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Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

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Trinity College Bulletin



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Reports of

The President, The Treasurer
and The Librarian



HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

October, 1923

TRINITY COLLEGE BULLETIN

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Report
of
The President
to the
Trustees of Trinity College



October 1, 1923

Report
of the Trustees of the University
of the State of New York

The President of the University
to the Trustees of the University
of the State of New York



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF TRINITY COLLEGE

The completion of the first hundred years in the life of our college calls for some extended statement on the part of the President as to the present state of the college and its place in the academic world.

There was a time when those who were in charge of the raising of our Centennial Fund felt that the completion of pledges to the amount of a million dollars by June, 1923 was the great aim of the college. The successful achievement of that goal, however, has left in our minds a feeling that the great result of our Centennial celebration was not to be measured in dollars and cents or even in the numbers of alumni returning and the genial good time they had. The completion of no sum of money can be considered a goal. It is simply an added responsibility and an increasing incentive to more effort. The thoughts of all those present at the Centennial were rightly directed towards the future.

Before we pass to a consideration of Trinity in the second century, some comment is necessary upon the year just completed. It was a source of satisfaction to begin our Centennial year with more students than ever before. The total enrollment last year was 268. The difference between having a few students under capacity and having a few over is not relative—it is absolute. It changes the entire attitude of the students towards their work and it frees the Faculty from any unnecessary feeling that policies too drastic might cut down numbers to the financial detriment of the college.

As far as numbers of students go, 250 is the limit of our effectiveness. Though we took in more than that number last year, it was difficult to carry on the details of class work with our crowded laboratories and our over-worked teaching force. The college dormitories with the fraternity houses can house students up to 200 with a few minor adjustments of rooms; and as a considerable portion of our students live at home in Hartford or in nearby towns, there is no demand for the construction of new dormitories. In the science courses, however, particularly in Chemistry, we must have relief soon to remove the intense pressure. Every year we have to refuse to properly qualified students admission to certain laboratory courses,

particularly those necessary for the pre-medical course. In accordance with the vote of the Trustees last June your President is making plans for the raising of funds for and construction of a new chemical laboratory.

This will relieve the pressure in one important direction. Aid must be given also to increase the teaching force in the social sciences. At present one professor is taking the allied subjects of History and Political Science, another Economics and Sociology, and a third Philosophy and Psychology. If Trinity is to keep abreast with the intellectual thought of our day, we must divide the work in these three departments and arrange for two men where now we have one. This is especially important in the case of History where the classes are so large that the resultant strain upon the professor is almost beyond the bearing point. The increases in the teaching staff here indicated, with the new laboratory, would enable us to grow normally to a college of approximately 300 students. This fall the enrollment is 253, which we may consider as all right and well within our present resources.

There have been considerable changes in the personnel of the Faculty during the last year. Professor Charles A. Fischer died suddenly last December. He was a young man thoroughly equipped for his task and well known among his colleagues in other institutions. His death was a great loss to the college. After considerable examination of various candidates for the position, it was finally decided to appoint to the chair Professor Dadourian, for several years assistant professor of Physics. Professor Dadourian's interest has always been in the mathematical side of Physics and he is thoroughly competent to administer the department. He has started at once with rearrangement of the material offered, especially in regard to Freshman Mathematics, where changes have been made which bring Trinity up in the forefront of educational institutions in regard to the content of the Mathematics taught to Freshmen. It is good that the college has been able to secure Professor Dadourian for the chair of Mathematics, because his ability was becoming so well known in the scientific world that we could not have kept him much longer as an associate professor.

Professor Perkins, returning a year ago from his sabbatical year in Europe, has brought the department of Physics up to a standard of high efficiency. As assistant professor we have secured one of our own graduates—Mr. Wadlund of the class of 1917. It is always good to add Trinity men to our teaching staff.

The retirement of Professor McCook has called forth so many expressions of appreciation of his services to the college that no further tribute is needed here. Suffice it to say that we are glad to have the continuance of his service to the college on the Board of Trustees. Professor Spaulding has taken over the department of German with success. The enrollment in that particular department, due perhaps to the fact that many High Schools at the time of the war neglected the teaching of German, is unduly large. It may be necessary to provide for permanent assistance in that department.

It is to be hoped that with the new chemical laboratory will come the building up of a permanent staff in the department of Chemistry. Professor Krieble is a man of such talent that he should be given adequate assistance. It is not good to be compelled to change assistant professors every year as we have lately.

The publication by Professor Troxell of the pamphlet on "The Geology of the Trinity College Campus" has attracted attention in many quarters. The pamphlet was an excellent endeavor to make scientific knowledge popularly accessible. As a result of the publication of the pamphlet, the Park Commission of the city of Hartford has undertaken to put up signs in Rocky Ridge Park calling attention to the noteworthy geological features of this tract, so that the college has done a rare service to the community here. At present we have only one-half of Professor Troxell's time, the remainder of which he gives to Yale. He is a young man of ability and promise. Unless we can arrange to put him on our permanent staff, we may lose him.

With regard to sabbatical leaves, your President urges thorough examination on the part of the Trustees of the report now being prepared by the Faculty in reference to a permanent scheme of leaves of absence. At present we are living from hand to mouth without any definite policy. This is a handicap to the work of an educational institution. Last year Professor Rogers and Professor Kleene were absent the whole year. This year Professor Carpenter and Professor Shepard are away. In all cases the work of the absent professor has been covered by the cooperation of his colleagues and by efficient assistance.

