

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia



ANNUAL REPORT
TO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 24, 1929

**THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1928-1929**

Board of Trustees,
Agnes Scott College.

I have the honor of presenting herewith a Report for the session 1928-1929 with comment on the general state of the College.

OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

I. Is It Needed?

Some of our friends have asked whether this is really a necessary campaign. They agree that it is desirable, but seem to think that it is more or less a luxury. Such a view is based on the fact that we are operating successfully and not running in debt, but it fails entirely to take into account the changing educational conditions. In my judgment, our need is sufficiently urgent to justify radical sacrifices if necessary. If we cannot win otherwise, I believe the cause important enough to call for giving up the family automobile, doing without a cook, wearing old clothes, or even reducing the amount heretofore contributed to Church causes.

At the risk of being tedious, I would like to explain some aspects of the present educational situation. The facts have been furnished me largely by the General Education Board of New York, or by the Survey made by Dr. Henry H. Sweets and covering all of the educational work of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

The private or denominational college is facing a fight for its existence—not because it is being fought but by virtue of current conditions. The following are only a few factors of this situation:

(1) The Rising Cost of Education.

This has more than doubled in the last dozen years and it will increase steadily for several years more. Our denominational friends are not able to stand this cost without some assistance. We are finding it necessary to help more than two hundred of our girls in some

way at Agnes Scott, and this is ten times as many as when I first became connected with the institution.

(2) The states are making wonderful provision for their colleges. Georgia is more backward than some other states, but all of them in our territory are improving their State Schools. I recently had brought to my attention a comparison between Winthrop College in South Carolina and Agnes Scott. Winthrop receives from the State four hundred sixty-five thousand (\$465,000) dollars for maintenance. Our income from endowment is only sixty thousand (\$60,000.00) dollars. They have more students; but they can pay their teachers better, provide more facilities, and charge far less than we can afford to do. It takes seven hundred (\$700.00) dollars here at Agnes Scott to carry a girl through the year; but the Florida State College charges only two hundred and sixty-five (\$265.00) dollars for the entire session.

(3) The rise of the Junior Colleges is another problem that the regular four-year institutions must face. These are promoted largely by strong city school systems which add two years to the curriculum and keep their students through the Sophomore year. All over the South, schools that were formerly known as agricultural institutions are trying to develop into Junior Colleges. There are about twenty (20) Junior Colleges in Georgia, and some two hundred ninety (290) in the whole territory from which we draw. They will absorb our students if we do not offer something very unusual in equipment and in our educational program.

(4) There has also been a decreasing emphasis placed by parents and students on the *spiritual* character of the institution to be attended. Many more Presbyterian boys and girls are now attending state institutions than go to denominational schools; and this is even more true of Baptists and Methodists. A college must offer something clearly above the ordinary level to induce people to pay twice as much for its training.

(5) We are by no means as sure of the permanence of colleges as we were a few years ago. In 1915 Dr. F. H. Gaines stated that in his opinion Agnes Scott's future would be assured if it could secure

assets of one million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars. In the light of that day he was conservative, but so rapid have been educational changes that while we now have assets of over two million (\$2,000,000.00) dollars, twice the sum mentioned by Dr. Gaines, we are frankly told by Director Thorkelson, of the General Education Board, that we have as yet no assurance of permanence.

(6) The general details which I have mentioned bear generally upon private or Denominational Colleges as a class. The distinctly Woman's College seems to have less chance than one for men. The drift to co-education seems to be decided. In former years very few women could gain admission to State Universities, but now practically all such institutions accept them.

