

1950

The history of Milwaukee-Downer College, 1851-1951, centennial publication

Grace Norton Kieckhefer

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MILWAUKEE-
DOWNER
COLLEGE
History
1851-1951





ELLEN C. SABIN
PRESIDENT, 1891-1921
PRESIDENT EMERITA, 1921-1949

THE HISTORY
of
MILWAUKEE-DOWNER
COLLEGE

1851-1951

BY
GRACE NORTON KIECKHEFER
Class of 1922



CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION OF MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE
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Foreword

March 1, 1951, marks the one hundredth anniversary of the granting of a college charter to the little institution in Milwaukee which later became Milwaukee College, and in 1895, joining with Downer College, became Milwaukee-Downer College. This history, written by an alumna, is presented as a part of the commemoration of the Centennial anniversary of the College.

It is difficult for us to realize that one hundred years ago higher education for women was a revolutionary idea. Catharine Beecher, who promoted the change in the institution from a young girls' seminary to a college, was, like others of her famous family, independent in thought, vigorous and indefatigable in action and far ahead of her times. The College was a pioneer in the higher education of women and has been a pioneer in developing various phases of such education. In its long history, its struggles and its achievement, it has held to the ideals of solid work and of development of the individual for intelligent and unselfish living.

In its Centennial, it looks backward with gratitude to the many devoted men and women who in the hundred years have helped it with their time and thought, their generosity and their wisdom. It carefully examines the present, that it may plan future developments wisely. And it looks forward to its second century with consecration to the task of doing its share through its graduates, in helping to hold and promote the eternal values which individuals must have for the betterment of the world. For "where there is no vision, the people perish".

LUCIA R. BRIGGS

President

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11/15/50 Mrs. Robert J. Dickhofs Exp.

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Acknowledgments

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LUCY ANN SEYMOUR PARSONS
1819-1901
FOUNDER AND FIRST PRINCIPAL

One Hundred Years Ago

SINCE Milwaukee-Downer College as we know it today resulted from the amalgamation, in 1895, of two independent institutions of learning, founded by two distinct groups of people, in two separate locations within our State, its early history must take the form of two separate accounts of the pioneer struggles and painfully slow but persevering gains which mark the path of progress of so many private institutions. Milwaukee College, being somewhat older than Downer College, may justly claim to have its story presented first.

It was in 1848, the same year in which Wisconsin achieved statehood, and about two years after the incorporation of Milwaukee as a city, that the precursor of Milwaukee College opened its doors. Early in that year, the Rev. William Leonard Parsons, a Congregational minister of Aurora, Illinois, came to Milwaukee to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Seth Parsons, and to preach a trial sermon before the newly organized Free Congregational Society, an abolitionist offshoot of an earlier Society, the word "Free" in its title indicating that anti-slavery resolutions were written into its very charter. This was the church which developed into the present Grand Avenue Congregational Church and we may note in passing that a member of its first Board of Trustees was Edward D. Holton. Meeting with the approval of the congregation, Mr. Parsons was called soon after to the pastorate and duly installed. The installation date is given as July 20, 1848.

Milwaukee's dearth of educational facilities must have made a profound impression upon the wife of the newly arrived minister, for in less than a month, on August 18th, she issued a

little circular, reproduced in these pages, announcing the opening—again in less than a month!—of a Seminary for Young Ladies under her direction. Possibly plans had been laid earlier during previous unrecorded visits, but one must still pause to wonder at the vigor and initiative of Lucy Seymour Parsons, who could step into all the new duties incumbent upon a minister's wife in a new charge, and yet find time to organize a school curriculum, hire a staff, secure sponsors, buy, move, and equip a building for school purposes, and be ready to open its doors to students—all within two months' time. But Mrs. Parsons, we learn, before her marriage had been a schoolmistress in "up-state" New York, with years of teaching and administrative experience.

That Milwaukee was in need of such an institution as her Seminary is clear from the records of the day. There had been schools of a sort in the town since the summer of 1834, when Solomon Juneau "imported" a teacher named Heth to instruct his children. There had been several private undertakings, most of them fleeting, due to lack of financial support and the complete indifference of the citizenry. This indifference had also defeated early efforts to institute a public school system, and it was not until 1846, after the city was incorporated, that any authority was created to maintain schools, and then for many years inadequate tax levies held up their establishment.

In 1848, the year of Mrs. Parsons' arrival, there were eight so-called public schools—several in small frame buildings, the rest in rented rooms or church basements. And these schools served but 865 of the 2763 children listed as of

school age. The privately maintained schools of that period, such as Mr. Worthington's, or Mr. Whipple's, or Miss Zilpha Trowbridge's, enrolled less than 200 children. All high school instruction was necessarily private, for there was no public high school; in fact, a tract of land given to the city in 1847 by Increase Lapham as a high school site reverted to the owner years later, because the city had failed to erect the required building; nor was there to be much effort in that direction for a full decade.

In this educational wasteland, Lucy Parsons established the little "Female Seminary" which was to grow into a leading woman's college of the Middle West. The circular announcing its opening indicates that the school aims at high educational standards. Its purposes are character building, and physical, mental and moral discipline, fitting young women not only "to adorn the higher circles of society, but to meet the varied and practical responsibilities of life." Among the studies calculated to accomplish these ends, we find "trigonometry, natural and mental philosophy, logic, Evidences of Christianity, and Butler's Analogy."

There were four Divisions—Preparatory, Junior, Middle, and Senior—and since pupils entered with various degrees of preparation and from widely differing backgrounds, advancement through these Divisions seems to have been according to the individual capacity of the student. These Divisions were of high school grade, but primary and grammar grade pupils were also accepted, thus providing for a complete and finished female education under one roof.

The school building itself was a two-story frame structure, which Mrs. Parsons had purchased and moved to the rear portion of the Free Congregational Church lot. This church, not yet completed when the Parsons family arrived, was located on the east side of what is now Broadway, just south of Wells St., where Fire Dept. Engine House No. 1 now stands.

The main entrance to the school faced east upon a lane, now the dismal alley between Broadway and Milwaukee Streets. There was also a door on the north side opening into the main classroom, and another at the west end where a path connected it with the church walk. The east room was a combined class and cloak room, its walls lined with hooks on which hung the capes and sunbonnets of the pupils. Along the south wall was a narrow stairway leading to the second floor classrooms, where Miss Warner taught drawing, painting, and primary pupils, and Miss Chamberlain, the assistant principal, wrestled with languages and all the subjects that Mrs. Parsons herself did not carry. Mrs. Parsons instructed in history, geography, and the "mental and moral sciences". The fourth member of the first faculty, a Miss Shekel, taught instrumental music.

Diagonally across the street from the schoolhouse, on the northwest corner of Wells, or as it was then, Oneida St., was the Parsons residence, the east half of a two-story brick building which survived until 1938, when it was torn down to make way for a parking lot. Here a Boarding Department was opened, for transportation was a major problem for those living at any distance from the school. In charge were Mr. and Mrs. Seth Parsons, who exercised a "kind, parental supervision over the health, habits, and manners of the young ladies". Board was fixed at two dollars a week, with laundry twenty-five cents extra, although impecunious scholars—and there seem to have been a number of these—might do their own washing, and even effect a further saving by providing their own bedding in addition to the towels and "lights" which all were required to bring. Tuition ranged from three to six dollars per quarter, according to Division.

Mrs. Parsons, from all accounts, was an efficient teacher and administrator. Her staff won the respect and affectionate esteem of all who had dealings with the school. She was also able

Milwaukee Female Seminary.

MRS. REV. W. L. PARSONS,

Miss L. L. CHAMBERLAIN,

Principal.

Assistant Principal.

Miss E. B. WARNER,

Miss H. SHEKEL,

Teacher of Drawing and Painting.

Teacher of Instrumental Music.

THE FIRST TERM OF THIS INSTITUTION WILL COMMENCE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 1848.

THE BOARDING HOUSE FOR TEACHERS AND YOUNG LADIES,

is located at the corner of Milwaukee & Oneida streets. The School, for the present, will occupy a building a few steps distant.

The object contemplated in this enterprise is to establish a permanent Institution, of high order, for the Education of YOUNG LADIES. The Principal and her Associates are Teachers of long experience, and, in the different prominent Seminaries in which they have taught, have met with a degree of success which prepares them to engage, with confidence, in this work.

It will be the design of this Institution, by a systematic course of Physical, Moral and Intellectual Discipline, to secure to YOUNG LADIES the formation of a useful and accomplished character, fitting them not only to adorn the higher circles of society, but to meet the varied and practical responsibilities of life. To this end, every facility will, as far as practicable, be secured; and neither labor nor expense will be spared to furnish to pupils all the essential advantages of our best Seminaries.

The Course of Instruction proposed is fitted to take Young Misses from the Primary Schools, and conduct them systematically onward to a thorough knowledge of the whole circle of Sciences, as taught in similar Institutions.

PREPARATORY STUDIES.

Aithmetic, Geography, Grammar, Elementary History, Botany and Philosophy, Moral Instructor, and Book of Commerce, per quarter \$3 00

JUNIOR STUDIES.

Natural Philosophy, Botany, Physiology, Astronomy, Rhetoric, Chemistry, and Algebra, per quarter, \$4 00

Music Lessons on the Piano	..	..	..	\$10 00
Use of Instrument,	..	..	..	1 00
Latin, French, German, each	..	..	..	2 00
Perspective Drawing and Pencilng.	..	..	..	3 00
Painting in Water Colors,	..	..	..	5 00
Painting in Oil.	..	..	..	7 00

MIDDLE CLASS STUDIES.

Algebra, Geometry, Geology, Modern History, Science of Government, Moral Science, per quarter, \$5 00

SENIOR STUDIES.

Trigonometry, Omitated's Natural Philosophy, Mental Philosophy, Logic, Criticism, Evidence of Christianity, Butler's Analogy, per quarter \$6 00

EXTRA STUDIES.

Reading, Spelling, Penmanship and Composition will receive attention through the Course.
Vocal Music and Calisthenics will be daily exercises.
Pupils who wish, will receive instruction in Linear Drawing without extra charge.
Young Ladies expecting to teach, will receive special instruction.

BOARDING.

The Boarding Department will be conducted by Mr. & Mrs. S. PARSONS, who, together with the Principal and Teachers, will exercise a kind, parental supervision over the health, habits, and manners of young ladies out of school. Here, parents may safely confide their daughters with the assurance that they will find a delightful christian home, where all their interests will be tenderly and faithfully guarded. Board per week, \$2 00—Washing, 25 cents.

Young Ladies are required to furnish their own lights and towels. Those who desire may do their own washing, and furnish bedding for their rooms, for which a reasonable deduction will be made.

Milwaukee, August 18th, 1848.

REFERENCES.

Rev. A. L. Chapin, Milwaukee,
Rev. Benj. Akertly, "
Rev. J. J. Miter, "
Rev. Lewis Raymond, "
Rev. James F. Wilson, "
Hon. A. C. Miller, "
Hon. Albert G. Smith, "
Gen. Rufus King, "
W. E. Cramer, Esq., "
B. M. Booth, Esq., "

Hon. I. A. Lapham, Milwaukee,
Dr. H. Smith, "
Dr. J. P. Greves, "
Rev. F. Bacon, Chicago,
Rev. J. B. Walker, "
Hon. N. B. Judd, "
Hon. A. C. Gibson, Aurora, Ill.
Prof. N. Hard, M. D. "
Rev. T. M. Hopkins, Racine,
Rev. L. H. Lane, Rockford, Ill.

Rev. D. Clary, Beloit,
Rev. S. Peet, "
Rev. Pres. Sturtevant, Jacksonville Ill.,
Mrs. E. E. Ingham Stanton, Le Roy, N. Y.
Samuel Skinner Esq., "
Rev. J. B. Shaw, Rochester,
Rev. J. C. Lord, D. D., Buffalo,
Rev. J. P. Cleveland, D. D., Providence, R. I.
Rev. Edward Beecher, D. D., Boston,
Rev. W. C. Waser, Lockport, N. Y.

THE CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING MRS. PARSONS' SEMINARY

to gather about her that other stern necessity for the founding of any lasting institution—a group of interested financial backers. A Board of Trustees is mentioned in 1849 as consisting of President Increase Lapham, John Tweedy, J. H. Van Dyke, Walter P. Flanders, J. P. Greves, Asahel Finch, Jr., G. J. Fowler, Gideon P. Hewitt, the Rev. A. L. Chapin, and Mr. Parsons—an imposing array of “first family” names, including some of the leading Milwaukee financiers and developers. It is interesting

to note that a surprising number of the early Trustees came from that same section of the country which was the background of Mrs. Parsons—“upstate” New York, or neighboring New Hampshire and Vermont—and were therefore aware of her achievements, for Mrs. Parsons had belonged to a circle of progressive educators who had won national renown. She also had a wide acquaintance among the clergy of the country, so that she was able to list as references names highly regarded not

only locally but nationally, which was conducive to trust and confidence in her ability and in her new enterprise. Among these references we find the name of the Rev. Edward Beecher of Boston.

The connection of the famous Beecher family with the beginnings of Milwaukee College is a story in itself. Mrs. Parsons, being well acquainted with the theories of Mary Lyon, Emma Willard, and other leaders in female education, was much drawn to the current articles by Catharine Esther Beecher, setting forth an Educational Plan for Women, papers which were later collected into her "Appeal to American Women on Their Own Behalf". Also, Governor Slade of Vermont, speaking in Milwaukee in 1847 for the Board of National Popular Education (a brainchild of Catharine Beecher), had already presented her ideas to the people of Milwaukee, making a deep impression upon Increase Lapham, who, as we have noted, was President of Mrs. Parsons' Board of Trustees.

After considerable correspondence with Miss Beecher, Mrs. Parsons extended an invitation to her in 1849 to make a personal appearance before a group of Milwaukee citizens, mainly patrons of the Parsons Seminary, to see whether Miss Beecher's wonderful Plan might not be well adapted to the Milwaukee institution, or perhaps we might better say, whether the institution was adaptable to the Plan.

Miss Beecher accepted this invitation, and in the spring of 1850 paid her first visit to the

city and school. Her presentation of her ideas for the higher education of women must have been most persuasive, for in September of the same year we find Catharine Beecher again at the school, busily reshaping Mrs. Parsons' Seminary into something nearer her own heart's desire. Mrs. Parsons thereupon ceases to be important to this chronicle although she is listed as principal in Mr. Wight's *Annals* until 1852. She continued to teach at the school. Mr. Parsons resigned his pastorate to devote full time to his work as secretary and financial agent of the new institution, and then became Secretary of Miss Beecher's newest organization, the American Women's Educational Association, leaving Milwaukee in 1853. Mrs. Parsons left a year later, to go to Dubuque, Iowa, to organize another school under the Beecher Plan, for the Educational Association. Thus ended her connection with the Milwaukee institution, but a History of Milwaukee published in 1881, states that in that year she was "still engaged in the work of education at Ingham University, LeRoy, N. Y." (her old home), and the *Annals* of 1891 record that she was then retired and living in LeRoy, and still a "true friend" of Milwaukee College.

Today, the only reminder of her presence is an inconspicuous bronze plaque beside the Merrill Hall Chapel door, placed there in 1910 by Mrs. Winfield Smith, one of the two known graduates under Mrs. Parsons.

Mrs. Lucy Ann Parsons
Founder
Milwaukee Female Seminary
1848

Catharine Beecher and The Plan

CATHARINE BEECHER never taught at Milwaukee College; in fact, her actual contacts with the school were limited to a few brief visits, but her influence on its early life and development was profound. To understand her connection with this enterprise at all, it is necessary to relate something of her life and interests.

Catharine Esther Beecher was born in 1800, the eldest of the thirteen children of the Rev. Lyman Beecher. The fame of brothers Henry Ward, Charles, and Edward, and of sister Harriet Beecher Stowe, has perhaps overshadowed her own, but their achievements may in part have been due to her influence, for when she was but sixteen her mother died, and she had to assume the care of eight younger children. Her father remarried a year later, and in due time four more children were added to the household and to Catharine's burdens.

Catharine's own mother, Roxana Foote Beecher, was "a woman of intelligence and culture, with a natural taste and skill in domestic handicraft", and she imparted to her daughter habits of "industry and domestic economy"—no doubt very necessary virtues in the near-poverty of that ministerial household. Roxana Beecher indeed had added to her meager finances by conducting in her home a small school for girls, to whom she taught English Literature, French, drawing, painting, and embroidering. Catharine's only education until she was ten was in this home school.

The family home during these early years was on Long Island, but when Catharine was ten, her father received a call to a church in Litchfield, Connecticut. Here Catharine at-

tended a nearby private school, and received the conventional education of a female of that day, which according to her own account, consisted of genteel dabbling in painting and music. However, Litchfield itself was "teeming with intellectual activity", and among the social movements founded or fostered there, we find the first manifestation of the Temperance Movement, the first steps in the development of Foreign Missionary Work, the beginnings of a Woman's Suffrage Movement, and new theories on the higher education of girls, all of which profoundly influenced Catharine Beecher.

The death of her mother cut short Catharine's formal schooling, but by dint of independent study she gained a knowledge of Latin, mathematics, and philosophy, and, whenever she was able, she resumed her study of music and drawing. Soon after her twentieth birthday she accepted a teaching position in New London, Connecticut. At twenty-two, she became engaged to a charming and promising young faculty member of Yale University, Alexander Metcalf Fisher. Soon after the engagement was announced the young man sailed for Europe for a year of travel and study, and was lost in the wreck of the steamer *Albion*, off the Irish coast.

To Catharine Beecher, this was the end of youthful hopes and plans; following the romantic pattern of her day, she remained faithful to the memory of her fiancé and resigned herself to a life of celibacy. Not without some rebellion against fate, however, for poems, essays, and above all, personal letters, reveal that she bitterly questioned the stern Calvinism



CATHARINE BEECHER

in which she had been raised, which condemned her betrothed to eternal fires since he had never experienced the "conversion" deemed necessary to salvation. The non-sectarian feature of her later educational plan stems directly from this period.

For a Beecher, a life of inactivity was impossible. Putting aside grief as of no avail, she considered with dispassionate practicality the careers open to women, and in a letter to her father, written on New Year's Day, 1823, her decision is evident: ". . . there seems to be no very extensive sphere of usefulness for a single woman but that which can be found in the limits of a classroom . . ."

Thus Catharine Beecher embarked on her career as educator, which eventually brought her to Milwaukee and Mrs. Parsons' Seminary. Her brother Edward was Headmaster of the Hartford Grammar School, and his influence in that town aided her in setting up her first school there. In May, 1823, Catharine and her sister Mary opened the Hartford Female Seminary, which was an immediate success.

After five years of conducting this school, Catharine Beecher embarked upon the first of her many crusades, to secure a more adequate building, educational equipment on a par with that in boys' schools, and an endowment fund to sustain her teachers without dependence upon current fees and tuitions. At this time, too, began her interest in physical health, and in physical education as an important part of the school curriculum. She incorporated her theories and observations in a booklet published in 1829, "Suggestions Respecting Improvements in Education", which evoked much favorable comment.

However, the results of her crusade were disappointing—she failed to raise the needed endowment, she was unable to persuade certain outstanding teachers to join her venture, and finally her strenuous activities resulted in impairment of her own health. Thus she was glad of the opportunity afforded by her father's

removal to Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati to withdraw gracefully from the Hartford scene, and go on to pastures which at a distance seemed greener.

In spite of her poor health, she undertook to establish in Cincinnati the "Western Female Institute", an ill-starred endeavor from the start, and one from which she was forced to withdraw within a few years. The reason given was that the financial crisis of 1837 precluded proper support for the school; a weightier reason was her inability to work with the people of Cincinnati.

For several years, Catharine Beecher led an unsettled existence. In 1835, her stepmother had died; her father soon married for the third time, and with this new stepmother Catharine never felt congenial; the old, close tie with her father was broken. She devoted herself to her literary pursuits and to campaigns for the various causes which enlisted her sympathies. In her mind the Plan, the organization and crystallization of her many educational theories, began to shape itself, and she began to cast about for an institution in which to put it into effect.

In the 1840's, the cause to which Miss Beecher devoted most of her energies was that of providing trained teachers and educational facilities for the growing West and South. Pamphlet after pamphlet flowed from her facile pen concerning the proper training courses for these teachers, and the necessity of raising the level of female education to approximate that offered to men. Mrs. Lydia Sigourney, the Hartford "authoress", who had aided in the establishment of Miss Beecher's first school, ably seconded her in this campaign; she, too, was an excellent propagandist. Sponsoring groups, such as the "Ladies' Society for Promotion of Education in the West", were organized in key cities, and as has been mentioned, Governor Slade of Vermont was so fired with enthusiasm that he founded the "Board of Na-

tional Popular Education", and personally undertook the speaking tour which introduced the Beecher Plan to Milwaukee.

What was this great Plan? Since the most successful adaptation of it was that undertaken in Milwaukee, we may analyze the institution there. Stripped of non-essentials, the Plan was this:

First of all, it aimed to raise the level of instruction for women to a truly collegiate grade, for its chief purpose was "to educate women for their profession", and the primary emphasis was to be on teacher training. Miss Beecher felt that there were four fields to which women were by nature adapted and in which they should have more adequate instruction. These were child care, school teaching, nursing, and "the conservation of the domestic state", or homemaking. This was a revolutionary concept in an age in which most higher learning for women was slanted toward a shallow dilettantism.

To achieve instruction on a college level, the school organization must be on the "college plan" as opposed to the "high school plan". In a "college plan", Miss Beecher explained, there was "a faculty of co-equal teachers sustained by endowments, each being the head of a given department, and no one having authority over the others". In the "high school plan", a Principal assumed the responsibility for administration and direction of all instruction.

A third point was that instruction was to be strictly non-sectarian. Remembering the indoctrination of her own childhood, and the bitter disillusionment of her early twenties, Miss Beecher specified that . . . "every denomination shall have equal privileges, and the peculiar tenets of none shall be urged upon the pupils."

A fourth point was "economic", in Miss Beecher's words. She was unalterably opposed to "boarding schools", and found quite reprehensible "the practice of wealthy families of shedding responsibility for the bringing up of

children by placing them in certain fashionable boarding schools, neglecting at the same time to develop properly their own local school systems to a decent level". Miss Beecher's detestation of boarding schools was based partially on her belief that they did not afford proper health care and close moral supervision, but more on her conviction that too large financial investments were tied up in providing living quarters for out of town students, whereas these sums would provide better facilities and equipment for a greater body of local students living in their own homes.

A fifth point was tied in with the teacher recruitment campaign. The Beecher institutions were to serve not only as training centers but also as placement agencies; indeed they were also expected to serve as havens of refuge for stranded and destitute teachers, although how these were to be sheltered in the absence of dormitories is not explained. The stranded and destitute teachers were a by-product of the overzealous and badly planned recruitment drive, from which Miss Beecher withdrew when newspaper criticism was directed at her efforts.

Now let us see how the Plan was put into operation in Milwaukee.

In August, 1849, a Mr. Thomas Kilpatrick, of the Board of National Popular Education, delivered a lecture in the Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, in which he submitted a proposition from Miss Beecher "to endow a school for the education of young ladies with necessary apparatus, to the amount of \$1000, provided the citizens would erect or rent a suitable building for such a school". This proposal was favorably received, and a committee of five, headed by Increase Lapham, was appointed to confer with Miss Beecher and take the necessary steps to secure the school.

There followed Mrs. Parsons' invitation to Miss Beecher to visit Milwaukee, and thus began the long connection of Catharine Beecher with Milwaukee College. And a stormy rela-



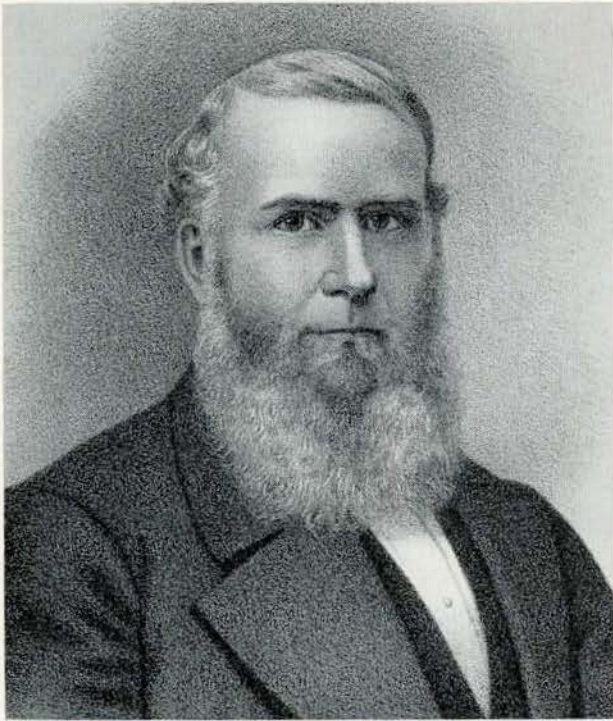
The double house on Oneida Street, occupied from 1850 to 1852. Classrooms were in the basement and on the first floor, laboratory and library on the second floor of the left half of the building. The right half housed the Boarding Department. The house then stood considerably higher above grade.

tionship it proved to be, for Miss Beecher was not only a person of extreme independence of mind but, as she grew older, of considerable stubbornness and single-mindedness in carrying out her ideas. But that could not be foreseen in April of 1850.

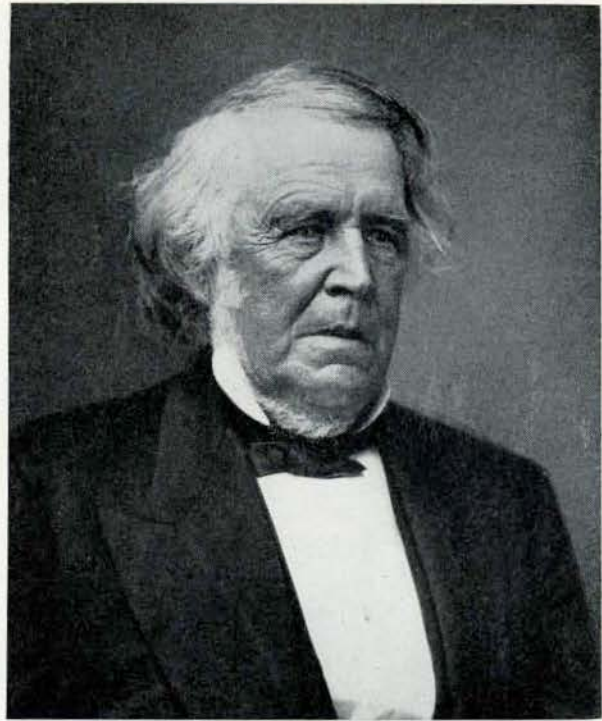
On that first visit to Milwaukee, Miss Beecher came accompanied by Miss Mary Mortimer, a mutual friend of Miss Beecher and Mrs. Parsons, whom they had persuaded to accept a teaching position in the school. Miss Beecher apparently spent about a month in Milwaukee, going over the changes and reorganization needed in the school to make it suitable for the carrying out of her Plan. The first requisite set down by Miss Beecher was a more adequate building, and Mrs. Parsons immediately ac-

quired the west half of the same brick structure which housed Parsons' family and Boarding Department, and the school was moved across the street that summer.

Miss Beecher renamed the school to emphasize its teacher-training purpose, and it became known as the Milwaukee Normal Institute and High School. Mrs. Parsons relinquished her authority, and in accordance with the Plan, a "board of co-equal teachers", comprising Mrs. Parsons, Miss Mortimer, Miss E. B. Warner, and Miss Mary Newcomb (who later married John Mortimer, brother of Mary), took over the management of the school that first year, 1850, and "worked without friction and gave general satisfaction".



ASAHEL FINCH, LAWYER AND ARDENT ABOLITIONIST
FIRST LEGAL ADVISER



WALTER P. FLANDERS, FIRST TREASURER OF
THE COLLEGE

TWO OF THE INCORPORATORS OF THE COLLEGE

When Miss Beecher paid her second visit to Milwaukee in September, 1850, to see that her school was properly launched, she again addressed the patrons of the school, elaborated on the Plan, and rehearsed the terms under which it was inaugurated, namely, that in consideration of her gift of \$1000 in library and equipment, now duly installed in the Institute, the citizens of Milwaukee had pledged themselves to raise sufficient endowment to conduct the school and pay all such expenses as tuition fees did not cover, in the event that enrollment was insufficient to carry the costs.

To this requirement the Trustees and patrons of the school enthusiastically agreed, and the school year began most favorably. The fame of Miss Beecher had attracted a very substantial student body, so large, in fact, that it almost crowded the Parsons family out of its living quarters. Incorporation proceedings were begun and on March 1, 1851, the Articles of

Incorporation were formally approved by the State Legislature (laws of 1851, Chapter 133), and the "Milwaukee Normal Institute and High School" was authorized to grant collegiate and secondary diplomas. This Charter Date, March 1, 1851, is the official birthday of the College.

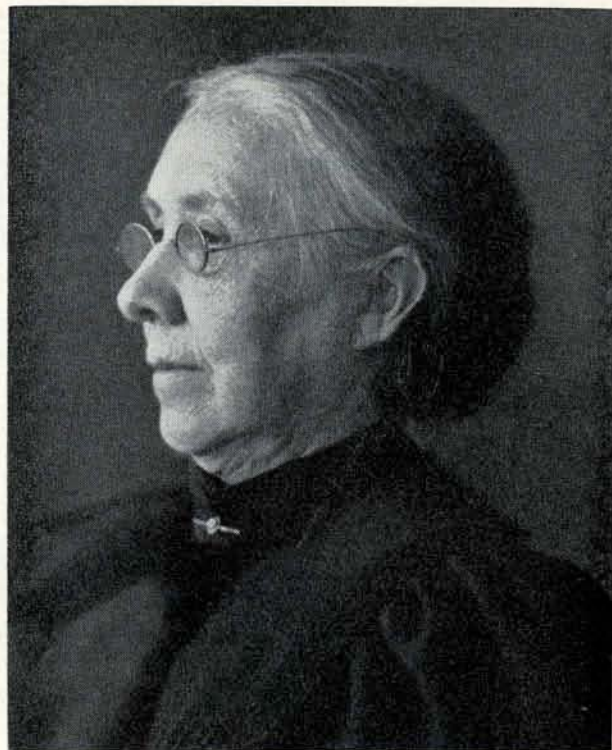
According to the *Annals*, the first class was graduated very shortly thereafter, possibly in April, 1851. The two members listed for this class were Mercelia (Marcella?) V. Hatch and Maria S. Train. These names were not accounted among the alumnae until 1867, when they were added by Dr. Increase Lapham, and it is dubious whether they should be listed as of 1851. Neither name is found in the 1851 Catalog, and in alumnae news of a slightly later date we find Mrs. C. C. Remington, (Maria Train) listed as of the Class of '50. Mrs. Remington's correspondence would seem to bear this out. One other known member of

the Class of '50 was Sarah Fellows (Mrs. Winfield Smith), who was later made an "honorary member" of the Alumnae Association. It is probable that all these first graduates should be listed as of Mrs. Parsons' Seminary and that the first truly collegiate class was that of 1853. In that case, the "Normal Institute" had no graduates, for there were none in 1852, and by 1853 the name had been changed to Milwaukee Female College.

The first Catalog of the Normal Institute and High School was published in 1851. The High School offered two courses, a Shorter Course, which was of secondary school grade, and a Higher Course, "for Normal pupils and others who wish to pursue studies more extensively". This was the Collegiate Department; the Normal Department, Miss Beecher's main project, was not as yet organized. The faculty that year are listed as follows:

- Mrs. Parsons, Department of Superintending Studies and Instruction. Teacher of Mathematics and Natural Science.
- Miss Mary Mortimer, Department of Government and Moral Training. Teacher of Geography, History, Mental and Moral Philosophy.
- Miss C. C. Moulton, Department of Finance and Correspondence. Teacher of Composition and Literature.
- Miss E. B. Warner, Department of Primary Instruction. Teacher of Drawing.
- Mrs. Mary Hotchkiss, Teacher of Elocution.
- Mrs. Balatka, Teacher of French and German.
- Miss Mary A. Miles, Teacher of Instrumental Music.

Students of the year 1850-1851 are listed. There were 131 in the High School and 57 in the Primary or Preparatory Department. Within a year there were changes in the faculty listed above. To all intents and purposes, Mary Mortimer assumed the leadership, since it was to her that Miss Beecher confided the detailed instructions for carrying out the Plan. In the first catalog of Milwaukee Female College, that of 1852-1853, we find Miss Mortimer listed first, as head of the Department of Superintendency and Normal Department; Mrs. Parsons is in charge of Classification. The faculty now numbers ten. The High School has now become



MARIA TRAIN REMINGTON, CLASS OF 1850
A Portrait Made About 1915

the Collegiate School and includes a Preparatory Department; the Normal School is established and has two divisions, one for Teachers of Common Schools, and one for Teachers of High Schools.

The Fall Term of 1851 saw further increases in enrollment, and this posed an immediate problem of additional classroom space; there was also the larger problem of raising the endowment required by Miss Beecher. The Trustees had optimistically set the goal at \$25,000, but practically nothing had been raised. Milwaukee, for a number of causes, was "financially embarrassed" at that moment, and the money was not forthcoming.

The Trustees were finally forced to admit their dilemma to Miss Beecher, who, remembering the Cincinnati fiasco, much against her inclinations joined in a fund-raising campaign in the East. Her pamphlet, "The True Remedy for the Wrongs of Women; with a History of

an Enterprise having that for its Object", described her educational undertakings from the founding of Hartford Seminary to the Milwaukee experiment. It enlisted considerable support. Mr. Parsons made an eastern tour and succeeded in collecting approximately \$1500. A Committee of Milwaukee women not only gathered subscriptions in town but by a mail campaign secured additional support in the East.

In the College Archives is an old copybook, in which in delicate penmanship are recorded the Constitution and By-laws and the early Minutes of the "Ladies' Educational Society of Milwaukee". Organized on January 27, 1852, it adopted a Constitution on February 3rd, elected officers, and forthwith laid plans for a "Festival in behalf of the educational interests of our City. A resolution in favour of the Normal Institute and High School" as recipient of the Festival receipts was adopted. Officers of the Society were Mmes. A. D. Smith, 1st Directress; H. Curtis, 2nd Directress; Wm. Jackson, Recording Secretary; Wm. L. Parsons, Corresponding Secretary; W. P. Flanders, Treasurer. Managers included Mmes. Miter, Lapham, J. P. Greves, O. H. Waldo, C. Arnold, and S. Ody. All these names were prominent in the city. Miss Mortimer was a charter member.

The entertainment decided upon was a "soiree in the Masonic Hall". It consisted of "Tableaux, Music, and Refreshments", and the receipts are reported as \$115.36. At the March meeting, a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions, and the results later reported indicate that Mrs. Lapham's paper yielded \$20.82, Mrs. Byron's, \$31.50; Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Parsons together collected \$9.00, and Mrs. Arnold and friends, \$28. In spite of the disappointing returns, the ladies persisted, for the Minutes of July 27th are as follows:

"Monthly meeting—The following resolutions were passed—

"Resolved—that this Soc^y in pursuance of its object to assist and encourage every well directed effort in behalf of education in our City, and believing that the erection of a suitable building for the 'N. I. & H. S.' possesses claims of the highest nature, extends hereby an invitation, thru their Sec^y, to the 'Bakers', now in this vicinity, to contribute their services for a Concert in behalf of this cause.

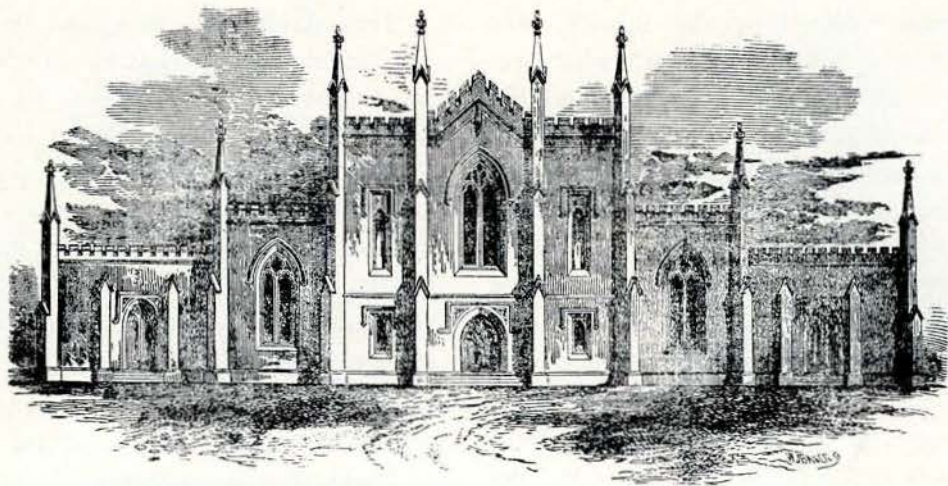
"Resolved—that we cordially sympathize with the effort of the Am. Women's Ed. Assⁿ to elevate the standard and extend the blessings of female education, and appoint Mrs. Parsons to represent us in the Convention called by that body.

