

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia

ANNUAL REPORT
TO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 22, 1925

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1924-1925**

The Board of Trustees,
Agnes Scott College.

I beg leave to submit herewith my second annual report as President of Agnes Scott College, covering the academic year 1924-1925. There have been few notable features in the regular work of the session. It has been marked by improvement in the quality of scholarship, by earnest and faithful work on the part of the students, and by loyalty and unselfish devotion on the part of the officers and faculty. Since the educational and religious aspects of the year have no special features, I am changing the usual order of the report and am calling attention to a few of the matters on the material side that need our attention.

The General Educational Board lacks about \$35,000 of having paid in full their pledge made in 1920. In order to claim this remainder, it is necessary for us to collect a corresponding part of the pledges made by other friends. It will take approximately \$51,000 in collections to clear us with the Board by next February. We have outstanding about \$125,000 in subscriptions, but many of our friends have already notified us that they cannot pay by that time. As a matter of fact, we have been collecting for the last two years only an average of \$25,000 annually, and we have a definite problem before us. If we press our subscribers very hard, they will cancel their pledges. By being patient we will likely be able to collect

rather well on this campaign and retain friends to whom we can later go again. The General Education Board has been more liberal with us than is customary, and we can hardly ask for an extension of time.

When the College was closing the campaign of 1909, a similar situation prevailed, and Mr. S. M. Inman bought the outstanding subscriptions. By the use of tact and patience, we understand that he collected enough from them to reimburse himself. If we come to the end of our days of grace in this campaign, we may need to look for another good friend or friends, but we are going to make an earnest effort to close the campaign without having to resort to this expedient. We would like for the Trustees to keep the matter in mind and to make suggestions for hastening the work of collections. The fact that we are considerably ahead of other similar campaign funds in the per cent already paid in is a compliment to the loyalty of our friends and to the efficiency of our Treasurer, Mr. Cunningham, but it will not be of much comfort if we should fail to realize in full the generous offer of the General Education Board.

Work on the new Gymnasium-Auditorium was begun about December 1st and has been progressing satisfactorily.

Building The contract calls for its completion by Sep-
Plans tember 1st, and the prospects are now favor-
 able for that. We hope that each Trustee will
 take time to examine the building thor-
oughly. It is a model of its kind, and it has attracted most favorable comment from educators who have examined the plans. We had hoped that it could be erected for \$100,000; but in order to get what we need now and to provide for future growth, we found that the cost will be over \$150,000. Some details of the work will not be finished now, and the furnishings will have to be scanty for the present, as nothing for them is included in the estimate above mentioned; but we believe by taxing our resources and using careful economy we can see our way clear to its ultimate

completion without debt. We can realize something of the size and kind of construction when we know that it will cost, without equipment, more than *any two* other buildings on the campus. We think it is a worthy unit of a larger and better plant. I am happy to record that our students voluntarily raised \$7,500 to help us finish this building.

Edwards & Sayward, who are architects for the new building, have voluntarily been working over plans for future development that were prepared for us by Dr. Cram two years ago, and they have submitted suggestions that appeal strongly to us who are in the administrative work of the college. We expect to have these plans on exhibit at the annual meeting, and we will hope to have your suggestions at that time.

We need *immediately* two additional units for our plant, and our work will have to suffer in a vital way until we get them. The first of these is a combination heating plant, power house and laundry. We have outgrown our present equipment, and we can barely heat the structures we have by crowding our boilers. The laundry building has been condemned and we have found it necessary to put in additional braces to hold it together temporarily. Besides, we must have the land where our present plant stands for our academic building. This unit will cost from \$75,000 to \$100,000, we are told.

