

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia



ANNUAL REPORT  
TO  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MAY 27, 1932

**THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
1931-1932**

Board of Trustees,  
Agnes Scott College.

I have the honor to present herewith my annual report as President of Agnes Scott College for the Session 1931-1932, and I welcome the opportunity to lay before you general facts that concern the College.

**Trustees**

Since our last annual meeting, we have suffered a great loss in the death of one of our members, Dr. William Ray Dobyns. While a committee of the Board has been appointed to bring in suitable resolutions for adoption at our next meeting, it seems appropriate to record here some facts regarding the life of our friend.

Dr. Dobyns was born in Columbus, Mo., May 17, 1861. He took his B.A. degree from Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., and his B.D. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He received the D.D. degree from his Alma Mater, Westminster, in 1901, and the LL.D. degree from Austin College in 1924.

His principal pastorates were in Chicago, Marshall, Mo., St. Joseph, Mo., and in Birmingham. He was greatly beloved as a pastor, and he was noted for training his people in evangelism and in stewardship. He was in great demand for Bible teaching. In one year he received more than 100 invitations for such work. He was the author of several books dealing with Bible study, among them "Outline Studies of the Scriptures" and "The Book in the Light of the Books."

Dr. Dobyns was a trusted leader in the Southern Presbyterian Church. Among the many positions of honor which he held were Moderator of the General Assembly, member of the Committee on the Work of the Assembly, member for many years of the Foreign Missions Committee, representa-

tive of the church at the World's Council of Presbyterians in Liverpool, England, and Trustee of Agnes Scott College, of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, of Southwestern in Memphis, and of the School of the Ozarks in Missouri. He also served on many inter-denominational committees and in civic affairs.

Dr. Dobyns was one of the leaders in the movement in Alabama that resulted in bringing Agnes Scott into closer relations with the Synods of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia; and he was elected a member of the Board on October 9, 1922, being confirmed that autumn by the Synod of Alabama, so that he was serving his tenth year as an Agnes Scott Trustee. He was a model member, always present, always alert and interested in the work of the Board, frequently visiting the institution and keeping up with its work, very often writing to make suggestions, representing it before church courts, recommending it to prospective students, sending his own daughter to the College for her education, and praying for it daily. He will be greatly missed.

Two new members will be welcomed to their first meeting of our full Board today. These are Messrs. George Winship and W. J. Rushton. Mr. Winship succeeded Mr. W. J. Vereen as a Corporate Trustee, as we desired that the latter serve also as a representative of the Synod of Georgia instead of the late Dr. Neal L. Anderson. Mr. Winship served as our very efficient Chairman in the recent Campaign, and he endeared himself to all Agnes Scott friends. He is the President of Fulton Supply Co. and also of the Morris Plan Bank. He is an officer of the Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta.

Mr. Rushton is Vice-President of Birmingham Ice and Cold Storage Co. and also of The Rushton Co. He has been very active in the civic and religious life of Birmingham. He is a Deacon in the First Presbyterian Church of that city. He succeeds Dr. D. H. Ogden as representative of the Synod of Alabama.

The terms of the following members expire with this meeting: Mr. George E. King, Mr. H. T. McIntosh, Capt. G.

Scott Candler, Mrs. B. R. Adams, and Mr. C. T. Paxon. All of these have been of great assistance to the College.

As there have been no unusual problems to necessitate a called meeting of the Board, the work of the past year has been done through committees, some of which have been quite busy.

### Faculty

Since the last meeting of the Board, the College has lost through death one of its important professors, Miss Emily Elizabeth Howson. A brief sketch of her life seems appropriate.

She was born in Philadelphia, Pa., August 10, 1887, her parents being Henry Howson and Emma Reed Divine Howson. Several of her immediate ancestors were mechanical engineers, and she seemed to inherit an interest in Physics and kindred subjects.

