

Dr. Carroll Proclaimed Modernist By Speaker

Dr. E. McNeil Poteat, Jr. began his address with a comparison of two books he had recently read; namely, *So Red the Rose*, by Stark Young, and *Peking Picnic*, by Anne Bridge. "The two books represent two worlds; the former is about the plantation life during the Civil War; the latter of the Legation life in Peking in 1932. They represent two codes of living: one tyrannized by the formal amenities of the so-called Southern aristocracy; the other free from any formal restraints of life and thought. Somewhere between these two extremes there ought to be a mean of satisfaction." This mean is "suggested to me by her life whom we recall tenderly today," said Dr. Poteat.

"Dr. Carroll was a modernist, 'an admirer of modern ways, fashions, schools of thought.' She spanned the time encompassed by the interval between the two books I referred to. Born in a small town, she became the world-traveler; nourished in a post bellum conservatism about the place of women in the world, she became the exemplar of a new womanhood.

"She would shrink from a eulogy such as the Civil War days demanded when one had departed. She would deplore equally the unceremonious and almost immodest haste with which our dear ones are put away. I am trying to strike such a medium as she would have approved. So I have said this: She was a blend of the best of the past and of the present."

Speaking more specifically of Dr. Carroll's beliefs, Dr. Poteat said, "Her world started out with a distrust of professional women. It feared they would lose the daintiness and femininity of women. She defied both professional distrust and feminine fears and became a very professional woman and a very womanly professional. Her world believed it sinful for a woman to speak in church. She believed it necessary for women to speak everywhere. She braved distrust and suspicion and became a political force and an emancipator. Her world believed in original sin and left it at that. She believed in a new penology and put girls into Samar-cand."

Concerning the nature of Dr. Carroll's modernism, the speaker said, "She was utterly impatient of things that cramped the human spirit. Her impatience made her seem militant in thought and in society. She made her modernism serve the largest interests of personality. She did not push a taboo over unless she had a truth to put in its place; neither did she excavate without planning to build firmer foundations. Dr. Carroll was modern in spirit rather than in accessories." This spirit was revealed in her hospitality, her love of little children, and her passion for the beautiful.

Walter Lippmann's phrase *the acids of modernity* was discarded in preference of the expression *The vitalism of modernity*, which means "the things in modernity that will live."

"Dr. Dixon Carroll was enslaved by nothing, but she had deep and commanding loyalties to which she gave herself utterly—God, Humanity, Home. And that means that her modern inclinations never betrayed her. They are not like *'Two cigarettes in the dark* that go out and leave only regrets in the dark.

"So she is worthy of our memory. I saw her just before she went. Her hand was moving restlessly and as if with an impatience at delay. But her face was still with an immovable calm. That is my last recollection of her and it is a parable of her life. Hands always restless, busy, exploring, eager, discovering, ministering, healing, welcoming, blessing. But on the face that reflected her inner spirit

Former Meredith Physician



always resting a benign calm that her busy hands or a hurrying, distracting world could not disturb."

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF DR. CARROLL

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fourteen, but the visit was too brief to leave much of an impression."

From this time until the opening of Meredith College, Dr. Vann did not see Dr. Carroll. He had read, however, that a Dr. Dixon had been elected college physician. On his first visit to the school after its opening, Dr. Vann says that he was approached by a tall, impressive young woman, who smiled and said, "This is Delia."

"Delia did not start out to be a doctor; she was planning to be an artist and a teacher of art, and visitors in her home need not be told that her artistic taste and touch remained through her life in some of the handsome pictures which she painted after she dropped art."

"In determining to take up the study of medicine, Delia encountered bitter opposition from her father, a sturdy, intelligent and vigorous leader, who shared the common prejudice against the 'New Woman.' He opposed her so strongly that he refused to furnish the means for the medical course. She borrowed the money from her brother, and a few years later laughingly said, 'When I started in medicine, my father opposed and brother Tom assisted me, and now father won't take medicine from anybody but me, and Tom gets \$150 a night for denouncing the New Woman!'

