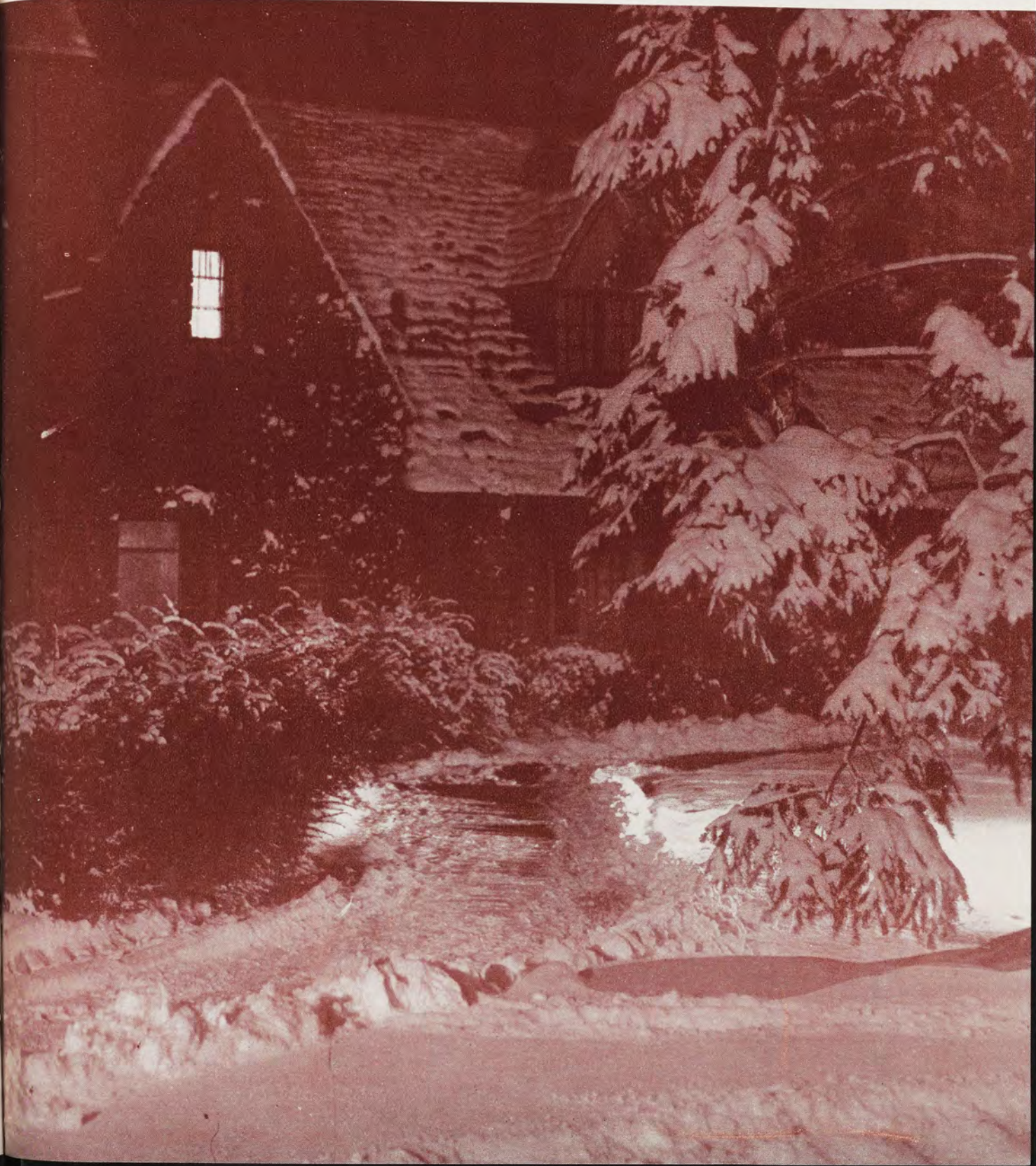


the garnet letter

VOL. XIII

FEBRUARY 1949

NUMBER 2



CHANGES ON THE BOARD OF MANAGERS



Clement Biddle '96

President Nason recently announced two changes in the personnel of the Board of Managers: the retirement of Clement Biddle '96, of Bronxville, N. Y., and the election of Richard H. McFeely '27, principal of George School in Bucks County, Pa., as an Alumni Manager replacing Edmund G. Robinson '05.

A member of the Biddle family has served on the Board of Managers continuously since its organization in 1864. With his retirement, Mr. Biddle himself brings to a close a long and distinguished term of service; however, he retains the privileges of an emeritus member. Past president of the Biddle Purchasing Company of New York City, he is now a member of the executive com-



Edmund G. Robinson '05

mittee of the American Friends Service Committee and of the board of Pendle Hill, a Quaker graduate center for religious study.

Mr. Robinson who was associated with the du Pont Co. from his graduation from Swarthmore until his retirement last July, was appointed to its board of directors in 1937. As a member of the Board of Managers, he served on the nominating and finance committees. He also worked on the campaign executive committee in 1946-7 and on the special gifts committee in 1947-8; he is currently a member of the science foundation committee.

