

Two North Carolina Women are Members of University Faculty

By LUCY M. COBB

When the trustees of the University of North Carolina decided that rather than cripple the Department of Education they would break all precedent and have women on the faculty, the dean of the department, Prof. N. W. Walker, got busy and found two North Carolinians to take the two important places of extension professor of education and resident professor of elementary education. He picked them not because they were North Carolinians per se, but because they fitted the place and because the State needed them.

Two Women Elected

It was at the trustees meeting in May that these two women were elected and Miss Sallie B. Marks came in June to teach in the Summer school while Miss Cecelia Bason, of Burlington, began her work with the fall session. Miss Bason has headquarters in Asheville, and goes from there to hold extension classes at various places in the Western part of the State, while Miss Marks is professor of elementary education and lives in Chapel Hill. And the ultra-conservative of the village have not found the women professors different from other well educated women of the place. It is true she does not have day time for card parties and other women's organizations, and neither do many other busy women, but she and a friend keep house, and are just as hospitable as the other housewives of Chapel Hill in their hours off duty.

Miss Marks is originally from Albemarle. She was in high school there and later attended the Mississippi Woman's College at Meridan, Mississippi, at which school a friend of her mother's was on the faculty. Both her mother and father were North Carolinians, her mother being Aurana Hall Marks, and her father Whitman Marks. Miss Marks did her first teaching in Oklahoma, and took her first degree there at Southwestern State Normal (now Southwestern Teachers' College), at Weatherford, Oklahoma. She also studied four summers at the University of Chicago. She majored in elementary education at Weatherford, and did so again at Teachers' College of Columbia University where she took her master's degree and did work toward her doctorate.

Manuscript Writing

While at Columbia Miss Marks carried on the first experiment in manuscript writing in the public schools of America. England teaches this form altogether now, and had begun the work before the World War. Miss Marks is most enthusiastic about this revived form of writing. "So many people write so illegibly that you can't read their writing," she says. "When printing came in it put aside the writers of manuscripts, but all the older writing was done in this form. Most of our present writing has been taken from engravers who used embellishments and curly-cues, instead of from writers who used a form similar to that of modern printing."

Experiment in New York Schools

Miss Marks then told how she took four grades in a school in New York City, two first grades, and two fifth grades, paired off the children as to nationality and ability, and gave them manuscript writing. The experiment was carried on throughout one semester and at the conclusion of the test it was observed that the "printed writing" was much easier to teach, was much more beautiful, occupied much less space, and could be written more rapidly. In Chapel Hill Miss Sallie Pleasants is teaching it, the plan having been brought back from New York by Miss Glass, the principal of the primary school. Miss Marks started off the class and now Miss Pleasants is carrying it on most successfully. This manuscript writing resembles print except the forms of the letters are simpler, only straight lines and circles, or parts of circles, being used to form the letters. Miss Marks has a college friend who always writes to her in manuscript writing.

"Doesn't it do away with individuality?" I asked. "No, it makes for it," she answered. "Different people use a different slant and also as they use it they just naturally join the letters together." Miss Marks sent an exhibit of this writing to the National Education Association when it met in Washington. In writing tests it has been shown that more speed is made when curves are eliminated. These tests have done away with expert research work to show whether or not the claims made by the English are true.

English Use It

A rather amusing situation was created in connection with this work. Some of the patrons of the schools in New York had heard that the English had had trouble with the new system, and upon inquiry they found the trouble was this: The English school

children are provident and have savings accounts. The new system had so improved their writing that the banks had trouble recognizing their signatures, but this was soon straightened out.

Miss Marks told how a study of form was given children through this new system. When a child writes or draws he holds up his work and admires it because he has done it, but with this new writing a definite means of measuring his work was given the child. Onion skin paper, through which he could see ruled squares, was given each child. He could hold this up and look through it at his own work and see that the top of the writing was not even, that the bottom was not and that he did not slant his letters uniformly.

Legibility depends upon the spacing, and even the posture of the child is shown by the form of the letters, for he writes with a broad pen, and the way the letters are shaded show the amount of pressure he exercises and how he sat at his work. When Dr. W. H. Allen, director of the Public Service Institute of New York made a survey of the public school system the high schools were given

to the school in which Miss Marks had tried her experiment because of the writing. Many high grade private schools, such as Horace Mann and Lincoln High School now use this system, and St. Cloud, Minnesota uses it throughout the city schools.

Cosmopolitan Attitude

Miss Marks belonged to the Cosmopolitan Club in New York, for she said she wanted to overcome race prejudice. As one of her best friends is a girl from India, the first woman of India to take a doctor's degree, she thought she had largely done so, but when she was putting on this experiment in writing she motivated it through giving the children words connected with their daily life, and something happened that made her fear prejudice remained. One Valentine's Day they wrote the word "love" and used it in a valentine for their teacher was sick. The next day she told the children they might be flowers, and when she asked the only colored boy in the class, "Buster, what will you be?" and he answered, "Poison Ivy," she said she feared her race prejudice had not been entirely eliminated and had affected the child. Assistant Superintendent of Schools From Columbia University Miss Marks went to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, at which place she was assistant superintendent of schools, and in that position she had entire charge of the

elementary schools of the city. Here she did a definite piece of work which she hopes to carry on in this State. Interested in giving a definite check to the outside reading done by the elementary grade pupils, she has devised a plan by which the child answers certain questions on the books he reads, such questions as he could not answer from the report of another child nor from having the other child tell him the story.

Taking as a basis the Wisconsin book list, Miss Marks has made questions on three hundred books already, and she believes this list should be added to as new books of the better variety come out. Up to this time, although the high school has methods for reporting on reading, there has been no adequate method for the grades.

Miss Marks thinks that one of the pitfalls of childhood is trying to get by with something. With her plan the child will show that he has really read the book. The list already mimeographed shows a large choice of reading matter and using the Chapel Hill school as a practice school, Miss Marks is making an effort to get good reading matter for the children in the elementary grades. These grades have been the "betwixt and between" grades when it came to the work of educators.

(Continued on page four)

We have heated every University building constructed within the past eight years.

Carolina Heating & Engineering Co.

HEATING, VENTILATING AND POWER PIPING
318 Holland Street Wm. H. Rowe, Mgr. Durham, N. C.



TOWER'S FISH BRAND VARSITY SLICKERS

"The Rainy Day Pal"

The most stylish and practical rainy day garments for college men and women.

ASK FOR FISH BRAND SLICKERS BY NAME

YOUR DEALER HAS THEM



THE GENUINE WATERPROOF OILED CLOTHING

VARIETY OF STYLES AND COLORS

A. J. TOWER CO. BOSTON MASS.

not a cough in a chapter-ful!

(and of course, "not a cough in a carload")



Another leading tobacconist in Chapel Hill, N. C., says:

"For some time past... OLD GOLDS have been my fastest-growing cigarette. Sales have gone up steadily month after month, and there doesn't seem to be any let-up in this new cigarette's popularity."

Patterson Bros.

AT LEADING COLLEGES.. This is an Old Gold year

For a most refreshing change:

"Follow your friends and smoke this smoother and better cigarette"