"Resolved—that, in view of the contemplated necessity of providing furniture for the building now in process of erection, we will take the necessary steps to interest the ladies of our City and of other places both East and West, in providing articles for a Fair to be held the first week in Oct. at the Institution. The meeting then adjourned."

Appended is a note:

"The Bakers kindly acceded to the above request and gave a Concert which was well attended and resulted in the addition of \$85.85 to the Treasury."

We do not know what the Fair yielded, for the Minutes stop with the August meeting, and the further history of this group is lost in oblivion. However, we can conjecture that the fund-raising campaign in general was meeting with some success. Enough had been raised by the spring of 1852 to buy from William Wells and Narcisse Juneau a site of about one-third acre on the southeast corner of Milwaukee and Division Streets (now Juneau Ave.) Plans were received from Miss Beecher for the first unit of the building which was to house the institution until its union with Downer College. A picture of the building appears in her pamphlet of 1851, "An Appeal to Women in Their Own Behalf" and is labeled "Designed by the author". In June, 1852, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies and an address by the Rev. Heman Humphreys, past president of Amherst. In the fall of 1852, the crowded school was transferred to the new building, and in the spring of 1853 it had its name changed by act of the Legislature to the more familiar "Milwaukee Female College". This change



Normal Institute and High School,

MILWAUKEE.

THIS INSTITUTION will be re-opened on Monday, October 11th, in the spacious building recently erected at the corner of Milwaukee and Division Streets. Three schoolrooms, the largest, forty feet by seventy and twenty in height, a Library, Cabinet, Music and numerous recitation rooms, all carefully arranged for health, comfort and improvement, together with ample grounds for exercise, afford the Institution superior advantages for the prosecution of its work.

The plan of the Institution is extensive, including arrangements for carrying pupils from the first rudiments of education to the completion of a thorough school course; and also, for training prospective teachers. In accordance with this, it is made to comprise three Schools, the Primary, the High School, and the Normal School, in one.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL will be under the charge of one of the principal teachers, who, in connection with the Normal teacher, will seek to make this, in every respect, a Model School.

THE HIGH SCHOOL, including the Preparatory Class, will be under the charge of three principal teachers, each of whom, as in Colleges, will be at the head of a particular Department of instruction and responsibility. A Course of Study strictly systematic and progressive, is proposed, the satisfactory completion of which will entitle the student to an honorable Diploma.

THE NORMAL SCHOOL, it has been proposed, should also be under the charge of three teachers; but this arrangement must await endowments from public benevolence. For the present, one teacher will stand as its responsible head, with the especial object of giving to young ladies who are intending to be teachers, such instruction and practice as shall fit them thoroughly for their profession.

A COURSE OF STUDY, adapted in all respects to the development and perfection of the female character, has been our especial care. At a time, when old systems are giving way under the pressure of new tests, or crumbling to decay from want of proper material and proportion in their structure; and when, everywhere, especially in the department of education, improvements are demanded, it has been felt a labor of no ordinary difficulty to arrange a Course of Study, fitted for woman and her lofty mission, for our country and the age in which we live.

Wise counsel has been sought and much thought and labor expended in the effort to meet the various embarrassments under which education must be prosecuted. Young ladies are not allowed time enough in school, and while they greatly need discipline, they need still more, if possible, knowledge and skill for their future duties. The sciences are so interlinked and interwoven, that, in their elements, they are one; it is consequently impossible to be thoroughly acquainted with any without some knowledge of all. Again, the human being, in its complicated structure of organs and faculties is so nicely balanced, that each of these must be equally cared for, and properly exercised, or distortion and ruin are the result. And further, this great work of development must go on gradually, or the object aimed at is lost in its too eager pursuit.

All this, and much more, is to be met in the few brief years allowed girls at school; and they are to come forth fitted to control and preside in the homes of our race, and, as educators of the race, to mould its character.

The course of nature in education, which is obviously the model one, we believe to be an opening, developing process, in which the mind is gradually led, not forced, from the outer and sensual to the inner and spiritual, from details to principles, from the exercise of memory to that of reason; a course adapted to develop the whole human being, to be disciplinary, but securing this discipline by processes which will be of practical service in after years; finally, and which comprehends all, we believe the course arranged by Infinite Wisdom, to have ever in view this definite aim, the formation of the highest style of character. By these principles we have aimed to be guided, and, so far as we may be able, we shall teach sciences rather than books, and the great principles which lie at the foundation of right character rather than the details of science. For the highest discipline of the intellectual powers, we shall depend, not entirely upon the abstruse processes in Mathematics, but upon learning their application and upon studying human character and human duty as developed in History, Mental and Moral Philosophy and the Bible. This general plan, it is hoped, will be found more effectual for the development of female character, and even for discipline, than those which conform more nearly to the College Course for young men.

ANNOUNCEMENT, 1852

was apparently effected by the faculty, who considered Miss Beecher's title somewhat pretentious; moreover, the Normal department did not attract the expected number of students. Mary Selleck and Mary F. Smith, Class of '53, were the first to bear this name upon their diplomas.

The College was now housed in a fine new building costing over \$5000, and described as a handsome Gothic structure, ornamented with spires. The central section was two stories high, with classrooms on the first floor and a large study hall on the second. In the one-story north wing were housed the music room and the primary room; to the south were the library room and the normal department. All rooms, it is stated, were provided with generous closets. Milwaukee Female College was undoubtedly the finest school structure in the city. There were, alas, a few encumbrances upon it, for the Trustees had given a mortgage of approximately \$1200 to one John Baasen on the land purchase, and there were many unpaid bills for construction and furnishing. There was no endowment, but a recent development gave some promise that there might be one.

The American Women's Educational Association

This development is referred to in the Minutes of the Ladies' Society, quoted a few paragraphs back. Miss Beecher, fearing a recurrence of those problems which had beset her previous institutions, decided to avert them by founding a society for the express purpose of raising endowments for women's colleges. This was the American Women's Educational Association, organized in New York, in 1852, by a group of Miss Beecher's friends. Among the names on the first Board of Managers, we find besides Miss Beecher's, those of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary Mortimer, and Lydia Sigourney, the Hartford poetess.

This Association proposed to give to such institutions as met Miss Beecher's specifications, an endowment of \$20,000 to support three teachers, on condition that a local investment of not less than \$10,000 be made in buildings and equipment. As a secondary requirement, because of Catharine Beecher's emphasis on the teacher-training angle, all institutions accepting the endowments were to admit twenty Normal students tuition-free.

Milwaukee had to some extent fulfilled the requirements of the Association in the matter of building and equipment, even though these were not completely paid for, and the Trustees were therefore hoping to be among the first to be blessed with a \$20,000 gift. In 1891, Mr. William Ward Wight, Secretary of the Trustees, writing the *Annals of Milwaukee College*, refers to this same \$20,000 as an "ignis fatuus, still dancing before the eyes of the Trustees, lo, these forty years"—from which it may be gathered that the hope did not materialize.

The Association cannot be held entirely at fault, for it did secure pledges for the whole amount, only to have most of it swept away in the business failure of one of the largest donors. But the fact remained that it could not provide the promised endowment, and the College was soon in desperate straits for funds to meet its bills. Dr. Lapham explained to Miss Beecher that this was because, at her insistence, fees had been placed at a very low figure, and Normal pupils paid no tuition; income from pupils could not meet costs, and the Trustees had depended upon the promised endowment to make up the deficit. On the other hand, the Trustees had made little effort to collect funds locally, and the total local investment did not meet the required \$10,000. At the end of the school year, in 1854, the Trustees were unable to meet payments on the Baasen mortgage; there were still unpaid bills for construction, on which judgments had been obtained, and the

teachers' salaries had not been met in full, for the faculty had been increased by five assistants, because of the large enrollment.

Attempts to raise funds by the sale of perpetual scholarships at \$100 each brought in a small amount, but in September foreclosure proceedings were instituted and the College property was advertised for sale to satisfy the claims. December, 1854, found Catharine Beecher again in Milwaukee, striving to rescue her institution from these overwhelming financial entanglements. Her efforts put to shame those of the local Ladies Society! She persuaded the Trustees to issue stock in the College Corporation, and induced one of the wealthier Trustees, Mr. John Tweedy, not only to subscribe handsomely himself but to undertake a selling campaign among the business men of the city. She gathered together the wives of wealthy Milwaukeeans for a "literary soiree" and by the evening's end had disposed of \$4000 of stock at \$25 a share! She persuaded the local press to assist in the campaign. Her whirlwind efforts succeeded; all debts were cleared; a few dollars remained in the usually empty treasury of the College.

And now the Milwaukee committee, feeling that it had more than complied with the requirements of the American Women's Educational Association, for more than \$11,000 had been raised in the last campaign alone, again tactfully suggested that the promised \$20,000 endowment pledge be fulfilled. Indeed, the Association Report of 1855 lists this as its current objective. But again it failed to raise sufficient funds, and the sum was not forthcoming.

However, Miss Beecher, not content to wait for firmer financial footing, proposed to the Trustees at this time that an addition be built on the College to house a "department of health care and calisthenics", of which she had become a devotee. She also wanted to add a small "domestic department" to teach home-making, preferably a model house-keeping cot-



REV. WILLIAM L. PARSONS
Secretary, American Women's Educational Association

tage, which might also economically house two teachers. She proposed to spend \$3000 of her own funds on these additions, if the Trustees could purchase additional land behind the college building. But the price asked for this land was considered exorbitant, and the Trustees refused to buy. The whole project languished.

Meanwhile a series of letters flew back and forth between Trustees, Educational Association, and Miss Beecher regarding past financial arrangements and present obligations. It was claimed by the Association that some \$6483. had been advanced to the College, but this included the original \$1000 given by Miss Beecher for library and equipment, and the \$1500 collected by Mr. Parsons before the founding of the society. The Association's \$20,000 was originally intended to endow the salaries of three teachers but contributions for this purpose had decreased from \$1550 in 1854 to \$283 in 1857. In lieu of further contributions for this purpose, the Association at the end of 1857 placed \$5000 in trust in Milwaukee, the income to be used for College needs. Miss Beecher herself at this time withdrew from active participation in the Educational Association, announcing that she would give no more time to fund raising.

In point of numbers the College was in a flourishing condition, for in 1855-6 there were

259 enrolled, although only 50 were in the College Department, and none in the Normal Department. The heavy enrollment required additional equipment and additional teachers—and teachers' salaries, alas, had increased. Repairs and maintenance costs rose, and again the Trustees found themselves hard put to it, to pay current bills. Petty loans, and more petty loans to repay the earlier ones, were the order of the day. "The simple annals of the poor" are a figment of the poetic imagination. Poor the College was, but nothing could be more complicated than the financial jugglings and manipulations of the next decade. Literally the College had not one penny in its treasury from one year to another; it was even able to dispense with its treasurer for a time!

The Resignation of Miss Mortimer. The Chapin Administration

The strain of this financial insecurity, although it was nominally the responsibility of the trustees, and the "unpleasantness" with the Educational Association, which she represented as Milwaukee agent, caused a breakdown in Mary Mortimer's health, and she was forced to leave in the spring of 1857. The direction of Milwaukee Female College passed to two assistants, the Misses Caroline and Mary Chapin, teachers of high repute, who endeavored to maintain good academic standards. The Misses Chapin hailed from Ontario County, N. Y. Daughters of Heman Chapin of East Bloomfield, Mary, born in 1812, and Caroline, born in 1817, had taught in the East for many years before coming to Milwaukee to join Miss Mortimer in 1856.

Not academic matters, but the problem of a "College Home" was their chief worry. They felt that the College must have dormitory facilities, for teachers and pupils from a distance boarded about the city, often in most incon-

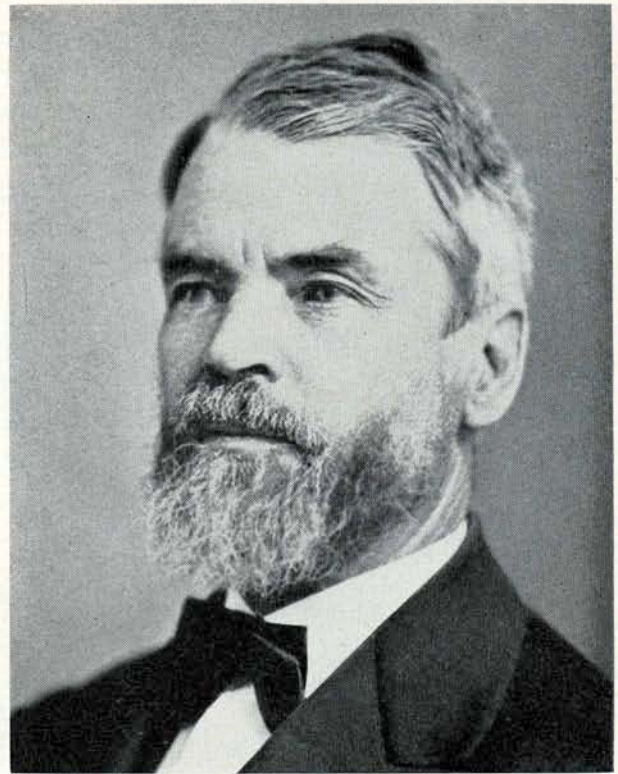
venient and uncomfortable circumstances. As a matter of fact, two classrooms in the main hall had been used as living quarters, for it is related that during the week, "girls from Granville and Wauwatosa slept there by night, and cooked there by day". Miss Beecher had never given the problems of transportation a thought! Now the administration, eyeing the little nest-egg of \$5000 in trust, suggested that Miss Beecher approach the Association for permission to borrow from this for constructing a college home, and to soften her opposition to "boarding houses", it was also proposed to install the "domestic department" she had wanted years before.

At first Miss Beecher refused to be associated with the undertaking, claiming that her Plan had been repudiated, and that the College had fallen far short of its obligations. She did not approve of the Misses Chapin; in fact, she had never forgiven Mary Mortimer for resigning, health or no health. However, she finally consented to help, if her Plan could be reinstated in full. The Association consented to the use of its \$5000 Trust Fund and, by dint of subscription raising and the inevitable mortgage loan, enough was secured to construct the addition, and on September 13, 1860, it was begun.

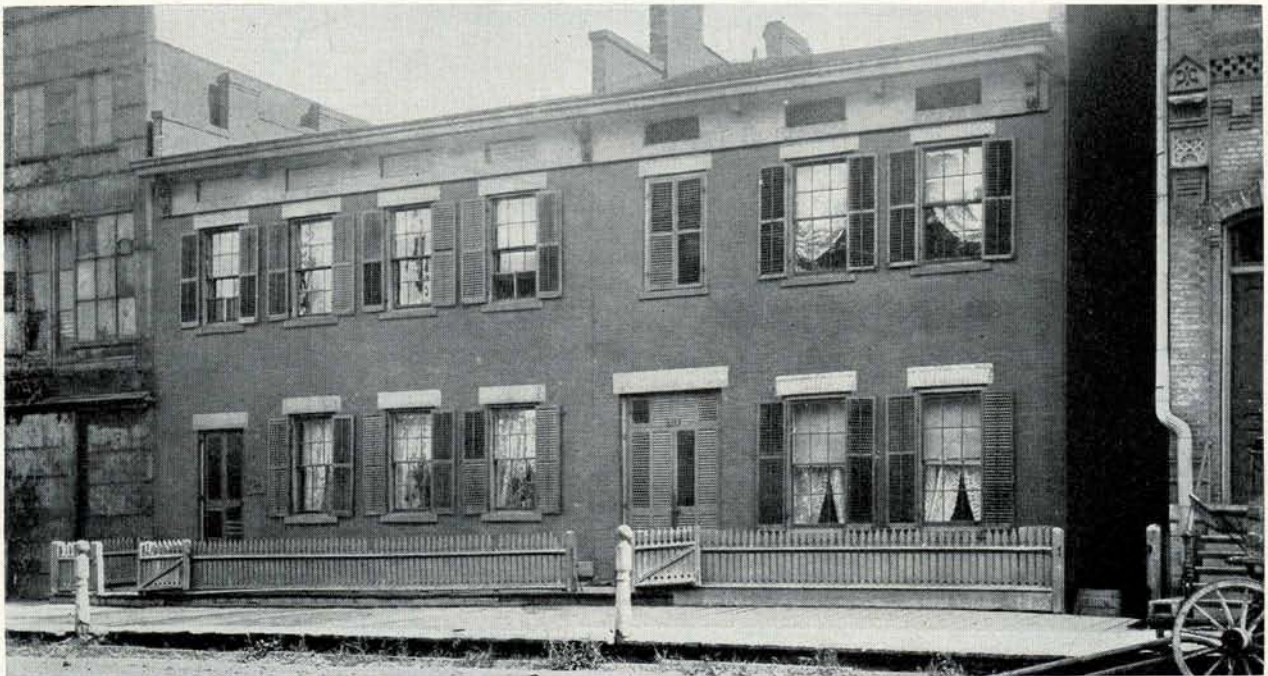
Although the Trustees followed Miss Beecher's expressed wishes in drawing up plans, and submitted them to her for approval, certain changes were made later, and this caused another outburst of recriminatory correspondence on her part. She had proposed to come to Milwaukee to inaugurate the "domestic department" in person, and this had been announced in the papers, but in a huff she declined the position and stormily demanded that the Trustees revamp the building to conform to her wishes.

Her chief wrath seems to have been directed against a basement, which she regarded as unhealthy, and a third floor which the Trustees

INCREASE A. LAPHAM
INCORPORATOR OF
MILWAUKEE FEMALE COLLEGE
AND
FIRST PRESIDENT
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Lapham home, pictured below just before it was razed, in its heyday was the scene of many College gatherings, for the Lapham daughters attended the school and the Misses Chapin and other teachers boarded in the home. Dr. Lapham was a scientist of national reputation and a leader in the intellectual life of the City.

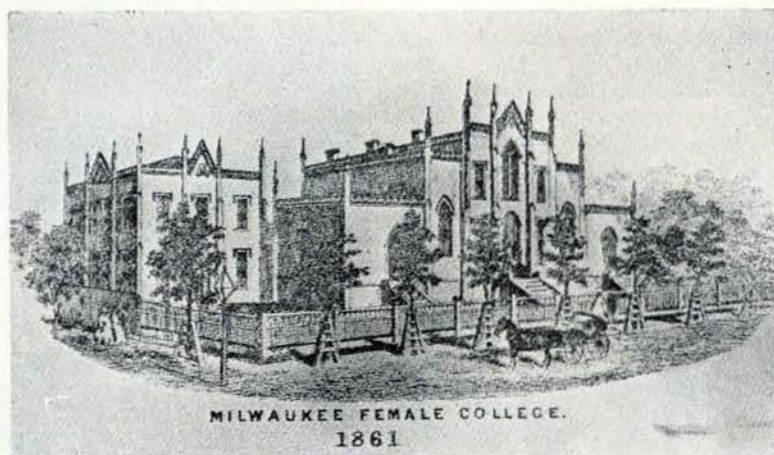


The Lapham home on Poplar St., now McKinley Avenue

had added to produce needed revenue. The Trustees were able to eliminate the third floor from the construction, but the basement was already finished, and very serviceable it proved to be. Miss Beecher had further exacting stipulations as to heating, ventilating, lighting—even the dimensions of bay windows—and refused to be mollified by any gestures of compromise or appeasement on the part of the Trustees. She petulantly declared the whole building entirely unsuitable for her purposes and refused to have anything more to do with it. That she also intimated, in the same letter,

ability to carry it out. Propitiatory letters from the Trustees, who were indeed puzzled by the strange ramifications of this seemingly simple Plan, did not change Miss Beecher's decision to have no part in the new department or the College itself.

In 1861, the Misses Chapin leased the College from the Trustees, at a rental of \$200 a year, the first of such lease arrangements. But their efforts to maintain the school were doomed from the start. Their first year had seen a national financial crisis, and the country had scarcely begun to recover when the shadows of the

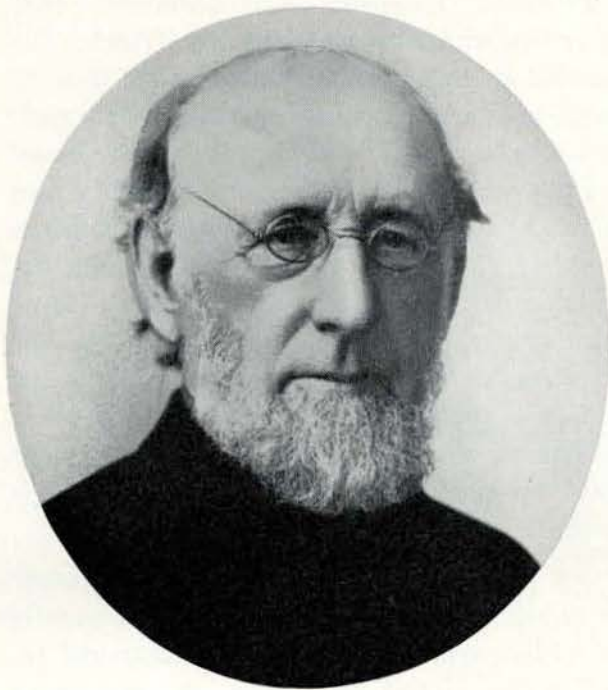


her doubts as to the suitability of the wealthy Mr. Vassar's recently founded institution, was cold comfort.

Miss Beecher was now sixty years old, in dubious health, and her correspondence shows the growth of certain less fortunate traits. She had always had a tendency to dominate in any activity in which she engaged; now she displayed an obstinate determination to have her own way to the last minute architectural detail, or to refuse all cooperation. Her letters to the Trustees are curt, vehement, even rude in tone. They brook no contradiction. Her Plan is the only right and sound one; if it should fail, it is only because others lack understanding and

coming Civil War began to loom large on the horizon. Families felt the need of retrenchment and economy, and school patronage was cut in half in two years. Moreover, in 1857, the long-awaited free high school opened its doors and attracted many away from the preparatory department. So although the Class of '59 was the largest graduated up to that time, enrollment declined steadily until in September, 1862, only sixty pupils presented themselves on opening day.

Income shrank and debts mounted. The Misses Chapin, and their niece, Elizabeth Watson, an 1859 graduate who joined them as Associate Principal in 1861, could see no way out of their



SAMUEL S. SHERMAN
Trustee
Principal of the College
1863-66



MILO P. JEWETT
Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, 1872-77
President of the Board
1877-82

predicament and gave notice to the Trustees that they must terminate their lease at the end of the school year, 1863. In February of that year, so straitened were the circumstances of the College that the Trustees, pocketing their pride, once more wrote to Catharine Beecher to see whether the Educational Association might be able to help in securing endowment. The College needed at least \$9000. Miss Beecher brusquely replied that the Association might raise \$9000 for the College, provided that Milwaukee citizens would erect a "suitable" building for domestic and calisthenics departments, and raise a \$7000 endowment to support one of them. Since this was clearly an impossibility, the matter was dropped.

Up to this time, the Trustees and Faculty had considered themselves bound to adhere to the Plan of Catharine Beecher, insofar as they were permitted to grasp it. Now they launched

an inquiry into all past dealings with the Association and with Miss Beecher to determine the liability of the College Corporation for the return of any or all moneys advanced, in the event the College abandoned the arrangement entirely, as it seemed likely it would be forced to do. For taxes were delinquent, teachers' salaries two years overdue, and bills for supplies, wood, etc., far in arrears. Repairs had not been undertaken for several seasons.

In June, 1863, the Misses Chapin departed, and in August of that year, the College property was actually sold for taxes to one Mary Ann Knox. The Trustees earnestly sought a way out of their difficulties, and at last a solution was provided by one of their own number, a Mr. Sherman, who had but recently been elected to the Board. He offered to take over the school on a rental basis, advancing his own funds to redeem the property from Mary Ann Knox.

Administration of Samuel Sherman

This gentleman, Samuel Sterling Sherman, was a native of Vermont who had met with considerable success as a schoolmaster in the South. For years he had taught at a Baptist boys' school in Marion, Alabama, where Milo Jewett, who later served as the first President of Vassar, was then head of the Judson Institute for Young Women. In 1859, finding himself out of sympathy with the Secessionist cause, Sherman came north with his family and entered business in Milwaukee, where he soon became interested in the College and active in its affairs.

Mr. Sherman outlined his plan for the administration and financial reorganization of the school, and his proposition was accepted by the Trustees. He at once took over the school, and again employing his own personal funds, paid off several old loans and unpaid construction bills, paid also the balances due on teachers' salaries, and also took care of necessary repairs and refurbishings. The Trustees appointed him Principal, and the fall term of 1863 opened on a distinctly hopeful note, for Professor Sherman inspired confidence and attracted an increased enrollment.

However, this placing of a man in complete authority over her College was the last straw for Catharine Beecher, the direct evidence of the Trustees' wicked intention of flouting and abandoning the "college Plan", with its faculty of co-equal teachers. The term had scarcely opened when she descended upon the College. She rehearsed the original agreements and financial arrangements by which the College was bound to the Plan. She again held out the inducement of further aid, if and when Milwaukee citizens could be persuaded to establish suitable quarters and raise local endowments.

Professor Sherman, with admirable tact, agreed to withdraw whenever the Trustees demanded it, thus turning that problem over to them, and went on with his work of reorganization. The Trustees, in January, 1864, issued a five-year lease to Professor Sherman, at an annual rent of \$500, thus affirming their faith in his plans rather than Miss Beecher's. She demanded that the lease be cancelled. The Trustees firmly declined. In May, 1864, she addressed an appeal to the citizens of Milwaukee, and the newspapers having declined to publish it, she had a circular printed setting forth her side of the controversy, one of which is preserved in the College Archives.

She further demanded that Miss Mortimer be recalled to head the faculty, and personally offered to assume financial and educational responsibility if this were done; she even went so far as to promise that she would personally conduct a campaign to raise \$15,000, which with the \$5000 Trust Fund, now spent, would fulfill the American Women's Educational Association pledge. In August, 1864, Miss Beecher wrote to Miss Mortimer that she was engaged in raising this sum, and that they would take over the College the following spring. The Trustees continued Professor Sherman in charge, and noted with satisfaction that he was beginning to bring some order out of the school's financial chaos.

Miss Beecher then threatened to bring suit for the \$5000 trust fund, plus other advances and interest, totaling about \$7000. Poor Miss Mortimer, as Western Representative of the Educational Association, had to present this claim, a task she found exceedingly distasteful.

The trustees felt that they had many arguments in their favor; in fact, the more they delved into past transactions, the less they felt inclined to repay anything, pointing out that the citizens of Milwaukee had from time to time made substantial contributions for build-

ings and equipment, totaling over \$14,000, that teachers had been hired and tuition rates fixed in accordance with an expected income from a \$20,000 endowment, which to date had not materialized.

In 1865, the Association indicated that it would sue for return of moneys advanced, and Professor Sherman, loath to be a party to any litigation, advised that it would be best to terminate his lease at the end of the year 1866. The Trustees were able to secure a loan from the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. to buy out his remaining interest, and in June, 1866, Professor Sherman severed his connection with the school and reentered business. His old friend, Milo Jewett, who had been instrumental in the founding of Vassar College and had served as its first President, arrived in Milwaukee soon after this, and also became a Trustee of Milwaukee College. With members of the Sherman family, Jewett founded the firm of Jewett & Sherman, wholesale coffee and spice merchants, a leading Milwaukee firm to this day. Professor Sherman served as Trustee again from 1875-79, then moved to Chicago, where he died in 1914 at the ripe age of ninety-nine.

The Return of Miss Mortimer

And now, in the summer of 1866, Miss Mortimer was recalled. Officially, the Beecher Plan was reinstated, but the Trustees did not surrender completely. They made a shrewd counter-demand that the Educational Association raise \$15,000 within three years to complete their Endowment, and in the event of failure, that they surrender all claims to sums advanced in the past. To this the Association agreed. Needless to say, they did not raise the \$15,000, and the Trustees did not return the \$5000 or \$7000 claimed.

Samuel Sherman had restored some measure of stability to the school, and the return of Miss Mortimer, who had a large personal following, gave an added impetus. Moreover, the end of the Civil War brought an improvement in economic conditions which was reflected in all phases of living. In the fall of 1866 there were 296 students registered, including a primary department where little boys were allowed to invade the otherwise feminine precincts.

Whether the "co-equal faculty" featured in the Beecher Plan was an actuality at the College is to be doubted, for Miss Mortimer was not only listed as Principal, but exercised that authority. But Miss Beecher, apparently satisfied that the school was in safe hands, took no further active interest in its conduct, although she continued to speak of it with a proprietary air, and in her "Educational Reminiscences", published in 1874, some four years before her death, she recounted without rancor and even with some humility, her struggles, successes, yes, even her mistakes, and the lessons for future educators that might be drawn therefrom.

The last years of Miss Beecher's life were spent in trying to rescue and revive others of her many experiments, notably the Hartford Seminary, which had also fallen upon evil times. Of these many ventures—Hartford, Cincinnati, Quincy, Milwaukee, Dubuque—only Milwaukee survived the test of time.

However, it should not be deduced from this that Catharine Beecher's educational theories were unsound. Stripped of odd architectural notions and momentary fads, her Plan shows great soundness of principle. She did not seek to extend women's rights, although she was sympathetic to the suffrage movement; nor did she try to widen the scope of their activities to include those fields usually dominated by men, but within the limits of the careers she considered as suitable for women—teaching and child nurture, care of family health and morals,

housekeeping and homemaking—she insisted upon a professional thoroughness of training. We might almost say that the idea of professional schools within women's colleges was her great contribution. Her ability to found and to organize undoubtedly surpassed her ability to administer and carry on, but in a final judgment of her character and career, we must respect her strength of will and tenacity of purpose, her vast energy and driving power, and her great industry. For although her sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, won greater renown as a writer, yet Catharine was the more prolific and indefatigable worker. From her earliest teaching days, she turned out pamphlets, books, news-

paper and magazine articles, at an amazing rate and on an amazing variety of subjects, composing textbooks and instructional material also, wherever she found them lacking to her purpose.

Although she was never an officer nor administrator of the College, never taught a class within its walls, and actually spent but a few weeks in its precincts, Catharine Beecher was truly the founding spirit of Milwaukee College, and dominated its development for twenty years. But to this day, no building nor memorial of any sort on the College Campus reminds its students of the part played by this remarkable woman.



The last estate of the Free Congregational Church, in which the early graduations and programs were held. Sold by the Society in 1852, it was successively the short-lived Milwaukee University, then a public school and finally a firehouse. It was moved to the foot of Michigan St. about 1884. From a photograph of 1890.

Brief Interlude



LYDIA HUNTLEY SIGOURNEY

ALTHOUGH we have no memorial to Miss Beecher on the campus, we have paid tribute to her good friend and colleague, Lydia Huntley Sigourney. In 1856, Mrs. Sigourney sent a sum of money to Dr. Lapham, to be used for the little Female College on Milwaukee Street, and at Miss Mortimer's suggestion, this was spent for trees to beautify the campus. Dr. Lapham wrote to Mrs. Sigourney, thanking her for the gift:

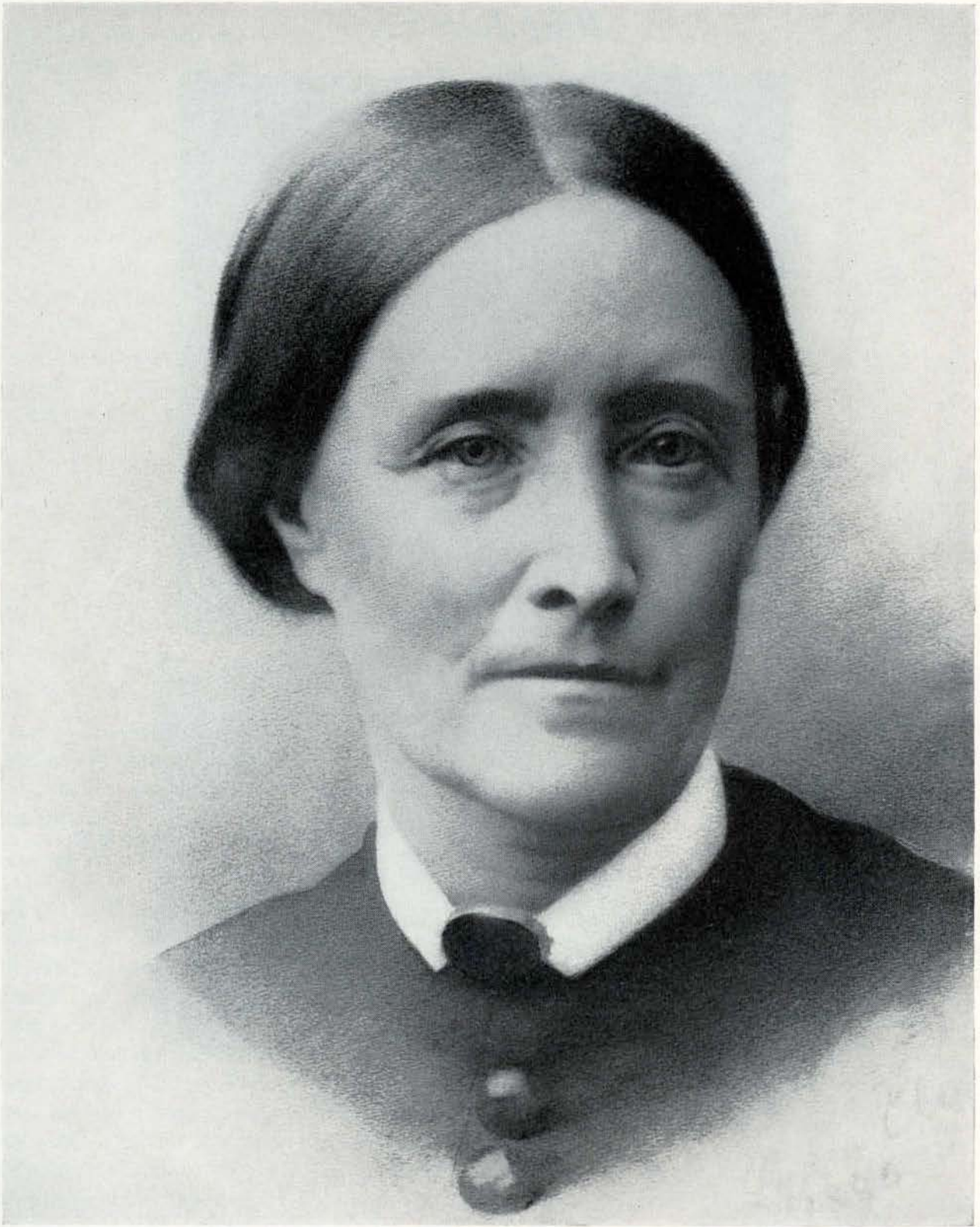
"Three trees are of the Norway spruce, the three middle ones are of the American arbor vitae. The group is to be known hereafter as the Mrs. Sigourney memorial, and although they are long-lived and evergreen trees, we know that they will perish long before the memory of your name and good works is obliterated from the minds of the wise and good".

The trees did indeed perish before their donor departed this earth, for they were cut down in 1860 to make way for an addition to the buildings. Mrs. Sigourney died in 1865,

a much-admired figure in American literary circles, for Whittier himself wrote her epitaph, and a contemporary magazine said of her,

"Mrs. Sigourney has been called by the affectionate admiration of her countrymen, the American Hemans and she is rightly so-called inasmuch as she is the best of all their poetesses".