The other pressing need is for a recitation and administration building. No other college of my acquaintance with the standing of Agnes Scott is so poorly equipped for the conduct of our class work, which is at the heart of our whole program. We cannot take more young women either as boarders or as day students until we secure this new unit. The cost is hard to estimate, but it will probably be from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

We are also anxious to have a Chapel that may serve incidentally as a memorial of Dr. Gaines, but particularly

as the religious headquarters of the campus. Our present chapel lacks 100 seats of being able to take care of our faculty and students alone, without a single visitor from the outside. The new building can be used for special occasions, but not for daily use, as it would involve the continual moving of chairs and would interfere with the gymnasium work. We ought to have a place that would each day challenge the full attendance of all our college community for the worship of God.

During the past year we have bought two more lots, each having a residence, in the section between the College and Dougherty Street. These cost \$15,100.

Grounds We are not able to make additional purchases just now, as our current account is heavily taxed with other expenses, and as we have already spent \$35,000 more from the campaign account than was contemplated by the General Education Board.

We have moved the car line from Ansley to Dougherty Street. The cost was estimated by the Georgia Railway & Power Co. at a little less than \$6,000 before it was begun. Their bill was for \$8,400. As this seems to us quite excessive, we are negotiating for a better adjustment. When the bill is paid it will have to come out of our current account.

We are negotiating with the City of Decatur for the closing of Ansley Street and of College Place within the limits of our property. The indications are that our petition will be granted if we will improve Dougherty Street so as to make it a good thoroughfare. The city estimates that this will cost about \$6,000. While we do not see just where the money will come from, we feel that it is essential that this improvement be made, as it is the only way for us to have an adequate athletic field. The grading of this field will also be an item of expense that we will need to provide for in our budget of next year.

We have greatly improved the east side of our campus by the widening and paving of Candler Street. This was done at a cost of \$5,000, but it certainly has added to the attractiveness and value of our property.

We are making progress slowly but steadily in beautifying the grounds. We put out shrubbery this spring around Rebekah Scott Hall and the Colonnade at a cost of several hundred dollars. We have also planted a large number of dogwood trees and running roses along our embankments.

As already indicated, and as the special report of the Treasurer will show, we have had this year an unusual number of special calls on our current income. The present indications are that we will show expenditures in excess of receipts for the session. We feel sure that the money spent has been wisely invested, and a number of the items are for additions to our capital account; but we have found it necessary to be economical until it hurts in a number of ways, as we do not wish to incur debt.

All of our administrative officers have worked hard to make the year a success. Special mention should be made of the excellent service rendered by Mr. Cunningham, Business Manager, and Mr. Tart, Treasurer. The latter continues what I think is the unequalled record for collections in college circles—100 % each year.

The report of the Treasurer will show the amounts held by our endowment fund and how these are invested. Mr. Tart has done excellent work in checking the markets on all our holdings, investigating carefully any proposed changes, and in making recommendations from time to time to the Finance Committee. He is one of the best informed bond experts in Atlanta.

A year ago the Board elected Mr. P. T. Shanks, Selma, Ala., as a Synodical Trustee. This choice was promptly and unanimously ratified by the Synod, and we **Trustees** are pleased that he has accepted the work and has already shown a fine spirit of interest and co-operation.

The terms of the following members will expire at this meeting: Messrs. J. T. Lupton and W. C. Vereen and Dr. D. P. McGeachy as Corporate Trustees; Miss Mary Wallace Kirk representing the Alumnae; Dr. Neal L. Anderson as a representative of the Synod of Georgia, and Mr. P. T. Shanks from the Synod of Alabama. We have no more valuable Trustees than these.

In order that membership on the Board may not be burdensome, we have not called meetings through the year; but we have had numerous occasions to call on individual members for advice and help, and we appreciate greatly the hearty response always obtained.

From two or three sources, we learn that the Synod of Florida may wish to join in the ownership of Agnes Scott. They had planned for affiliation with Rollins College, but we understand that this has been abandoned. Our Charter already makes provision for representation from this Synod, if it is sought.

There have been relatively few changes in the staff of the College for the current session, and we are grateful for the loyalty of many teachers who could **Faculty** have gotten more money by leaving but who stayed with us in the belief that we are doing here a great work in the development of an institution that combines high standards and a definite Christian faith.

