

AN ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

February, 1919

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

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AN ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

NUMBER VIII

FEBRUARY, 1919

It is with a most humble apology that this belated number of the Alumnæ Bulletin is issued.

The causes of the delay are many but, like our family or parish difficulties,—the less said about them, the better.

Our Association is growing in many ways, and its value and objects are becoming more apparent. Let us endeavor to become stronger individually and as an organization so that we may be more effectual at home and abroad; in the church and in the world.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF ALUMNÆ MEETINGS

Two meetings of the Alumnæ Association of the New York Training School for Deaconesses were held on Sept. 25, 1918, and on Jan. 18, 1919. The September one was held at Grace Mission House, and the other at St. Thomas's Deaconess House.

In September, the following officers were elected:

President, Deaconess Schodts,
Vice-President, Deaconess Woodward,
Secretary, Deaconess West,
Treasurer, Miss Margery Ranger.

At the September meeting, the chief question under discussion was what to do with our surplus funds. Heretofore, the only expense had been the Bulletin and the members felt that we should do something for someone besides ourselves. Miss Hopkins spoke of the effort she is making to get some of the rooms of St. Faith's decorated. This work has become a necessity as no work has been done since the house was build nine years ago. She herself had had the pantry done and one of the students had done one of the bed-rooms. It would cost \$12.00 to do a small room and \$40.00 to do a large one. It was voted to donate \$25.00 to this work from the funds of the Alumnæ Association.

In January, the Treasurer received an anonymous gift of \$25.00 to be used for the kalsomining of the rooms at St. Faith's and another \$25.00 was voted from the funds of the Association, making \$75.00 in all given during the year for this purpose.

It was decided to publish two issues of the Bulletin each year, the Commencement number, published just after Commencement

in May and The Conference number, published just after the Conference in September. This will make it possible for the out-of-town members to know who were elected officers and to read the minutes of the meetings soon after the meetings occur.

The suggestion was made that all members and associates use the prayers in the Bulletin for January 1918 the first Sunday in each month. The Feast of the Annunciation will be observed as usual. There will be a Celebration of the Holy Communion at Grace Church followed by a luncheon.

In January the Treasurer reported a Balance of \$110.78.

The following were elected Associate Members:

Miss Jennie King,
Miss Mabel Mansfield,
Miss Blythe Gager,
Miss Ethel Bartlett,
Miss Louise Lewis,
Mrs. D. Wilmot Gateson.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY CLELLAND WEST,

Secretary.

My dear Friends,

The Editor of the Bulletin tells me the next issue will show a picture of the Oratory of St. Saviour, Tokyo, to the many donors of that missionary gift to the Diocese of Tokyo and to me. With the illustration I want to contribute a few words about the influence of this oratory among the Japanese and the foreigners who worship there.

Three times a day it is used for prayer—Matins at seven o'clock, Intercessions, especially concerning the War, at, or about noon-time and Compline in the evening at half past eight. At the last service we often have with us Japanese nurses who love to come and who soon catch the simple chants—they love to sing, these merry-hearted little women who are becoming very devoted friends of mine. On Wednesday morning at seven-fifteen we had a Eucharist all last winter and we are hoping for an additional Eucharist in Japanese next winter at an hour even earlier.

Then the little oratory is often borrowed. At one time it is wanted for the keeping of an anniversary in the best of all ways, by an early Communion Service. At another a clergyman wishes to meet there for quiet consultation on spiritual matters one who



ORATORY OF ST. SAVIOUR, TOKYO

is looking to him for guidance. A member of the Red Cross about to make a dash into Russia to carry relief asks permission to make his Communion before he starts on his perilous journey. A devout woman, much engrossed in the life which claims those in diplomatic circles in Tokyo asks that she may retreat to the Oratory of St. Saviour from time to time for quiet thought.

Do you see what you have done in giving this little Sanctuary to me? And this is only the beginning. In dedicating the oratory Bishop McKim spoke of the value of the example of instituting such a sanctuary in a home. His words have already proved themselves true. It is the quiet center of an ever widening circumference of Godward influence.