Mr. McFeely first came to Swarthmore as a student in 1923. As an



Richard H. McFeely '27

undergraduate, he was a top student in history and economics and a stellar performer in football and lacrosse. He suffered an attack of infantile paralysis while playing a football game for the Garnet. Seeking recovery at Warm Springs, Ga., he met Nancy Watson, a physical therapist, whom he later married. They have two children, Richard, Jr. and Marjorie.

McFeely served as assistant dean at Swarthmore for two years and was appointed to George School's faculty in 1931. He was named principal of that school last year, after having served as headmaster of Friends Central School in Overbrook, Pa., for three years.

ALUMNI FUND SCORE BOARD

Gifts Received	No. of Contributors	Amount Contributed	Average Gift	<i>Time's-a-Wastin'</i>			
To December 31	512	\$14,964.14	\$29.22		% Participation	Leading Class By % Participation	Leading Class By Total Gifts
In January	220	5,342.82	24.39		6.11%	1899 (14.81%)	1907 (\$1,250.00)
Total	732	\$20,306.96	27.74		2.63%	1907 (11.76%)	1907 (\$961.59)
					8.74%	1899 (18.51%)	1907 \$2,211.59

"DOWN UNDER" WITH DELLMUTH

Greetings from the Swarthmore Club of Australia! We held our first meeting late in October and every Swarthmorean on this continent was present. The three of us had a marvelous time. Marjorie Fish '27 was elected president, since she will be here for the next 18 months working for the Sydney Occupational Training Center. With two Australians now in college, this antipodean club seems headed for a brilliant future.

In discussing plans for our sabbatical, we picked Australia for its natural attractions and its distance. We reasoned that people would not have heard about Swarthmore, thus providing an opportunity for relaxation from College problems. How wrong we were in supposing that our hometown, "Swarthmore, Pennsylvania," would provoke no particular interest or comment! From the time we started our motor trip across America—not excluding the memorable journey aboard the now defunct *MARINE PHOENIX* (*Editor's note*: one of those extinct birds)—we have been answering the seemingly inevitable question, "Do you know John Doe who attended Swarthmore in 1928?"

Immediately after we landed in Australia we began to meet friends of Swarthmore friends. In Brisbane we got well acquainted with one of Bill Poole's Oxford classmates, now head of the department of French at Queens University. Of the dozens of Rhodes Scholars we have met since then, most of them seem to know Frank Aydelotte and a variety of other Swarthmoreans, while many of them have *AN ADVENTURE IN EDUCATION* (*Macmillan, 1941*) on their bookshelves.

In Sydney we had many enjoyable visits with Chrissie Seaman, widow of W. Laurie Seaman '15 and mother of Bruce and Laurie Jr., both now in college. We had tea with Constance Butler, sister-in-law of Prof. Harold March, and met many friends of Tom Brown '29 and Betty Strong '39, both of whom made distinguished records here during the war. Later we had a nice visit with Andy Simpson's sister-in-law, wife of the new First Secretary to the U. S. Embassy. One of the



Carl K. Dellmuth '31

highlights of our Canberra stay was the reading of the *HANSARD RECORD* (Australia's Congressional Record) in which Swarthmore College is eulogized by Senator Lamp for "introducing Australian football into America" and for "this genuine expression of international goodwill."

In Melbourne we saw three of the Australian officers who visited the campus during our wartime Allied Officer Week-ends, met a chap who won an Open Scholarship in 1935 but turned it down because Harvard offered twice the stipend, read a front page item about the S. S. Swarthmore Victory, and were coerced into delivering several speeches on Coeducation at Swarthmore. This is how we have managed *not* to get involved in College affairs!

All the letters from home ask our impressions of the country and people. Australia is slightly larger than the United States, although its population is no greater than that of the City of New York. About 65 per cent of the people live in six major cities, with the largest concentration in the southeast. The climate? Ideal — except for the winter months when the lack of central heating does bring woolen undies out of mothballs. Although winter sports are common in the Australian Alps, freezing temperatures are seldom recorded in the large cities. Outdoor tennis is played all year 'round and the beaches are

in use nine months of the year. Australians are definitely an outdoor people. They are a hospitable people, too, and in our experience they treat Americans like brothers.

Food is abundant but not much cheaper than American food, except in the case of meat and dairy products. Prime steaks never sell for more than 32c per pound. A nice five lb. leg of lamb costs about one dollar. Choice calves' liver goes begging at ten cents a pound. Milk is 11c per quart, butter 34c a pound and fine cheeses about 35c a pound. Our son, Terry, has gained 14 pounds in three months.

Australia, however, has economic problems, arising chiefly from her dependence on primary products as a source of wealth. "Australia rides on a sheep's back" is no mere cliché. She is guarding against a fall in world demand—and price—for wool and wheat by emphasizing population and industrial expansion. A member of the sterling block, Australia must resist for the present the tempting output of the dollar countries.

On the political front, the Labor Party is the dominant power, although a Liberal-Country Party coalition promises to provide stiff competition at next year's federal election. Prime Minister Chifley's government has passed thorough social legislation over conservative opposition. Most of the Labor Party's grief stems from powerful Communist union influence in several key industries. The result is absenteeism and slowed-down production. Despite this situation, it is difficult to picture Australia as a Communist nation.

