

## Alumnae News

ASHTON, N. C., Jan. 2, 1924.

DEAR ALUMNAE:

A very happy Christmas has been ours. We've enjoyed so much being with friends and loved ones, and Mary Hester was delighted with Santa Claus' visit to her, I did not dream that she would appreciate a Christmas tree to the extent that she did. Of course she continues to enjoy toys and presents.

She has not been too well the last few days. She is cutting her eye teeth, and, too, she, along with mother and daddy, is taking the Typhoid serum. You see we are getting ready for our return to the West Coast of Africa. I am glad to say that she keeps up, and only shows that she is not too well, by not eating as much as she does ordinarily. I shall be glad when these four bad teeth are through. For selfish reasons I would prefer staying in this country until she gets all of them, because landing in Nigeria in February or March is not easy by any means. They being the hottest and driest months of the year, and, too, the quinine which of necessity must be taken daily will not make cutting teeth any easier.

I am glad to say, however, that white children do well out here in spite of quinine, and their inability to be out of doors from nine o'clock a.m. until five o'clock p.m.—the hours when the sun's rays are extremely penetrating. If they are out at these hours they must wear their helmets.

We often wonder how the Zomba baby endures the exposure to the sun as he or she does. Infant mortality rates high, but the wonder is that it does not rate higher with such conditions for life as are found in the Zomba home.

When the baby comes, the little "tummy" is never bound or attended to, as our babies. More often than not, the navels of the naked children on the street are sticking out from the size of an egg to the size of a fist. They remain in this condition as long as the child lives.

After the second or third day the mother is out at work with the baby on her back. She may be bending right over to the ground washing clothes at the edge of some stream, or carrying a heavy load for a long distance. In either case the child's head is absolutely bare to the sun, and bobbing up and down. I've often seen the little things fast asleep, with their little bodies, resting against their mother's naked backs held there by the mother went on carrying the about her chest or waist, and their little heads swinging to and fro as the mother went on carrying the heavy load on her head.

The children are carried this way and nursed until they are three years old. In the meantime they are fed on all kinds of medicine concocted by the native. It is during these years, also, that the child is marked. Lest you've not read about this I shall here describe the process.

The child is taken to a professional man, who with a sharp knife makes a series of parallel incisions both horizontally and perpendicularly on the child's face—cheeks and forehead. Sometimes there may be as many as forty incisions—from one to two inches long. The skin between these incisions is then removed and native medicine applied. I've seen older children freshly marked this way with three scars—from shoulder to wrist. Often these wounds become infected,

and the child dies. If the wounds heal the child is disfigured for life.

Friends, what do you think of the picture I have given you? I am glad I can carry Mary Hester back and try to show a few of such people how white children are cared for. Our prayers are that we may through her life be a blessing to those people. Won't you pray that the missionaries may not become discouraged when the Christians among those people continue to follow these heathen customs of marking the faces of the little ones, feeding them on native medicines and fail to heed the advice of nurses when a little one comes into this world.

Pray, also, that the girls themselves may really want to go to school, as do the boys. The boys realize that an education helps them, but the girls don't—at least very few of them do. The parents don't encourage the girls in going to school. Think of this! One of the oldest Christians in the Oyo church did not want, and would not send his daughter to the school within a stone's throw of his house, because if she went to school the heathen man she was to marry would not pay him the money (dowry) he had promised.

Another younger girl in the Aton section of Oyo wanted to go to school. Her parents would not let her go. The only time she could go was when she could get her mother's consent to go and salute Teacher's wife.

Annie, as I see it, our greatest need now is Day Schools, located where they will reach the boys and GIRLS now not interested in education, Day Schools which will send more boys and GIRLS to the higher institutions. We need, to carry on these schools, missionaries interested in and prepared to do this primary and elementary work. We have not the native workers to do the work. But few are finishing the higher schools each year, and many more than finish are wanted and even begged for in sections where the missionary can not yet go. So our appeal is to the person interested in that kind of work. Won't you go if the Lord wants you there?

With love,  
ROSA HOCUTT POWELL.

Mrs. J. C. POWELL.

### GOSSIP

What is wrong with the relation of faculty and student here at Meredith? Possibly some one will say not anything, yet there is and it is a big thing too. Just let a girl walk down the hall with a member of the faculty and at once she begins hearing—"What kind of grade are you fishing for now?" or "speaking of crushes you seem to have it sorter bad"—or some such a catty remark. Now this is most certainly not a pleasant attitude for one to take nor is it a just one. Possibly there is a reason for a girl talking with a teacher. Maybe there are real interests that we would enjoy talking of with members of the faculty who have similar interests but we just cannot for fear the old thrust "crushing on the faculty." Of course, every girl here wishes she might have a real friend in the faculty—now 'less up, don't you—Well then why not leave the girl who is a bit luckier than you are alone and set out to make some friends yourself. I'm sure there are just plenty, the teachers who would really love to be a pal and guide to us. It seems sometimes as though the ones who most frequently throw the hardest taunts on "crushing on the Faculty" might be just plain jealous because they are not the lucky one.

Louise Mays was a pleasant visitor to the College Friday evening.

## Student Opinion

What will become of the "Green" store when Meredith is moved? This is the question which arises in the minds of some of us when we see the girls headed in that direction. Many of us go to the store and have a dope and crackers or ice cream and cakes or some such dainty, and feel that we have had a very nice lunch. What we need to do is to go to the dining room when each meal is served and eat the more nourishing food which has been prepared for us. When we eat between meals our appetites have left us when we come to the table at the regular meal hour and gradually we feel as if we can eat nothing but the little un-nourishing dainties. Why do we not realize that in doing these things our bodies become deficient and unable to do their daily work as well as resist diseases? Then too, our parents often wonder what we do with so much money. Why pay two board bills when one should be sufficient?

