

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia



ANNUAL REPORT
TO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 25, 1928

**THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1927-1928

Board of Trustees,

Agnes Scott College.

I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report as President of Agnes Scott College for the session 1927-1928, and I appreciate the privilege of laying before you the general condition of the College.

Trustees

There has been no meeting of the Board of Trustees since the annual one of May, 1927. Our men and women are so busy that we hesitate to call a meeting unless there is something urgent. Our Committees are very efficient and most of the business can be transacted through them. Individual members of the Board have cheerfully given time whenever called upon.

Miss Nannette Hopkins, Dean of the College, was nominated at the last meeting of the Board to take the place of Mr. L. C. Mandeville as Synodical Trustee from Georgia. Her election was ratified at the last meeting of the Synod so that she is now a full member. Since she was the very first teacher employed by the school when it was started as Decatur Female Seminary in 1889, and since she has been with the institution either as Principal or Dean ever since, moulding in large measure the ideals of the college, she will be a most helpful Trustee.

Much to our regret, Dr. J. R. Cunningham, Gainesville, Florida, has accepted a call in another State and his removal from Florida automatically leaves vacant his place as a Trustee. This has been brought to the attention of the

Nominating Committee. While Dr. Cunningham had never been able to attend a meeting of the Board he always evinced an interest in the College and a willingness to serve it in any way.

The terms of the following Trustees expire at this meeting: George E. King, G. Scott Candler, H. T. McIntosh, W. R. Dobyms, C. T. Paxon, and Mrs. D. B. Donaldson. All of these have been of great assistance to Agnes Scott during their entire service on our Board.

Development Plan

In the fall of 1925, after a careful survey of the college needs for development, the Trustees adopted plans calling for an expenditure of two million nine hundred twenty-four thousand (\$2,924,000.00) dollars over a period of ten years. It was thought that this would cover the needs for buildings, improvements, endowment and scholarships during that period. The President of the College was directed to use his best efforts in a quiet way to meet these needs through collecting pledges, savings on current expenses, and seeking new gifts. At the last meeting of the Trustees the same general exhortation was renewed. The work has gone forward somewhat slowly for conditions have not been favorable for campaigning.

During the two and one-half years that have elapsed since the objectives were definitely defined, we have added either in improvement, cash, or pledges about \$350,000, to our permanent assets. Other tentative pledges have been made, but since they are not signed they are not included in this list. Some of the subscriptions have been made on condition that we have a total of five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars subscribed by January 1, 1929.

The actual money spent toward achieving our objectives during the period has gone for the following purposes:

Land and improvements.....	\$ 75,907
Paving, walks, etc.....	9,302
Additions or improvements to buildings.....	20,684
Permanent equipment.....	7,450
Athletic field	3,238
Additions to steam and sewer plant.....	8,040
Scholarship and Fellowship Endowment.....	40,000
General endowment	129,375

We have not been able to touch the larger items of our building program, and these are needed so acutely that we must make the best effort NOW to secure funds for their erection. The President's time is so absorbed in various duties that it is hard for him to give this matter consecutive attention, and it seems necessary to secure some help for the special effort. It does not seem practicable to employ a firm of professional campaigners. The expense would be large and conditions are not yet favorable for the type of campaign they would wish to put on. If we can secure a couple of capable Christian business men who have had some experience in raising money it may be the best plan. The consideration of this problem is one of the most important matters to come before the Board at the approaching annual meeting.

Some Campaign History

It has been nine years since Agnes Scott made a general appeal either to the Trustees or the public. In 1919 the General Education Board offered \$175,000, if friends of the College would contribute \$325,000 to match it. The Trustees under the fine leadership of Mr. J. K. Orr led this campaign to success, and the Trustees themselves contributed over \$100,000 of the supplementary sum required.

In 1920 the General Education Board offered \$100,000 more if the College would raise \$150,000 additional. This also was accomplished with great difficulty, but it was by private solicitation of friends and not by a general campaign.

In 1921 the friends of Miss Anna Young, long beloved at the College as a teacher, undertook to raise a memorial fund. This was among the faculty and students and alumnae. The money was used in part to erect the Alumnae House.

In 1923 a rather earnest campaign was carried on among the College community friends, some alumnae, and a few others to secure funds for the building of the new Gymnasium to cost about \$150,000. It was a great temptation to call on the Trustees to lead in this, and a few volunteered some assistance; but we were able to win without a formal campaign.

In 1924 when the contract was let for the Gymnasium, it was found that there was not money enough on hand for the swimming pool and the completion of the stage for dramatic work. A whirlwind campaign among the faculty and students was inaugurated and carried to a successful conclusion.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Report, during the current session a campus effort is being made to raise a memorial fund for Miss Cleo Hearon, and it gives promise of success.

