainder of the legacy is well invested, and it is likely that we can make a good sale of the real estate before long.

We ought to give some definite expression of appreciation for this truly wonderful gift. I doubt whether we are ready to make a permanent decision, but it would be appropriate for Mr. Inman's name to be attached to two departments of the College that are among the largest and most popular. For example, we might establish "The Samuel M. Inman Professorship in English" and "The Samuel M. Inman Professorship in French." Those two chairs are just now held by Miss Louise McKinney, our oldest professor in point of service, and by Miss Lucile Alexander, one

of our leading alumnae, both of them greatly beloved. These two foundations would take \$120,000 of the amount donated. It might be appropriate to use the balance of about \$25,000 to establish the "Jane Walker Inman Improvement Fund." These suggestions are given by way of example.

On account of the enforced withdrawal by the General Education Board of the annual appropriation they have made for three years, we have faced the need of strict economy this year. Thanks to the fact that we closed last year with a nice balance, we will finish the current year with money in the bank, but the situation has kept us anxious at times. We have had fine co-operation and forbearance on the part of our whole staff. Special mention should be made of the good business judgment and faithfulness of Messrs. Cunningham and Tart in the business office.

The increase of \$50 per year in charges which has been made for next year will keep us from the danger of a deficit, but increasing expenses will quickly absorb most of the larger income. Patrons have realized the justice and need of the increase, and very few have found it necessary to ask for additional scholarship aid. We may have to pay out about \$800 more than our endowed funds will produce, but this will last only for next year, we think.

We were able to close out our first campaign account with the general Education Board last summer; this was the one requiring us to collect \$325,000 in order to receive from them \$175,000. We are now laboring on the second agreement with them, made in 1921, requiring us to collect \$150,000 in order to obtain \$100,000. We have gotten about half of what is necessary, and the Board has paid their proportionate part of their pledges but we are having hard work



to get up the balance needed. We have the subscriptions, but collecting is slow. We cannot afford to lose in this matter.

The campaign has been a great blessing to the College. Our endowment is about \$850,000. While this is very small in comparison with our competing institutions and with our needs, yet it is so much larger than four years ago that we are grateful for the growth.

The officers of the College have co-operated with the Finance Committee in checking our investments and analyzing them. We are submitting in the Appendix an outline showing our holdings in various groups. Mr. J. C. Tart, Treasurer, has been most valuable in this work as well as in keeping up with investment conditions and in making suggestions.

This is the most active period religiously that we have had in several generations. The running of a great college, especially one that is alive to all intellectual movements, is peculiarly difficult. Agnes Scott was founded for the glory of God. We now have an unequalled opportunity for witnessing a good confession of Him. Our teachers and students are alive to all that is going on, but they have been surprisingly loyal to the things of Christ. The stand of the institution is becoming widely known, and a large number of parents in applying for the admission of daughters write that they choose Agnes Scott because the faith of their children will be safe. We have never had so great a demand for our graduates. The opportunities we face constitute a great challenge that should knit our Board and our other friends in a circle of prayer that we may not fail to maintain our best ideals at this time.

In planning for the greatest service of our graduates after they leave us, we feel the need of more definite train-

**Department of  
Religious  
Education**

ing of our students in religious education and in practical Christian work. We have a Bible course that is as good as any outside the best theological seminaries. If we can combine with the thorough education we give and the excellent Bible training furnished nomething akin to the practical teachings of the Assembly Training School in Richmond, we would be able to furnish workers who would be of more value to the Kingdom than the average preacher. We have not the means for establishing this department as yet, but we are hoping that it will come later.

No specific recommendations are needed in connection with this general report, as they will be brought in by the respective Committees of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. McCAIN,

President.

## APPENDIX

Some of the more notable faculty changes for the session 1923-1924 are noted below:

Sanford M. Salyer, A.B., Ph.D., was selected as Professor of English to succeed Dr. J. D. M. Armistead.

