

St. Augustine's Record

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CHRISTMASTIDE AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S

For many years it has been the aim at St. Augustine's to give the observance of Christmas a distinctive character, the emphasis being on the religious significance of this great Church festival. To this end the emphasis has been centered on the Communion Service on Christmas morning. The service is held at 9 o'clock, and this year was attended by practically the whole campus community. The Chapel was beautifully decorated with the appropriate symbols and in the season's festal colors, and the choral service was entered into with reverence and joyfulness.

On the Sunday before Christmas the Choral Club, under the direction of Prof. Russell F. Houston, rendered a program of Christmas music, including selections from Handel's "Messiah," Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," and Mendelssohn's "St. Paul." Other numbers were traditional carols and familiar hymns. The Choral Club and Prof. Houston received many favorable comments on the program, which was presented in the Chapel, by candlelight, in the late afternoon.

Christmas Eve was reserved, as usual, for the traditional Nativity Scene, which was, for the first time, given in the choir of the Chapel. This added to its impressiveness and effectiveness. The Nativity Scene is a simple presentation, in tableau form, of the story of the birth of Christ. The spoken parts are taken from the Scriptures, and singing forms a background for the spectacle. Miss Mary Elizabeth Johnston was in charge of the presentation.

The Dramatic Club, on December 16, presented Dickens' "Christmas Carol" to an appreciative audience. Mrs. Julia Delany directed the dramatic club's production.

The merry side of the season was not overlooked. There was a grand Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, and there were a dinner party and several other parties for the students. The large cedar tree near the center of the campus was decorated with colored lights, and there were decorated trees in several of the buildings. A large number of students who could, went home for the holidays, though many who have come to St. Augustine's from a distance must always elect to stay. Everything possible is done to make St. Augustine's homelike for these always, but especially at Christmas time.

All were given an opportunity to share in the Christmas spirit of giving. The Bishop Tuttle Case Work Agency, in co-operation with the Tuttle Community Center, makes a special effort at Christmas to do something extra for its clients in the neighborhood. Following an appeal from

the Agency various groups and individuals in the College contributed money and goods to the work, which is in charge of Miss Ruth Stevenson, of the Bishop Tuttle School faculty. The Chapel offering of Christmas Day was taken for the work of the Inter-racial Commission of North Carolina and Virginia.

THE BENSON LIBRARY

Since the last issue of the RECORD, gifts of pictures, magazines, and books have come from various Church Periodical Club branches and friends. We are grateful to the Church Periodical Clubs of St. Thomas', New York; St. James', Greenfield, Mass.; St. Paul's, Poughkeepsie, and St. Michael and All Angels', Baltimore.

The increased size of our medical book collection has made it necessary to increase the shelving space. St. Agnes Hospital has co-operated in providing new book-cases for their Medical Library. This addition has improved the appearance of the Library.

Part of the second floor of the Library is now an Art Gallery. This is a branch gallery of the local WPA Art Center. Exhibits are changed frequently, and it is hoped that interest in art will be stimulated both on the campus and in the community through this project.

SAINT AGNES HOSPITAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL

During the past few months, the hospital has been filled to capacity. Many very ill patients have been cared for by our nurses, who have shown their willing spirit in helping to alleviate their suffering.

It is always satisfactory to a hospital when nurses are willing to do what has been exemplified in their daily teachings. Nursing has not only the educational qualities to make the hospital work interesting, but it also means the creating of kindness in the life of our young women.

At the close of the semester, there were eleven young women accepted to go on in the work of the nursing program.

The spirit of our nurses I have found very encouraging, and it means so much to the future of the young women.

The hospital medical work has been greatly aided by the coming to our midst of Dr. F. M. Liverpool as an interne. May the good work go on.—A. S. C.