Dr. Vann performed the ceremony when Delia Dixon and Dr. Norwood Carroll were married in the college auditorium. "She invited her father, three brothers, and me all to perform the ceremony. When I asked her what she would do if we all accepted she laughed and said, 'That won't happen, but if it should, I should sift out two of you and go ahead.'" Her father and brothers were all too far away to attend the wedding, so there was no such difficulty.

After all the final arrangements were made, Delia shocked us all by announcing that she wouldn't be married in the chapel as she had planned, but insisted on a private wedding in our parlor. After many protests from her friends that the girls would never forgive her if she denied them the privilege of attending in a body, she gracefully surrendered."

Dr. Vann stated that Dr. Dixon Car-

Expressions of Appreciation Made By Representatives

Friends and associates of Dr. Delia Dixon Carroll expressed in behalf of their various organizations words of appreciation in simple, sincere tributes. Catherine Moseley spoke for the student body; Mrs. R. C. Josey, Jr., for the alumnae; Dr. L. E. M. Freeman, for the faculty; and Dr. J. Rufus Hunter, for the trustees.

Tribute from Students

"I feel honored to have the privilege of speaking for five hundred girls in paying tribute to our Dr. Delia Dixon-Carroll, whose forceful personality had a tremendous influence on Meredith students. Mere words cannot express what she really meant to us.

"We knew Dr. Carroll well. Once a week, she conducted our chapel service; she taught classes; she rendered medical aid; and she mingled with us in our daily life.

"Her keen sense of humor, and her absolute frankness, together with her wide variety of interests in political and social problems made her chapel talks and class discussions deeply interesting. Her physical vitality, her mental vigor, and her unceasing energy helped each of us, and particularly those who faced difficulties. Her charming manner and quiet wit added greatly to our social gatherings.

"Dr. Carroll's attitude toward life had a wonderful and wholesome effect on girls of college age. Always she stressed the importance of a healthy mind, in a healthy body.

"Above all things, her sympathy for youth, her tolerance of our ideas,

roll was not a notably religious woman "due," he said, "to the fact that her religion was neither traditional nor conventional. As in every other field, she thought independently, and having found a satisfactory conclusion, she followed it. She cared little for form and ceremony, but she impressed me with her really deep religious interests."

In speaking of loyalty as one of Dr. Carroll's most outstanding characteristics, Dr. Vann said, "She sometimes disagreed sharply with her family and friends; uniform agreement would have been to her a dreary monotony. But she accorded them the same freedom she claimed for herself, and differences never marred her affection or abated in the least her lifelong loyalty."

and her keen interest in us, not only as a group, but as individuals, make us appreciate her great desire for our lives to be clean, pure and beautiful, thus developing the true spirit of womanhood. Before us, day by day, she set an example in living, that each of us would be proud to follow.

"The standards and ideals that Dr. Carroll upheld are eternal, and will last in the memories and deeds of Meredith girls who loved her, and appreciate her years of service."

Tribute from Alumnae

As I stand here to represent the alumnae of Meredith College, though unworthy, there are hundreds of women from all over the state, yea from the far corners of the land, who would raise their voices with me and say from the depth of their hearts, "We are ever grateful for having had the privilege of knowing, of loving, and living under the vital influence of our Dr. Dixon-Carroll." What is there to say in two minutes, even in two hours, that would begin to do justice to her life?

She was the first to make us realize that our body is a gift from God, a wonderful delicate piece of mechanism given for a purpose not of being abused but of being used for our own good and for the good of mankind—that it is a serious responsibility to keep in order this house with which God has clothed our spirit.