There are many crying needs at Meredith College, but the loudest cry of all just now seems to be for reform in the use, or abuse of the telephones. Everyone knows the popularity—craving people who haunt 9181 during the time between dinner and study hour every night. It is a sad state of affairs when no one can call a girl over that telephone without being asked his name, place of residence, age, and general characteristics before being told that the person he wants is not in just now by some girl who is too lazy to go after her. And then when one of the less popular of the student body happens to get a call she cannot say more than hello without being begged and cajoled and urged to hang up so that some girl who wants to hear her daily three hours of sweet nothings can have the telephone. However, most of us expect to be old maids anyhow, so it must be the right thing to do to help the ones whose avowed aim in life is to get married. So hereafter give up the receiver instantly to the first love-lorn maiden who asks for it. Business and life and death and little matters like that can wait while the love-sick turtle-doves coo over the phone. It is rumored that some Freshman's business because so important that she went around to the Senior telephone with such an air of aggressive authority that none dared question her and ordered a member of the class of '24 to finish her conversation and let her put in a call. This can hardly be a case of ignorance, after all

most six months' residence at Meredith and a rigorous course in the hand book. Perhaps New Meredith will have private telephones for these people who have so many affairs to attend to.

### PLEASE!

Cleanliness ranks next to godliness, and how far short of the mark so many of us fall. This special lack of cleanliness and consideration for others is due to mere thoughtlessness on the part of most of us. But the thoughts that it causes those who follow it is well that we try to be ladies, or the expression of our sentiments at that moment would immediately place us in the list of those that have no claim to good breeding. How heartily we denounce those that go before us, unmindful of the fact that the one who comes after may lay upon us an even more scathing denunciation. Some of our House Presidents have posted notices reminding us of this obligation to others, but we blithely disregard it, either failing to see it, or assuming that the maid or someone else has more time than we do.

This is a matter upon which we all feel strongly, and yet which only a few of us seem to take personally. Yet it concerns each and every one of us to an equal extent. If each person would assume just their share of the obligation, they would lose only a small amount of time, and would immediately gain in the estimation of the others in their building. Some of us feel that a call-down would not be too severe a punishment for this neglect, and others feel that even a call-down would not be adequate. So for the sake of cleanliness, and the love of humanity, please, please, please don't forget to wash out the bath tub when you are through!!

### CHAPEL CONDUCT

The subject of this student opinion is by no means a new one, but do you honestly think chapel conduct is as it should be? I hate to be pessimistic, but it is a clear fact that chapel conduct is worse than it was formerly. What especially causes me to say this is the studying that goes on during chapel services. We have one-half hour for each of five days a week which is supposed to be used for worshipping God in chapel. These chapel services are to be participated in by every girl, but some do not seem to think this. Books are taken to chapel, and are actually studied while Dr. Brewer is reading the Bible or praying. Each of these acts is enough to bring reproach to Meredith. Its true we came to Meredith for educa-

## College News

Marie Fleming and Annie Grady attended the wedding of Mildred Smith last week.

Pearl Brewer has been called home on account of illness.

Mary Worsely spent the past week-end at home.

Clarisa Potent spent a very pleasant week-end in Wake Forest.

Louise Alderman was in Chapel Hill with her brother the past week-end.

Blanche Stokes spent the past week-end in Wilson.

Monta Clark and Frances Haywood spent a very pleasant week-end with Mabel Oldham at her home, in Wendell.

Nell Cheek spent the week-end with her parents in Chapel Hill.

Jessie Brooks visited Inez Holloway in Durham the past week-end.

Jennie Frye is home on the account of illness.

Roberta and May Crawford were home the past week-end.

Jane Beavers spent the past week-end at home.

Elsie Ship visited her parents in Durham last week-end.

Nell Benthall, Geneva Benthall and Ruth Shaw Britton spent a pleasant week-end in Cary.

Iris Yelington and Lucy Knight visited friends in Raleigh for the week-end.

Margaret Harrison, Verdel Mathews, Minnie Murchison, Lucy Cain, Minnie Herrin, Margaret Henderson, Pauline Patton, Edna Earle Walton, Susie Herring and Gladys Patterson, attended the Anniversary reception in Wake Forest Monday night.

Lelia Cobb visited the College the past week-end.

Ruth Buffalo spent the past week-end with her parents in Garner.

tion, but anything can be taken too far. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" is the first commandment, and we are worshipping studying, and putting it before God when we dare to study while we're supposed to be worshipping Him. If we can't let one little half hour out of each day be entirely God's, I for one think we're unworthy to come to the largest Baptist's girls' college in North Carolina.

Talking is another evil that makes chapel services irreverent. This is not as bad as studying but it's wrong, and "one wrong never rights another."

It's true that chapel attendance is compulsory, and it looks as if some of us go there to fill the chapel seat, and to be marked present, and it never crosses our mind what the real purpose of chapel is. It's true our academic work is hard, but it is also true that we have time to give God one-half hour out of twenty-four hours.

I don't think this misconduct is due to bad intentions, but I know it is due to pure thoughtlessness. We do not take the matter seriously enough; this is the root of the whole trouble. But thoughtlessness is no excuse, for we are distinguished from all lower animals in that we can think. This instrument of man sometimes grows dull from lack of use. Please apply your power of thought to the subject of this opinion, and then answer my question "Is our chapel conduct as it should be?"

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