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Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

VOLUME XXVI

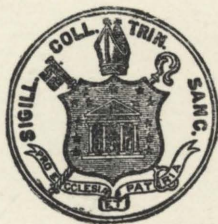
NEW SERIES

NUMBER 4

Trinity College Bulletin



Reports of
The President, The Dean,
The Librarian, and The Treasurer



HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

October, 1929

Report
of
The President
to the
Trustees of Trinity College



December 1, 1929



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The academic year 1928-9 came to a close at Trinity with a Commencement marked by a large return of alumni, a welcome baseball victory and a brilliant group of distinguished guests. To let every alumnus of the college have an account of this Commencement as well as to make it a matter of record, the Executive Committee of the Trustees have directed that the July number of the Trinity College Bulletin be a report of the 1929 Commencement and be sent to all alumni. The April number of the Bulletin contained a list of the addresses of all living alumni, and copies of that publication will be sent to any of our graduates upon request. The injunction so often stressed to college men that it should be their responsibility to see that their Alma Mater is always informed of any change of addresses should be repeated here.

The President and the Trustees received last spring a formal report from the Board of Fellows on the state of the College. It was a document of real value, representing as it did a thorough study of the College, plant, personnel and prospects, and embodying certain important recommendations. It is some years since the Fellows have made such a report and in the minds of many alumni there has been much uncertainty as to just why the names of the Board of Fellows should make their annual appearance in the catalog. It should be remembered that the Fellows are by statute the official examiners of the College, and though they may not function regularly as such, the worth of this last report justifies years of seeming atrophy. The Trustees welcome such a report, especially for the loyalty to the College indicated with the constructive nature of the criticism contained. It is interesting to note that some of the recommendations of the Fellows have already been carried out and others are under consideration.

Coincident with the report from the Board of Fellows another report was made to the Trustees this spring, this latter from a self-appointed body representing certain of the fraternities. In some details it covers the same ground as the report of the Board of Fellows, but it goes farther into the field of curriculum revision. As the whole question of the course of study required for a degree is in the hands of a committee from the Trustees, such portions of the reports of the Board of Fellows and of the Inter-fraternity group that had to do with the curriculum were referred to that body. A joint meeting of the Trustees with the Fellows after the April meeting of the Board did much to promote mutual understanding.

As the report of the Committee on the Curriculum was printed in July and sent to all the alumni, no further review of the problems involved is needed here. The situation now is that the Committee made no definite recommendation in June and has been continued to report at the next meeting, with authorization to add to their numbers a nominee of the Board of Fellows. In view of the fact that the recommendations of that Committee are not yet final, I refrain from any comment.

At the April meeting of the Board the resignation of Mr. Edgar F. Waterman as Trustee and Treasurer was presented. Mr. Waterman has served the College faithfully for many years and in the condition of our trust funds has left a permanent record of the worth of his service. It is a pleasure to record that on his retirement he left the affairs of the College in such a condition as to gain the unstinted praise of our auditor.

As Mr. Waterman's resignation was unexpected and as he asked for an early acceptance of his request for release on the grounds of his health, it was necessary to make some temporary provision to allow the Executive Committee time to secure a new treasurer. Anson T. McCook was called upon to act as Treasurer during the summer, a difficult task, which he performed with characteristic zeal and for which he refused to receive any financial recompense. Meantime the Executive Committee, after looking over applicants from a wide field, elected Roger H. Motten as Treasurer, his election to take effect on October 1929.

During the academic year 1928-29, the President was absent for three months. Professor Rogers acted as Chairman of the Faculty during his absence. It is a pleasure to record the readiness with which everyone concerned carried on during these months. Professor Perkins was away on leave of absence for the full year and will not take up his college duties until February 1, 1930, at which time Professor Dadourian will go on leave for half a year.

It is good to have Professor Shepard return after an absence of two years, during which time he was working in England on a Guggenheim Fellowship. We are grateful to Grinnell College for having made it possible for Professor Wood to be with us for those two years. He has made a real contribution to Trinity.