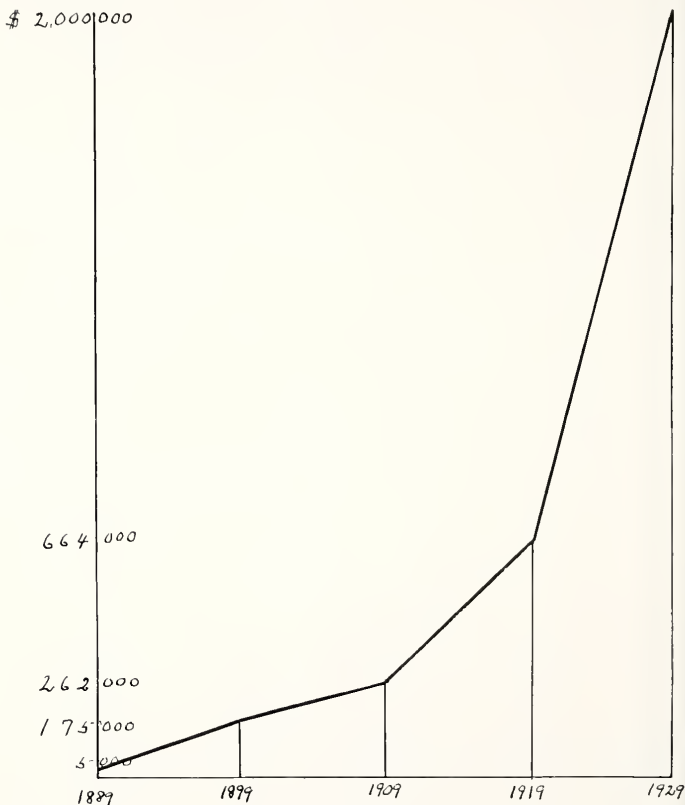
Of all the thirty (30) colleges connected with the Southern Presbyterian Church, only Centre, Davidson, and Agnes Scott are able to meet fully Southern Association Standards as at present listed; and these are apt to be raised soon. The Texas colleges are already planning to merge. It will be surprising if out of our thirty institutions more than one-third will be able to operate after a period of fifteen (15) years.

In many respects Agnes Scott has forged ahead nicely, but do we realize that in equipment we have fallen behind most of our denominational or private neighbors? We have erected only one building since the Aragon Hotel was the best in Atlanta. We have only one fireproof building on our campus. During this period, Emory University, Wesleyan, Shorter, Oglethorpe, Columbia Seminary, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee, and other institutions have built entirely new, well planned and fireproof plants that by contrast emphasize the fact that our buildings are old fashioned.

In reviewing the situation as to the class of colleges to which we belong, and as to Agnes Scott in particular, we are not pessimistic. If our campaign should fail there would be grave reasons for discouragement; but I have the utmost confidence that Trustees and other supporters will do all that is needful not only to perpetuate the College but also to bring it into a position of increasing usefulness. It is with this confidence that we have projected our campaign. With the start made by Agnes Scott, and with its wonderful location, it should become the greatest college for women in the whole world. This campaign will not be sufficient to bring us to such a position as yet, but it will keep us travelling in that direction.

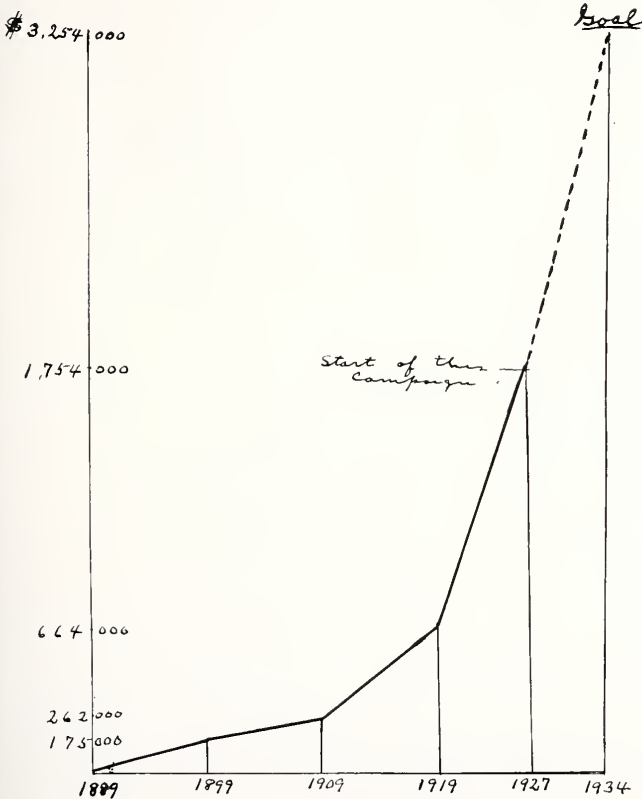
II. How We Have Grown.

