

# Anniversary Thoughts

First, an expression of thanks to all those responsible for this special edition of THE TWIG, an important feature of our 75th Anniversary Celebration. They deserve and, I hope, have the sincere appreciation of all friends of Meredith College.

When we consider such institutions as Meredith in historical perspective, we are likely to have two distinct, immediately conflicting, reactions: first, of the immense changes in circumstance and procedure, so obvious and pervasive as to create a feeling of sharp contrast between the past and present; then, on deeper reflection, a recognition of an underlying consistency and integrity of purpose which make these transformations secondary to the conviction that both past and present are but successive chapters in an ever-unfolding text.

Both reactions, I think, are natural and significant. Without its continuous adaptations and development, one must assume that now Meredith would be only a fond memory. But, with no evaluation of these changes within the context of a consistent and worthy objective, its present would be without meaning and its future a vain hope.

Particularly in this three-day celebration, we should be intelligently conscious of our debt of gratitude to the innumerable host of successive founders of Meredith whose lives have been interwoven into the life of Meredith. As we walk about the campus, as we hear the recorded story of their struggles, sacrifices, and achievements, we should continually say to ourselves and others: "See! This they did for us." To say "Thank you" requires only elementary decency and good manners. To feel and properly express gratitude demands a largeness of spirit and a commitment challenging to each of us.

For the presence of kind friends on this occasion, for the many expressions of interest received from absent friends, we would give thanks. For all of us may it mark "the fair beginning of a time."

CARLYLE CAMPBELL

# A Diamond Is Forever

In establishing a college, the founding fathers place more than commemorative papers into the cornerstone; they place hopes and ideals into the foundation. Each of these founders has ideas concerning the objectives which he thinks the newly established college should meet. Collectively, these ideas form the purpose of the institution.

When Meredith was established, her founding fathers formulated such ideals. Now, seventy-five years later, we must stop and think—are we living up to these ideals—the ideals of a Christian heritage and of intellectual pursuits? Each of us as students at Meredith must evaluate her own contributions to the College. Have we given of our best to her? Have we accepted what she has to offer to us? If we answer "no" to either of these questions, then we as daughters of Meredith College should renew our dedication to Christian principles and intellectual growth. Recognizing the fact that our college will long be a part of us and that we shall long be a part of the college, we should try to achieve these desirable ideals.

Now as we stand at the threshold of our three-day celebration in honor of the diamond anniversary of the granting of the charter, we may well recall that "A diamond is forever." Let us hope that Meredith too will stand forever. Long after we have left this campus, the Meredith ideals will be influencing still other generations of students. We should cherish this thought and long remember the days when we were a part of the Meredith community.

DELINDA BARRIER



MEMBER Associated Collegiate Press

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Meredith College is an accredited senior liberal arts college for women located in the capital city of North Carolina. It confers the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Music degrees. The college offers majors in twenty-one fields including music, art, business and home economics.

Since 1921 the institution has been a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The college holds membership in the Association of American Colleges and the North Carolina College Conference. Graduates of Meredith College are eligible for membership in the American Association of University Women. The institution is a liberal arts member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

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### B. F. U. Fashions.



### M.C. Fashions



## Miss Colton Raised Standards In Southern Women's Colleges

By Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, '17

Elizabeth Avery Colton, head of the department of English at Meredith from 1908 till 1923—though ill health forced her to give up her active work after 1920—was generally recognized as the foremost authority in the nation on the standards of women's colleges in the South. The thorough investigation which she made of these colleges would have taxed the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon. Her study of catalogues was supplemented by voluminous correspondence with college officials. She learned all that could be learned about the entrance requirements of each college; the courses offered, the degrees, diplomas, and certificates offered and the proportion of students working toward each; the organization of the college; the library; the equipment; and the income.

### ASTOUNDING RESULTS

Her first investigation, in 1911, proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that nine-tenths of the institutions in the South which were labeled colleges for women were preparatory and finishing schools masquerading as colleges. Of the 141 colleges for women in the South, only four were accredited by the Association of Southern Colleges, and of the 124 in 1916, there were only seven. Below these standard colleges she listed eight approximate colleges, six normal and industrial colleges, thirty junior colleges, twenty-one unclassifiable colleges, and thirty-two nominal and imitation colleges, to which she appended a list of twenty who failed to reply to her repeated requests for catalogues, but which, according to the latest catalogues she had, belonged in this last class. Within each class was a candid comment on each college. Of one listed in the nominal and imitating colleges, she wrote, "Students extremely irregular, no student apparently in its A.B. course." In one instance, she found that the one member of the faculty who was listed in the catalogue with a degree from a standard college, an M.E. from the University of Chicago was, according to the records of the University of Chicago merely an unclassified summer school and correspondence student.

