

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE
DECATUR, GA.

ANNUAL REPORT
TO
Board of Trustees



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THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1933-1934

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 1933-1934, and I welcome the opportunity of laying before you some details as to the general conditions of our College.

Trustees

Since the last meeting of our Board we have lost two of our Trustees,—John Thomas Lupton of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and George E. King of Atlanta. Memorial sketches will be presented at our meeting today, but I wish to record briefly the connection of each of these members with Agnes Scott College.

Mr. Lupton was elected to membership on our Board of Trustees in the spring of 1914, and he served for somewhat more than nineteen years, being one of our oldest members in point of service. You may recall that only last May he was re-elected for a term of four years.

He was a very busy man, and so far as I know he never attended a meeting of the Board, and yet he was a very valuable Trustee. He had a remarkable gift for reading and interpreting reports, and he was most faithful in keeping up with what we were doing. He was always ready to confer with the officers of the College, and he had as full understanding of the work and problems of the Institution as many of our members who are regular attendants on our meetings.

Mr. Lupton was a generous supporter of Agnes Scott. He was either the first or among the first to subscribe in every campaign. He supplied the money for the purchase and remodeling of the residence on Candler Street that is known as "Lupton Cottage." In the last campaign he gave a single check for \$50,000, the largest one the College has ever received from an individual.

He will be sorely missed, both for his sympathetic counsel and for his sharing with the College the blessings which he had received.

The connection of Mr. George E. King with Agnes Scott dates back to his early business days when his efficiency

and courtesy enabled him to supply to the Institute (as it then was) many of its equipment needs. He was a merchant with whom people enjoyed doing business. His next relationship to Agnes Scott was as a patron of the College, sending to it as students several daughters and at least one granddaughter.

He was elected a Trustee on April 4, 1919, and he had almost completed fifteen years of service at the time of his death. On account of his health, he was not able to attend all of the meetings of the Board, but he was interested in keeping up with the development of the College and always welcomed its officers and advised wisely as to many matters. He was never too busy for an interview about Agnes Scott.

Mr. King was also a generous contributor to the College in proportion to his means, and he never failed to participate when we were making any appeal for funds.

Mr. King's membership on the Board was worth a great deal wherever he was known simply because of the implicit trust the people had in him personally, the general attitude being "whatever George E. King is connected with must be all right." In his death the College has sustained a great loss.

The terms of the following members expire with this meeting: Dr. J. Sprole Lyons, Mrs. C. E. Harman, Dr. R. O. Flinn, Mr. J. J. Scott, Mr. W. A. Bellingrath, Dr. E. D. Brownlee, Mr. J. Bulow Campbell, and Miss Llewellyn Wilburn. They have all served faithfully and effectively and hold the love and esteem of all connected with the College.

We would like for the Trustees to participate in the active affairs of the Institution just as fully as you are willing to do. We try to make service on our Board as slightly burdensome as possible, and so we usually have only one meeting per year. The committee work falls more heavily on some members than on others, and yet we reduce to a minimum these duties. The Board and the committees in times past have followed well defined policies, and the officers have simply been trying to carry these out. If we are erring in making Trustee duties light, please do not hesitate to let us have your views.

Occasionally some member of the Board intimates that he or she may not be needed because not rendering active service for the Institution. This is far from true. We have a smoothly running organization because our major officers are so capable and experienced. Miss Nannette

Hopkins, the Dean, Mr. S. G. Stukes, the Registrar, Mr. R. B. Cunningham, the Business Manager, Mr. J. C. Tart, the Treasurer, have all been with the College for more than twenty years, and their superiors are not to be found in the South, at least. However, in the life of every college crises arise from time to time, and it is extremely necessary that Trustees who are experienced in the life of the institution and who know its purposes and ideals be prepared to judge as to its best interests in the light of their own knowledge.

Faculty

Ever since the time of Mark Hopkins, it has been constantly recognized that a faculty is an important item in college efficiency, but the trend of recent times is to give even more emphasis than heretofore to this factor. For example, the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has had 18 standards for testing the worth of an institution, including entrance units, size of endowment, strength of the library, degrees of faculty, salaries of employees, etc. It is now experimenting on whether a college may not adequately be measured by the performance of its teachers as shown in the result of the written work of a semester plus an inspection of the faculty work by a strong committee of visitors. This new program tests the students, of course, but as the selection and retaining of students rest ultimately with the faculty, the latter must bear any stigma or credit that the work of the students may indicate.