Professor John W. Good, A. B. of Erskine College, Ph. D. of the University of Illinois, takes the place in the English department formerly held by Dr. Salyer.

Miss Mary Stuart MacDougall, who has been absent for two years for the completion of her doctorate, is with us again. She has made quite a name for herself, and incidentally for the College, by important scientific discoveries she has made; and she has been highly honored both in this country and abroad. Her return has stimulated greatly interest in Biology. Partly as a result of this increase of interest, we have found it necessary to employ Mr. Eugene S. Heath, A. B. of Ohio Wesleyan, A. M. of University of Nebraska, as Acting Associate Professor of Botany.

Miss Ruth Pirkle has been promoted to become Instructor of Biology, taking the place of Miss Rothermel, who resigned for advanced study. Miss Alice Brown, B. A., of Goucher College, takes the place of Miss Pirkle as Assistant in Biology.

Miss Coma Cole, B. A. of Duke University, M. A. of the University of Pennsylvania, was chosen Instructor in History to succeed Miss Laura Cooper, resigned.

Miss Catherine Gault, Ph. B. of University of Chicago, has been added to the Romance Languages staff as Instructor in Spanish.

Miss Cora Frazer Morton, B. A. of Agnes Scott, has succeeded Miss Elizabeth Hoke, resigned, as Assistant in Physics and Mathematics.

Largely on account of expansion in our work, the following Assistants have been added during the year: Miss Daisy Frances Smith, B. A. of Agnes Scott, in English and Psychology; Miss Frances Amis, B. A. of Agnes Scott, in Spoken English; and Miss Carrie Curle Sinclair, student of Teachers' College, in Physical Education.

The indications are that we will have a record this year in the small number of changes necessary for completing the organization for 1925-1926. We have again become out of line on the salaries paid to certain groups of our teachers, and after another year we will probably have to make some advances, but for the present we are able to hold our excellent staff.

During the year, we tried the experiment of having a "resident poet" for a week. Our students have made quite a reputation in the country for excellence in verse. We brought Mr. DuBose Heyward, well known as a poet, and Mrs. Heyward, almost as well known as a playwright, to the College for a series of lectures and conferences; and we found the experiment most stimulating and helpful. We wish to repeat the plan again when we are able to afford it.

Dr. D. Clay Lilly conducted religious services for a week during November, and he was most helpful both in his public and personal ministry. The spiritual life of the College has been distinctly good this year. For the Session 1925-1926, we have arranged to have Dr. G. Campbell Morgan to conduct a week's services. He has been most stimulating to us in the past.

Through the College Lecture Association, many other distinguished men and women have been brought to give messages on various topics of educational interest.

Our capacity for taking and teaching students is so limited that we are failing in our best service to the South.

Students Our growing faculty take more rooms each year, and this fact decreases the number of boarders we can accommodate. This year we rented the home of Miss Philo Sturges adjoining the campus, but even with this additional room we have been able to take only the number received last year; namely, 503 young women.

We continue to increase the tests for admission and try in every way to accept only the cream of the applicants. We believe our methods of selection are superior to those of any other institutions of which we know, and the quality of our class work has definitely improved this session.

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

Seniors	84	3rd Year Irregulars.....	2
Juniors	67	2nd Year Irregulars.....	3
Sophomores	146	1st Year Irregulars.....	7
Freshmen	183	Specials.....	9
		Unclassified	3

By States they are distributed as follows:

Georgia	282	New Jersey.....	1
Alabama	35	New York	1
North Carolina	34	Ohio	1
Florida	29	Oklahoma	1
Virginia	24	Vermont	1
South Carolina.....	21	China	3
Tennessee	18	Korea	4
Mississippi	13	Canada	1
West Virginia	8	Cuba	1
Arkansas	5	India	1
Kentucky	5	New Mexico	1
Louisiana	4		
Massachusetts	3	Total	503
Pennsylvania	2		
Texas	2	Resident Students.....	355
California	1	Non-Resident	148
District of Columbia.....	1		
Missouri	1	Total	503

