

# Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia

The President's Annual Report

to the

Board of Trustees



May 30, 1941



PRESSER HALL

*This building, costing about \$275,000 is the second largest on the campus. Its dimensions were enlarged after the drawing by the architect as shown in the Annual Report of 1940.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

May 30, 1941.

Board of Trustees,

Agnes Scott College.

I have the privilege of presenting herewith my eighteenth Annual Report as President of the College. We are closing our fifty-second year as an institution.

### The Campaign

Our efforts to complete the \$7,500,000 fund with which to inaugurate in a formal way the University Center plan have been exerted during this year in a quiet way. A little more than a year ago, we completed successfully the Atlanta phase of the campaign. At that time, we were approximately \$1,000,000 short of the final objective. During the past twelve months we have been able to raise approximately \$450,000 for Emory and/or Agnes Scott, so that now we lack about \$550,000 of being able to meet the conditions of the General Education Board.

The gifts to Emory University, particularly for medicine, have exceeded in proportion, as well as in total amount, the funds subscribed to Agnes Scott. Of the \$550,000 yet to be raised, the Agnes Scott part should be at least \$250,000. We do not know just how or where this money can be raised, but we believe that it will be secured during the next twelve months.

The alumnae campaign for the erection of Hopkins Hall as a memorial to our late Dean Hopkins has been going forward steadily under the efficient leadership of Mrs. Samuel Inman Cooper (Augusta Skeen), and we hope that it may be successful in securing the \$100,000 which was set as an objective from this group.

In some of our former campaign efforts it has been necessary to press vigorously our cause among trustees, alumnae, and other groups; but we have felt that, under present conditions, any high pressure methods should be strictly avoided. I feel sure that the money which has been subscribed comes as nearly on a voluntary basis as could be well arranged.

### Presser Hall

On account of the disturbed business conditions in this country, it was not possible for us to finish our new music building

in time for the opening of college. We were able to occupy it on November 1 and have enjoyed very much the excellent facilities which it affords. The dedication exercises for the new building were held on November 30, and we had as speakers for the occasion President James Francis Cooke of the Presser Foundation and Dr. John L. Haney, president of Central High School, Philadelphia, who is secretary of the Presser Foundation.

Gaines Chapel, which is a memorial of former President F. H. Gaines, has proved to be a very useful and attractive feature of the building. It is attractively furnished; and, for the first time in our history, we have comfortable seats. It is possible to arrange for perhaps 1100 people, but there are only 900 permanently installed chairs. The acoustics are remarkably good. We have had some difficulty with the air conditioning, but adjustments have been made, so that we think all noises have been eliminated.

Gaines Chapel was dedicated on January 12, at which time Dr. Henry H. Sweets, of Louisville, Kentucky, spoke on the place of the Christian college in the modern educational program; and Dr. Walter L. Lingle, president of Davidson College, spoke specifically on the part which Dr. Gaines played in Christian education.

One of the very attractive features of Presser Hall is the small auditorium which seats 300 people. It is fully equipped with an organ, grand piano, and other equipment. It is used for Sunday vesper services and for numerous group gatherings, including informal recitals and plays. This auditorium has been named for Professor Joseph Maclean, who for twenty-five years was head of the music department at Agnes Scott and who rendered notable service. An informal dedication of this auditorium will be a part of the commencement program this year, having been arranged for Saturday evening, May 31.

Presser Hall is next to the largest building on the campus; and its expensive heating, lighting, and janitor service have added approximately \$2500 a year to the cost of operating our plant. We hope that the members of the Board of Trustees may have an opportunity of inspecting this building.

### Music

The erection of a new music building has created a great deal of interest in music study and music appreciation, not only on our own campus, but throughout the Atlanta area. The University of Georgia at Athens and Agnes Scott College have united in furnishing on our campus each Friday evening a con-

cert of a high order which has been entirely free to the public. Professor Hugh Hodgson, of the University, and Professor C. W. Dieckmann, of Agnes Scott, have arranged the programs, and they have proved to be exceedingly popular. It was necessary to turn away people from some of the Friday evening concerts, but during the spring the attendance has been somewhat smaller because of the multitude of other things which come in the campus and community life. We regard the experiment as distinctly valuable and worth while.

