

St. Augustine's Record

Volume XLIII

MAY - JUNE, 1938

No. 4

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MAY 25, 1938

To the Trustees of St. Augustine's College:

GENTLEMEN:

During the past year there has been a total enrollment of 301 students, including pupils in the St. Agnes Training School for Nurses and in the Bishop Tuttle Training School for Religious Education and Christian Social Service. It is interesting to note that 225 students were enrolled in the regular college department, the same number that were enrolled this year in the College of Liberal Arts of the University of the South at Sewanee.

As usual about one-half of the students come from North Carolina, the other half from 25 states and several foreign countries. Texas, Arkansas, California, Michigan, Mississippi, and the Virgin Islands are among the distant points represented. About fifty per cent of our students are Communicants of our Church, coming from our Negro parishes in various parts of the country. Each year there are some added by confirmation. St. Augustine's has as a definite objective a close relationship with and strengthening of the work that is being done among our Negro people throughout the Church.

On January 13th the college celebrated the 70th Anniversary of its opening. It was on that date in 1868 that the Institution opened its doors to a class of four pupils. A charter had been secured the previous year by Bishop Atkinson of North Carolina with a group of prominent Churchmen of the State as incorporators. The anniversary was fittingly observed by a service of Thanksgiving at which Bishop Penick spoke, and later on there was a mass meeting with the principal address by Dr. E. George Paine, Assistant Dean of the School of Education of New York University and a warm friend of the college. We were pleased to note that heads of the other five colleges in Raleigh were present at this meeting, four of them in person and the other through a special representative.

In connection with the Anniversary there has been published a History of St. Augustine's compiled and written by a member of the Faculty, Professor Cecil D. Halliburton. Professor Halliburton also reviewed the History of the Institution in his address at the Anniversary Day Banquet. The History is the result of careful and thorough research studies and presents an excellent picture of the growth of St. Augustine's and its present status. We commend it to those who are interested in the affairs of the college and in the History of the Diocese. As Bishop Penick wrote to the author—"This is one of the few instances of historical scholarship that has been produced in this diocese within recent years. You have placed the entire Church as well as St. Augustine's College in your debt."

During the past year there have met at St. Augustine's the State Public Welfare Institution for Negro Workers, the Crown and Sceptre State Scholarship Society and various gatherings of a more informal nature. The annual St. Augustine's Conference for Negro Clergy and Church Workers, including a Young People's Conference, which is held early in June, has become increasingly effective and well known so that several dioceses are offering scholarships to it.

At a meeting of the Southern Bishops held in Atlanta in February it was unanimously recommended that the Bishop Payne Divinity School of Petersburg, Virginia, be moved to Raleigh and located in the vicinity of St. Augustine's College. At present the Trustees of the Bishop Payne School have the matter under consideration but have not as yet reached a final decision.

Through the aid of the National Youth Administration we have been able to continue to furnish work to a number of students who needed this help in order to continue in college. This type of aid, however, is strictly limited and provides for only a few of those who apply to us for self-help work.

We find that the students are coming to take a larger share and interest in matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the college. The student council this year has helped to foster this spirit and to provide occasions for its practical application. The observance of St. Augustine's week was an example of this.

Athletics, especially intercollegiate competitive athletics, present something of a problem for an institution such as St. Augustine's with a comparatively small student body. It is doubtful whether the expense and strain involved in trying to compete successfully in such a sport as intercollegiate football are justified when consideration is given to the ways in which the effort and money could be expended on lighter sports and intra-mural competition. This year for instance St. Augustine's won the Tennis Championship of the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association in both singles and doubles through the efforts of the two Hunt brothers who learned their tennis here at the college. The Athletic Council and numerous thoughtful students are giving the matter serious attention with the hope of working out a satisfactory solution.

We are still working on plans that call for co-operation between St. Augustine's and Shaw University, Raleigh, in an effort to strengthen the work of each institution. The Administration of each college is definitely in favor of such a plan, although there are some practical difficulties involved. Whatever is accomplished will be done slowly and carefully.

We wish to record our appreciation of the gift of \$900 made from the United Thank Offering of the Woman's Auxiliary for repairs in the Thomas Building (Girls' Dormitory), which was partly paid for by