

AN ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

January 1917



Issued by The Alumnæ Association of the
New York Training School for Deaconesses

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NUMBER IV

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SINCE the last issue of the BULLETIN was sent out so much of importance has taken place it was felt that in spite of busy days a special effort must be made to gather this news in our Alumnæ paper so that all our graduates far and near might be informed.

Among the other important news the resignation of Deaconess Knapp as Dean of our school is perhaps the most far-reaching. We graduates must feel that with the withdrawal of her leadership a close bond is being severed and a sense of real loss is felt.

Her high ideals for the school and the Diaconate have helped many a student in her days of training and preparation to develop a deeper consecration for her work in the Church.

On December 9th we were stunned by the sudden death of our Warden, Dr. Grosvenor, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Although he was not as intimately known to the graduates previous to 1914 as his predecessors, his loss is felt to be especially sad at this time, and so let us as members of the Alumnæ of St. Faith's at this critical time rally round our Alma Mater and by our love and loyalty do our part to support her in her hour of need.

To our Dean we extend our gratitude for her many years of devoted service and our earnest prayers and good wishes for her in her new work.

MINUTES OF THE MAY AND SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

THE eighth regular meeting of the Alumnæ Association of the New York Training School for Deaconesses was held at St. Faith's on Thursday, May 4, 1916, at 2 P.M., Deaconess Edith Smith in the Chair.

After the regular report of the Treasurer a report was made about the offering taken on the Commencement Day of 1915, amounting to \$21.93. It was moved and seconded that this sum should be divided equally between the two members of the graduating class who were going to the foreign field, Miss Dorothy Norton to Japan and Miss Olive Tomlins to China, to be used by them in their work. The motion was carried.

The motion which had been made at the January meeting regarding the use of surplus funds was definitely settled as follows: "Moved and

seconded that \$50.00 should be given towards the support of the two students who are to help Bishop Burch during the summer." The motion was carried.

Mrs. Hand brought word from the meeting of the Board of Trustees that the offering of the Commencement Day service for 1916 should be given to the Benefit Fund.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the "object" of the Alumnae Association was called for and given by the Chairman, Deaconess Woodward. She offered the following suggestion as the result of her conference with several graduates: "The Threefold Aim: To further (1) by concerted prayer, (2) by a systematic publicity campaign, (3) by financial methods, the object for which the school was founded; the specific means to be employed to vary according to the specific needs, and that the Constitution be so amended as to include said recommendation." The three points of the "Aim" were taken up in turn and exhaustively discussed with the result that the first recommendation only, regarding prayer, was accepted and ordered.

It was moved and seconded that St. Faith's Day, October 6th, or the Sunday nearest it, and the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th, be set apart as days of special intercession for the Alumnae Association.

It was also moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to formulate the special intercessions and thanksgivings and to notify members of the same by mail.

The Executive Committee recommended an amendment to the By-Laws, Article IV., Section 1, which had read: "There shall be three regular meetings of the Association each year, one to be held on the afternoon of Commencement Day at St. Faith's, one to be held in January (date to be set each year), and the Annual Meeting shall be held during the week of the Conference and Retreat at some Parish House in New York City. It was suggested that it was unwise to allow the date of so important a meeting to hinge upon the date of any other event. It was therefore moved and seconded that the date of the Annual Meeting be set for the last week in September. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.

The ninth regular meeting, and the annual meeting for 1916, was held at St. Thomas' Deaconess House, 226 East Sixtieth Street, on Monday, September 25th.

The first business of the meeting was to vote upon the motion made and carried at the preceding meeting, with regard to the change of the date of the annual meeting. The By-Law, Article IV., Section 1, now

reads, “. . . and the annual meeting shall be held during the last week in September at some Parish House in New York City.”

