

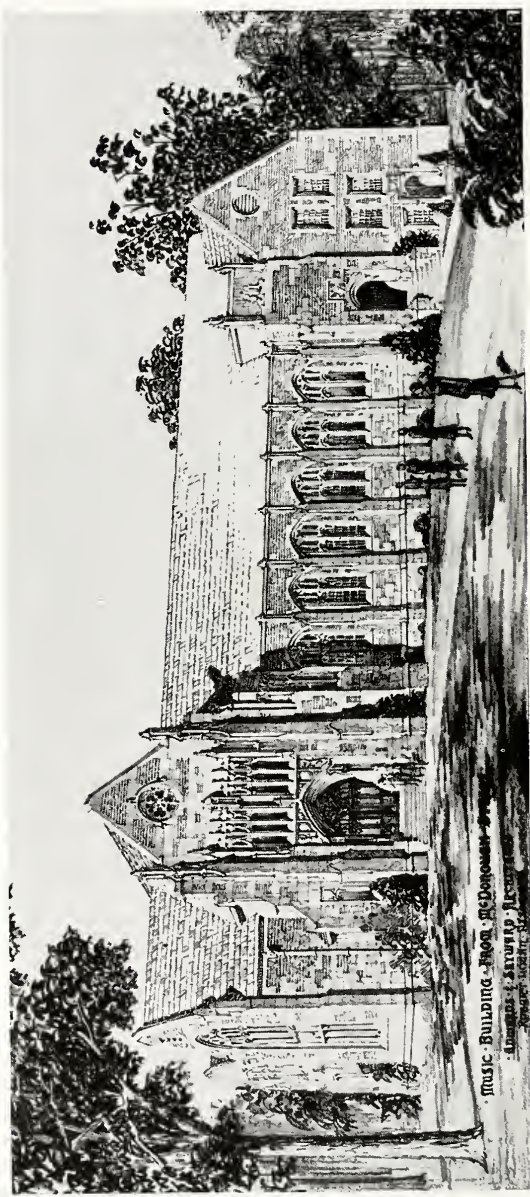
# Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia

The President's Annual Report  
to the  
Board of Trustees



May 31, 1940



PRESSER HALL

*This building is now in process of erection and ought to be ready for occupancy by the opening of college in September, 1940.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

May 31, 1940.

The Board of Trustees,  
Agnes Scott College.

I have the privilege of presenting herewith my Annual Report as President of the College. It is the seventeenth such report that I have presented. You will remember that we are closing our fifty-first year. I trust that you will feel that we are making a good start on our second half-century.

### The Campaign

As the Trustees are aware, our chief efforts this year have been concentrated on a vigorous effort to raise money. We have thought of this effort as the culmination of our first years of growth, or as the celebration of our beginning a second half-century, or as an evidence of the reality of the University Center idea. It is proper that all of these implications may be included.

From a human standpoint, it would not have been possible for us to inaugurate this campaign without the generous and stimulating offer from the General Education Board. Agnes Scott owes a great debt of gratitude to this Board. Mr. S. M. Inman first told the story of Agnes Scott College to the General Education Board officials in 1908. It was largely due to his enthusiasm and to his personal prestige that a beginning of interest was established here, and the offer which we now have from the Board is the seventh which they have made to Agnes Scott. I do not know of any other institution in the United States which has had so many grants and such continuing interest.

We have recently had visits from Mr. John D. Rockefeller III, Dr. W. W. Stewart, Dr. A. R. Mann, Dr. Jackson Davis, and Dr. Stacy May, all of whom are connected with the General Education Board and with the Rockefeller Foundation. We certainly hope to justify their confidence and their expectations.

Another factor which is always most important in the conduct of any campaign is the history of the institution itself and the influence of the leaders whom we have had in other days. We have had so many splendid people connected with Agnes Scott through the years, and their service has been based on such high ideals, that we find the

public to be responsive to such connections and to be interested in perpetuating the standards which have been established.

