

THEIR SONGS WERE MUCH ENJOYED AT DEDICATION



Bennett's choir songs were enjoyed at the dedicatory program Sunday, November 2. The choir, composed of about 42 charming young women, sang songs composed by Dr. R. Nathaniel Dett, leader of the

choir, and other songs of choice by the public. Some of the songs were: "Sanctus, O Friends of Souls," "Sing Unto God," "He Is King of Kings," and "Berceuse." "Berceuse" was written by Dr. Nathaniel Dett.

Highlights At Dedication Ceremonies

A highlight of the dedication activities here at Bennett College last week-end was the impressive pageant depicting the progress of womanhood through the ages which was presented in the new chapel on Saturday evening, with a musical accompaniment on the organ by Dr. H. Nathaniel Dett.

Appropriately in keeping with the theme of Saturday's conference, the pageant presented several major episodes in the history of woman's struggle upward through the past centuries. Colorful costumes and effective lighting, as well as the attractive background of the chapel, combined to make the pageant a spectacle of unusual beauty and dignity.

The scenes depicted in the pageant included, among others, a dramatic episode of the days when woman was considered a mere chattel, an episode in the life of Susan B. Anthony, the work of Harriet Tubman, and various achievements of successful feminine figures of the colored race.

Several male students from A. and T. College participated in the pageant, which was written by Mrs. Ruth Worrell, prominent church woman of Columbus, Ohio. It was presented through the co-operation of the Little Theater Guild of Bennett, under the direction of Miss Ernestine Coles.

Bennett College Choir Has Notable Record

Few college choirs have achieved recognition as speedily as that of Bennett College for colored women which, under the masterly direction of Dr. R. Nathaniel Dett, is rapidly advancing to a foremost position among collegiate singing groups. Only five years old in its present form, this unusual organization of 30 female voices already occupies a distinct position in musical circles throughout the country.

Particularly outstanding in the Bennett Choir is Dr. Dett's development of voices well able to sustain notes far down below the usual register of women's voices, thus making it possible for this group of attractive students, whose average age is 19 years, to sing choral works hitherto regarded as suitable only for mixed choruses. Thoroughly trained in singing, the members of the choir convey a feeling of confidence and an understanding of music, whether they are rendering spirituals or the works of the masters. Their voices range from "high C" to "B flat" and below "low C", making possible melodious harmony in both the bass and treble clefs.

Clear diction, evenness and balance in tone quality, pitch fidelity, and an admirable blending of voices have combined in the Bennett choir to make a program by these youthful singers a delightful musical experience and a tribute to their choral director, Dr. Dett, who was formerly director of the Hampton Institute choir, of which the new soprano, Miss Dorothy Maynor was for eight years a member.

Conductor, composer, pianist, and poet, of international repute, Dr. Dett is an outstanding figure among contemporary musicians. A product of American education, he has also studied abroad, and his numerous piano suites and songs are universally played and sung by leading artists. His oratorio, "The Ordering of Moses", composed for orchestra, chorus, and four solo voices was said by critics to be the most important work of its kind in 20 years, when it had its premiere at the Cincinnati Festival of Music in the Spring of 1937.

Dr. Dett's most recent compositions were written for the Founders' Day and Dedication ceremonies recently held at Bennett in honor of its new chapel and little theater building. One is an anthem, written in the "long meter", characteristic of Negro church singing, to the words of Isaac Watts' famous verses, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," the other "Hymn to Parnassus," has both music and words, in the second stanza, by Dr. Dett.

Under such leadership the Bennett College choir continues to make a name for itself in different cities throughout America, as well as on the radio. It has appeared twice in na-



DR. R. NATHANIEL DETT
Director of Music
Bennett College

tion-wide CBS broadcasts, of Dr. Dett's compositions, and once on a coast-to-coast hookup of the Mutual Broadcasting company. It has sung recently in Greencastle, Ind., Blighton, N. Y., New York city, Scranton, Pa., Chapel Hill, N. C., Atlantic City, Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, Detroit, Rochester, N. Y., Syracuse, N. Y., Indianapolis, Ind., and elsewhere.

Critics have written of the choir in the following terms:

Rochester, (N. Y.) Democrat and Chronicle: "This group of happy-faced young women, whose average age is 19 years, sang with remarkable diction, every word they sang

distinguishable. This is rare indeed in a choral group of any size."

Reading (Pa.) Eagle: "The consistently fine tone quality, pitch fidelity, sensitivity and intelligence and admirable blending of voices produced results in last night's program which can only be described as truly remarkable."