The Nominating Committee gave the report of the election, showing that the officers for 1917 are:

PresidentDeaconess Thompson
Vice-PresidentDeaconess Beard
Treasurer(re-elected) Deaconess Hyde
SecretaryMiss Edith C. Chappell

The business of the meeting was terminated with votes of thanks to the out-going officers and to Deaconess Schodts for her admirable work in editing the BULLETIN, and the meeting adjourned, every one present enjoying a pleasant hour drinking tea and exchanging bits of gossip.

DEACONESSES AT THE CONVENTION

THE Deaconesses, between thirty and forty in number, who were fortunate enough to be in St. Louis at the time of the General Convention are loud in their praise of the hospitality that was extended to them. There were pleasant things being done for them all the time and everyone felt that at the end of the Convention there was much more interest and sympathy for Deaconesses and the Deaconess movement than at the beginning, in spite of the fact that the movement did not come to the fore at any of the big meetings as it was at one time hoped that it might. The time was not right for this.

At a mass meeting held on the evening of October 11th, at Sheldon Memorial, under the auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary, the subject of which was, "What Women are doing in Church Organizations," there were eight short addresses, one of which was given by Deaconess Anita Hodgkin on "The Deaconesses of the Church." This was the only recognition given at any of the public meetings to this subject, and as the attendance on this evening was small and consisted almost entirely of women who already were well informed, it was felt that the cause of Women's Work had not been greatly helped as far as Deaconesses are concerned. Deaconess Hodgkin's address covered the subject thoroughly and well and the fact that there were not more people to hear it showed that a discussion of ways and means of interesting everyone in the Deaconess movement would be very much to the point. This very question did come up later.

On the morning of the 17th, at 7:30, there was a Corporate Communion at Christ Church Cathedral, followed by breakfast in the Parish House and a Conference of Deaconesses. Bishop Tuttle, Bishop Anderson and Bishop Johnson were at the service and at breakfast. The Dean of the Cathedral and Dean Grosvenor stayed at the Conference long enough for Dean Grosvenor, as Warden of the New York School, to make a short address. The subject of the Conference was "The Best Method of Increasing the Interest of the Clergy in the Deaconess Movement." Deaconess Goodwin presided. Dean Grosvenor suggested that interest in the Deaconess Training Schools might be aroused, as is done in other schools, by the Alumnae, and he urged that every Deaconess make it her responsibility to make the Deaconess Movement known as far as possible. Every one was very sorry that Deaconess Pell-Clark, who was to have spoken "From the Experience of a Parish Deaconess," was ill at home and unable to attend the Convention. Deaconess Stewart gave some most interesting points from her experience as a Deaconess in China. Deaconess Knapp gave a survey of Deaconess work abroad as she had seen it in her recent trip to the mission fields of China, Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii, which was especially interesting, as it was the first chance that many of those present had had to hear of her trip. This opportunity was a most welcome one.

Miss Carroll came to the Conference as the representative of Deaconess Carter for the Philadelphia School, and brought Deaconess Carter's message and regrets at not being able to attend.

Instead of a roll-call, each Deaconess gave her name, place of work, years of service and any other item of interest that she cared to add. One Deaconess had been in the service for more than twenty-five years and one had served less than one year.

Deaconess Newell spoke of the lack of interest in Deaconesses that she had found in preparing for these meetings, and suggested that a Central Committee be appointed to take in hand the organization of Deaconesses, so that at the time of the next General Convention they may be better represented and meetings better organized. A temporary committee was appointed to consider this question and report on it at an adjourned meeting to be held the following afternoon.

The question was felt to be such an important one that in spite of bad weather twenty-three of the thirty who attended the first Conference were present at the adjourned meeting. The Temporary Committee recommended that a Central Committee of Deaconesses be appointed to serve until the next Convention, with power to fill vacancies, and that this committee consist of seven members. They also recommended that

of these seven members the Head Deaconesses of the three schools be unanimously elected from the floor and that the remaining four members be elected by ballot.