This is not the end of the tale. In 1911, Mr. W. W. Wight, President of the Trustees, decided that Mrs. Sigourney's connection with the College should not be forgotten, and secured from Hartford an old picture of the poetess, and her quill pen, mementoes which were placed in Greene Library, while out on the back campus, at Commencement time, a group of trees similar to the first gift was planted. Alas, the alumnae who took part in that ceremony in 1911 have not only forgotten Mrs. Sigourney; they have forgotten where they planted her trees!



MARY MORTIMER

(24)

Mary Mortimer, "True Teacher"

IF Catharine Beecher lit the torch which illuminated the early path of Milwaukee College, it was Mary Mortimer who carried it and kept it burning brightly.

Mary, the sixth child and fourth daughter of William and Mary Pierce Mortimer, was born in Wiltshire, England, in 1816. Her father was a blacksmith, her mother a farmer's daughter. Hers was a home of poverty with none of the background of education or taste that nurtured the young Beechers. In the hope of bettering their situation, the Mortimers migrated to New York when Mary was five, settling on a farm "upstate". When Mary was twelve, both parents died within a week of some epidemic fever, leaving Mary under the guardianship of the eldest brother.

Mary attended the common schools, and briefly, the Academy at Auburn, and then in 1832, at the age of sixteen, became a teacher in a country school. But she was painfully shy and nervous, and failed miserably. Then for several years she lived with a Quaker family, assisting with the household duties, and studying in her spare moments.

A relative has left a description which is not too flattering: "She was not a popular nor pleasing child". In addition to her shyness, she was accounted selfish and self-centered, and was given to fits of jealousy, especially in her relations to her older sister, Sybil, to whom she became morbidly attached after her mother's death.

However, in the Quaker household she matured, and when at twenty-one she received her share of the tiny patrimony left by her parents, she immediately entered Mrs. Ricord's

Seminary in Geneva, to secure the knowledge she craved. She completed a four-year course in two years, and assisted in teaching history, mathematics, and metaphysics. She also points out in later correspondence that she entered the school more or less an agnostic, and left it a "professing Christian". This was largely due to the influence of the Principal, Miss Clarissa Thurston, who was also responsible for her choice of teaching as a life work. As she states, she served a ten years' apprenticeship in that profession, first at Geneva Seminary, then as Principal of the Female Department of Brockport Collegiate Institute.

Physically she was not very strong, and her teaching was constantly interrupted by sickness. After three years at Brockport, she was stricken with a serious illness that left a persistent lameness of the right arm and leg, which troubled her for the rest of her life. For several years she lived in the homes of brothers or sisters, while she convalesced. During this time she taught private pupils.

By 1845, she was well enough to accept a position at the Seminary in LeRoy, N. Y., where she met Lucy Seymour, who was soon to become Mrs. Parsons. Three years later, in June, 1848, letters to friends mention that she feels restless, wonders whether to go West and visit Mrs. Parsons in Aurora, and perhaps look over the ground there for a little school. Her friend, Mrs. P., talks of going to Milwaukee.

By August of that year she is on her way to visit Mrs. Parsons, now removed to Milwaukee, a letter of introduction from the "Western Education Society" in her hand. September finds her writing from the Parsons home. The

Parsons school is flourishing, and Mr. P. has referred her to people in several towns along the Fox River, in Illinois. At the end of November she is visiting a brother in Michigan and is just about to leave for Ottawa, Illinois, to set up a school. It was January before she arrived, after a most miserable stagecoach journey—49 hours just to do the stretch of 80 miles from Chicago!

At the end of her first school year, June, 1849, cholera struck the Fox River towns, and at the insistence of friends, Mary Mortimer closed her school and left for a more healthful locality. Just at this time came the correspondence from Catharine Beecher and Lucy Parsons concerning the new experiment to be tried in Milwaukee, and Mary Mortimer joined Miss Beecher in the East, to rest and to learn of the Plan. The following spring, letters reveal that she is to accompany Miss Beecher to Milwaukee to organize the school, after which "Miss Beecher expects to return East, and I shall be school-ma'am again".

The venture in Milwaukee began very happily, very busily. Miss Mortimer became a part of the community at once; her letters mention her choice of a church, an interesting Historical Society meeting, incidents of her life as a boarder in the home of Judge Smith on Spring St. (Wisconsin Ave.), about a mile from the school and a long, cold walk in winter for a delicate lady. True, the school was very overcrowded—the drawing classes had to use the bedroom of their teacher as a classroom, but life was good and satisfying, and all were well in spite of the fact that cholera had also come to Milwaukee.

In the summer of 1852, her letters tell of a trip with Miss Beecher to Brunswick, Maine, the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe; of the founding of the American Women's Educational Association—she had been sent by the Milwaukee Education Society as their delegate—and a Teachers' Convention in Newark; also

the progress of the building program in Milwaukee.

In the fall, there was the excitement of getting into the new school building, the "Benefits" given to provide shades, a carpet for the hall, and other small items. From the first, in spite of Miss Beecher's prohibition of dormitories, Miss Mortimer tried to provide a home atmosphere for her teachers and a half dozen out-of-town pupils who boarded in town. She rented, then bought a home on the corner of Milwaukee and Knapp Sts. Her pupils relate that she had the gift of inspiring, uplifting companionship, and that the home life was characterized by warmth, gaiety, educational entertainment, and botanizing expeditions with Miss Mortimer herself. But the management of the home placed an added burden upon her, and poor health began to interrupt her work once more; it deprived her, too, of several of the colleagues she had expected to have on her staff. Catharine Beecher did well to emphasize health instruction for females of the day, for a surprising percentage "enjoyed poor health", and "declines" were the rule rather than the exception.

Miss Mortimer was not only, as we may surmise, the real Executive of the school, in spite of the Beecher co-equal teacher rule, but she carried a heavy teaching load as well, with courses in Composition and Literature, Bible, Mental Philosophy, History, and Botany. A former pupil, her later biographer, describes Miss Mortimer as an enthusiastic and inspired teacher, enriching every course with a wealth of material and side lights from her own rich background of knowledge.

But in March, 1855, after Miss Beecher's whirlwind fund-raising campaign of 1854, we find Miss Mortimer writing to friends that although "our school is confessedly *the* school of the city, with no opposition and no rivalry", yet she feels tired and depressed, and longs for a rest. In the spring of 1856, she retired to a

"cure" in the East for several months, but it did not bring the needed recuperation, and a year later she announced her resignation. "I have never intended to settle in Milwaukee" she wrote to Miss Beecher, who, in a high dudgeon over the defection of her disciple, would not even acknowledge the resignation. We may guess just how much of Miss Mortimer's depression and fatigue was due to the fact that she served as a "buffer state" between the energetic but irascible Miss B. and the practical, business-minded Trustees in all the financial bickerings previously described.

Miss Mortimer left the school in the hands of teachers she considered "pedagogically sound and fitted for the work", the Misses Chapin, and went to Elmira Female Seminary, where she took Miss Thurston's place while that lady enjoyed a sabbatical leave, a fact which would seem to confirm our suspicion that it was the Milwaukee situation rather than actual illness that caused her departure.

As a matter of fact, she soon returned West again, for she was genuinely attracted to it, but she did not go back to Milwaukee and her old position. Instead, she went to Baraboo, Wisconsin, as Principal of a small Female Seminary there, a surprising decision, since this school presented all and more of the difficulties that had beset her in Milwaukee—lack of endowment, small enrollment, and a location that could not hope to produce a larger patronage. The beauty of the strange Devil's Lake region and its fascinating geologic history, of which Miss Mortimer speaks, could hardly make up for such drawbacks. Moreover, there was a peculiar local situation, for Baraboo Seminary had been founded by a group of ex-Virginians, anti-slavery it is true, but yet loyal to the South, and the war caused high feeling. And the same economic situation which overwhelmed the Misses Chapin in Milwaukee threatened to engulf Miss Mortimer at Baraboo.

As if the burden were not heavy enough, two

of her sisters became ill and required hospitalization; a third sister was already a hopeless invalid. She had to divide her time between her struggling school and the Geneva Sanitarium. One of these sisters she had expected to have with her as housekeeper, and this extra burden almost proved too much. In March, 1861, she wrote to a friend, "I cannot tell about our prospects—the national affairs cast a cloud over everything. Wars and rumors of wars offer poor encouragements to educational enterprises. I wish I knew what I ought to do, but light will break in upon the path as I need it, if I look up—and I will try".

In spite of obstacles, Miss Mortimer carried on. The course was essentially the same as in Milwaukee, perhaps a little less of Miss Beecher and a little more of Miss Mortimer. To a pupil of her first class at Baraboo, she later wrote: "The best teaching of my life, I did with your class".

The War broke. One beloved sister died. Relatives, friends, neighbors left for the front. The reverses of the year 1862 brought only gloom, nationally and locally. As in Milwaukee, by the summer of 1863 it was apparent that the school could not survive, and so, with her colleague, Miss Huntington, she returned to the East, and taught private classes in her home in Auburndale, near Boston.

As the War drew to a close, her thoughts again turned to the West. Mr. O. H. Waldo, a Trustee of Milwaukee Female College, and a close personal friend, had kept her advised as to developments there, as had other friends. So had Catharine Beecher, who had never quite forgiven her for running away. Although she disliked the role, she finally consented to act again as agent for the Women's Educational Association, to try to effect a final settlement of the endowment controversy. By April, 1866, the matter was on the way to settlement, and Miss Mortimer had agreed to return to the school and reestablish the "old order".



THE CLASS OF 1871

*Standing: Jean Terry, Ida Robertson, Ellen Millard, Katherine Huntington, Susan Hess
Seated: Caroline West, Frances Platto, Harriet Holton, Edith Conover, Minnie Booth, Ally Burton*

Her first concern was to gather about her a strong faculty. She had a gift for attracting to herself capable and willing workers, "herself the inspiration for them to put in their very best efforts", as one of them later wrote. "It was a time of growth and education to those women that few of them at the time realized—the after look revealed this". As for Miss Mortimer, a letter to her biographer, Minerva Brace Norton, reveals a bit of stocktaking of herself, her life, her work. She concludes: "Milwaukee Female College is flourishing. The staff is excellent, cooperative, except for the Latin teacher, who is straight, good, intelligent, but alas, a vegetarian, and reserved, living too much in herself."

In 1871, the College was in such sound shape that Miss Mortimer could leave it in the hands of two assistants, the Misses Helen Brace and Helen Phillips, and realize a life-long dream of visiting England and the Continent. From Europe she addressed a voluminous correspondence to the school, for she wanted to share with them all the wonders she observed. Much of this correspondence was preserved, and in her biography we may read her reactions to antiquity, beauty, political change, and above all to the squalor and poverty behind some of Europe's pomp and circumstance. "Oh, children, be thankful for the broad lands your Father in Heaven has given you, and for freedom, and let us try everyday to understand the true freedom better, and true beauty and riches."

Soon after Miss Mortimer had resumed the direction of the school, additional space for gymnastics, art, and music was added to the main hall and paid for by subscription. This gave much needed space for the enlarged physical education program, with the "new gymnastics, devised by Dr. Dio Lewis", guaranteed to cure "pale faces, round shoulders, curved spines, and contracted chests".

Also, the Trustees began a campaign to have

outstanding stock certificates, which had been issued long ago to raise money, transferred to the Trustees, an undertaking which took many years. Money was still a problem. Miss Mortimer had to be released from the \$500 rental agreement which she had taken over from Professor Sherman; the Trustees therefore had no income from the College with which to meet such expenses as interest, insurance, etc.

Miss Mortimer was responsible for a change in the character of the Board of Trustees, namely, the introduction of women members. In 1870 she proposed the names of Mrs. William De Loss Love, Mrs. William P. Lynde, and Mrs. John Nazro, and they were duly elected. The following year, Mrs. E. D. Holton and Mrs. Alexander Mitchell were added to the Board; Mrs. Love resigned and was replaced by Mrs. R. P. Elmore. Mrs. Elizabeth Greene was elected in 1874. The Trustees, having discovered that there was "no group so zealous as these ladies in efforts to provide the many little extras", have consistently maintained this representation of women upon the Board.

After eight years of strenuous labors, Miss Mortimer felt that her health required her permanent retirement, and in the spring of 1874, she brought to Milwaukee Professor Charles Farrar, then teaching Chemistry at Vassar, to deliver a series of lectures and to become acquainted with the Trustees and the College, with the view, of course, that he might be a possible successor to her position. She had known him since her year at Elmira, where he had also been a faculty member, and she thought highly of him. In thus advocating a man as head of the school, Miss Mortimer, too, departed far from the "college plan" she had been expected to uphold, but no withering blast from Miss Beecher's pen seems to have interrupted the course of the negotiations, and Professor Farrar was elected to succeed Miss Mortimer.

Whereupon Miss Mortimer, now nearing sixty, retired to her little "farm" of several acres on the Milwaukee River, which is referred to on her letterheads variously as "The Pines", "Willow Glen", or merely "1000 Humboldt Ave". Miss Mortimer wielded considerable influence in Milwaukee society, and was largely responsible for the founding of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin. Her good friend and supporter, Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, was the first President, and Miss Mortimer, the first Secretary. She also had a large share in the establishment of the Wisconsin Industrial School for Girls.

She continued for many years to hold lecture courses for ex-pupils and friends, and her home was a center of cultural activity for Milwaukeeans. On the 4th of July, 1877, she entertained a houseparty, including her old friends, the Waldo family, and the atmosphere was full of jollity and good fun. Just two days later, however, Miss Mortimer suffered a stroke, and died on July 14th.

If one prunes the estimate of her friend and confidante, Minerva Brace Norton, of all its quaint and flowery language, and its Victorian sentimentality and emotionalism, Mary Mortimer still emerges as the "true teacher"—highly intellectual, yet simple, practical, generous and kind. She is described as "a small, rather plump, never beautiful person, with an astonishingly impressive head—so high, so ample, so satisfying in its curves and arches". Frances Willard has written: "Her gray eyes, bright and sparkling with enthusiasm, kindled a like enthusiasm in all whom she met." Miss Willard herself was one of the pupils who was so inspired.

In appreciation of her devoted service, alumnae of Milwaukee Female College established, in the year following her death, the "Mary Mortimer Library", which, beginning with a small alcove of books, is now a substantial and ever-growing collection in the College Library. Twenty years later, the first endowed Chair of the College was named for her.

Charles Farrar and The Arts

THE SUCCESSOR to Miss Mortimer inherited a fine, well-established public relations tradition, for she had been a person of wide interests beyond the confines of her school. Professor Farrar also, from the beginning of his administration, showed an outstanding ability to enter into the cultural life of the community, and to draw to the college an influential group of citizens, whose support, in tangible and intangible form, continued long beyond the term of his incumbency.

Charles S. Farrar was born in Pepperell, Massachusetts, in 1826, the son of Samuel and Rebecca Parker Farrar. He attended Lawrence Academy, Amherst and Dartmouth Colleges, then studied law for two years, but feeling himself more drawn to the academic life, accepted the Principalship of the Academy at Gilmanton, N. H. Three years later, in 1856, he took the chair of Physics and Astronomy at Elmira Seminary, where Miss Mortimer met him.

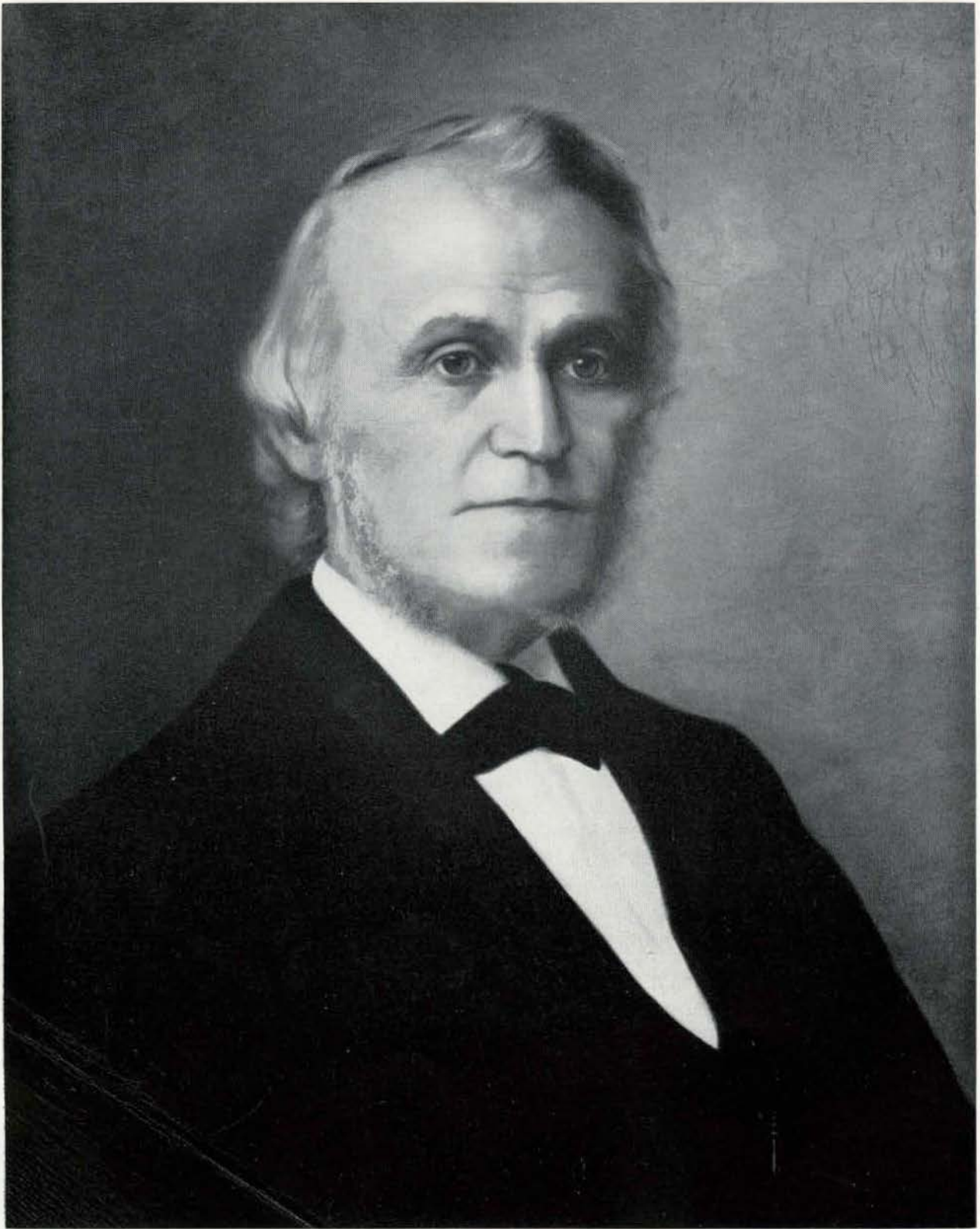
In 1863, Farrar moved to the newly founded Vassar College, to oversee the construction of its science departments and observatory, becoming the first chairman of those departments when Vassar opened in 1865. In the course of these activities he became closely acquainted with Milo P. Jewett, first President of Vassar, whom we have already mentioned as a friend of Miss Mortimer's former successor, Professor Sherman, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Milwaukee Female College. In 1874, when Farrar was brought to Milwaukee, Milo Jewett was Vice-President of the Trustees, and probably had much to do with the appointment.

Farrar accepted the Principalship of the College on condition that it be freed of all financial

encumbrances, and be put in good physical shape, with needed equipment added. But Professor Farrar from the start evidenced a personal interest and enthusiasm for his institution which was expressed in the amounts of money which he himself was willing to invest in buildings and equipment, out of the tuitions and fees which were his sole revenue. Immediately, additions to the buildings were undertaken. The third story of the dormitory, which had roused Miss Beecher's ire, was now built, and the two wings were raised to the same height as the main section, providing extra space for a laboratory, new gymnasium, and philosophical room.

Professor Farrar leased the buildings, rent free, but was obligated to pay for all repairs, taxes, insurance, assessments, teachers' salaries, and other small items from his revenues. He was granted almost complete authority, however—to procure and discharge teachers, set entrance requirements and courses of study, fix rates of board and tuition, etc.

It was at the beginning of this administration that the word "Female" was dropped from the title and the school became officially known as "Milwaukee College". The simple Diploma, inscribed in English, also gave way to a more elaborate Degree, printed in Latin, very like that of today. Professor Farrar introduced an almost entirely new faculty—only two of Miss Mortimer's staff remained, and they too left soon after. Mrs. Farrar took over the boarding department and is described as a gracious and charming hostess. Professor Farrar had four daughters by a previous marriage, two of whom, at least, were regular members of the faculty.



CHARLES S. FARRAR

There was a great housewarming in November, 1874, to introduce the new faculty and display the new equipment and renovated buildings. Professor Farrar had brought a considerable amount of personally owned apparatus, which he unselfishly placed at the service of the school and indeed of the community. His library of about 1000 volumes was added to the school collection, doubling its size.

Charles Farrar was an eloquent lecturer upon a multitude of subjects, and in the winter of 1874-75, he introduced a course for the women patrons of the College. Apparently not only the ladies fell under the spell of his oratory, for we soon find an unprecedented interest being shown by various gentlemen, also. In 1875, Mr. Hiram Barber, of Horicon, presented to the College its first astronomical equipment—a telescope “of such power and accuracy as meets the practical present needs of our students of astronomy, and furnishes a nucleus for a fully equipped observatory. The instrument is mounted equatorially, and moved at sidereal rate by a clock train”. Soon after, Mr. William P. McLaren gave funds for the construction of an observatory at the southeast corner of the college building—“a structure 14 x 33 in ground dimensions with the vertex of the revolving dome 34 feet from the ground”. Additional instruments presented included a “transit instrument, an 8-day sidereal chronometer, and a 2-day mean solar chronometer”. In 1879, the observatory was raised to 48 feet. The instruments are still usable today.

It is understandable that Professor Farrar's own field, science, should receive more emphasis in the curriculum than in the past. However, other trends may be noted. The Calvinistic background of Catharine Beecher and Mary Mortimer had been evident in the many courses offered in Biblical History, Church History, History of Religion and Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity, etc. These were now replaced by humanistic courses in classical and modern

languages and literature, and the arts, which began as a secondary interest of Professor Farrar, and ended as the dominating one, and that with which his name is now usually connected.

In order to accommodate expanded art courses and also his “extension lectures”, Professor Farrar in 1879 requested permission to erect an addition at the southeast end of the buildings, to house a gymnasium on the first floor, and a studio and room for “optics” on the second. The College Treasury, as may be expected, had no funds available for such a project, but the Trustees did not object to Farrar's proposal to use his own revenues for this purpose, and the addition was constructed. As to the state of finances at the moment, it may be interesting to note that when in the summer of 1880, Trustees Jewett and McLaren noticed that the chapel ceiling plaster had begun to fall and ordered it repaired, they had to dig into their own pockets to pay the \$70 bill. The heating plant was also inadequate and obsolete, and again Professor Farrar requested permission to modernize it at his expense. Steam heating apparatus, the most modern the day afforded, was thereupon installed. There were some contributions, but Charles Farrar bore the major portion of the costs. It is no wonder that in 1881 the Trustees hastened to renew Professor Farrar's lease for a ten-year period.

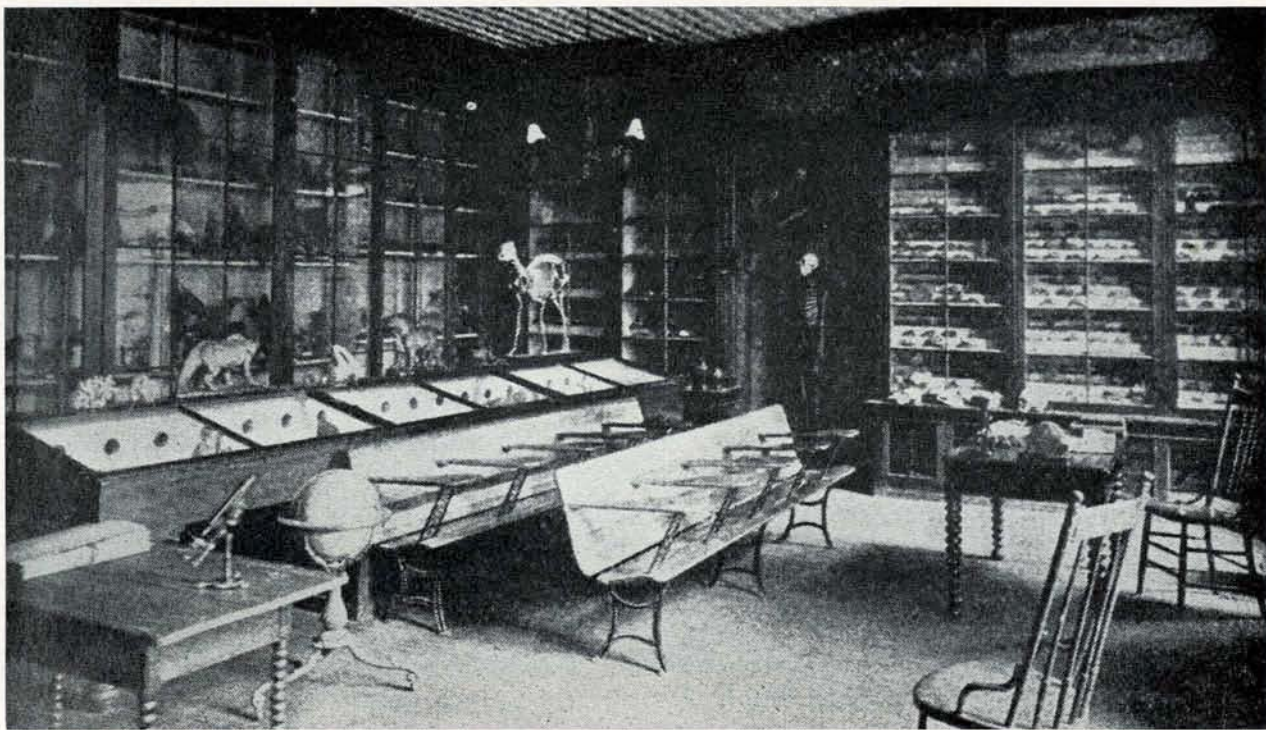
In January, 1883, occurred “The Fire”, which gutted a portion of the main building. It occurred in the early morning, before day pupils arrived and at no time threatened the dormitory wing, but, occurring only two weeks after the terrible Newhall House disaster, it caused considerable alarm. The actual damage was assessed at \$3728, and thanks to the foresight of the Trustees in the matter of insurance, and the economical management of Professor Farrar in making repairs, the College came out in better financial condition than before—with a balance of \$199.99! The members of the Art and Science lecture courses hastened to replace

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM MILWAUKEE
COLLEGE CATALOGS OF THE 1880's



OBSERVATORY DOME AND PHYSICAL LABORATORY

Much of the amazing apparatus shown was the personal property of Professor Farrar



NATURAL HISTORY ROOM



COLLEGE LIBRARY

The grillwork in the arched doorway bears the inscription "Mortimer Memorial Library"

WINTHROP COLLEGE
LIBRARY

furnishings and art objects, and within two months the renovated college was again functioning smoothly. Certain College records were, however, irretrievably lost.

And now, because of the very important role which it played in the life and development of the College, we must digress to trace the history of the Ladies' Art and Science Class. Professor Farrar's course of lectures, that first winter of his incumbency, proved so popular that the group of women who attended soon organized as a Class, and the lecture series became an annual winter activity of Milwaukee society. The course consisted of ten weekly lectures, many illustrated by slides, and the fee charged was \$5. The Ladies were also encouraged to do some independent study in the reading room which was established for them in the school building, and which they soon filled with book-cases for their reference works and collection of art objects. No less than fifty-three women enrolled the first year, and the number soon increased to several hundred. It is interesting to note among the charter members, the familiar names of Mrs. Jason Downer and Mrs. Thomas A. Greene; Mrs. T. A. Chapman is listed for the following year.

Professor Farrar had brought with him to the College a large number of lantern slides, which he used to illustrate his lectures, and an early description of the remarkable physical equipment necessary for their projection is noteworthy. We quote:

"The equipment consisted of a steam engine and rotary gas pump for condensing oxygen and hydrogen in their respective cylinders to any required pressure; opaque Barker window-curtains, so that perfect darkness could be secured in a moment of time; several pairs of cylinders constantly changed, and several pairs of lanterns adjusted ready for use. The views were projected on a screen to the size of about 22 feet in length."

All of this equipment, be it noted, was the personal property of Charles Farrar. The library of slides or lantern transparencies numbered more than ten thousand, and was arranged on shelves in library order, ready for

instant use. Most of these, Professor Farrar had purchased on European visits.

The undergraduates of the College were permitted to attend the lectures, and if we may credit certain rumors, found it not only a convenient excuse for cutting classes, but that darkened, practically air-tight room, gently warmed by the steam generator and the tightly packed audience, was a guaranteed soporific that helped many a flighty young miss to catch up on lost sleep!

The Class became an integral part of Milwaukee College in 1878, when a new Constitution and By-laws were adopted, which stated, in part:

"1. The Class shall be vitally connected with Milwaukee College. . . .

"4. The funds thus accruing (from membership dues) shall be expended by the Board of Officers in the following manner, viz.:

Payment for the use of the College Hall as a session-room, and of the Library as a reading-room, and of the lanterns for projection, a sum not to exceed twelve and one half dollars per week during the season of meetings and Library study.

The balance remaining . . . shall be annually expended before October 1st, for books, pictures, casts and other such treasures, or in other ways . . . and anything so purchased shall be the permanent property of the College."

By the end of the year 1883, the ladies' Art and Science Class had outgrown its quarters and asked permission to extend again the south wing by addition of a two story structure to house the Class Lecture Room and its growing Art Library, which now numbered 866 volumes. Of the cost of this addition, Professor Farrar again bore the major share, \$1800, while the Ladies contributed \$650 and items of furnishings.

Nor was this the end of Charles Farrar's benefactions, for in 1886 he asked permission to increase the dormitory space by some thirty rooms, although the Trustees were very skeptical of the wisdom of this move. Professor Farrar nevertheless invested over \$6000 in buildings and repairs, only to find that the



A READING CIRCLE OF 1876

*Standing: Louise Lawrence, Nellie Hsley, May Philips, Louise Richardson
 Seated: Anne Hsley, Alice Carter, Marietta Teeedy, Mabel Chapin, Alice Chapman
 Seated on floor: May Cramer, Bessie Brigham, Julia Metcalf*



THE LIBRARY OF THE LADIES' ART AND SCIENCE CLASS

Trustees were right—his expected increase in enrollment did not materialize. As Mr. Wight states in his *Annals*, "the zeal of Professor Farrar exceeded his proper discretion. Nevertheless it has been for the benefit of the College . . .".

As a matter of fact, in spite of Professor Farrar's popularity in the city and his real ability as an educator, things were not going well at the College. Economic ups and downs had always affected enrollment, but perhaps there were other factors. In his zeal to make the College the cultural center of the city, he had forgotten that his first duty was the education of youth, rather than of adults. More and more of his time went to his lecture courses and outside activities. Also, the College Department had always been overshadowed by the Preparatory Department, and now numbers dwindled in the upper classes to the point where there was little left but Seminary. In truth, it must be stated that the social group in which Professor Farrar moved had largely lost sight of the goals of collegiate education, and were content with putting on a finishing school polish. And it must be remembered that the College was no longer the sole educational institution of standing in the city.

Whether it was the falling enrollment and growing criticism of the school, or the ill-advised building project, which must have been a considerable drain upon his resources, is not clear, but in January, 1889, Charles Farrar announced his retirement at the end of the school year, two years before the expiration of his lease. He had been Principal for fifteen years, and his contributions had been far beyond the call of duty. His influence on the community was strong and far-reaching, and it pro-

duced results for the College not at first apparent, for the groups he interested, particularly his Art and Science Class, were not so many years later to rally to the cause of the College and produce at last the needed endowments.

Professor Farrar's withdrawal posed a difficulty. The College had made use of much of his personal property, and was now faced with the necessity of either buying it or replacing it, and had funds to do neither. But Farrar's popularity in the city bore fruit; subscriptions totaling \$9000 were raised, of which \$3000 was paid to him for his equipment—not at all its true value—and the rest used for repairs and other expenses.

Professor Farrar moved to Chicago after his retirement, but for years continued to direct the Art and Science Class, which continued its benefactions to the College for more than a decade after his departure. The rise of the Milwaukee College Endowment Association, founded in 1890 and incorporated in 1893, for the express purpose of raising funds for the College, soon ate into the membership of the Art and Science Class, and about the turn of the century its membership and functions were absorbed by the younger group. Its library of rare and beautiful books on Art existed as a separate collection, separately housed, for many years, and is still one of the treasures of Milwaukee-Downer College.

A portrait of Charles Farrar which graced the old Art Library was removed to Merrill Hall Chapel; it shows him in his later years, but is considered a good likeness. Professor Farrar is also remembered in the Chair of Fine Arts which bears his name.

End of an Era

THE successor to Professor Farrar was a young man whose background strongly recommended him to the Trustees, for he also was an upstate New Yorker, brought up in the same traditions as his predecessors. Charles Rawson Kingsley was the son of Charles C. Kingsley, of Utica, who for forty years had been connected with Hamilton College, of which the son was a graduate in the Class of 1878. Before coming to Milwaukee he had taught at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, and Leavenworth High school, then had taken over a school for young ladies in Rochester, N. Y., which became known as the Kingsley School. At the same time he was doing graduate work at Hamilton, receiving his Ph.D. in 1889, shortly before he accepted the Presidency of Milwaukee College.

Professor Kingsley was only 32 when he came to the College, and he was full of youthful enthusiasm. His first efforts were directed toward revising the curriculum and raising standards, in an effort to build up the dwindling College Department. The catalog of that first year shows the effect of the revision; to all appearances the College offered a strong course. However, Mr. Kingsley was not a good administrator, and with one or two exceptions, the faculty he assembled was not satisfactory. In 1891, there were but ten students in the College Department and no graduating class; in 1892, there were but seven college students and four were graduated that June. The Seminary Department numbered 101, and naturally its interests dominated the school. Efforts to obtain a better balance resulted only in reducing the number of Seminary pupils.

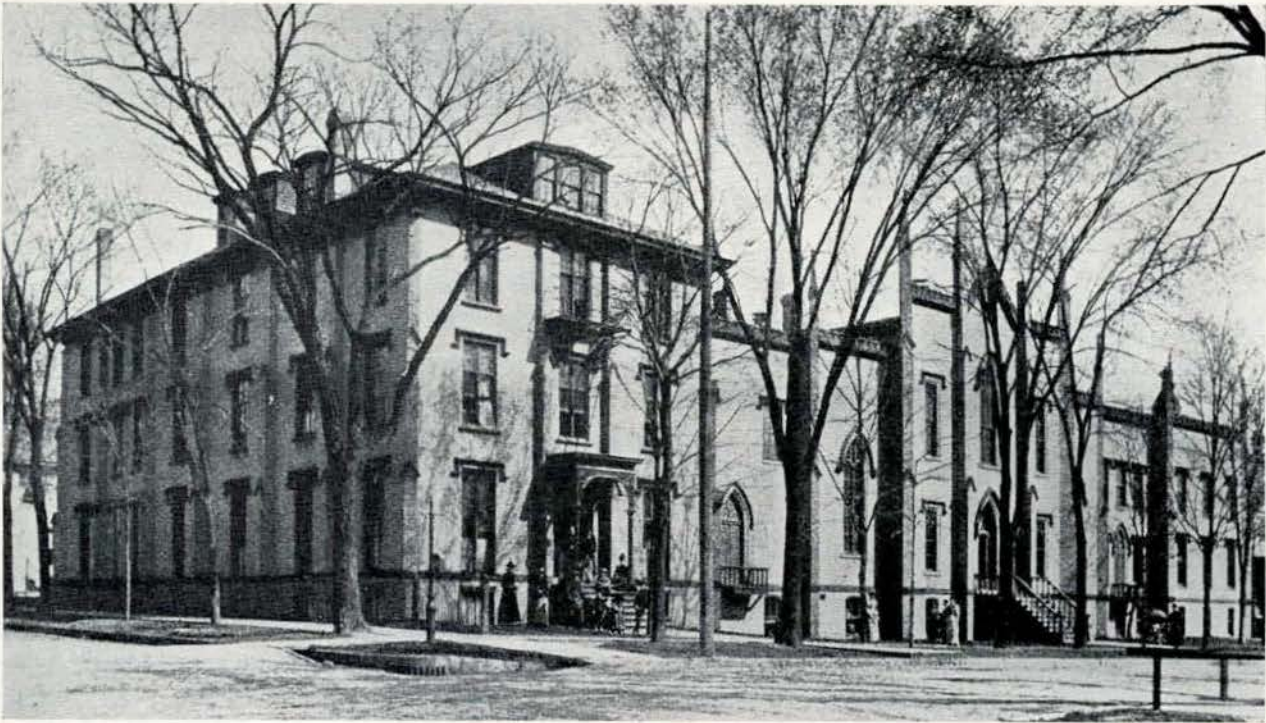
Professor Kingsley must be given credit, however, for setting in motion some of the activities which were to rebuild the school some years later. The need for endowment had been indicated from time to time, but no sustained effort had been made to build such a fund. Professor Kingsley is probably responsible for the actual start of the endowment drive. In the May, 1893, issue of the *Beacon*, a short-lived publication of Milwaukee College, it is recorded that having secured permission to conduct a campaign,

"Thereupon he wrote an eloquent and stirring appeal to the public, setting forth the condition and needs of the College, and circulated it widely, following this with articles in all the leading newspapers, and personal calls upon those most likely to be interested in the well-being of the College. . . . During the past year, Pres. Kingsley has visited many towns of Wisconsin, addressing the High Schools, and making the name and purposes of the College known abroad."