Miss Howson graduated from the Friends' Central School in Philadelphia and then took her B.A. and M.A. degrees at Bryn Mawr College. She studied also toward the doctorate at Johns Hopkins University and at the University of Wisconsin. At the latter she had completed all her required work for the Ph.D. degree except the final approval of her dissertation, and this had been sent to the University at the time of her death.

She taught at Roland Park School of Baltimore and at Lake Erie College before coming to Agnes Scott in September, 1920, continuing with us as Professor of Physics and Astronomy until her death on June 5, 1931, having completed eleven years of work.

As a scholar Miss Howson was highly esteemed, being accurate, painstaking, and logical. Her research was recognized by the educational world. She was a member of the Georgia Academy of Science, of the Optical Society of America, and of the American Physical Society.

As a teacher she was effective both with the bright and with the unpromising students. She inspired many to major in the difficult fields in which she taught, and she was suc-

cessful in winning the love and confidence of the entire faculty and of the student body. She was an excellent worker on committees, and carried a full share of extra-curriculum activities.

As an individual, she had a pleasing personality, made friends readily, and was an earnest Christian.

She was thoroughly devoted to the College, and in her will she left to it her books and scientific apparatus and \$1,000 to be used in improving the Library in Science Hall. This room will be made into a memorial to her, and a tablet in her honor will be unveiled during the commencement season.

To succeed Miss Howson, Prof. F. W. Cooke, B.A. College of William and Mary, M.S. and Ph.D. University of Illinois, has been appointed. This is the only new appointment of major importance.

Prof. Mary Stuart MacDougall, of the Biology Department, has been on leave of absence, holding a Guggenheim Fellowship for the current session. While she has been away, part of her work has been conducted by Acting Prof. Harwell P. Sturtivant of Emory University.

Miss Carrie Scandrett, Assistant Dean, has been absent on leave this session, and her place has been ably filled by Miss Dorothy Hutton, who will be Secretary of the Alumnae Association next year.

While the Alumnae Secretary is not a College officer, the work of the Association is closely related and valuable, and we wish to express hearty appreciation of the fine services rendered by the retiring Secretary, Mrs. D. B. Donaldson.

The Faculty have shown the finest co-operation possible during this period of financial difficulty, voluntarily offering any reduction in salaries that may be necessary and helping to save expense in many ways. It was not necessary to cut salaries for the current session, but contracts have been made for another year with the understanding that whatever cut may be required to keep the budget balanced will be made, estimated at probably 10 per cent.

## **Educational Work**

It is the general testimony of colleges that during the last two years better class work has been done than for a decade or two. We have certainly found this to be true. Our Freshman and Sophomore classes have been of good natural ability, not much above the average; but there have been many more than is usual to make "merit" grades on all their courses and fewer to fail on their work.

We have been experimenting this year on some of the newer devices in education. There have been many opportunities to test our students and their training on a comparative basis with those of other institutions. Foremost among these tests was one administered to Sophomores in leading institutions all over the country. The test covered two full days, a total of six and one-half hours. There were some 3,500 questions, including every phase of knowledge. As a rule our students have made a fine showing. We will not know the comparative results of this particular examination for some weeks.

We are also experimenting in "honors courses" methods. There is a marked tendency in some institutions to allow bright students to withdraw after the Freshman or Sophomore year from regular classes and from the regularly prescribed requirements for the degree, and to specialize in a limited field, studying privately under the direction of a tutor or selected faculty member. We have not felt that it is wise for students to begin specialization in such a concentrated manner in undergraduate work. We are allowing some students to cover the ground of particular courses without requiring that they attend classes, but we are continuing the requirement of a broad distribution of work for the degree with a view to making culture our chief aim.

## **Spiritual Development**

Many of our students report that they feel that the religious life of the campus is more earnest and effective than at any previous time. The attendance on chapel exercises, which has not been compulsory, has been better than at any

time in our history on the part both of the faculty and of the students.

