

The



Dialette

Vol. 1, No. 6

MONTREAT COLLEGE, MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA

February, 1959

Why Not a Senior College at Montreat?

by Mary Sullivan
(Dialectte feature writer)

On February 6, the student body of Montreat College was told without any previous notice that because of the lack of financial support Montreat could no longer exist as a senior college and must revert to a junior college.

To us who are now drinking deeply of her riches and enjoying the blessings of her existence this news seemed unbelievable. We were told time and time again, "Face reality". The only reality which I can face is the fact that, although the Presbyterian Church is one of the richest churches, one of her colleges is now having to take a step backward because she was not supported.

REALITY. No wonder it is so often referred to as CRUEL reality. What about the hard, heavy reality of responsibility, of trust, of faith? I have seen reality in looks, in words and in actions these past week—and not the kind of reality that lifts the heart or spirit.

Yet there is another kind of reality. The reality of Christian teachers who had the faith that they could raise one million dollars—but were denied the right. The reality of students trying desperately to think of ways in which they could help. The reality of belief . . . Belief in God and His presence here on our campus; belief in the necessity of Christian education; belief in and for the future of Montreat as a four-year institution of higher learning.

There is also the reality of need and of worth.

What about the Christian teachers, the Directors of Christian Education, the missionary appointees, the Church secretaries, and the choir directors who leave Montreat each year? Will this supply be cut off by a lack of support?

Where will young people with limited financial backing get an education? Will they have to turn to state-supported schools where expenses are equally low? Is the Presbyterian Church going to deny her

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Employers Praise Work of M. C. Graduates

The best witness to the right of any college to function is the record made by its graduates after they begin their careers. This record speaks for the thoroughness and effectiveness of the training being received at the college. From many sources have come glowing reports of the work being done by Montreat College graduates.

For several years, Montreat has been affiliated with the program of student nursing at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville. A recent letter from this school of nursing states, "The Montreat girls who have been in our Institute have been outstanding from the standpoint of a cultural and spiritual background. They have all been good workers in both theory and practice, and I feel that the education they have received at Montreat has been a very good one." One Montreat student graduated from the University of Virginia Hospital in 1952, ranking first in a class of

forty-seven. Her percentile rank on the National League of Nursing Comprehensive was 96.7, which indicated that only 3.3 of the nursing students in the United States ranked higher than she. She is now one of many Montreat graduates serving in the active foreign missionary program of our church.

Montreat students have made excellent records while doing graduate work at Duke University, Western Carolina College, General Assembly's Training School, Syracuse University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. One student at the latter school ranked 85 in a class of 1042 BS graduates.

One of the strongest departments at Montreat College is Christian Education. It is, therefore, note-worthy to examine the work of Directors of Christian Education who have been trained here. The pastors of many churches have expressed highest

—Turn to Page 4

young people with modest income the opportunity of a Christian education?

What about commitments made to day students, to the Juniors and the Sophomores?

Consider the fact that there is not another senior college in the radius of fifty miles of Montreat College while there are already five junior colleges in the immediate vicinity.

This is more than a protest from two hundred students to keep alive a college which has helped them discover the meaning of life and joy of service to a living God. This is an appeal for the Church to wake up to its responsibility of Christian education.

Montreat College is unique in that we have a ready-made campus with buildings already here. Furthermore, we are told that by 1965 the number of applicants for

college will have doubled. This is not the time to retreat in education and, most of all, in Christian education. Our church and our country need colleges with Christian ideals. Such a place is Montreat, which also offers an education at a minimum of cost.

Montreat College is not supported by the General Assembly; neither is it under the care of a synod. We must be realistic and say that she cannot survive without support. The trustees of the college have taken this action with deep regret. Lack of financial backing is the cause of their action. They hold out the hope of returning to a senior college some day.

Our appeal is that some steps be taken to make the reversal to a junior college unnecessary. This change will hurt the present student body, the college, and any incoming class. We know it will take a miracle, "manna from Heaven", but the age of miracles is not past . . . Is it?