It was no doubt this publicity campaign which inspired Mr. Edward D. Holton, Milwaukee's pioneer railroad builder, banker and insurance executive, to offer a piece of dock property valued at \$37,500 on condition that an equal sum be raised by January, 1892. Both Mr. and Mrs. Holton, and also their daughters had served on the Board of Trustees, and were among the most active workers in the endowment campaign.

It was to raise this sum of \$37,500 that the Committee of Trustees was appointed, which is mentioned in the Preface to Mr. Wight's *Annals*, and which approached its task in no little trepidation:

"Now that the trustees are brought in the face of this present importunity, a request for a sum larger by many times than they have ever asked for before, they feel a



MILWAUKEE COLLEGE IN THE 1890'S

reluctance that savors strongly of timidity. . . . The money is absolutely required to save this historic seat of feminine education from deterioration, degeneration, decay and death!"

For this fund campaign also the Milwaukee College Endowment Association was founded in 1890 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. William Grant Fitch. This Association from this date has carried on a continuous program of assistance to the College. Among its early officers and committee chairmen, we find many names closely associated with the College, either as Alumnae or Trustees, among them Mrs. Hannah Ring Vedder, Mrs. Frederick C. Winkler, Mrs. James G. Flanders, Mrs. James Peck and many others.

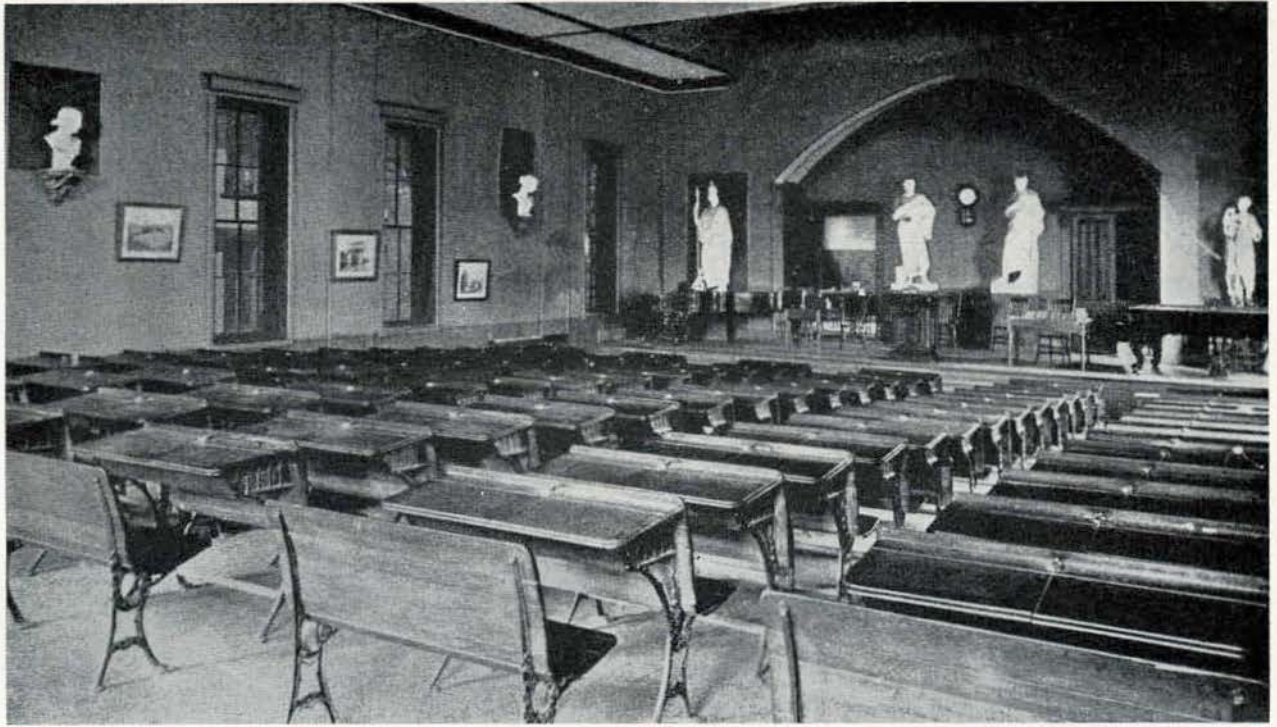
The catalog of 1891 announces that \$25,000 in gifts and pledges has been received, and the balance is urgently needed. The 1892 catalog announces triumphantly that the gift of Mr. Holton has been secured by the raising of a like sum, and that the beginning of the long-

hoped for endowment is now assured. An ambitious note is sounded in this issue—the needs of the College are listed as follows: general endowment, \$100,000; a new building, \$100,000; 8 professorships, \$200,000; 10 scholarships, \$50,000; library fund, \$50,000. This for a College which had rarely seen \$1000 in its coffers!

In this same catalog, it is mentioned that a University has been founded at Chicago, and "Colleges will be needed to prepare students for University work. No great College for Women exists in the Middle West, and it is in the power of friends of the College to give it unquestioned predominance."

We cannot say whether this idea of Milwaukee College as a feeder for the University of Chicago gained it any larger support!

Although his endowment fund drive met with success, it cannot be said that Professor Kingsley met with equal success as a teacher. Mrs. Kingsley, who is listed as "lady Principal", and who was nominally in charge of the board-



COLLEGE HALL.



THE PARLOR

ing department, also had literary aspirations and devoted much of her time to her writing, so that domestic problems often occupied the time of the College President. He was not able to attract to the school additional college enrollment, and that department was almost suspended. In the spring of 1893, the Kingsleys gave notice of their withdrawal, as Mr. Kingsley contemplated a change of occupation. From the *Beacon* we learn that

"The love of study for its own sake, which is one of President Kingsley's most prominent characteristics, re-

ceived both reward and stimulus when, on the nineteenth day of April of the present year, he was ordained as a clergyman, a step toward a wider field of usefulness".

The Kingsleys were succeeded by Mrs. Louise R. Upton, whose administration did little to enhance the reputation of the College. Both College and Seminary Departments declined until, in 1894, a complete suspension of activity seemed inevitable. On this melancholy note we terminate the independent history of Milwaukee College.



Mrs. William Grant Fitch



Mrs. Frederick Winkler

EARLY OFFICERS OF THE MILWAUKEE COLLEGE ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin Female College

HAVING rehearsed the complicated history of Milwaukee College, let us now turn to the other member of the partnership.

Slightly younger than its sister institution, Downer College began life as Wisconsin Female College, a Baptist foundation. In March, 1854, the newly created Wisconsin Baptist Education Society set out to found a college for the young people of its denomination in the central part of the state. Citizens of the village of Beaver Dam offered a site of twenty acres and a fund of \$15,000 for its establishment; Fox Lake, eight miles away, also offered a site and a subscription of \$5000. The Society decided to accept the Beaver Dam site for a men's college, to be called Wayland University; the Fox Lake site was accepted for a college for young women.

Two Charters were obtained, on January 29, 1855, naming for each institution a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, and a Baptist Board of Managers with power to nominate these trustees as long as the institution received aid from the Baptist Education Society. The institutions thus founded were long known as the "Baptist Twins".

If the founding of Milwaukee Female College was a dubious venture financially, that of the Wisconsin Female College must have appeared little short of fantastic. Milwaukee in 1848 was a thriving port with promise of a greater future. Fox Lake in 1855 was a tiny hamlet, on the border of the "Indian lands", and although the Catalog of 1856-58 advertises that it is "on the Milwaukee and La Crosse Railroad, 3 hours ride from Milwaukee and 4 from LaCrosse", it was still in a sparsely populated section where most transportation and

communication facilities were "projected" on paper only. However, in the week following the granting of the Charters, the enthusiastic incorporators met at Fox Lake, and organized a Board of Trustees, whose officers were: President, Rev. R. A. Fyfe, Milwaukee; Secretary, Hon. William E. Smith, Fox Lake; Treasurer, John W. Davis, Fox Lake. They accepted plans of the Baptist Education Society for a school building, and at once appointed a building committee to carry them out.

Early in the spring, ground was broken for a three-story stone structure, 48 by 100 feet in dimensions. On July 4, 1855, the corner stone was laid with due ceremony, almost all the village attending, and approximately one year later the building had progressed to the point where the opening date could be announced as October of that year. Meanwhile the Baptist Society sold scholarships of \$50 value, entitling the holder to four years' tuition in the regular college subjects, the sum netted being \$4590.

On the second Wednesday in October, 1856, the College opened its doors to 58 students. President of the College was the Rev. H. G. Parker, corresponding secretary of the Baptist Education Society, and the Rev. J. W. Fish, a local clergyman, was Principal. Both gentlemen, however, withdrew at the end of the year because of the pressure of other duties.

Two instructors, the Misses Sarah and Cornelia Skinner, were engaged, and the 1857 Minutes of the Wisconsin Baptist Convention state that they were complimented on the quality of work done. For it, they received \$774. Another expenditure of \$600 for furniture is recorded. From these same Minutes we learn that the

citizens of Fox Lake had made good their pledge of \$5000, and showed a continuing interest in the school. The basement was to be completed "for boarding purposes" and a competent supervisor of the boarding department was to be added to the staff.

The first catalog seems to have been printed the following year. As in early Milwaukee College, there were three terms, the first from the middle of September to the 23d of December, the Winter term from the beginning of January

in a paragraph labeled "Discipline", we find this:

"The conduct of the pupils towards each other, their instructors, and indeed towards all, is to be regulated by those plain rules of common sense, politeness, honor and religion, which are regarded binding upon the members of every free, enlightened and virtuous community".

The mental discipline was as strong as the moral, witness the array of courses which the Senior Division was expected to master: Latin, algebra, geometry, physiology, chemistry, astronomy, geology, natural philosophy, intellec-



WISCONSIN FEMALE COLLEGE
1860

to the middle of April, and the Summer term from the last week of April through the third week of July. Tuition ranged from \$14.50 to \$25.00 per annum, and board, room, and fuel were \$80.

The moral tone of the school is not left to the imagination, for in the forepart of the catalog we find a paragraph labeled "Moral and Religious Culture" which reads:

"It is the aim of the Officers and Teachers in connection with the discipline of the intellect, to inculcate a pure morality, and the great truths and duties of Evangelical Christianity".

In another paragraph, however, we read that "nothing sectarian is designedly taught". Again,

tual philosophy, moral philosophy, logic, Evidences of Christianity, and Natural Theology. In addition, "exercises in English composition, notes of Sermons, and Biographical Sketches are required throughout the entire course."

Records of the year 1857-8 show four teachers on the staff and the student body doubled in number. The financial outlook was promising, for tuitions amounted to \$1882, scholarships were sold to the amount of \$1265, and \$900 was received from the "State Normal Fund". On what basis this last-named sum was paid is not explained, but a Normal Department is listed in the catalog.

The Wayland enterprise at Beaver Dam, however, had not met with equal success, although it had sold five times as much in scholarships. Local pledges had not been paid; building did not progress satisfactorily, and cost more than had been anticipated. Therefore, in 1857, the Baptist Education Society decided to withdraw from the going concern at Fox Lake to bolster the toppling venture at Beaver Dam. No further aid was paid to the woman's college, and in 1862, a quit-claim deed was given to the Wisconsin Female College for the real estate and other property held in the village of Fox Lake.

Miss H. S. Scribner was listed as Principal for the years 1857 to 1859, and Miss H. S. Reed for 1859-60. In 1860, Professor N. E. Goldthwait was placed in charge, and as a war measure, young men were admitted as students. The first graduating class was that of 1863 and included five young women—Ellen Courbet, Adelaide and Martha Dye, Frances Eggleston, and Minerva Perry.

Even in the Civil War period, the Fox Lake citizens loyally supported their school, completing the third story to house eighty boarding students, and adding a fence and landscaping to relieve the bleakness of the surroundings. Professor Goldthwait leased the College from the Trustees under much the same arrangements as existed at Milwaukee College. As in Milwaukee, the Trustees, faced with increasing revenue needs, voted to make the College a stock company and issued some sixty shares at a par value of \$100. \$3700 was realized from the sale.

When Professor Goldthwait's lease expired in 1863, the College again returned to its original function of educating young women, and the Trustees were fortunate in securing the services of a pre-eminent teacher to initiate the new post-war program. This was Miss Caroline Bodge of Rockford Female Seminary, who had been well grounded in the educational principles

of Mary Lyon, and who was to early Downer College what Mary Mortimer was to Milwaukee College.

Caroline Bodge was born in Barrington, N. H., in 1824, and graduated from Mt. Holyoke in 1850. She had been a teacher of Latin at the Rockford Seminary for about six years when called to Fox Lake. Miss Bodge had helped to make Rockford a second Mt. Holyoke, and she now came to Fox Lake with the intention of making it a second Rockford. Miss Bodge brought with her from Rockford six associates who were in thorough agreement with her as to educational objectives. These were Miss Mary Crowell, a Mt. Holyoke graduate, and the Misses Anne B. Sewell, Sarah Horne, A. L. Stevens, Clara Strong, and Cordelia Dickinson, graduates or former students of Rockford. They received a lease as a group at \$500 a year.

A three-year college department was organized, and a two-year preparatory course. The College was now officially designated as non-sectarian, but since the Board of Trustees had gradually changed from a Baptist body to one strongly Presbyterian and Congregational, and since the Bodge faculty was also largely Congregational, the school had strong leanings in that direction.

Miss Bodge is described as a strict disciplinarian, a hard task-mistress and rather fearsome in class, but "very fair and just in her grades". Her administration was a strong and eminently satisfactory one, and student numbers, down during the war years, now rapidly increased. Unfortunately, she was not permitted long to carry out her aims, for in her third year at the school, Miss Bodge fell ill of "consumption" and died that winter, leaving her assistant, Mary Crowell, to carry on.

Miss Crowell was born in Essex, Massachusetts, in June, 1823, the daughter of the Rev. Robert and Hannah Choate Crowell, and the niece of Rufus Choate. She also was a great



Caroline Bodge
Principal, 1863-66



Mary Crowell
Principal, 1866-71



Sarah Horne



Anne Sewell



Alcira Stevens

THE "ROCKFORD FACULTY"

admirer of her teacher, Mary Lyon, and followed her precepts during her five years as Principal of Wisconsin Female College. Miss Crowell is described as a beautiful woman, somewhat melancholy of temperament, but nevertheless adored by her pupils. She retired in 1871 to live in Amherst with her brother, also a distinguished teacher.

Miss Anne Sewell, another of the Rockford colleagues, who also retired in 1871 to head the Wisconsin Branch of the Woman's Board of Missions, has left us some information about these early teachers and their students. Miss Clara Strong, one of the teachers, had married the Rev. Mr. Doane and gone to the Islands of Micronesia to work for the welfare of the native women. Her sister had married the Rev. J. D. Davis and gone to Japan to help Christianize it, and a student, Emma Dickinson, '69, having married the Rev. Arthur Smith, had gone to China to work in the Mission field there. From the many such notes about the early College family, we may gather that the religious influence was strong at Fox Lake. The importance of this fact in the later history of the College is this—that it was the religious atmosphere and the emphasis on Christian character which caused Judge Jason Downer to become interested in the institution which was to bear his name.

Jason Downer was born at Sharon, Vt., on September 9, 1813, the son of Solomon Downer, a well-to-do farmer. He worked on the farm until he was nineteen, then entered Kimball Academy at Plainfield, N. H. In 1834, he entered Dartmouth, graduating in 1838, after which he settled in Louisville, Ky., to study law. After being admitted to the bar, he came to Milwaukee in 1842 to set up his practice. For a short time he was associated with the firm that published the Milwaukee *Sentinel and Commercial Herald*, but withdrew in 1845 to devote himself to the law, in which he attained great prominence in the state, not as a

“jury lawyer”, inasmuch as his manner was rather austere, but as a writer of opinions, a “lawyer’s lawyer”. In 1864, he was appointed an Associate Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, serving till 1867.

In 1847, he had married Miss Eliza Dunbar, who died in 1858. In 1864, he was married to Alcy E. Miner, and it was through this second wife that he became acquainted with Downer College and the struggles of staff and students to make ends meet. Judge Downer was genuinely interested in the higher education of women, and in securing better educational opportunities for them. A devout Congregationalist—in fact, described as something of a Puritan—he was particularly interested in the religious and moral aspects of education, and the fine spirit evident at Wisconsin Female College deeply impressed him. He began to take an interest in the College, and was President of its Board of Trustees during Miss Crowell's administration, 1866–71, and again from 1874 to 1878. Downer was not only an able lawyer, but also shrewd and capable in business matters, and under his guidance the management of the school was sound and stable, and its reputation was excellent.

In 1866, Judge Downer gave the sum of \$9500 toward the estimated \$12,000 cost of a new building for the College, to house a Chapel, library, and several classrooms, and in his honor this structure, dedicated on July 5, 1870, was named Downer Hall.

The following year, Dr. Lyman Whiting, pastor of a church in Janesville, who had taken part in the dedicatory exercises, enthusiastically described the school to eastern acquaintances while on a visit, and returned west with a gift of \$1000 from Mrs. Mary L. Hayes of Boston, to begin the endowment of the Principal's Chair, besides additional small gifts of money and valuable books. This is the earliest gift for endowment received by either College.



THE CHAPEL—DOWNER HALL



THE LIBRARY



MRS. ELLEN B. HAIRE
Lady Principal and Matron



REV. JOHN P. HAIRE
Principal, 1871-73

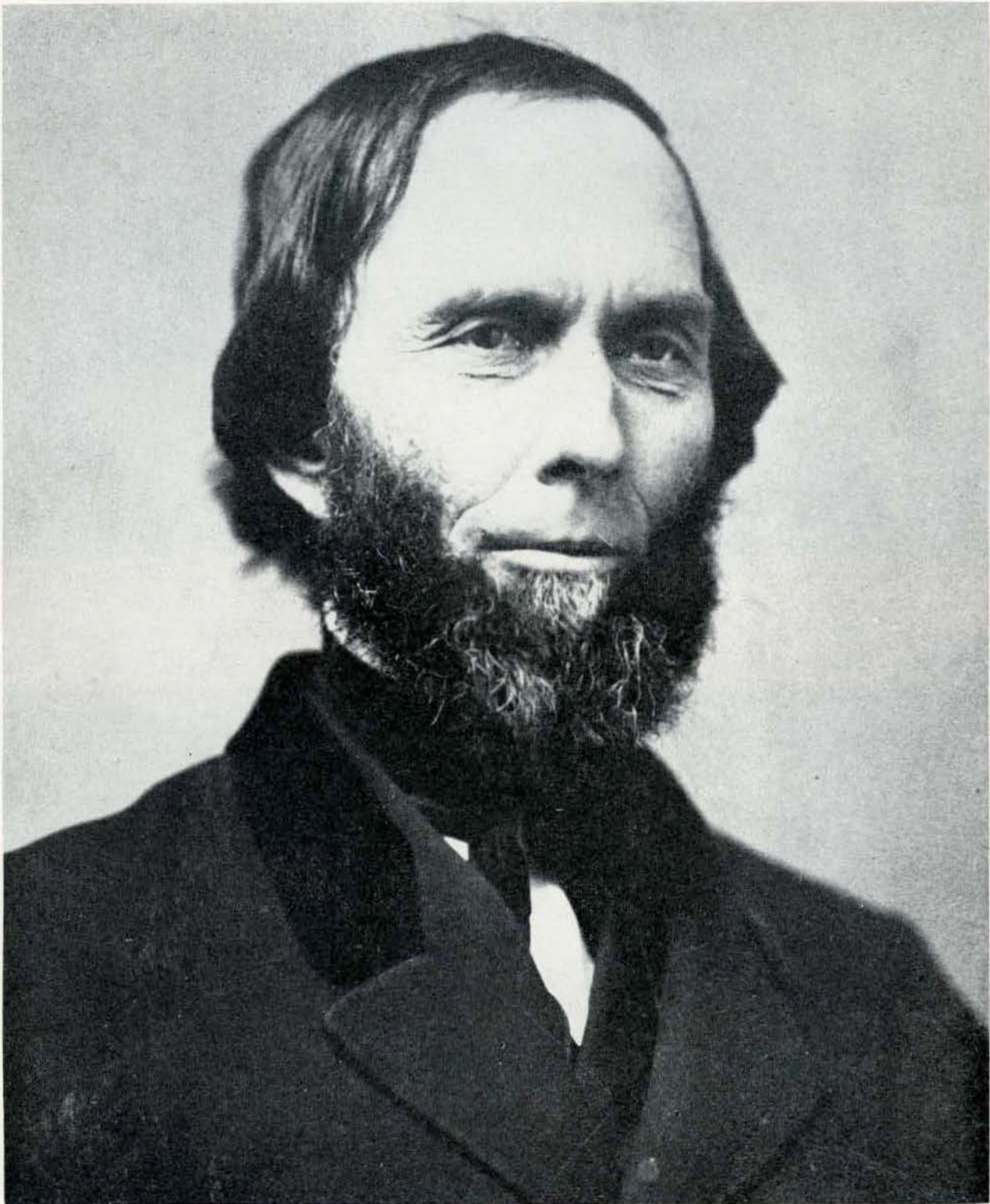
Upon the resignation of Miss Crowell, the Trustees decided that a man was needed at the head, for a more vigorous job of publicity and promotion. The Rev. John P. Haire, pastor of the Fox Lake Congregational Church and a former teacher, was chosen and prosecuted his mission with vigor. Besides carrying on a voluminous correspondence with friends and prospective patrons of the school, he travelled widely, advertising its advantages. Like Professor Farrar in Milwaukee, he believed in lecture courses for the public to draw their interest and support, and the College became the center of activities for the village.

However, in 1873, nearby Ripon College enticed Mr. Haire away to fill its Chair of Latin, leaving Wisconsin Female College again under the tutelage of women, the Misses Mary Henry and Sarah Sheppard, who had come as teachers of science and mathematics.

Miss Henry took over the Principalship. There was no decline in the quality of work done, according to contemporary reports, but Mr. Haire's departure seemed to have removed some little spark of enthusiasm, and support of

the College fell again. Enrollment dropped alarmingly. The spectre and then the reality of a deficit intruded its ugly head. To add to the revenues, it was decided to again admit male students, and a man was selected to administer this portion of the program. Miss Sarah Sheppard was designated "Lady Principal" of the College (for young women), and a local minister, the Rev. Albert O. Wright, was selected as Principal of the Academy (for young men). Mr. Wright was to have a long and useful connection with the College, although his actual administrative years numbered only five. He was a descendant of Elder Brewster, and his father had been a teacher and textbook author. He himself was a graduate of Beloit College and of Union Theological Seminary, in New York. He had served the pastorate at Fox Lake about ten years when he added the Principalship of the Academy to his other duties.

It took considerable adjustment to coordinate the courses and activities of this composite institution, but the purpose was achieved—a larger number of students, taught with small



JASON DOWNER
JUSTICE OF THE STATE SUPREME COURT

increase in teaching staff, brought in additional revenue and saved the day. In 1879, aid also came to the College through the legacy of Rufus Dodge of Beaver Dam, a bequest of \$9000, the income from which was to be used to aid needy female students. The bequest was long held up by litigation, when members of the Dodge family contested the will. It is interesting to note that Judge Downer represented the College in the final trial before the State Supreme Court and won the case.

In 1880, the Rev. Mr. Wright resigned as Principal to serve on the Wisconsin State Board of Charities; later he was President of the Wisconsin Children's Home Society, and then superintendent of the Government Indian Schools. During these years, however, he continued to serve the College as Trustee, and had been on the Board of Downer and Milwaukee-Downer for thirty years when he passed away in June, 1905.

Upon Mr. Wright's departure, Miss Sheppard took over both College and Academy. Many Trustees and patrons of the school opposed the co-educational feature, but in view of finances, it was retained. For the 1880-1881 term, there were 64 students enrolled, 19 of them male, one of whom, Grant Thomas, was graduated with the Class of '81. The following year the number of females had risen slightly; there was a total enrollment of 75. The second and last male graduate, John Tarrant, received his diploma in 1884.

One of the problems of the Fox Lake College was the rapid turnover in administrators and teaching staff, which resulted in inevitable interruptions in plans and programs. Miss Sheppard held the double Principalship just two years before she retired in 1882. She had taught at the College since 1873, and her nine-year service record was the longest of any staff member to that time. She was an able and devoted teacher, and popular with the students. A grad-

uate of Western Female College at Oxford, Ohio, she had been a Mission teacher in Indian Territory before coming to Fox Lake. Two years after her retirement, she was married to a Trustee of the College, the Hon. John W. Davis, and moved to California, where she died a year later at the early age of thirty-eight years.

Miss Helen Pepoon, who came to the College in 1880 as Latin teacher, succeeded Miss Sheppard as Principal of both College and Academy. There were then only three other members on the staff and teaching duties were not light, in view of the student load, nor were there funds for proper equipment and teaching aids.

Moreover, Miss Pepoon's administration had scarcely begun, when the staunchest friend and supporter the College had, Judge Jason Downer, died at his home in Milwaukee. How often during his seventeen years of service had he reached into his own pocket to make up a deficit in the College budget! Some years before his death, in the interest of establishing a permanent endowment, he had made a generous offer to the Trustees—for every thousand dollars they might raise, he would add a like or larger sum, provided that twenty-five thousand dollars was subscribed by a given date. The Trustees at the moment were unable or unwilling to campaign for funds, and the generous offer was declined.

However, when Judge Downer died, on September 1, 1883, it was discovered that he had named the Wisconsin Female College in his will as residuary legatee, upon fulfillment of certain conditions, and the bequest promised to be a very substantial one.

Jason Downer's interest was more than an affectionate regard for a particular institution which had claimed his devoted attention for so many years. His interest went beyond the Fox Lake College; it was in woman's education itself. He had visited many schools, watched



DOWNER COLLEGE AFTER REMODELING

with interest many experiments, and he thought that the little country college he had befriended for so long was an ideal location for an experiment in Christian education.

The principal conditions of the Downer bequest were that the College was henceforth to be open to women only, and, to preserve the distinctive Christian character of the College, that three-fourths of the Board of Trustees must be members of the Presbyterian or Congregational churches. The Trustees accepted the legacy at their Annual Meeting in June, 1884. Final settlement of the estate was not reached until December, 1887, at which time the executors turned over to the College securities, bonds, notes, and other property appraised then at \$50,930.38. Actually, the amount finally realized was over \$65,000.

It may be interesting to note that Judge Downer had provided, in case the Fox Lake

College did not accept the bequest, that it should then be divided equally between Milwaukee and Rockford Colleges.

As it was found that a great portion of the estate was in real estate mortgages in widely scattered localities, and in vast tracts of wild land in the famous Red River Valley, all sound investments but difficult to administer, Mr. Hamlin Chapman, a Trustee, was appointed financial agent of the College, and served in that capacity not only for the Fox Lake institution, but continued as Treasurer of Milwaukee-Downer for many years after the union of the colleges.

Wisconsin Female College, or, as it was soon to be renamed, Downer College, was now blessed not with mere security, but with riches. Even though the final legalities attendant on the Downer bequest and change of name were not completed until February, 1889, the institution

HAMLIN L. CHAPMAN

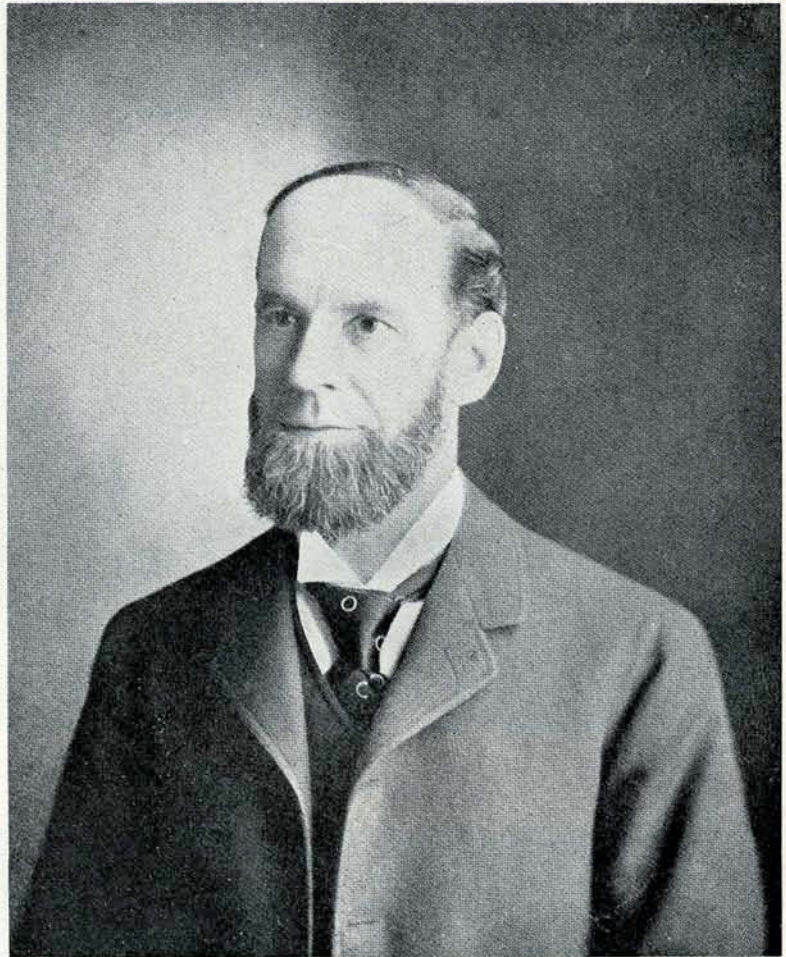
* * *

ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE
DOWNER BEQUEST

* * *

TREASURER OF
DOWNER COLLEGE
1889-1897
OF MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE
1897-1918

TREASURER EMERITUS
1918-1921



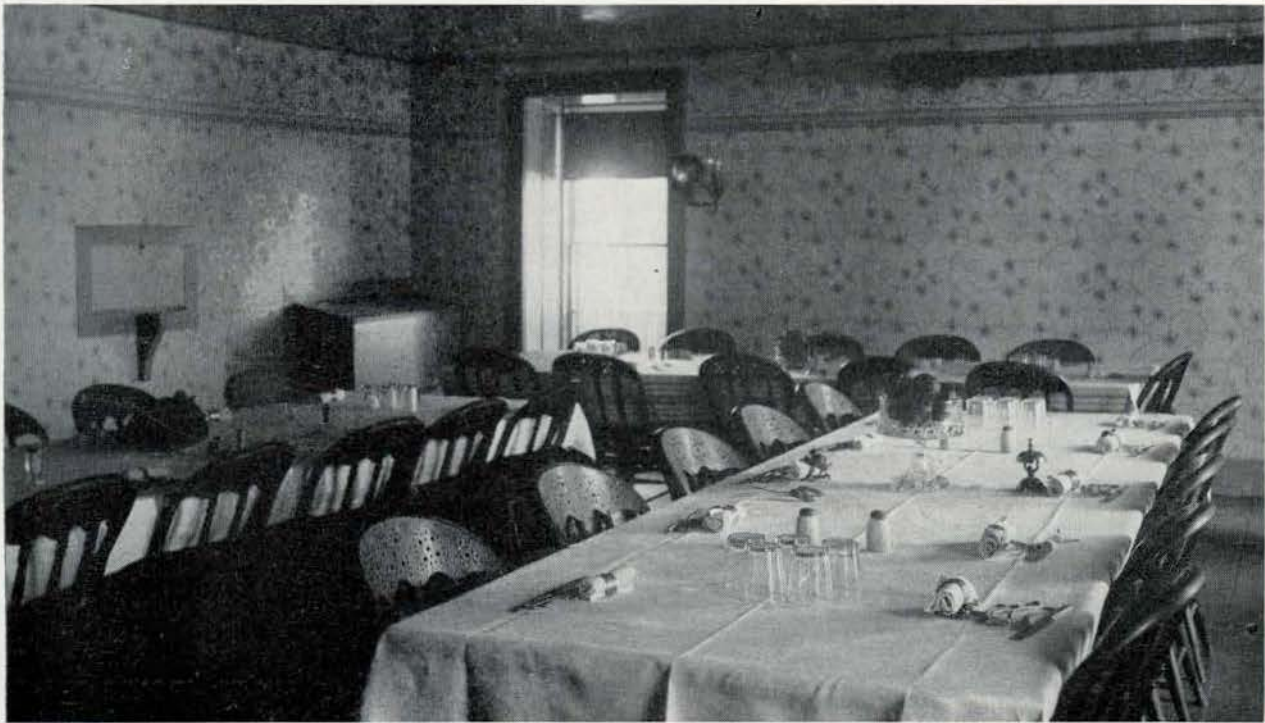
immediately took on a new lease of life. It had been a heavy burden to the Fox Lake community, and its support being so largely local, it is not surprising that early accounts of students reveal a poverty-stricken institution, quite lacking in the many comforts and niceties of furnishing which Milwaukee College then enjoyed, and with almost no library or laboratory facilities. Its building was bleak, bare, and cold, heated by inadequate stoves, and when the wind blew from a certain direction—and that seemed to be the prevailing wind—the students' rooms were almost uninhabitable. Moreover, it was without water or sewerage facilities, and house-keeping and boarding arrangements were primitive.

The Downer bequest changed all this. Immediately, a committee set to work to renovate the buildings. Bathrooms were installed; new rooms were finished off and old ones refurbished; and a spacious portico was added, to relieve the barn-like appearance of Main Hall. But it was not until 1893 that steam heat replaced the old stoves, and even then, "Old Comfort" was retained to heat the chapel.

