

the garnet letter

Volume IV
Number 3

MAY, 1940



ALUMNI UNDERTAKE MANY PROJECTS IN 1939-40

Innovations in Organization Resulting in Greater Activity

Much of the academic success of Swarthmore has been due, indirectly, to the support, both financial and moral, of the graduates of the college. To assure the continued welfare of Swarthmore, it is essential that the ever increasing alumni body be brought into close contact with the ideas and policies of the administration and with the work and enthusiasms of the present undergraduate.

That this contact between the alumni and the college has been strengthened and encouraged during the past year is attested by the increased attendance at alumni activities, by the greater activity of alumni projects which have been or are about to be completed. The Alumni Council has given much time and thought to alumni problems and is responsible for much of the success of alumni events. To Allin Pierce, President of the Alumni Association, the college and alumni owe thanks for the enthusiastic and conscientious job he has done, not only as President of the Association, but also as member of the com-

mittee which is choosing Mr. Aydelotte's successor. In the latter capacity he has been in a position to come in contact with the administrative policies of the college; as President of the Association he is in a position to explain these ideas to the alumni at large. Under his leadership, thought has been given to the creation of an Alumni Fund which will mean an added source of income for the College. The Swarthmore commemorative plates are well on their way to actuality. There is increased alumni contact with the undergraduate through the cooperation of various alumni scholarships. All of these activities make the alumni more enthusiastic about the college because with the performance of these activities, they are making themselves a living part of it.

The appreciation of the alumni goes to Allin Pierce for his service to them in two capacities in the past year and for his generous and successful performance of his tasks.

NEW YORK ALUMNI CLUBS GIVE PRESIDENT AND MRS. AYDELOTTE TESTIMONIAL DINNER

The members of the Alumni and Alumnae Clubs of New York City paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Aydelotte at a testimonial dinner at the Biltmore Hotel, in New York City on April 6. About one hundred and twenty-five people were present.

Clarence H. Yoder, President of the Swarthmore Alumni Club, officiated as Toastmaster. The program consisted of testimonials for Mr. and Mrs. Aydelotte, recitatives by Cornelia Stabler Gillam, '20, two piano solos by Stanley Baron, '43, and general singing lead by Ed. Palmer. The testimonials to the President and his wife were given by Henry C. Turner, '93, Amos Peaslee, '07, Fred Redefer, '26, Allin Pierce, '19, President of the Alumni Association, and Sarah Powell Huntington, '30. Cornelia Stabler Gillam who has performed for the Roosevelts, gave her impressions of the White House on New Year's Eve, and the details of her experience there.

Telegrams of congratulations to Mr. Aydelotte, and of regret that the senders could not be present, were received from many alumni and friends of the college.

ALUMNAE CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA TO HONOR MRS. AYDELOTTE AT LUNCHEON

On Saturday, May 18, at one o'clock the Swarthmore Alumnae Club is holding a luncheon in Collection Hall at Swarthmore College in honor of Mrs. Aydelotte. Arrangements are in charge of a committee of Club members headed by Alice Sullivan Perkins, '04. Other members of the committee are Ruth McCauley Clyde, '27, Elizabeth Pollard Fetter, '25, Lydia Clothier Maxwell, '00, Virginia Newkirk, '38, Elizabeth Miller Ritschard, '18, Lily Tily Richards, '29, Lydia Williams Roberts, '97, Edith Wilder Scott '96, Lois Thompson, '27, Nora Stabler Worth, '03. Reservations are being made through Jean Creighton, '10.

Mrs. Aydelotte has always been generous in her hospitality and enthusiastic in her response to any appeal from the alumnae in their activities connected with the college. Every two years the card party which the Club holds to raise funds for the Swarthmore Alumnae Scholarship offered by the Philadelphia and New York groups, has been held at the Aydelotte's home and there has never been any service to perform which she considered too much trouble. Every year she extends the same cordial hospitality to Mortar Board which holds its initiation and alumnae meeting at the president's house.

This luncheon will be expressing but a small measure of the esteem and appreciation which Swarthmore alumnae feel for Marie Aydelotte.

ALUMNI DAY TO BE CELEBRATED SATURDAY, JUNE 1st

ALUMNI DAY will be observed at the College on Saturday, June first, and for the second consecutive year. Tom Nicely, '30, will have charge of the program.

The Garnet Letter had hoped to announce the appointment of a new Swarthmore president with a subsequent statement that Mr. Aydelotte's successor would be presented to the Alumni at the Association meeting on Saturday morning. We are advised, however, that no selection has been made as yet. There is a strong likelihood that the appointment will be announced before June first. If so, arrangements will be made to have our new president as the guest of honor at the late morning meeting.

