

THE ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

June, 1926



**ISSUED BY THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW YORK
TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DEACONESSSES IN
JUNE AND NOVEMBER**

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1925-1926**

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NUMBER XXIII

JUNE, 1926

COMMENCEMENT

Commencement took place this year on May 14th, at eleven o'clock, in the Cathedral Chapel of St. Ansgarius, chosen, as always, because of its being memorial to Dr. Huntington, the Founder of the School. This beautiful Gothic Chapel may now be entered not only from the ambulatory, but from the Baptistry, which is rapidly nearing completion.

The weather was threatening, but the procession from St. Faith's was safely accomplished, and later on, the Close was radiant in Spring sunshine.

In the chancel were Bishop Manning, Dean Robbins, the Rev. Stanley Brown-Serman, Warden of the School, the Rev. Frank Gavin, Th. D. and the Rev. Charles N. Shepard, of the General Theological Seminary, and the Rev. J. Wilson Sutton, Vicar of Trinity Chapel.

Mr. Richard Smythe, of the Cathedral Choir, presided at the organ, and the music throughout the service was beautifully rendered.

After the reading of the impressive Bidding Prayer of the School, Bishop Manning, who is President of the Board of Trustees, awarded the certificates, diplomas, and medals of the School.

The Senior class was as follows:

MARY CZEZENYI ANDERSON, Washington, D. C., who was obliged to withdraw during the first term.

MARY MCKENNON HICKMAN, Columbia, Tenn. Permanent work, Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford, Conn.

LETTITIA ELIZABETH HONERT, Fredonia, N. Y. Summer work, All Saints' Church, Sinclairville, N. Y.

BERNICE MARSHAUS, Hollywood, Calif. Summer work, Austin Priory, R. I. Permanent work, St. Mark's Church, Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

ERMA GIBBS SCOTT, Cazenovia, N. Y. Summer work, St. Mary's on the Mountain, Sewanee, Tenn.

ELEANOR PILCHER SMITH, Deaconess, Permanent work, St. Mark's Church, New Britain, Conn.

Eleven former graduates of the School, having done a year's work, received the diploma of the School, namely:

MARGARET S. BECHTOL, Deaconess, Trinity Church, New Castle, Pa.

(MRS.) PHYLLIS DICKINSON WILLIAMS, Church Mission of Help, Albany, N. Y.

VERA CATHERINE GARDNER, Grace Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.

DOROTHY E. HEDLEY, Girls' Friendly Society, Province, II.
ELEANOR GILBERT PARKER, Church of the Messiah, Boston,
Mass.

ELIZABETH PETTIT, Trinity Church, Elmira, N. Y.

CLARA SEARLE, Grace Church, Providence, R. I.

ELEANORE IRVINE SIME, Church of the Holy Trinity, New
York.

MIRIAM A. STOY, Teachers' College, New York.

MARIE ORLEAN TURLEY, Diocese of Texas.

VIRGINIA C. ZIMMERMANN, Diocese of Southern Ohio.

The School reported one third year student, three special and
three non-resident students.

Fourteen Juniors were scheduled to do summer work at
St. Luke's Hospital, New York.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Gavin, who devel-
oped a most suggestive line of thought, based upon a two-fold text,
from St. John's Gospel, Chapter 15, verse 26, and Chapter 16,
verse 13. Dwelling upon these passages, he outlined his concep-
tion of the balance which should be preserved between liberalism
and conservatism, in Christian discipleship.

The Offering was for the Deaconess Benefit Fund.

There followed the Office for the Setting Apart of Deacon-
esses, Bishop Manning, officiating.

Those set apart were:

Miss Margaret S. Bechtol, of Trinity Church, New Castle,
Pa., and Mrs. Eleanor Pilcher Smith, of St. Mark's Church, New
Britain, Conn.

At the conclusion of this impressive service there was a Cele-
bration of the Holy Communion, the newly ordered Deaconesses
alone communicating.

A delightful company gathered later at St. Faith's to meet
and greet friends old and new, as has been the time honored
custom.

The Alumnae Association met at two o'clock. Thus closed a
Commencement Day of unusual interest.