Not only the buildings felt this energetic, renovating hand. Judge Downer had decided ideas about the type of education he wished to see tested in his College, and at the same Annual Meeting at which his gift was accepted, a committee of Trustees was appointed to study the curriculum and recommend such changes as



The Bare Little Parlor

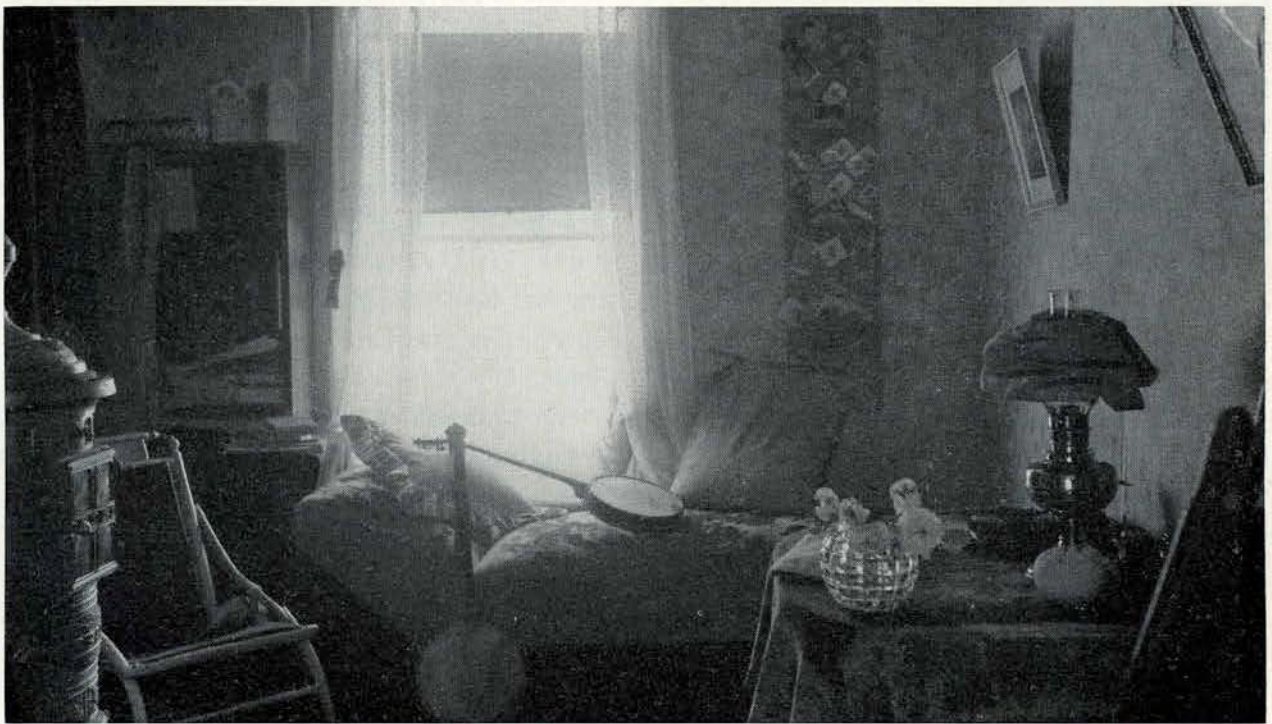


The Dining Room

OLD DOWNER COLLEGE



The Art Room



A Student's Room

OLD DOWNER COLLEGE

would bring it in line with Judge Downer's ideas. This committee, consisting of the Rev. A. O. Wright, the former Principal, Dr. C. H. Richards, and the Rev. Henry Miner, recommended that two courses be offered, one with the traditional ancient classical emphasis, the other with a modern language emphasis, and that in each be included courses in domestic economy, hygiene, and religious education. As we may note, Judge Downer's ideas were not unlike those of Catharine Beecher in their estimate of woman's proper fields of endeavor.

The emphasis on Domestic Economy was far stronger at Fox Lake than at Milwaukee College. Dr. Miner, of the special committee, made several trips to other institutions, notably Lasell Female Seminary at Auburndale, Mass., which had a reputation in this field, to observe methods and equipment. The resulting department at Fox Lake, under Miss Mary Jarvis, was the first of its kind in the Middle West. The catalog of 1884-5 shows a most comprehensive and ambitious program, including "home management, sanitation, marketing, laundry work, cookery, sewing, home nursing, child care, home recreation, entertaining, and family religion"! Moreover, it was announced that as soon as new facilities had been installed, the course would be taught as a "science" as well as an "art".

Miss Pepoon, whose term of office began so inauspiciously in 1882, was thus to see her regime become one of marked growth and progress. She remained at Fox Lake for six years, and then followed her colleagues to the Orient, to teach in Hawaii. Later she headed the Latin department of Whitman College and

was still living in Seattle in the 1940's. During her term, the College enrolled an average of 55 young women.

Miss Mary E. Lyon, of Pomeroy, Ohio, succeeded Miss Pepoon, but resigned after two years, and in 1890 was followed by Miss Orpha Leavitt, who had come the previous year to teach courses in English Literature and History.

With such frequent changes in administration, it is doubtful whether even the Downer legacy could have produced an efficiently and smoothly conducted institution, had not the Rev. Henry Miner, Vice-President of the Trustees, served as business manager of the college and general overseer, thus providing for some continuity of plan and effort. His work, with that of Hamlin Chapman, provided the necessary stabilizing factors.

Miss Leavitt's appointment was as Acting Principal only. The Trustees meanwhile set out to revise the administrative structure of the school. They proposed that the office of Principal be replaced by the more responsible and authoritative office of President of the College, and that a thoroughly qualified person be found, who would be willing to consecrate her life to carrying out the plans and dreams of the College benefactor, Judge Downer. And thus it came about that Downer College brought to Wisconsin one who was to be acclaimed as the state's outstanding woman educator—Miss Ellen C. Sabin.

To understand something of her towering strength, one must know the background of her life.

Ellen C. Sabin

ELLEN CLARA SABIN, unlike most of the administrators of Milwaukee and Downer Colleges, was not born in the East, but was herself a Daughter of the Middle Border which she loved so well, a native of Wisconsin. Born on November 29, 1850, in the little village of Sun Prairie, not far from Wisconsin's capitol; she was the oldest of the eleven children of Samuel H. and Adelia Bordine Sabin. Soon after her arrival, the Sabins moved to a farm near Windsor, also in Dane County, and here little "Ella", as she was usually called, made her first acquaintance with the little District School for which she retained such an affection during her long life.

In 1866, at the tender age of fifteen, Ellen Sabin entered the University of Wisconsin. She followed no particular course, the University organization being somewhat lax in that day; she busied herself, as she expressed it, "just getting educated", and at the end of three years she left without graduating. "In fact", she once apologized, "I never graduated from anything"!

While still a student, Ellen undertook to conduct a country school near Sun Prairie. The school at that time had two terms of four months each—a summer term beginning late in May, and a winter term beginning in November, arranged thus, not to suit the educational requirements of children, but the seasonal occupational demands of agriculture. The teacher received \$26 a month in the summer, and \$40 in the winter, when, of course, she was expected to tend the fires and perform other additional chores. Her board, lodging and all other living

expenses, she reports, amounted to \$10 a month, and she was able to "put aside a tidy sum".

Ellen Sabin loved teaching, and above all, she loved the learning atmosphere of the little country school. To the end of her days, she confessed, she "could never pass such a school without wanting to go right in and begin teaching". In later years, her college students would beg for a repetition of those rare histrionic performances when staid faculty members presented "The District School at Mildew Corners" with Ellen Sabin as schoolmistress, or better still, as a recalcitrant pupil!

Long before modern teachers' colleges began to evolve their fine-spun theories and elegant phrases, Ellen Sabin had discovered the principles behind good, effective teaching. No effort did she spare to enrich the instruction in her bare little schoolroom, improvising materials, calling upon parents, villagers and visiting dignitaries alike to contribute their share. Her unique methods of teaching geography soon brought her to the attention of school authorities and she was asked to describe them at a teachers' convention, as a result of which she was given a position teaching third and fourth grades in the Sun Prairie Grade School; this was in 1868, and Ellen was barely eighteen. A year later she was engaged to teach a seventh grade class in Madison, and within a year became Principal of the Fourth Ward (now the Doty) School, where she continued until 1872.

In that year Samuel Sabin, who had spent some time in the West in the gold rush days, and still felt the call, packed up his now numerous family and headed for Oregon. Ellen, now twenty-two, accompanied them.



ELLEN SABIN AT TWENTY

The Sabin family, although brought up to plain and thrifty living, yet enjoyed in their home the best cultural influences that the times and their situation afforded. In moving to Oregon, Mr. Sabin kept in mind the necessity of providing good educational facilities for his children and therefore settled in the town of Eugene, where it was rumored the State University was to be built. As a matter of fact, Eugene at that date could not even boast of a decent primary school, its only effort in that direction being a "dilapidated building located in a sea of mud".

As the oldest child, Ellen Sabin took a large measure of responsibility for her younger brothers and sisters, and viewing this particular district school with disfavor, set out to establish one of her own. Her first class consisted of six younger Sabins and some half-dozen children from a neighboring family named Polly. Soon other settlers requested her to enroll their children, and Ellen found herself mistress of a

private school of thirty children. Ellen Sabin was ever a shrewd and thrifty manager, as excellent in "mental arithmetic" as in geography, and her charge for tuition being fifty cents a week, she relates that in that winter of 1872-3 she "was able to salt down \$200 in gold".

It was not long before her teaching methods became matters for discussion in Oregon, as they had in Wisconsin, and again Ellen Sabin was asked to address a state teachers' convention. She "conjured up something or other to say"—that something being so impressive that her name was promptly suggested for the vacant position of state superintendent of schools. Ellen withdrew her name at once, knowing that she was not ready for such a responsibility.

However, she accepted a position in the Old North (now Atkinson) School of Portland, and a year later, was appointed Principal, the first woman to be so appointed in that city. It is recorded that the salary offered her was less than that of her male predecessors. And her school had a reputation for being "tough", for while it enrolled the children of officers from Fort Vancouver, its main student body came from poor water-front families.

Discipline and dirt were her chief problems, and she attacked them with energy, forthrightness, and practicality. Toughness did not faze her, for she was of good stout fibre herself. The impress of these early battles against dirt, vermin, and the lethargic attitude that accepted them as life's normal offering, stayed with her all her life. One of the annual events of the student year, when this writer was an undergraduate, was the reading—timed nicely with the first appearance of spring fever—of Kipling's "The 'Eathen", with stern emphasis on

"Keep away from dirtiness, keep away from mess,

Don't get into doin' things rather-more-or-less"!

Doing things rather-more-or-less included "lazy-Daisy" studying in dormitory rocking chairs, instead of the hard, straight library



ELLEN SABIN ABOUT 1890

chairs. Many a somnolent boarder did she eject, with the terse command, "My dear, get up off your spine"! The ladies of Miss Sabin's day neither slouched nor slumped. Nor did they, under her stern eye, attempt to "skinkle" out of responsibilities.

So effective were her methods of disciplining her young charges, that her school soon became a model. Her influence was felt throughout the waterfront district, for she was personally fearless and despite police warnings, walked unaccompanied about the neighborhood, visiting the homes of her children. Her ability to secure cooperation from a lawless community was a marvel to the police, who insisted that she wear

a regulation police badge as she tramped the saloon-lined streets.

In those days there were no child labor laws and school attendance laws were slack. Many of her students left grammar school long before graduation to go to work, and this was a vexing problem to her, one which she solved personally again, by going to the factories and business houses in the wharf district to see where her children might be placed most advantageously—a service which won her the respect and support of the business people and the devoted loyalty of the families of the area, so that at no time was her regime marred by unpleasant incidents.

Her success where men had failed did not long remain hidden from city authorities, and in 1887, after a year's leave of absence to travel and observe in Europe, she accepted the position of Superintendent of Portland Schools, the only woman to hold such a position in a large city in that day. Her salary, too, for a woman, was sizable; her reputation was already national in elementary education.

In view of this large success, it therefore seemed preposterous to her friends and colleagues that she could for a moment entertain a proposal made to her in 1890 by the Trustees of a small backwoods college in Wisconsin to take over the Presidency of their little institution, at a salary approximately one-half of what she now received in her important city post.

Why Miss Sabin was approached at all may seem strange, considering that she had won her reputation in elementary education, and had had no previous connection with any college, nor with women's educational programs in general. The offer was purely the result of a personal friendship between Ellen Sabin and her old grammar-grade teacher, Mrs. Sabra Warner Lewis, to whom Ellen had once confided a dream of someday conducting a girls' school along certain experimental lines.

Mrs. Lewis' brother, Colonel C. E. Warner, was a Trustee of Downer, and when one day the problem of the Downer Presidency was being discussed in the family, Mrs. Lewis mentioned Ellen Sabin and her qualifications. Correspondence with the Portland Board of Education revealed the great esteem in which she was held there, and Colonel Warner and the Rev. Albert O. Wright were appointed to approach her personally, which they apparently did with some diffidence, considering Miss Sabin far removed from their financial bracket. Their best offer, twice what they had ever paid before, was still considerably less than her present salary.

But in spite of this, and of the fact that her closest friends considered it a "comedown", Ellen Sabin liked the idea of the Fox Lake College, began to dream of developments and new directions—and on June 15, 1890, in response to a wire from the Trustees, returned the terse answer "Accepted". But she had elicited first from the Trustees a solemn promise "to back her plans and in no way hamper her".

And so Ellen Sabin returned to Wisconsin and entered upon her lifework, for she was to devote the next thirty years of her life to her College. Recording the College history of those years, we are recording her achievements, or rather a part of them, for no college campus, however broad, could contain a person as large in sympathy, as wide in interests, as enterprising and outgoing of nature as was Ellen Sabin.

When in 1921, at the age of seventy, she retired from her labors, the innumerable tributes paid to her, and the many further marks of affection and respect paid to her during her retirement, indicated the high place she occupied in Wisconsin hearts.

Her activities brought a reflected glory to the College. An article published in the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, on May 26, 1901, in honor of the College's fiftieth birthday, already speaks of her long and distinguished service on the National Council of Education, "an organization limited to sixty of the foremost educators of the country", and also mentions her as Chairman of the Education Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She was an active member of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, predecessor of the American Association of University Women, from its inception, and the Wisconsin State Branch in 1929 named its national \$30,000 fellowship fund in her honor. She who had never graduated from anything was honored by degrees: M.A. from her Alma Mater, the University of Wisconsin; Litt.D. from Beloit, and LL.D. from Grinnell.

She was also made a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Under Governor Philipp, she was a member of the Wisconsin State Board of Education.

On the College campus are several memorials to keep her name before coming generations of students. In 1912, friends and pupils had her portrait painted by Louis Betts, of Chicago. In 1921, another portrait, in charcoal, by Emily Groom, was presented. In 1928, although she modestly protested, the new Science Hall was named in her honor. The Chair of Religion, endowed by students and friends, with generous help from the Milwaukee College Endowment Association, likewise bears her name, and this would seem to be the most fitting tribute of all, for Ellen Sabin herself taught the courses in Biblical Literature throughout her years in the Presidency, and "Bible" with Miss Sabin was a required part of every girl's educational experience.

Her figures of speech were influenced by her familiarity with the Scriptures, but she was, in addition, a person of great and sound scholarship in many fields, and an omnivorous and retentive reader, amazing people even in her last years by her knowledge of events and trends. She was an excellent and entertaining conversationalist; her speech was pithy and witty—it could be incisive and withering, upon occasion. Miss Sabin was highly quotable, and

a veritable apocrypha of tales and sayings has sprung up since her passing.

Ellen Sabin herself was blessed with a robust constitution, and considered that good health was the foundation for a successful life. She tried to inculcate in her students good health habits, with a sound knowledge of physiology and hygiene, and a desire for a sane and sensible mode of life. Walking, especially in the company of her girls, was always one of her favorite forms of exercise; at seventy, Miss Sabin could still outwalk many a student.

In politics, Ellen Sabin was a staunch Republican. She viewed with dismay, and protested vigorously against the growth of what appeared to her unsound economic ideas, the sapping of initiative and personal independence by governmental coddling, the deterioration of character and lack of self discipline visible in the populace.

As an educator, too, soundness of idea was paramount. A pioneer in spirit, she was yet not one to run after each new-hatched, ill-fledged theory, but rather to place her confidence in "truth and God's own common sense—which is more than knowledge".

During the years of her retirement, Miss Sabin made her home in Milwaukee, then in Lake Mills, and finally with her sister, Mrs. E. Ray Stevens, in Madison, Wisconsin, where she passed away on February 2, 1949, at the age of ninety-eight.



MISS SABIN AND STUDENTS AT FOX LAKE, 1893



MISS SABIN'S STUDY—DOWNER COLLEGE



EMILY BROWN'S LABORATORY WITH ICHABOD AND STUDENTS

The Union of the Colleges

IT was September, 1891, when Miss Sabin took over her duties as President of Downer College. She found it to be little more than an academy in scholastic level, and set about at once to raise it to the standards envisioned by herself, the Trustees, and the man whose generosity had provided the means of achieving these goals.

In 1889, the special committee of Trustees in charge of revision of the curriculum had raised the requirements for graduation, making them equal to those of the better men's colleges, with the result that there were no graduating classes on the college level in 1890, 1891, or 1892, the first degree under the new administration going to Mary Burch of Menomonie, in June, 1893.

We have Miss Sabin's report to the Trustees of that first year in her new position. Dated June 22, 1892, it is written in her own unmistakable hand on several sheets of foolscap. We print a few excerpts to show what problems confronted her:

"Gentlemen,

I hereby submit to you the Annual Report, being my first report of this college for the year ending June 22, 1892. In the review of this year, we look back over much to encourage us.

The school has had 52 different members during the year, 43 of them boarding in the college family. Two of these students were specials in art or music . . . I believe this is a slight gain, but the school is still too small to do the work we should expect of a college.

We have been very fortunate in our corps of teachers. Each has contributed good judgment, skill in instruction, choice character and inspiring influence. More than to any other cause, we owe to this whatever merit the school has possessed this year. . . .

We have had a year of good health. The careful attention of Dr. Tyrrell, the school physician, is most helpful. . . .

The classroom work of the year has been of a high order. It has been characterized by high interest, thoroughness,

and freedom from excitement. The method of marks included estimates of daily recitations and written papers. There is no exhaustive examination coming at the end of the term on which one stands or falls, but a steady effort, evenly maintained. The physical conditions of students at the close of the term were at their best; no nervous breakdowns or unusual fatigues. . . .

We shall probably gain most by considering our difficulties and needs than by dwelling on our causes for congratulation.

1st. We cover a great deal of ground and have students ranging from the grammar grades through the College course. Therefore classes are very small and very numerous . . . consequently, teachers cannot teach in their own departments, but must cover a great deal of ground. Consequently, too, the students of the higher departments do not receive the best the instructor has to offer. . . . The great need of the school is therefore, an attendance of at least one hundred students. Unless this attendance is soon secured, the policy should be to cut off either the college or the preparatory department.

With the attendance we now have, we require *at once* another building equal to Downer Hall for school purposes. The Chapel must be used by the music department, and this renders the recitation rooms off it almost intolerable for the purposes of recitation. The *laboratory* is cramped very much, and when used by the chemistry class, nearly drives out the rest of the school. We need a Science Hall at once.

The *library* has received the benefit of a gift of \$500, but it ought to have a \$10,000 endowment fund and depend on regular additions. . . . The matter of repairs has been well begun during the past year. It should be extended by the laying of hard wood floors in school rooms and halls, and the purchase of seats and desks for school rooms. The Chapel should be re-seated with comfortable opera chairs.

Every department needs strengthening by additions to its material for work. The school that would successfully compete with our finely equipped public schools, and our rich colleges, must be keenly alive to meet the demands of the day.

We have suffered during the last term in having no minister in the Congregational Church. This is a very serious matter, how to secure in so small a church a man of sufficient ability to render his services helpful to the college students. . . . The religious life of the College is encouraging in some respects; there is a Young Women's Christian Assoc.; a Missionary Society; a weekly prayer-meeting is maintained and is very good. . . . Only a vigorous church life seems needed to strengthen the home work. . . .

Sundays ought to be helpful to us all in every way. They are—especially the church service—in danger of being a weariness to flesh and spirit.

We need, then, in order to feel that we are prosperous, to treble our attendance, secure funds for a permanent income for the library, extend our buildings, and have the benefit of a good minister.

With thanks for courtesies received from you, and an intense desire to see this college advance from the point it has now reached to be an institution worthy of the confidence of those who have girls to educate and of those who have money to forward worthy causes, I am,

Very respectfully yours, Ella C. Sabin,
Principal”

The impact of so energetic a personality as Miss Sabin could not fail to have its effect upon the school, and it is interesting to speculate upon what Downer College might have become, had it remained at Fox Lake. It was what Miss Sabin herself would have described as pure “happenstance” that this was not to be its future.

The administration of Mrs. Upton at Milwaukee College proving very shortly to be unsuccessful and unpopular, the Trustees were again in search of a suitable person to head that institution. One day, Mrs. Edward D. Holton was entertaining a visiting Missionary at tea. Her daughter, Mrs. O. W. Robertson, and Mrs. Frederick Winkler, women members of the Board of Trustees, were present, and in the course of conversation inquired of the visitor whether in her speaking tour of colleges she had come upon anyone who might be suitable. To their surprise, she replied that she had, and practically at hand, too, for she reported that she had just visited Downer College at Fox Lake, and there was a remarkable woman there.

The result was that Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Winkler determined to go to Fox Lake, to interview this remarkable woman, Ellen Sabin. The day they chose for their visit happened to be Washington’s Birthday, 1894. Mrs. Winkler has left an account of the journey. She had been visiting in West Bend and agreed to meet Mrs. Robertson at Fox Lake. There had been a typical Wisconsin blizzard, and Mrs. Winkler relates that in an open cutter she was



DR. CLARA F. TYRRELL, D.C. '79

Beloved School Physician whose Fox Lake home was a favorite gathering-place for Downer students.

driven across fields and over fence rails, arriving at last, half frozen, at the doors of Downer College. In contrast to the weather without, what warmth and good cheer within! The College was celebrating Washington’s Birthday with its traditional Cotillion and Miss Sabin herself presided as Martha Washington.

As a result of this visit, Miss Sabin was offered the Presidency of Milwaukee College, and soon after arose the tentative suggestion of amalgamating the two colleges in the interests of economy and efficiency.

The site of Downer College, although Jason Downer himself liked a country location, had never been favorable for the development of an institution of any size. The Fox Lake population remained small and the hinterland was also sparsely populated; the village offered no advantages to attract a large outside patronage. A change of location had previously been considered; Elisha D. Smith, a Trustee, offered a picturesque site on Doty’s Island overlooking Lake Winnebago, also a gift to the endowment

if the school were moved there. But this site did not seem to the Trustees to have any advantages over the old location. The suggestion, however, that the College might join with Milwaukee College was one that offered many potential advantages.

It is true that Milwaukee College at the moment had scarcely any collegiate department; but the total student body at Downer was also too small for effective work. The aims and objects of the two schools were so similar, their backgrounds also, that the problem of merging them seemed to resolve itself largely into one of financial reorganization. The city of Milwaukee offered great cultural advantages, and an assured patronage for a school of good standing; however the Milwaukee College buildings were not adequate for the combined institutions, nor was the location on Milwaukee Street a good one at this date, for the business district was encroaching on the old residential section in which it stood. Therefore it was proposed that a new site be found on the outskirts of the city and new buildings be erected.

On February 20, 1895, Milwaukee College Minutes record that the stockholders of the College (the majority of the stock being now in the hands of the Trustees) passed a resolution favoring union with Downer College. The Executive Committee Minutes of Downer record that that body met at Milwaukee College on June 16, for an auditing of the books. On July 20, 1895, legal steps were taken to unite the colleges.

In September, 1895, Downer College moved, lock, stock, and barrel as Miss Sabin reported, to Milwaukee, and the school year opened with "Milwaukee and Downer Colleges" attempting to function as one institution at the Milwaukee Street address. The catalog for 1896-97 contains two separate boards of Trustees, the new corporation being legally formed in January, 1897, and approved by Act of Legislature on April 10, 1897. The catalog of 1897-98 is the

first to use the hyphenated name, Milwaukee-Downer.

The final Minutes of the Downer Executive Committee, dated July 2, 1896, record that the old Fox Lake buildings are to be leased for four years, rent free, to a Mr. J. R. Pratt, to conduct a Bible Institute for young men and young women, on condition that he pay for insurance, repairs and other items, that his Institute is to raise a \$25,000 endowment, that it is to elect a self-perpetuating Board of which two-thirds must be Presbyterians or Congregationalists, and that it shall revert to Downer College if used for secular purposes.

As a matter of record, we may note that the school later was used for secular uses, being converted into a hotel and sanitarium, but the College did not reclaim it, and in the Alumnae Bulletin of January, 1910, we find its final obituary: "Old Downer graduates will regret to hear of the total destruction by fire of the old college buildings at Fox Lake". Did we say total? Not quite, for in November, 1927, the Class of 1929 had the old cornerstone dug up and brought to Milwaukee to be laid with the new cornerstone of the Ellen C. Sabin Science Hall. Miss Sabin herself laid it and there you may see it today, its date, 1855, undimmed by time.

One more word concerning the joining of the colleges—Miss Sabin records that "the union was the occasion for all possible engagement gaieties, wedding festivals, and post nuptial celebrations, attended with due congratulations, and abundant expressions of good wishes, all enthusiastically participated in by the undergraduates". Even the College color showed the effect of this happy union, for the new Milwaukee-Downer color, according to the 1895 *Kodak*, was violet, a combination of Milwaukee College red and Downer College blue. Somewhat later the violet gave way to royal blue for the College and red for the Seminary Department.

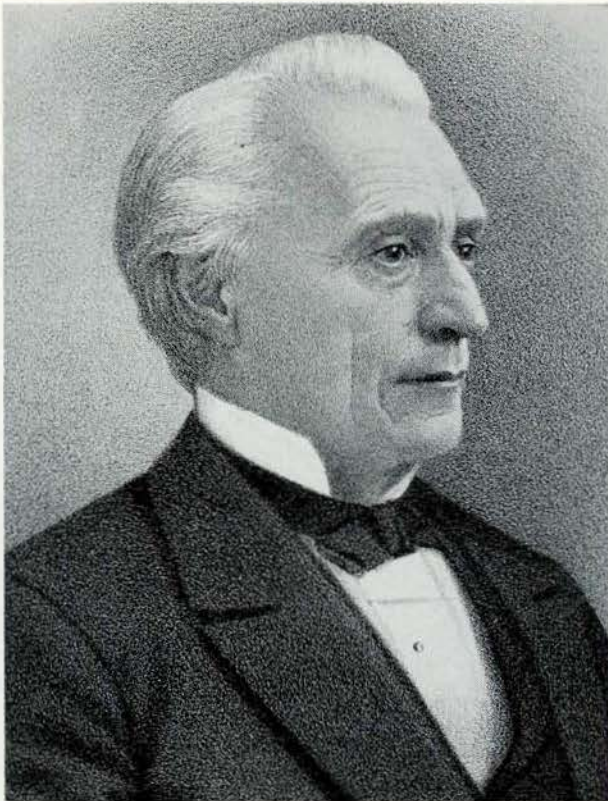
The Building of Milwaukee-Downer

THE decade 1895 to 1905 must have been a particularly exciting one on the campus, for what feminine heart would not be thrilled by new buildings, new furnishings, newness all about! A fine ten-acre site far out on the north-east outskirts of the city was purchased, and plans were drawn for a new recitation hall and two dormitories, for the influx of Downer boarders had already forced the College to rent an additional house near the Milwaukee Street building. Ground was broken in 1897 for the first unit.

The style chosen for the buildings is de-

scribed as "English Domestic Gothic", and the materials used were red sandstone and St. Louis red pressed brick; the bays and oriels were of decorated terra cotta. Slate was used for the roofs.

The Recitation Hall was named for Mr. and Mrs. William P. Merrill. Mr. Merrill had furnished \$10,000 for the Merrill Memorial Chapel in memory of his wife, and had also installed a pipe organ at an additional cost of \$1000. The appearance of the Hall has not changed appreciably since that day, for the statues and plaster busts were brought from

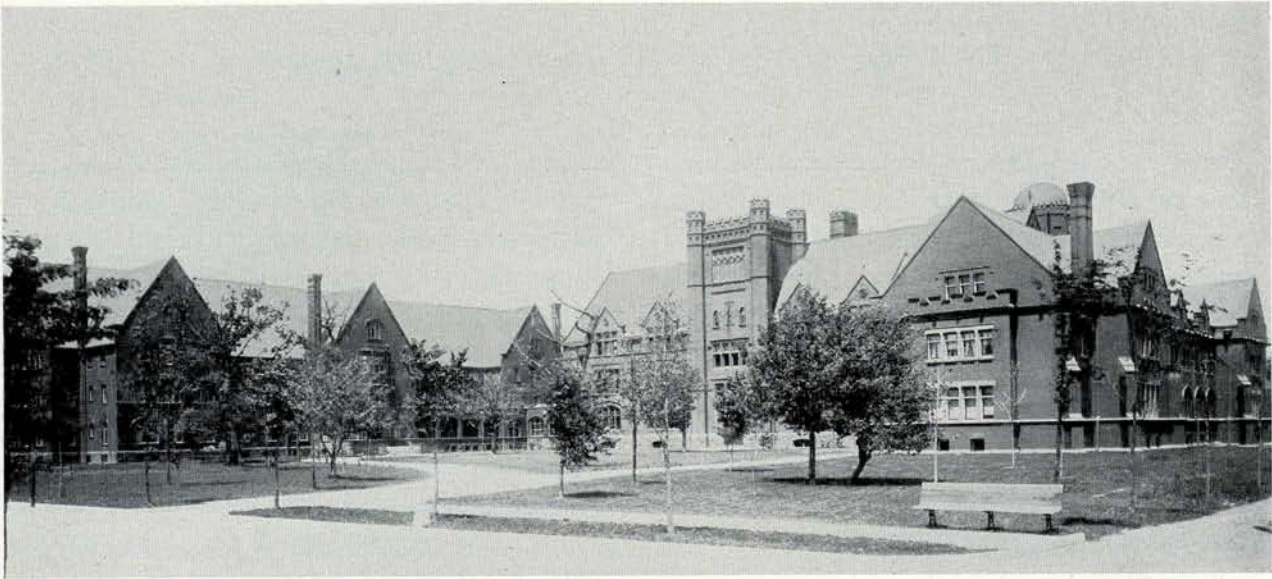


WILLIAM P. MERRILL



EDWARD D. HOLTON

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE
IN 1901

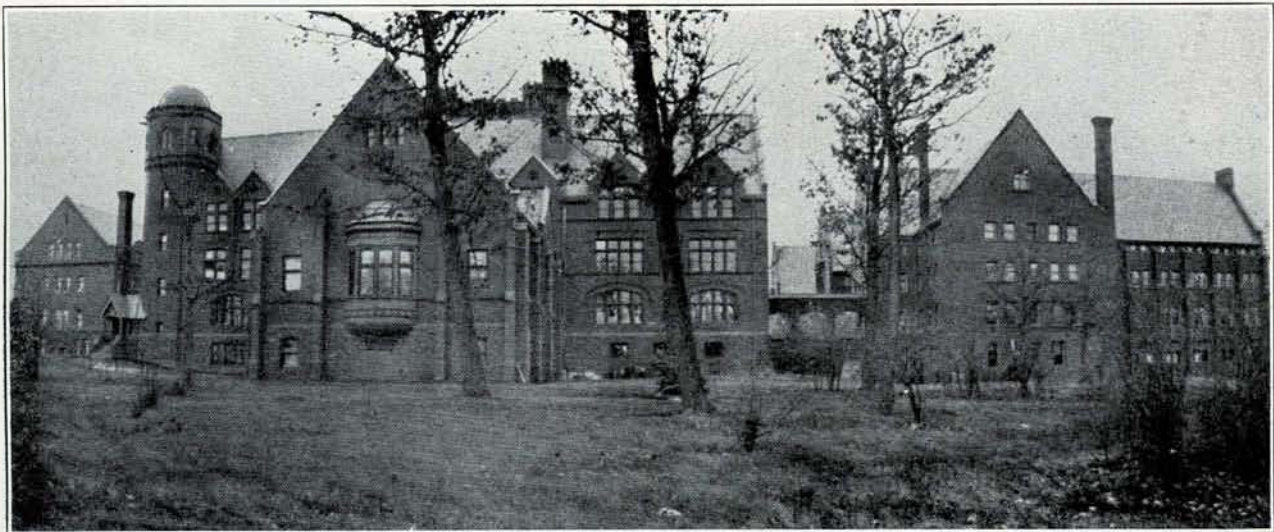


Holton Hall

Merrill Hall

College Hall

VIEW OF BUILDINGS FROM SOUTHEAST



College Hall

Observatory

Chapel

Merrill Hall

Holton Hall

Gymnasium

VIEW OF BUILDINGS FROM NORTH



GREENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY—EAST END
WITH ART LIBRARY BEYOND



GREENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY—WEST END
MARY MORTIMER COLLECTION AT RIGHT



THE FLANDERS CLOCK

*For half a century students
have transacted business "in
front of the clock in Merrill".*

Milwaukee College, and Aeschines and Sophocles, affectionately known to generations of girls as "Mr. and Mrs. Downer", took up their stand beside the Chapel doors; and Diana and Athena, on the stair landings, provided that providential resting place for books of weary students. The beautiful Tiffany clock which stands in front of the Chapel was placed there by Kate Flanders Duryea, M.C. '68, in memory of her father, Walter Powers Flanders, an Incorporator and first Treasurer of Milwaukee College. Another similar clock was placed by her in Alumnae Hall in memory of her mother, Susan Everett Flanders.

At the west end of the second floor of Merrill Hall, the first Greene Memorial Library was established by Mrs. Horace A. J. Upham, M.C. '80, in memory of her mother, Elizabeth L. Greene. The Library at that time contained

about 4000 volumes, and was considered a very creditable collection. The Art Library assembled by the Ladies' Art and Science Class was housed in a separate adjoining room, also used as their meeting place.

The first dormitory completed was named in honor of Edward D. Holton, who had made the initial large gift to the Milwaukee College funds. The drawing room and parlors of Holton Hall were furnished by Mrs. T. A. Chapman with fine pieces of English furniture, imported rugs and rare works of art. The drawing room became the center for all formal functions, while the Alumnae decorated their Hall in the west wing, and established the custom of having a cosy Mid-winter Tea before its less formal fireplace. Alumnae Hall was also known as Recital Hall, and with adjoining rooms housed the Music Department. The basement of the

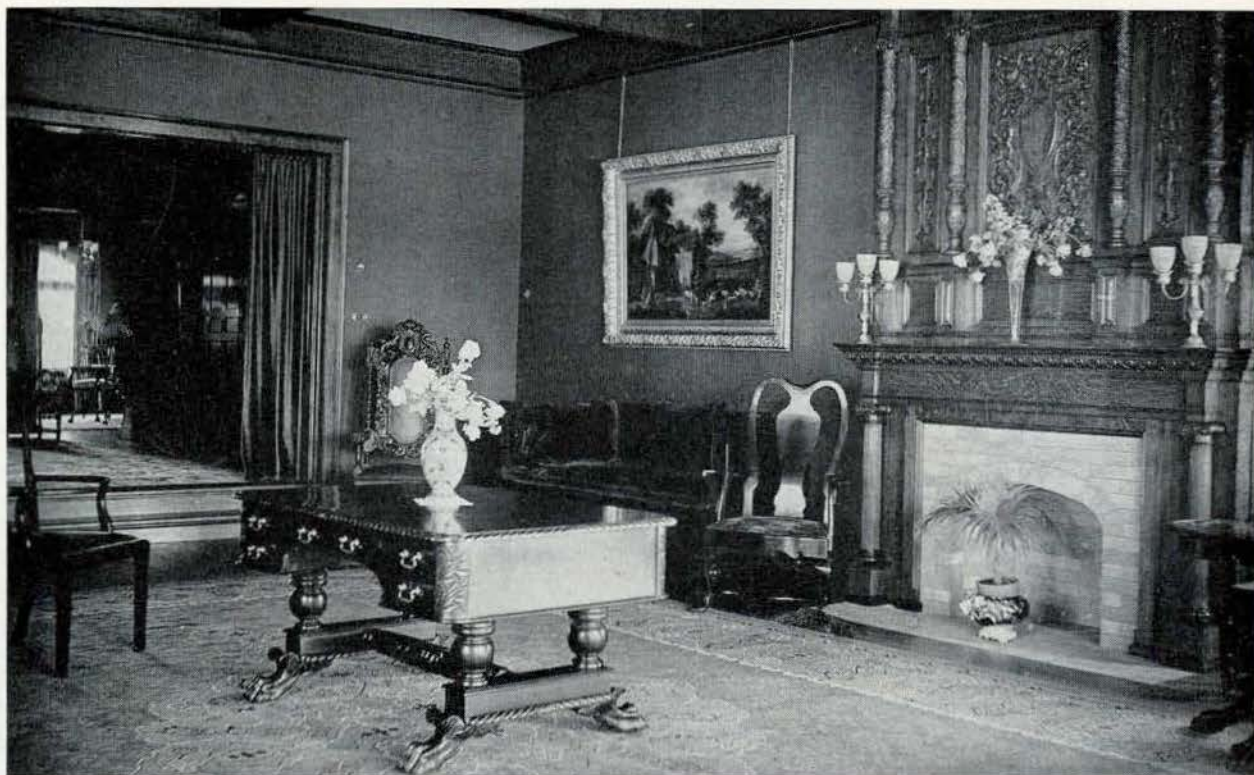
west wing of Holton was planned to house a dining room, and a gymnasium of the newest design occupied the second floor. In this wing, too, Mrs. H. H. Camp furnished an Infirmary Room.