So successful was the alumni golf match last year, that the event will be repeated on Friday afternoon, May 31st. Arrangements have been made at Rolling Green and the first foursome will tee off at 2:30 P.M. Reservations can be made by writing Sam Eckerd, '26, at the College.

Saturday's program begins with a meeting of the Alumni Council at 9:30 A.M. followed by the Association meeting at 11:00 A.M. in Clothier Memorial. There is a note of special interest in this year's meeting of the Association with many vital and interesting topics up for consideration.

Informality will be the keynote for the alumni luncheon which will be served buffet style from 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. Tables will be arranged in the usual place between Trotter and Beardsley Halls. During the meal President Allin Pierce, '19, will introduce special guests. The parade follows at 2:00 P.M. and during the afternoon a tennis match and baseball game will entertain the sport lovers. Reunion dinners are at 6:30 P.M. and the evening will be devoted to dancing and a College Sing. So much for the program itself.

With all this fanfare one would suppose every alumnus within reasonable distance of the College would lay plans to be here—but we warn against such optimism. Some old timers will fake a directors meeting, a slight indisposition, or an unexpected call out of town, and in each case will refuse the invitation with "sincere regrets." A few of the early 1900 group will have been 'out of touch with the college so many years I wouldn't recognize the place'

and they choose to remember it as it was. But the real problem children can be found in the era of ten to twenty-five year graduates. They don't like honors work; they had a neighbor whose daughter was refused admission as a freshman; they'd come back if we got a few real games on our football schedule and some players like those in college in '??'. The more recent graduates have about two stock excuses but these they use with great regularity. With them it's usually the problem of what to do with the young folks at home or the fact that its "too darn hot for me to be on my feet all day long."

With such a series of obstacles we sometimes wonder how anyone manages to put in an appearance at all. But just as our depression is reaching its lowest depths we are exhilarated by more pleasant thoughts. Here is the one day in every year when you can best recapture Swarthmore as it was when you struggled with calculus, Chaucer, and Crum Woods. Many of the old crowd will be there to help with your reminiscing. Poster fights in retrospect can be more violent than ever they were in reality. Most anyone will be ready to substantiate your exaggerated version of being chased off the Pet (and this landmark will be back in its old place of business, thanks to a remodelling by the class of 1914). Then there is the one about the cow in Parrish, and for the old timers, nothing can be more exciting than a recounting of the fire of '81.

But this isn't all. There are many new things to see. The College has made marvelous improvements to grounds and buildings. In addition, the old professors will be available in their most friendly moods and the new faculty members are always on hand and waiting for the chance to make another Swarthmore acquaintance.

So let's find someone to take care of the kids and make plans at once. Nearby alumni can have added pleasure by arranging a party with out of town classmates. For those at a distance we call attention to the nominal charge of fifty cents for rooms at the college. Better yet, we suggest a try at diplomacy which may result in an invitation to stay with a friend living near Swarthmore. In any event, let's all make a sincere effort to be on the campus Saturday June first. It will be another long year before the opportunity presents itself again.

TENNIS

Alumni interested in playing against the Varsity and Junior Varsity on Alumni Day should send their names and addresses to Albert L. Hood, Jr., 12 S. 12th St., Phila., Pa.

GOLF

Make reservations for Alumni Golf Match by May 28th with Sam Eckerd, '26, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

SWARTHMORE COMMEMORATIVE PLATES TO BE AVAILABLE IN FALL

Six College Buildings Reproduced on Wedgwood

ACCORDING to a recent statement by the Alumni Council, an interesting series of Swarthmore commemorative plates will be available for distribution sometime before the end of this calendar year. The plates will be made in England by Josiah Wedgwood and Sons Ltd. and will be handled by their American agents, Jones, McDuffee and Stratton Corporation in Boston.

Commemorative plateware was first adopted by Harvard a number of years ago and since then the idea has spread to many colleges, universities, and private secondary schools. Some colleges have received the idea so enthusiastically that they have gradually issued a whole set of china. However, the ten and a quarter inch service or dinner plate is the only size Swarthmore is planning to issue at the end of this year, but designers in Boston are now at work on supplementary pieces which will be announced at some later date.

