

ALBERT NEWTON RAUB AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF DELAWARE COLLEGE, 1888-1896

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I

Delaware College is located at Newark, a quiet and cultured town in the north-western part of Delaware, and within two miles of either Maryland or Pennsylvania.

So, in the catalogue for 1888, began the "General Remarks" on the "Location of the College." Delaware College had then been located at Newark for somewhat more than a half century; just fifty-five years had passed since it had been chartered by the General Assembly as Newark College in 1833. And long before the college had been founded, the "quiet and cultured town" of Newark had sheltered an academy of colonial origin, of Presbyterian patronage, and of Penn chartering.

The early years of the college witnessed more changes in its fortunes than in its name. The latter became fixed for the century as Delaware College in 1843.¹ The fortunes of the college rose in the 1840's, the early "golden era,"² but declined in the '50's, until in 1859 the college was closed—for a brief period it was thought, but the Civil War extended the time.

The academy, which had been joined to the college, was now separated and was continued, while stately Old College Hall, presiding over her lindens-in-waiting, was put to such varied uses as a ladies' seminary and a house of worship.³ Events were taking place in Washington, however, which would end her flirting and

* An address delivered in Mitchell Hall, March 16, 1948, as part of the exercises held in honor of Dr. Raub on that evening. The address was preceded by the formal presentation to the university, by Mrs. Charles B. Evans, of a fund for the purchase of books for the library, in memory of her father; and was followed by a reception in Warner Hall for the three surviving daughters of Dr. Raub, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Joseph H. Hossinger, and Mrs. Jennie R. Frazer. Dr. Munroe is a member of the History Department.

¹ George H. Ryden, "The Founding of the University of Delaware and Its First President, Dr. E. W. Gilbert," *Delaware Notes* (Newark), VIII (1934), 36.

² *A Brief History of the University of Delaware* (Newark, 1940), 16.

³ Edward N. Vallandigham, *Fifty Years of Delaware College, 1870-1920* (Newark [1920]), 14-15.

restore her to her duty. A Vermont merchant, Justin Morrill, who had made himself first a wealthy man and then a Representative in Congress, had become chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and from that post had fathered a bill to promote agricultural education by the free gift to the states of public lands, totaling approximately the area of Maryland. When Congress passed this bill Buchanan vetoed it, but the 1860 election brought Lincoln to the White House and, in 1862, passage of the Land-Grant Act. Through it, 90,000 acres of land came to Delaware if this state would but designate as its grantee a college teaching "such branches of learning as are related to the agricultural and mechanic arts," as well as military training, but not "excluding other scientific and classical studies"—all to the end of promoting "the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."⁴

Delaware was slow to take advantage of the ninety thousand acres which were hers by this act, but in 1867 the General Assembly declared its beneficiary of this grant to be Delaware College, the Board of Trustees having given the state a partial share in its trust.⁵

Finally, in 1870, under the presidency of William Henry Purnell, an alumnus of the college, a lawyer and a soldier, Old College once more resumed the life for which she had been planned.

II

The inhabitants [said the 1888 catalogue of the people of Newark] are most exemplary for intelligence and morality. The surrounding country is fertile and beautiful, and has been brought by judicious culture, to a very high state of improvement. The climate is remarkably mild and gentle.

Into this environment, in 1886, arrived Albert Newton Raub, as principal of the academy, a post for which he had been recommended by a friend from Pennsylvania, Justin Pié, who had recently settled in this town.⁶ With him to Newark Raub brought a fresh breath of the educational ferment of the postbellum nation.

⁴ *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIII (New York, 1934), 198-199; Thomas Donaldson, *The Public Domain* (Washington, 1884), 223-231; Benjamin H. Hibbard, *A History of the Public Land Policies* (New York, 1924), 328-335; John D. Hicks, *The Federal Union* (Boston, 1937), 662.

⁵ Vallandigham, *Fifty Years*, 17.

⁶ Conversation with Mrs. Mary Evans, Mrs. Laura Hossinger, and Mrs. Jennie Frazer, daughters of Dr. Raub, March 1948.