The accompanying diagram will show something of the progress which Agnes Scott has made from time to time and will enable us to see how rapid has been our progress in recent years. For example, Mr. Orr has been Chairman of the Board for practically one-third of our history, but during that time we have gained twice as much as during the first twenty-eight years.



III. How Agnes Scott May Grow.

The accompanying diagram shows the comparative progress that we will make if we successfully complete our campaign objective within the next five years. We are trying to depict also something of the order in which our improvements have been made, or will be made, as the money comes in.



IV. The Order of Expenditures.

(Read from bottom up)

\$1,500,000

Grand Total Sought

**Further Endowment and
Scholarships**

**Further Land and Campus
Developments**

\$1,000,000

**Auditorium and Fine Arts
Building**

**Dormitory and Dining
Room**

Day Student Club House

Chapel

**Administration and Recitation
Building**

\$500,000

Steam Plant and Laundry

Paving, Sewers, Equipment

**Urgent Endowment and
Scholarships**

**Most Needed Land and
Improvements**

V. Can the Job Be Done?

We are having difficulty with two classes of people as we press our work. One of these consists of people who do not believe that any campaign whatever can be successful while times are so hard. Another class is sympathetic and wishes us well but does not realize how really BIG the job is. They contribute on about the same ratio as ten years ago when we were trying for only \$500,000.00—one-third as much money as we are now seeking. We are not able to see as many people as we did in 1919. Prosperity is far less general than it was then. Since we are trying for three times as large an amount and the number of subscribers must necessarily be fewer, it does place a responsibility on those of us who are trying to do the job. By sacrificial efforts and by one hundred per cent co-operation we believe that we may be able to win. It may be necessary for us to take quite a number of subscriptions on the Annuity plan. The College has used this before in a small way. We are very conservative in our operation of the plan, and it does make an ideal arrangement for people who will need their money while they live but can let the college have it when they are no longer living.

The magnificent work done by the Faculty and Students in raising approximately eighty-thousand (\$80,000.00) dollars has been of great assistance to us and has stimulated the interest and support of many others.

Our Alumnae also have shown a genuine interest and a desire to do their full share and more in developing their Alma Mater. When we come to the general public we believe that the fine example of these groups just mentioned will be most effective.

VI. Specific Details.

Since our campaign objective is a million five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000.00) dollars I feel that we ought to consider just how we may expect to find this large sum.

We have in sight at the present time approximately six hundred thousand (\$600,000.00) dollars. We are counting on getting from the General Education Board five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars more. In order to complete the remaining four hundred thousand (\$400,000.00) dollars, it seems absolutely essential that the Trustees add to their gifts at least one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars. It does not necessarily mean that this must come from the Trustee pockets, but I do not see how we can win unless the Trustees will assume the responsibility for giving or getting that much more.

The President of the College is willing to assume personally the

raising of one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars additional. He will plan to get this money mostly outside of Georgia.

It looks as if we ought to be able to get at least two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) dollars by a general campaign in Atlanta, Decatur, and the outlying sections of Georgia. It is to be hoped in each one of these cases that there would be an over-subscription so as to allow for campaign expenses and for shrinkage.

VII. Expert Assistance?

The question has been raised as to whether we ought to secure expert campaign assistance for the completion of our task. It would probably cost in the neighborhood of twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars to bring in a strong firm who would be able to raise the four hundred thousand (\$400,000.00) dollars. We have spent very little indeed on what has been secured. Mr. J. C. Norton and Miss Polly Stone have been valuable workers in helping the President, but none of us are specially good at advertising. The principal advantage in having experts to come would be in getting the college before the public in a favorable light. We would hope in that way to secure wills and later gifts to a greater extent than will be possible otherwise. This is one question that ought to be seriously considered by our Board when it meets.