During the coming year Professor John Spaulding will be absent in Europe. His work in the German Department will be carried on by Dr. Martin Beutler of Magdeburg, Germany. Special leave of absence was also voted to Professor Naylor to enable him to prepare for publication his thesis which he offered at Johns Hopkins for his doctor's degree. His subject is the influence of Virgil on French literature in the early half of the

nineteenth century, and its publication is desired by the authorities at Johns Hopkins during the coming year of the Virgil anniversary. Professor Naylor's classes will be carried on by Wheeler Hawley, one of our own graduates, an optimus of the class of 1925, who has been teaching in the Middle West.

We add to our Faculty this fall Mr. G. V. Wright to take the place of Mr. Merriman of the Physical Education department; he will have especial charge of baseball. Mr. J. C. Clark, also new this year, comes to us primarily to take charge of the new swimming pool.

In the department of Economics Professor Kleene returns after a full year's leave. It has been good to have the impact of the vigorous personality of Professor Leonard upon our group during his absence. Mr. K. W. Folley, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, resigned in June; his place is taken by Mr. William D. Paden, who comes to us from Yale.

The process of figuring the relative standing of the fraternities in the competition for the Scholarship Cup for the academic year 1928-29 brought out some interesting facts. This cup is awarded to the fraternity getting the highest percentage of honor grades. The marks for the whole college show that while in June, 1928, 32.72% of the marks given were of the grades A or B; in June, 1929, 41.93% of the marks were A or B, — a notable increase. Equally satisfactory was the diminution in the percentage of failures in courses, which dropped from 7.44% in 1928 to 6.02% in 1929.

While a certain amount of this excellent record may be due to the competition among some of the fraternities for this cup, and while it is encouraging to see fraternities improving their scholastic standing, an increase of 30% of the honor grades throughout the college, with a corresponding decrease of 20% in the failures, means a definite uplift in our scholastic standards. There are probably several factors entering into the situation: increased care in the selection of students at entrance, the effective endeavor of our teaching staff, the contagious energy of the Dean, and a general sense of contentment in the undergraduate body. It is to be hoped that such improvement will be continued.

It is obvious that the welfare of a college depends upon its having a carefully chosen, hard-working and contented faculty. It is just as obvious, though not so often stressed, that the teaching of members of a college faculty will become more and more effective just in so far as the teachers not only keep up with the literature of their subject, but even add to it. For that reason the small college must aim to offer to its professors both opportunity and encouragement for authorship and research.

It would be absurd to leave the whole field of research to the large universities. Though they have the advantage in equipment, it is important to remember that some of the greatest discoveries in science have been made with meagre apparatus by busy men. Certainly it greatly increases the interest of our students in their work if they realize that their instructor is taking his place in the advanced skirmish line of his subject.

For this reason I am including in my report a fairly complete list of the interests and achievements of our teaching staff. The sum total of the authorship involved makes a formidable array of titles, and some of the research accomplished is given high rating within its own field. For example, not only is certain research in our Chemical Laboratory made use of by the Rockefeller Foundation, but also the National Research Council of the United States of America has recently awarded to Trinity a grant to further certain research in our department of Biology.

Any consideration of research and authorship brings up the problem of the number of teaching hours that should be required of a college professor. There are several factors that enter into the case. Recent investigation has brought out the fact that two-thirds of the professors in our American colleges supplement their salaries by other earnings. By far the greater part of these state that they do this extra work from necessity and not from choice. This would seem to indicate that if the colleges are not paying their teachers enough to enable them to live on their salaries, the colleges have no claim upon their entire time.

Obvious differences between departments have their influence upon the amount of actual teaching hours a man might be expected to give. In some cases the correction of themes involves hours of deadening labor, in others there must be careful preparation of apparatus for demonstration in a lecture. In general it is agreed in the college world that two hours of laboratory work are the equivalent of one hour of recitation or lecture.