The denominations have been represented among the students as follows:

Presbyterian	218	Unitarian	2
Methodist	118	Congregational	2
Baptist	75	Dutch Reformed	1
Episcopal	35	Lutheran	1
Jewish	16	Greek	1
Christian	10	Universalist	3
Christian Science	4	Not Specified.....	10
Catholic	4	Total	503

As I have been with the College for ten years, though as President only two, I think it is well for us to look back through diagrams at some of the developments of the institution in order that we **Some Comparisons** may have some basis for considering future growth. I do not wish to draw any particular conclusions, but simply to present the general facts in a few important matters.

Respectfully submitted,
 J. R. McCAIN,
 President.

May 1, 1925.

CHART 1.
Ten Years at Agnes Scott
Number of Faculty and Officers

Number

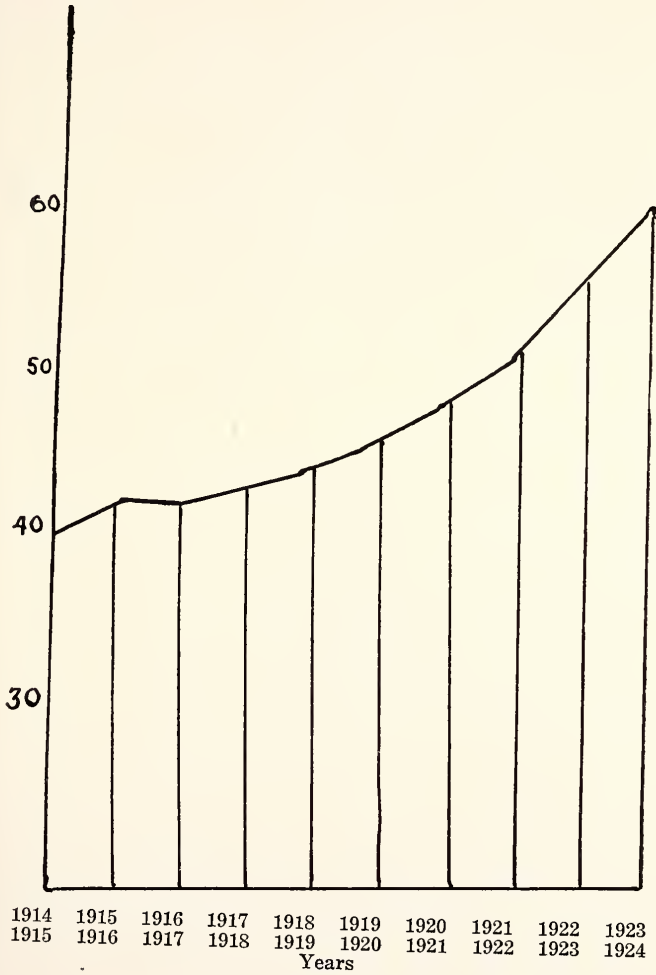


CHART 2.
Ten Years at Agnes Scott
Student Attendance

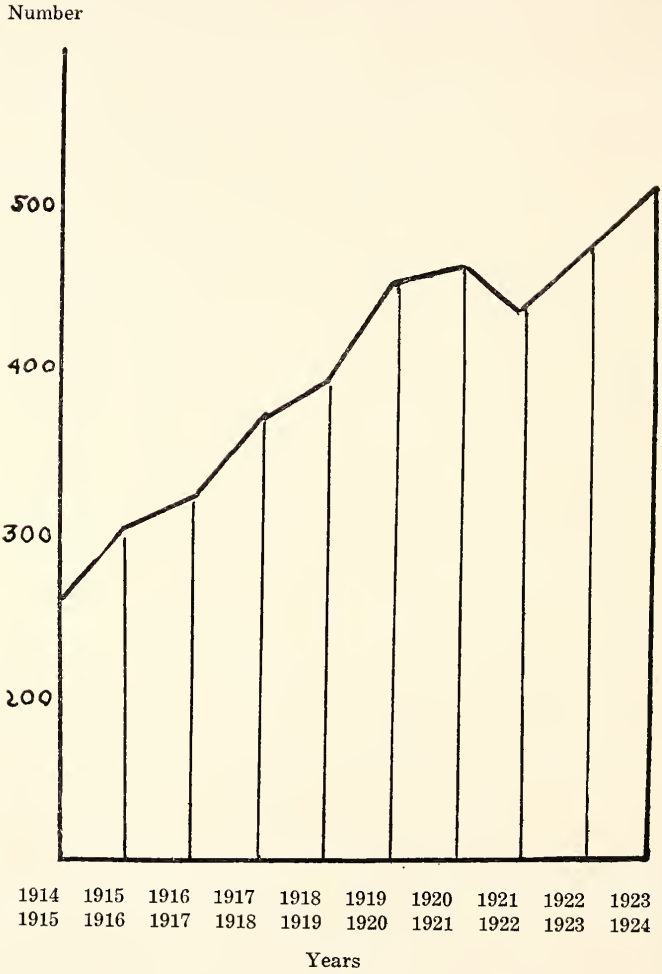
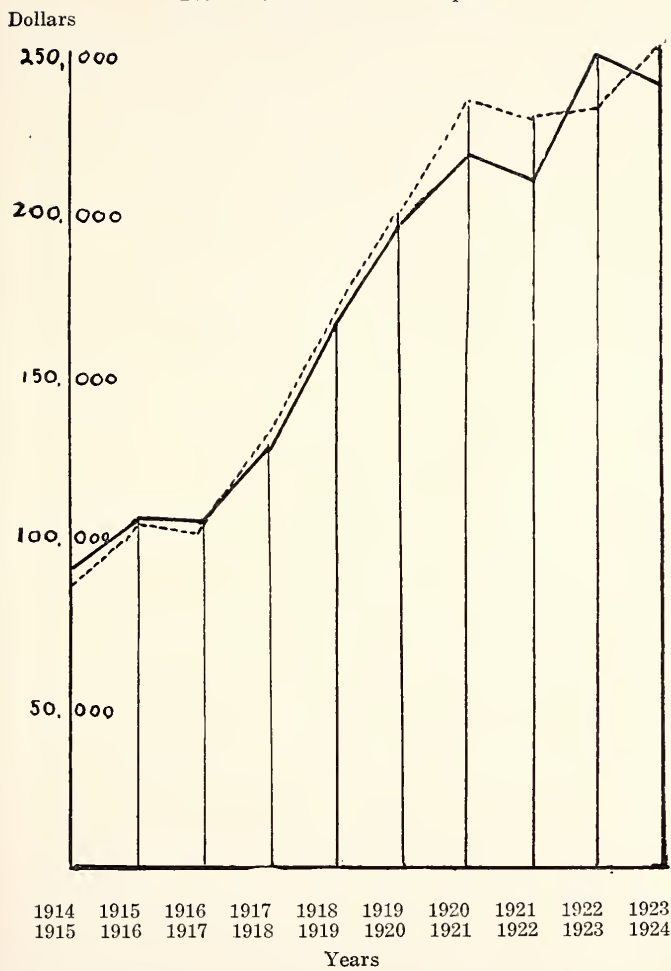