TRUSTEES

There has been no meeting of the Board of Trustees since the Annual one of May, 1928. Quite a number of matters have been handled by our very efficient Committees.

I am very glad to report that our nomination of Dr. D. A. Dunseith, Clearwater, Florida, was approved by the Synod of Florida to fill the unexpired term of Dr. J. R. Cunningham. We are very happy also that Mrs. J. S. Guy upon our nomination was elected to represent the Alumnae Association to succeed Mrs. D. B. Donaldson.

The terms of the following Trustees expire at this meeting: J. T. Lupton, W. C. Vereen, Miss Mary Wallace Kirk, D. P. McGeachy, Neal L. Anderson, P. T. Shanks and D. A. Dunseith. All of these have been of great assistance to Agnes Scott and are valuable members of our Board.

FACULTY CHANGES

Professor Philip Davidson, Jr., B.A. University of Mississippi, M.A., Ph.D. University of Chicago, has been elected head of the Department of History to succeed Miss Cleo Hearon who died last year.

While Miss Edith Harn has been on leave of absence for a year,

her place has been filled by Professor Alfred R. W. De Jonge, B.A. University of Berlin, Ph.D. Columbia University.

During the leave of absence of Miss Margaret Phythian, who is studying in Europe, her place has been taken by Miss Vivian Little who is an Agnes Scott graduate and who has had one year at the Sorbonne in Paris.

While Miss Leslie J. Gaylord has been completing her doctorate at Chicago, Miss Anna May Baker, B.A. Randolph-Macon, M.A. Johns Hopkins, has been teaching in the Department of Mathematics.

Miss Isabel Randolph who has done very successful work for several years in the Department of Physical Education has resigned, and her place has been taken by Miss Llewellyn Wilburn, B.A. Agnes Scott College, M.A. Columbia University. To complete the staff of the Physical Education group we have had to return to us after a year of study on the part of each, Miss Harriette Haynes, B.A. Randolph-Macon, M.A. Columbia, and Miss Carrie Curle Sinclair, B.S. William and Mary.

Miss Helen Eagleson, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education, has resigned, and her place has been taken by Miss Katharine T. Omwake, M.A. and Ph.D. of George Washington University. Another addition to the staff of the same department is Miss Jane Brown, B.A. George Washington, M.A. Columbia University.

Last year we tried the experiment of having an additional member of our Bible Department, and Dr. Logan did such excellent work that we have put in this year a full time Assistant Professor. Miss Margaret L. Engle, B.A. New Windsor College, M.A. Johns Hopkins, is filling this place.

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 this year is somewhat smaller than during the two previous sessions. So far as I can learn, every private college for either men or women in this section of the country has been smaller and the general explanation is the fact of "hard times." Along with this is the large increase in Junior Colleges which has been previously noted.

We confidently expect the waiting list, to which we have become accustomed, to come back after this period of adjustment is over, and particularly if we can make a success of the campaign. Nothing advertises a college so much as a successful development program.

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

As to Classes:

Seniors	96
Juniors	90
Sophomores	96
Freshmen	155
Third Year Irregular	1
Second Year Irregulars	2
First Year Irregulars	3
Unclassified	3
Graduate Students	2
Music and Art only	9
	457

By States they are distributed as follows:

Georgia	220	Massachusetts	2
North Carolina	46	District of Columbia	1
Alabama	39	Maine	1
Florida	26	Montana	1
South Carolina	18	New Jersey	1
Tennessee	16	New Mexico	1
Virginia	15	Oklahoma	1
Kentucky	12	China	3
Mississippi	11	Japan	3
Arkansas	7	Korea	3
Louisiana	6	France	1
Texas	6	Mexico	1
West Virginia	6	Venezuela	1
New York	3		
Ohio	3	Total	457
Pennsylvania	3		
Resident Students			346
Non-Resident Students			111
			457