For some time Trinity, in common with other colleges of our group, has considered the normal teaching load to be four courses a year, each course meeting three times a week, an average of twelve teaching hours. In the last few years it has come to be the practice in some colleges to reduce the assignment for full professors to nine hours a week or even less, to allow time for creative scholarship. While we at the present time cannot adopt such a scheme in toto, we should set up the nine hour schedule as a goal.

Taking into account frequent committee meetings, as well as adequate time for private study, three courses is not too light a load for an ambitious professor.

I submit here a list of various contributions members of our

Faculty have made during the past year or are making to productive scholarship, authorship and research:

Arthur Adams, Professor of English

"During the summer, I served as Secretary of the New Jersey State Commission on Marking Historical Places. My duties involved a survey of the erecting of monuments through State aid, with the provisions made for the care and maintenance of them. I had also to make a study of places that should be marked by tablets or otherwise and investigate what has been done in other States in this direction."

F. C. Babbitt, Professor of Greek

Volume III of the translation of Plutarch's *Moralia* now in press.

A. R. Bangs, Assistant Professor of German

"I am still getting my dissertation ready for publication; it should be ready by spring.

"In addition I am working on a novel published anonymously by Bulwer-Lytton in 1835. This novel, 'Mephistophiles in England', I found in the Trinity library. It is based on the 'Faust' of Goethe and forms a most important link in determining the influence of Goethe on Bulwer. The influence of 'Faust' on Bulwer has never been shown because the 'key' was lacking. The novel clears everything up."

L. C. Barret, Professor of Latin

"I have proceeded with my work of editing the Kashmirian Atharva Veda: I have written one article growing out of that editorial work and I presented it at the meeting of the Oriental Society in Cambridge last April.

"Two weeks ago I received the photozinc copy of the ms. of the Kashmirian Atharva Veda which is in Bombay and for which copy the American Council of Learned Societies furnished me the funds by grant last spring. I have begun to study the ms. and probably shall write for publication something about it."

T. H. Bissonnette, Professor of Biology

Publications appearing this year:—

- (1) Abstract of paper by Crew, F.A.E. "Abnormal Sexuality in Animals: II. Physiological" in *Biological Abstracts*, 3(1-3): 135. No. 1490.
- (2) Abstract of paper by above author. "Abnormal

Sexuality in Animals: III. Sex Reversal" in Biological Abstracts, 3(1-3): 136. No. 1491.

Papers in Original Research;

In preparation,

- (3) Studies on the ovicell, holdfast, and cyphonautes larva of *Bugula gracilis* var. *uncinata* at Woods Hole, Mass., not previously described.
- (4) The metamorphosis of *Bugula gracilis* var. *uncinata* under laboratory conditions involving low oxygen supply in standing sea water.
- (5) Regulation in *Bugula gracilis* var. *uncinata* on returning to running seawater and oxygen.
- (6) Studies on the sexual cycle in birds: I. Sexual maturity, its modifications, and possible control in the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): A general statement.
- (7) Studies on the sexual cycle in birds: II. The normal progressive changes in the testis from November to May in the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), an introduced non-migratory bird. (As a joint paper with Mr. Morton P. Chapnick who received his Master's degree in 1928).
- (8) Studies in the sexual cycle in birds: III. The normal regressive changes in the testis of the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) from May to November.
- (9) Studies on the sexual cycle in birds: IV. Experimental modification of the sexual cycle in males in the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) by changes in the daily period of illumination and of muscular work.
- (10) Studies on the sexual cycle in birds: V. Effects of different colored lights of known wave length on the sexual cycle in males of the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

H. T. Costello, Professor of Philosophy

"Outside work includes preparation of a book on systematic philosophy, contracted for by the Century Company, and likely to call for several years of preparation. Just now I am doing this in connection with the preparation of a course of lectures on Kant, to be given at Harvard University in the spring of 1930. I have published several book reviews during the year in philosophical periodicals."

