

The Belles

OF ST. MARY'S

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Graduation Is Here!

Rev. James McDowell Dick, D.D.

On Saturday, May 28, the Sophomore Class Day exercises will take place and immediately following will be varied alumnae functions including The Rt. Reverend Richard Henry Baker, D. D. Bishop of North Carolina as the featured speaker. In the afternoon the Seniors will hold their Class Day exercises and at 8:30 the St. Mary's Glee Club will present a concert.

On Sunday the Baccalaureate Sermon will be given by the Reverend James McDowell Dick, D. D., who is rector of The Church of The Good Shepherd, in Raleigh and has just celebrated his 25th anniversary with that church. Dr. Richard G. Stone, President of St. Mary's, will give a tea in his home that afternoon for Parents and Graduating Classes. Another of the traditions of St. Mary's will prevail as each class mounts the steps of Smedes Hall and presents

its songs. The girls attired in white dresses are arranged in such a manner that the Seniors sing their farewell and the Juniors rise to take their places.

The graduation exercises will be held in the auditorium and the graduation speaker is Dr. Cecil Abernethy who is Dean of the Faculty of Birmingham Southern College. Dr. Abernethy is an old friend of St. Mary's in that he was chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Southern Association of College and Secondary Schools and spent several days here in the fall. Many of the students conferred with him at that time and St. Mary's considers it an honor to have him as the commencement speaker. After the graduation exercise the marshals will gather and the chief marshal will drop a handkerchief signifying the end of school year 1959-60.



Dr. Abernethy Graduation Speaker

Dr. Cecil Abernethy was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 8, 1908. He is the son of William Hines Abernethy, of Perry County, Alabama, and of Ann Pierce Rast Abernethy of Loundes County, Alabama. The youngest of five sons, Dr. Abernethy received his education in the Birmingham Public Schools and his A. B. degree from Birmingham-Southern College, in 1930. He attended the University of North Carolina in 1930-31 and received his M. A. in English in 1935. From 1930 until 1935, Dr. Abernethy taught English and speech at the West End High School, Birmingham. From 1935 until 1937, he was a teaching fellow at Vanderbilt in the English Department, and received his Ph. D., in 1940. His doctoral dissertation, "A Critical Edition of Sidney Lanier's *Tiger Lilies*" was incorporated into the fifth volume, "*Tiger Lilies and the Civil War Prose*," of *The Centennial Edition of the Complete Works of Sidney Lanier* published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. He returned in 1939 to his alma mater as an instructor in English after having taught for a year and a half in the Engineering College at the University of Alabama.

During his twenty years of service at the college, Dr. Abernethy,

in addition to teaching, directed the college theatre for twelve years. As a result of a research grant made available to the college by the Carnegie Corporation, Dr. Abernethy began his research in the Restoration period and more specifically in the Diary of Samuel Pepys. A work that began as a study of the Restoration theatre developed into a ten-year interest in the full social life of the period. In May, 1953, his article "Mr. Pepys Goes to the Coronation" appeared in the *Saturday Review*. In November, 1957 his book, *Mr. Pepys of Seething Lane*, was published by McGraw-Hill.

In September, 1958, upon the resignation of Dean Henry T. Shanks, Dr. Abernethy was appointed to the deanship by President Stanford. Dean Abernethy is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity. He is a member of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Birmingham.

Dr. Abernethy married Janice Johns of Birmingham in August 1940. They are the parents of a daughter, Ann Tarver Abernethy, who was born in 1944.



Counselors Chosen For '60-'61

Thirty-nine girls have been chosen counselors for 1960-61. These appointments were made Tuesday night by Edith Alston, president of Student Government, and Hannah Wright, Chairman of Hall Counsel. The following people will serve as senior counselors: Janet Dawson, Trudy McGinty, Margaret Atkinson, Lii Lii Ridenhour, Martha Pat Bell, Susan Poe, Dianne Blanton, Edith Alston, Barbara Brittain, Anna Cay Henry, Gay Davis, Margaret Midyette, Becky Elmore, Betty Lynch, Cleve Fletcher, Forrest Williamson, Patsy Frank, Jean Lippels, Archer Lee Hannah, Becky Petrea, Jill Holcombe, Sheffield Wilson, Dede Keyes, Carter McAlister, Trudy Johnson, Suzanne Bowles, Mary

Marshall, Mary Moore, Brandy McKinley, Hannah Wright, Ann Osterman, Linda Ramsey, Jo Ann Rochow, Molly Cooper, Helen Reid, Ann Tyler, Amelia Yancey, Betsy Dunn, and Muff Nabers. Serving as counselors for the day students will be Stuart Austin and Jean McKimmon.

It is an honor for these juniors to have been chosen as counselors. They will assume their duties a few days before the beginning of school in September. Two of their responsibilities will be the keeping of order on the halls and also being around twenty-four hours a day in order to be available at all times to someone with a problem or need. Congratulations are in order for the new hall counselors.