The Agnes Scott College faculty makes a strong showing by whatever test the measurements are applied. The President of the College is Chairman of the Committee in the Southern Association that is doing the experimenting above mentioned, and is able to judge of the relative effectiveness of our work in comparison with others. He is glad to realize that our faculty ranks high among the 130 colleges and universities that make up the membership of the Southern Association, and that the quality of our academic work does not suffer by comparison with that of any section of the country so far as it has been tested.

Our faculty and officers have had to bear the brunt of the depression so far as Agnes Scott is concerned. Salaries make up the larger part of our budget so that any reduction in expense is obliged to touch our salary scale severely. The increase in scholarship aid given for the last two years has, in the last analysis, been given by our staff. The en-

dowment income used to help students would have been available for the payment of salaries if a cut had not been made, and yet neither officers nor teachers have complained about this, showing a fine spirit of cooperation.

We have made very few changes in our staff during the last session. Miss Annie May Christie is still on leave at the University of Chicago, studying for her doctorate in English; and Miss Ruth J. Pirkle continues to study at Cornell University for the Ph.D. degree in Biology. Miss Edna Ruth Hanley, our Librarian, has been away for the second semester on a grant from the Carnegie Corporation in order to complete her degree of Master of Arts in Library Science.

While no major places on our teaching staff have been filled during the current session, there have been some very helpful additions to our staff of assistants, including the following: Miss Mary Auten, Ph.D., Ohio State University, in Biology; Miss Lois Combs, Ph.D., New York University, in Latin and Greek; Miss Ada Page Foot, B.A.L.S., Emory University, and Miss Mildred Hooten, B.A., Agnes Scott, in the Library, and Miss Page Ackerman, B.A., Agnes Scott, in Physical Education.

We have never been able to establish any pension plan or retirement allowance. A number of our staff are getting to the age when we may need to face the problem of need, and, as soon as we have an opportunity, I feel sure that we ought to take some steps in this direction.

Students

The enrollment for the current session has been slightly below normal, and the proportion of day students has been larger than is customary. There is one advantage in having a considerable number of day students. They no longer regard themselves as "red-headed stepchildren" as formerly. They enter into the life of the College, and are filling many of the major positions on the campus. Our 441 students may be classified in various ways, as follows:

Geographical Distribution

Alabama	18	Connecticut	1
Arkansas	5	Florida	11
California	1	Georgia	287
Colorado	1	Illinois	2

Kansas -----	1	Pennsylvania -----	2
Kentucky -----	4	South Carolina -----	36
Louisiana -----	3	Tennessee -----	15
Massachusetts -----	1	Texas -----	1
Maryland -----	1	Virginia -----	8
Michigan -----	1	West Virginia -----	8
Mississippi -----	6	Wisconsin -----	1
Missouri -----	2	Africa -----	1
North Carolina -----	18	China -----	1
New York -----	1	Germany -----	1
Ohio -----	1	Korea -----	1
Oregon -----	1	Total -----	441

Class Enrollment

Senior Class -----	86
Junior Class -----	80
Sophomore Class -----	121
Freshman Class -----	135
1st Year Irregulars -----	4
2nd Year Irregulars -----	3
Unclassified Students -----	5
Special Students -----	7

Residence

Boarders -----	210
Day Students -----	231

Denominational Distribution

Presbyterian -----	177
Methodist -----	111
Baptist -----	78
Episcopal -----	33
Christian -----	5
Congregational -----	2
Jewish -----	13
Associate Reformed Presbyterian -----	3
Catholic -----	5
Greek -----	2
Seventh Day Adventist -----	1
Christian Science -----	5
Lutheran -----	3
Plymouth Brethren -----	1
Non-members -----	2

As indicated in the above classification by religion, we have only two students who are not identified with some denomination. There are only seven on the campus who do not profess church membership. One difficulty we find is that there seems to be so little distinction in life and character between professing Christians and those who have not taken this stand.