From a personal standpoint it is impossible for us to restrain our enthusiasm. Australia simply has exceeded our fondest expectations. What we miss most are Swarthmore, our American friends and families and our washing machine. However, "Chester Road, Swarthmore" will soon again be our mailing address. We will return forever grateful to the person who invented sabbatical leaves, because our lives have been made infinitely richer with new and interesting experiences.

CARL K. DELLMUTH '31

NEWS FROM NEW YORK

In what bids to be its most active year, the New York Swarthmore Alumnae Club has been sponsoring parties, meetings, and dinners throughout the area from Connecticut to New Jersey.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of its President, Mrs. Betty Jones Barnard '20, Vice President Elsie Williams '33 and Secretary-Treasurer Helen Spencer '42, the Club is growing rapidly.

A tea held early in September for the incoming freshmen women from the area proved so successful that the Club plans another in 1949.

On December 4, 1948 Norris '19 and Betty Jones Barnard entertained a group of New Jersey Alumni at their home in Westfield, N. J. Attending were: Mr. & Mrs. Evan Beecher (Katharine White '37), Joseph Bender '39, Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Bishop '28 (Helen Robison '29), Mr. & Mrs. George Booth '27 (Elizabeth Bartleson '26), Mr. & Mrs. Lewis F. Buckman (Nella Arnold '24), Richard Chambers '48, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Decker '47, Mr. & Mrs. John S. Donal '26, Mr. & Mrs. Barton L. Jenks, Jr. '45 (Jane Reppert '44), John W. Kelly '45, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lewis '35 (Margaret Bill

'38), Mr. & Mrs. H. W. McDowell (Ruth Henderson '36), Mr. & Mrs. Harold Douglas Merrill, Jr. (Ruth Feely '38), John Schott (N), Ann Reppert, Mr. & Mrs. John Skelly (Ethel Means '20), Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thompson '26.

November 5th, Virginia Sites '40 had another group of New Jersey Alumni at her home in South Orange.

The same evening Charlotte Bunting Green '20 and Mr. Green of Ridgewood, N. J. entertained Doris English '40, Gladys Pell '20, and Ruth Ennis Sawyer '26.

A Westchester and Connecticut party given on November 6th by Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Brown '21 (Janet Young '21), and Mr. & Mrs. Payson G. Gates (Elizabeth Moffitt '28) at the Browns in Scarsdale brought out Peg Newell '45, Benjamin Burdsall '25, Ellen McKeon '37, Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Gilbert (Es White '27), Robert Derektor '43, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert C. Mode '24, Dr. & Mrs. Don Hamilton '29 (Julia Kehew '29), Robert King '44, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bell (Barbara Shaw '39), Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Packer (Katherine Mode '27), Mrs. Betty Brooks Corrigan '27, Mr. & Mrs.

J. C. Hill '35, (Ruth Mary Lewis '37), Mr. & Mrs. Charles Loeb '37.

The Walter E. Smiths '17 (Anna Miller '15), East Williston, L. I., had an open house for many of the Long Island Alumni. Those present were: Eliza K. Willets, '93, Mrs. Grace Stevenson Chapman '97, Mrs. Edward M. Lapham, Mrs. Caroline Jackson Hicks '92, Miss Marietta Hicks '97, Miss Grace Hicks, Mrs. Esther Hicks Emory '24, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur W. Post (Ethel Albertson '10), Lydia T. Hicks '25, Mrs. Anna Seaman Hicks '06, Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Seaman '10, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bell (Barbara Shaw '39), Mr. & Mrs. Leon A. Rushmore, Jr. '31 (Caroline Jackson '31), Mr. & Mrs. Curtis R. Henderson (Jean MacGregor '37), Mr. & Mrs. Edwin M. Bush '20 (Ida Meigs '20), Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Seaman '88 (Margaret Laurie '89), Gertrude W. Yarnall '24, Mrs. Meta Yarnall Fow '22, Phebe Seaman '19, Marion Hoag '20, Joseph Sickler '20, Mr. & Mrs. Alex T. MacNutt (Betty Huey '27), Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. White (Margaret Rusk '40), Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Frost '42 (Phyllis Lohr '44), Mr. & Mrs. Victor Streit (Mary Whit-

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS ON HOMECOMING

The following letter was sent to John Nason shortly after the extended visit of the Alumni Council to Swarthmore last fall.

My three-day, pre-Homecoming Day visit confirmed a growing conviction that education at Swarthmore is now doing a sound job of developing young minds to meet practical problems as well as providing its students with necessary facts and information.

This is the chief single conclusion that results from sitting in classes, participating in seminars, and talking informally with faculty and students. The all-round maturity of the average student seems to me definitely above that of my day. I see more evidence that the higher average intelligence has brought with it greater all-round, extra-

curricular abilities than to the contrary. (Excluding the small minority of my time who were expected to do little except play football, I think the present gang could probably outrassle us in general even if our ages were equal.)