My visit to New York was very brief and I could see only a few of you, another year I shall hope for better fortune. I return to my work with renewed courage and with additional support from my Committee who have added \$500.00 to the already generous appropriation that I may not be hampered for lack of funds.—Pray for me and for my Japanese pupils that each and every one of them may become a devoted follower of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Ever faithfully yours,

SUSAN T. KNAPP,

Deaconess.

REPORT OF THE CHAPTER OF DEACONESSSES OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

At the Annual Conference of Deaconesses, held in September 1917 at St. Faith's House, N. Y., Dr. Gardner's paper on the "Enlarging of the Conception of the Office of Deaconess" was discussed and resolutions were passed, the last one of which was as follows:—

RESOLVED, that this Conference . . . feels that the movement to develop Chapters of Deaconesses in Provinces and Dioceses is necessary and that measures be taken to forward the movement.

The desire for closer fellowship among Deaconesses irrespective of the various School connections, and the need of an authoritative body to act in electing a Central Committee at the time of the General Convention were factors in the passing of the resolution.

At this time Chapters had already been formed in Los Angeles and Pennsylvania and it was hoped that New York would soon follow, so with the consent of Bishop Greer, invitations, signed by Deaconess Forneret, Mather Thompson and Goodwin were sent to all the Deaconesses of the Diocese asking them to attend a meeting at Grace Church Neighborhood House on May 11, 1918. Seventeen Deaconesses responded and, with Deaconess Mather as Chairman, the new Chapter was formed and two officers were elected. President, Deaconess Jessie Gardner of Grace Church, and Secretary-Treasurer, Deaconess E. S. Humphreys.

The first regular meeting was held at St. George's Deaconess House on Oct. 26, 1918, where a simple form of By-laws was adopted.

1. NAME.—The name of this organization shall be the Chapter of Deaconesses of the Diocese of N. Y.

2. PURPOSE.—The purpose of this organization shall be to unite the Deaconesses of the Diocese in a closer fellowship, and to bring them together from time to time to take council concerning the work of the Order.

3. MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of this organization shall be composed of Deaconesses canonically attached to the Diocese of New York. Deaconesses resident in the Diocese, but not canonically attached thereto may attend the meetings, but may not vote or hold office.

4. OFFICERS.—The officers of this organization shall be a President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. They shall be elected at the Annual Meeting held in the Spring, and serve for not more than two consecutive years.

5. MEETINGS.—There shall be three regular meetings of the Chapter held every year at the discretion of the officers.

6. DUES.—The dues shall be 50 cents, payable at the Annual Meeting.

As the vote of every Deaconess residing in the Diocese is desired, each one is urged to see that she is canonically attached thereto, and the Chapter will make every effort to help make the list in the Diocesan Journal complete.

How shall recruits be won to our cause? How shall women who have given unstinted service in Patriotic work be influenced to take up this form of service? It is the burning question of the day. This can only be answered by the Church making as strong an appeal to the minds and hearts of women as the Red Cross has done. Surely the varied fields of work open to the Deaconesses with the attendant joy of service should offer such an appeal. The

Chapter has been able to have a few letters published in the Church papers and should welcome other letters telling of "specific needs, actual events, anecdotes or unusual things" which would help to show the vital need of workers.

Another subject of importance which has been discussed at the meetings was the status of the unoccupied Deaconesses, and how the Chapter can help in giving opportunities for regular work or part time service.

Then, as the Prayer Book Commission of the General Convention has taken up the subject of incorporating a Setting Apart Service for Deaconesses in the Prayer Book, it was decided to discuss the subject at the mid-winter meeting to be held at St. Thomas's Deaconess House, St. Paul's Day, Jan. 25, 1919, and a committee consisting of Deaconesses Jane Hall, Chappell and West were appointed to collect material bearing on the subject.

The Chapter has proved to be a source of inspiration and help, and it is good to know that others have been started in Connecticut and Massachusetts. It is hoped that many other Dioceses or Provinces will join in this effort to strengthen the Order of Deaconesses.

ELLEN S. HUMPHREYS,

Secretary.