After a good deal of discussion of the question, the recommendations of the Committee were voted upon and accepted. Deaconess Fuller of Chicago, Deaconess Goodwin of New York, Deaconess Colesbury of Philadelphia, and Deaconess Newell of St. Louis were elected to serve with the Heads of the three schools. The Temporary Committee submitted the following outline of what the work of the Central Committee might be.

First. The furtherance of greater co-operation and intercourse between the Deaconesses at work, and perhaps the development of something along the line of Diocesan or Provincial Organization, in order that the Conference at the next General Convention might be in fact a representative body.

Second. The correction of the list of Deaconesses in the Living Church Annual and in the Gorham Almanac.

Third. A survey of Deaconesses at work, following the sending out of a questionnaire enabling the Deaconesses to have a correct list of Deaconesses at work, their line of work, etc.

Fourth. The furtherance of more and better publicity for the work of Deaconesses of the Church, through the Central Committee.

Fifth. The preparation for the Deaconesses at the next General Convention.

These suggestions were thought excellent and were recommended to the Central Committee for a temporary working basis.

The question of how to finance the work of this committee was discussed and it was felt that for the present and until a more definite plan had been thought out that this plan could be met by donations.

Before adjourning, the meeting expressed deep appreciation of the splendid work done by the local Deaconesses headed by Deaconess Newell, for the visiting Deaconesses at the Convention.

After the meeting, the Alumnae of St. Faith's held a dinner at the Hotel Warwick at which twelve members were present, and all went afterward to the Pageant at the invitation of Deaconess Newell and her assistants, Deaconess Sniffen, Deaconess Leonora and Deaconess Brainerd. Afternoon tea at the Country Club and the watching of a game of polo, and tea at the Woman's Town Club were some of the other interesting entertainments provided for the Deaconesses by Deaconess Newell and her committee.

All the Deaconesses who had the privilege of attending this General

Convention feel that it has meant much to the Deaconess Movement, and that the interest which has been aroused should not be allowed to die out in the least degree. The Central Committee will have the help and support of all who have seen the awakening of this interest and all will do their utmost that it may be kept alive and growing until the next Convention in Detroit in 1919.

ANNE WAITE LOVELL.

THE VERY REV. WILLIAM MERCER GROSVENOR, D.D. AN APPRECIATION

A SHADOW lay upon the school as upon the whole Cathedral Close this Christmastide because of the death of our beloved Warden, the Dean of the Cathedral. Others have come forward eagerly to tell of Dean Grosvenor's service to parish and diocese; I would offer in deep gratitude my tribute as from one whose duty as well as privilege it was to seek his counsel. Two things impressed me always when I carried a question of importance to Dean Grosvenor for his solution. The first was the rapidity with which he sprang to his decision and the second was the fact which further conversation on the matter always revealed: he had not failed to grasp the whole situation in that brief moment of reflection which he allowed himself before he uttered his verdict. To consult Dean Grosvenor was an exhilarating and illuminating experience. His bright spirit has, moreover, left upon my memory an enduring impression that these quick intuitive decisions of his were directed by the keenest sense of honor.

SUSAN TREVOR KNAPP.

A LETTER FROM DEAN KNAPP

My dear Alumnae:

The journey which I took on my furlough last year gave me the opportunity to see so many of your classmates and dear friends who are now working in the Mission Field, that I am sure you will wish me to tell you something about them. For me the journey gratified a desire which I had long felt, to see the graduate of our school working at her post in the Far East. Of the twenty-six women whom we have sent out to China, Japan and the Philippine Islands, all of whom have been trained since I came on duty at St. Faith's, I was able to see twenty-four.