REPORTS OF SECRETARY

The thirty-sixth meeting of the Alumnae Association of the
New York Training School for Deaconesses was held at St. Faith's
House on Saturday, January 23, 1926, at 3 p. m. Present six
deaconesses and twenty-two others, including thirteen members
of the Junior Class.

The meeting was opened with prayers by the President,
Deaconess Schodts.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read by the
Secretary and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and
ordered on file.

As a question was raised as to whether Article III, Section 2,

of the By-Laws had been regularly amended at the meeting following the presentation of the proposed form to the Association in September, 1919, the amendment, upon motion duly made and seconded, was unanimously ratified as follows:

ARTICLE III, SECTION 2

“Three members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee.”

The proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2, of the By-Laws, which had been presented at the meeting in May, 1925, was finally approved, as follows:

ARTICLE II, SECTION 2

“The Officers shall be elected by ballot, for a term of two years; the printed ballot, which shall present the names of at least two candidates for each office, having been sent to each member of the Association three months previous to the annual meeting.”

Members of the Junior Class were then asked to introduce themselves and tell something of their preparations and plans. It was then suggested that each member of the Association present give a brief account of what she has done and is doing since leaving St. Faith's. This enabled the students and alumae to establish points of contact, in several instances, that made the social hour which followed more than usually interesting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted to adjourn, and tea was served in the refectory.

HELEN G. FLAGG,
Secretary.

The thirty-seventh meeting of the Alumnae Association of the New York Training School for Deaconesses was held at St. Faith's House on Commencement Day, Friday, May 14, 1926, at 2.15 p. m.

At the request of the President, Deaconess Schodts, the Warden of the School, Reverend Stanley Brown-Serman, opened the meeting with prayer, and was then asked to give the Alumnae a message.

The Warden discussed the future of St. Faith's. During the past two years, he said, he has been studying the problems presented by the School, and announced matured plans for extensive advertising of the opportunities offered by the School. The most urgent problems now confronting the School are:

FINANCIAL. The School is disproportionately expensive. However, the financial problem will be largely solved if we succeed in meeting the second problem, which is in regard to

THE STUDENT BODY. We need to increase the number of the students. We have now in attendance just half as many as we

could conveniently accommodate. The demand for our graduates is far in excess of the supply. Our plan for advertising in the Church papers, and the distribution of 4,000 circulars among our clergy, should help to bring the training facilities of the School to the attention of those who can spread the knowledge of its work to the right kind of young women.

Here the Warden sounded a note of warning. While attempting to enlarge the student body, we must keep in mind the need for the right sort of students. We want the vivid type of American womanhood, those who are well-balanced in mind and heart and disposition, of intellectual capacity, and above all with a sense of humor. We must have the School represent a high standard of scholarship.

Testimonials of sincere appreciation from those who are using our graduates prove the usefulness of the graduates whom we are sending forth into the American Church. Those who know the work of the School appreciate it. Whatever criticism is expressed comes from those who do not know it.

Mr. Brown-Serman ended by reiterating the appeal that he made to the Association in 1924—that the Alumnae endeavor in every possible way to bear testimony to the value of the School and extend the knowledge of its work.

After the Warden left to attend another meeting, the President called for the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved as read. The Treasurer's report was read and ordered on file. The President called attention to the small proportion of enrolled members who have paid their dues, and the still smaller number that have contributed to the Scholarship. In view of the Warden's remarks as to the financial problem confronting the School's treasury, we could not fail to recognize the need for continuing the Alumnae Scholarship; yet the fund was reported to be in less flourishing condition than at the corresponding time of any year since we undertook this piece of work.

At this point in the discussion, Miss Evelyn Buchanan presented for the Scholarship Fund a gift of \$50.00, sent by the Senior Department of the Church School of the Church of the Ascension, Pittsburgh. With this splendid contribution the Alumnae felt that we should renew our efforts to meet the balance required.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the proposed amendment to Section III of Article IV of the Constitution was finally approved, as follows:

CONSTITUTION—ARTICLE IV

Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Association, the Editor of the Bulletin and three members to be appointed by the President at the annual business meeting.”