We have wished to make our music facilities available for the entire community as far as time will permit, and we have arranged concerts for a number of organizations not immediately connected with the College. The Atlanta Philharmonic Society has used Presser Hall three times; the Atlanta Guild of Organists, the Atlanta Music Club, the Georgia Conservatory of Music, and other similar groups have used our auditoriums and equipment with excellent effects.

It may be remembered that Agnes Scott undertook in the University Center program to emphasize music. There is still much to be accomplished, but we believe that this year has made an excellent start.

#### Music Events, 1940-1941

- November 30—The Atlanta Philharmonic Society
- December 10—Organ recital by Virgil Fox
- December 15—Annual Christmas carol service, with college choir
- February 1—Chamber music program (Roth String Quartet)
- February 17—The Atlanta Philharmonic Society
- April 1—St. Paul Oratorio, sponsored by Atlanta Music Club
- April 7—Gounod's "Redemption," by Atlanta Opera-Oratorio Society and Agnes Scott Choir
- April 18, 19—Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pinafore," given by glee clubs of Agnes Scott and Georgia Tech
- April 29—Georgia Conservatory and Music Center presented Dr. Samuel Gardner of the Juilliard School of Music
- May 20—Atlanta Philharmonic Society

In addition, there have been numerous student recitals and the Friday evening music appreciation hours.

## Building Program

The erection of Presser Hall proved to be a more expensive undertaking than had been originally estimated. In 1938, plans were drawn according to the picture which was printed in the Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for 1940. After the University Center development had been planned and it was determined that Agnes Scott would play a much more important role in music, practically every dimension in the original planning was doubled, and the completed building is much more impressive than was originally planned. The cost was practically doubled, also. It was thought that we might secure it for \$130,000; but the building as erected and equipped represents an investment of nearly \$276,000.

It was hoped that we might begin Hopkins Hall, the new dormitory which is so much needed, during the next summer. Plans and specifications have been worked out and estimates on the building have been secured. Tentative figures a year ago indicated that probably the dormitory might be erected for \$125,000. When the detailed specifications were ready and more complete and final estimates were made, it was indicated that now it would probably cost \$226,000 to erect the building. We feel that conditions are not satisfactory for building and we do not have as much as \$226,000 available. Also, the alumnae, who are planning to put \$100,000 into the building, have not yet finished their subscriptions and of course have not made their payments.

Under the circumstances, it seems best for us to turn next to the improving of our present dormitories, which are far from satisfactory. We have had tentative improvement plans drawn for Main Building, Inman Hall, and Rebekah Scott Hall. It seems unlikely that we would be able to get material and labor to complete the improvements needed in one summer for all these buildings, and we would be afraid to get them torn up for repairs lest it be difficult for us to open in September.

As Main Building seems to be in most need of renovation, we are recommending that extensive changes be made, and details for this will doubtless be furnished by the Committee on Buildings and Grounds.

Our older dormitories will need a great deal of work, whether or not we can secure soon a new dormitory, and hence time will not be lost or money poorly invested, we think, in following this plan.

While the new dormitory is the most needed of all our improvements, there are two others which we are most anxious to secure as soon as possible. One of these is a central dining



hall which will be attached to Hopkins Hall and will really make a complete unit for living and dining quarters. The other greatly needed building is a science hall. By such authorities as the General Education Board, it is listed as a No. 1 need.

We have had plans drawn for entrance gates, as proposed in the Annual Report of last year, but the funds have not yet become available. We feel that the campus will be much improved when we can erect them.

### Permanent Funds

Since our last annual meeting, five permanent trust funds have been set up, and all of these will prove to be most helpful to the College.

**Joseph Kyle Orr Foundation.** This was previously approved by our Board of Trustees and at present amounts to \$7500, though other funds are being added from time to time. The income will be used to strengthen the administrative work of the College.

**John Bulow Campbell Fund.** The first subscription made to the Semi-Centennial Fund of the College was \$100,000 given anonymously by Mr. John Bulow Campbell, who was then chairman of our Finance Committee. It has been paid since his death by the Foundation which he established, and the fund has been set up as a memorial for Mr. Campbell. While the fund, both principal and interest, may be used in any way which the trustees may prefer, the income for the present is used to assist worthy young women who could not otherwise come to Agnes Scott.