H. M. Dadourian, Professor of Mathematics

In preparation a text book: "Elementary Mathematical Analysis."

T. L. Hood, Dean and Assistant Professor of English

"Pressure of college work has prevented progress in preparing the volume of letters of Robert Browning's on which I had hoped to be engaged. Some of the material has been used in a lecture to the Boston Browning Society on 'The History of the Writing of *The Ring and The Book*.'"

E. F. Humphrey, Professor of History and Political Science

Articles in Dictionary of National Biography.

V. K. Kriebel, Professor of Chemistry

"Professor Smith and I continued our research on mercury poisoning. We have again carried out a number of tests for the Hartford Electric Light Company. Recently the Brown Instrument Company of Philadelphia has asked if we could make a certain number of tests for them.

"Mr. Blanchard and I started a new investigation on the hydrolysis of hydrogen cyanide in aqueous acetic acid solutions. This research will be continued during the present college year."

L. H. Naylor, Assistant Professor of Romance Languages

On leave of absence to prepare for publication his Johns Hopkins thesis on, "The Influence of Virgil on French Literature in the Nineteenth Century."

R. Oosting, Director of Physical Education

Completion of requirement for Master's degree in Physical Education.

H. A. Perkins, Professor of Physics

On leave of absence. In preparation a text-book in General Physics.

Odell Shepard, Professor of English Literature

Recently published in England and America a volume of essays: "The Joys of Forgetting." In press: "The Lore of the Unicorn." Now engaged in writing a book on "Solitude," which represents the results of many years of study.

E. L. Skau, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Publications:

- (1) A Simple Centrifugal Filtration Device for Purification of Small Amounts of Material. *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, Volume 33, 951; June, 1929.

Accepted for publication by the Journal of the American Chemical Society:

- (1) The Transition Temperature of Carbon Tetrachloride as a Fixed Point in Thermometry, by Skau and H. F. Meier.
- (2) Compound Formation in the System: Naphthalene-Metadinitro-benzene.
Written up in preliminary form:
- (1) The Rate of Reaction on Heating Crotonic Acid, by Skau and G. L. Tate.
- (2) Further Applications of the Centrifugal Filtration Tube, by Skau and L. F. Rowe.
- (3) The Supposed Compound Formation in the System: Benzamide-Metanitrophenol, by Skau and J. Johnston.

"Besides these papers there are six more which were reported as 'in preparation' last year of which two are in the editor's hands, and the remaining four of which are not yet in final form. In addition to these the experimental work for eight other papers has been completed but has not yet been written up.

"Freezing point work which was done in cöoperation with men at other institutions has been acknowledged in the various publications.

"During the summer I purified samples of the four different monochlorvaleric acids for Dr. A. A. MacInnes of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York City. Mr. I. A. Cowperthwaite was sent here for a month by Dr. MacInnes to assist me in this work.

"I was consulted by a representative of the Division of Industrial Hygiene and Sanitation of the United States Public Health Service; Washington, D. C., on questions involving low temperature technique and designed some apparatus for them. This work was in connection with an investigation of radium poisoning in factories where radium dial watches are made.

"The following grants have been received since I arrived at Trinity:

- (1) A grant of two hundred dollars from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences to help in defraying the cost of liquid air, which is necessary for our low temperature work.
- (2) A grant of three hundred dollars from Mr. Curtis H. Veeder of Hartford to cover expenses of researches carried out during the summer."

S. B. Smith, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

"My doctor's thesis entitled 'Equilibrium between the Carbonates and Bicarbonates of Sodium and Potassium in Aqueous Solution at 25°' was published in the June issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society. I am at present engaged in further solubility determinations and relationships from the standpoint of the Phase Rule."

E. W. Spaulding, Assistant Professor of History

Harvard thesis completed: "Clintonian Democracy and Reconstruction in New York. A study of New York socio-politics in the 1780's."