Deaconess Bechtol and Deaconess Smith, who had been set

apart in the Cathedral in the morning, were then asked to say a few words, and both of them spoke feelingly of their appreciation of all that the School had done for them, and their happiness in their vocation.

Miss Hopkins appealed for letters and personals for the Bulletin, and requested that they be sent in promptly.

The Secretary asked that Alumnae keep us informed of changes of address.

Miss Ranger proposed for Associate membership Miss Louise Rich, whose record showed that she had met all requirements of the Association for such membership, and the recommendation was unanimously approved.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted to adjourn.

HELEN G. FLAGG, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

January 23, 1926 to May 14, 1926

GENERAL FUND

Receipts

Balance on hand January 23rd, 1926.....	\$52.38
Dues received	60.50
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Total receipts	\$112.88

Expenditures

Stamps and envelopes.....	\$ 6.54
Electric Press for Scholarship letters and Pledge forms	9.25
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Total Expenditures	\$ 15.79
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Balance on Hand.....	\$ 97.09

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Balance January 23rd, 1926.....	\$ 87.81
Donations	323.00
	<hr/>
Total May 14, 1926.....	\$410.81

Respectfully submitted,

LILLIAN L. MUNSON, Treasurer.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF DEACONESSES

At the October meeting the Chapter was the guest of Deaconess Hodgkiss at the Church Charity Foundation, Brooklyn, for luncheon, followed by the business meeting in their delightful drawing-room.

At the luncheon the Rev. Mr. Webb, the Chaplain, welcomed the Chapter, and gave a little summary of the beginning and scope of the work of the Foundation.

At this meeting Deaconess Young, our new President, took the chair.

The January meeting was preceded by a Quiet Hour at the Church of the Incarnation, conducted by the Rector, Dr. H. Percy Silver. It was helpful and inspiring. The Chapter was the guest of Mrs. E. V. Z. Lane for the business meeting, followed by a delightful tea. At the meeting it was voted to send Bishop Manning \$50.00 toward the deficit of the National Council.

The May meeting of the Chapter was held at 17 Beekman Place, with Deaconess Young.

The Chapter enjoyed a helpful address by the Rev. Samuel Shoemaker, Rector of Calvary Church.

Then followed a very pleasant social hour with tea.

KATHARINE B. PECK, Deaconess,
Secretary.

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Deaconess Schodts writes :

Read—Mark—Look—Listen.

The report from our treasurer, given on Commencement Day, which covers about two thirds of the year, shows that we have 187 members in our Association; of these only 106 have paid their dues for the current year and only 54 have contributed towards the Scholarship Fund.

This shows a serious lack of interest and co-operation in our Association.

If we existed for nothing else but to raise this fund to help some young women to prepare for work in the Church, to hasten the coming of Christ's Kingdom, it would be worth while; but we have also that bond of fellowship and unity of purpose which should make us glad and thoughtful of our responsibility for our school and its work, and for the friendly intercourse we have either through our meetings or through the pages of the Bulletin.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

From Ann Mundelein (1922-23), Hankow, China :

"I am just beginning to do evangelistic work up in Hankow native city, in the most dirty, smelly, ugly, poverty-stricken and wholly unattractive district that you can imagine. New York slums cannot touch the condition of the neighborhood around St. John's. But I am very, very happy. I love all the things I am planning to do. Just now we have a women's meeting every Thursday afternoon, which I am expecting to take charge of myself by Christmas-time, and I am organizing an Altar Guild, and

just now acting as choir mother until I can inspire someone else to help me. Then later I am to have classes in instruction for Baptism and Confirmation. At present I have charge of the teachers in the Girls' School, and supervise the English work, handle the school finances, inspect the school, etc., and go out with the Bible women making Parish calls.

"I am still studying with a teacher from 9 to 12 noon. I have still to take examinations in the Marriage and Burial Offices, and Collects, Epistles and Gospels in the Prayer Book; a Book of Chinese classics, a simple set of books in the common language, and have a whole book full of sentences to memorize to complete this term's work, and then I have another term after that, and that's all! Tomorrow I shall have finished my examinations in Morning and Evening Prayer, the Holy Communion Office, and the Litany, in the Prayer Book course.