In three separate classroom areas, I was impressed with teaching which definitely leads the students to evaluate textbook statements and theory—not merely to accept it. In each case, they were being taught how to use their minds as effective tools in approaching and solving problems. Since that seems to me the chief thing to be gained from a liberal arts education, I am naturally, very favorably impressed. . . . I am particularly enthusiastic about the application of these teaching methods as exemplified by Willis D. Weatherford in the labor economics area.

Having no children of my own to qualify me as an expert, I leave to others reaction and comment on the boy-meets-girl angles which appear so strongly in the minds of some alumni and alumnae. With allowances made for universal changes in attitude, it looks to me that now, as in ye olden time, the student body itself is tending, by the attitude of its leaders, to impose necessary restraints.

As one experienced in group discussion and group activities, I found the clarity of presentation and lack of non sequiturs throughout these three Swarthmore days a refreshing interlude from normal rounds.

If the Alumni Council is invited to make a similar visit next year, I shall certainly want to be there.

NORMAN G. SHIDLE '17

THIS IS PREXY'S SECRETARY

For twenty-two years students, members of the faculty, parents and scores of other callers have stood with a variety of feelings in the outer office before the keeper of the President.

For twenty-two years, although Frank Aydelotte and John Nason have occupied the President's chair at Swarthmore College, its presence has been jealously guarded by a slight but tremendously effective woman named Emma Abbett.

Emma Abbett is Secretary to the President. At Swarthmore that means receptionist, switchboard operator, stenographer, typist, social secretary, information center, keeper of official detail, guard of a thousand professional secrets and general factotum. Lately, with her new-fangled sound-scriber beside her, Emma looks like an engineer performing mysterious functions with buttons, microphones, turntables and other weird mechanical devices.

She is one of the unsung personalities of the campus. With great determination Emma daily plows through a prodigious mass of work. Probably the most fitting tribute to her extraordinary capacity is the complete competence with which she has met the exacting requirements of two very voluble presidents.

In one morning Emma may: (a) put in calls to the secretaries of three political figures in an effort to secure speakers for a Cooper Foundation series; (b) make ap-

pointments with the college architect and several faculty members to discuss plans for a new building; (c) type out arrangements for a research contract between the Office of Naval Research and a Swarthmore department; (d) call off a scheduled committee meeting; (e) type announcements to be made by John Nason in Collection; (f) prepare material for the next meeting of the Board of Managers; (g) search the basement archives (which she alone understands) for data needed in the settlement of a bequest.

Her biggest occupational hazard is the extremes in personalities and problems with which she must constantly deal. Never does one job reach completion without interruption. The volume of the President's correspondence (some 10,000 letters a year) keeps her on the job from 8:30 until well after five, in spite of the help she receives. Emma is often cleaning up details on weekends or holidays. In fact, whether by fate or by design, she lived for many years just behind the President's home, almost literally on twenty-four hour call for the irreplaceable Aydelotte.

There are few, if any, on the campus today who have so intimate and broad a knowledge of Swarthmore College. Having been on the inside of every important development at the college for more than two decades, she is a virtual walking archive for official Swarthmore. John Nason says, "No doubt it would have been possible for me to carry on my duties without Emma Abbett, but it would have been vastly more difficult. At the beginning there were a thousand and one things to be learned. Quietly and tactfully, Emma instructed me in all of them. She continues to surprise me with her accumulated knowledge of all that has happened at the college. I shudder sometimes to think of the wrong decisions from which she has saved me, not to mention the endless hours of investigation and inquiry.

"This account would not be complete without reference to her efficiency and discretion. No confi-



Emma Abbett

dential subject has ever 'leaked' from her office. No one could have been more loyal to the best interests of the college."

That is Emma Abbett, the keeper of presidents. What is Emma Abbett, the woman? Called "Miss Rabbit" (of the Brer' Rabbits) by her very closest friends, she is warm, gracious, talented and fiercely loyal. A natural combination of reticence and dignity establishes the tone of her relationships, be they professional or private. What too few people have enjoyed are her unguarded moments of rollicking good humor. They would discover that she and her life-long friend, Lydia Baer, one of our professors of German, are two of the most delightful people on the campus. Arsenic and old-lacy-like.

Emma and Lydia are almost an institution. Neither gives any visible indication of having overlooked many important things in life. Before 1927 Emma somehow managed to move in and out of eighteen different quarters on campus, including Wharton. Then came Lydia. Perhaps it was her influence and perhaps it was simply an alleviation of the housing problem—at any rate they moved in on each other, first in Worth's "gold-fish bowl", then in the garage apartment which the

Continued on Page 10



Emma Abbett and Lydia Baer
in their garden

SUMMER SUCCESS STORY

(The following is a digest of an article by William G. Avirett, Education Editor of the NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE about the Colby-Swarthmore Summer School of Languages. It appeared in that paper on August 22, 1948—Ed.)

Maine's first summer school for languages, sponsored jointly by Colby and Swarthmore Colleges, ended here last week with both students and faculty astonished by their progress in the seven-week session.

The combination of Yankee ingenuity and Quaker thoroughness, plus the bracing air of the Kennebec Valley, achieved an unusual concentration, apparently without the usual monotony.