Most of our student activities in the religious field are exerted through the Young Women's Christian Association. At times during the past years, we have been apprehensive of the general influence of the National Y. W. C. A. in vital spiritual life; but there has been unquestioned improvement in the student organization at least, and we feel no bad influence at all on our campus. We are concerned that at Agnes Scott religion be evangelistic and a vital force in every day living.

A week of religious services was conducted this year in February by Dr. F. Crossley Morgan, and it proved to be quite helpful and stimulating.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The campus has been enlarged by approximately an acre during the last year. One of our subscribers to the campaign designated that \$2,500 of his gift be used for the purchase of a lot from Mrs. E. H. Wilson at the southeast corner of Dougherty Street and College Place. The deed has been delivered to the College. The donor, who desires that his name be not known, had in mind the developing of a park, possibly including a lake, on the south side of the campus; and this particular corner is essential to such a plan. There is no doubt that such development will be of the greatest importance to us when we can afford it.

Our thirty-five (35) acres have been acquired by more than forty (40) separate purchases over a period of forty-two (42) years. A map is attached to this Report indicating the years in which our principal purchases have been made. It has been a tedious and an expensive undertaking to acquire the property necessary for our future growth, and there are still four lots that we would like to have; but we have secured all that we are obliged to have. The land itself, not counting the cost of buildings on it when purchased, has cost about \$200,000.

We have made no major improvements in buildings during the past year. There have been a number of minor



MC DONOUGH STREET

ANSLEY STREET

1928  
1922

1906

1912

1925

1925

DOUGHERTY STREET

1905

1925

1924



1925

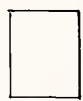
ANSLEY STREET

1920

1921

1927

1924



1932

CANDLER STREET



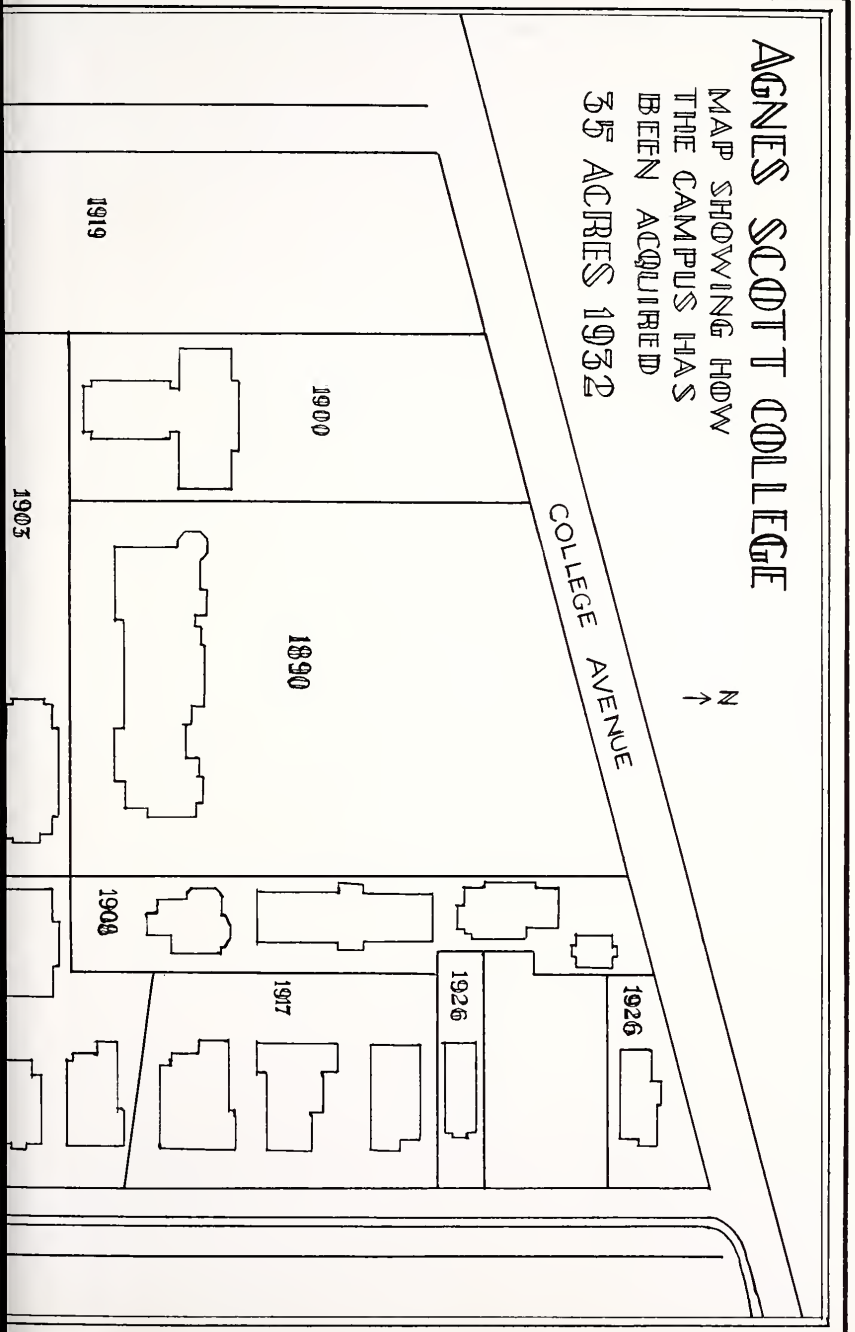
# AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