In every one of these campaign efforts, the faculty and alumnae and students have shown wonderful self-sacrifice and interest and college spirit. This is the tenth consecutive year that those on the campus have been paying on pledges for some of these causes. We have not felt that these objectives were big enough to challenge the real efforts of the Trustees, but we believe that the time has come when we

should call for Trustee leadership in a great undertaking for Agnes Scott. We ought to have in the next three years at least \$650,000 more than we now have in sight.

Bequests

During the past few years, the President has given considerable time to seeking to interest people in remembering Agnes Scott in wills. The tangible results are hard to estimate, but it is a field where the College ought to sow and reap through the years.

During the current year, we have received \$3,000 from the will of Mrs. E. C. Dugas, of Birmingham, Ala., the money to be used for a scholarship in honor of her first husband, Capt. James Cecil.

Also through the will of Mrs. Fannie W. Wilkins, made a number of years ago, the College has this year come into possession of a valuable house and three lots in the city of Waynesboro, Ga. The property is variously estimated from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in value. When it is converted into money, the principal is to establish a memorial scholarship fund in memory of Marie Wilkins, a former student of Agnes Scott, a daughter of the donor and a wife of the late Judge W. H. Davis in Waynesboro. For the present we have rented the house until we can get favorable terms for selling.

Buildings and Grounds

Last July the President moved into the house which was purchased from the estate of Mrs. Lizzie Neel on Candler Street. This has been renovated, painted, and has had steam heat installed, so that it makes a very attractive home.

The house on Candler Street formerly occupied by the President has been made into a dormitory, accommodating

two teachers and sixteen students. It has proved to be a popular building among the students.

During the year the College purchased the house on the corner of McDonough Street and Ansley Street from Miss Marianne McClelland for nine thousand one hundred (\$9,100.00) dollars. This will be used for a Professor's home.

Current Expenses

The increase in our tuition charges which became effective this year has no doubt saved the College from running a deficit. The operating account will show a fair profit. This is not as large as we expected for two reasons: (1) The number of students was smaller than we anticipated, as explained later; (2) It was necessary to give scholarship aid as authorized by the Board last year to quite a number of girls.

It will be necessary to allow some scholarship aid and loan funds to the students for next year, additional to the income from endowed funds. A recommendation on this subject will be made at the meeting of the Board.

For the tenth consecutive time Mr. J. C. Tart, Treasurer, has been able to report one hundred per cent (100%) collection. This takes hard work on his part, particularly as a considerable part of our income is now contributed by individuals or groups for the aid of worthy girls and we cannot insist upon as prompt payments from such givers as when the patrons themselves are responsible for the accounts.

Faculty

The College community has been saddened by the illness and death of Miss Cleo Hearon, Ph. D., for ten years head of the History Department.

Miss Hearon was a native of Mississippi and received her education largely at the University of Chicago, taking the Ph. B., the M. A., and Ph. D. degrees at that institution. The last named degree was taken *summa cum laude*, and she was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa at the University.

Before taking her Doctorate she taught in various institutions in Mississippi and after receiving her degree she was Instructor at Westhampton College, Wellesley College, and Ripon. She came to Agnes Scott in 1918 and continued in charge of the department of History until her death on January 11, 1928.

She was a true scholar, a stimulating teacher, and an active member of the faculty. At Agnes Scott she organized and directed the Lecture Association and was Chairman of the Debating Club. She served on several other important Committees. She did much to stimulate Graduate work among the Alumnae.

Outside of the College circles, Miss Hearon was also active. She was a leader among Southern women in the American Association of University Women, and also in the League of Women Voters.

In her will Miss Hearon left her library to the College. This consists of several hundred well selected volumes and these will be of great help to the community.

In appreciation of Miss Hearon, and of her work for the College, the Students and Alumnae have furnished anew the History room at the Library and are undertaking to raise a Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library. As this fund is much needed, and as it is included in the general develop-

ment plan of the College, the effort ought not to interfere with our general campaign and we trust that it will be an entire success.

Faculty Changes

Since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees there have been a number of changes in the Faculty. Dr. J. W. Good has resigned as the head of the English Department and his place has been filled by Professor George P. Hayes, B. A., Swarthmore, and M. A., Ph. D., Harvard.

Miss Jean Davis has resigned as Professor of Economics and Sociology, and her place has been filled by Professor J. M. Wright, B. A., William Jewell, M. A. and Ph. D., Johns Hopkins.

Miss Florence Smith, B. A., Westhampton, M. A., Chicago, has served as Acting Professor of History on account of the continued illness and death of Miss Hearon.