To this observer . . . one more proof has been added to the strong case for language study in the summer. At any time, a student will make rapid progress in one course when free from the demands of other courses and from the distractions of campus life. In the case of foreign languages, this argument has particular force.

Certainly, if "concentration without monotony" was the aim, the concentration was attained. Courses were offered in French, German, Russian and Spanish, and a full year of college work, with thorough textbook study and supplementary instruction, was covered by each student in the seven weeks.

This was done by having classes meet three times each morning, plus appointments with faculty members for conferences and individual attention, plus time for practicing alone and for preparing classes. In the afternoons groups of two or three, in dungarees, shorts or sun suits, were scattered over the lawns or in the shade of the pines and elms.

Although conversation has not been overstressed, it did provide the link which held each day together. The language was used at the table, on the way to class, and in the casual give and take. "We even play tennis in French," one student said. Another device which proved useful was to have a Thursday holiday instead of Saturday. This mid-week break meant not only an initial



Language practice continued through the meal hours as shown by this table of German students breaking into a Bavarian folksong. Left to right: William D. Reeder (Union College), Long Island City, N. Y.; Prof. William Frey, Franklin and Marshall College; Marie G. Lukens (Bryn Mawr), Philadelphia, Pa.; and Patricia Ripley (Bryn Mawr), New York, N. Y.

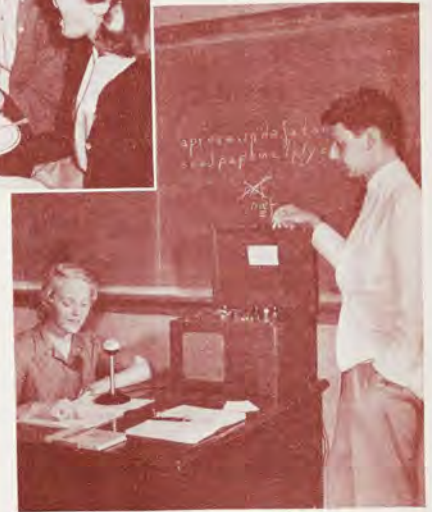
three-day period at full speed but also a Friday-and-Saturday renewal of energy.

The singing of folk songs has proved to be an effective device for teaching classes informally. At the closing outdoor "Gesangfest" of the German group, more than thirty old tunes—from "Lorelei" to "Krambambuli"—followed the compelling guitar strummed by J. William Frey, head of the German department of Franklin and Marshall College. Although the process of eating-drinking-dreaming a language is mandatory in some schools, the compact size of the summer school here made it possible to get results without insistent regulations.

Entertainments began with an International Night. There ensued a Spanish night with a two-man bull and notable toreador, a French night in a Montmartre bistro with apaches, a German night in a "gemeutlichen Weinstube," and a Russian night which produced "the most vigorous dancing ever seen in the State of Maine."

Students say that the school must be continued next summer but that its enrollment should not exceed 150.

Careful assignment of rooms in advance permitted students taking the same course to be together in the dormitories. The faculty also



Individual instruction with the Tape Recorder—Ann Leonard (Smith College) and Professor André Malécot (Haverford School).

lived in the dormitories with the students.

The faculty was selected not only for academic competence but also with an eye to skill in "outside activities" such as music.

"The informal relationship between student and teacher is very important," Professor McCoy (of Colby) said. "When students get to know an instructor outside of class, they loosen up inside and find all kinds of things to talk about."

Asked how he liked continuous teaching, one instructor replied: "They are really wonderful, these students . . . After twenty-six years of teaching, I tell you it is an inspiration."

The 108 students came from 20 states, Hawaii and China; they represented 46 colleges and several secondary schools. Yale and Swarthmore had the largest delegations, followed by Colby, Smith, Bryn Mawr and Ohio State. The average gain in weight during the seven weeks was eight pounds.

ASSURING SWARTHMORE'S FUTURE

Most colleges depend upon bequests as an important source of income. Recent estimates show that over half of the total gifts to a college normally come from this source. During the last twenty-five years at Swarthmore, however, bequests have accounted for \$681,312.32—approximately twelve per cent of the total increase in endowment since 1923.

Faced with these facts, the alumni, with the hearty approval of the Board of Managers, have established a permanent Committee on Bequests which will have three primary jobs. The first is to encourage our alumni or alumnae and friends to provide for Swarthmore College under trusts, by life insurance, or in their wills; the second, to develop new friends who might become interested in providing for the College; and the third, to discover existing bequests whose distribution is still under the control of trust officers.

The Chairman of this Committee is Claude C. Smith, Vice Chairman of the Board of Managers, and a member of the Class of 1914. Other members of this committee to which others are to be added are:

George B. Clothier, '26 Vice
Chairman
Raymond K. Denworth '11
Wayland H. Elsbree '21
Jess Halsted '18
A. Sidney Johnson, Jr. '27
Howard Cooper Johnson '96
Nicholas Kelley—Member of
Board of Managers
William Poole '30
Ellis B. Ridgway, Jr. '34
Theodore Widing '28
Charles Alfred Zinn '25

This Committee on Bequests is already in operation. It is enlisting many of our alumni or alumnae in various parts of the country as associate members, thereby establishing a nation-wide network of lawyers, trust officers, life insurance



Claude C. Smith '14

experts and interested friends. Each of these committee members and associates are being provided with a special booklet, "Assuring Swarthmore's Future", prepared for the particular work of this Committee. The activities of these members and associate members will be directed toward the accomplishment of the three purposes mentioned above. They will actively seek out existing funds, part or all of which might be directed to Swarthmore College. They will be conversant with the specific needs of the College so as to capitalize on any opportunities presented to them or of which they may learn.