"I still make awfully funny mistakes in the language, especially in every day subjects. I cause my Chinese friends lots of amusement, but am glad to be at least thus appreciated.

"There has been a good deal of anti-foreign feeling, but things are much quieter now."

From Mary Kwei (1924), Shanghai:

"My work is very interesting. We have 230 children and I could have more had I more places for them. But you would be surprised to know that out of all these children only 28 are Christians. I could not believe it myself when I found out but nevertheless it is true. I am trying to do something for them as best I know how. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays I visit their families and try to win them. I also plan to have clubs where the girls can learn a little of our religion. As the children are of different ages I have to divide them into such groups that each will get something worth while. I wonder if I can succeed."

We quote from two letters from Agnes Bradley (1923), Fort Yukon, Alaska:

"We arrived at Eagle Native Village about nine-thirty and there I attended my first Indian service. Although everyone was ill with the "Flu," as soon as the Church bell rang, you saw them coming from all directions. Each Indian carried his own Prayer Book and Hymnal. The Church was full and very odoriferous. The men sat on one side and the women, with the papooses on their backs, on the other. The service was very interesting and I *tried* to sing in Indian. After service we shook hands with everyone, and then went on to Eagle, where we spent the night in a road-house. Wednesday morning Bishop Rowe went back to the Native Village for Holy Communion and Confirmation. When he returned to Eagle, there was a white boy to be baptized. We looked all around for some sort of a font in the Church, but had to

resort to a glass tumbler. We left Eagle about noon and reached Circle City around midnight. In the morning the 'Pelican' arrived, and so, while the Bishop visited the sick and had prayers in each cabin, we transferred from the 'Flamingo' to the 'Episcopal barge.' Then we started out on our homeward stretch. About five-thirty we passed a tree with a white fence around it, which made it look like a graveyard, but instead it was the marking of the Arctic Circle. . . .

"You have to be a surgeon as well as a nurse up here. The hospital is a wonderful institution and splendidly equipped, considering it is in the Arctic. Practically all of our patients are tubercular, and some of these have it in terrible forms. But when you realize that the Mission has decreased the rate of six deaths to a birth, to one death to a birth, you give thanks and pray that the Church may continue her work. . . .

"The new Mission house is almost finished. There will be room for thirty children in the new house, which will be a great blessing, for there are so many orphans. . . .

"We have a dear little Church here, but it is not large enough for the native congregation. There are two Indian services and one English service on Sunday, and Indian services during the week. How I wish I could be with you all and kneel together in our dear Oratory. You never can realize what St. Faith's and the Cathedral mean to you until you are off in the Mission field. Often I think of our beautiful early services, and what a privilege it was to be able to receive the Blessed Sacrament so frequently. It is our close communion with God during our training at St. Faith's that makes our love of Christ grow into the joy of service. No matter how far off we may be, we can always feel close to each other at God's Altar and in the use of our School prayers. When one gets discouraged it is a wonderful help to know that those back home are praying for you and your work. . . .

"I haven't heard a bit of radio since I've been here, and as I seldom see a paper, I am quite ignorant of what is going on in the outside world.

"We received our first mail by dog team on the 16th of November, and you can imagine the excitement after two months without any mail. I received forty letters, and needless to say they are not all answered yet. . . .

"On All Saints' Day I made my Communion for the first time in three months. You can appreciate what a great privilege and blessing it was. The Altar looked beautiful with white hangings on, made by the Indians out of moosehide, having gorgeous bead-work on them.

At the Indian service they went to the cemetery and placed evergreen wreathes, made by the children, on the graves. It was a lovely sight.

"I have been playing the organ for the Indian service, when I could get away from the Hospital, but I haven't been able to lately.

I am sorry because it helped me a lot, and the Indians seemed to appreciate it so much.

"For several months I have been having Prayers in the wards in the native tongue. The children love to sing and now I can sing almost as well in their language as I can in English.

"My first half year in the Mission field has passed very quickly, although it has been somewhat hectic. I have learned a great deal. It takes a long time to learn everyone's peculiarities and to combat one's own, but I finally feel adjusted and acclimated. . . .

