

Spring 1930

## 12th Commencement Address

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

## GRADUATING CLASS

Members of the Class of 1930, as you go out as holders of the bachelor's degree from this, Connecticut College, you have a sense of solemnity, of seriousness. You have come to the end of the somewhat protected life of the college, going to a life where you will be adult members of your society--with both responsibilities and freedoms new to you.

Keep up your intellectual life. You have learned to study for yourself here. Think, observe, do not just be an intellectual drifter with the current.

Serve your community as best you may, in home or profession. Find work for yourself and carry it out with all your might. The country has need of you. Keep your ideals high, your courage to face facts, your generous giving of yourself, your faith in the highest things of life.

As representatives of Connecticut College, I greet you as graduates of the college, and wish you full opportunity for interesting and worthwhile life, and your own success and happiness.

It is the custom at this time here to have the president make a more or less formal report on the condition of the college to the alumnae and friends assembled, and to set forth principles underlying its development. As I have so recently made an address covering part of this material, I am today merely going to speak briefly on a few events of the year, ~~and particularly to~~ give public expression of the college's appreciation of certain gifts that have come to it recently, and at the same time attempt to summarize some of our beliefs. ¶ The most important sign of progress is of course the building of Fanning Hall, <sup>from</sup> the bequest of David Hale Fanning of Worcester. It is to be ready in the fall for use as classroom and administration and <sup>faculty</sup> ~~instructor's~~ offices--a greatly needed addition to our buildings. Its employment will release New London Hall for the laboratory departments so that their crowded condition will be diminished and more effective work made possible.

The Lucretia L. Allyn Fund of approximately \$125,000 for the maintenance of a professorship has just become available--a most welcome help. This bequest, and with the action of the college in adopting the system of retiring allowances, is a step forward in the most important part of the college budget.

*Palmer 2600*

Several other welcome gifts have <sup>been</sup> made either for salaries or for the general expenses of the college--an anonymous contribution of \$5000., a gift of \$1000 from Mr. E. J. Block of Chicago., \$500 from Mr. and Mrs. William I. Spicer and Miss/ <sup>Annie C. Spicer</sup> of Noank, and approximately \$5500 through the payment of endowment pledges by alumnae.

This new building and the <sup>endowment increase like will result in</sup> slightly greater remuneration of faculty, old and new, are both welcome signs of growth in the intellectual life of the college. Adequate buildings for instruction, highly trained faculty members with enthusiasm for their subjects, real ability in teaching, and belief in, respect for their students and what they may accomplish, are essentials to a high class college.

Connecticut College believes in emphasizing at once subjects of general human interest and lines of work of special interest to women. It happens that the new appointments we have had to make for next year illustrate this double

interest--appointments in botany, physics, English, fine arts, in home economics, in secretarial studies.

The religious life of the college has had encouraging assistance in a gift of \$500 from the Edward W. Hazen Foundation to be used toward the expenses of our vesper services.

A college which has the active support of the alumnae is to be congratulated. Ours have been active in several additional ways beside the payment of endowment pledges. They have raised the greater part of the salary of an alumnae secretary who it is hoped will be an officer valuable both to the alumnae association and the college as a whole. With the students they are working for a student-alumnae building <sup>the new purpose</sup> and have already raised about \$4100 for this purpose, \$1000 being given by each of two fathers of students, Mr. Alva Bradley and Mr. Richard E. Metzger of Cleveland and Painesville Ohio. The students have just raised \$900 for a foreign girl to come here next year. These are only a part of the most encouraging expressions of interest on the part of alumnae and undergraduates. The gift of the graduating class to the college is \$200 to be used for books--a particularly satisfactory contribution.

This student-alumnae building for which alumnae and undergraduates are working is for the extra-curricular activities, and a sign of our interest in them. We wish to give support to student government, student publications, dramatics and other phases of play and work outside the classroom, and to make a home if only a few rooms that will belong to returning alumnae.

Our student body is made up of young women of great range of financial independence. This is as it should be. It carries a need for scholarships which we have met very inadequately. I am also happy to be able to report a decided increase. <sup>here and</sup> I am venturing to <sup>list</sup> report the new ones in some detail, for I believe you will agree with us in our self-congratulation. <sup>The largest single addition is</sup> The bequest from Mrs. Rienzi Robinson

yielding an annual income of \$1600 is to be used for this purpose--at least two of the scholarships of \$400 each being awarded to freshmen.

The Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution have this year given this college an endowed scholarship of \$6000 to be known as the Anne Rogers Minor Scholarship for a student of Connecticut. Dr. Evelyn Holmes who was professor of chemistry at the college from 1917 to 1927 left \$6000 for a scholarship for a student in chemistry. This is also just available, So too is the Agnes Turner Graves Memorial Scholarship of \$3000 left by Mr. Henry C. Weaver of New London. One of our own trustees, Mr. Harrison B. Freeman of Hartford, has given us \$500 for scholarships. A public-spirited citizen of New London, Mr. Lucius E. Whiton, has given \$250; the New London Chapter of the A. A. U. W. alone and with the New London Chapter of Connecticut College Alumnae have presented \$200 and \$150; and the Travelli Fund of Boston has offered two scholarships of \$400 each. In the college budget a somewhat larger sum than last year has been set aside for student aid. All together we have an increase in our scholarship funds of about 60% , and assuming that the money is <sup>ed</sup> distribution chiefly in sums of \$200 to \$400 at least 15 new scholarships are available for next year--a decidedly helpful addition to go toward meeting one of our important needs.

The prizes from friends of the college, listed on the commencement program are encouraging to students and faculty both. So too are gifts which have been made from time to time to the Caroline A. Black Botanical Garden, by the New London Garden Club and other friends of beautiful gardens.

Better development of our intellectual life, the beginning of efforts toward better support of students' play and work outside the classroom, an increase in our encouragement of able students of limited means--these are steps which it seems to me we may say we have taken this year. It is a temptation to enumerate others which it is plain we must take if we are to maintain and develop our position of leadership, but I shall mention only one which is thoroughly appreciated by every alumna and by parents of students and alumnae--much more adequate housing of students,

~~several~~ additional dormitories.

We are a young college, with a great power of growth. We have a marvelous campus, adequate in extent it seems for many many years. We have well organized sources and a faculty eager for the best development of the students, and full of belief in their powers in college and afterward, <sup>we have</sup> and trustees, faculty and alumnae full of faith in <sup>the</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>of this college</sup> future, in what it is accomplishing and will accomplish for the education of women--it is <sup>institutions</sup> this which New London and Connecticut have in their midst, to which you parents have confided the education of your daughters, to which you alumnae will pay your eager loyalty throughout your lives, and to which many generations of young women will come.