

# St. Augustine's Record

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## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MAY 24, 1939

To the Trustees of St. Augustine's College.

Gentlemen:

During the past year there has been a total of 311 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. This is a small increase over the total enrollment of last year and includes an unusually large Freshman Class in the College. About 25 states, Cuba and the British West Indies are represented in the student body. Texas, Mississippi, Michigan and California are among the distant points from which our students come. An increasing number of them are from our Negro parishes thus adding to our communicant strength and helping them to maintain an atmosphere favorable to religious training. St. Augustine's hopes to be of growing usefulness in strengthening our church work among our Negro population in all parts of the country. At the College, both on the campus and in the community, there is active church work. Such organizations as the Woman's Auxiliary, both senior and junior branches, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Altar Guild and the Laymen's League are doing definite and effective work. Each year there is a confirmation class usually of from ten to twenty members, and every year a letter is sent to all who have been confirmed in the Chapel in recent years asking each one to take part in a Corporate Communion on the fifth Sunday in Lent in our Chapel or if that is not possible to observe the day in some special manner. Our young people hold services at St. Agnes' Hospital and frequently sing at a nearby prison camp and at the County Home. Representatives attend numerous religious conferences, both racial and interracial. They have been especially interested in the Annual Conference of our Episcopal College students at Greensboro. The Lenten offering for missions amounted to about \$350. A project in connection with the Missionary Shortage Fund has also been undertaken.

From time to time representative Negro clergy occupy the pulpit in St. Augustine's Chapel. The St. Augustine's Conference for Clergy and Church Workers that meets early in June includes an effective Young People's Conference and is growing in usefulness. The average attendance is about 100.

During the past year there have also met at St. Augustine's the State Public Welfare Institute for Negro Workers; a conference of the National Negro Recreation Association and the annual meeting of the

Crown and Sceptre Club, the State High School Scholarship Society. Radio broadcasts by members of the staff and by students have helped to keep our contact with the alumni and general public.

By a reciprocal arrangement with Shaw University in Raleigh, there has been an interchange of students in certain courses. Plans are being made to strengthen further the work of each institution by this and other methods of co-operation, including the establishment of a joint professorship in the department of English, which will be made possible through help received from the General Education Board.

The question of moving the Bishop Payne Divinity School from Petersburg, Virginia, to the vicinity of St. Augustine's College is still being considered by the Trustees of the Bishop Payne School.

The death last October of William Augustine Perry of the Class of 1902 took from us an alumnus who had found opportunity in his busy and useful life for service to the College through his gift of music. Both words and music of our College Hymn and of the Alma Mater song, "The Blue and the White," were his own composition. His contribution through them will continue to help us.

We are still endeavoring to increase interest and participation in a general program of physical development. With a comparatively small student body it should be possible for every one to take part in some form of sport. Except under abnormal conditions St. Augustine's cannot expect to compete successfully with larger institutions in the heavier sports. However, other fields are open for athletic achievement. For the second successive year the College won the Colored Intercollegiate Tennis Championship in both singles and doubles. A real need in connection with the program is an adequate building for physical education. About \$50,000 would probably be needed for this purpose.

### St. Agnes' Hospital

During the past year St. Agnes' Hospital with its Training School for Nurses increased the volume of its already large and useful work. From May 1, 1938, to May 1, 1939, there were 25,350 hospital days, 1,419 bed patients, 1,924 clinic patients, 3,904 out-patient visits and 1,110 operations. The Hospital has continued to co-operate with the State Commission for the Blind by holding clinics and admitting patients for observation or operation. It has functioned in the same way in connection with the State Division for Crippled Children. Through the co-operation and aid

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