MAP SHOWING HOW  
THE CAMPUS HAS  
BEEN ACQUIRED

35 ACRES 1932



COLLEGE AVENUE



changes, and the general upkeep of the plant has been maintained in good order.

The next unit to be erected under our development program is the Auditorium-Music Building. Toward this addition to the plant, the Presser Foundation of Philadelphia has pledged one-half of the building cost—\$65,000 of an estimated \$130,000—and the General Education Board has allocated \$32,500, leaving us an equal amount to provide in addition to the furnishings of the building. As the cost of construction is very low, and as our friends in the East would like to see us proceed with the work as soon as we are able to do so, we have been getting the plans perfected; but we do not yet have enough money in hand to justify our letting any contract at this time.

It has been suggested that one or two changes in our general development program be made. The gift of the Carnegie Corporation of \$15,000 for new books has emphasized anew the inadequacy of our Library, and this unit is receiving much more attention from educational authorities than ever before as perhaps the most important in any college plant. The suggestion is that instead of building soon a new dormitory, as is planned, the money be used for a larger fireproof Library Building and that the present structure be used for social and recreational purposes and for general student activities. This would relieve in some measure the need for new dormitory quarters.

Another suggestion is that when the Auditorium is completed the room now used as a chapel be converted into another dining room. It could be served from the Rebekah Scott kitchen and thus make unnecessary the maintenance of the White House dining room and kitchen. This would be more economical and might make it easier for the girls to become acquainted with each other than in two far separated eating places.

It may not be necessary for final decisions to be made at this meeting of the Board, but we ought to discuss the various factors involved.

## Current Finances

When we realize that we must spend about \$1,500 for every school day that we operate, the making of a budget for a year ahead is always a difficult task. Our procedure is simple enough, for we lay down as a first principle that we will not spend more money than we receive, and the problem is that of addition to or subtraction from the items of the preceding year. We have not run any deficit for the last fifteen years, and we will close the present session without indebtedness of any kind.

There is a real problem for next year as it is very hard indeed to estimate income. We are reducing all our items of outlay to minimum proportions except salaries, and we have arranged that the balancing of the budget be guaranteed by such salary adjustments as may be necessary, as has been mentioned earlier in this Report.