As you are aware, Agnes Scott College and Emory University have been making a united appeal for \$5,000,000 in order to qualify the institutions for \$2,500,000 from the General Education Board. Under our general agreement, Emory would receive 80% of undesignated gifts and Agnes Scott, 20%. It would seem to be a rather one-sided division of money, but the ratio was proposed by Agnes Scott itself because of the expensive graduate and professional work which Emory has been undertaking to do. As a matter of fact, every contributor had the right to designate the institution which would receive his money or the proportion of it which any institution might have.

So many of the large gifts that have been made to the enterprise were from donors primarily interested in medicine and who specified all of their work for hospitalization or for medical education that, as a matter of fact, Agnes Scott has not received its proportionate part of the sums which have been subscribed. We have received more than the 20% from the average donor of relatively small means; but the larger contributors, with rare exception, have not given us a share. As a matter of fact, to date we have received in subscriptions only about \$600,000, and we still need to obtain \$400,000 more in order to carry out our part of the proposed program and to feel that we have had a 100% campaign. We hope to push very energetically among individuals the results so as ultimately to obtain from our friends the \$1,000,000 which we set out to secure.

During the last six months, our efforts have been concentrated very largely on the Atlanta area objective, which was set for \$1,300,000. We have had a remarkably successful campaign in this part of the project. On May 15 we were able to report a total subscription of \$1,322,000. Some of the larger gifts were for hospitalization, and I believe the General Education Board will not likely count them. Also included in this total were some funds specifically designated for Hopkins Hall and also other funds designated for the Emory alumni enterprise. There will still need to be some money raised in Atlanta for the whole sum of \$1,300,000 to be realized; but it was a very fine and stimulating effort, and it created a great deal of enthusiasm.

Mr. George Winship, Chairman of our Board of Trustees,

and Mrs. S. M. Inman, our Vice-Chairman, have been active leaders in the Atlanta area and have rendered splendid service. A great many of our other friends have been enlisted. There were a total number of approximately 1,000 people who participated in the general effort, and the money raised was the largest sum ever subscribed for any purpose in Atlanta.

The American City Bureau of Chicago was the expert agency which advised in the general direction of the campaign; and Mr. Walter S. Edmund, the director in charge, has won the esteem and confidence of all our friends, as have also his associates in the work.

Perhaps the most interesting part of our whole campaign effort has been the work among our alumnae. As you are aware, the Alumnae Association asked for the privilege of subscribing the money for the erection of Hopkins Hall, the fine new dormitory which we hope to have in the near future. It will be named for Miss Nannette Hopkins, the beloved Dean for nearly fifty years. Mrs. Sam Inman Cooper (Augusta Skeen, class of 1917) has been the efficient director of the alumnae campaign and has done a remarkable piece of work. Associated with her have been Miss Llewellyn Wilburn of our Physical Education department, Miss Blanche Miller of our Biology department, and a large group of other workers, both among the alumnae at a distance and among those here in Atlanta. An Executive Committee has been set up of which Mrs. Murdock Equen (Anne Hart, class of 1921) has been Chairman. Associated with her on this committee have been Mrs. John J. Eagan, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. S. M. Inman, Mrs. D. B. Donaldson, Mrs. J. F. Durrett, Mrs. Clark Howell, Sr., and Mrs. Sam Inman Cooper. While the alumnae campaign has been somewhat slow in getting under way, it is now in active operation, and we are very hopeful that a full \$100,000 may be secured.

You will recall the general objectives for which our campaign is being waged, and these will be more fully discussed in a later section of this report dealing with buildings and grounds.

We appreciate very much the aid which our Trustees have given in the carrying on of the campaign to date, and we bespeak your interest and assistance in finding friends to help us in the completion of the total objectives.

## University Center Progress

While the immediate emphasis of the University Center idea has been on raising money, it is by no means the principal result of our cooperation to date. The whole idea has made a great deal of progress during the last twelve months. We are encouraged to feel that, if no money whatever were involved in the enterprise, we would still find it highly profitable for the six institutions to be associated.