"We have had a mild winter. There was one cold spell when the thermometer dropped to fifty-four below. The scenery is perfectly gorgeous. . . . A week ago I went for my first dog ride, I enjoyed it ever so much, except for a head on collision with another dog team. I didn't feel very comfortable with all the trouble around me. However, I lived through it without saying a word, and arrived home safely."

PERSONALS

Deaconess Routledge has returned to her work in Tukuran in the Philippines. She has been greatly in need of a new house to replace the little "ant-riddled" shack in which she has been living.

A generous parishioner of Grace Church, New York, has kindly sent through the Rector the \$2,000 necessary for this purpose. This gift will make possible a "larger and much safer" abode; truly a "house by the side of the road," and a worthy expression of the relationship between the Deaconess and the community she serves so devotedly.

Deaconess Dieterly (1922) is planning to take up work in St. John's Church, Pittsburgh, during the coming year.

Deaconess Garvin (1900) has lately completed twenty-five years of service at Grace Church, New York, "as Secretary to three Rectors and as friend to the whole Church family—a service which still happily continues."

It is understood that the Vestry of Grace Church marked this anniversary in very generous fashion.

Deaconess Knapp and Deaconess Schodts sailed for England on the S.S. "Coronia," on May 29th. They will go soon to France, passing most of their time in Paris, planning, however, a trip into Switzerland.

Returning to England they hope to meet Deaconess Fuller in Windsor. They are due to arrive in New York on August 2nd. Deaconess Knapp plans to spend the rest of August in Heath, Mass., expecting to start upon her return journey to Japan about September 1st.

Deaconess Lyon (1898) expects to leave soon for work under Bishop Colmore, in Porto Rico. In so doing, however, she is not severing her connection with St. Hilda's House, New Haven.

Miss Lillian L. Munson (1912) is at Hope Farm, Verbank, N. Y.

Deaconess West has recovered from her serious illness of last winter, and has become Diocesan Secretary of the Girls' Friendly Society, with offices at 133 East 45th Street, New York.

Miss Louise Rich (1919) has been called to the position of Field Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Religious Education, with offices at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York.

Deaconess Theodora Beard has returned to New York, and is Director of the Grace Church Day Nursery, at 94 Fourth Avenue. It will be a pleasure to welcome Deaconess Beard once more at the meetings of the Alumnae Association.

Miss Olive B. Tomlin (1916) is back from China, and expects to study at Cornell this summer.

Miss Evelyn G. Buchanan (1923) is anticipating the pleasure of a summer in Europe, traveling with a friend.

Deaconess Pitcher is on her way home from China, on furlough.

Deaconess Gardner has retired from active duty at Grace Church Day Nursery, after a remarkable record of thirty-three years of devoted service in Grace Parish.

While not directly connected with the Deaconess School, Deaconess Gardner was set apart during the rectorship of the Rev. Dr. Huntington, Founder of the School, and she has been closely in touch with its history and development.

We wish Deaconess Gardner every happiness in her summer home at Edgartown, Mass.

Mrs. Cameron F. McRae (Sallie Woodward, 1905) with her husband, and six children ranging from seven to seventeen years, expect to land at Marseilles on August 6th, where Deaconess Woodward will meet them and conduct a Cook's tour to Paris and London, landing in New York September 6th.

The older children will remain in this country at boarding-school.

Deaconess Dahlgren writes:

"Our Hospital students returned yesterday (June 1st) and twelve of them went over to St. Luke's this morning, looking very lovely in their caps and uniforms. It is always a great day in the life of the School."

Born: Three Alumnae Babies.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stanley McCrary Pargellis, (Elizabeth Allen, Spl. 1921) a daughter, Margaret Ann, April 7, 1926, New Haven, Conn.

To the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Alexander Magill (Stephanie Bradford, 1922) a son, Robert Alexander, Jr., August 15, 1925, Tsingtau, China.

To the Rev. and Mrs. Hollis Smith (Anne Piper, 1922) a daughter, May 3, 1926, Changsu, Kiangsu, China.