This is a permanent and long-run operation, the results of which may not become very apparent for some time to come. However, the Committee is encouraged by the indications it has already received of plans for making provision for Swarthmore College in the trusts or wills of a number of our alumni or alumnae. Many of these prospective provisions or bequests are very generous and will help to assure the future financial stability of Swarthmore. The Committee is also encouraged

by the results of its initial conversations with the trust officers of some of our eastern banks and trust companies. It has reason to believe that in years ahead financial assistance from this source will increase.

While the responsibility for this effort is centralized on the Committee on Bequests and a large share of the work will be done by the associate members throughout the country, all our alumni and alumnae should give careful thought to their own estate programs in this regard and should be ready at all times to encourage others to make provision under trusts, by life insurance, or in their wills for Swarthmore College.

Members of the Committee and administrative officers of the College stand ready to give information and assistance to anyone desiring to make provision for the College.

Any provision made for Swarthmore College is a "perpetual act of faith". Accordingly, the Committee on Bequests, facing the New Year and other New Years to come for Swarthmore, has adopted the following statement of her President, John W. Nason:

"A college is a perpetual act of faith. For education is an adventure in the realm of the spirit. It is an exploration of the possibilities of human beings for a larger and better life. The Quaker founders of Swarthmore College had faith in their vision. Everyone who has contributed to Swarthmore's growth has had faith in its performance. Every student who enters the college has faith, whether he or she recognizes it or not, that the struggle and the adventure will be worth the effort. Every teacher lives in the faith that each student will catch his enthusiasm, will glimpse a wider vista of the possibilities of human life, and will go forth a better person."

MEMO ON ADMISSIONS

The following memorandum about a subject of considerable concern to alumni is reprinted here exactly as it went to the Board of Managers last fall.

Memorandum No. 12
November 15, 1948

To Members of the
Board of Managers:

It is very important for members of the Board to know the college, and these memoranda are one device for helping toward that end. Another method is to minimize so far as possible the routine business of the Board meetings in order to devote more time to discussion of broad issues of policy. Still a third way is to invite from time to time to Board or Executive Committee meetings members of the administration and faculty to discuss some feature of the college's operations. This third avenue was followed at the meeting of the Executive Committee on November 4. At the end of official business the two deans were invited in to present brief statements about various aspects of admissions and to answer questions from members of the Board.

DEAN COBBS emphasized the problems created by the number of women applicants. For the past three years these have run:

1946—1278 applicants
1947—1337 applicants
1948—1205 applicants

The reasons most frequently given by high school and preparatory school students for wishing to attend Swarthmore are:

1. They want a small coeducational college in the east.
2. They want as good an academic training as can be had in the best eastern institutions.
3. They are attracted to Swarthmore because it is Quaker, co-educational, and known for its high standards and fine graduates.

The work of "processing" each applicant has become extremely heavy, both because of the numbers and because each applicant must be treated individually. Here is a brief

summary of the steps followed in a normal case:

1. Answer request for application card and catalogue.
2. Acknowledgment of application.
3. Letter in the fall asking for further information.
4. Acknowledgment of answer both to applicant and to school.
5. Acknowledgment of all recommendations.
6. Interviews with as many applicants as possible, last year over 600.
7. Summary of each applicant who takes college board tests for the information of the committee.
8. Final notice to each applicant.
9. Miscellaneous correspondence with applicant.

Of the 1205 applicants last year 645 were seriously considered. These fell into three groups:

215...in top group of which 126 were accepted.
200...in middle group of which 23 were accepted.
195...in third group of which 4 were accepted.
35...late applications of which 1 was accepted.

645 154

Of the 154 accepted 104 entered Swarthmore this fall. Of 39 daughters of alumni and Friends, 29 were accepted and 19 entered college. The division of applicants into different groups is based on intellectual ability and promise, high school records, personality and character as determined through personal interviews and letters of reference, and diversity of extra-curricular activities and interests. In making its selection the committee further considers diversity of background and especially geographical spread.

DEAN HUNT discussed various criticisms frequently made of the college's policy on admissions, primarily as these criticisms applied to the selection of men.

The most frequently heard criticism is that too many sons of alumni

and Friends are rejected and too few well rounded men are admitted. The committee has attempted to admit on a noncompetitive basis all sons of Friends and alumni who seem to have a reasonable chance of graduation. Mistakes naturally occur, but to carry out this policy without any mistakes would require superhuman judgment. A study was made of the 120 sons of alumni and Friends admitted from 1944-47. Ten of these graduated in June; 25 are in college with a B-C average, 34 are doing work of the lower graduation average, while 14 have records definitely below standard and must improve their work markedly if they are to graduate. Of the number who have left Swarthmore, 7 were in good standing and left voluntarily for more specialized professional training; 7 left with a minimum average, 7 with a lower than graduation average; 2 dropped out with failing work before any grades were recorded, and 14 were dropped by the Committee on Records for unsatisfactory work. Of the 120, 83 or 69% did or are doing satisfactory work; 37 or 31% did or are doing unsatisfactory work.