This was the period when the antediluvian colleges which had survived the Civil War were being remodeled, when new colleges were being established, when technological instruction was being introduced and united intramurally with the liberal tradition, when universities were allying with state public school systems, when sectarian controls were failing, when scholars in numbers were arising who sought to be known "not to millions of people, but to five or six students of the Latin dative case, . . . or of fossil beetles, or of meteorites, or of starfish." White at Cornell, Eliot at Harvard, Harper at Chicago, Gilman at Hopkins, and the founders of private institutions such as Lehigh, Vanderbilt, and Bryn Mawr, and public institutions like Illinois, California, Minnesota, and Kansas, were symptomatic of the new order of things educational.⁷

Albert Raub, whose middle name, Newton, may have been a curious foreshadowing of the milieu in which he moved, was born in Leesburg, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1840. He was graduated with the first class, that of 1859, from the normal school at Millersville, near his birthplace. His teaching career subsequently took him to posts in the public schools of several Pennsylvania communities, where he served as superintendent on several occasions. For a time he taught English at the Kutztown Normal School, and later, while serving as superintendent at Lock Haven, he organized and became the first head of the normal school there. Meanwhile, he had launched into an extensive career as a lecturer and as a writer and editor. In 1864, when he was but three years beyond his majority he had published two spelling books, and in the following years he published more than a score of arithmetics, grammars, readers, and books on school management. He edited two educational periodicals, of which one, the weekly *Educational News*, gained a wide circulation. To handle his publications, he founded a firm called Raub and Company, with its principal office in Philadelphia. As his teaching, lecturing, and writing enlarged his reputation, the degrees of Master of Science, Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Laws were conferred upon him by Millersville, Princeton, Lafayette, and Ursinus respectively.⁸

⁷ Allan Nevins, *The Emergence of Modern America, 1865-1878* (New York, 1927), 264-289; Arthur M. Schlesinger, *The Rise of the City, 1878-1898* (New York, 1933), 202-222.

⁸ H. Clay Reed, ed., *Delaware, a History of the First State* (3 vols., New York, 1947), III, 540-542; Lancaster *Inquirer*, Feb. 27, 1904.

As principal of the Academy of Newark, he quickly won favorable notice. There was some agitation during his first year here for the establishment of a normal school to train teachers for Delaware. Immediately one Newarker thought of Raub. "We have the right man for the right place," wrote George G. Evans, "a man that has made his mark at our institute, and under whose direction we have every assurance that a normal department for our public schools must be a success."⁹

For the moment, nothing came of Evans' proposal, but the high regard which he and others had for Dr. Raub persisted and grew as they watched him at work. It was only natural, then, that their thoughts turned to him as a remedy for the sad state into which the college was falling.

After the college's reopening in 1870 under Dr. Purnell, it had enjoyed a fairly vigorous life, but its failure to attract more than fifty-odd students in any one year, quarrels over the advisability of coeducation, which had been introduced by Purnell in 1872, and its ever precarious financial condition disappointed the hopes of some of its friends. In 1885, Purnell resigned the presidency which he had filled for fifteen years, but retained his place on the Board of Trustees. Coeducation was then abandoned, and an elderly Methodist minister, the Reverend John H. Caldwell, was chosen as the new president. The resulting administration was the most unfortunate in the modern history of Delaware College.¹⁰

In the words of the mild-spoken professor of mathematics, Dr. George Abram Harter, Dr. Caldwell was "cranky and queer," though "very learned."¹¹ He seems to have been too old to adjust himself to his new post, and he was soon at odds with his faculty, while the very life of the college was threatened by a disastrous falling off in attendance. Forty-one students were in college when Caldwell took office in 1885, while but sixteen remained at the end of his administration in 1888.¹²

A year earlier the Trustees were so disturbed by the "want of harmony . . . between the President and the Professors" that they demanded the resignation of the entire staff, the president

⁹ George G. Evans to William F. Smalley, Newark, March 3, 1887, George G. Evans Papers (Memorial Library, University of Delaware), 4111.

¹⁰ Vollandighan, *Fifty Years*, 39-41.

¹¹ George A. Harter, "Memories of Delaware," *Delaware Notes*, VIII, 107.