The Advisory Faculty Council has been making a thorough study of all the departments of the six institutions involved and has made numerous suggestions as to how effective cooperation may be secured. We find that suspicions and jealousies which might be expected have not developed, and mutual understanding and respect have been greatly promoted. Professor Philip Davidson, of our History department, has been serving as Secretary of the Advisory Council, and much of the progress which has been attained has been due to his fine understanding and leadership.

The union catalogue, which will embrace perhaps twenty-two libraries in the Atlanta-Athens-Griffin areas, is already being compiled under the direction of Miss Laura Colvin, of our own library staff, as all the institutions agreed that she would probably be the best person to coordinate the work on this project. She has been loaned for two years for the purpose.

During the next session, we are hoping to carry out a great deal of cooperative activity among the various institutions, particularly Agnes Scott, Emory, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Tech in the field of music. Full details in regard to this will be available somewhat later.

In the realm of student activities, a great deal of progress has also been made in the University Center program. Emory students and Agnes Scott girls have cooperated in Glee Club work, in dramatic performances, in publications, and in numerous other ways.

## Semi-Centennial

About four years ago the Board of Trustees appointed a committee for the making of arrangements to celebrate our Semi-Centennial. Dean S. G. Stukes has been the able Chairman of this Committee, and he and his associates have done a very successful piece of work. Full details in regard to this will be made available at the meeting of the Board;

but I wish to pay tribute here to the variety of activities which were directed by this Committee and the fine relationships which were worked out between the College and the community.

Among the various emphases which were employed may be mentioned the Alumnae Week-End activities for 1939-1940, the Founder's Day programs for the two years, the very successful Home-Coming program for the alumnae a year ago, the splendid Lecture Association series which was offered free to the public this year, the unique May Day celebration of the current session, and the financial campaign which has previously been mentioned.

### Trustees

The Board of Trustees has been greatly strengthened during this year by the addition of several members who have already shown their interest and cooperation. The new members are Mr. George W. Woodruff, Daytona Beach, Florida; Mr. C. F. Stone, Atlanta; Mr. G. L. Westcott, Dalton, Georgia; Dr. William M. Elliott, Jr., Atlanta.

The time is drawing near when the charter of Agnes Scott College will expire, and an application should be made for a renewal of it. It is customary for such educational charters to be granted in Georgia for a term of twenty years.

One section in the present charter reads as follows: "The Board of Trustees shall consist of not exceeding twenty-seven members, who shall be members of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, except the two Trustees hereinafter designated as Alumnae Trustees may be members of any evangelical church. The President of the College shall be ex-officio a member of the Board and counted as a Corporate Trustee."

So far as I am aware, Agnes Scott is one of the very few institutions in the United States which requires all of the men on its Board of Trustees to be members of a single denomination. I think the Board may well consider whether it may not be sufficiently protective for us to designate that two-thirds or three-fourths of the members be Southern Presbyterians. Action on such a question could not be taken without a year for consideration, but I am mentioning it now so that the matter may be given some study.

It has been suggested that a memorial fund, to be known as the J. K. Orr Foundation, be established in honor of our

late Chairman. The plan has met with much enthusiasm among those who have discussed it, and we believe it will be a very appropriate way in which to perpetuate his memory. Such endowed funds are already established in honor of Colonel George W. Scott and Mr. S. M. Inman, and you will recall that a memorial chapel in the Presser Hall is to be dedicated soon to the memory of Dr. F. H. Gaines.

The terms of the following Trustees expire at this meeting of the Board: Mr. Henry T. McIntosh, Captain Scott Candler, Dr. Warner DuBose, Mr. Francis M. Holt, Mr. John A. Sibley, Miss Daisy Frances Smith. All of these members have been cooperative and helpful in the work of the College.

### **Faculty**

For some years the Board of Trustees has been concerned that we have no retirement plan for faculty and officers. This has been under discussion at frequent meetings, both of our Faculty Committee and of our whole Board.