The public press has had numerous articles recently which reflected on our students as a group, giving the impression that they have been pressing for the privilege of smoking and that they were contentious about it. There was some discussion in the "Agonistic," our weekly newspaper, but it represented a relatively small group, and we have had no real difficulty with the subject. Our Executive Committee has been very faithful in enforcing our regulations.

Agnes Scott Ideals

When Agnes Scott was founded as Decatur Female Seminary in 1889, it had very definite objectives. These were early set forth in what was known as the Agnes Scott Ideal, as follows:

1. A liberal Curriculum fully abreast of the best institutions of this country.
2. The Bible a text-book.
3. Thoroughly qualified and consecrated teachers.
4. A high standard of scholarship.
5. All the influences of the College conducive to the formation and development of Christian character.
6. The glory of God, the chief end of all.

This brief statement of purpose has been of great help through all the years in letting faculty, students, and patrons understand about the type of college which we intend to be.

The founders of our College were believers in prayer and felt that only by depending on God might they build a truly great college. Not long after the establishment of the school, a prayer covenant was drawn up, and was signed by some of the outstanding people of the South. Most of the original signers have "gone on before," but other individuals have taken their places, and there is still effective the following:

“We, the undersigned, believing the promise of our Lord concerning prayer (Matt. 18:19), and having at heart the largest success of the Agnes Scott Institute in its great work for the glory of God, do hereby enter into covenant with each other to offer daily prayer in our closets for the following specific objects: (1) For each other in our work in and for the Institute. (2) For the Board of Trustees and the Faculty. (3) That God would convert every unconverted pupil before leaving the Institute. (4) That He would baptize the Institution with the Holy Spirit, and make it a great fountain of blessing. (5) That He would give it so much of prosperity and endowment as He sees would be for His own glory. (6) That He would have the Institution constantly in His own Holy care and keeping, that His name may be glorified.”

A small group of those who are now participating in the covenant meet weekly for united prayer. We will be greatly pleased to have any of our Trustees who would like to do so to join very informally in this service for the College.

This is my nineteenth year at Agnes Scott. During that period we have had changing currents in world forces beating on the consciousness of young people. Most of the girls in college now were not born when I came to the College. In many ways, it is a new world. There were few automobiles then, only one telephone on the Agnes Scott campus, no radios,—either here or elsewhere,—and the changes are too innumerable to mention. Is it possible to keep up our standards of forty-five years ago? Many of our friends are asking whether it is not wiser to yield to the times and to follow the multitude.

We do not believe that we ought to give up any really worth-while standard. The general quality of our students has improved. They come with better preparation in academic work. We are giving them vastly better training than a few years ago. It takes more sacrifice on the part of parents to send them. We feel that it is more important than ever to stand for the highest and best things, and that behavior be not simply a matter of keeping rules. We are earnestly trying to follow a program of life rather than a system of laws.

As you know, we have four very simple objectives, namely: (1) The first is very high **intellectual** attainment. As shown by tests, comparative scores, debating results, and

other criteria, we have made much progress in this direction, and we are headed toward further achievements. (2) The second emphasis is **simple religious faith**. We are seeking an attitude that is not childish, but child-like. The intellectual attitude does not oppose our religious impulses; but it tends to absorb our energies, and it takes careful thought as to our campus life to keep this purpose from being overshadowed. (3) The third objective of the College is **physical well being**. I feel strongly the importance of this, and one of the first acts of my presidency was to urge the erection of our present gymnasium. We are anxious that neither intellectual nor religious pursuits keep our students from developing healthy, comfortable, and happiness-making bodies. (4) A fourth purpose is the development of **charming personalities**. It is hard to define just what is meant here. It includes attractive appearance, poise, dignity, restraint where proper, frankness, simplicity, avoidance of extremes and of loudness of manner. We are trying to accomplish these results not by rules or legislation, but largely by the natural expression of good taste and of the best breeding.

I would like very much for the Trustees to face squarely the question as to whether we are on the right line of action. We are anxious that our material prosperity and growing academic recognition not harden our hearts. Under our system of administration, all such issues put the responsibility upon the President of the College. I am perfectly willing to accept this responsibility and to stand squarely by my own convictions, but I would like very much for the Trustees to advise frankly in all these matters.

