

MEMORIES OF DELAWARE

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DR. PURNELL wrote to me in the summer of 1885 to say there was a good opening in Delaware College, and I came on here and met Mr. Williamson. Mr. Williamson told me I had better go down to Dover. I went down to Dover and met Manlove Hayes. I was elected Professor of Mathematics in 1885. Hayes was a student of the Academy when the school was first built. He laid the first brick of the College, as a lad, and lived to be ninety years of age.

When Dr. Purnell resigned Dr. Caldwell was elected President. Dr. Caldwell was very cranky and queer, but quite a learned man. Dr. Raub succeeded him.

The first year I was here, we had forty students—about thirty-four boys and six girls. Only eighteen students the next year, and the graduating class after 1886 dwindled to two.

At this time there was a great deal of friction between the Trustees and the members of the Board. Some of them wanted the College moved to Dover. Later on some of the members wanted the school moved to Wilmington. This fight finally subsided in 1910.

From 1885 to 1889, the total income was \$4,980 per year. The College had to live on this income supplemented by the meager amount received as tuition from the students.

The maximum income from student fees of the earliest period was \$400, but this in one year dropped off

* EDITORIAL NOTE: Dr. Harter was asked to tell of some of the things which stand out in his long memory of Delaware. For forty-nine years he has been a professor here, and for eighteen years he was president, thus achieving records in both of these relations to our University.

to \$175. The fees were very low as every student had a scholarship. The cost of a student was very low at this period—about \$200 per year. One student told me that his average expense while at the College was about \$125. This student did some outside work for which he received 10c an hour at the Experiment Station.

This was under the first Morrill fund. In 1888 the second Morrill act came in and established the Experiment Station. The establishment of the Experiment Station probably saved the College, for with these additional Federal funds the College was able to pay full professors up to \$1800 whereas before they had received not more than \$1000. The Federal aid therefore gave us a great impetus. In this period, the State was making no contribution to the expenses of the College. The first State appropriation came when a bill was passed voting \$5000 to Delaware College. As is known, this sum has been generously increased in recent years.

When I came here, the College had three terms of about three months each, including vacations, but this proved very difficult to administer because too much of the time was occupied with examinations rather than with work on the actual subjects. This was changed to two terms—this being the first important change which I insisted upon. The next major move was the 5½ day week, that is, Saturday classes.

The standard of the amount of work required for entrance was pretty low at that time because of the lack of preparatory schools, but only a few were allowed to graduate, the faculty being very careful about that. There was only one High School at that time; namely, in Wilmington (1885). It was about 1897 when the faculty finally succeeded in establishing entrance examinations, but not until 1904 that this plan was fully established. The organization of the college and preparatory schools of the Middle States and Maryland undertook to prescribe a minimum amount of preparation for entrance to college and this was a great help to the faculty at Delaware.

The difficulty about raising the entrance requirements lay in the necessity of getting more students at this time. In 1885 there were but about 40 boys and 5 girls and the next year this number fell to 17 boys at the beginning of the year and to 13 at its close. The girls were dropped at this time (1885). This did not take effect until 1886, allowing them to finish. Some of the falling off in the number of students was attributed to this move.

Co-education was becoming very unpopular when I first came to Delaware. Principally because there were not proper facilities for housing both boys and girls—there being but one building at that time. There was no public sentiment against co-education but there was opposition on the part of some of the men students.

The sentiment in favor of a college for girls did not disappear and those who had favored co-education eagerly adopted the suggestion of a coordinated institution when this was broached in 1912. The outcome of this new interest was our present Women's College.

The struggle to raise the academic standard at Delaware was a hard one and continued through many years. Not until about 1908 were the departments clearly distinguished from each other and professors given one, or at the most, two subjects. Dr. Sypherd was probably the first professor called to a specific subject. The number of departments continued to develop until the founding of the department of Philosophy in 1922 which brought the number up to twenty-three.