My visit to the Philippine Islands was filled with interest, as Bishop

Brent had planned two journeys for me on my arrival, and I was able to carry out his program to the full extent. He lent me his saddle horse and engaged attendants that Deaconess Routledge and I might make the trip to Bontoc and Sagada, a journey which, with the short halts at the Mission stations, occupied three weeks, thirteen days on horseback without a break, over the most marvellous mountain trail in the world. At the village of Besao, a few miles beyond Sagada, I found Deaconess Hargreaves in her attractive new school building, a memorial to Dr. Walpole Warren, superintending a flourishing school for Igorot children. In a small village, Tukukana, a few miles beyond Bontoc, Deaconess Routledge and I investigated what was to be her new field, a most primitive bit of work, which I understand is already well started through her skilful management. She writes me that she is blissfully happy. This journey in the mountains over, I returned to Bishop Brent's house in Manila, and after three or four days' rest started with him and his sister on a cruise among the southern islands. We reached the farthest extent of the Philippine group, a cruise of nearly two thousand miles, and saw the work done among the Moros on the island of Jolo.

After a rather terrible voyage from Manila to Shanghai, I visited the work being done in all three of our Missionary Districts, Shanghai, Anking and Hankow, travelling alone generally from place to place and always receiving the kindest hospitality when I reached my journey's end. I visited Bishop and Mrs. Graves in Jessfield, as well as Dr. Fullerton and Mrs. McRae. While in Shanghai I also went to the Children's Refuge, which is being so well cared for by Deaconess Henderson. From Shanghai I went on to Soo Chow, where Mrs. Standring is superintending the school for native Christian women. These women sent their greetings to all the graduates of our school. They also besought me to send more of our young women to work in China. From Soo Chow I went to Wusih, where I visited Miss Hammond and Miss Brown, the latter being then in charge of the house; from Wusih on to Yangchow, where I saw Miss Bremer and her new school, which she has named St. Faith's; then on to Nanking, visiting Deaconess Wells; from Nanking to Anking, where we have no graduates, but many friends, and then up to Hankow and Wuchang.

We have reason to be proud of the women we have sent out. In almost every case they are occupying leading positions. The Bishops speak of them in warm praise. They work well together, and they stand faithfully by their posts. Deaconess Hart, in Hankow, is not only the head of the school for the training of Chinese Christian women to be missionaries to their own people (there were forty pupils in the school when I was there), but under the direction of Bishop Roots she has

founded St. Phoebe's Deaconess School within the larger school, like the Schola Interior of the Middle Ages. Three promising Chinese women were being prepared in this school for the Diaconate. These women sent greetings to the New York School. St. Hilda's School in Wuchang is built up in more ways than in its fine new building, by Deaconess Phelps' industry and genius. I wish you could see the group of one hundred and forty girls who are being educated there.

The work in Japan also is full of promise, and I travelled about very happily from station to station where our women are at work. In Japan, as in China, the training of all Christian women in the American Church Missions to be missionaries to their own people is superintended by women sent out by our school. Have you realized this important fact, I wonder? The school in Sendai, now conducted by Deaconess Ranson, belongs to both the districts of Tokyo and Kyoto. Associated with Deaconess Ranson are our graduate, Miss Sarah Rees, and Miss Correll, a graduate of the Philadelphia School. The tone of the Sendai School is admirable, and the work done by the women who graduate from there is influencing the whole of Japan. I travelled up to Hirosaki, in the very northern part of the island, to see Deaconess Carlson in a lonely position, but happy, and surrounded by a devoted flock of Japanese friends. St. Margaret's School in Tokyo, under the care of Miss Heywood, is a delightful and flourishing institution. I had the privilege of making it my headquarters, and as it is close to Bishop McKim's home I was able to pass back and forth between those two hospitable houses and to see a great deal, not only of the Bishop, but of Miss Nellie McKim, who was so popular when she was in our school a few years ago.

I have not mentioned the names of all our women, but I have forgotten none of them, and I hope that each graduate of the school who is remaining at home will devote more thought and prayer to these dear people who are bearing happily the privation of loneliness in unaccustomed surroundings for the sake of Christ and His work.