Merrill and Holton Halls were ready for occupancy in September, 1899. Together they cost \$110,000, and were the last word in school construction. No one shed more than a crocodile tear at leaving the old building down upon Milwaukee Street for these splendid surroundings. The old building became the Carleton Hotel, and shorn of most of its Gothic ornamentation and stained by time, it still stands in the busy downtown district, its past glories quite forgotten.

As Miss Sabin was a firm believer in physical education, the new gymnasium was rushed to completion and was ready for use by 1900. It was completely equipped with all the newest

apparatus by Messrs. Frank Bigelow, H. Payne, and Charles Pfister. Mr. James Bryden presented two bowling alleys to the College, which were duly installed in Merrill Hall basement, where they were to disturb the peace of presidential conferences for many a generation before they were moved in 1937 to permit enlarging of city students' accommodations. An Athletic Association was formed in 1900, and the organization of a sports program proceeded forthwith.

The second dormitory, College Hall, was completed in 1901, and was so-called because it was intended to house college department students, while the Seminary girls lived in Holton. This name was used until June, 1904, when the Trustees voted to name it in honor of their recently deceased President, Mr. John T. Johnston, who had served the College loyally for thirty years.



HOLTON HALL DRAWING ROOM—1900



WILLIAM P. McLAREN

An observatory had been incorporated into Merrill Hall, and this was now opened, the instruments and other equipment which had been given to Milwaukee College years before having been repaired and refitted.

It is possible that the faculty might have given priority to some other need, but the student body cheered the next building project, for it was a Boat House, given by Miss Elizabeth Plankinton, M.C. '72. Located in Riverside Park, it housed the "Ariel", the six-oared barge which the Downer girls had acquired shortly before the union of the colleges, and which they had insisted on bringing to Milwaukee. "Boating" had been a popular sport at Downer, with Fox Lake's waters almost at their door; it soon became the favorite Milwaukee-Downer sport, although basket-ball was a close second, and that once-considered-unfeminine sport of field hockey was edging in.

The growth of the College at this time was such that a third dormitory became a necessity.

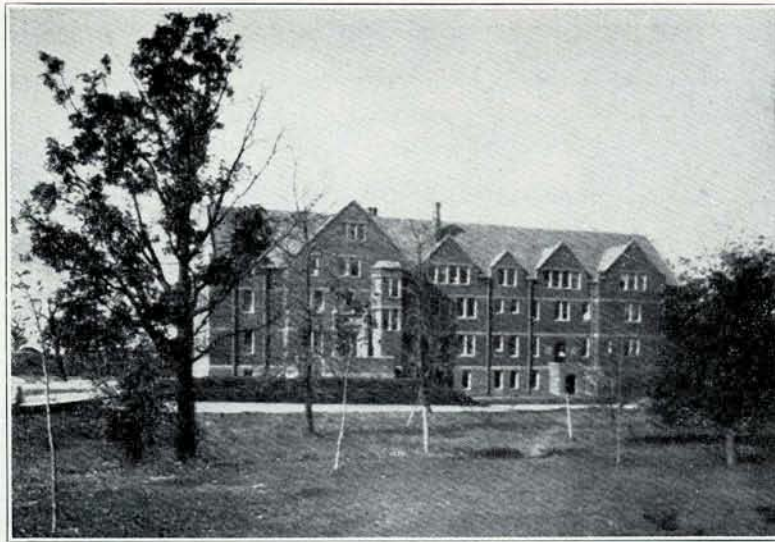


JOHN JOHNSTON

"Third Hall", as it was called, was opened to some sixty students in September, 1903, and shortly after named in honor of William McLaren, long-time Trustee and benefactor of Milwaukee College. Newspapers of the day commented upon the handsome new building, standing on a knoll somewhat to the west of the other buildings. A news note of the day tells of the splendid success of the Alumnae Association in raising \$1460 through a "Benefit" at the Davidson Theater, for the purpose of furnishing the new residence hall.

The catalog issued in May, 1902, indicates the pace at which the College was expanding. Its needs are listed: more land; a new library, both because the present rooms were inadequate to house the growing collections and because the space in Merrill Hall was needed for additional classrooms; a central power plant; a hospital for isolating contagious illness; and endowment, more endowment.

While these extensive building and furnish-



McLAREN HALL STOOD QUITE ALONE IN 1903

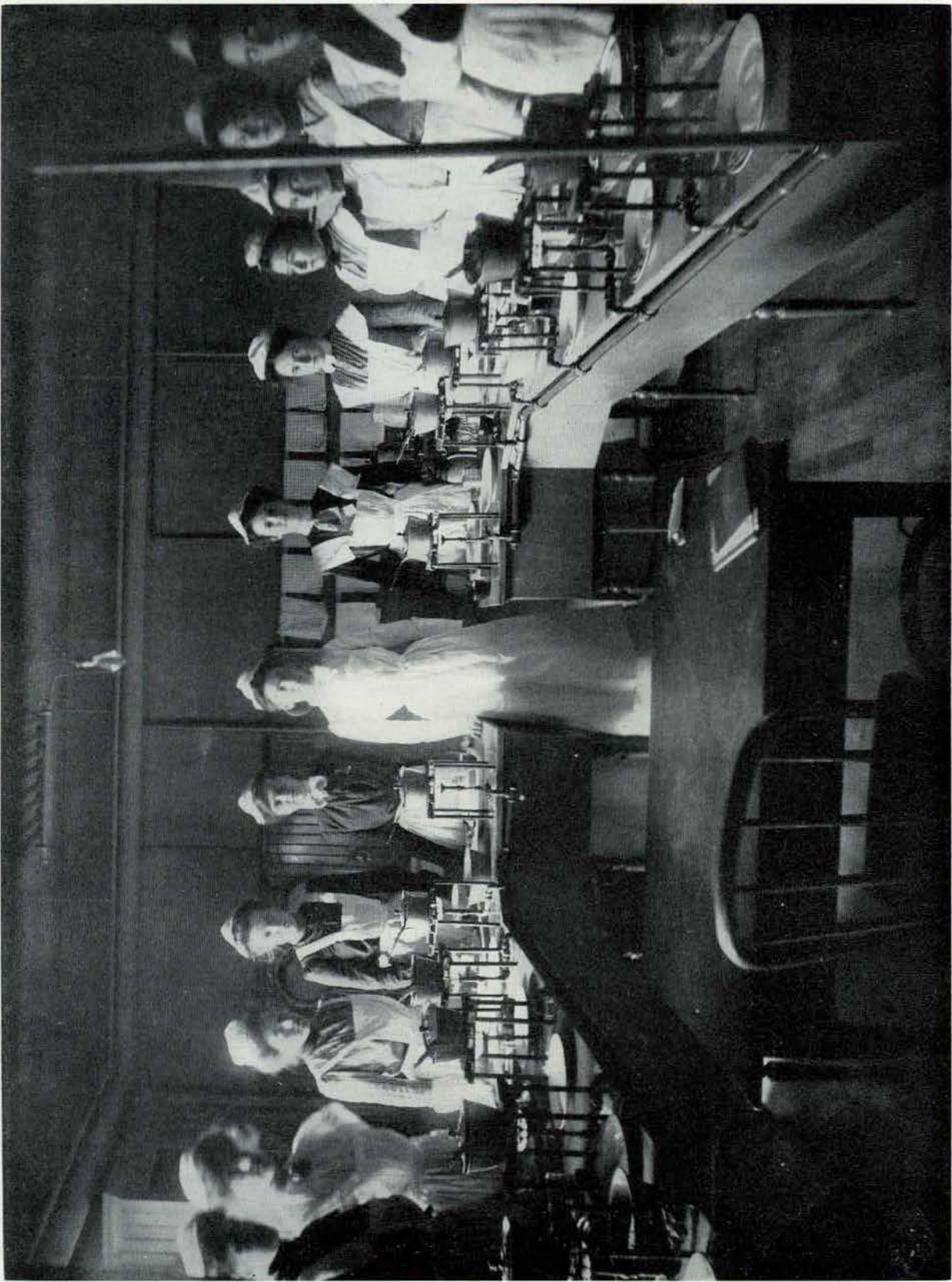
ing operations excited much enthusiastic interest and support, other less visible but no less necessary additions were being made to the wealth of the College. Endowments which had been "dreamed of, lo, these forty years" were now becoming actualities. The Milwaukee College Endowment Association, having received funds too late for the Edward Holton campaign, and also some which had not been needed for the expenses of merging the colleges, voted to turn over these funds as the first installment on an endowed Chair, to be named in honor of Mary Mortimer. The Association then adopted as its purposes the endowing of Chairs at the College, and the elevation of the standards of education for women in Milwaukee. In 1899, the will of Benjamin Kurtz Miller left \$20,000 to the College for the establishing, after the death of other heirs, the Anna M. Miller Chair of History. In 1901, a bequest of \$4000 from Mrs. John Plankinton, who had been a Trustee, was added to the endowment, and gifts for building purposes were received from other members of the Plankinton family.

To list all the gifts received—of money,

furnishings, equipment, books, art objects, museum specimens, etc., would require a book far larger than this history, and we can mention only a few of the more important ones.

The physical needs of the College were thus adequately cared for and its financial situation was secure. We may be sure, too, that under Ellen Sabin and the strong faculty she had gathered about her, the academic standards were advancing. On its fiftieth birthday, in 1901, the city newspapers paid it glowing tributes. It had achieved standing and stature, not only in the city but throughout the Middle West and in the associations of institutions of learning.

One of the most important developments of the first decade of Miss Sabin's administration was the establishment of the Home Economics Department. It will be remembered that Downer had placed strong emphasis on Domestic Science for all students. In the earliest days, this had been a matter of economics, for as an 1863 Fox Lake pupil reported "The domestic work of the school was performed by the pupils, and a domestic apron was part of our school trousseau". And Catharine Beecher not only



THE FIRST HOME ECONOMICS CLASS—1901



COURTESY COMMITTEE ON WISCONSIN WOMEN

MRS. J. ALFRED KIMBERLY

wished to see Domestic Science in the curriculum; she had proposed to install the department herself in Milwaukee Female College, and had expressed her ideas on the subject in several early catalogs:

"Instead of Domestic employment being incompatible with the progress of school education, we are persuaded it would be . . . an advantage to girls to be required to devote certain hours of every day, or certain months of every year to learning, what it is the vocation of every woman to know, the processes of sewing, cooking, and taking care of a house; but this cannot be done while it is made their duty to learn the whole round of the Sciences and the Fine Arts before they are sixteen; nor can these be learned—a superficial smattering only can be obtained and the pupil closes her school days dwarfed in body and mind".

Miss Beecher did obtain some simplification of studies, but due to the unfortunate quarrel over endowment, the Domestic Science department was never developed in the Milwaukee school. In the Milwaukee-Downer catalog of 1899-1900 appears the first intimation that it was then receiving serious consideration; in mentioning hoped-for endowments of Chairs, it is stated, "Domestic Science has a claim that ought not to be ignored".

In the spring of 1901, the catalog announces that

"On account of the great practical importance of the subject, and because of its valuable discipline, the Trustees authorize the introduction of a Department of Domestic Science. Two rooms in Merrill are well adapted for this purpose. Cooking and sewing will be taught in 1901-2, and other subjects as the department develops".

The two rooms, as we learn from old photographs, were the two in the basement of Merrill Hall later used by the city students as lunch-rooms. It appears that the introduction of the department was very timely and met with popular approval, for the catalog of the following year shows that 66 had enrolled in cookery, and 39 in sewing. This included, however, both college and seminary students. In addition, a two-Year Teachers' Training Course had been established for students of college grade only, on completion of which a Diploma was awarded. Eight students enrolled in this Teachers' Course. How Miss Beecher's heart would have rejoiced, if she could have returned to see this!

The demand for teachers of Domestic Science was so great and the supply so short at that time, that in 1902 Mrs. J. Alfred Kimberly established the Helen Cheney Kimberly Loan Fund, to encourage students who could not otherwise afford the training to enter the new profession. The catalog of 1903 shows that 11 of the 92 students in the College Department were in the Domestic Science Teachers' Training Course, and in the ensuing years this proportion rose as high as fifty per cent. In 1904 the department was greatly enlarged and the name changed to Home Economics. By 1905, enough students had been graduated from the course to form a separate Home Economics Alumnae Association. For many years a separate graduation was held for these students, as for the Seminary Department. However, the total enrollment in the College showed a gratifying increase during these same years, and other departments besides Home Economics experienced a lively growth.



THE STUDENT BODY—1904

A Second Decade of Growth

IN 1905, the tenth anniversary of the united colleges was celebrated. Certainly if any probationary period had been set to test the wisdom of the move, this decade of growth and expansion should have proved it beyond a doubt.

The second decade began with every evidence of continuing the proud record of the first. In 1904, Mrs. Horace A. J. Upham had given \$10,000 toward the construction of the new Greene Memorial Library, and in March, 1905, this beautiful addition was formally dedicated. The library collection of the College had by this time grown to 6000 volumes and made a respectable showing on the shelves of the handsome oak cases. The east section of the old library, which contained the beautiful fireplace, became a classroom, and the rest became a

Lecture Hall; more recently this also was divided into two classrooms. A periodical reading room was also established in 1905, on the second floor of Merrill Hall.

The need for additional land was relieved by the purchase of five adjoining acres from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vogel, who donated half the purchase price. Again, a few years later, members of the Vogel family helped in the purchase of additional acres, bringing the total to twenty-one.

The Mary Mortimer Chair of \$20,000 was completed by the College Endowment Association, and the General Endowment was growing steadily, having passed \$100,000.

In September, 1905, the much needed power plant and laundry were completed. In March,



ELIZABETH GREENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY



THE PLANKINTON INFIRMARY

1906, a separate Infirmary building was opened, the gift of Elizabeth Plankinton, M.C. '72, in memory of her sister Hannah, who had also been a student at Milwaukee College.

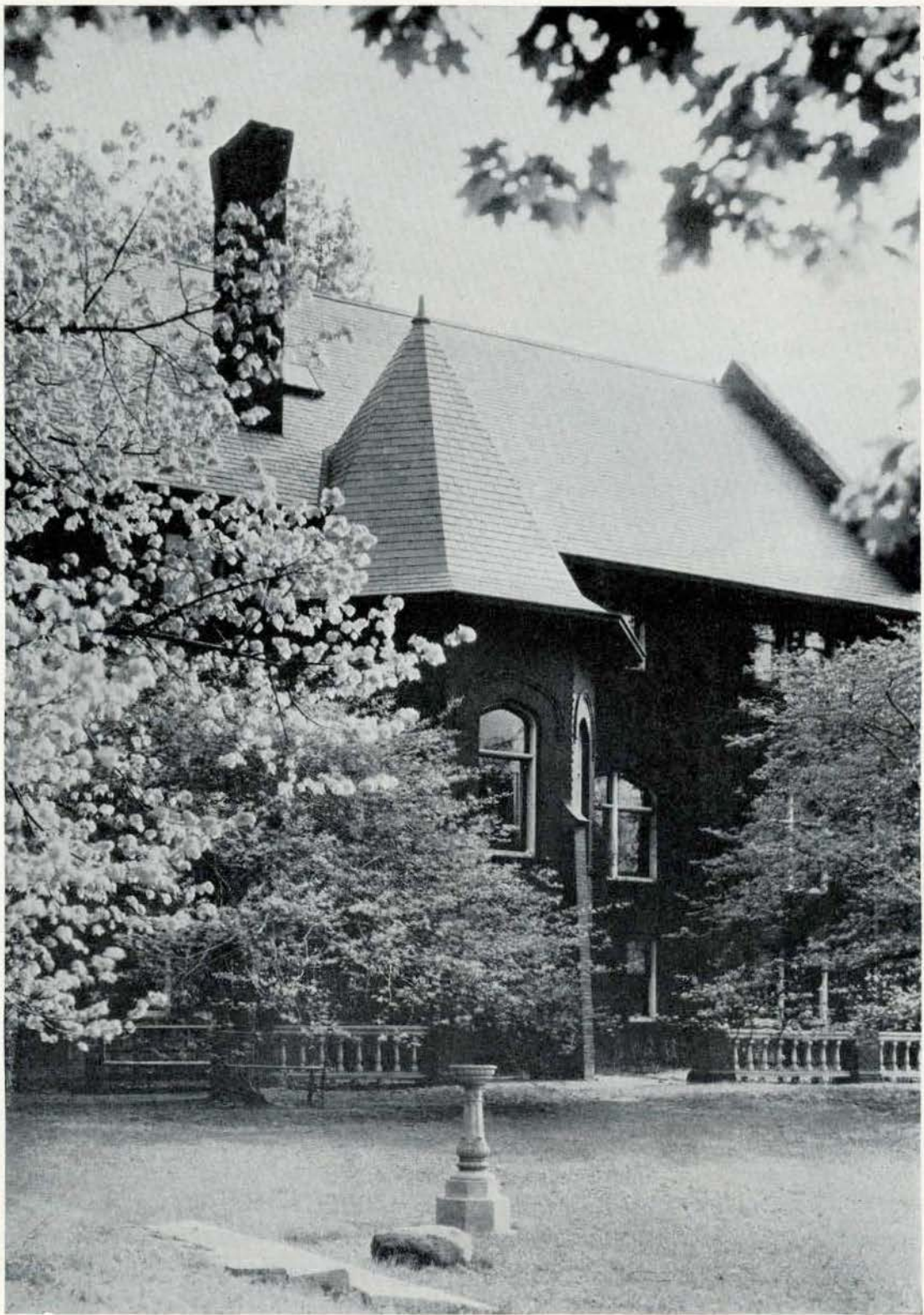
By 1906, the recitation building was again crowded, and more dormitory space was needed, while music students were bursting out of their limited quarters.

The music courses, for college and seminary students combined, had always had a large place in the curriculum, and from the turn of the century these had increased in number and importance. The College employed as Director of this department a man who enjoyed a considerable reputation as a musician, Mr. Emil Liebling. The fame of his department attracted many out-of-state students to the College. A gift of \$10,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Sivyser for the construction of a special music hall enabled the College to house the music department adequately once more. The music hall was named Albert Memorial Hall in memory of the Sivyers' son, Albert Edward. It was dedicated in March, 1907; the arcades connecting it with Holton and McLaren Halls were erected soon after. The ravages of time have now forced the dismantling of the west arcade, and McLaren entrance again stands exposed, much as it did in 1903. The construction

of Albert Hall opened up all sorts of possibilities for dramatics, for it formed a natural backdrop and Hawthornden, until then a low, marshy spot crossed by a teetering boardwalk, now came into its own as the scene of Class Day Exercises or May Day celebrations. In the Alumnae Bulletin of January, 1910, we read that the "Class of '86, D. C. is moving its huge red boulder from Fox Lake to Hawthornden and will re-une around it in June!" We read further of the development of the "back campus":

"Another feature of interest is the Lake, which has recently been created by damming up a natural stream near the north end of the 21-acre campus. The Lake, surrounded by beautiful trees, with a charming wooded island (called after the President of the Board of Trustees, "the Isle of Wight"), is to be further enlarged in the near future, in the hope of making a lake of sufficient size and depth to float a boat. In the winter the Lake can be used as a skating-pond, and in fact has been so used for two years".

Although classroom and dormitory space for seminary pupils was a pressing need, another had to take priority in the building program. The Home Economics Department had outgrown its basement quarters and also needed a building. Some years previous, at the suggestion of Miss Sabin, the Wisconsin State Federation of Women's Clubs had begun a \$10,000 endowment Fund for Home Economics. The College Endowment Association completed this in 1907. Funds were now contributed for a Home Economics building, which was completed in January, and dedicated at Commencement of 1908. With its model kitchen, pantry and dining room, and spacious cookery laboratory on the first floor; a model laundry, dressing and locker rooms in the basement; and a second floor devoted to clothing, textiles, millinery, basketry and other crafts, it was an incentive to the further development of the department. The new Hall was named in honor of Helen Cheney Kimberly, who had helped greatly in the establishment of a strong department. A contribution of \$5000 toward its construction was made by Mr. J. Alfred Kimberly. In the catalog of 1908-9, in addition to the two-year course, a four-year



ALBERT MEMORIAL HALL AND HAWTHORNDEN

course in Home Economics leading to the degree of Bachelor of Education was announced. The following year the degree was changed to Bachelor of Science. It is believed that Milwaukee-Downer was the first college in the country to thus offer a degree course in Home Economics. It is interesting to note that this degree was not listed with the regular time-honored degrees, B.A. and B.L., but quite separately.

In the meantime, the problem of the Seminary Department had been attacked, and plans were underway by 1909 for separate quarters across the street from the college buildings. The new halls were designed to harmonize with the older buildings, and were placed in a symmetrical arrangement, the Recitation building approximately the same size as Merrill Hall and directly opposite; a wing to the east, corresponding to Johnston Hall to house gymnasium and study hall, and a dormitory similar in style to Holton Hall directly across the street from it. The estimated cost of these buildings with furnishings was \$155,000, of which the Trustees borrowed \$125,000. Gifts were received from Miss Alice Chapman and Mrs. George P. Miller in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Chapman, and the central building was named Chapman Hall, while the dormitory was named for Louise Pfister Vogel. In 1910, the preparatory department was moved across the street, and at the June meeting of the Trustees, the Seminary as a department of the College ceased to exist, and became instead an independent institution, with separate staff and catalog. At the time of separation, the respective enrollments were: College, 217; Seminary, 193.

One Board of Trustees continued to govern both institutions, and the Dean, later Principal, of the Seminary was responsible to the President of the College. The College Art Department and the Physics Laboratory were located on the third floor of Chapman Hall, the Seminary recitation building, and served both institutions

for many years. The College Music Faculty also continued to teach Seminary students. But to all intents and purposes, the two institutions were thenceforth dissociated, and the establishment in 1933 of a separate Board of Trustees for the Seminary was merely the official confirmation of the separation of interests which had occurred twenty years earlier. The Seminary at this writing still leases the buildings on the south side of Hartford Avenue.

From time to time, the College had been the recipient of gifts of antiquities, curiosities and art objects, and of private collections of various kinds, which required display and storage space. The Wisconsin Archaeological Society had presented the collection of Wisconsin antiquities gathered together by Increase Lapham, first President of Milwaukee College Trustees. Dr. Lapham, an engineer by profession, was responsible for the early geologic and archaeological investigations in the state, and a founder of the Society. The Rice Collection of Mexican antiquities had also been received. The housing of these valuable accessions was solved, again through the generous aid of Mrs. H. A. J. Upham, who in 1912 contributed \$10,000 toward the construction of a Museum building, its primary purpose being to house the magnificent collection of minerals and fossils collected by her father, Thomas A. Greene, for whom the Museum was named. The Greene geologic collection, numbering about 75,000 specimens, was presented to the College by Mrs. Upham and her brother, Colonel Howard Greene. Especially rich in specimens of Silurian and Devonian fossils of the southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois area, the Greene gift was the nucleus for the ever-growing College collection; over 100,000 mineralogic specimens have since been added. In addition, the Museum contains the Louis Bunde collection of fresh-water pearls, the E. E. White collection of Indian pottery and baskets, and many other interesting objects.



THOMAS A. GREENE MEMORIAL MUSEUM

In 1913, a new site for the College Boathouse was necessary, and the Uihlein family presented land and a new House, which was dedicated in October of that year. It was located almost directly west of the College, at the foot of what was then Concord Ave. Rowers of that day, who remember a pleasant ten-minute walk through open fields, would now have difficulty locating the spot.

During the summer of 1913, the College acquired a large tract of land north of the school, bringing its holdings up to forty acres. The cost was \$75,000, of which the College was able to pay off immediately \$45,000. A gift of approximately \$7000 from Mrs. Louise Pfister Vogel helped greatly in meeting the cost. A debt of \$70,000 still existed on the seminary buildings, and with the \$30,000 land mortgage, the College debt totalled \$100,000. Constant efforts on the part of the Trustees and friends of the College succeeded in gradually reducing

the debt, but the needs of the College also increased.

This second decade on the new campus closed with the building of the Superintendent's house in the woods north of the Infirmary. For forty years this was known to students simply as "Mr. Young's house" or "Johnny's house", since the occupant remained the same. It is still known as "Johnny's house", although Mr. John W. Young has retired in favor of Mr. John C. Bell.

In 1914 also, the present two-manual pipe organ was installed in the Chapel, financed by a gift of approximately \$3000 from the Milwaukee-Downer Club of Milwaukee, and contributions from other friends.

At the close of this second decade, it might be of interest to note a few statistics. For the year 1914-1915, it cost \$99,585.48 to run the College, of which \$37,708.46 was for teachers' salaries. The faculty numbered 35, and the average salary was less than \$1250 a year.

However, compared with the \$400 salary recorded in the 1894 minutes of Downer College as being offered to a new assistant, this represents a tremendous increase. The endowment of the College in 1915 was \$216,000; its total assets were valued at \$975,409.54.

Scholastic growth kept pace with the expansion of the physical facilities of the College. Changes in the curriculum may be noted from year to year. When Miss Sabin assumed the presidency, two degrees were granted, and both required the traditional emphasis on the humanities. The Bachelor of Arts degree was conferred "only on those who have had five years of Latin, and four of Greek, French, and German in their college and preparatory years". The Bachelor of Letters degree was granted to those taking the "English course", which omitted the Ancient Languages. In 1912, this latter degree gave way to the Bachelor of Philosophy, which disappeared from the catalog in 1914, when the degrees listed are "B.A., B.S., B.S. in Home Economics, and B.Mus".

We have noted the somewhat hesitant introduction of that upstart new degree, Bachelor of Science, for those majoring in Home Economics. The non-classical courses, however,

continued to multiply in the catalog. We note also that Physical Education has acquired the real status of a Department. The growth of the Music Department has already been reported. Now the Art Department also began to assume greater importance. Upon completion of its Home Economics pledges, the College Endowment Association in 1907 began the endowment of a Chair of Art, to be named for Charles Farrar. Mr. Charles Pfister, Mrs. Louise Pfister Vogel, and Mr. Fred Vogel, Jr. each contributed \$2500 as initial gifts, and many others were received from former pupils and friends of Professor Farrar. This Chair of Art was completed in 1916. The establishment of the Art Department itself was largely due to gifts of Mrs. O. P. Pillsbury and Mrs. Kingsmill Marrs, who provided furnishings and added annually to its equipment. The first Director was Robert Schade, and upon his death in 1902, Miss Emily Groom, teacher of painting, assumed direction. Although she has not been on the faculty continuously, Miss Groom today is the "senior" in point of service with the college, still teaches painting, and exhibits her own nationally known work in the College gallery.



Emily Groom



Robert Schade

EARLY DIRECTORS OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

The War Years

THE next decade, from 1915 to 1925, witnessed no great building projects, but a steady and successful effort to raise the level of endowment. A campaign for funds was begun in 1916, with a goal of \$500,000. The College debt had been reduced to \$45,000. Pledges of \$250,000 were secured, including one of \$100,000 from the General Education Board, if the goal were reached by June, 1918. Because of the interruptions of the War period, this campaign was extended. By 1917, pledges and gifts, including that of the General Education Board totaled \$420,000, and by 1919, this had been raised to \$485,000. In addition all indebtedness of the College had been cleared. In 1919, the College participated in a joint fund drive by nine Wisconsin colleges, which added about \$65,000 to its endowment.

World War I, brief as was United States participation, could not fail to have some repercussions on the campus. Red Cross work took the place of other club activities, and patriotic knitting was even countenanced in Chapel. Liberty Loan Parades were welcome interludes, and so were the Belgian and French War Relief Bazaars which brought in scores of handsome officers in horizon blue uniforms. As the students "down upon Milwaukee Street" had presented a flag to the 4th Regiment as it left for the Spanish-American War, so the Milwaukee-Downer students in 1917 presented a flag to Troop A of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, setting off for France. This flag, returned from the War, was later placed in a case in the Chapel where it may be seen today. The girls cheered their favorite janitor, Oscar, off to military service, and welcomed him back vociferously,

not too many months later. And in the freshman English classes, as this writer recalls, Vachel Lindsay and Carl Sandburg gave way to the duller Woodrow Wilson and his "Fourteen Points". November 11, 1918 saw the whole college dismissed by Miss Sabin to join in the throngs downtown celebrating the end of World War I. And the College settled once more into its accustomed routine.



COLLEGE RED CROSS UNIT

Seriously speaking, the War and its attending economic uncertainties did affect the College in the matter of enrollment. Student numbers, which had risen above 300, fell to 291 in 1917, to 261 in 1918, and to 243 in 1919. The graduating class of 1919 numbered only 16, with an additional 9 graduates from the 2-yr. Home Economics course.

However, a new department, opened experimentally in the fall of 1918, partially offset



PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG TO THE FOURTH REGIMENT—1898



PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG TO THE FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY—1917

this loss at the time, and in its later development, proved a valuable asset in attracting to the campus mature and serious-minded students. This was the Department of Occupational Therapy, one of the first in the country, which was opened in October, 1918, to a limited number of adult women as a war service of the College in response to the call of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army for trained reconstruction aides. Much of the credit for the keen interest shown in this subject by the citizens of Milwaukee, and for the establishment of the department at Milwaukee-Downer, goes to Mrs. Carl Henry Davis, the former Elizabeth Upham, who as Director of the College Art Department from 1914 to 1919 had realized the possibilities of craft work as curative aids not only in the rehabilitation of war casualties, but in the general rehabilitation field. Before the establishment of the Department itself, Mrs. Davis had trained a group of Milwaukee-Downer students and during the War went to Washington to work with the Federal Board for Vocational Education in setting up the first standards for such training courses.

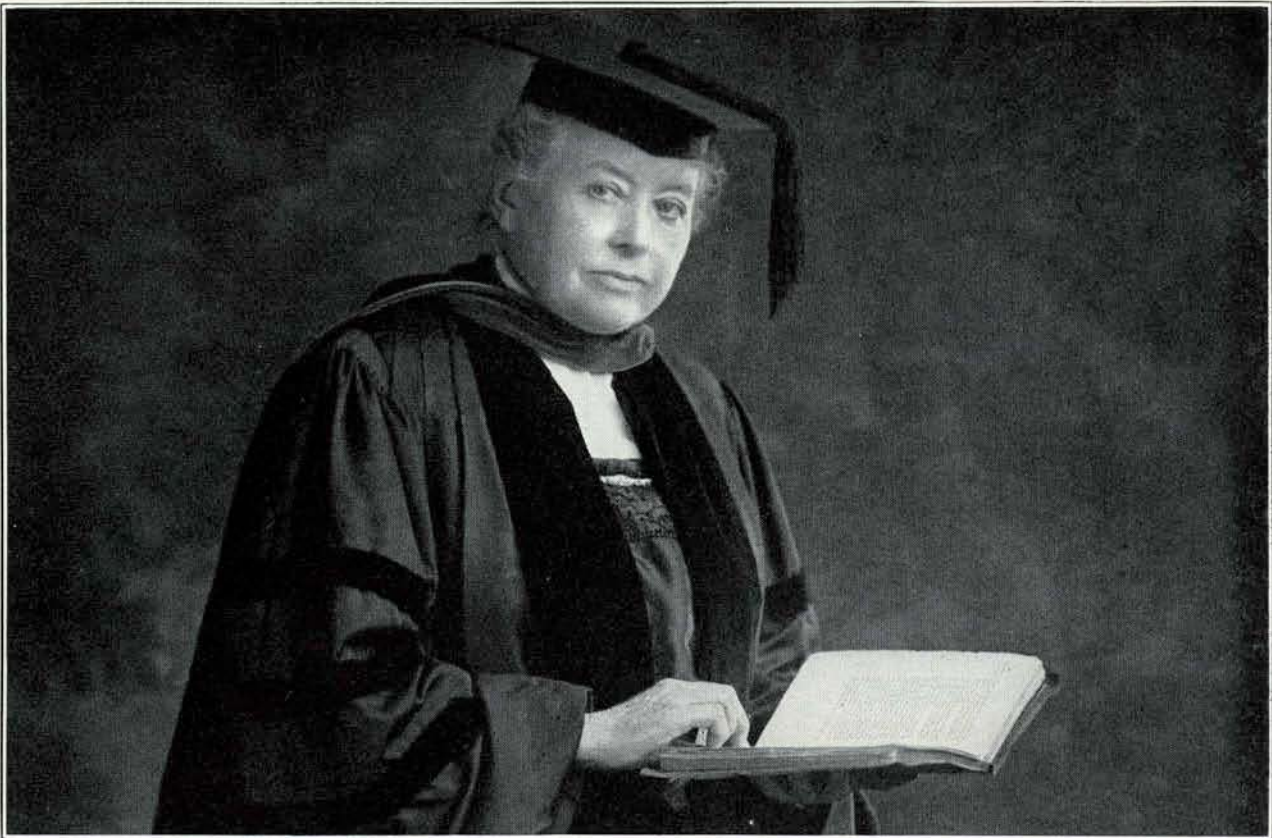
The 1918-19 course was an emergency program of 18 weeks of intensive study at the College, and 3 months of hospital practice. The next year, the course was lengthened to 32 weeks of study, plus the 3 months of supervised practice, and a diploma was given. These courses were not open to undergraduates, but to graduate students or to mature women with nursing or social service backgrounds. The emphasis on arts and crafts in the Occupational Therapy curriculum naturally had its effect upon the Art Department, in which these courses were given, leading to further expansion there.

Another degree was added to the list at this

period also, that of B.S. in Nursing, the requirements being 60 academic credits earned at the College, plus the full nurse's training course at an approved school of nursing.

From this it may be seen that the practical needs of the day were inexorably re-shaping the curriculum. Where once the catalog had listed ten courses in Greek and twelve in Latin, now the emphasis shifted to the physical and biological sciences, to the social sciences, and to the field of education and psychology. However little the War may have touched the actual lives of the girls on the campus, it brought its changes through the different social and economic outlooks of the postwar period.

The event which probably meant more upon the campus than a faraway war was the imminent change of administrations. For in November, 1920, Miss Sabin had reached the age of seventy, and indicated her intention of resigning the office she had held for thirty years. The search for a successor took many months, and kept the campus in a state of delicious suspense as rumors of possible candidates waxed and waned. On April 14, 1921, the Trustees by unanimous vote elected Miss Lucia Russell Briggs as the second President of Milwaukee-Downer College. In June of that year, the woman who had built up that institution, Ellen C. Sabin, completed her tasks, graduated her last class, and retired to private life. It is matter for rejoicing that the beloved President Emerita, who had labored for a half century in the cause of education, was granted long years in which to see the fruits of her labor ripen. To the end of her days the College was ever first in her affections—the College, and her girls, for one of her last messages to them was “I loved my students, every one”!



PRESIDENT SABIN AT RETIREMENT, 1921



MISS SABIN ON HER 96TH BIRTHDAY

3865 Nakoma Road,
Madison 5, Wis.

May 29, 1945

My dear Alumnae of M. B. C.

My dear Friends:

You are especially in remembrance these closing days of the College year. Would that I could join you as you assemble in the dear old College. But the gathering will be smaller than usual, I doubt not, in this restricted time. (War, ough War!)

I want to offer you a word of greeting, for I am proud of you, as I see you meeting adequately the responsibilities of homes, positions, citizenship, society; seeing you clearly realizing the claims upon privileged, educated womanhood.

I need not say to you that great demands ^{resting} upon your college make it depend upon all its friends to stand loyally by its President, Faculty, and Trustees in order that the College may meet the hopes of its founders, the aspirations of its alumnae, the high purposes of its management, and the great needs of the woman of to-day and to-morrow. It requires the devoted help of each one financially, sympathetically, and spiritually.

With your merited warm approval of its achievements and pride in its success, I know the College can rely on your continued helpfulness.

Wishing you each happy success in all your personal work and public service, I remain,
Your confident + affectionate friend Ellen C. Sabin

A MESSAGE FROM MISS SABIN TO HER GIRLS
WRITTEN IN HER NINETY-FIFTH YEAR



PRESIDENT LUCIA RUSSELL BRIGGS
1921

The Administration of Miss Briggs

PRESIDENT BRIGGS was formally inaugurated on the afternoon of September 28, 1921, with Presidents of the State University and the Associated Wisconsin Colleges, and many other representatives of institutions, civic bodies, etc. in attendance. The address of the day was delivered by Henry Churchill King, President of Oberlin.