Current Finances

In order to balance our budget, as it is an invariable policy for us to do, we found it necessary to reduce salaries ten percent from what they were for 1932-1933. This makes a total cut of approximately nineteen percent. With rising prices, it makes a severe hardship for some of our faculty, as intimated above. We are now below the recognized standards of what salaries ought to be, and it is most important that we return to normalcy as soon as possible; but even to accomplish this very desirable purpose, we do not feel that we can go into debt.

The report of the Treasurer will deal with finances in general, but I may point out the difficulties with which we have had to deal during the past session. Collections have

been exceedingly difficult, and it is remarkable that Mr. Tart has been able to work out his hundred percent record without requiring any students to withdraw from college.

We have been very much pleased with the showing of our investments so far as their being safe and productive are concerned. The Finance Committee have been in such great doubt as to what investments ought to be made that they have made very few changes indeed. On the initiative of the Treasurer, we have had our holdings checked by several world famous investment houses, but they have rarely made any suggestion at all.

There has been unprecedented need for scholarship and loan aid, and we have been able to meet only a small proportion of the requests which have come to us.

Development Fund

As is well known, the General Education Board of New York helped us in the launching of our \$1,500,000 campaign by offering to give one-third of it. Other Foundations have been quite helpful. We have just received from the Carnegie Corporation a gift of excellent musical equipment valued at \$2,500. Only twenty-one sets were distributed among colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, and we regard ourselves fortunate to be included in the group. We have also received this year the balance of the \$15,000 which the Carnegie Corporation offered recently for additional books for our library. Mention has been made earlier in this report of the gift for the training of our Librarian. In very recent years they assisted us in buying a valuable collection of Art materials, and for two years they contributed toward special study by our Art teacher at Harvard University. The College should, and does, appreciate the consideration of the Corporation. The total gifts from Carnegie sources run beyond \$120,000. Their friendly and cordial interest is also worth a great deal.

The Presser Foundation of Philadelphia is another organization whose interest and support we appreciate. They have promised to give us \$65,000 toward the erection of the Presser Building, particularly for music, on our campus. They are hoping that they can begin payment on this early in the next year.

The expiration date for the securing of cash on our pledges is July 1, 1934. We have yet to collect approximately \$400,000. Of this one-third will be given by the General Edu-

cation Board in proportion as we collect the other two-thirds from other sources. We have about 1800 subscribers with pledges not fully paid, and these amount to approximately \$276,000. We would need to secure out of this amount \$266,000 in order to win in full. Very few people have cancelled their pledges, and nearly all are making sacrificial effort to help as far as possible. We know that it will be absolutely necessary for us to get some new money if we are to meet with full success.

The officers of the General Education Board encourage us to feel that they will allow one year in the extension of time for payment. They are not permitted by their regulations to grant a longer time than this. We will need to work very earnestly during the next twelve months because it will be a calamity if we do not win in full from the Board. We have never failed before to meet all requirements at the appointed time. We are hoping that some of our friends who do not feel able to give outright gifts may help us through our annuity program.

Revision of Development Plans

As we face the possibility of not completing in full the collection of our pledges, we should consider the expenditures that may most profitably be made. We are committed to the erection of a Music Building to be called Presser Hall. As explained above, the Presser Foundation expect to give \$65,000 or approximately half of the cost. We can secure from the General Education Board \$32,500 more, which will leave us to provide \$32,500 for the building, plus the cost of the furniture and equipment.

In this building we had planned an auditorium to seat 1,000 people and a smaller one to accommodate approximately 250. We now have a chapel seating 500 and a gymnasium that can provide room for about 1700.

In planning our development program, we included \$140,000 for a chapel which we proposed to erect in memory of Dr. F. H. Gaines, the beloved first President of the Institution. We requested our alumnae to subscribe the money. They pledged about \$100,000, though almost none of it was designated specifically for the purpose. The alumnae were generous-hearted and pledged in some cases beyond their means. We are further behind in collections on the alumnae pledges than on those of any other group. There seems to be slight chance indeed of realizing enough to erect a chapel from that source as planned.

We had thought of Gaines Chapel as a building in which we would have only devotional services. We have these only three times a week. On the other days, we have a very brief devotional period and student assemblies.