As to the extra-curricular records, the committee found that a somewhat smaller proportion of these men participated in athletics, and that fewer were active in other aspects of campus life.

It is obvious that the admissions policy must be geared to the academic standards of the college. It is no use admitting students who have to be dropped for poor work, and it is not a healthy experience for a student to struggle so hard to maintain a minimum record that he has not time for a normal extra-curricular life.

The question then arises as to whether Swarthmore standards are too high. Our standards are largely the resultant of similar standards in other colleges, of the demands of professional schools for achievement, and of severer competition for places in college. If we compare the College Board scores made by our entering freshmen with those made by

(Continued on Next Page)

WRESTLERS OFF TO GOOD START

by Phil Swayne '52

Equipped with a new coach and a new plastic mat cover, Swarthmore's wrestling team is off to a flying start this season. The first match of 1949, against P.M.C., produced a 33-2 triumph.

Coach Bob Bach, who recently replaced Ben Kennedy as head of the Garnet wrestlers, comes to Swarthmore from Dartmouth. An outstanding wrestler in high school and college, Bach received his coaching experience under unusual circumstances. While he was a member of the Dartmouth team in 1947, the coach of the squad took his departure, leaving the Big Green without a mentor. Bob Bach took over and did a splendid job. Swarthmore took notice, and when Ben Kennedy left, Bach was named as his successor.

Veteran and novice grapplers alike have learned much from Bach since his advent to Swarthmore. Of the eight varsity regulars, three have never wrestled before: all three gave good accounts of themselves in the opening match and are showing constant improvement. The newcomers are Ralph Cheyney (128 lbs.) of Media, Pa.; Phil Brickner (175 lbs.) of New York; and Evans Burn (heavyweight) of Wallingford, Pa., son of Mary Harvey Burn '16.



Standing, l. to r., P. Brown, Carrick, Craver, Brickner, Hill, T. Brown, Burn, Sutton, Ruhl. 2nd Row, Battin, Shaffner, Cheyney, Ramsey. Bottom Row, Spangler (mgr.), Sumner, Harrington, Fusaro (capt.), Heberle, Swayne, Bach (coach).

The more experienced wrestlers, Capt. Ben Fusaro (136 lbs.) of Philadelphia; Ken Ruhl (165 lbs.) of Northfield, Mass.; Bob Shaffner (145 lbs.), son of Elizabeth Jackson Shaffner '13, of Birmingham, Mich.; Phil Swayne (155 lbs.), son of Norman W. '08 and Amelia Werner Swayne '14, of Newtown, Pa.; and Robb Taylor (121 lbs.) of Towson, Md., were all impressive against their P.M.C. opponents.

The junior varsity team is fast

getting into shape and feature such talent as Avery Harrington, son of Avery Draper Harrington '22, of Drexel Hill, Pa.; Bob Brown, son of Herbert Brown '16, of Drexel Hill, Pa.; Ike Battin, son of Isaac L. '25 and Marjorie Onderdonk Battin '23, of Madison, N. J.; Jeff Griest, son of Frederic E. Griest '04, of Flora Dale, Pa.; Dave Ramsey, son of Elizabeth Burton Ramsey '09, of Philadelphia; and Tyner Brown, son of Marian Simons Brown '15, of Swarthmore.

MEMO ON ADMISSIONS—Continued from Page 8

freshmen entering Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Amherst, Wesleyan, Williams, we find that we are roughly in the middle of the group.

If we decide arbitrarily to lower the standard, then we run into difficulties with the professional schools. Our pre-medicals will not be accepted by medical schools, our engineers cannot enter MIT or Cal Tech graduate schools, the lawyers cannot go to the better law schools. In the natural sciences, the chemists and physicists must take the national tests which quickly indicate when a college is falling below a professional level.

It is sometimes suggested that our guidance facilities are inadequate. Each underclassman has a faculty adviser. The deans report to the ad-

viser when a student is in difficulty and frequently add their own advice. Athletic teams have their own advisers and are informed whenever a member of the squad is in difficulty. There are student advisers who are proctors in the dormitory and who are informed of students needing help. Furthermore there is psychiatric counseling.

As to the criticism that there are not enough well-rounded men, Dean Hunt gave an analysis of the freshman boys which showed the variety of their achievements. He stated that activities on the campus are flourishing, and that all athletic teams are winning their share of victories except for football.

He then spoke of the competition among institutions for the well-

rounded men. After letters of acceptance were sent out last May, a number of men went to competing colleges, in many instances because they were offered larger scholarships. The admissions committee had investigated the financial resources of all scholarship applicants, and where the family income seemed sufficient, the scholarships were not granted; but in many cases the same applicants went elsewhere on large scholarships. This loss, however, Dean Hunt felt the college should be prepared to accept, though he stated clearly that if present college costs remain as they are, scholarship aid will have to be substantially increased for those individuals really needing assistance.