In 1899 the College really began to expand and my class grew so large that I had to ask for an assistant. We had over one hundred in 1899. We got the Adams Fund in 1888 and the faculty was increased. There were five professors including the President. These were as follows: Caldwell, English and Moral Philosophy; Wolfe, Chemistry and Mineralogy; Benton, Ancient Languages; Chester, Physics, Botany, etc. (Chester was a very retiring man and did not get along well with the students); Harter, Mathematics and Modern Languages (the latter for only one year). In 1888 Brown was added as Pro-

fessor of Civil Engineering, but before the year expired Professor Robinson was called to this post. A very able man.

In 1885 the major emphasis was upon Arts and Science courses. The Agricultural course was only of the type of a major; there were few facilities for teaching and very few students. Prof. Chester gave only part of his time to this subject among his many other subjects in the field of Sciences.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT

The work in this field was first begun in 1899, Lieut. George Leroy Brown being the first regular instructor. Before this time there had been some drilling under auspices of some one of the professors. Some complaints had been made from the State against the military training, one mother wrote objecting to the type of uniform worn, saying that her son was taking cold because the pants to his uniform were not lined. Commander Brown was able to create much more interest in this work. The students appeared to like it. The Military department has now increased until we have three officers and two sergeants from the regular army—this has been so for two administrations.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

In 1885 along with his other courses Professor Chester was given the added duties of directing what work was done in engineering, which was very little. In 1890 Professor F. H. Robinson was called. He was a trained civil engineer and from this date the real career of the engineering school was started. The next year Professor Weihe was added as Professor of Mechanical Engineering and the Engineering School was off on its career.

There were some able men in the faculty during the early years of Delaware. Professor Chester was a pioneer in Bacteriology in this country. He wrote several books. All of his work was conducted in our experimental sta-

tion. Then there was Kirkwood, the famous astronomer. A paper published in 1840 or 1850 described his telescope. Professor Wolfe came to us from Heidelberg. At this time he was less than twenty-one years of age. Dr. Wolfe did all of the analyzing of the body of a Dover woman who died from eating poisoned candy sent to her by her husband who was in California. Dr. Wolfe testified to the finding of arsenic in the candy. One of the lawyers asked Dr. Wolfe in what quantities did he find arsenic. "Large lumps," answered Dr. Wolfe. "Well, do you mean as large as my head," asked the lawyer. "Just as large," answered Dr. Wolfe, "but not so thick."

In 1894 I was appointed librarian for which extra service (I was also secretary of the faculty) I received an extra \$250 per year. We had no regular funds for the purchase of books. However, at this time, the literary societies had very good libraries. I went to President Raub and asked him to buy some books for the boys as I found I had nothing to offer them except Government reports and English Encyclopedias. He asked me to draw up a list of books in English and History, which I did and a fund of \$1000 was put at my disposal for this purpose. These books were stored in the offices of the President (the office was also used as Dr. Raub's recitation room). Some of the books were scattered in the recitation rooms of the various professors. When I became President, I asked Vallandigham to superintend the purchase of books and was able to find \$1000 for him at that time. The books were then gathered together in the large room at the north end of the upper floor of Recitation Hall. No one was in charge and the boys simply helped themselves to the books. Professor Bishop was the first one appointed to act specifically as librarian. He was given a stipend of \$100 to look after the books. About 1908 the books were moved to Purnell hall. After about two

NOTE: When Dr. Harter first came to the College, there was only one building. When he resigned, there were five. The property consisted of 400 feet frontage back to the railroad. The farm was purchased in 1906 while he was President.

years, the books were again moved to Johnson's corner—the southeast corner of South College Avenue and Main Street. They remained there until the new library was built in 1924. Miss Dorothy Hawkins was the first trained librarian who was put in charge of our collection of books. When I became librarian there were about 2000 or 3000, a great many of which were Government reports. Among the books was Marshall's "Life of Washington." This book was borrowed from the Library and never returned. The Library was kept open three hours on Thursday afternoons.

The development of the University idea is contemporaneous with the administration of Dr. Hullihen. This again had a struggle in its turn, but now with four separate schools we may feel that the University status is finally established, particularly in view of the fact that some of the departments such as Home Economics, Teacher Training, and Physical Education have a distinct vocational program.