Sanford (N.C.) Enterprise: "The Bennett College Choir of 42 young women has achieved a distinct place in music circles and a program by this organization and its distinguished director is sure to make an event in musical experience. Dr. Dett has achieved a place in the front rank of American musicians."

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethuns Delivers Address At Dudley Celebration

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, president and founder of Bethune-Cookman college, delivered the principal address of the annual Dudley celebration, to a capacity audience assembled at A. and T. college, last week. She was introduced by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president of Talmer Institute.

"Iron, as such, is almost useless. Steel, as yet, has no substitute in the fashioning of strong, sturdy, lasting structures. Yet, the only difference between iron and steel is the experience of fire!" said Dr. Bethune.

The speaker declared, "It was of the steel of character, the steel of vision, the steel of purpose, and steel that is in men who are willing to co-operate and work together, of which this institution was built. This challenge—to be the iron or to be the steel—is before every one of us today. It is before you young men who are here fitting yourselves for your role in America's future."

Dr. Bethune advised the students to take advantage of the unusual opportunities offered at the Dudley College in the fields of agriculture and

Those who would question the per-industrial technology, in order that they might qualify "to meet the ever increasing demand for skilled minds and hands."

social importance of the defense of democracy "need only to consider our advantages and our future under the democratic way of life as opposed to what would be our plight under fascism or any of the other dictator-controlled isms," said Dr. Bethune.

"Under God's guidance in this great democracy, we are already rising out of the darkness of slavery into the light of freedom and opportunity. We have had an opportunity to advance from a people 80 per cent illiterate to a people 80 per cent literate; from abject poverty to the ownership and operation of over a million farms, and almost a million homes; from the status of chattels to recognized contributors to the American culture. Let us not be misled into thinking such progress could have been made under a Hitler regime."

The speaker continued, "Of course we are not blind to the fact that the democratic doors of equal opportunity have not opened very wide to us. Although we are subject to many social and economic injustices in America, Dr. Bethune said, "We must give our voices, our strength, our skills, yes even our lives to defend the national independence and sovereignty of the United States against Hitler and his just for world conquest, not so much for what America is, but for what America can be. That structure, we must preserve and reinforce with good, strong, tempered steel, in order that the freedom and opportunity toward which we aspire may emerge."

The speaker concluded, "Let us all thank God for the wisdom, the vision, the co-operation which 50 years ago led to the establishment of this college in its present form by the legislature of this grand and liberal state. Let us pay tribute to this state for the co-operation of its educational authorities which has not only made this institution what it is, but which has placed the state of North Carolina in the forefront of Southern states in the educational opportunities available to Negroes."

Dr. F. D. Bluford, president of the college, presided. Reverend W. C. Glendon, pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church, Greensboro, offered prayer. Mr. Carl A. Harris, class of 1925, principal of Franklin County Training School, Louisburg, N. C., brought greetings from the alumni association.

The college choir under the direction of Prof. Warner L. Green, sang: "O Bone Jesh," "Palestina," "Bless Thou the Lord," "Ippohor Ivahor," "Italian Street Song," "Herbert," and "Deep River." Bursleigh Prof. B. N. Mason played "Cavatina" by Hatt on the violin. The college band under direction of Professor Mason accompanied the audience in the singing of "God Bless America."

Endowment Reaches \$1,100

The announcement of over \$1,000 toward endowment, in contributions and pledges from the graduate faculty members of Bennett, was made Friday afternoon annual Founders' Day exercise the college. Mrs. Nettie Carr, class of 1934, presented cash of \$100. President David J. Dett, from the Bennett graduate Dean Virginia Simmons repledged from the faculty.

Formal endorsement was given by the Bennett Board of Trustees morning of a campaign for \$1,000 endowment fund, to the General Education Julius W. Coe, of Gr man of the building committee, is the do \$1,000, which will add to the endowment fund.

The trustees also morning the report of the board, Dr. T who announced that only closed the year debt, both current and surplus on the cash ledger of \$164,769.47.

Ward No. 1 Visit Sund

Ward No. 1 of the Baptist church to the Guilford St November 2, to 5 persons: Mrs. Est Carrye Stinson, Gertrude Comml Pritchett, Mrs. Le Holt.

Ward No. 1 will of Miss Nettie Nass Tuesday, November 5.

Flavor in with refresh.
DRINK Coca-Cola
Greensboro Coca-Cola Bott