CHART 3.
 Ten Years at Agnes Scott
 Total Income and Total Expenses



— Total Expenses
 - - - Total Income

CHART 4.
 Ten Years at Agnes Scott
 Comparison of Tuition Income and Salaries

Dollars

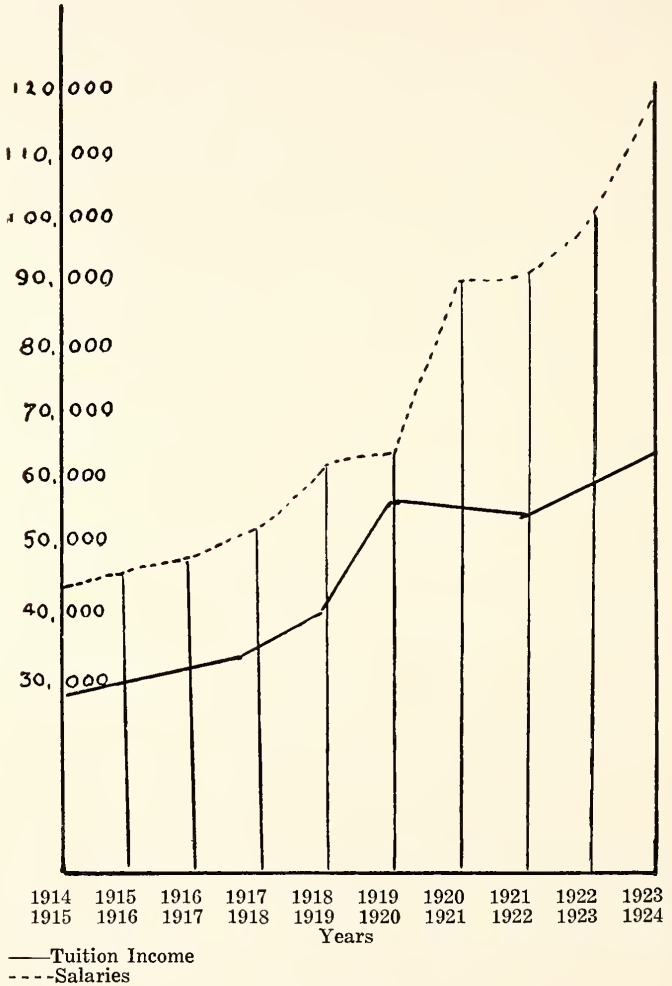
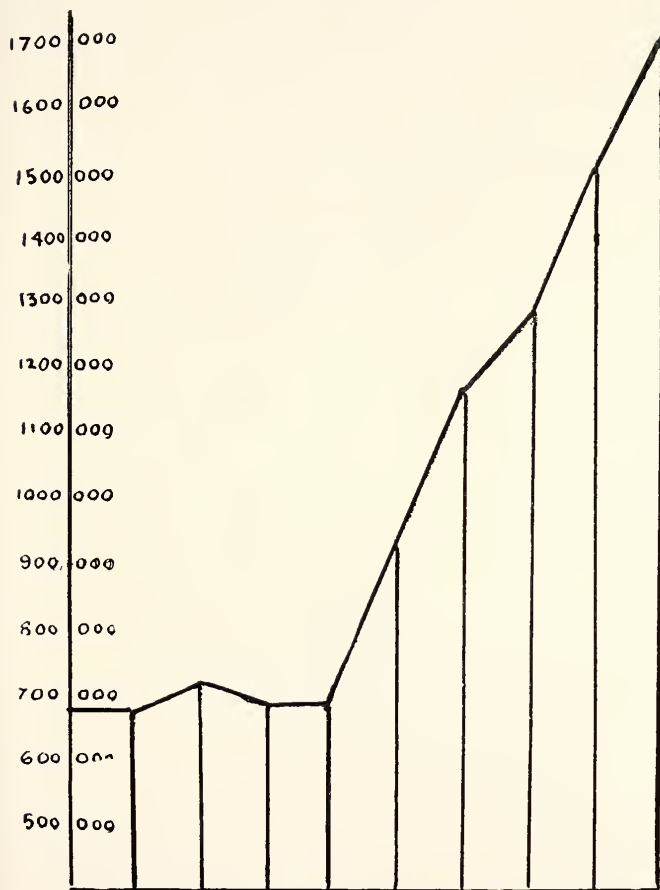


CHART 5.
 Ten Years at Agnes Scott
 Growth in Assets

Dollars



1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923
 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924

Years