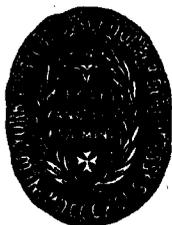


AN ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

September 1917



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

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AN ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

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THIS issue of the BULLETIN records the closing events of the first chapter of St. Faith's and the beginning of the second.

The Alumnæ who represent the first Twenty-five years of the life of the School naturally have a feeling of sadness, for change necessarily brings this, but from the love and deep sense of gratitude for their former Dean and their devotion and loyalty for their *Alma Mater* will spring a new energy and a desire to do all in their power to help St. Faith's in its new endeavor, and further the office and work of Deaconesses.

May the editor take this opportunity to make a strong appeal for her successor, for articles, letters, or any material for future issues of the BULLETIN? Its continuance depends upon the graduates and if they find any value in their official organ it can only be carried on with their co-operation.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY AND MAY MEETINGS

The tenth regular meeting of the Alumnæ Association was held at St. Bartholomew's Parish House, 209 East Forty-second Street, on Wednesday, January 10, 1917, with Deaconess Thompson in the chair.

After the meeting was called to order the business of the meeting was suspended until after Dean Knapp gave a short and very interesting sketch of her visit to the Foreign Field, where so many of our graduates are working.

Dean Knapp had been able to see twenty-four out of the twenty-six graduates abroad at that time, and touched upon some of the special aspects of their life as it differed in their various fields and discussed the garb of the Order as a protection and as a help in the life and work of Missionaries in the foreign field.

After the address the regular business of the meeting proceeded, reading of the minutes and accepting of reports, etc.

It was moved and carried that a service with celebration of the Holy Communion should be held at Grace Church on Monday, March 26, 1917, as the Feast of the Annunciation coming on Sunday this year made it impossible for the Alumnæ to come together on that day.

As no further business was brought up, it was moved and seconded to adjourn.

The eleventh regular meeting of the Alumnae Association was held at St. Faith's on the afternoon of Commencement Day, May 10, 1917, Deaconess Thompson in the chair.

After the regular business, which was made as brief as possible owing to the interesting events of the day preceding and following the meeting, a short discussion took place on the subject of having a corporate Communion on St. Faith's Day, October 6, 1917, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 7:30 A.M.

It was moved and carried that notices be sent out for this service and also that a leaflet of intercessions be compiled, copies to be sent to any member of the Association upon request, who was unable to be present at the Cathedral service.

Those who were unable to be present at the corporate service were urged to attend a Eucharist in their parish church on that date or on the Sunday nearest.

After the business Deaconess Fuller presented Dean Knapp with the gift of gold and the letter of appreciation from the members of the Alumnae Association far and near. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

THE afternoon of Commencement Day at St. Faith's was marked by many pleasant happenings, and among them that which must have given the retiring Dean much gratification was a generous gift from the Trustees, followed by a more modest sum presented by her friends, the graduates of the School.

The first was presented by Dr. Gates, as the Trustees, the Faculty, the students and their guests stood grouped in the reception hall, just before luncheon.

The gift from the Trustees was prefaced by a carefully worded appreciation of what Deaconess Knapp's regime had meant to the School, and voiced the high regard in which she was held by the governing body. Deaconess Knapp replied by a few words of most gracious acceptance of the gift, at the same time outlining to some extent the interest of her future field of action in the Far East.

Later, at the meeting of the Alumnae Association, a gift of less value, but representing the good wishes of scores of friends the world around, was handed to Deaconess Knapp, together with a letter of appreciation, suitably engrossed by someone interested in the occasion.

Again Deaconess Knapp responded gracefully to this evidence of good will and affection. The two gifts combined narrowly escaped the dignity of four digits.

Thus did the retiring Dean win, in more senses than one—"Golden opinions from all sorts of people."

TO THE ALUMNÆ AND SPECIAL STUDENTS:

My dear Friends:

The large gathering of the Alumnæ and special students present at the Commencement of our School the tenth of last May gave me the opportunity to express my great pleasure in your gifts, presented to me at the time of my withdrawal from the School, the letter of appreciation, beautifully engrossed and illuminated, and the generous pile of gold coins. But you were not all present and I want to be very sure that each one of you receives from me a message of affection and gratitude. The letter is framed and hung in my study in my little home here; the gift of gold, amounting to more than \$400, will go with me to Japan and you will hear later just how it is used. The hospitality house I am expecting, with Miss Saito's assistance, to open in Tokyo will have a chapel I am very sure and your gift will furnish it and more than furnish it in that land of modest prices.

You will be interested to learn that several letters have been coming to me recently from Japan telling me of work which the writers hope I will undertake, enough work, all told, to occupy three women. To give Bible instruction to English-speaking students, young men and young women, is my primary intention and I shall keep that in the foreground.

As soon as we reach Tokyo I shall consult Bishop McKim about these different requests and I shall be guided by his judgment in making decision. His own very kind and hospital letters have filled me with encouragement.