Miss Mary Stuart MacDougall, Professor of Biology, was given another year's leave of absence in order to complete her Ph.D. degree, and Professor Woolford B. Baker, Emory University, has been serving as Acting Professor for this year.

Miss Catherine Torrance, Associate Professor of Latin and Greek, has been given a year's leave of absence in order to complete her Doctorate at the University of Chicago. Her place has been filled by Miss Mary E. Campbell, B.A., M.A.

Miss Lois Gibbons, Ph. D., resigned as Associate Professor of History, and her place has been filled by Miss Elizabeth F. Jackson, Ph.D.

In the Romance Language Department, Misses Margaret A. Culberson and Gwendolyn Glendenning resigned as Instructors in French, and their places have been filled by Misses Margaret Pythian, M.A., and Margaret Bland, B.A.

Mrs. Margaret O. Fitzhugh resigned as Associate Professor of Psychology and Education and Miss Emily S. Dexter, Ph. D., has been elected in her place.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Goodwyn resigned as Instructor in Latin, and her place has been supplied by Miss Janet L. Brownlee, B.A., M.A.

On account of the expansion of our work it has been necessary to employ some additional teachers.

Miss Laura Cooper, B.A., M.A., has been appointed Instructor in History.

Miss Elizabeth Hoke, B.A., has been elected Assistant in Mathematics and Physics.

Miss Marguerite McCampbell and Miss Carlotta P. Mitchell have been added in the Departments of Physical Education and Spoken English respectively.

In Biology Miss Ruth Pirkle, B.A., has succeeded Miss Fanny McCaa; and in Chemistry, Miss Philippa Gilchrist, B.A., has succeeded Miss Sarah McCurdy.

In Music Miss Strehel Walton, a graduate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, has been assisting in Piano and Voice, as we did not have enough students in these subjects to justify an assistant in each one of them.

On the Administrative side of the College, Professor S. G. Stukes has been appointed Registrar, and Miss Eleanor Buchanan has been appointed assistant in his office.

II. Our 503 students may be classified in various ways, as follows:

Seniors .....	60
Juniors .....	84
Sophomores .....	96
Freshmen .....	216
Irregulars .....	26
Specials .....	13
Graduate Students.....	3

By States they are distributed as follows:

Georgia .....	200	Pennsylvania .....	2
Alabama .....	43	New Jersey .....	2
North Carolina .....	31	Kansas .....	1
Virginia .....	25	Louisiana .....	1
Florida .....	19	Texas .....	1
South Carolina .....	18	New York .....	2
Mississippi .....	17	District of Columbia.....	1
Tennessee .....	17	Japan .....	2
Arkansas .....	6	Korea .....	2
West Virginia .....	6	Canada .....	1
Massachusetts .....	3	India .....	1
Kentucky .....	2		
		Total .....	503

The denominations have been represented among the students as follows:

Presbyterian .....	207
Methodist .....	125
Baptist .....	94
Episcopal .....	24
Jew .....	15
Christian .....	10
Christian Science .....	5
Catholic .....	4
Unitarian .....	2
Congregational .....	1
Dutch Reformed .....	1
Lutheran .....	1
Not specified in application.....	14
Total.....	503

III. Investment groupings. Some of the investments listed below are held in reserve for building or other emer-

gency measures. The real estate left by Miss Inman is not included, as it is regarded as a temporary investment and as it is only slightly productive.

Type of Security	Amount	Per Cent of Total
First mortgage loans.....	\$77,500	8.6%
Stocks (donated) .....	21,100	2.4
Oil bonds .....	50,000	5.8
Mining bonds .....	27,500	2.7
Shipping bond .....	2,000	.2
Foreign govt. bonds.....	52,100	6.
Canadian bonds .....	100,000	11.6
Public utilities bonds.....	95,000	11.2
Municipal bonds .....	5,000	.5
Industrial bonds .....	97,000	11.3
Railway bonds .....	347,000	39.8
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Total par value.....	\$874,200	
Average yield, 5.75%.		