**Asa G. Candler Library Fund.** This endowment fund has been named by the trustees in honor of Mr. Asa G. Candler of Atlanta, who was a benefactor of the institution during his life time and who was one of the chief promoters of Christian education in the South. The income on the fund is used to purchase additional books for the library. It amounts to slightly more than \$5000 at present, but is to be supplemented later.

**Margaret McKinnon Hawley Scholarship—\$3400.** This was established through a bequest of the late Dr. F. O. Hawley, Charlotte, North Carolina, in memory of his wife, a former student of Agnes Scott Institute.

**Hugh L. and Jessie Moore McKee Fund—\$3000,** established by Mrs. Jessie Moore McKee of Atlanta. The income is loaned to worthy young women, bearing no interest while they are at Agnes Scott and none on any part of the loan that is repaid within one year after leaving college. Preference in loans is

given to girls from DeKalb and Fulton Counties. Mrs. McKee, the donor, is a daughter of Mr. William A. Moore, who gave the first scholarship ever established at Agnes Scott.

We have made an arrangement with the Trust Company of Georgia whereby that institution has become the custodian of our bonds. Officers of the Trust Company clip the coupons and remit to Mr. Tart, our Treasurer, the income from month to month. They make suggestions as to changes in investments which ought to be considered, but a decision in regard to all these matters is left in the hands of our own Finance Committee. Because the Trust Company has become the custodian of our principal endowment items, the Finance Committee are not checking our securities for a report to the Board at this time. This is the first annual meeting in more than twenty-five years at which such a report will not be made. The securities will be thoroughly checked by college officers in connection with the annual audit of our business affairs.

### Current Funds

With the rising costs in many fields and with the necessity of making some provision for faculty retirement, the only solution seems to be the increase in charges for living to the extent of \$50.00 for the session. It seems not to be wise to make any increase in day students' fees, as they are relatively higher than those for boarding students. We regret to make any change in prices; but we are lower than most other strong colleges for women, and even the proposed increase will leave us at a lower rate than Randolph-Macon, Sweet Briar, Hollins, Mary Baldwin, and several other southern colleges, and a great deal lower than the outstanding eastern colleges for women.

The increased fees for boarders will not give us any margin for luxuries or even for replacement of furniture and equipment which ought to be handled from year to year.

It is gratifying that Mr. Tart has continued his unbroken record for many years for collecting 100% all of the student charges for this year.

### Trustees

The death of Mr. John Bulow Campbell last summer is a severe loss to Agnes Scott College. A memorial for him was adopted at a called meeting of the Board of Trustees and, as previously noted, a trust fund in his memory was set up. Few of us realized, until after his passing, how much time and thought he gave to the College and how valuable his services have been.



Mr. George W. Woodruff, who has succeeded Mr. Campbell as chairman of the Finance Committee, accepted the responsibility at a particularly busy time; but he has provided enthusiastic and capable leadership, and we believe that some helpful adjustments have been made.

The terms of the following trustees expire at this meeting: Dr. D. P. McGeachy, John McMillan, George Winship, Dr. J. A. McClure, Mrs. George C. Walters, and Dr. William M. Elliott, Jr. All of these have proved to be most cooperative and helpful in the work of the College.

The trustees will remember that there is docketed for consideration at the next meeting the following resolution: "That the charter of the College be amended so as to require that at least three-fourths of the members of the Board be members of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, it being understood that all shall be members of some evangelical church and sympathetic with the fundamental principles of the Christian religion."

### Faculty

The faculty changes for our current session have been relatively few. Professor Henry A. Robinson, of the department of Mathematics, has been called to military service and has been put in charge of the Intake Department at Fort McPherson, where he ranks as captain. While he has been able to give some general advice and assistance in connection with the department, we have brought Mrs. Blanche C. Badger, B.A. Winthrop College, M.A. University of Tennessee, to assist with the work in Mathematics. It is probable that Professor Robinson will be held during the duration of the emergency.

Dr. Florence L. Swanson, who has been college physician and head of the physical education department, resigned to accept a place in New York, and the position has been filled by Dr. Eugenia Cuvillier Jones, B.S., M.A., and M.D. George Washington University, D.Sc. Johns Hopkins University.