Better still was what she taught us in the way of character-building. Her complete self-control; her ability to execute; her power of organization; her remarkable mentality combined with her willingness to use and develop it, inspired us to follow her example as well as to heed her precept. Her human and great heart enabled her to understand the problems both great and small of those around her. In the time of slightest indisposition or serious illness there was always a feeling among us of that personal reassurance which pervaded her very presence. Her deep reverence for things of the spirit found expression in being and in doing rather than in talking about her convictions.

I do not apologize for being personal. Who among us could have lived under her influence and felt that she was merely a teacher or doctor? No, the things that are living still are the things that have helped us to live our lives. In rearing my children what she taught in her hygiene lectures has been a great help to me. When working among my flowers, her garden has been an inspiration. The interest she took in politics helped to keep me in balance many times. And in my house there is a pattern of her crocheting which I cherish because of its association with her.

Yes, she touched our lives from every angle. And we alumnae say as one: "You, Dr. Dixon-Carroll, are living still in our lives, and we pray will live on in the lives of our children."

Tribute from Faculty

Speaking in behalf of the faculty, Dr. Freeman emphasized those qualities of her character which endeared her to those who came into contact with her at Meredith. He mentioned her intimate connection with the college: "her entire professional life was closely linked with the existence of Meredith." On the Meredith campus, she was teacher, physician, friend.

The best eulogy for her, Dr. Freeman said, might be the bare statement of her chief qualities. The first of these is that strength which includes solidity of character, calmness, imperturbability, majestic personality, quiet dignity—in fine, the secret of her life was "richness of individual capacities held in perfect balance. She

had firmness without harshness, loyalty to convictions without fanaticism, and abundant energy under perfect control."

The radiance of her life inspired her confidence of others. "Her presence was a tonic against discouragement and defeat. Even after she learned that her own end was near, she generously imparted hope and courage to others.

Dr. Freeman spoke of Dr. Carroll's breadth of sympathy. Her life was one of continual unselfish thought for others. She was always willing to sacrifice for their good.

Tribute from Trustees

On behalf of the Trustees of Meredith College I wish to express our sincere appreciation of the life and work of Dr. Delia Dixon Carroll in this institution.

Splendidly endowed by nature, and well prepared for a professional career, Dr. Carroll accepted the call of the Trustees, and began her work when the College opened in 1899, and served continuously until her death last May.

From the beginning she manifested great interest in her teaching and especially the health of the students. During her thirty-five years of service in the college, there were very few cases of illness among the girls, and no death occurred among the students while at the college.

In the fall of 1918, when the influenza was overwhelming our state and city like a great deluge, Dr. Carroll so carefully guarded the health of the students, and directed their exercise, that not a single case developed at the college until after the girls returned from the Christmas vacation. Even then only a few cases of the disease developed among the students from exposures while at their homes, and none of these proved at all serious.

When Dr. Carroll entered a sick room of the infirmary her bright cheer at once gave flight to any imaginary illness the girl may have thought she had. If there was even a threat of serious illness. She instantly was all alert, exercising her strong mind, and her wide acquaintance with medical lore in the diagnosis and relief of the trouble. Her remarkable record here for thirty-five years attests her skill and ability.

Loyalty was a vital part of her nature. Her loyalty to the college caused her at times to forego the pleasure she always had in responding to calls from other organizations, if those calls had to be accepted at the cost of her needed services to the sick at the college.

Always Dr. Carroll had a real and genuine affection for this institution, its faculty, and its students. She had no patience with sham or insincerity. Her career showed she believed in doing well whatever she undertook.

COLLEGIATE PRESS CONVENTION MEETS IN HIGH POINT

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vention, and Mr. Holt McPherson was the toastmaster of the occasion.

The officers of the Association of the past year who officiated at this convention were: Larry Martin, N. C. State College, President; Thompson Greenwood, Wake Forest College, Vice President; Norman B. Twingood, Duke University, Treasurer; Katherine Hines, East Carolina Teachers' College, Secretary.

The new officers will be announced in a short while.

Between the biology students and the season of the year our trees are beginning to look a little bare.