For several years Congress has been seriously considering the requirement that private and denominational colleges come under the operation of the Social Security Law. We have resisted such a requirement because we believe it would lead to taxation and eventually to control by the Federal Government, but we must acknowledge that there is merit in the proposed suggestion of Congress unless the institutions themselves will voluntarily set up retirement plans. Even though it is difficult for us to make such arrangements and though it may prove to be a heavy burden financially, I think we must certainly undertake such a responsibility.

All of the current session we have had a faculty committee working on a possible retirement plan, and the following suggestions have been tentatively made by this Committee. I am submitting them in turn to the Trustees so that you may think of them and be ready to make criticisms or suggestions.

### **Resolution Relative to a Retirement Plan For Agnes Scott College Employees**

1. PARTICIPATION. A retirement plan is hereby established which shall apply to those eligible employees who have completed two years of service on the effective date of inauguration of this plan. Eligible persons include all members of the teaching staff of rank of



instructor or assistant librarian, or higher, and administrative or service employees on a permanent salary basis.

Participation shall be required of eligible persons employed after the effective date of this plan upon the completion of two years of service. Participation is optional for those in service at the inauguration of this plan.

2. **RETIREMENT.** Except as provided in Section 3, all staff members who are participants in this retirement plan shall retire at the end of the academic year in which they attain normal retirement age as herein defined:

Retirement age related to age when plan is inaugurated (Age last birthday on July 1, 1941):

	Normal Retirement Age
67-70 (Inclusive)-----	70
64-66 -----	69
61-63 -----	68
58-60 -----	67
55-57 -----	66
54 or less-----	65

3. **EXTENSION OF SERVICE.** By special vote of the Board of Trustees extensions of service beyond normal retirement age may be made for definite periods, but no such extension shall postpone retirement beyond the end of the academic year in which age 72 is attained.
4. **CONTRIBUTIONS.** Each participant in the plan shall contribute to the nearest dollar 5% of his salary as premium for a retirement annuity contract issued by the ----- on his life; Agnes Scott College shall deduct monthly such contributions from salary payments, add equal amounts as its contribution and forward these combined sums to the ----- as premiums on the above mentioned retirement annuity contract.
5. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE.** During leave of absence on part pay Agnes Scott College will continue contributions on the basis of full salary providing the participant does likewise.
6. **CONTRACTS.** Each retirement annuity contract written in accordance with this plan will be the property of the individual participant; the contract is between the participant and the insurance company.
7. **SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS.** Upon, or before, re-

tirement at normal retirement age of a participant who had passed age thirty-five on the effective date of this plan, Agnes Scott College shall supplement the annuity by 1% of all salaries received prior to the effective date of this plan, plus an additional 1% for salaries received after age fifty.

8. AMENDMENT. Except as may be otherwise provided in its contracts with individuals, Agnes Scott College reserves the right to discontinue this retirement plan at any time.
9. Effective date of plan is September 15, 1940.

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There have been relatively few changes in our staff for the current session. Professor S. M. Christian of the department of Physics and Astronomy received a grant from the General Education Board to enable him to do some research work and is absent during the spring quarter. Miss Loetta Willis is assisting him for this year and is carrying the work this quarter during his absence. She has her B.A. from the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina and her M.A. from the University of North Carolina.

On account of the strenuous activities which Professor Philip Davidson has had in connection with the Advisory Faculty Council of the University Center, Mrs. Catherine Strateman Sims, B.A., Barnard College, Ph.D., Columbia University, has been employed as a part-time lecturer in History.

Miss Roberta Winter, B.A., Agnes Scott College, M.A., New York University, has been made Instructor in Speech and has been very active in dramatic work and in the supervision of the Agnes Scott radio broadcasts.

On account of the absence of Miss Virginia Prettyman, who is studying for her doctorate, Miss Thelma Albright, B.A., Greensboro College, M.A., Duke University, has been serving as Instructor in English.