If Gaines Chapel were erected as a separate building, and if we should maintain our thought of holding in it only strictly devotional meetings, it would be used for a half hour per day only three days per week. It would seemingly be a very expensive investment even for so fine a purpose.

It has been suggested that it would be more economical and practical to combine our auditorium facilities rather than to have the large number mentioned above for so small a student body. The suggestion is that the auditorium in Presser Hall be designated as the Gaines Chapel. It is our understanding that this would be acceptable to the Presser Foundation. We would need to make very few changes in the plans which have been drawn for that building. We have found that Emory University has used with great success such a combination building. They draw a very heavy curtain across the stage and create successfully the appearance of a church when the building is used for religious purposes. When it is to be used for plays, concerts, or other purposes the curtain is drawn back and a regular auditorium is available.

Such a combination would be economical not only in building costs, but in making it unnecessary to buy more than one new organ and more than one set of expensive seating apparatus. Also students would not need to become accustomed to going to two different buildings,—one for worship and one for general assembly.

As approved by the Board some years ago, we plan to use the present chapel in Rebekah Scott Hall for a second dining room to replace the one in White House, so as to provide only a single kitchen and to bring the students into closer contact with one another.

These various changes would still leave us well provided with assembly rooms and would enable us to save perhaps \$125,000 in expenditures.

While we need very much a new library building and a new dormitory, as originally planned for our development program, we may find it wise to postpone the erection of these until a later time and to use most of the other funds which we may collect for endowment purposes. The smaller rate of interest and the increasing need for scholarship in-

come have proved that we should certainly have a larger endowment than we had previously estimated.

We believe that all of the changes above suggested will meet with the general approval of our friends, both north and south, who are cooperating in this enterprise.

Buildings and Grounds

During the past summer we decided that it would be in the interest of economy to paint most of our campus property, and we did arrange to paint 35 of our 40 buildings. It has made the campus very much more attractive, and it will doubtless save us money on upkeep and repairs.

Since the last meeting of our Board, we have been able to buy the Lawshe property on Candler Street, adjoining the Sturges Cottage. It consists of a lot approximately 60 by 200 feet, and a large two-apartment house. It gives us a very much better entrance at the rear of the campus in addition to other advantages which the purchase provides. By arranging to pay for the house on an annuity basis, it was not necessary to make any cash expenditure.

This purchase leaves us two houses on Candler Street and one on McDonough which we need to secure eventually to round out our real estate holdings. There is no hurry for us to acquire these additional houses.

Great Educational Center

Last year we called attention to the general plan of closer cooperation for educational forces of the Atlanta area with a view to much greater development. The appropriation of \$5,000 by the local Beck Foundation for a study of the situation has enabled us to pursue the investigation of the possibilities.

In January of this year a remarkable group of educators spent three days in visiting the institutions and in gathering data. The Committee was composed of Dean George A. Works, University of Chicago, General Chairman; President L. D. Coffman, University of Minnesota; Dr. E. E. Day, General Education Board; President Robert M. Hutchins, University of Chicago; President Edwin R. Embree, Rosenwald Fund; Dr. W. F. Ogburn, Chairman of the President's Committee on Social Trends; and Dr. R. M. Lester, of the Carnegie Corporation, though he was unable to be present at the meeting.

Representing the local interests, there were gathered Chancellor Philip Weltner of the University System of Georgia; President S. V. Sanford of the University of Georgia at Athens; President H. W. Cox, Emory University; President M. L. Brittain, Georgia School of Technology; and J. R. McCain, of Agnes Scott.

The Committee was much impressed with the possibilities of development. They thought there ought to be located here an excellent graduate school, a school for training social workers, much greater development in the fine arts, and a general stimulation of undergraduate study. There seems to be a reasonable expectation of support from the large Foundations. There are difficulties, but we hope that these can be worked out. In this whole matter, the attitude of Agnes Scott has been unselfish, our principal aim being to provide for the community, for Georgia, and for the South excellent facilities for study.

Appropriate recommendations for dealing with the various matters listed in this report will be prepared by the various committees and submitted for this meeting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. R. McCain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J. R. McCain,
President.