

## Miss Knott Discusses Department Of Expression And Dramatic Movement

Under the direction of Sara Gertrude Knott, the Expression Department has become one of the most active and influential departments in the College. Its membership has been doubled in the last two years, "and next year", says Miss Knott, "we expect to broaden even more its use in different fields of college activities."

The Department has presented several plays, among which are "The Merchant of Venice", "Glory of the Morning", "The Hoodoo", "Barbara", and "Hearts to Mend". Besides these, a number of recitals and two pageants have been given. Both pageants, "The Diamond Pageant" and "The Birth of Christ" were arranged by Miss Knott. Also through the influence of Miss Knott, who is a pupil of his, Dr. Byron W. King, founder of King's School of Oratory, Pittsburg, Pa., gave a series of lectures in the college auditorium.

The play, "As You Like It" will be presented some time before May, and plans are being made to celebrate a State-wide week of Dramatic Festival in May. Through the Expression Department a Lyceum Bureau has been organized. This Bureau has furnished several programs to Women's clubs and high schools in the adjoining country. It is impossible to estimate the value of such a department in a college, as it shows what is being done and gives the pupils practical experience.

Miss Knott is very enthusiastic about her department, and is still trying to make it bigger and better, not for personal gains, but for the betterment of the College. She is a graduate of Dorian Private School, Paducah, Ky.; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; and of King's School of Oratory, Pittsburg, Pa. She studied at Bowling Green College, Bowling Green, Ky., and at the Lyceum Arts Conservatory, Chicago. This is her second year at Chowan. She is a born leader, and everyone who comes in contact with her is placed under her spell.

### The Dramatic Movement

When asked by the reporter to tell something about the work and activities of the Dramatic Department, she hardly knew where to begin.

"Do you think there is an increased interest in Dramatics today?" To this she answered:

"All over the United States there is a great dramatic awakening brought about by the Little Theater or Community Drama fostered by the Dramatic League of America. Through the Little Theatre, organizations are made into which amateurs are allowed to enter and present plays. In this way, people of all stations of life are becoming interested in dramatics."

Then she went on to say, "North Carolina has made herself famous all over the United States because of her success in producing folk lore plays. Most of the plays are written by North Carolinians. Although the subject matter covers a circumscribed area, their appeal is not limited because in revealing the simple life and customs of the rural people of North Carolina—their longings, fears, superstitions, and customs—they picture humanity, the same everywhere, and become universal in their scope."

"I believe it will mean much to Chowan to be affiliated with this great movement", finished Miss Knott, evidently thinking the interview was over. The reporter, however, asked her to say something about her profession and what it means to her.

"People have a mistaken idea of what expression is", she declared. "It is more than 'saying a speech'; it is an interpretation—an art in itself. The notion that only certain people should study expression should be discarded. Expression is a means by which the average person may develop personality, originality, and the power to interpret literature."

"Expression is the simple, outward manifestation of the inner life", Miss Knott declared and then continued, "We should not mould a student to suit the method of teaching, but should mould the system of teaching to suit the individual needs of each pupil".

This is the secret of Miss Knott's success as a teacher, believing that there should be no set form of teaching, that imitation should be discouraged and that the pupil should be allowed to express his individuality and originality in everything. She has developed personality, initiative, independence, and self-confidence in her students.

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