Miss Saito and I would ask each one of you to remember us in your prayers. Each one of you has her name and special place in my book of intercession. If you will be systematic in your intercession for us the hospitality house and the classes which meet under its roof will be prospered in the highest and truest sense and the unity of the body of earnest women known as St. Faith's graduates and special students will be promoted as prayer and prayer alone is empowered to unite. Believe me

Faithfully and affectionately yours,

SUSAN TREVOR KNAPP.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN TO THE ALUMNÆ

To the Alumnæ of St. Faith's:

I am very glad of this opportunity to send a message to the Alumnæ by the BULLETIN.

A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY

First I want to thank you for the generous response to my letter of April 27th. From the home and foreign field I had replies that revealed to me the love of the Alumnæ for St. Faith's and the devotion of a considerable body of women within the Church to the new importance of women's work. The letters contained valuable suggestions and very frank comments on the methods and aims of the School; in many cases these were of so much value to me that I would have answered them personally had time allowed. All of these letters have greatly influenced me in the planning of the work of the School.

I want also to thank the Alumnæ who attended the Conference of St. Faith's on Commencement Day. We discussed the difficulties of making a curriculum for the School, these difficulties due to the short duration of the course, the need of emphasis on specialization, and the demand for practical training that will equip the student for immediate work in Parish and Mission field. I think all at the Conference realized that the School must be made a vocational school in the sense that its chief work is to prepare leaders who are to help in the training of spiritual lives in a parish environment.

I wish also to express my appreciation of Dean Knapp's hospitality on that day and also for the most gracious and cordial assistance which she has given me in many of the plans I have so far formulated. I know I voiced the sentiment of the Alumnæ and Trustees when I urged her to remember that there was always hospitality and a warm welcome for her at St. Faith's.

All of these manifestations of interest and help have greatly heartened me, for I had many doubts in accepting the call of Bishop Greer and the Trustees to succeed Dr. Grosvenor and, in some measure, put a new interpretation on the duties of the office of Warden. Every training school within the Church which aims to meet the need for women workers has an unusual responsibility at the present time. A new day has come in the movement for the leadership of women, and the life of St. Faith's and the office of Deaconess must be ready to receive the best from the movement and to aid with their best in return. Under these circumstances it is a serious task to lead an institution with the noble traditions of St. Faith's and the almost unlimited opportunity of

service to the Church and especially to those women who are seeking to put their lives in the places of greatest usefulness; I therefore, bespeak your earnest prayers and your most intelligent and sympathetic co-operation.

NEW PLANS

It is far from my desire to press new methods and plans upon the School immediately. In so far as possible my policy is to accept the present system of house life and curriculum. Changes in the Faculty have made necessary some new methods and some departures from the past, but in the main the previous methods will be maintained until intelligent contact with the life of the School makes possible wise changes.

CHANGES IN THE FACULTY

I regret to report certain changes in the Faculty. We have all learned with regret of the death of Dr. Hodgson. Only a few days before his death he sent me a long statement of his plans for the coming year. His deep interest in the School for many years and his faithful work on the Faculty have left their imprint on the lives of many students.

Dr. Hatch, who has given the lectures in Church History, has resigned owing to his acceptance of a professorship in the Cambridge Episcopal Theological School, and Mrs. Glenn feels unable to continue the very effective work done in Social Service. With these exceptions the Faculty remains as last year: Prof. Blodgett will continue the studies in the Old Testament; Dr. Bevan will now give the courses in Church History, and Rev. Mr. Oldham in Theology.

I will not occupy space in a detailed statement of the new members of the Faculty. In accordance with the circular of the School which was sent to the Alumnae the following have been added to the Faculty and will be in residence at the House: Miss Edith R. Hopkins for instruction in Community Service; Deaconess Goodwin for instruction in Missions; Miss Grace Hutchins for instruction in the New Testament, and Miss Adelaide Case for instruction in Religious Education. This group of ladies I have designated "The House Faculty," and for the present Miss Hopkins has consented to act as my assistant in the management of the School.

A NEW LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN AND THE OFFICE OF DEACONESS

No earnest churchman can read of the amazing energy and effective administrative ability suddenly revealed by the women of France and England, or witness the remarkable services rendered by the American

women to our government during the past few months, without asking the question: Why should not that same devoted energy be generously given in the war with sin waged by the Church? Why should not the need for moral, educational and community leadership be as appealing as is the need of relieving physical suffering? Why should not the age-long battle with sin and all its terrible consequences make its appeal as effectively as the battles of an international strife?

From this point of view I feel that there is a burden on the Church to show the world that women have a supreme ability to realize and meet the spiritual needs of society, and to make a unique contribution to the administrative life of the Church. In this situation the ancient order of deaconesses should play a large part. With this in mind I have studied with some care the history of the office, especially as described in Deaconess Robinson's "The Ministry of Deaconesses," and also in a very valuable article sent to me by Bishop Hall and found in the Church Quarterly Review, 1898-9. It seems very clear and generally accepted that the office of deaconess in the Church is in process of development, and that its strength always has been due to its power of adaptation, and its weakness has generally been the result of the lack of a clear definition of woman's place as a leader at many points in life's affairs.