Lucia Russell Briggs, who upon our Centenary date will be rounding out her thirtieth year as President of the College, was born to campus life, for her father was LeBaron Russell Briggs, much loved Dean of Harvard, of its Faculty of Arts and Science, and President of Radcliffe College, where Lucia Briggs received her B.A. degree in 1909 and the M.A. degree in 1912. Of Mayflower stock, Miss Briggs again brought Eastern traditions to the Midwest campus. Before coming to Milwaukee she had taught in Miss McClintock's School in Boston, in the Charlton School, New York City, and in the Oak Park High School, in Illinois; at the time of her election she had been a faculty member of Simmons College, Boston, for six years, interrupted by war relief work for children in Paris, in 1919.

In her inaugural address Miss Briggs pointed out that the widening field of careers for women necessitated a broader curriculum, with more specialization in techniques for efficiency. And yet practical knowledge only should not be the sole aim of a college, but spiritual growth, growth in appreciations. Thus she declared her allegiance to the liberal arts pattern which Milwaukee-Downer had been following under her predecessor. Although more and more of the

young women who come to the College in these later days are primarily concerned with careers and the problems of earning a satisfactory living, yet the College still tries to give them all some glimpse of the many doors to the fuller life through which they may enter—if not now, then at some future time.

Miss Sabin's resignation was shortly followed by that of Miss Mina Kerr, the first Dean of the College, appointed in 1910. Miss Kerr had been much interested in the establishment of courses in psychology and education and the development of student government. Her successor, Aleida J. Pieters, opened the eyes of students to the field of political science and International Relations, and to the larger duties of citizenship, both on the campus and in the world. Miss Pieters became a much loved figure on the campus during her fifteen years as Dean; she died in office on April 6, 1936.

In the summer preceding Miss Briggs' arrival, the last available land adjoining the college property was acquired, and the campus was enclosed with a fence. With much of the back campus still a thickly wooded retreat, the College is assured of ample room for further expansion, thanks to the foresight of earlier years.

Miss Briggs' administration saw a steady growth in the endowment and other resources of the College. In 1921, the year of her arrival, the endowment stood at \$700,000. The goal had already been set at \$1,000,000, chiefly because of the need for increasing teachers' salaries. The General Education Board in March, 1921, had given \$10,000 for teachers' bonuses for the year 1920-21, and repeated the gift in 1921-

22, on condition that additional funds be raised.

An intensive campaign for funds was conducted in 1922, and there has been a strong, continuing effort since then to increase the endowment in proportion to rising costs and expanding needs. As a result, the Fund today totals approximately \$2,500,000.

During the 1920's the number of scholarships and loan funds, and other student aids increased greatly, and the amounts available also increased substantially. The endowment of Chairs continued. The Wheelock Chair of English was established by former students of the Wheelock School, an early private school located not far from the old Milwaukee Female College. The Ellen Sabin Chair of Religious Education was begun in 1922 by the College Endowment Association, students, alumnae and friends of the College. In 1925, the Chair of Mathematics was named in honor of Miss Alice Chapman, in recognition of her many gifts to the College. The Marie Wollpert Chair of German was completed in 1927. In the same year Mr. Nelson P. Hulst completed the Alice F. Hulst Chair of Botany, and the Horace A. J. Upham Chair of Occupational Therapy was endowed by Mrs. Upham.

The seventy-fifth birthday of the College was celebrated on June 12, 1926, with an all-day program in which the highlights were addresses by the following: Where the West Began: Milwaukee, 1851-1926, by Frederic Logan Paxson, Ph.D.; Development of Women's Education since 1857, by Ellen C. Sabin, President Emerita; Purposes in the Education of Women, by Ada L. Comstock, President of Radcliffe College. Delegates of ninety-two colleges and universities and thirteen learned societies took part in the academic procession, and were entertained at luncheon and dinner. The Commencement Play, "Sherwood", given on the back campus, concluded the eventful day.



ALEIDA J. PIETERS
Dean, 1921-1936

Many birthday gifts were received on this occasion, among which three must be mentioned—\$25,000 from Miss Alice Chapman, \$12,000 from Mrs. H. A. J. Upham, and from Miss Ellen Sabin, who had but recently celebrated her own seventy-fifth birthday, \$10,000, subject to annuity.

On Founders' Day, November 18, 1927, came another exciting event, the laying of the cornerstone of the Ellen Sabin Science Hall. The Science departments had been bursting at the seams for many years; Home Economics laboratory courses also had no elbow room. The new Science Hall, built at an estimated cost of \$320,000, and the largest building on the campus was breathtaking in its possibilities for those who had known only the crowded quarters on the third floor of Merrill. The building was planned to harmonize with the older buildings on the campus in style and materials, without any sacrifice of practicality. At Commencement, in June, 1928, the hall was dedicated to the

President Emerita of the College. The large lecture room was named Eleanor Pillsbury Hall, in memory of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus H. K. Curtis, who contributed a gift of \$50,000 toward the building. Other large sums designated for the Science Hall were \$73,500 from the estate of Elizabeth Plankinton, M.C. '72, and \$10,000 from the estate of Lucy Hayt Stark, M.C. '59.

Not only the laboratory sciences were moved to Sabin Hall, but the Home Economics Department also, to its specially designed quarters, and all other courses needing laboratory or

workshop space, such as the Occupational Therapy crafts. Occupational Therapy by this date had become a degree course, the first such in the country. The Milwaukee-Downer "O. T." Curriculum was used by the American Medical Association for many years as its model in setting up requirements for an acceptable Occupational Therapy department.

Because of the great growth of the arts and crafts courses, the Art Department found itself in need of more space and larger equipment. The opening of Sabin Hall relieved the space problem, and a gift of \$50,000 from the Car-



THE ENTRANCE TO ELLEN C. SABIN HALL
The old Downer College cornerstone is plainly visible

negie Corporation, for the endowment of the Art Department, provided for expansion of staff. An additional Art Fund of \$5000 was received from Mrs. Kingsmill Marrs, and in 1928, the Louise P. Schneider Chair of Applied Arts was established by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marshall.

The end of the first decade of Miss Briggs' administration found the College in excellent condition, the endowment past the \$1,000,000 mark, and the enrollment high, with 336 students in courses leading to degrees, 33 in diploma courses, and 117 in extension courses.

The 1930's were the Years of the Depression, from which the College could not escape totally unscathed. However, student rolls did not drop too markedly, and, while monetary contributions were to some extent curtailed, careful management kept the College revenues at a relatively safe level. The George B. Miller Chair of Economics was added to the endowed list in 1932.

As a matter of fact, the most generous benefaction which the College has ever received, came to it during the depression years. Upon the death of that long-time friend and benefactor of the College, Miss Alice G. Chapman, in April, 1935, it was discovered that she had bequeathed to Milwaukee-Downer College the sum of \$1,000,000, to be used for the continuation of the annual, anonymous gift of \$10,000 which she had made for many years for salaries, for the construction of a library or other needed building, for the construction of a residence for the President when judged advisable by the Trustees, for the maintenance of these structures when built, and for such other purposes as the Trustees from time to time might deem necessary.

The gift of a library building was most timely, for by 1935 the College collections had reached a point where Greene Memorial Library could no longer contain them, nor, in view of

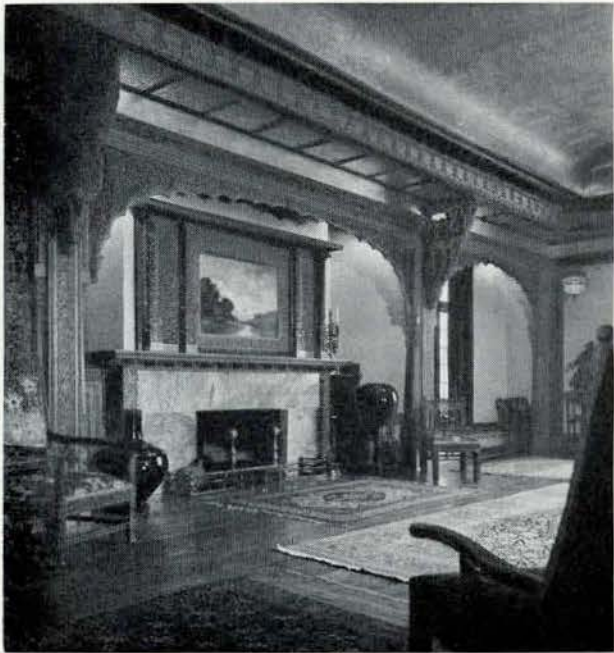
their great value, was it deemed safe to house them in a non-fireproof building. When the colleges were united in 1895, each owned a library of approximately two thousand volumes. The first full-time librarian, Mabel Chapman, M.D.C. '97, was employed in 1899, when the new buildings were occupied. The collections increased at the rate of five hundred volumes a year, and then, as funds were established, at double that rate. Special collections were added, such as the art library of 1000 volumes, many of them rare, collected by the Ladies' Art and Science Class, and the 600 volumes on history, travel, literature, etc. given by Julia Lombard Chaffee in 1914, the latter collection also containing rare and richly bound editions. At the time this gift was added, the College library numbered over 10,000 volumes. By 1920, there were over 14,000 bound volumes, and almost 6000 pamphlets and magazines; by 1925, 22,000 volumes and 11,000 pamphlets. By 1930, library space was at a premium, which necessitated the use of unsuitable basement storage space or the scattering of departmental libraries throughout the many buildings. In 1936, when work on the new library was started, there were 33,500 bound volumes and 13,700 pamphlets to be transferred to their new quarters.

Much of the credit for the building up of a well-balanced, superior college library goes to Miss Maud Mitchell, who came to the library in 1918 and served until her death in 1946. Much credit is due her too, for the many unusual features found in Chapman Memorial Library, for she put in months of intensive study of library facilities all over the country, visiting and observing, so that the new structure would exemplify the best library practices.

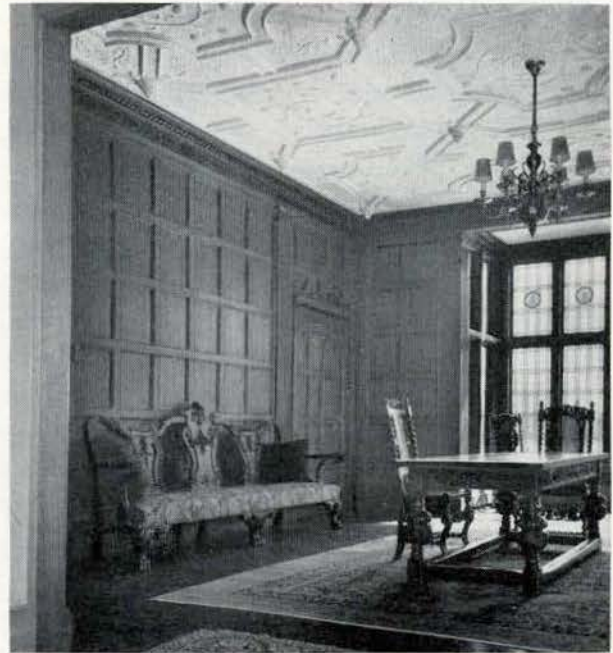
Chapman Library has provided for the future with stack space for 125,000 volumes; at this writing, the collections number 51,249 bound volumes and 16,620 pamphlets, an outstanding library for a college of 400 students. Generous



CHAPMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY



THE TEAKWOOD ROOM



THE OAK ROOM

gifts of funds from many sources have made these accessions possible, in particular the Funds left by those quiet, self-effacing friends, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. White. Both Mr. and Mrs. White served on the Board of Trustees, Mr. White for many years as Chairman of the Library Committee and later as Chairman of the Board. The Edwin E. White Fund of \$70,000, for the purchase of books, and the Mary R. White Fund of \$148,000, in the use of which the Library has priority, have given Milwaukee-Downer College library resources far beyond those of most colleges of comparable size. In addition to these bequests, the Whites also gave to the College their personal collection of some 4000 volumes of art, travel and literature. Other special funds which aid in the purchasing of books include:

Mary Mortimer Fund of \$500.

Elizabeth L. Greene Fund of \$4,000.

Ellen Hayes Peck Fund of \$1,000.

Anna P. Reed Fund of \$25.

Charles Reining Memorial Fund of \$2,000.

The Magazine Fund of \$3,504.

Electa A. Johnson Fund of \$5,000.

Chapman Library, in addition to its library facilities, serves also as an Art Center, with fine, well-lighted galleries, and adjoining them, the ornately carved East Indian teakwood music room and the English panelled dining room, which were removed, with their furnishings, from the old Chapman home on Cass Street, and now serve as reception rooms for exhibits, musicales, and many other college functions. Could Miss Chapman but return to see what pleasure and profit her gift has brought, not only to the College, but to the community, she would be well pleased, for she was one of Milwaukee's most liberal and consistent patrons of the Arts.

Greene Library, now honorably discharged from service, has become Greene Memorial



Miss Mitchell moves the books

Hall. The library room, freshly redecorated and furnished, is a beautiful Lounge, the scene of many teas, meetings, and informal dances. Its basement houses the bowling alleys and the student publication offices.

Since the completion of Chapman Library, which was dedicated at Commencement, 1938, there have been no major building projects on the campus, but there has been, so far as war conditions have permitted, a continuing program of remodeling and redecorating. During the past year, Kimberly Hall has undergone a transformation, for it is now a student union building. A cheerful cafeteria and a snack bar take care of the ever-growing number of city students; there is a dining room for faculty members, too, and Hawthorn Lounge in the basement, for a bit of relaxation between classes. As we go to press, Alumnae Hall, the parlors and dining room of Holton Hall and many

other spots are in the process of renovation. The College has acquired a certain mellowness of appearance, but it has aged gracefully and serenely.

Additions to special funds and to the General Endowment have been received in spite of adverse economic conditions, the most notable being the Lynde Bradley Fund of \$50,000, established in 1946.

These are some of the more tangible events of Miss Briggs' administration. There have been, of course, many other fields of development and advancement, less visible to the casual onlooker, yet having a most important bearing upon the real work of the College, the provision of the best possible training for its students.

Miss Sabin was ahead of her day in organization of the curriculum, in coordination and integration of courses, in building up of strong departments. The administration of Miss Briggs has been particularly effective work in this field. Not only has the curriculum grown enormously in range of courses, but it has constantly been revised and strengthened.

At present, three degrees are conferred, the Bachelor of Arts degree for those who major in academic subjects, music, or art; Bachelor of Science for students in Home Economics or Occupational Therapy; and Bachelor of Science in Nursing for those who complete the nursing course requirements. Requirements for degrees have changed from time to time; the grade point system was introduced in 1923; shifts of emphasis are noted at intervals, as educational thinking has progressed. Studies are grouped in four Divisions today: Division I: Language and Literature, Division II: Philosophical and Social Studies, Division III: Natural Science and

Mathematics, Division IV: Special Departments, including Art, Music, Speech and Drama, Library Science, Home Economics, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Education.

At intervals the programs leading to degrees with majors in the Special Departments, and in Liberal Arts, have been carefully studied by faculty committees and improved in the light of their findings. In the latter, the divisional and inter-divisional majors have been established.

In recognition of its high scholastic standards, Milwaukee-Downer was elected, at the triennial meeting in 1940, to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Delta Chapter of Wisconsin was formally installed at the College on January 21, 1941, by Professor Marjorie Hope Nicolson, Columbia University, President of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa.

The College has now survived its second global war, which brought far greater changes to the campus than the first. The Occupational Therapy Department again cooperated with the Government by offering concentrated summer courses for specially qualified graduate students. In the summer of 1944, 25 were graduated, and 52 in 1945. Uniforms invaded the campus; the Veteran student has been a part of the picture ever since. A greater number of foreign students has also been enrolled than heretofore, giving the campus a more cosmopolitan air.

Although we may echo Miss Mortimer's comment that wars and rumors of wars offer poor encouragement to educational enterprises, the College has come through another trying period without too great loss, and faces the present national crisis well aware of its opportunities and its obligations.

Tempora Et Mores

A HISTORY of the College would not be complete without some mention of those campus activities classed as extra-curricular, and these began, it seems, almost with the founding of the institution.

In the same notebook which holds the 1852 Minutes of the Ladies' Educational Society, and evidently passed on for further use by its thrifty representative, Miss Mortimer, is the "Report Book" of what is undoubtedly the first organization of the College, the "Curious Society" of Milwaukee Female College. Today's students, glancing through the Constitution, By-laws and Minutes, would find them as curious as the name.

The Society was organized on November 24, 1855, and elected as officers Alice Hibbard, President; Lillie Lynde, Vice-President; Marion Wolcott and Belle Flanders, Secretaries; Lilie Peckham, Treasurer, and Ellen Curtis, Librarian. Its object was

"To develop and guide in a useful direction the natural impulse to study and know. It shall seek to attain this object by holding meetings for mutual aid and improvement, and by collecting a library and a cabinet of antiquities and curiosities as fast as circumstances will admit."

The admission fee was one dollar, or a book, or an antiquity or curiosity for the collection. The monthly dues were one shilling, and a fine of like amount was imposed for non-performance of duties; six-pence was the fine for unexcused absence. Sections were formed according to interests; besides the Antiquarians, there were the Sea Nymphs, who collected shells and studied marine biology; the Florists, who collected and pressed botanical specimens; and the Rockites, who learned much about the state's geology from Trustee President, Increase Lap-

ham, and received from him a cabinet of specimens. Daughter Mary Lapham was a member of the Society.

To catch the full flavor of this Society, we must quote from the Minutes:

"March 27, 1856 . . . Celia Smith and M. Sawyer were tardy. . . . The Librarian having neglected to write a quarterly report was fined one shilling. . . ."

"May 23, 1856 . . . Some items that were to have been read were called for, but either the members who were to have them were absent, or those who were present had neglected to find pieces; however there were none read. The constitution and by-laws were read for the benefit of the *old* as well as the new members. The Vice President then read a very interesting piece from Roger's Table Talk. . . . This meeting though not as interesting as it should have been was still an improvement on the last."

As the last meeting of this term was on July 21, and the first of the new term on September 19, it is apparent that the summer vacation period was much shorter than today's.

"Nov. 21, 1856. At this meeting there were but five present. The Report was read and accepted. The Committee appointed to consult with the teachers about dismissing the members of the Curious Society at 3½ o'clock, failed through forgetfulness in performing their duty, and accordingly received a severe rebuke from the President. A new committee was therefore appointed, who it is to be hoped will do better. A vote was passed to make the new teachers honorary members of the Society. The President read a very interesting and instructive parable, the "Hermit and the Minstrel". Susie Bonnell brought something for the Antiquarians. The Rockites . . . were appointed to bring in something for the next meeting.

"May 15, 1857 . . . Miss Willard having applied for admission to the Society was declared a member by a universal vote. . . ."

Miss Willard was Frances E. Willard, who was later to become the militant leader of the Temperance Movement.

"Jan. 8, 1858 . . . Miss Flanders read an article from the "Atlantic Monthly" entitled "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table".



THE CURIOUS SOCIETY—1857

*Upper: Harriet De Riemer, Theodora Smith, Susie Bonnell, Myra Vail, Emma Pratt, Elizabeth Watson, Kate Norris.
Lower: Ellen Curtis, Amelia Collins, Lucy Hayt, Julia Peirce, Lillie Lynde, Marion Wolcott.
Elizabeth Watson, niece of the Chapins, was Assistant Principal from 1861 to 1863.*

By this date, Miss Chapin has succeeded Miss Mortimer as Mentor of the Society. Most of the students mentioned in the early minutes graduated with the "Famous Class of '59", the first, we believe, of the many "Famous" classes that have appeared from time to time in the school annals. From 1860 to 1864, the Society languished, and though it seems to have been Professor Sherman who revived it, it did not become very effective until the return of Miss Mortimer in 1866. But from the Minutes of 1865 we gather that candidness was still considered a virtue in a secretary:

"Feb. 10, 1865 . . . As the young ladies had all forgotten the resolution of the last meeting, no information in

regard to "Modern Italy" was obtained. It was timidly hinted by one of the members that, though nothing was more admirable than the zeal and ingenuity shown by the Curious Society in forming resolutions, yet were these resolutions seldom remembered until the day when they were to come into effect. This remark, however, was passed over by the other members in silence and the meeting was adjourned till the following month".

Does any oldster wish to comment at this point on the irresponsibility of *modern* youth? The Minutes of this spirited Society end, alas, with the list of officers for 1868-69, which included Mary Holton, Emily Wright, Lettie Waldo, Alice Belcher, Mellie Bradley, and Sarah Merrill; we have no further record of its progress. A later Literary Society which

flourished for many years at Milwaukee College and in the first years of Milwaukee-Downer was known as the Alethean Society, being absorbed finally by the Downer organization known as the Leavittian Society, named for Miss Orpha Leavitt, teacher of history, natural science and pedagogy from 1889 to 1901, and for a short period, Principal of Downer College.



ORPHA LEAVITT

Miss Leavitt seems to have been responsible for the founding of the *Kodak*, for it was in March, 1891, that the first issue of this Downer College publication made its appearance, and Miss Leavitt's name appears not only in the advertisement of the College, as Principal, but also on the masthead, as Editor-in-Chief, for the *Kodak* is "to be published quarterly by teachers and students of Downer College". Its first Editorial Board included students Lillian Kelley, Ellie Payne, Helen Collins, and Ethelwynn Partridge. To Lillian Kelley, of Eau Claire, who chose the name for the magazine, and for the departments—Flashlights, Developments, Snapshots, etc.—we are indebted for files of the earlier years. Volume I, Number 1 of the *Kodak* prints articles on "The Object of Education", "College Life", "The Gymnasium", and one on "Health at Downer" assures us that

the college is a veritable "Health Resort for Students".

The issues of 1892 list as Editor-in-Chief, Emily F. Brown, a recent addition to the faculty, and we note in the June number an article on "The Importance of Order" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the exotic poetess of the day. Ella Wheeler and Ella Sabin were girlhood friends, born in the same month and year in neighboring Dane County towns; the clock on the west wall of the Chapel, now silent with years, was a gift of Mrs. Wilcox to Ella Sabin's school.

College catalogs tell little of College life, and we should have scant record of it, were it not for college student publications. The College Annual, the *Cumtux*, was not established until after the union of the colleges, and its first issues were published under the auspices of the College YWCA. The first *Cumtux*, that of 1898, explains the name as an Indian word, meaning "catch on"? On its first Board we find Frances Winkler, Louise Craig, Faith Van Valkenburgh, Rose Schuette, Harriet Hughes, Florence Hastings, Alice Ludington, and Jessie Kroehnke. Students of today may still meet some of these editors on the campus, for Frances Winkler, now Mrs. Henry V. Ogden, has served for many years on the Board of Trustees, and Rose Schuette, now Mrs. Charles Babcock of Manitowoc, always active in alumnae affairs, is a frequent visitor, as is Louise Craig Bell, mother of John Bell, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. In March, 1949, the College entertained Faith Van Valkenburgh Vilas, poetess and painter, whose "lumascope" were on exhibit in the College gallery.

The old Downer College activities had a strongly religious background. The largest organization on the campus was the YWCA which held weekly prayer meetings and sponsored many of the school activities. It observed the Day of Prayer for Colleges, which began with devotions at seven, had morning and

afternoon conferences, and devotions again until the retiring bell at night. There were daily prayers too, morning and evening, and from Lulu Woodbury, student of 1863, we have an account of her own "fall from grace".

"Our dining room was in the basement, heated by one stove and a meandering pipe. . . . We took turns in waiting on the table. I think our meals were very well cooked; I really wonder how, with the limited means and cooking accommodations, Miss Matron Bodge gave us as many appetizing dishes as she did. . . . She made such good cake! After supper our chairs were backed to the tables for evening prayers, and once, when my hands should have been devoutly folded on the wooden bottom of my chair, they reached between the rounds at the back, and stole the last remaining piece on the plate. My pillow was wet with penitential tears that night, but how good that cake was!"

The Beacon Lights, a missionary society, also flourished at Downer, and missionary benefits were frequent; the first *Kodak* records "Ye Concerte" given for that purpose, at which ye young women in ye audience flirted shamelessly with ye young men from the town, and "a good time was had by all". But there were many other activities, too, and all-college sleigh rides were a popular winter pastime.

There being few College Department girls left in Milwaukee College when the union took place, it was natural that the Downer organizations should be the prominent ones in the new College. The Agassiz Association was the Science Club of the day. There was an active Camera Club. Philologia was formed in 1896 for spirited debate and parliamentary practice. There was a "Choral Class" under Mrs. Anna Hayden. Musicales and "Rhetoricals" were frequent. Team sports seem to have been confined to "boating". Class "spreads" were the social events of the day.

With the turn of the century, as the College settled itself in its fine new buildings, many organizations sprang up, some to wither in the bud and some to continue to this present day. In 1899, Miss Mary Wilder, teacher of elocution, organized a Dramatic Club, and began a pleasant custom that was to continue for many

years, of presenting a Shakespearean performance at Commencement. That first play was "As You Like It", and in 1900, the play was "Twelfth Night". We must not suppose that this was the beginning of all dramatic effort, for we have records of plays, cantatas, operettas and other forms of entertainment from the earliest days. Commencement of 1855 featured a cantata, "The Coronation of the Rose", for which the music teacher, Mr. A. J. Biedermann, presented a bill for \$29.30, for nine musicians; and "for writing 283 pages of music at 6 ct.", a bill for \$16.98! And speaking of music, we note that in 1902, "the Mandolin Club contributes pleasantly to many public exercises".

Alumnae of past decades will recall the rivalry of College and "Sem" in hockey and basketball. The first such basketball game was played in 1902. Miss Ida St. John, Director of Physical Education, presented a cup, and the College won it. The first Annual Field Day, complete with broad jump, hurdle races, 100-yd. dash, and discus throw, was held on May 26, 1900; the first Indoor Meet the following year.

First of the departmental clubs was the French Club, organized in 1905, and in 1912 renamed "Le Cercle Francais", and recently affiliated with the Milwaukee "Alliance Francaise". There had been an earlier Cercle Francais at Milwaukee College, which dwindled and disappeared in the 1890's. Many clubs, such as the "Naturalist Club" (1907-8), the "Bird Club" (1909), "Biological Club" (1909-10) were short-lived, as was the "Omnibus Club" (1908-9) which, like the "Curious Society" tried to be all things to all men, with sections for literature, dramatics, classics, current topics, music, and camera! And then there was the "Anti-Rata-Puffa" of 1910, whose purpose will probably be a mystery to today's short-haired maids!



Basketball, 1897-8



Basketball, 1902



Hockey, 1916



Rowing, 1941

ATHLETICS—THE EVOLUTION OF THE GYM SUIT

Advanced music students organized the Euterpe Club about 1912, and on the death of Mr. Emil Liebling in 1914, renamed it the Liebling Club; the Operetta put on by this group was an annual feature for many years. A German-speaking group sponsored by the beloved German teacher, Miss Wollpert, was formally organized and named the Marie Wollpert Verein after her death in 1914.



EMIL LIEBLING

The Student Government Association was organized and granted a formal Charter by the Trustees in 1909; the word "College" was later substituted for "Student". Trends of the times can be seen in such organizations as the "Equal Suffrage League" and the "Consumers' League" of 1912. The Equal Suffrage League gave way in 1921 to the League of Women Voters, which sponsored debates and organized the campus for political campaigns and mock elections, regularly electing Republican candidates even when the nation went Democratic.

Somewhere along the way, the Agassiz Association had dropped from sight, and a new Science Club was founded in 1915. The Studio Club was organized in 1916 for advanced students in fine and applied arts. A Latin Club was organized in 1922, somewhat belatedly in

view of language trends, but at that time a group of enthusiastic classicists on the campus was consistently carrying off the majority of the prizes offered in the annual competition of the Latin League of Wisconsin Colleges, and there was even a modest Greek Revival.

In 1923, the Dramatic Club chose its present name, "The Mountebanks". It continues to be one of the most popular organizations on the



MARIE WOLLPERT

campus, and for the benefit of older alumnae, whose thespian efforts were thwarted by the janitors' insistence on storing old paint pots, ladders, and broken furniture under the Chapel stage, be it reported that for some years now there has been a well-lighted dressing and "Green Room" belowstairs.

In 1925, Spanish, the newcomer among the languages, had reached such status that the Club español was founded. The Glee Club was re-organized into the College Choir; the Liebling Club lapsed, and the Aeolian Club, named in honor of Miss Eolia Carpenter, took its place. A Home Economics Club was early established and more recently the Occupational Therapy Club. A Mathematics Club flourished temporarily. In 1931, the League of Women Voters became the Social Science Club and

affiliated with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In 1947, it changed its name to the International Relations Club.

In noting the shifts of emphasis in student activities, it is interesting to note the changing aspects of spiritual life on the campus. Almost one hundred years ago, Frances E. Willard wrote her impressions:

"I was never in an institution where the moral atmosphere was so clear and invigorating as that of the Milwaukee College. We used to sit in the great study hall without a teacher present, and any girl who misbehaved or laughed or whispered would have been looked upon as beneath contempt. We were all "upon honor"; the teachers trusted us. I remember, on the first day, I went to my class in Geology. Not knowing it was against the rule, I spoke to a classmate about the lesson as we were climbing the stairs toward our teacher, and entirely away from supervision; my schoolmate looked at me brightly and kindly, evidently perceiving that I intended no harm, and laid her taper finger on her sweet, shy lips. I could not forget in a thousand years the majesty of the occasion as it impressed my mind—the sacred sense of truth it gave me, and the determination that it deepened in my spirit to be just as trusty and conscientious as she was. . . ."

The quaint language cannot obscure the fact that morality was a simpler matter for a seventeen year old in 1857; one obeyed the rule, and silence was a virtue in the young. Youth was sheltered and youth was secure.

Fifty years ago, the YWCA was the strongest organization in the College and for many years it was first on the list in the catalog. A changing student body, and a changing world attitude toward social-religious problems have undermined its authority. The nature of religious observance and religious instruction in a cosmopolitan student body is necessarily different from that of a small homogeneous group. The faith of the campus today is not that of the Congregational founders, but that it exists is witnessed by the establishment in 1944 of the Religious Council, an interfaith group which seeks to provide guidance and counselling in individual moral and spiritual problems, and to direct the energies of youth into positive and purposeful activity through church or social

service. The 1950-51 term will inaugurate a new 4-yr. course in Religious Education, another indication of a reviving spiritual interest on the campus.

Change has come inexorably to the College. The ardent alumna who wants to see her college in the van of progress, and yet cherishes a nostalgic yearning to keep it just as it was in the "good old days" will always find something of satisfaction and something of disappointment on her return visits. For even traditions change. Vanished are many of the occasions and ceremonies which made life richer and more stimulating for past generations of students. But others have developed. The "Freshman Days" orientation period, before the upper classes arrive, starts the new students off with a stout Class Spirit. Colors Day still sees the banner of red, green, yellow or purple handed on to the incoming class as has been the custom since 1914. Beach-parties and picnics are as popular as ever. November still brings Founders' Day, a day of remembrance and appreciation instituted in 1915. The Marie Wollpert Verein still presents its quaint Mystery or Nativity Play at Christmas, the girls carol at nearby institutions on Lantern Night, and a Christmas Carnival still brings in funds, not today for missionaries in China but for social agencies. But the crowning glory of the Christmas season at Milwaukee-Downer, Miss Brown's Christmas Play, is no more, for Miss Brown has departed from the campus and without her, something vital is lacking. Gone too is the Sophomore May Play in Hawthornden. No fresh-cheeked band carols "C'est le Mai, moi de Mai, c'est le joli moi de Mai" while shivering in the blasts of Milwaukee's vernal breezes; no Robin Hood or Country Squire rescues Fair-Maiden-in-Distress from the confines of Albert Hall; no maypole graces the greensward. The May Queen has given way to the Prom Queen. Gone is the Washington's Birthday



TENNYSON PAGEANT—1909



CHRISTMAS PLAY—1922

Cotillion with its stately Minuet. The snappy Sophomore Sallies, and the Senior Cabaret of today which grew out of the old inter-class song contest, amaze and mystify oldsters not au courant with the latest output of Hollywood and Broadway. With more and more specialization of interests it is no longer possible to have the all-college participation in anniversaries and centenaries, such as the Tennyson Pageant of 1909, in which 300 took part, the Shakespeare Tercentenary of 1916, the Pilgrim Tercentary of 1920, the Dante year, and so many others still green in the memory of students of those days.

Commencement festivities, too, have been curtailed. Changing conditions have forced the abandonment of some of the traditional features. Class Day has been eliminated and with it the Cedar Chain which white-clad Juniors carried as they escorted the Seniors to Hawthornden. Class Day had developed from a program of unrelated essays into an organized presentation of the character and philosophy of the Class, as it had been moulded by four years on the campus, and each Class was different; each had a distinctive personality of its own.

Commencement practices have varied during the century, of course. We have several accounts of early graduations which are notable enough to be retold. One of the customs of the early days was the "open examination", to which the public was invited. We have preserved such an invitation of 1879, which announces the dates of the "Programme of Final Reviews", and states that "Patrons and Trustees are invited to be present at any time without formality".

That patrons and trustees did appear at the examinations and took a lively part in them, we learn from eye-witness accounts. We quote the newspaper reporter's enthusiastic story of the graduation of the Famous Class of '59, which took place in the sweltering heat of July. Tuesday, the 20th, was occupied with examina-

tions, and the examination of Miss Chapin's class in Mental Philosophy was the first appearance of the twelve members of the graduating class:

"As good satisfaction was given by this class as we ever saw given by any class in the same study. The young ladies acquitted themselves nobly. In the course of the period an animated and interesting discussion arose between the class and the examining committee on the functions of the reasoning powers and their relation to the other mental faculties. It was a weighty war of words; the learned committee were put to their keenest mettle; in many a fine-spun argument the contestants exhibited their powers to distinguish and divide a hair 'twixt south and south-west side."

It is possible that the reporter was prejudiced, for he also writes:

"We hope no one will charge us with a desire to flatter if we whisper to outsiders who have never seen the class of '59 that they are mostly all quite pretty, and who could have the heart to pen a black mark against a dozen whom nature has adorned, if not the most, at least quite well enough?"

"In the afternoon the class in astronomy appeared, and as a general thing the scholars replied to the questions of the teacher, solved the problems and stood the cross-examination of the committee in a very satisfactory manner. Then came Butler's Analogy, and a theological discussion arose on the question of our moral capacity for doing good when our evil passions have, as it were, overcome and consumed our good promptings. Here there was a terrible battle, in which the Class, the Divines of the committee, and Miss Mortimer, who came from Baraboo for the commencement, all seized weapons. The close of the hour alone brought surcease".

During the day music had been interspersed through the other exercises—music both vocal and instrumental—in which the graduates took their part. In the evening at Dr. Wolcott's, there was the business meeting of the alumnae. And we learn further from Mr. Wight's *Annals*:

"But Wednesday was the crowning day. Early in the morning the gaily dressed girls and sober-hued matrons hurried to the large schoolroom, for the graduating themes were to be read and prizes awarded for the two best efforts. We have space to list the profound titles only: Peace, Mystery, Individual Culture, Truth, Harmony and Completeness in Life, Society, Light, Education, Life, Astronomy, and What Will Mrs. Grundy Say? The first prize, a gold medal given by Mrs. William Lynde, went to Elizabeth Candee for the essay on Life; the second prize, a book, was awarded to Julia E. Peirce, who

wrote on Astronomy. The Valedictory was given by Marion Wolcott—the title, What Now?

“During the readings there were intermissions for refreshment and song. Upon two of these occasions five little girls, garbed in white and with wreaths of flowers upon their foreheads, sang to the piano’s accompaniment. Following the essays Dr. Lapham, the president, then presented the diplomas. An address by Professor Bartlett, of Chicago, succeeded, upon the topic, ‘Scriptural Ideal Held Out Before Woman’. After the address, the entire class joined at the piano in a parting hymn, which could not but have moved every heart present, if possessed of a particle of sensibility.