It is proper that particular attention should be called to the amazing record of Treasurer J. C. Tart in collecting in full before the close of the session the money due from patrons. This is the 14th consecutive year that he has been able to show this record. This was by far the most difficult session we have ever had for such results. It was necessary to allow more than 1,000 notes for deferred payments, and it has taken more than 2,500 letters or notices to get all the collections in. Mr. Tart has handled all this correspondence without any secretarial or stenographic help, writing all the letters himself, in addition to his other heavy duties. I do not believe a like record has been made by any other Southern college official. No student has had to drop out of college on account of the non-payment of her account; but, as in past years, it has been necessary in a number of instances to get friends or organizations to come to the help of girls whose parents simply could not meet their obligations. Our record for collections in past years is a big asset now in making patrons feel the necessity of co-operation and in getting help from other friends who want to see us maintain the good record.

The greatest burden that the President of Agnes Scott has is having to say "No" to hundreds of requests for aid from fine girls who would like to attend the college. We estimated last year that it would have taken the income on \$3,000,000 more endowment than we now have to meet the requests which were received, and the requests this half-year have already far exceeded any previous whole year. We are finding it necessary to arrange for a great deal of assistance in order to keep some of our best girls, and we wish to record our gratitude to some of the organizations that are helping us; such as, Knights Templar Loan Fund, Presbyterian Student Loan Fund, Student Loan Fund of the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs, and many others.

We have been exceedingly fortunate in our investments, as only two issues in which we have small investments are in default as to interest and none as to principal. In common with all others, our securities show depreciation in market value; but we have seen personally the investment lists of every Southern college or university of approved rank, and the lists of many banks and insurance companies, and we have nothing to be ashamed of in comparison with any one of them.

### Campaign

Of our total \$1,500,000 subscriptions for the Development Fund, we still have uncollected about \$550,000. The two larger pledges in this sum are from the General Education Board about \$175,000 and the Presser Foundation \$65,000. In order to collect these, we must get the smaller sums from individuals. We have until June 1, 1934, to make the collections; but it is evident that many of our friends, however loyal and co-operative, will not be able to make full payments by the required date. We must, therefore, anticipate securing some new funds before the expiration of our campaign period. It is no time at present to start a supplementary effort, but we may as well face the necessity. In all our previous relations with the General Education Board, we have never had to ask for any extension of time or modification of the terms of their grants; and it is one reason

why they have been generous to us far beyond their custom in dealing with colleges in general. We are very eager to live up to our past records with them.

### Student Enrollment

Our students number 481 this year as against 455 for the preceding session. The increase is largely due to our location in a metropolitan area which furnishes many local students. In prosperous times, some of these will go away to college; but in periods of depression they attend institutions that are near at hand. Our boarders are somewhat fewer in number this session, but it is more than counter-balanced by the increased proportion of day students.

The attendance may be classified in various ways, as follows:

#### Residence

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Boarders .....    | 305 |
| Day students..... | 176 |

#### Geography

|                           |     |                      |     |
|---------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Alabama .....             | 25  | New York.....        | 2   |
| Arizona .....             | 1   | Ohio .....           | 1   |
| Arkansas .....            | 3   | Oklahoma .....       | 1   |
| California .....          | 1   | Pennsylvania .....   | 4   |
| Delaware .....            | 1   | South Carolina ..... | 22  |
| District of Columbia..... | 3   | Tennessee .....      | 14  |
| Florida .....             | 19  | Texas .....          | 3   |
| Georgia .....             | 281 | Virginia .....       | 13  |
| Illinois .....            | 3   | China .....          | 2   |
| Kentucky .....            | 11  | West Virginia.....   | 7   |
| Louisiana .....           | 4   | Czechoslovakia ..... | 1   |
| Maryland .....            | 1   | France .....         | 1   |
| Michigan .....            | 2   | India .....          | 1   |
| Mississippi .....         | 11  | Japan .....          | 1   |
| Missouri .....            | 2   | Korea .....          | 1   |
| North Carolina.....       | 39  |                      |     |
|                           |     | Total.....           | 481 |