E. L. Troxell, Professor of Geology

I. Field season in paleontological research in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, some eleven weeks during the summer. This resulted in securing for use at the College and for scientific study, a valuable collection of vertebrate fossils.

II. "Collecting in the Lower Eocene."

A preliminary report on the summer's work, accepted for publication by Science.

A. P. R. Wadlund, Assistant Professor of Physics

"During the year 1927-28 research was carried on at the University of Chicago under the direction of Professor A. H. Compton of the Physics Department who was the Nobel Laureate in Physics for the year 1927. The problem was that of determining the wave length of X-ray spectrum lines in absolute measure, i.e., the wave length was to be determined from measurements of length only. This was accomplished and the preliminary results published in the July, 1928, number of The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the final results in the December, 1928, issue of The Physical Review. A direct consequence of this work was a new method for the evaluation of one of the most fundamental quantities of Physics, the charge on the electron. In fact, this method is the only one to date with sufficient accuracy to give a check on the value as obtained from Millikan's famous oil-drop method.

"For the past three months the writer has been occupied with industrial research for one of our well known ball bearing concerns. The problem undertaken was the development of a test for the inspection of ball bearing raceways. This test was to be non-destructive, rapid, and easily handled by a girl operator of average intelligence. The method of magnetic analysis was used and carried to such a stage that the test will be adopted."

REPORT OF THE DEAN TO THE PRESIDENT OF TRINITY COLLEGE

Any consideration of the life of our students during the college year 1928-29 brings up first of all their amazing physical well-being at a time of gravest danger. Between December and April an epidemic of influenza swept the country, the worst since that of 1918-19. In the reportable areas of the United States, 112,000 deaths were attributed to this cause. Some colleges closed their doors for a period. At Trinity College there was noticeably more sickness than usual, but at no time were more than three per cent of our students absent on account of any kind of physical ailment or injury. To this remarkable record, no doubt our provision of physical training for undergraduates and our encouragement of outdoor exercise and sports as well as the healthful situation of the College were essential contributions; but in this particular year, in the face of the epidemic, special credit must be given to the vigilance, foresight, and skill of the Medical Director.

Of the 112 absences excused by that officer, only 42 were for three days or more; and of these, 32 were on account of influenza. Only 3 absences were for periods approaching a month — all of them on account of influenza complicated with other diseases. With 48 per cent of our students living at home, exactly 50 per cent of the absences were on the part of those students. The students residing at the College were, therefore, even less subject to infectious diseases than students living under home conditions.

The most conspicuous part of the physical activities of our students was of course the organized athletics, by participation in which a large proportion of our students gained vigor, health, and power of resisting disease. A small college with high scholastic standards may scarcely expect to excel larger colleges in football; but even with due allowances, our Varsity football record must be regarded as disappointing. With this exception, however, the year was successful. The Junior Varsity team, composed largely of players wholly new to football, made an excellent showing. In basketball, which calls for fewer players, we had more than our share of victories. It has been noticed by some shrewd observers that most of the men on the basketball team held particularly high rank in scholarship. The baseball team was likewise highly successful. In field and track sports, though numbers count toward victories much as in football,

our team did rather better than usual. With the new organization of the football coaching system, the provision of additional instruction in Physical Training, and the new squash courts and tank, our athletics and the other elements of our physical training should provide increasing advantage to undergraduates and gratification to those who regard bodily training as an essential aid in mental labors.

As for the scholarship of our undergraduates, little can be adduced in the way of tangible evidence, but indications point to a year of faithful work, with moderate success. At the beginning of the year, fourteen students were on probation; at the end, seven. The number of men in the three upper classes allowed unlimited absences because of high grades rose from 22 in December to 26 in February and 33 in April. The number of needy students whose grades in June were high enough to warrant their applying for scholarships was greater than ever before. These figures are at least not discouraging. Likewise the item of mortality due to scholastic failure is not alarming. Because of actual failures, ten students were dismissed, seven of them Freshmen; and for fear of failures, five others withdrew, all of them new students. Every effort was made to help students who were in difficulties with their work. If this number of failures is less than in previous years, the circumstance is consoling; but still it seems somewhat larger than need be. Most of these students put forth effort; but most of them were ill qualified for college work. It may remain for some improvements in our requirements for admission to reduce further the amount of scholastic failure by a more thorough sifting out of incompetent candidates.