There are those who realize the needs of the East without visiting it, but I think I may safely say there are no people, if they be thoughtful Christian folk, who, when they do visit the East, are not appalled at the needs which cry to Heaven and which we are so slow in meeting. We may be thankful that our number of Missionaries has now reached thirty. But let us have such a high standard for the usefulness of the school that there will be no falling off in the future, but rather a great step in advance. I pray of you, the Alumnæ, see to it that the school does not fail the East. See to it also that the school does not fail the cause for which it was founded. These are the days when the Deaconess Movement is pausing to take second breath—a crisis in its history. Lift up

the Movement by your influence and do all in your power to send women for training who, by becoming Deaconesses possessed of the highest ideals, will contribute toward the permanence of the Order.

Affectionately yours,

SUSAN TREVOR KNAPP,

LETTER SENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DEACONESSSES

WE, the members of the household of St. Faith's, wish to express our appreciation of what Deaconess Knapp has meant to each of us individually. The daily example of the richness and yet simplicity and naturalness of her spiritual life—as the result of close communion with God—is a constant source of inspiration and help to all of us.

The fifteen minutes' devotional reading by which we begin the routine of the day will be remembered by us as times of special help and spiritual uplift. During those quiet moments spent in the Oratory, religious questions are brought up and explained with such clear, spiritual interpretation that still more do we realize that she is a woman of deep thought and wide reading.

Her wise judgment and true sympathy are a tremendous help when we go to her with perplexities and troubles. We feel that she understands so thoroughly, and that her advice is very valuable.

She holds the ideals of the Diaconate very high, and while never urging it upon the students, we may state that at least five out of the six of the Class of 1916 hope to be set apart.

Deaconess Knapp has won our lasting and deep affection, and must be an inspiration to us all our lives. We rejoice that we have been privileged to study here while she is Dean of St. Faith's.

Signed:

ELIZA B. MILLS

EVELINE DIGGS

MABEL HOLGATE

MARION FRASCCELLO

MARGARETTA RIBBLE

ELEANOR SUSAN McNULTY

DOROTHY DUFFIE

VENETIA COX

EMILY LANGUEDOC

CATHERINE COTTRELL

VICTORIA MERODIA GONZALES

ANNA JENNINGS

SOPHIA C. DOOMAN

ETHEL C. SPENCER, Deaconess

E. ETHEL BARTLETT

NINA LEDBETTER

ELIZABETH CARTER

M. BLYTHE GAGER

MABEL MANSFIELD

VIVIAN JOHNSON

ETHEL M. BUNCE

C. MABEL HICKS

MOLLIE E. TOWNSEND

RUTH EVELYN REYNOLDS

THE ANNUAL RETREAT

THE Annual Retreat for Deaconesses was held at St. Faith's House, New York, September 25th-28th. About twenty Deaconesses were present for all or part of the time.

Bishop Brent had expected to be our conductor, but owing to great pressure of business in connection with his Mission work while in this country he was compelled to ask to be relieved from his promise.

The Rev. Edward H. Schlueter, Vicar of St. Luke's Chapel, New York City, was most kind in accepting the responsibility at a rather late date. All must have felt it a great privilege who were able to spend those two days directed and inspired by him. He dwelt much on the power of silence; aloneness with God. Only as we develop a close communion with God, "Jesus and my soul," can we help others to find Him. Complete sacrifice of self and re-dedication to God day by day are our only course. In the busy lives of all Deaconesses and Church workers times of quietness and aloneness are few, so that those who were able to enjoy those quiet days felt inspired and strengthened for a new year's work.

"THE DEACONESS"

THE attention of the Alumnae is called to the quarterly being issued in England called "The Deaconess." In a letter to Dean Knapp, Bishop Hall refers to this periodical as follows: "Thank you for the magazine. It seems distinctly good and promising. I must write and subscribe for the sake of our deaconesses." The subscription is 2s 6d, postage free. Subscriptions to be sent to the Rev. O. Hardman, The Old College, Dulwich, London, S. E.