Leave of absence has been granted to a number of our staff including Miss Emily Howson, of the Physics Department; Miss Emma May Laney, in English; Miss Louise Hale, in French, and Miss Martha Stansfield, in Latin. Their places have been satisfactorily filled during the year, and we anticipate the return of all these for the next session.

Other minor changes may be noted in the catalogue, a copy of which has been sent to each member of the Board of Trustees.

Students

The student-body is smaller this year than during the session 1926-1927. To a considerable extent the explanation of this is the fact that the Girls' High School of Atlanta did

not graduate a regular College Preparatory class last year. The twelfth grade was being re-established in Atlanta and the High School kept its students for one year more. This school sends a large number of students to Agnes Scott every year and we noticed very much the difference this session.

At the same time we did not have as many boarders as last year. This was partly due to the increase in fees. We do not know to what extent this played a part, but we think that the cancellations which occurred during the latter part of the summer were due more largely to the general financial depression in the South than to any special charges which we made. The very rigid entrance requirements which we now specify also make it difficult for many girls who want to come to qualify for admission. We are not alone in the making of the increase in fees because all of the colleges of our class in the South have found it necessary to do likewise. Even with the increase already made, we are several hundred dollars behind the average charges of our competing institutions in the East. We anticipate having a full student-body for September of this year.

Our students for the year may be classified in various ways as follows:

Seniors -----	103
Juniors -----	82
Sophomores -----	120
Freshmen -----	155
Fourth Year Irregulars -----	1
Second Year Irregulars -----	2
First Year Irregulars -----	1
Unclassified -----	9
Special -----	1
Graduate Students -----	3
Music or Art only -----	15

By States they are distributed as follows:

Georgia -----	235	Texas -----	3
North Carolina -----	49	District of Columbia---	1
Alabama -----	43	Indiana -----	1
Tennessee -----	25	Maine -----	1
South Carolina -----	24	Missouri -----	1
Florida -----	24	New Jersey -----	1
Virginia -----	16	New Mexico -----	1
Kentucky -----	15	Oklahoma -----	1
Mississippi -----	10	China -----	6
West Virginia -----	7	Cuba -----	1
Louisiana -----	6	Japan -----	1
Arkansas -----	4	Korea -----	2
Massachusetts -----	3	Mexico -----	1
New York -----	3	Venezuela -----	1
Ohio -----	3		
Pennsylvania -----	3		<u>492</u>

Resident Students ----- 355

Non-Resident Students ----- 137

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The denominations have been represented among the students as follows:

Presbyterian -----	228
Methodist -----	104
Baptist -----	66
Episcopal -----	42
Christian -----	14
Jew -----	9
Lutheran -----	2
Congregational -----	4
Christian Science -----	3
Catholic -----	3
Dutch Reformed -----	1
Moravian -----	1
Ethical Culture -----	1
Universalist -----	1
Greek -----	1
Alturian -----	1
No Church Affiliation -----	1
Not Specified -----	10

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Health

The College community has enjoyed good health this year with the exception already noted of the continued illness and death of Miss Hearon. Careful examination was made of the students and special treatment given to any who seemed to need corrective work. If a student shows any symptom of illness she is put in the Infirmary and kept there until she is well, both for her own sake and for the sake of the College Community. Dr. Sweet and our two trained nurses have been thoroughly effective and we also get a great deal of help from the Physical Education Department.

We have been giving careful attention through the year to the nourishment of the students; and each week the menus for all the meals are planned ahead by a committee consisting of the Dean as chairman, the Housekeepers, College Physician, the Business Manager and occasionally other officers who are interested.

Religious Life

The fact that the religious life is put last in this report does not signify that it is a minor consideration at Agnes Scott. It is the very soul of the institution. It occupies a large part of the attention not only of the students, but also of the Faculty and Officers.

At a recent meeting of the Faculty a round table discussion was held regarding the spiritual life of the institution for this session and it was the unanimous feeling that conditions have been unusually satisfactory. We have not had trouble with atheism, unbelief or even disputes regarding orthodoxy. The main difficulty which we have is simply that of indifference on the part of some members of the college community, as we find it in the various churches.

Dr. Frank C. Morgan led in religious services during the early part of December and secured most excellent results. At the request of the students themselves some of the officers of the college conduct voluntary Bible classes on Sunday morning, and of course the organized religious work of the institution goes forward as usual.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work which is done steadily and unostentatiously by the Officers and Faculty of the College. Miss Hopkins as Dean, Mr. Stukes as Registrar, Mr. Cunningham as Business Manager, and Mr. Tart as Treasurer, make a team of workers with whom the College may safely be left even if the President is away for a considerable length of time. The other Officers and the Faculty are likewise dependable and most co-operative, and they are very largely responsible for any success which the institution may attain.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. R. McBain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

President.