

## The Dean's Letter

W. D. TURKINGTON

As these lines are being written the fall quarter of the 1948-49 session of Asbury Theological Seminary is in full swing. Registration days on September 21-22 found 281 students enrolling for graduate work in theology and Christian Education. The present student body is by far the largest to enroll in the history of the seminary, exceeding the total registration of the fall quarter a year ago by fifty-seven students.

Of great interest, particularly to alumni and friends of the seminary is the fact that 150 juniors registered with the opening of the fall quarter. Out of the total group of 281, 222 are men and 59 are women. Almost all of the 59 women are candidates for the M. R. E. degree. A total of 100 former service men are in attendance at this time. This is by far the largest group of G.I.'s to be enrolled at any one time.

Of further interest will be the fact that 71 colleges and universities are represented in the present student body, thus giving something of a cross-section of American college life. A number of students have had previous seminary experience in fifteen different seminaries throughout the nation. Perhaps, as is true of no other seminary in America, a cross section of church life is found at Asbury in that representatives of twenty-nine denominations are studying and fellowshiping together. There is a beautiful spirit of Christian unity and a oneness of experience and purpose. It is worth noticing also that there is quite an extensive cross-section of national life represented in that students come from thirty-six states with Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio leading in this category.

The students give evidence of depth of spiritual life and purpose, of the call of God which is upon their lives and of a seriousness which is born of desire to fit themselves for the rendering of the finest possible service in bringing Christ and his claims to those to whom under God they shall be ministering in the future.

Four new faculty members have begun their work of teaching. These men are Harold C. Mason, Ed.D., D.D., L.L.D. in Christian Education; Robert P. Shuler, Jr., B.D., Ph.D. in Old Testament; John S. Tremaine, B.Mus.Ed., M.Mus. in Church Music, and Paul F. Abel, A.B., B.D., graduate assistant in Church History. All these men are meeting with a whole hearted acceptance by the student body and are themselves fitting in finely with the spirit of the institution.

The new \$185,000 Bettie Morrison Memorial Apartment House is now occupied by married student families. This is a splendid, modern, fire proof building, one of the finest of its kind in the state. Work on a central heating plant is being rushed so that this facility may be in operation within thirty days.

"Holiness Emphasis Week," an annual event in the seminary is scheduled for November 8-12. Dr. Stephen Paine, president of Houghton College in Houghton, New York will be bringing the series of lectures this year on this

Continued on page 132

# The Dean's Letter

Continued from page 89

distinctive phase of Christian truth. This week of lectures is sponsored by the student body and is indicative of the desire for thorough grounding in Christian holiness both from doctrinal and experiential standpoints.

Looking ahead, announcement is here made of the annual Ministers' Conference coming February 22-24. Bishop Arthur Moore of Atlanta, Georgia and Dr. Chester McPheeters of Metropolitan Methodist Church in Detroit, Michigan, are scheduled as the chief lecturers. "Ministers' Conference" is fast becoming one of the really great gatherings for preachers in this part of the nation. Some three hundred outside ministers were in attendance last year.

And what of the future? Scores of applications for admission continue to come in. God is laying Asbury Theological Seminary upon the hearts of great numbers of young men and women. The institution must continually enlarge its facilities to accommodate those who desire to receive their preparation for Christian service in Asbury's halls. There is an increasingly large place in the sun of theological training for Asbury Theological Seminary with its emphasis upon the Bible as the Word of God and upon vital Christian experience.