For example, more use might be made of our Aptitude Test, which new students have for some years been required to take. The results have been useful in enabling us to advise and aid weak students, in their choice of studies, their methods of work, and their other scholastic functions. Many with low ratings in the Test have been saved. But when we consider that despite every care, not one of the four students whose rating in the Test was below 50 per cent survived last year in college, we might think it wise for the sake of such students and of the general scholastic atmosphere of the College, to exclude such obviously unfit applicants for admission. Year after year, we are informed, a correlation of this kind is observed, between conspicuously low ratings in the Test and subsequent failure. Amid the inevitable uncertainties of admission this use of the Aptitude Test would be an anchor to which we might well tie. The Test is now so managed by our Department of Psychology as to be an unquestionably accurate index in the lower ranges of grades.

But in the total reduction in the numbers of men in the College in a year, scholastic failure, however important, does not play a very large part. The entire reduction between September, 1928, and September, 1929, may be itemized as follows: by completion of academic work, 47; by dismissal for scholastic failure, 10; by dismissal for disciplinary reasons, 1; by withdrawal during the college year, 14; and during the summer, 13 — in all, 85 students out of 271. The admissions of new students were 102, and 4 students returned or were readmitted by examination after absence. This represents a gain for the year of 31 in the manpower of the College.

By way of forecast, it may be mentioned that the admissions in September 1929 have included 123 new students, and the total registration at this time is 309. The scholastic significance of these figures cannot be determined fully until the opening of next year. Meanwhile, there is the problem of lack of accommodations in the dormitories and above all in the laboratories. We have at this time reached practically our maximum capacity; immediate expansion of our physical equipment is clearly indicated, unless we intend to limit the College to about three hundred students.

One sign of intellectual interests among the undergraduates has been the organization of a very active undergraduate debating society, the Athenaeum, a revival along traditional lines of such a society existing many years ago in the College. Another society, the Literary Club, has sprung into successful being. The dramatic activities have gone on about as usual during the year; the Glee Club has been revived. The *Tripod* has been constantly improved and improving under the guidance of an unusually skilful and painstaking Board of Editors. With increasing numbers in the College it is to be hoped that similar qualities of leadership and sense of responsibility will appear more conspicuously than before in the officials of student activities.

The conduct of our students has been creditable. One student was dismissed — for neglect of college duties. In this matter the fraternities have been good influences; they have coöperated with the administration in the effort to raise scholastic standards and promote good habits. The students in general have displayed self-control in the management of their own conduct and a warm feeling of friendship for their instructors and administrative officers.

Attendance on college exercises was a difficult problem, mainly because under a system of rules and penalties too long familiar and too ill adjusted to present undergraduate needs, a few less careful students were cutting more than the letter

of the law permitted. To protect these few, and at the same time treat all a little better than under the too rigorous system of an earlier generation, a new set of rules for attendance was adopted by the Faculty, in June. Under the new rules, the student has an allowance of twenty unexcused absences from his five courses instead of twelve, but at the same time the penalty for overcutting is a reduction of grades, and is therefore of much greater consequence than before. There is some fear on the part of the Faculty lest this penalty may cost us students; but since the same thought may be supposed to have occurred to the undergraduates, the outcome may be faced with equanimity.

The alumni have given active support to the College, often displaying interest in undergraduates and in prospective students. Their work in organizing associations, giving counsel to undergraduates, and supporting the athletics and the spiritual life of the College is, I believe, discernible in a spirit of contentment among the students, an unusual number of new students, and a Freshman class of personal and intellectual quality apparently not inferior to that of a year ago.