JOHN W. NASON.

Says Frank Aydelotte

I have known Emma Abbett and counted her as a friend for thirty years. I first met her in Washington in 1918. I was then a professor of English at M.I.T. on leave to the War Department to direct a course on the Issues of the War, which was first given to soldiers training for technical services and later in all colleges and universities in the country which maintained units of the S.A.T.C. The secretarial work in my office (especially my own work) was difficult and exacting, and it was not until Emma Abbett was assigned to me that I realized that my secretarial problem was solved.

In 1918 I began also to act as American Secretary for the Rhodes Scholarships, which had been interrupted during the war and were now to be revived. The first task was the administration of "Responsions"—an elementary examination in Latin and Greek then required of all candidates and given in various centers all over the country. Emma took all this in her stride, although it meant that work was going on in my office on many of these hot summer days in Washington until eleven o'clock at night. When I returned to M.I.T. in 1919 I persuaded Emma Abbett to go with me as my secretary, and there for the next two or three years, we worked out together the plans for the administration of the American Rhodes Scholarships.

When I went to Swarthmore as president in 1921 I think I should have been compelled to give up the Rhodes Scholarships if Emma had not been willing to go with me to take charge of the Rhodes Scholarship office. This she ran with her usual intelligence and efficiency until a few years later I moved her across the hall to the President's

office, where she has been ever since. She had made herself so important to the orderly administration of Swarthmore College that when I moved to Princeton in 1940 there could be no question of taking her along. That would have been black treason. I was too much interested in the success of the new president of Swarthmore even to suggest it. Meanwhile I got hold of Elsa Jenkins for the Rhodes Scholarship office, so that John Nason and I were both happy.

Any man in my walk of life is very dependent upon his secretaries. For precisely that reason it has always seemed to me that a secretarial career offers a wonderful opportunity to do worthwhile work in the world, provided the individual in question has the needed skill and intelligence and provided, also, that she has the required character, initiative and sense of responsibility.

All this adds up to the statement that she must be a person who thinks for herself. Emma Abbett does this. Every once in a while, when I signed my letters at the end of the afternoon and left the office, I would find on my return the next morning some letter duly signed but not mailed, with a brief note from Emma attached, to the effect that she thought I might like to think this particular letter over a little before I sent it.

This is just one illustration of the qualities which have enabled Emma Abbett to take an important part in the development of the Rhodes Scholarships and of Swarthmore College. I am delighted that her contribution is now to be recognized in *The Garnet Letter* and delighted, also, to have this opportunity of recording, however inadequately, my own gratitude to her for her assistance in my work.

PREXY'S SECRETARY

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college built for them and later into their own home in Wallingford.

Carrying a heavy schedule of work, entertainment, study and travel they outgrew their Swarthmore apartment in 1937. Chiefly responsible was the appearance of Witzernpitzel von Brillig, the dachshund with a personality. Three personalities plus an overflow of Lydia's books proved too formidable for a garage apartment. Reasoning, then, that since nine out of ten business men began on a shoestring they

started building the house in Wallingford. They must have had a pair of shoestrings though, for they not only completed the house but also managed to finance a summer study trip to Europe for Lydia in 1938.

In her own home Emma soon extended her talents. Starting in a handicraft class given one winter by Mrs. Elmore, she has now become a skilled craftsman of silver jewelry. No longer an artisan, she designs and makes beautiful rings, earrings and pins and with characteristic selfishness gives most of them away.

Her interest in arts and crafts led her this fall to become one of the chief organizers of the new Community Arts Center recently started on Rogers Lane in Wallingford. Much to her own surprise, she is now its recording secretary and a member of the board of directors.

In an apparently never-ending stream of resourcefulness, the Abbett-Baer corporation recently joined four other friends and have been expanding "Nanticoke", a summer place on the Indian River near Rehoboth, Delaware. For the past two years many of their weekends have been spent hammering this latest acquisition into shape. The sight of the President's sedate secretary in slacks crawling around a scaffolding would no doubt startle several generations of Swarthmoreans.

Emma Abbett today demonstrates more vitality and enthusiasm than many people half her age. Her friends know no finer person, and her contribution to Swarthmore College is such that only two men can fully measure its importance.

NEW FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCED

The list of fellowships available for Swarthmore graduates received a handsome addition recently. On December 29, President Nason announced that the Catherwood Foundation of Philadelphia has granted Swarthmore a \$1,000 Fellowship to be awarded annually to "an outstanding student, man or woman, in the senior class who proposes to go on to graduate or professional schools."

The new Catherwood Fellowship now becomes the largest graduate award which the college has power to bestow. Its recipients must meet the same qualifications required of Rhodes Scholars.

News from New York

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ford '39), Mr. & Mrs. J. Arnold DeVeer (Margaret Hopkins '25).

The Club combined tea with its business meeting on January 15th at the New Weston Hotel. Jean Ferriss '42 had charge of the tea and Miss Gertrude Smith of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Foundation, showed colored slides of the campus. Thirty-five alumnae were present.