At the meeting of the Chapter held at St. Thomas's Deaconess House on Saturday, Jan. 25th, sixteen Deaconesses were present. The President appointed a committee to draft resolutions in memory of Deaconess Hildegarde Von Brockdorff, who passed into Life Eternal on Nov. 17, 1918.

After the reading of the minutes, the subject of the Services of the Setting Apart of Deaconesses was discussed. Deaconess Chappell read the proposed service, prepared by the sub-committee of the Prayer Book revision to be inserted in the Prayer Book. This service is based on those already in use in California, New York and Pennsylvania, with certain omissions.

Deaconess Goodwin read a service used in London and the two services were compared. As the Chapter wished changes in the proposed service, the President appointed Deaconesses Goodwin, Chappell and Schodts to prepare an amended service covering the desires of the Chapter which, on Bp. Whitehead's invitation, was to be sent to the meeting of the sub-committee of the Prayer Book Commission.

The Rev. Wm. G. Gardner and Dr. W. C. Sturgis were present and were most helpful in the discussions.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held on Saturday, May 24th, at St. Barnabas House, 304 Mulberry Street, at 3.30 P. M., when it is hoped a large number of Deaconesses will be present.

The subject of the meeting will be Arrangements for the General Convention.

ELLEN S. HUMPHREYS,
Secretary.

CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

The annual Conference and Retreat for Deaconesses was held at St. Faith's House, Sept. 25 to 28, 1918.

An unusually large number were present from far and near, and both Conference and Retreat were felt to be of great value to the Deaconesses individually and corporately.

The members of the Conference were asked by Dr. Gardner to discuss frankly and freely his paper on "Enlarging the Conception of the office of Deaconess", which he read at the commencement service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in May and since then had sent to all Deaconesses.

He felt that the members of the Order were the only ones who could reconstruct or endorse its contents as they were the only ones who could speak from experience. The interest was keen and the discussion able and constructive. All felt the need for greater unity and fellowship and it was expressed in manifold ways. A further report of the suggestions made will probably be issued by the Central Committee of Deaconesses or a reconstructed paper issued by Dr. Gardner.

The Retreat which followed was conducted by Bishop Reese and was most helpful and inspiring, showing us how Prayer and Service, the dominant note of our lives, must bring joy and thankfulness if our religion is real and personal.

NOTES AND PERSONALS—ST. FAITH'S HOUSE

St. Faith's was privileged to take an active part in the work of the Advent Call. Classes were held at the School and the Students did faithful duty as Messengers in four parishes to which they were designated.

Shortly before Christmas, Miss Hopkins was the guest for a few days of the Church Training and Deaconess' House, Philadelphia. She arrived in time to enjoy an Associates Tea, and during her visit experienced every courtesy, both from the Deaconesses and Students.

Among recent guests at St. Faith's may be mentioned:—

Deaconess Viola Young, who has since taken up work in Torrington, Connecticut; Deaconess Eugenia Collins; Miss Soulsby; Miss Ruth Kent; Miss Edwards and two friends, missionaries sent out by the S.P.G. on their way from London to India; Deaconess Whitaker, en route from Mexico to Philadelphia, and Miss Emily Seaman, from Liberia.

The time-honoured custom of special addresses on Friday evenings, continues. Among recent speakers have been:—

Miss Grace Lindley, on the Advent Call;
Mr. Roberts, on St. John's College, Shanghai;
Father Wood, on China;
Mr. Wolo, from Union Seminary, on Africa;
Miss Edwards, from England, on India;
Dr. Gray, on Latin America;
Miss Emily Tillotson, on her Western trip;
Dr. Krouch, on Social Service;
Miss Ruth Kent, on China;
Deaconess Goodwin, on the Life and Work of the Deaconess;
Bishop Thomas, on work of his Diocese;
Dr. Gardiner, on the World Conscience.

The House-faculty and students have this winter co-operated in a series of brief "get-to-gether" meetings, in the oratory, on Monday mornings. Among the subjects presented by Faculty and Seniors in turn, may be mentioned:—Prayer, Service, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Friendship, Self-sacrifice, The Little Things of Life, Stewardship, Companionship with Christ, The Making of Choices, Corporate Worship. This has helped to develop spiritual poise and has strengthened our "Esprit de corps".