On account of the resignation of Mrs. Sarah Rodes Graham in the library, Miss Agnes Lytton Reagan, B.A., University of Arkansas, M.A., B.A.L.S., Emory University, has been employed as an assistant; and Miss Mary Pennel Simonton, B.A., Agnes Scott College, has also been employed for specialized work in the library.

Miss Mary Ellen Whetsell, B.A., Agnes Scott College, has been serving as Fellow in Biology instead of Miss Jeanne Matthews, who resigned.

In the administrative work, the following additions to the staff have been made: Miss Lou Pate, secretary to Dean Stukes; Miss Isabella Wilson, secretary to Dean Scandrett; Miss Amelia Nickels, a secretary in the campaign office; Miss Mildred Hagy, resident nurse; Miss Ruth Bastin, assistant nurse; Mrs. Lillie F. Appling, housekeeper. While the Alumnae Association is not directly connected with the College in the operation of its affairs, we always are interested in the personnel of its staff; and Mrs. Nelle Chamlee Howard and Miss Mamie Lee Ratliff are now in charge of the alumnae office.

Our faculty and officers show remarkable enthusiasm for the College and cooperation in all of its affairs. During the past ten years, I have had an opportunity to know rather well the 135 universities and colleges that compose the Southern Association and I have also had occasion to know institutions in other parts of the country. I believe that our faculty rank well with those of most other institutions in scholarship and in ability, but I am sure that they would lead the list in their loyalty and cooperation for the good of the institution.

The administrative officers, particularly Dean Stukes, Dean Scandrett, Treasurer Tart, and Business Manager Cunningham, carry a very heavy responsibility as the institution develops; and they have had a particularly heavy burden this year since most of my time has been occupied with campaign work. We appreciate very greatly, indeed, their devotion to the College and their leadership in its behalf.

### Students

A great deal of the success of Agnes Scott College depends on the students and the homes which they represent and the ideals which they bring to the College. We are always gratified with the results which they show in academic work, in student affairs, and in leadership outside the campus. They may be classified in various ways as follows:

### Geographical Distribution

Alabama -----	28	Ohio -----	2
Arkansas -----	3	Oklahoma -----	1
California -----	1	Pennsylvania -----	1
Delaware -----	1	South Carolina -----	38
Florida -----	26	Tennessee -----	22
Georgia -----	253	Texas -----	3
Illinois -----	1	Virginia -----	12
Indiana -----	1	West Virginia -----	11
Kentucky -----	10	Wisconsin -----	2
Louisiana -----	6	Brazil -----	3
Maryland -----	1	China -----	3
Massachusetts -----	1	France -----	1
Mississippi -----	8	Korea -----	2
New Jersey -----	2	Philippine Islands -----	1
New York -----	10		
North Carolina -----	26	Total -----	480

### Class Enrollment

Seniors -----	99
Juniors -----	103
Sophomores -----	130
Freshmen -----	137
Irregular -----	1
Unclassified students -----	2
Special students -----	8
Total -----	480

### Residence

Boarders -----	312
Day Students -----	168
Total -----	480

### Denominational Distribution

Presbyterian -----	179	Unitarian -----	3
Methodist -----	96	Church of Christ -----	3
Baptist -----	79	Lutheran -----	2
Episcopalian -----	39	Christian Science -----	1
Catholic -----	15	United Brethren -----	1
Christian -----	14	Non-Members -----	32
Jewish -----	13		
Congregational -----	3	Total -----	480

## Building Plans

We have hoped that our current campaign might provide sufficient funds to erect several needed buildings. It is too early to know what may be possible about the building program, but I am making a few comments.

Presser Hall is making very satisfactory progress since the extreme cold weather which retarded the schedule of work nearly two months. We hope that the structure will be complete by the opening of college. It is going to be a very beautiful and impressive building and will be the second largest on the campus, ranking next to Buttrick Hall in size and in cost. We think the Gaines Memorial Chapel will be a very satisfying feature of Presser Hall and will provide comfortable and attractive quarters for religious exercises, lectures, or other college events.

We have arranged to get a new four-manual Austin organ, which is regarded by experts as a fine instrument, and we are also having completely remodeled and electrified our present Moller organ for the small auditorium in Presser Hall.