“On Thursday morning there was a drive in carriages around the city by the class, some of the trustees, and invited guests. The places visited were the High School, St. John’s Cathedral, St. Rose’s Orphan Asylum, Mr. Metcalf’s residence, Mr. Cicero Comstock’s on Fourth and Galena Streets, Quentin’s Park, Mr. James H. Rogers’ home on Spring Street, and the Custom House. Thence they drove to North Point, and finally to the residence of Colonel George H. Walker, where there were a lunch and many a *jeu d’esprit*:

“On Thursday evening the alumnae address on ‘Conventionalism’, was delivered by Charles Caverno, a young lawyer of the city; on Friday evening was the Senior party; on Saturday evening a social tea, and the blithe commencement of 1859 had flown away.”

Thirty years later, essays were still the substance of Commencement. We quote from the newspaper account of the graduation of the Class of 1890:

“On Monday evening at Milwaukee College, simplicity unadorned, save for the rare jewels of intellectuality, was at a premium. College Hall, at 8 o’clock, was crowded to its utmost capacity with friends of the charming young girls. That they were friends and deeply interested in the exercises, was evidenced by the patience with which those who were sandwiched in the rear of the hall bore the intense heat and discomfort of the evening, for it was found impossible to open the windows at the west end. Miss Sara Benjamin, a pretty brunette, was the first of the graduating class to ascend the stage. She delivered her essay . . . with grace and ease, and every word was distinctly heard in all parts of the hall. . . . Miss Mary Lillian Herr opened her remarks with an allusion to the familiar book “Looking Backward”, by Edward Bellamy. She claimed, and almost convinced the audience, by her earnestness of manner, that the ideas advanced by the author would eventually come to pass—that the government would in the future control interests now held by corporations!”

The reporter not only waxes enthusiastic about each essay, but interpolates his own little soliloquy on education, before he proceeds to

describe the graduates reception on Tuesday evening:

“The court and halls of the college were illuminated with Chinese lanterns, and the library, studio and other rooms were decorated with palms and flowers. Guests promenaded through all parts of the building. Clauder’s orchestra played musical selections both in the main hall and in the gymnasium. Lemonade and cake was served at tables, and dispensed by young misses in dainty gowns. Altogether, the reception was very delightful and a fitting close to the season’s work.”

One tradition which has survived the years is the beloved Hat Hunt. It was a tradition at Downer College before Miss Sabin’s day, this story of the loss of Methodist Parson Ames’ silk topper, which had been borrowed for a “Thespian Occasion”, and the subsequent frantic and fruitless search. Wherever the original “beaver” was hidden, it did not turn up until after its owner had been placated by the gift of a new one, and then he bequeathed the old one to the Seniors of the College. Apparently for some years all classes competed for its possession and it did not evolve into a Sophomore-Freshman contest until the move to Milwaukee. Hunting now is confined to the outdoors, since that historic day when Miss Sabin’s voice interrupted an excavation project with the stern command, “Girls, this must stop! You are undermining the foundations of your College!” Hat Banquets with all their lusty songs and cheers still open and close the year, and the honor of being a Hat Girl is still one of the most coveted on the campus.

Yes, activities have changed as the student body has changed. The world in which the present students live is an uncertain and threatening one which forces an early seriousness and maturity; economic pressures necessitate concentration on career preparation; war has truly invaded the campus in the past decade, for in today’s classes are war veterans, and the wives of veterans. The married woman is today a definite part of the undergraduate picture.



FACULTY OF 1918

Upper: Ruth Johnstin, Miriam Frink, Elizabeth Rossberg, Nell C. Field, Amelie Serafon, Margaret Reynolds, Effa Maude Richards, Eolia Carpenter, Claudia McPheeters.

Center: Sarah Porter, Margaret Campbell, Katherine S. Arnold, Lena B. Tomson, Rachel Hoffstadt, Charlotte Partridge, Elizabeth Upham, Susan West, Alice E. Belcher.

Lower: Myrtie Van Dusen, Henrietta Tromanhauser, Dean Mina Kerr, President Sabin, Emily F. Brown, Amelia Ford, Sybil Smith.

The Faculty

ADEQUATE physical facilities are an aid and an incentive toward greater academic achievements, and yet all who know the College realize that "stone walls do not a prison make" and neither do they make a college; it is the human personalities within the Halls that count. No doubt every college has had its "Mr. Chips", but Milwaukee-Downer has had an unusually large number of faculty members with long and distinguished service records. In a small student body, there is possible a closer acquaintanceship and personal relationship between teacher and student than the larger institution can provide, and the lasting ties of affectionate friendship with some favorite teacher have been among the dearest possessions of Milwaukee-Downer alumnae.

We could not possibly list the accomplishments of all the truly great teachers who have passed through the College halls, for we should be forced to go back to its earliest days. We have already spoken of the prowess of Miss Mortimer as a teacher and the great devotion of her students. From a pupil of her day we gain some knowledge of her faculty; Harriet Holton Robertson (Mrs. O. W.) of the Class of '71 writes:

"A faculty of no slight reputation was ours in those days. There was Miss Bigelow, of heroic mould, afterward called to a position of eminence in Wellesley College; and Miss Worcester (herself a graduate of '67), that classic, queenly figure . . . and Miss Alcott, the daughter of Bronson Alcott of Concord School of Philosophy fame, and Miss Phillips, who became principal of Minnesota State Normal School . . . and at the head of the gymnasium, a graduate of Dio Lewis".

And from Downer College, too, comes testimony of the influence of some of the "Rockford faculty" brought in by Miss Bodge:

"Miss Stevens was the teacher in mathematics. She was a dear little woman, about the size of a canary bird, with a sweet, chirrupy voice. . . . She could explain a problem wonderfully, but she seldom did; for the most part, we dug out our own work and explained it to *her*. There is a tradition to the effect that knowledge thus acquired remains with one".

"Our music teacher was Miss Clara Strong. Hers was a rare nature; her faith seemed a tangible thing that she could hold in her hand. When she talked to us girls, her face was like an illumination. Having once been under her influence, one, I find, can never pass entirely beyond it".

Of how many teachers of the College might that last sentence be written! We think immediately of that group which came to the school about the turn of the century and remained to serve generation after generation, whose members are remembered with deep love and gratitude by hosts of alumnae today. First in point of service was Emily Frances Brown, who came to Downer College in 1891, where we find her already busy with her literary pursuits, although in those days Science, and not English, was her teaching field. Miss Brown left the faculty for several years after the union of the colleges, but returned in 1900 and taught continuously until 1945, when she retired to live with her sister in West Park, New York. Her influence was vast, for as the college song puts it, students could not be "safe in the Junior class" until they had "gone out from Miss Brown's English"—in particular her Survey course. Of course, to those who majored in English, and especially to those rare and hardy souls who elected Anglo-Saxon and Middle English, a closer friendship was granted and a larger share in the treasures of the mind which Emily Brown had laid up. But no one in the school escaped her all-pervasive influence, for

just as the good burghers of Oberammergau are shaped by their participation in their Passion Play, so College students, in the months before Christmas, found themselves in the atmosphere of an old English manor house, lived the role of Lord or Lady, Butler or Jester, St. George or Christmas Rose, and there was scarce a student who could not sing the carols and even recite the traditional parts of the Christmas Play, from the first note of the Bellman to the snuffing of the last candle. And in the Dickens years, Mr. Pickwick and the Wellers, and the Cratchits and the Fezziwigs, and the Micawbers came and dwelt among us, so personal was the feeling of the students for their roles. Again, no one could interpret the Gothic spirit, and the mysticism of the Middle Ages, as could Miss Brown in her "Little Sanctuary". She loved to make great figures of history and literature come alive for her students by celebrating their anniversaries with play or pageant, with lovely, little-known music, and with all the colorful staging for which she had such a flair. Emily F. Brown, to borrow the quaint words of a century ago, was a "true teacher"; the phrase she once inscribed in the heading of a Chaucer outline describes best the intellectual offerings she made to her students—"Here is God's Plenty".

Miss Alice E. Belcher, who presided over the Economics department from 1903 until 1945, is another whose personality made a deep and lasting impression on a large portion of the student body, for her Economics was to the Junior year what Miss Brown's English was to the Sophomores—something of a *bête noir* in the anticipation and a very satisfying experience in the realization. She was an exacting scholar and permitted no romantic jugglings of statistics, but she also possessed a quiet sense of humor, and battles of wit between Democrat Belcher and Republican Sabin enlivened many a campus campaign. The "Famous" Class of '17

have long laid claim to Miss Belcher as their personal and exclusive property, and have hinted that no others may make her an Honorary Member, but this is a much disputed claim. Miss Belcher since her retirement has made her home in Milwaukee.

In the History Department from 1908 to 1939 reigned Amelia Clewley Ford, a redoubtable little lady of precise scholarship, to whom footnotes, bibliographies, and properly documented reports were as a fetish, and who yet possessed a keen sense of humor and a vast capacity for friendship with her students. Her current event discussions in Chapel were no doubt soon forgotten by her listeners, but not the delighted smile that crinkled her face as she appended some small and nonsensical item, just to give a "happy ending". Of an old sailing family, Miss Ford upon her retirement returned to her home in Searsport, Maine, where she delighted to entertain former students in her parlor, with its mementos of the Clipper days and the portrait of Miss Ford herself as a tiny child on the deck of her father's barque in the harbor of Barcelona. In these familiar surroundings she passed away in December, 1942.

Miss Lena B. Tomson, who, her Latin pupils were convinced, was herself "the noblest Roman of them all", was a member of the Faculty from 1903 to 1942. Not only did her students know their Latin Grammar down to the last exasperating exception-to-the-rule, as witnessed by their prowess in intercollegiate contests, but they acquired a taste for classic style and thought, particularly for her "old friend Horace" and the elegiac poets. Above all, they learned a philosophy of life too little known today, of the "golden mean", of self-knowledge and self-development as a duty of man. Not only with her Latin scholars was Miss Tomson popular, for as "Tommy", Honorary Hat Girl and adviser in all Hat activities, she became known to all the student body—came closer to them

than most faculty members are permitted to do. Now in her retirement Miss Tomson lives in Claremont, California, where she will shortly be joined by another of the "Old Faculty", Miss West, who left the College at the 1950 Commencement.

Susan F. West taught in the Home Economics Department since 1914 and directed it since 1917, and it is to her that credit is largely due for the fine reputation which the College Department enjoys, and for the successful careers of her graduates, who are much sought after even in periods of strong competition for employment. Miss West goes with the good wishes of the whole community, for like many others of her colleagues, she has given unstintingly of her time to many local and national causes.

The French department and the name of Mlle. Amelie Serafon have been linked so long, that we can scarcely picture the one without the other, but "Mademoiselle" also has departed, after serving from 1910 to 1945. Decorated by the French government for her services during the first World War, she retired during the second, and immediately plunged into the direction of her "atelier" for relief work. Now, a little more fragile, her hair a shade whiter, but still erect and distinguished, she too lives in Milwaukee where she can continue to drop in at College functions.

Still on the campus, energetic and cheerful as if she had just commenced her teaching of German classics instead of having rounded out thirty-eight years of battling with that strange polyglot known as "Milwaukee Deutsch", is Elizabeth Rossberg, who came to the College in 1912, as assistant to the renowned Miss Wollpert. In spite of the setbacks which two wars have brought to her department, her Goethe course is still one of the "great" courses of the College.

The Music Faculty has had its quota of long service, also. Miss Claudia McPheeters came to

the College in 1895 to teach Piano, assumed direction of the department upon the death of Mr. Liebling in 1914, and continued to teach until 1941. Alumnae Hall was her sanctum, and she would never move to the Music Hall. She was known to all the College, for she played for the daily Chapel service for generation after generation of students, and she was never too busy to arrange music for some student activity. Her Nature Concert for the benefit of the Audubon Society was an Annual event—and she hated cats! Miss McPheeters now resides in Wauwatosa.

A long-time partner of Miss McPheeters in the Chapel services was Miss Eolia Carpenter, teacher of Vocal Music, and director of many a musical program at the College. She was a favorite figure on the campus from 1903 until her death in December, 1934. In the same year in which Miss Carpenter arrived, Miss Effa Maude Richards also began her long teaching career as instructor of Piano, a career which terminated in 1933, just one year previous to Miss Carpenter. Other music Faculty whose careers were memorable were Mrs. Perry Williams, who taught Organ, Theory, and Appreciation of Music from 1899 to 1928; Mary Louise Dodge, piano teacher from 1915 until her death at the College in 1938; and Bessie Tainsh, teacher of Voice from 1915 to 1946.

From the early years of Milwaukee-Downer we recall also Miss Mary Wilder, teacher of Elocution from 1897 to 1917, and Miss Emma Cowles, who began her teaching of German and Mathematics at Downer in 1893 and continued at the College till 1911. Of the faculty of the later years, we must mention Mrs. Ethelwynn Beckwith, who taught Mathematics and Astronomy from 1925 to 1947, Miss Grace Clapp, in Botany and Bacteriology, from 1921 to 1941, Miss Nell C. Field, in Home Economics from 1916 to 1938, Miss Edith Pinney, in Zoology from 1924 to 1949.



Marjorie Logan



Althea Heimbach



Frances Hadley



Anne Caswell

We have already mentioned Miss Emily Groom of the Art Department, who has served thirty years on the faculty; Miss Esther Mabel Frame also must be listed as serving from 1914 to 1939 as instructor in Applied Arts. Almost at the thirty year mark is Professor Marjorie Logan, present Director of the Art Department, who came in 1921. In addition to those already mentioned, there are on the faculty at this writing, two professors who have served twenty years or over: Ella May Hanawalt, in Psychology and Education; Louise Soby, in Home Economics. Professor Elda Anderson, who has left to return to the atomic research which claimed her during the war, has also taught at the College for twenty years. Professor Helen Chase of the History Department has been at Milwaukee-Downer for more than twenty-five years, and past the thirty year mark are Professors Anne Caswell, Chemistry; Frances Hadley, English; and Althea Heimbach, Physical Education. These no doubt to recent generations of students are now the "Old Faculty" of the College, though we should hesitate to use the word in connection with these active people!

Space will not allow us to sketch the biographies, nor recount the accomplishments and honors of our faculty members, past and present. Suffice it to say that such long terms of service

reflect credit upon Milwaukee-Downer College; that institution must be worth-while that inspires such devoted loyalty.

We cannot close this chapter without mention of the business staff and other officers of the College, who have also given long and devoted service. In 1947, Mr. John W. Young retired to a North Carolina plantation, after thirty-eight years as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and Assistant Treasurer. Miss Ruth Damkoehler, Registrar, has been with the College twenty-one years. Miss Lucy I. Lee, Cashier and Bookkeeper has completed her forty-third year, and Miss Ilma Blome, Recorder, is just five years behind her in point of service.

And finally, we must not forget to mention the years of service of the administrator of this



John W. Young



Lucy I. Lee



PRESIDENT BRIGGS IN HER OFFICE

College, for Miss Briggs is about to enter her thirtieth year as President. When she came to the institution, there were thirty-one full-time and eleven part-time faculty members, teaching 184 courses; this present year finds her presiding over forty full-time and thirteen part-time teachers, with 430 courses listed in the catalog. Honors have come to her, and through her to the College. She has been Vice-President (1922) and President (1928) of the Association of Wisconsin Presidents and Deans. She has served on the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, and was elected First Vice-President of that organization. In 1923 and 1927 she was Vice-President, and in 1928 President of the Association of American Colleges, being the first woman to hold that position.

She has served as a Trustee of her own Alma Mater, Radcliffe, on its Library Committee, and the Committee on the Appointment Bureau. Degrees have been conferred upon her, "honoris causa", by Lawrence College, Miami University, Rockford College, and most recently, at its Centennial, by the University of Wisconsin. Lawrence College also elected her an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa. In celebration of twenty-five years in office, Trustees, Faculty, alumnae and friends of the College gathered together on May 6, 1946, in the Sky Room of the Plankinton for a Silver Anniversary Dinner in her honor, while alumnae across the country joined in with messages of congratulation and good wishes for the future.

We do not know what the future has in store for the College; we do know that it has been most fortunate in the past half century in its choice of Presidents.

Trustees and Officers

ON Founders' Day, Miss Sabin long made it her custom to read a poem from a favorite book, Kipling's *Stalky and Co.*—

"Let us now praise famous men, men of little showing,
For their work continueth, and their work continueth,
Great beyond their knowing".

It would seem that those words are most applicable to one group of servitors of the College—those men, and women too, who give so freely of their time, who willingly shoulder weighty responsibilities and perform thankless tasks, all too little known and appreciated by those who benefit most by their sagacity and industry.

The Board of Trustees was a necessary part of incorporation, but in fact, it antedated this legal action, for Mrs. Parsons had gathered together a group in 1849 to sponsor the Seminary, so that our Board is already a century old. It would be impossible to list all who have served as Trustees in that time; we can only mention briefly those who were officers, or whose names appear frequently in the annals of the colleges, or whose terms were unusually long—remembering, however, that even a brief service may yet have meant a significant contribution.

We have already mentioned the incorporators and first officers of the colleges. Some of these men continued to serve for many years. In Milwaukee, the gentle Quaker, Increase Lapham, was a Trustee from 1849 until his death in 1875, filling the offices of President and Vice-President. Mr. John H. Tweedy, a leading Whig of the day, in spite of his busy careers in finance and state politics, was a charter member and found time to serve for forty years; on his retirement in 1890, a special testimonial was

given him by his fellow-trustees; he, like Lapham, had been both Vice-President and President. Another who held these same offices was Otis Waldo, of the law firm which handled the funds of the Women's Educational Association; he served from 1854 to 1874, and was a close friend of Miss Mortimer, surviving her by only three months. He was especially loved by the students, for his home was always open to them. Judge Alpha C. May, who had also filled the same offices, served from 1861 to 1882; in 1882, the Board also lost Milo Jewett, who had served only ten years, but whose advice was invaluable. Mr. Edward Holton was on the Board from 1853 to 1872, serving as Treasurer for several years; Mr. John Johnston served as Treasurer from his election in 1874 until 1893, then served several terms as President, until his death in 1904. Mr. William P. McLaren was elected in 1875, was Vice-President from 1879 to 1882, and then President until his death in 1893. Mr. Hoel Camp also served from 1875 till the union of the colleges.

The Fox Lake college also had its loyal supporters. In the 1858 catalog, we find that the majority were local men—G. W. Freeman, President; J. W. Davis, Treasurer; O. N. Gorton, Secretary; and Messrs. William E. Smith, A. Hawley, Benjamin Ferguson, J. W. Fish, William Cornell, William J. Dawes, and Oliver Ashley all residing in Fox Lake; the others named are H. G. Parker and J. T. Westover, Beaver Dam; George Knowles, Randolph; John Williams, Waupun; and J. W. Carhart, Mackford. The name of William E. Smith is of interest, for he was a founder of Wisconsin Female College, and died a Trustee of Milwau-



John H. Tweedy



John H. Van Dyke



Alpha C. May



Charles F. Ilsley



Hoel H. Camp



Gov. William E. Smith



Frederick Sivyer



Rev. Henry Miner

BUILDERS OF THE COLLEGE

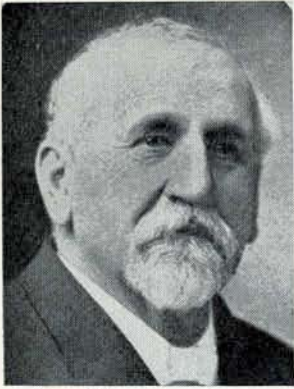
kee College. Born in Scotland, he had arrived in Fox Lake in 1842 to open a branch store for an eastern company. He served in the legislature, and then as State Treasurer. In 1872, he moved to Milwaukee to go into the wholesale grocery business, but combined politics and a mercantile career, for in 1877 he was elected Governor of Wisconsin, serving two terms.

Major William Dawes, one-time President of the Wisconsin Female College Board, is another familiar name on the Fox Lake list, for his gift of \$5000 was one of the earliest benefactions received and his name is enrolled with the Founders.

Two of the Fox Lake Board must receive special tributes for the unusual length of their terms and the great value of their services. Mr. Hamlin Chapman was a student in the old

Fox Lake Academy; his name is listed in the 1863-4 catalog. He married a graduate of Wisconsin Female College, Julia Morgan, of the Class of '67. Becoming a Trustee, he was appointed financial agent of the College to administer the Downer funds. Continuing on the Board after the union of the colleges, he became Treasurer in 1897, and continued in that office until 1918, when he retired to California. The Board honored him by electing him Treasurer Emeritus; his death occurred in February, 1921.

An even longer period of service was that of the Rev. Henry Miner, who was elected a Trustee of Wisconsin Female College in 1876, served as Secretary, Vice-President, and Business Manager of the school through many a troubled year before Miss Sabin's arrival, and was still an active member of the Board years



Rev. Thomas Johnson



William W. Wight



August H. Vogel



Edwin E. White

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

after her retirement. Dr. Miner was born in Vermont on July 1, 1829, and spent his boyhood on farms in that state and in Pennsylvania. His life may be compared to Lincoln's for his education was largely acquired in the chimney-corner of their cabin. But by dint of rugged labor, at twenty Henry Miner was able to enter Williams College, from which he was graduated in 1853. He then attended the Theological Seminary at Bangor, Maine, and began his ministry in a Mission Church at Menasha, Wisconsin, in 1857. Dr. Miner's tall, patriarchal figure was long a familiar sight on the campus, especially on Founders' Day, for he attended faithfully even in his nineties; he died at the ripe age of 102. To him we are indebted for most of our knowledge of early Fox Lake days.

The Rev. Thomas S. Johnson, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Beaver Dam for forty years, also gave long service to the College. Elected a Trustee in 1875, he succeeded Major Dawes in 1881 as President of the Board, continuing in that office until 1894; he remained a member of the Milwaukee-Downer Board until 1927. Others of the Fox Lake Board who served many years after the union were the Rev. Albert Wright and Mr. Charles H. Eggleston. The last to remain of this group was Dr. Frederick T. Gorton of Portage, who served until 1939. Dr. Gorton also had been a student at Fox Lake Academy.

A record to equal these was that of Mr. William Ward Wight of the Milwaukee Board. Appointed Secretary in 1880, he continued to serve in that office after the merging of the Boards. In 1908, he was elected President; at the time of his retirement in 1924, he had completed forty-four years as a Trustee. He once confessed that in his brash young days he had taught logic and political economy to the students of Milwaukee College, with little success. However illogical the young ladies may have appeared, Mr. Wight was twice married to graduates of the school. To him we are indebted for the *Annals of Milwaukee College*.

It is interesting to note the recurrence of certain family names on the roster of Trustees, indicating a long-continued support of the institution and a faith in its purpose. Mr. John H. Van Dyke was a member of Mrs. Parsons' Board, and served as an officer of Milwaukee College until 1868; several other members of his family have since been on the Board. Mr. Edward Holton, whose active interest in the College began in 1853, was followed on the Board by Mrs. Holton, who served from 1872 to 1878; their daughter, Mrs. Orrin W. Robertson, was elected in 1889 and served until 1900. Mr. Charles F. Ilsley, founder of the Marshall and Ilsley Bank, was Treasurer of Milwaukee College from 1856 to 1872; his grandson, Charles F. Ilsley, is a Trustee today.

One of the first subscribers for stock in the College corporation was Alexander Mitchell, who was elected a Trustee in 1853. Mrs. Mitchell, a close friend of Miss Mortimer, was elected in 1871, among the first women to serve on the Board; twenty years later, we find Mrs. John L. Mitchell listed; still later, Mitchell Mackie was a valued member of the Trustees.

Mr. John Plankinton was also one of the early subscribers for stock, which he later turned over to the Trustees; he became a member of the Board in 1875, and was succeeded in 1884 by Mrs. Plankinton, who in turn, was succeeded by her daughter, Elizabeth, M.C. '72, who served until 1902. She was followed by Mr. William Woods Plankinton, who also served several terms.

The Vogel family has been represented by several members on the Board of Trustees, and has been most generous in its support of the College. We hold in special remembrance Mr. August H. Vogel, for the many helpful years he devoted to the affairs of the College; elected in 1907, he became Vice-President in 1914 and President in September, 1928, a term cut short by his death in February, 1930. He is remembered as one who not only kept in mind the financial advancement of the College, but the maintenance of high scholastic standards.

The name of Greene is also one that is preserved in many places on the campus. Mrs. Thomas A. Greene was one of the early group of women to serve on the Board of Trustees; her daughter, Mary Greene Upham, M.C. '80, was elected a member in 1902, and served until her death in December, 1934. Her son, Colonel Howard Greene, was elected in 1927, and is still a member. Elizabeth Upham Davis, M.-D.C. '19, of the third generation, was responsible for the establishment of the Occupational Therapy department, and many other generous gifts to the College.

The name of Chapman is also preserved in several buildings and memorials on the campus. Both Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Chapman were members of the Board of Trustees. Their daughter, Miss Alice Chapman, was elected in 1902, and served till her death in April, 1935. Her sister, Mrs. George P. Miller, has been interested in the work of the College and active in its support for more than fifty years. Mr. Miller was a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee from 1916 until his death in June, 1931; his advice in financial and legal matters was invaluable. He was succeeded on the Board by his daughter, Mrs. William Merrill Chester.

Mrs. Henry Ogden, who was Secretary of the Trustees for many years, is also the daughter of a Trustee, for her mother, Mrs. Frederick C. Winkler (Frances Wightman, M.C. '58), served from 1892 to 1911, and was an active worker in the first endowment campaign and in the preliminary efforts to unite the colleges.

We have already mentioned the contributions of two faithful Trustees, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. White, to the library collections and the student loan funds; we must also record the service as Trustee given by Mr. Frederick Sivyver, who with Mrs. Sivyver gave the Music Hall. Mr. Fred Best, who was a Board member from 1919 to 1943, and Treasurer for sixteen of those years, under most trying economic conditions, also deserves our grateful thanks; we remember with gratitude also the labors of Nelson P. Hulst, E. J. Kearney, John Puelicher, Max Babb, A. J. Lindemann, Gardiner P. Stickney, Mrs. John W. Mariner, and many others.

To the present members of the Board, who face again troubled world conditions and an unpredictable future, all friends of the College owe increased support and encouragement. They ask no thanks, only the hope that their work too may continue, great beyond their knowing.



Elizabeth L. Greene



Thomas A. Greene



Elizabeth Upham Davis



Howard Greene



Mary Greene Upham

THREE GENERATIONS OF THE GREENE FAMILY HAVE AIDED THE COLLEGE



Laura Boveker Chapman



Timothy Appleton Chapman



Laura Chapman Miller



Alice G. Chapman



George P. Miller



Alice Miller Chester

MEMBERS OF THE CHAPMAN FAMILY HAVE SERVED THE COLLEGE FOR THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

The Alumnae

IF the question arises as to what the College has achieved in the past century, and we reply only that it has erected so many buildings, accumulated so much wealth, employed so many teachers, offered so many courses, then we have told but a small part of the story. For the purpose of a college is to give rather than to receive, and by what it has given to its students and graduates, and by what they in turn have given to the world, must a college be judged.

The useful lives of its alumnae bear witness that Milwaukee-Downer has given to its students full measure of preparation both for earning a livelihood and for the successful conduct of life. What better criterion by which to judge the value, not of a degree or diploma, but of the solid, thorough background of college work that earned it?

It may be interesting to the reader to learn just how many degrees and diplomas the College has conferred in its century of existence. From its Charter date, 1851, Milwaukee College graduated 234 from its collegiate department—236 if we accept the two graduates of 1850. Wisconsin Female College and Downer College graduated from the college course, 85 students and 5 with Diplomas in Music. And perhaps we should add to this our two alumni, Messrs. Thomas and Tarrant, of the Fox Lake Academy days.

Milwaukee-Downer College has, through June, 1950, granted 1801 degrees. It has awarded 320 Diplomas in Home Economics, the last two-year-course class being graduated in 1925. Diplomas in Music have been given to

171 students; the last special music class was graduated in 1929. The Diploma in Occupational Therapy has been granted to 331. The sum of these figures does not represent the exact number of graduates, as many of the diplomates have also received degrees from the College. In particular, the majority of the holders of the Occupational Therapy Diploma also have received degrees.

The number of graduates is interesting, but more important are the contributions these young women have made to their communities and the nation. They have entered the "learned professions". Medicine and public health have enlisted them—the first of record in medicine being Dr. Clara F. Tyrrell, D.C. '79, Health Officer of Fox Lake Township, and the Downer College doctor and lecturer on hygiene in the late '80's and '90's. The Law has claimed alumnae too; at least one has attained the position of County Judge; another, after years in the Labor Department of New York State, is now head of the Woman's Department of the National Department of Labor. Graduates have also entered business; we find such listings as banker, auditor, accountant, comptroller, manager, executive of manufacturing company, insurance agent, personnel director. They have gone into the laboratory as technicians in various fields, as biochemists, bacteriologists, physicists. We find them in such fields as advertising, publicity and public relations, stage and radio acting and directing, dance instruction and choreography.

There are numerous journalists, a magazine

editor, a publishing house reader. There are welfare and Red Cross executives, case workers, social center directors, recreation specialists. There are artists, illustrators, photographers, textile designers, ceramic specialists, interior decorators. There are teachers of music, and professional performers. There are many in library work, including special fields.

The home economics field has claimed many—as dietitians, county demonstration agents, food research directors. There are ranchers, farmers, yes—even a bee-keeper! Nursing in all its branches has enrolled a large number. Others have entered church work; we list foreign mission teachers, directors of religious education, a deaconess, a nun. They have even invaded that last field sacred to man—the military—for we find several “O.T.” graduates serving as 2nd Lieutenants in the Army. All of which goes to prove that the Liberal Arts College does prepare for a liberal choice of careers.

No doubt Catharine Beecher would be profoundly disturbed at some of these callings, but she would surely approve of the very high percentage of alumnae who have entered the teaching profession in its many aspects and ramifications. And she would heartily applaud the vast majority who have chosen to “conserve the domestic state”. For marriage and children still seem to be the ultimate goal of Milwaukee-Downer girls, and, as Miss Sabin benignly remarked years ago, “that is as it should be”.

Many have successfully combined marriage with a career, but more typical is the full-time wife and mother who yet finds hours to spare for community service and civic duties, who serves on the P.T.A. committee and the welfare agency board, teaches Sunday school, acts as Den Mother for Cub Scouts, and in a thousand other ways accepts the responsibilities of the educated, enlightened woman.

Milwaukee-Downer alumnae are a loyal group. The graduates of Milwaukee College

were organized on July 25, 1855, the Downer group in June of 1878, and the associations joined forces in 1897. Special alumnae groups, such as those of Home Economics or Music, have had their own organizations in the past, but have long since been absorbed into the general membership. The first Alumnae Bulletin was published in February, 1909; later it received the name “Hawthorn Leaves”; its bulky files now form a formidable history of the Association and its members.

The Alumnae, collectively and individually, have made many contributions to the wealth of the College; no workers so zealous in fund campaigns of the past, nor more interested in plans for the future. Each year, on Colors Day, the Milwaukee-Downer Clubs and alumnae groups across the country celebrate National Milwaukee-Downer Day. The Alumnae Association has just completed a fund of \$15,000 as a Centennial Birthday Present, to be added to the endowment for faculty retirement allowances.

We cannot close without a word of tribute to one group no longer in existence—the old Milwaukee-Downer Club of Milwaukee, which was composed of graduates and former students of both College and Seminary, and which raised funds for both. Annually from these active workers came gifts of furnishings, equipment, books, rowing shells, and other needed items. Besides contributions to many other funds, this group was responsible for the \$10,000 Lecture Endowment Fund. Upon the separation of the administrations of College and Seminary, this group was absorbed into the separate alumnae associations of the two institutions.

The Alumnae Association has had an active voice in the affairs of the College since June, 1917, when the Articles of Incorporation were amended to allow the election of Alumnae Trustees.

Looking Forward

AS we close this history, we wish that we could look forward and see the developments of the next hundred years, as we have traced those of the past. Our school has grown from two struggling little Seminaries into a Woman's College of recognized merit. Slowly but surely it has earned a national reputation. It has held continuous membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, is also a member of the Association of American Colleges, and the American Council on Education, which are not accrediting agencies but exist for the study of problems of higher education. Its graduates are accepted by graduate schools both in the United States and abroad. It has been listed by the Bureau of Labor, Department of Immigration, for acceptance of foreign students outside the quota.

The College is a corporate member of the American Association of University Women. Its high standing has been attested by the generous help given by the General Education Board and the Carnegie Corporation. And finally, it has been recognized by Phi Beta Kappa, which in 1941 established at the College the fourth Chapter of Wisconsin, a significant tribute to its position among the state's educational institutions.

And now, at the beginning of our second century, we pause a moment for stocktaking. As this History goes to press, the first reports of a

Survey of the College will be given to the Executive Committee of the Trustees. This Survey was begun in February, 1950, and has been directed by Dr. Ralph W. Tyler, of the University of Chicago, assisted by Professors William Reavis, Alonzo Grace, William S. Gray, and a corps of specialists in many fields. From it we hope to gain knowledge of our weaknesses and strengths, that we may eliminate the former and more firmly establish the latter.

New projects and new developments will be undertaken under a new administration, for to the deep regret of all friends of President Briggs and of the College we learn that she will terminate her years of office in June, 1951. She will "graduate" with the Centennial Class, having directed the destinies of the College for almost one-third of its corporate life. She has stood not only for "the hard right against the easy wrong" but for the hard goal of quality and high standards as against the easy and popular road of showmanship and superficiality.

The immediate future will bring changes; the far future may see a College such as we at present cannot envision. But the past holds some prophecy of the future, and the brief backward glance contained in this History may prove helpful to those who follow, for in all humility we must acknowledge that "the years teach much which the days never know".

Administrators

MILWAUKEE COLLEGE AND PREDECESSORS

Mrs. Lucy Seymour Parsons	1848-1852
Mary Mortimer	1852-1857
Mary E. and Caroline Chapin	1857-1861
The Misses Chapin and Elizabeth Watson	1861-1863
Samuel S. Sherman	1863-1866
Mary Mortimer	1866-1874
Charles S. Farrar	1874-1889
Charles R. Kingsley	1889-1893
Mrs. Louise R. Upton	1893-1895

WISCONSIN FEMALE COLLEGE AND DOWNER COLLEGE

Rev. J. W. Fish	1855-1856
The Misses Skinner	1856-1857
Miss H. S. Scribner	1857-1859
Miss H. S. Reed	1859-1860
N. E. Goldthwait (Coeducational)	1860-1863
Caroline Bodge	1863-1866
Mary Crowell	1866-1871
Rev. John P. Haire	1871-1873
Mary H. Henry	1873-1875
Rev. Albert O. Wright—Academy	} 1875-1880
Sarah Sheppard—College	
Sarah Sheppard—College and Academy	1880-1882
Helen A. Pepoon—College and Academy	1882-1888
Mary E. Lyon	1888-1890
(Downer College from February, 1889)	
Orpha E. Leavitt	1890-1891
(Acting Principal)	
Ellen C. Sabin	1891-1895

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE

Ellen C. Sabin	1895-1921
Lucia R. Briggs	1921-

Presidents and Chairmen of the Boards of Trustees

MILWAUKEE COLLEGE

Increase Lapham	1850-1863
John H. Tweedy	1863-1864
John H. Van Dyke	1864-1868
Alpha C. May	1868-1872
Otis H. Waldo	1872-1874
Alpha C. May	1874-1877
Milo P. Jewett	1877-1882
William P. McLaren	1882-1893
John Johnston	1893-1897

WISCONSIN FEMALE COLLEGE

Rev. H. G. Parker	1855-1856
Rev. J. T. Westover	1856-1857
Rev. G. W. Freeman	1857-1861
Hon. Stoddard Judd	1861-1866
Hon. Jason Downer	1866-1871
Rev. J. J. Miter	1871-1874
Hon. Jason Downer	1874-1877
Maj. William Dawes	1877-1881
Rev. T. S. Johnson	1881-1894
(Downer College from February, 1889)	
Dr. J. H. Ritchey	1894-1897

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE

DeWitt Davis	1897-1902
John Johnston	1902-1904
Ira B. Smith	1904-1908
William W. Wight	1908-1924
Edwin E. White	1924-1928
(During this term the title was changed from President to Chairman)	
August H. Vogel	1928-1930
Louis B. Quarles	1930-1949
Ralph M. Hoyt	1949-

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