It was a gratification to all concerned that the Trustees felt able in June to adopt the graded scale of salaries made out by a Faculty Committee providing for immediate increase in the compensation of our staff. Our professors have taught here for a long time at salaries below the market rate and they are ready so to continue. They appreciate very keenly, however,

the recognition of their services which the action of the Trustees indicates. Mr. Davis and Mr. Tilton in cooperation with the Treasurer have been able to secure such payments to the Centennial Fund as would seem to justify the action of the Trustees in increasing the appropriation by raising the salaries of professors and still leaving the budget balanced.

So much for the events of the past year. There is much more that might be said about the detailed problems now under consideration especially with regard to the administration of the college. This is now our weakest point. Suffice it to say that committees are considering our standards of admission, our course of study and our machinery of the college office; further report of what has been done may be made on another occasion.

To a certain extent the President of a college is responsible for the definition of the policy of the college. It is his important task to reconcile the divergent criticism of alumni and to formulate into effective action the consolidated opinion of the Faculty and the Trustees, two bodies with widely different points of view. The present President of the college undertook office with his equipment altogether insufficient for these responsibilities and it has been his endeavor for the past three years to formulate in his own mind a policy for the college which should consider all the elements involved. Something may be stated here as to the results of these three years.

It is extraordinary to notice the wide range of opinion prevailing today as to the function of an institution of higher learning. There are those who consider it entirely in vocational terms. They would have the college give such courses as would increase the effectiveness in commercial life of its graduates. Others regard the college primarily as a training for professional schools. Every year the standards of admission to the medical schools change and a greater burden is laid upon the college. Other professions make claims less exacting but just as definite. There is finally a third group who are convinced that the place of the college is to equip men for later life, be it professional or commercial, by devotion to such cultural subjects as will give them a sympathy with the developing mind of the human race. In time past Trinity College has occasionally flirted with the first group. We must cut loose from them altogether. There may be a place in the educational scheme of our country for vocational schools of higher learning for commercial courses and for the intensive study of economic problems. This is not, however, our duty. Our task is to reconcile whatever differences of opinion there may be between those in the second and third groups.

We should develop the minds of our young men by bringing to bear upon their training the heritage of the ages and filling them with ideals for their social usefulness. Leadership demands concentration, which in many cases results in the choice of a definite profession. At present Trinity College is equipped to send its best students into any professional school in the country. Our men are welcomed there for we have a reputation for doing good work. That must continue in addition to everything else. It is good for a small college to set for itself the goal of doing one thing better than it can be done anywhere else in the educational field. Our opportunities here when we get our new laboratory building are such as to fit us to give special attention to the pre-medical courses. Already we are well known in certain quarters for the caliber of the men we are sending to medical schools. Greater success along these lines will mean greater responsibilities. Although the specialized instruction demanded is a constantly increasing burden, we must hold firmly to our conviction that the greater the man, the greater the surgeon—the greater the man, the greater the physician. Our ideal should be to send to the medical schools men not only equipped with the necessary Chemistry and Biology but also with the breadth of vision that comes from a knowledge of History, an understanding of the other peoples of the world through acquaintance with their language and literature, some acquaintance with the workings of the human mind and finally the ability to crystallize thought in cogent words.

It has been interesting to the point of amusement for your President to be the recipient of criticism from two opposite poles. On the one hand there have been those, friends and benefactors of the college, who have lamented bitterly that a college once Christian in character has degenerated into a secular institution. On the other hand, there is a group who complain no less bitterly that the future of Trinity College is handicapped because it is giving up its freedom by subservience to ecclesiasticism. On the one hand, we attract a considerable number of Roman Catholic students with the approval of their ecclesiastical authorities because we are known to be so liberal, and yet on the other hand, we are still considered to be a theological training school. Your President feels that just as long as the criticism of Trinity is from such entirely divergent directions the situation is safe. There is to him no inconsistency in adhering to the traditions of the college as an institution founded by leaders of the Episcopal Church for higher education and at the same time maintaining perfect freedom in thought and administration. Your President is quite ready to continue a policy which enabled him to go before the

General Education Board to ask for aid for the college on the ground of its free charter, and at the same time to get help from the central authorities of the Episcopal Church on the ground of the service that Trinity has rendered to the Church in its century of existence. It is significant that the intelligent leaders of both groups thus appealed to see no inconsistency in the situation and approve of the double appeal. It is to be hoped that within the Board of Trustees there will be such understanding of this important point that those who really wish to know the situation can get an exact statement of where we stand from our Trustees, and so that we will not appear to outsiders, and more important yet, not to appear to ourselves to be wobbling and inconsistent.

It is therefore, a matter of pride to the President that in the three years of his administration Trinity College has been able to secure substantial aid for endowment from the General Education Board and in addition an annual appropriation for running expenses from the General Council of the Episcopal Church. In both cases it has been the endeavor of the President to justify the aid given. The figures of the religious affiliations of our student body show that we are gloriously free, and certainly there is no feeling on the part of the President or any of the governing authorities of the college that we should accept ecclesiastical supervision. Nor is there any desire to exercise that by any person or organization within the Church.

It seems certain, therefore, that Trinity enters its second century with an honored past and with a definite goal for the future. A continuation of the loyal devotion which the Trustees of the College have shown during the Centennial year will mean that the future of the college is assured.