Professor Hugh Hodgson of the staff of the University of Georgia has been employed part time as a member of the Agnes Scott music faculty, because he is doing some teaching in addition to arranging for the Friday evening programs.

Miss Martha Crowe, who had been absent for three years on leave from the French department, has returned to her duties.

A special grant from the General Education Board to assist in the cataloguing of our library has enabled us to have an

additional worker for the current session, and we have employed Miss Margaret Kate Weir, B.A. Georgia State Woman's College, B.A.L.S. Emory University.

The following graduates from the class of 1940 have been brought back for various services: Miss Carolyn Forman, as Fellow in Biology; Miss Evelyn Baty, as Fellow in English; Miss Eleanor Hutchens, as secretary to the Registrar and an assistant in Public Relations; Miss Grace Ward, in charge of the bookstore; and Miss Jane Moses, as an assistant secretary for the Dean of Students.

Miss Emilie Thomas, who has been assistant resident nurse and a student in the College at the same time, graduated last June, and her place has been taken for the current session by Miss Ruth Bastin, who is a graduate nurse from Grady Hospital.

We feel that the time has definitely come when Agnes Scott should undertake to plan for some type of retiring allowance, and I hope very much that the Committee on Faculty will present a plan which can be discussed and possibly adopted by the Board of Trustees.

### Students

The enrollment of students for the current session is the third largest in the history of the institution. The increase this year is partly due to the large number who are taking music only. This was true, however, during the other years (1927 and 1928) when our attendance was at the highest peak. During those years, we allowed students to board with neighbors and friends in the college community rather than to live in the dormitories exclusively. We did not find the plan of allowing girls away from Atlanta to live outside the dormitories to be satisfactory, and hence we no longer permit it.

Our 532 students for this year may be classified in various ways as follows:

### Geographical Distribution

Alabama .....	17	Ohio .....	4
Arkansas .....	2	Pennsylvania .....	3
Delaware .....	1	South Carolina .....	43
Florida .....	22	Tennessee .....	15
Georgia .....	309	Texas .....	4
Illinois .....	3	Virginia .....	8
Kentucky .....	8	West Virginia.....	11
Louisiana .....	4	Wisconsin .....	1
Maryland .....	1	Brazil .....	4
Massachusetts .....	1	China .....	6
Mississippi .....	12	Congo Belge .....	2
Missouri .....	1	Cuba .....	2
New Jersey .....	4	France .....	1
New York .....	12		
North Carolina .....	31	Total.....	532

### Class Enrollment

Seniors .....	100
Juniors .....	103
Sophomores .....	113
Freshmen .....	165
Special students .....	20
Students taking opera only .....	31
Total.....	532

### Residence

Boarders .....	321
Day students.....	211
Total.....	532

### Denominational Distribution

Presbyterian .....	193	Congregational .....	3
Methodist .....	103	Lutheran .....	1
Baptist .....	70	Church of Christ .....	1
Episcopal .....	56	Unitarian .....	1
Catholic .....	18	Ethical Culture .....	1
Jewish .....	13	Greek Orthodox .....	1
Christian .....	6	Non-members .....	31
Christian Science .....	3		
		Total.....	501*

\*This total does not include the 31 opera students.

## Religious Life

The addition of Gaines Chapel and Maclean Auditorium and the fine new organ equipment which has been installed have made possible more worshipful religious services than in any previous year. The interest in spiritual things on the campus has been gratifying, and we feel that the religious and moral tone of the students and faculty will compare favorably with any period in the life of the institution, unless during the very earliest days when there were very few faculty members and students. We can hardly make a real comparison with that period.

Dean E. C. Colwell of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago led our devotional services during Religious Emphasis Week and was very helpful to all the college community. He married one of our own Agnes Scott graduates and has an understanding of the religious ideals and purposes for the College.

## Suggestions

We have a college organization that has served together for quite a number of years, and we have some particularly able and loyal members, such as Dean Stukes, Dean Scandrett, Mr. Tart, Mr. Cunningham, and many others, both among the officers and the faculty. At the same time, we feel the need of suggestions about various parts of our material, educational, and spiritual programs. We have plans for getting rather systematic suggestions from faculty, officers, and students, but we would like very much to have frequent suggestions from the trustees. We hope that each member of the Board will feel willing to make suggestions about the institution at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

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