The Presser Foundation, which is contributing \$65,000 towards the erection of our new building, has been very prompt and cooperative in providing its share of the money; and we are sure that the Foundation will be very much pleased with the results of its investment.

We are in very great need of the proposed new Dormitory which is to be called Hopkins Hall. The alumnae have not yet subscribed enough money for the erection of it. From other sources, we have enough subscribed to erect the building, but our invariable rule is to start no expenditures until a sufficient sum of money is in hand to complete the enterprise. When Presser Hall is completed and furnished, we will have approximately \$50,000 in cash from campaign sources. It will take at least \$125,000 to build and equip Hopkins Hall. It is possible that some payments may be made on the subscriptions which will enable us to begin work in the late summer or early fall so as to have the building ready for occupancy in September, 1941; but we are not at all sure that this will be the case. It is possible that we may simply have to wait until the further subscriptions of alumnae and payments on pledges can be advanced.

We have been very anxious to erect our Dining Hall and Kitchen unit at the same time that Hopkins Hall may be built. The two units would really make one complete build-

ing, and we feel that nothing we could do would add more to the campus life and to the development of our student body and faculty consciousness than the dining room. So far as we can now see, it must wait for a while; and it looks as if the dormitory should be erected without waiting for the other development. It will certainly be a disappointment if this must be true.

The General Education Board officers have consistently stated that the erection of our proposed Science Hall is the number one need for Agnes Scott. Those of us who have been closely associated with the life of the campus have felt that the living quarters are of prior significance. At the same time, we realize that Agnes Scott can never fulfill its real part in the University Center program unless the Science Hall is erected; and it certainly will not be able to establish the Department of the Home until that is arranged.

While it is a very small matter in comparison with the building items mentioned above, I feel that we should have a new gateway opposite the underpass, in front of Main Building. The iron gates there were in memory of Captain Milton A. Candler. They are badly out of date, and one of the gates is seemingly beyond repair. We are not likely to have money enough in the immediate future to build gateways for our two important drives, but I would like to have the Trustees consider a brick and stone entrance which would continue the memorial feature now carried by our gates.

### **Current Funds**

Our fifty-first session has required careful attention from a financial standpoint. The report of Mr. J. C. Tart, the Treasurer, will accompany this statement which I am sending and will indicate the fact that we will break even on the session, but we will not have much margin. We are not making as extensive replacement in our furnishings as would be desirable, and there are other needed improvements in the general upkeep of our numerous buildings which would be desirable if our funds were plentiful. We are very thankful to be able to operate without any deficit and to carry on the ordinary activities of the College session without serious anxiety, in spite of the fact that it costs approximately \$1500 per day for each twenty-four hours that our College session lasts.

Our various departmental heads and responsible authorities in the making of purchases are very considerate and

clear through our Business Manager all details, so that we may know from month to month exactly how our program of expenses is developing.

### Religious Life

If Agnes Scott College is to have any real excuse for existence, we will probably all agree that it must be based on a sound religious program first of all, and must be supported by high standards of performance in academic work and in character development. The faculty, officers, and student leaders try to keep in mind this main objective of the institution. The prayer life on the campus is a distinguishing feature of much of the organized work, and the faculty and student leaders spend many hours every week in planning for the worship programs and for religious study groups.

This year Dr. R. C. Long, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, South Carolina, conducted a week of religious services and was very helpful in leading discussion groups in vital themes.

We have had an unusual opportunity in the presence on our campus of distinguished religious leaders from various parts of the world, and we have devoted many chapel periods to talks on spiritual themes.

We are looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the new Gaines Memorial Chapel, which we hope will make more worshipful the programs which are rendered.

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It was twenty-five years ago that I came to Agnes Scott as Registrar and as Professor of Bible, and it has been a great privilege to be associated with the institution during this quarter of a century. I am very grateful for the splendid cooperation which has been given by the Board of Trustees.

Respectfully,

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

President.