The publication of these findings took superb courage, both on the part of Miss Colton and of Meredith. Most of her studies were published by the College as issues of its *Quarterly Bulletin*. The first, *Southern Colleges for Women* appeared in 1911; the last, *The Various Types of Southern Colleges for Women*, in 1916. They were met by vehement protests from outraged trustees,

alumnae, and especially from presidents. Miss Colton was accused of basing her conclusions on insufficient data and of unfair discrimination. There were threats of lawsuits. When, after the first threat, she consulted President Vann as to the effect on Meredith of having the head of its department of English jailed for libel, he unhesitatingly told her to go ahead with her writings. Dr. Brewer took the same staunch stand. Not one of the threatened suits materialized.

### Far-reaching Influence

*The Various Types of Southern Colleges for Women*, the last of the series of what Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt called her "high-explosive pamphlets," aroused the most vociferous resentment, because the Southern Association of College Women, of which Miss Colton was president, sent 4,000 copies of it to girls graduating from accredited high schools.

As the furore died down, the recognition of the true value of her work increased. Among the users of her classifications were the United States government, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the Carnegie Foundation, the General Education Board, the Association of American Medical Colleges, State Boards of Education, managers of teachers' agencies, and educational directories of magazines of nationwide circulation, in addition to the leading colleges and universities.

The influence of her work is incalculable. *The History of the American Association of University Women* says that her publications began a new era for the education of women in the South. E. K. Graham, of the University of North Carolina, called them an epoch-making series. In a presidential address to the Southern Association of Colleges, Dr. B. E. Young called her one of the South's leading writers on education, and added, "The high rating of the members of this association in the educational counsels of other sections of the country is due largely to her willingness to vouch for our educational honesty." Last year Dr. Susan Riley in her Kappa Nu Sigma address congratulated Meredith on having had as a member of its faculty a woman who had done for the education of women such distinguished service, nationwide in its influence.

Women who are seeking in Southern Colleges learning for themselves and for others are deeply in her debt. And we at Meredith have especial cause for gratitude in that she belongs to us.

## Rena's Realm

By RENA RUARK

College generations through the years have often been labeled as rebellious; in some ways this accusation is valid. Many of us are so conscious of being members of a peer group which is considered liberal, of being characteristically broad-minded, that we equate tradition with narrow-minded fundamentalism. In our attempts to revise old standards and formulate new ones, we often forget the importance of tradition in a changing society.

This week as Meredith celebrates her seventy-fifth anniversary, I think it is a good time for us to take a second look at Meredith and her tradition and to determine what that tradition means to our generation and those to come.

As I sit here trying to determine for myself just what the Meredith tradition is, I realize that it cannot be defined in terms of rules or campus events or even individuals, even though all of these are a part of the experience of Meredith that has made the tradition. These things have changed from year to year, have helped to mold the intangible value which all of us feel and understand yet find it difficult to define.

We have a legacy reaching back seventy-five years to the granting of the charter, sixty-six years to the first girl who entered Meredith as a freshman, to the first president, to the first dorm and classroom building, to the first members of our college community. With each generation that has come and gone from Meredith, that tradition has grown in value, has become more meaningful. The growth of our community has been uneven, but every generation has added something, be it little or much, to this heritage. Today, seventy-five years after the founding of our college, we face the greatest challenge the history of Meredith has known. Each of us is a trustee of the past, of the Meredith tradition. It is our task to recognize the value of that tradition, to live up to our heritage — and to add something to it.

### From Out of the Past

### WORDS FOR NOW

While her [Alma Mater's] needs are great her opportunities are unsurpassed. Her future is radiant with hope.

May students, alumnae—all—rejoice in the ever widening field opening up for Alma Mater and unite in efforts to help her fill her God-given mission.

President Charles E. Brewer, "A Christmas Greeting" TWIG, December 18, 1925.