The Swarthmore plate is cream colored and has an embossed border whose design was suggested by an original idea of Fredric Klees, a member of the English Department. In this border the traditional Wedgwood fluting separates three medallions surrounded by oak leaves. A Quaker maid and a Quaker lad are pictured in two of these medallions and the college seal composes the third. The whole is beautifully blended with the center design by an inner border of ivy which is done in color. The designs which comprise the center of the plates consist of six college buildings. These are Parrish Hall, the Library, Worth Hall, the Meeting House, Martin Biological Laboratory, and Clothier Memorial, and will be reproduced in underglazed garnet. Most people will probably want the plates in this color but if the garnet doesn't blend with other china, the plates will be available in green and blue.

As a distinguishing feature of the "first edition" the two hundred dozen plates first ordered will have a backstamp. The various colleges have chosen as themes figures of traditional significance for the individual institution. Amherst, for example, uses a small figure of Lord Geoffrey mounted on his charger and Swarthmore has



most appropriately chosen a very becoming and dignified pose of the "lion and wild kangaroo" impressively taken against a stage background which sets off their scintillating personalities to great advantage.

The Women's Executive Committee of the Alumni Council was the committee in charge of selecting the designs. Headed by Anna O. Eberle, '13, the members were: Mary Ann Parrish, '30 Hilda Lang Denworth, '17, Reba Camp Hodge, '15, Elisabeth Hallowell Bartlett, '12.

The border design and those of the six center subjects have been sent to England where the plates will be fired. This process will take about three months. By the end of August the College expects to have actual sample plates which will be put on display at the Fall Homecoming.

Electrotype reproductions of all six plates will be on display Alumni Day and orders can be placed at that time for future shipment. Due to present uncertainties in England it has been difficult to establish a definite price but it will not be in excess of eighteen dollars per dozen.

A NEW DORMITORY FOR SWARTHMORE WOMEN

BY FRANCES BLANSHARD

OUR new Women's Dormitory is taking firm shape. We know the place for it,—above Worth Hall where the tennis courts used to be, running from College Avenue south to complete the great square of the Worth Quadrangle. We know how the rooms should be arranged to have plenty of sun and air. Miss Ethel Stilz has thought of all the gadgets which will make it a miracle of convenience,—such as basement rooms for typing late at night, storage space for bicycles, sleds and skis, a well equipped laundry and kitchenettes,—even a few tall communal closets where long evening dresses may hang uncrumpled. She has sketched floor plans which could be turned over to an architect tomorrow. There is nothing to keep us from laying a corner stone at Commencement except,—FUNDS! What we need is a Bachelor Uncle or a Grateful Father with a large fortune, or a whole clan of sisters and cousins and aunts ready to work for 'equal rights' for Swarthmore women!

The present inequality of housing goes back to the purchase of three buildings from the old Swarthmore Preparatory School which were converted into dormitories for men. This additional space made it desirable to increase the number of students in College. To keep the sexes at the same number, in conformity with Swarthmore tradition, the number of women has had to increase along with the men. We have taken care of some of the overflow by using two converted houses on Walnut Lane,—Woolman and Bassett Houses. A few girls are tucked away in the guest rooms in the Women's Class Lodges. But these arrangements are only makeshifts and interfere to some extent with the full participation of the inmates in college life. The French Department is helping to alleviate the situation this year by turning Bassett House into a *Maison Francaise* where a member of the department, Miss Marion Monaco, will live, assisted by a French exchange student, Mlle. Mally Prinz. It is hoped that the house will become a social centre for both men and women who are interested in improving their conversational French, and thus serve a very useful function at a time when trips abroad are unhappily impossible. But of course it would be better if we could do so, to house all the women students on the campus; it would be easy to retain a *Maison Francaise* in the form of a section of Worth Hall. Furthermore, Parrish is a crowded residence hall in comparison with the accommodations offered by colleges with newer dormitories. While most of the rooms on transverse have always been used as doubles, they are by present standards adequate only for singles. We are reluctant also to continue to house students in the North Wing behind Collection Hall, especially as that space is badly needed for other purposes.

What we should have now, specifically, is a dormitory for seventy-eight to eighty-four women. It need not be so beautiful or costly as Worth Hall, although it must be handsome enough not to look like a poor relation, since the two will stand side by side. We are not yet ready to mention the exact sum which must be raised, in view of the constant increase in building costs. We realize, too, that President Aydelotte could not now take steps which would seriously commit his successor to a definite building program. But we hope that when any possible successor is being looked over by the Committee, his views on women's dormitories will be firmly investigated!