Grateful mention should be made of special gifts, through the Alumnae Association, and from individuals, which have made possible the painting and kalsomining of the kitchen, pantry and six bed-rooms at St. Faith's.

CLASS OF 1918

ETHEL BUNCE is teaching at St. Faith's School, Saratoga Springs, New York. She is teaching some of the Bible classes which are part of the regular school curriculum, and is also doing some secretarial work for the principal, the Rev. Harry C. Plum.

MABEL HICKS has gone to Dante, Virginia, to work with Deaconess Williams. There is no priest in charge of the Mission to conduct the regular Sunday services, so the two women do all that is done, including Sunday Schools, mothers' meetings, Wowan's Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary, boys' club, and visiting.

VIVIAN JOHNSON is parish worker at St. Mark's-in-the-Bouwerie. She lives at home, 409 East 147th Street, New York City, and goes down town each day to help in the parish organizations under the Rev. William N. Guthrie, Rector of St. Mark's.

NINA LEDBETTER sailed in August for Honolulu, Hawaii. Sister Olivia (of the Community of the Transfiguration), who was to have gone out at the same time to take charge of the Priory School, has been ill, so that Miss Ledbetter has had much responsibility in the School. It is the largest school of our Mission in Hawaii—a school for girls of different nationalities, American, Hawaiian, Japanese and Chinese.

MARIAN MILLER BLISS (Mrs. Francis Bliss) is working with her husband in Bigstone Gap, Virginia. Mr. Bliss was ordained Deacon just before Christmas, 1918. During the influenza epidemic the church was closed, and Mr. and Mrs. Bliss were busy caring for the sick. Now that the regular parish work is resumed, Mrs. Bliss has been introducing the Christian Nurture Series in the Church School and has begun work in the parish organizations.

Word has been received from Deaconess Knapp, from Japan, that she has fully recovered her strength and that her work is growing steadily.

ADESTE FIDELIS

On December 21st, the children of St. Faith's Sunday School presented a new mystery Play, ADESTE FIDELIS, written by Mrs. Hobart and not yet published. Getting up the play, training the children, arranging the costumes etc. was a part of the practice work of Miss Hobart's class on Mystery Plays offered to the Seniors during the early weeks of the first term. Children from neighboring Sunday Schools were invited as our guests. They and a considerable

number of interested grown-ups very nearly filled the large auditorium of Synod Hall. The Christmas story was acted out in a simple and reverent manner—a very beautiful beginning of the Christmas Season.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON WEEK DAYS

If you come to St. Faith's House almost any day in the week after School hours, you will be sure to hear children's voices and see a few boys and girls entering the House or coming out of the Chapel or one of the class rooms. On Thursday it is the Choir. We cannot afford vestments, but we wear purple arm-bands with white crosses and soon the girls are to have simple black caps. Friday, the Girl Scouts come, and Wednesday evening is the regular night for the Boy Scouts Patrol. Other days in the week some of the classes meet for handwork, to play together, and for carrying out service activities that are crowded out of the Sunday sessions. The Sunday sessions, which now meet in the morning, are more alive and interesting than they have been, and we feel that the week day meetings contribute very largely to this increased interest.

Miss Caroline Mackenzie, one of the Junior students, gives a Bible talk every Saturday afternoon to a large group of colored women from St. Cyprian's Church. She is calling on the women and establishing friendly personal relations with them.

Two of the Senior students, Miss Young and Miss Denton, have charge of the Junior Auxiliary at Grace Neighborhood House, under Deaconess Gardner.

Miss Lucy Myer, a Senior student, is a trained kindergartener, and is enlarging her field of specialization by taking courses at Teachers College in Primary Methods and in Teaching Music in the Elementary Grades.

Four of the Senior students have taken a term's course at Teachers' College in Industrial Arts for Social and Religious Workers.

Miss Grace Denton, who is specializing in Religious Education, has entered Dr. Coe's course in The Theory of Religious Education, given at Union Theological Seminary.