Radical changes in women's work and responsibilities give new opportunities to the deaconess. I like to think that we are standing at the dawn of *the day* for which many of the women of the Church have prayed, and that an era of success in the various departments of church administration will come upon us due in a large measure to the influence of women systematically trained, fully equipped, and regularly appointed for certain departments of the Church's work. In this movement the deaconess must find her place, and that place must be the result of meeting the need of the Church, it cannot be the result of an "ordered life" or of "setting apart" or of "a spiritual life within the school" or of "the great importance of the uniform;" these all have large values, providing they are the tools by which the deaconess is helped to see and meet the needs, they must always be the outward and visible signs of strivings for something else, they must speak to the world of the achievement of a result that the world wants, their face value must be in terms that are widely accepted.

I therefore ask you to study and observe the work of women and the work of deaconesses from four standpoints:

(1) The successful leadership of women in the various departments of life to-day. Read Mrs. Atherton's "The Living Present" for a point of view.

(2) The needs of the Church for the leadership of women. Be concrete, do not talk in terms of "parish visitors" or "missionaries," do not generalize, but think of the women of the Church reaching out for tasks in the Church as clearly defined as the wonderfully organized works directed by the women of France and without which France could not fight. Consider the benefit which would result to the Church if a well organized and adequately led group of women in any diocese would study and meet the needs of adolescent girls in that diocese. I lack space to give illustrations, but you must all realize that when the war is over one of the best results will be the more tangible relationship that will be constructed between the need and the organization, and this tangible relationship will be largely due to women. The Church can only feel the results of this movement through leaders.

(3) The question of what kind of authority can be committed to women. Some of the works of France depend upon volunteer leaders, others are now authorized by the government. Are there tasks in which a woman is the best representative of the Church? What are these tasks?

(4) The question of how authority should be committed. What has the general Church to give? What has the Bishop of the diocese?

Please think with me along these lines and as the months pass we may not only enrich the office of deaconess, but we may also open avenues of volunteer service and leadership to-day not operated in close relationship to the life of the Church.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOR THIS YEAR

Judging from the applications we shall have about twenty-five students when the School opens. We could have many more if we had scholarships. This year must witness some active steps on the part of Trustees and Alumnae towards more scholarships, and it would be well if these were given for students in various departments of the Church's work. Let us urge the need of Scholarships in Missions, Education and Social Service.

Offering you the best that my time and strength will allow, and expecting from you a loyal sympathy and co-operation,

I am faithfully yours,

WILLIAM E. GARDNER, Warden.

DR. JOHN HAMILTON POTTER HODGSON

The Alumnae of St. Faith's will be grieved to hear of the death of Dr. Hodgson at Toronto, Canada, on August 4th.

Dr. Hodgson was the son of the Rev. Telfair Hodgson, at one time Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South. He graduated from the University and received his medical education at the University of Virginia and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. He also studied in Paris, and then established his practice in New York about twenty-five years ago. Dr. Hodgson was a devoted advocate of Church Education and greatly interested in the development of the University of the South. He was convinced that the main strength of any school, college or university, lay in its Alumni. He gave unselfishly of his time to the organization of the Sewanee Alumni Association, and saw the movement grow in strength and importance. Largely owing to his interest and activity, a fund to discharge a debt upon the University was raised and the full amount secured at Commencement in June, 1916.

A Member of the Faculty of the New York Training School for Deaconesses since almost the foundation of the School, the majority of the graduates have been his students. They have many times testified to the practical value of his lectures on hygiene. Of deeper value were the lessons of Christian reverence and reticence which they could not fail to learn from his presentation of the subject.

From the enthusiasm of his rare and happy spirit—so evidently born of his religious Faith and Hope—they received their inspiration for joyful service.

Enfeebled health and the certainty of the issue of his disease never lessened the ardor of his cheerful courage.

For this example that he has left us, and for the faithful and loving service that he has rendered, let us give God the praise. S. T. H.

PERSONALS

Deaconess Knapp's address is care Mr. J. Reifsnider, 53 Tsukiji, Tokyo, Japan.

Deaconess Phelps of Wuchang and Deaconess Hart of Hankow are in this country on their furlough, also Deaconess Hargreaves of the Philippine Islands.

Miss Althea Bremer of Yangchow and Miss Annie Brown of Wusik, China, are enjoying their first furlough.

ITEMS

The pamphlet just issued by the Warden of the School will be read by every graduate with eager interest. It outlines a definite program of specialized training which the School is prepared to give by means of an enlarged Faculty and resident Teaching Staff.

It should be a matter of congratulation that Miss Edith R. Hopkins, who received her training at St. Faith's, and was the first editor of the BULLETIN, has been chosen as the Executive Head of the House Faculty.

The provision for vocational training will meet the needs and desire of some women, while others will secure an excellent general training by selection from the various courses offered. Through either of these means will the prospective church worker or deaconess be fitted for service.

We believe that the exercise and development of every faculty, practical, intellectual and spiritual, through a two-year course and residence in a disciplined and religious household, will lead a goodly proportion of the ablest women who enter St. Faith's to find in the office and ministry of the Deaconess the best fulfilment of their powers.

S. T. H.