At the moment, all Alumni are urged to be on the lookout for Potential Donors, ready to contribute anything up to \$200,000. Please bring them to visit the College twice: once on a beautiful day in May when the Campus is so lovely with lilacs and cherries that they will yearn to have a part in the place; again on a rainy morning at half past seven. Then you should drop them at Bassett House and leave them to walk to Parrish for breakfast! If you know someone who is impatient to give a dormitory, and you would like to share the pleasure of asking for it, please call on the Chairman of the Household Committee, Mary Lippincott Griscom, 1901. She is the patron saint of this enterprise and what she would have to say about it would carry conviction to anyone.

Early indications point to a large percentage of our graduating class being placed in permanent positions by Commencement Day. A detailed accounting of this placement will appear in the July issue of the Garnet Letter.

Alumni have been unusually cooperative in this vocational work and through their efforts a number of positions have been made available for our Seniors. The college appreciates the knowledge of openings for the men and women yet unplaced. Address such information for women to Nora Booth and for men to the Alumni Secretary. A particular need is felt for summer jobs for the underclassmen whose abilities lie in every conceivable field. Tutors, child companions, department store clerks, engineers, lab assistants, chauffeurs, camp counselors, farm hands, salesmen, and life guards form the beginning of a list of the kinds of work which can be recruited from our undergraduate ranks.

THE DIX PLAN FOR COLLEGE REUNIONS

BY HILDA LANG DENWORTH, '17

AT THE annual meeting of the Alumni Association held in June 1938, the suggestion was made by an alumnus that Swarthmore consider adopting the Dix Plan for college reunions. There has been since then some discussion of the plan in Alumni groups. In October 1939, Allin Pierce, '19, president of the Alumni Association, appointed a committee to study the advantages and disadvantages of the plan for report and recommendation at the meeting of the Alumni Association to be held on June 1, 1940.

Until about twenty years ago, class reunions at colleges throughout the country were held, almost without exception, on the five year, or quinquennial plan, classes returning to college for fifth, tenth, fifteenth year reunions and so on until the fiftieth, sixtieth or even seventieth reunions. About 1920 there was introduced a new scheme of class reunions, called the Dix Plan, the basic idea of which is the holding of reunions by college generations rather than by individual classes. Accordingly, under the Dix Plan, each class returns with three other classes which were contemporary with it in college. Groups of four successive classes are so arranged that in nineteen years every class meets all the other classes associated with it in college. Reunions are held every five years with the exception of every fourth reunion when the interval is four years. In applying the plan, colleges devise charts to show successive reunion years; these charts vary somewhat according to the year the plan is initiated. To illustrate: in 1940, according to a typical Dix Plan chart, the class of 1925 would hold reunions with 1926, 1927, and 1928. In 1945, the class of 1925 would return with the classes of 1924, 1926 and 1927; in 1950 with the classes of 1923, 1924 and 1926; in 1955, with 1922, 1923 and 1924; and in 1959, again with 1926, 1927 and 1928. Under the Dix Plan as originally outlined there were no special reunions as the twenty-fifth or fiftieth; as a matter of practice, however, almost all the colleges using the plan have adopted modifications so that such special reunions may also be held. The class of 1915 could, for example, hold its twenty-fifth reunion this year. Its next reunion would be in 1943; other 1915 reunions would be held in 1948, 1952 and 1957, a total of five reunions in seventeen years.

At the Twentieth Annual Conference of the American Alumni Council held in 1934, Mr. Foster M. Coffin, of Cornell, presented a report on "The Dix Plan of Reunions". His summarization of the advantages and disadvantages of the plan is as follows:

"The advantages of the Dix Plan seem clear, with the opportunity of returning with contemporaries;

of possible economies as well as enhanced pleasures in planning joint class entertainments; the chance to develop games and other competitions between classes that knew each other in college. The proponents of the Dix Plan point out that the scheme can be modified to meet local needs, that provision is made for reunions by 25- and 50-year classes, and that classes usually preserve their individual identities during a reunion by holding separate class banquets and other meetings. They are inclined to scoff at the objection that no alumnus can remember when he is scheduled to come back, and must be reminded by his class secretary and the alumni office. They say the schedule is simple once you look at it. It just sounds difficult. The opponents of the plan, on the other hand, point out that the time-honored, easy-to-remember, quinquennial plan is more desirable if for no other reason than because under it alumni in all parts of the world can the more easily plan, years ahead, for their return to the college and can arrange for necessary trips and furloughs. They claim that the Dix Plan increases the labors of the class officers without increasing the total attendance; and they argue that with so many classes, particularly of the older alumni, reluctant to abandon the old quinquennial, the result is a combination of the two plans to the general detriment of reunions, and that it is far better to have good reunions on the quinquennial basis than only fair returns under both plans."