Miss Elizabeth Dailey is acting as Social Service Worker at the clinic at St. Luke's Hospital as part of her field work in Social Service.

Miss Eleanor Dearing has taken—in addition to her work at the School—courses in Columbia in English and in Sociology.

Miss Ernestine Gardner is studying Music at Columbia with a view to increased efficiency on her return to the mission field.

IN MEMORIAM

On the 10th of July, the bright and courageous spirit of Mary Bechtler, Deaconess, passed into the higher life. Hers had been a valiant struggle lasting many years, a struggle for the accomplishment of faithful stewardship at a difficult post in the face of the ever increasing infirmity of an insidious disease.

Mary Bechtler came to the School in 1899 an inexperienced young girl—very buoyant, very determined, conquering studies for which she was less prepared than her older class-mates and winning at her graduation a rank which would have satisfied a far more ambitious student. After being ordered Deaconess, Mary was one of three class-mates to take up work in the city of Washington. She became parish worker of St. Mary's Chapel, the mission for colored people belonging to St. John's parish. As the years passed, her strength became less and less, but the influence for good which she exercised was appreciated by the officers of the parish and through their generous provision she was enabled to leave her post from time to time for change of climate and treatment. Her last labors as well as her first were for her beloved flock at St. Mary's. When the time came a few months ago for her to lay aside all activity, she returned to her kinsfolk in North Carolina, her native State, until her release came.

God grant to her faithful soul His blessed rest and peace.

S. T. K.

FROM THE PARISH LEAFLET OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH, N.Y.C.

Last Sunday, Nov. 17, 1918, the Parish suffered a great calamity and hundreds of our parishioners met with a great and irreparable loss in the passing into Life Eternal of Deaconess Hildegard von Brockdorff. She was far from well last Sunday morning, but forced herself to perform her regular duties. In the afternoon she was overcome by a stroke of apoplexy, resulting in a state of coma, in which she died early on Sunday evening in the Presbyterian

Hospital. The funeral service was held in St. James' Church Wednesday afternoon at 5.00 o'clock. The full choir was present and sang most feelingly and beautifully. The clergy of the parish, six in all, were in attendance. The interment was made in London, Ontario.

Deaconess von Brockdorff was born in Canada on July 10, 1859. Her father was William, Count de Brockdorff Schney, a Danish nobleman of Schleswig-Holstein. Her mother was Emma Moore Staniforth, an Englishwoman of great beauty, who for some years was a prominent figure at the Bavarian court. They emigrated to Sarnia, Canada, a few years previous to the birth of their daughter, who was reared amid the simple and wholesome influences of that new land.

In her early womanhood Deaconess von Brockdorff dedicated her life to the service of the Church. For ten years she worked at St. George's Church, New York, then ten years at St. Mark's-in-the-Bouwerie, then six years in Grace Church, Providence, and for two years in St. James' Church, New York.

Deaconess von Brockdorff was a rare and radiant personality. Gifted by nature with unusual attractiveness of mind and person, she had a warm and affectionate nature which drew hosts of friends within the circle of her magnetic influence. Friendship indeed was the breath of her life. With these qualities she combined a passionate love of the Church and zeal for its welfare.

She will be widely and deeply missed in the Parish. Her influence here was strong and beneficent and was growing rapidly. To hundreds of our people her smile, word and presence meant much. The Christian Nurture Classes, the Sewing School, the Friday Evening War-relief Guild which she founded, the Married Women's Society, the Woman's Auxiliary, the Girls' Friendly Society, the homes which she visited, all are bereft.

But, though saddened by her death and immeasurably poorer to-day than we were a week ago, we are deeply thankful for her beautiful and inspiring life. She worshipped with us last Sunday morning. To-day she is in the presence of the King whom she adored. We can believe that she is not making petition for herself, but that in the pure unselfishness of her noble nature she is making intercession for the thousands to whom she has ministered, among them the people of St. James', whom she loved so sincerely and for whose good she gave herself so lavishly.

"I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labors."

ALUMNÆ DIRECTORY

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