The denominations have been represented among the students as follows:

Presbyterian	212
Methodist	97
Baptist	63
Episcopal	40

Christian	6
Jew	6
Lutheran	7
Congregational	3
Christian Science	2
Catholic	5
Reformed	3
Moravian	1
Ethical Culture	1
Disciple	1
Alturian	1
No Church Affiliation	2
Not Specified	7

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

The current session has been marked by very satisfactory progress in educational work. We were disturbed somewhat by the number of failures at the mid-term examination period, but this was very largely due to interruptions because of Influenza. The faculty were considerate in assigning work until the students could catch up, and we have made a most excellent showing in recent months.

The College has been prescribing a little more than half of the subjects to be taken, and this has been difficult for some students who would not like all of the prescribed work. In line with many other institutions, we have given more elasticity to our curriculum, requiring fewer specific subjects and allowing a greater degree of concentration in fields where the students wish to specialize. These changes have met with general approbation on the part of our students and on the part of educators in the South generally.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Every year we have been spending considerable money and quite a bit of time in improving the appearance of our campus and grounds. Mrs. Donald Hastings has been Chairman of the Alumnae Committee, and through her influence the H. G. Hastings Company contributed several hundred fine bulbs which have been planted along our walks, drives and hedges.

It will not be long before we will need some expert lanscape work done in connection with our campus growth.

Under authority previously granted by the Trustees, the Commit-

tee on Buildings and Grounds have authorized the erection of a new Steam Plant and Laundry. Robert and Company, Engineers and Architects, are in charge of the general plans; and the Converse-Myers Company of Atlanta are the contractors in charge. It is anticipated that the new plant with adequate steam connections through an underground tunnel will be ready for operation at the opening of college. The improvements will cost approximately one hundred and twenty-five thousand (\$125,000.00) dollars, and will constitute one of the first major developments of our new program. Parts of our old plant are thirty-seven years old, and the life of such equipment is supposed to be only about fifteen years. We have been uneasy for several sessions about whether it would be possible for us to finish out the year. We hope the new plant will be a great satisfaction to us.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the work which has been done by the Officers of the College this year. On account of the almost continuous absence of the President unusual responsibilities have fallen on Mr. Stukes, Miss Hopkins, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Tart. They are a great joy to any administrator. I feel that we are unusually fortunate in having such an able and loyal staff. I wish to express my appreciation also of the work of the faculty and other officers. If we are to succeed it will be largely through the active efforts of Trustees, Officers, Faculty and Students all working for the best development of our college as a means of bringing in the Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. McCAIN.



Moody's Rating	Security	Rate %	Maturity	Par Value
A	Swift & Co., Debs.	5	1932	11,000
AAA	Texas & Pacific R. R., Eqpt.	5	1939	5,000
A	Texas & Pacific Ry. Co., G. & R.	5	1977	5,000
A	Texas & Pacific Ry. Co., G. & R.	5	1979	5,000
A	T. P.-M. O. P. Ter. R. R. of N. O., 1st	5½	1964	5,000
AAA	Toronto (City of)	5½	1931	2,000
AAA	Toronto (City of)	6	1949	4,000
AAA	Toronto (City of)	6	1951	11,000
A	U. S. Rubber Co., 1st and Ref.	5	1947	6,000
AA	Virginian Ry. Co., 1st	5	1962	10,500
A	Wabash Ry. Co., Ref. and Genl.	4½	1978	5,000
AAA	Western Electric Co., Debs.	5	1944	9,500
AA	Western Maryland Ry., Eqpt.	7	1931	10,000
AA	Western Union Tel. Co., Debs.	5	1951	10,000
A	Wheeling Steel Corp., 1st and Ref.	4½	1953	9,000
AA	Winnipeg (Water Dist.), Canada	5	1952	20,000
Total				\$839,600