The committee of the Swarthmore Alumni Council engaged in making a study of the Dix Plan has written to the alumni secretaries of thirty-five colleges throughout the United States. In this number are included fifteen colleges using, according to the latest available reports, the Dix Plan; five colleges that had followed it but discontinued its use; and fifteen selected because they somewhat approximate Swarthmore in size, in being coeducational, or in other ways. Nothing was known of the reunion plans of this latter group of colleges. Replies from thirty alumni secretaries or other college officials (86% of those addressed) have been received. The information contained in these letters and in the reports of the American Alumni Council is being tabulated and evaluated by the committee and will be presented to the members of the Alumni Association at the annual meeting on June 1. Meanwhile it is hoped that Swarthmore Alumni will familiarize themselves with the relative merits of the Dix Plan and of the five year plan so that a considered decision may be reached in June as to the plan to be followed for reunions at Swarthmore.

ALUMNI REGISTER TO BE PUBLISHED IN SUMMER

The 1940 Alumni Register will be published sometime during the summer and will vary somewhat in format from former editions. The process of gathering new addresses is still going on and was greatly aided by the quick and cooperative response to the plea put forth in the last issue of the Garnet Letter.

The major change in the register will be the omission of the class and geographic lists of former students and graduates. The book will contain a single alphabetical list of all alumni with cross references for the married women. This is the kind of list which will be of most use to the alumni at large most of whom use the register for individual friends' addresses. At first glance, the reaction may be that it is necessary to have class lists for purposes of reunions but due to the fact that addresses change so quickly and in such large numbers, it becomes necessary for the class officers to get class lists from the alumni office even though the register is comparatively recent. For the same reason, a geographic list is obsolete almost as soon as the book is published and with the new geographic addressograph file, the alumni office is able to furnish geographic lists to Alumni Clubs without much trouble.

Each alumnus will have his name listed, followed by his degree and class. Then his additional degrees, if any, from other institutions which will be followed by his home address or the one which he has on file at the college.

The July Garnet Letter will carry information about the exact publishing date of this new volume and, if you are interested in receiving a copy, send us your name and address on a penny postal card.

ALUMNI LUNCHEON PRICE AGAIN REDUCED

For the second consecutive year our luncheon price undergoes a serious cut—this time to 75 cents. Don't forget to mail your reservation.

ASSOCIATION MEETING TO BE A FEATURE

Every alumnus should make an attempt to arrive in time for attendance at the Association Meeting on Alumni Day. President Allin Pierce '19 will lead the discussion on the future plans of the Alumni Association and give a report of the past year's activities.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK PROGRAM

(Daylight Saving Time)

Friday, May 31, 1940

- 10:30 A.M. Ivy Planting—Newell Alford, Ivy Orator
- 11:00 A.M. Class Day Exercises—President's Lawn
- 12:15 P.M. College Luncheon
- 2:30 P.M. Meeting of the Board of Managers
Alumni Golf Match—Rolling Green
Country Club
- 5:00 P.M. Annual Meeting Swarthmore chapter of
Phi Beta Kappa, Bond Memorial
- 6:00 P.M. College Dinner
- 9:00 P.M. Senior Class Dance, Collection Hall

Saturday, June 1, 1940

ALUMNI DAY

- 9:30 A.M. Meeting of Alumni Council in Board of
Managers Room, Clothier Memorial
- 11:00 A.M. Annual Meeting of Alumni Association,
Meeting House
- 12:30-1:30 P.M. Alumni Buffet Luncheon
- 2:30 P.M. Parade of Reunion Classes to Alumni Field
- 3:30 P.M. Award of Prizes
- 4:00 P.M. Baseball Game—Drexel vs. Varsity
Tennis Match—Alumni vs. Varsity
- 6:00 P.M. College Dinner
- 6:30 P.M. Class Reunion Suppers
- 8:15 P.M. Commencement Play—"Patience"
- 9:00 P.M. Dancing, Dining Room and Collection Hall
- 10:00 P.M. College Sing, Front of Parrish

Sunday, June 2

- 11:00 A.M. Baccalaureate Sermon, Clothier Memorial
Patrick Murphy Malin, Speaker
- 1:00 P.M. College Dinner
- 4:00 P.M. Members of Faculty at home to alumni,
seniors and friends in Clothier Cloisters.
- 6:00 P.M. College Supper
- 7:00 P.M. Last Collection
- 8:00 P.M. Phi Beta Kappa Address—Meeting House
Thomas Mann

Monday, June 3

COMMENCEMENT DAY

- 11:00 A.M. Commencement Exercises, Clothier
Memorial. Speaker, Frank Aydelotte
- 12:00-1:00 College luncheon