

St. Augustine's Record

VOLUME XLV

MAY-JUNE, 1940

NUMBER 4

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MAY 29, 1940

To the Trustees of St. Augustine's College.

GENTLEMEN:

During the past year 313 students have been enrolled in the Institution. Of this number 244 have been taking the regular college course, an increase of about eight per cent over the college enrollment of the previous year. The students came from 24 states and from foreign countries. About fifty per cent come from North Carolina. About twenty-five per cent from other states of the South, and the remainder from other parts of the United States and from foreign countries. The largest representation in the State of North Carolina is naturally from Raleigh. Winston-Salem, Edenton and Wilmington have large delegations. About fifty per cent of the students are Communicants of our Church. Many of them are children of our Clergy. Active Church work is carried on both on the campus and in the community. The Woman's Auxiliary, both Senior and Junior branches, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Laymen's League and Altar Guild are among the Church organizations that are functioning effectively. Each year the Bishop confirms a class of from ten to twenty members. Groups of students are helpful in holding services at St. Agnes' Hospital, in the neighborhood and in the County Home and Prison Camps. Representatives have attended meetings in Greensboro and Chapel Hill as well as interracial gatherings of young people in Raleigh. The College Chapel Lenten Offering was about \$350.

A number of important conferences have been held on the campus during the past year. These included the well attended district meeting of the Laymen's League, the State Public Welfare Institute for Negro Workers, the annual meeting of the Crown and Sceptre Honorary Scholarship Society which has its headquarters at St. Augustine's, and a conference called in the interest of promoting the training of workers in mental hygiene. There will also be the usual St. Augustine's Conference for Negro Clergy and Church Workers which includes a well conducted conference for young people.

Our academic work has been strengthened through an arrangement for interchange of students in certain courses with Shaw University and also by the establishment through the aid of the General Education Board of a joint professorship at the two institutions. Through the efforts of Rev. Dr. Patton of the American Church Institute for Negroes, English prizes aggregating \$100 in value are being offered this year. Competition for these prizes has greatly stimulated the work of the English Department and it is hoped that the offer will be continued. In the near future it is expected that two prize scholarships covering charges for tuition will be established in memory of the late

Bishop Henry B. Delany by members of his family. This will be a welcome form of aid as the college receives numerous appeals for aid in behalf of promising and needy students. The Alumni Association, under the leadership of Dr. Edson Blackman of Charlotte, continues its efforts to enlist the support of graduates and former students in a program for aiding the work of the college. It is interesting to note that since the founding of St. Augustine's about sixty of its former students have been ordained to the ministry of our Church while five are at present preparing to enter it.

The Joint Commission on Negro Work, authorized by General Convention held one of its meetings on our campus on January 10th. Bishop Demby, a member of the Commission, remained after the meeting to be honor guest at the Anniversary Exercises of the College and to preach in the College Chapel. In a letter subsequently written to the President he said: "I do not regret remaining over to be the guest speaker—the pleasure was all mine. I am all the better for remaining; the stay was most profitable to me in a number of ways. I enjoyed every number of the program of the 72nd anniversary of the institution, the basketball games, and was delighted with the tangible evidences of the industrial and economic advancement of the colored people of Raleigh; but above all with the character of the work that is being done not only in the College, but in the Bishop Tuttle Training School, the Nurse Training School and the hospital, as well as on the farm; all under your general supervision. You have done and are doing a most outstanding piece of educational work."

I would call attention in this report to a valuable pamphlet recently published by one of our graduates, Archdeacon Bravid Harris of Southern Virginia, entitled "A Study of Our Work." The lectures that appear in it were originally prepared for delivery at the St. Augustine's Conference held last June. They constitute a most important addition to the material that has been issued with reference to the Church's work among the Negro people in this country.

I would also note that announcement has been made of the retirement of Dr. Robert W. Patton, director of the American Church Institute for Negroes, to take effect at the end of the current year, and of the election of his associate, the Rev. Cyril E. Bentley, to succeed him at that time. For more than a generation Dr. Patton has labored with incessant zeal for the Mission Work of the Church, and in particular for her educational work among the Negro people which he has stimulated in so many ways. A recent address of his before the National Council, which has just been printed with the title "An Inspiring Record in Negro Education" should be read by all who desire information about what has been accomplished. We shall miss

(Continued on Page 3)