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"Scientia est mentis est."

GIFT OF
Blue Men
1933
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FOREWORD

This volume of the Blue Hen is being issued in the one hundredth year of the founding of the University of Delaware. Although no attempt has been made to follow a formal anniversary theme, we have in our dedication, historical sketches, and other notes referred to the early days in the college history.

Our principal endeavor has been to incorporate in print and pictures the spirit of the Delaware Campus.

If, in the present, this volume should prove a pleasant epitomization of your collegiate activities; and, in the future, it should recall memories of your undergraduate days at Delaware, we shall be rewarded for our labors.
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To that indomitable spirit of mankind to strive unceasingly toward an ideal, as it is reflected in the growth of the University of Delaware from its humble origin in 1833 to its present development in 1933, we, the classes of 1933 and 1934, dedicate this volume of the Blue Hen.
"Bear on her emblem,
So fearless and free,
Forever and ever,
The Blue and Gold shall be."
The famous old lindens of "Linden Avenue" have stood guard over Delaware College since the days of its infancy. And in May of next year they will witness the hundredth anniversary celebration of their charge.

This will not be the first celebration these majestic trees have witnessed. In 1869 a public banquet was spread beneath their shade in joint celebration of the reopening of the College after its closing in 1850 and of the hundredth anniversary of Newark Academy.

Delaware is fortunate in having these stately European Lindens, probably the finest of their kind on any academic campus in the United States. Great honor is due to H. Rodney Sharp, who has contributed to the preservation of these trees so that they might be saved to reign like mighty monarchs of beauty over the campus during the generations to come.
OLD College embodies the heart and soul of undergraduate life at Delaware. Constructed in 1833-34 from funds made available by the State Legislature charter in 1833, it remained the sole college building until after 1870. The "Oratory", as it was then called, was dormitory, refectory, and recitation hall combined, as well as public lecture hall and meeting place.

In 1916 Old College was completely renovated. The architects first unroofed the building and then removed the whole interior, so that little remained except the outer walls. The interior was then remodeled as we know it now with the "commons", student activities room, lounge, and faculty rooms. The exterior of the building was altered only in minor details. The cupola, which had been a familiar part of the old building, was removed, the old wooden steps were replaced by a granite stairway, and the old Doric pillars were replaced by new ones.

On the south wall beneath the main portico may still be seen the initials of past graduates laboriously carved in the bricks nearly a century ago.
PURNELL HALL, built as a private home and purchased from the Evans family, has served a varied existence in the services of the University. It has been used successively as a Chapter House for the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, as a home for the Y. M. C. A., as a General Library, and is used now as the offices of the departments of English and History. During 1917 and 1918 when the University was turned into a veritable "shop of war", Purnell Hall served as the headquarters of the Local Draft Board for New Castle County.

Purnell Hall was named for William Henry Purnell, a graduate of the class of 1846 and president of the College from 1870 to 1885. Doctor Purnell came to the presidency of the College from an active public and military life. He had gained great renown as Colonel of the Purnell Legion which he organized early in the Civil War.
OUR fine University library of today goes back in origin to the special libraries of the Athenaean and Delta Phi literary societies. These two rival societies became very active shortly after the reopening of the College in 1870. They held a place of great importance in the College and one hardly to be understood by the students of today. One of the main points of their friendly but earnest rivalry was that of their age; it is safe to say, however, that they were founded very close together during the year 1835. Besides their literary and forensic exercises, these societies developed individual libraries. They were not large, probably less than 1500 volumes each, but they were mainly well selected. For many years, these libraries provided the only general reading facilities for the students.

In 1896 an appropriation was made for a General Library. The libraries of the Athenaean and Delta Phi, together with new books which were purchased, were housed and catalogued on the second floor of Recitation Hall. Not long after this they were transferred to the top floor of the same building. From here we trace them to Purnell Hall, and then to an old building on the corner of Main Street and South College Avenue. Here they were housed until the erection of the present Delaware Memorial Library in 1924 at the end of "the Green".
In the early days of the history of the College, student and public assemblies were held in a large room in the "Oratory", as Old College was then called. It was here that for several years the students were required to attend morning prayers at half-past six. At the end of their three-year course this large room, bare and unadorned except for the decorations put up by the students in honor of their literary societies, served as a commencement hall. The public used the hall for lectures, entertainments, church meetings, and political rallies.

With the increased enrollment in the student body, it became necessary to have a more adequate assembly room. This need was met by the inclusion of an auditorium in Wolf Hall when it was constructed in 1917.

In 1929, Mitchell Hall was erected and given to the University by an alumnus, H. Rodney Sharp. This, the most modern of the college buildings, provides a perfect assembly hall. It includes complete stage facilities, lighting control system, and the finest collegiate organ in the country, the gift of Pierre S. DuPont.
"It is a task indeed to pick out of these all-too-short four years of undergraduate life at Delaware . . . years brimful of pleasurable incidents, long hours of study . . . some one thing or some one series of things which stands out above all the rest. Strong is the memory of laboratory, machine shop, class room, sports, and even studying now and then. Years will never erase these memories. But there is just one memory that stands out above all the rest, and that is a memory of a picture rather than of a happening or a habit. It is the picture of the wonderful old campus in the spring with its well trimmed lawn framed with those stately old lindens and young budding maples. Remember the luxury of the long, lazy twilights out under those glorious trees, when we gazed for hours at a time across the top of a stiffly posed book and never turned a page. We tried to study, it's true, but the trees wouldn't let us; they brought wonderful dreams of life to us. Those blessed old trees! Save 'em always!" — Adapted from a letter by James Gilpin Lewis, Class of 1912.

(The Editors acknowledge their indebtedness to Edward N. Vallandigham's "Fifty Years of Delaware College" from which much of the information for the foregoing sketches was obtained.)
"May her glories never grow old!"