¹² Vollandighan, *Fifty Years*, 40-42.

included, and appointed a committee on reorganization.¹³ A day after this action occurred, the Alumni Association also appointed a committee to make suggestions "for the well-being and increased efficiency of their Alma Mater." This committee soon reported "that the best interests of the College would be subserved by the re-appointment of Professor George A. Harter to the chair of Modern Languages and Mathematics" (Dr. Sypherd has enjoyed calling such an inclusive chair a "settee"), and by the election of Dr. A. N. Raub, principal of Newark Academy, to the college presidency.¹⁴ The Trustees, however, postponed action on the resignations until spring, urging, as J. C. Stockley moved, "that the President and Professors pledge themselves that they will use all efforts to secure students for the College."¹⁵

But the attendance continued to diminish, and when the Board met again, in March, 1888, President Caldwell forestalled trustee action by announcing he was determined to leave the college in order to accept the pastorate of a church in Frederica. While testimony was given to Caldwell's "beautiful and unblemished character as a Christian gentleman," the Board elected its president, Lewis P. Bush, president of the college *pro tempore*, and set about to find a successor to Caldwell.¹⁶

The Board's natural desire to secure an able administrator was furthered by the knowledge that new financial assistance was on the way. At this low point of our collegiate fortunes, the federal government had again, as in the dormant decade of the '60's, provided encouragement for a collegiate renaissance. This encouragement was an act of Congress passed March 2, 1887, appropriating fifteen thousand dollars annually to each state for the establishment of an agricultural experiment station in conjunction with the state agricultural college. The General Assembly quickly moved to accept this aid (which did not come until 1888), while the Trustees on February 21, 1888, established the experiment station and on May 8 elected Dr. George D. Purinton, of Missouri, its first director and voted construction of a station laboratory.¹⁷

¹³ Entry of June 14, 1887, Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Delaware College, MS. (Memorial Library, University of Delaware), II, 161-163.

¹⁴ Report of committee of Alumni Association, June 22, 1887, Evans Papers, 4266.

¹⁵ Board Minutes, July 7, 1887, II, 164-165.

¹⁶ Board Minutes, March 27 and May 8, 1888, II, 169-170, 175.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, June 14, 1887, II, 156; Feb. 21, 1888, II, 167; May 8, 1888, II, 174-175.

At the time of the director's election, a committee of six trustees was also appointed to select a new president. A month later the majority of this committee—Lewis P. Bush, C. Elton Buck, Charles B. Lore, and John C. Stockley—recommended Dr. A. N. Raub, who was officially nominated by Judge Lore and elected by a majority vote over two other candidates. The election was immediately made unanimous,¹⁸ and the faithful secretary of the Board wrote Raub: "At a stated Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Delaware College held this day June 10th, 1888, you were unanimously elected President of said College, your duties to commence on the 20th day of July next."¹⁹

The president-elect obviously gave the assumption of this new responsibility considerable thought, for he delayed two weeks before sending his acceptance. "I will do everything in my power," he promised, "with the help of the Board of Trustees, to increase the growth and usefulness of the College."²⁰

III

The College enjoys the further advantage [the catalogue of 1888 continued in its description] of being situated at the head of the Peninsula formed by the Chesapeake and the Delaware bay, at the point where the communication is constant with Washington, Baltimore, Wilmington, and Philadelphia, by either the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, or the Baltimore and Ohio, and with all portions of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, by the Delaware Railroad and its numerous branches. The Pennsylvania and Delaware Railroad also passes through Newark. All the telegraph lines in the country communicate with the office at Newark. These rare facilities give the institution the advantage of the perfect retirement, so requisite for study, combined with ready and convenient access.

Railroads and telegraphs were all very well, Raub might have thought, but the pressing need of the moment was students. There were exactly twenty-nine enrolled during his first year at Delaware, and most of them were newly matriculated. Still this number was almost double the enrollment of the previous year.

¹⁸ Board Minutes, May 8, 1888, II, 175; June 19, 1888, II, 177-178. The other candidates for the presidency were Professor Charles W. Reed and the Reverend James A. Marshall.

¹⁹ George G. Evans to Albert N. Raub, Newark, June 19, 1888, Evans Papers, 8340a.

²⁰ A. N. Raub to G. G. Evans, Newark, July 5, 1888, Evans Papers, 8342.

Several steps were necessary if the enrollment was to be rapidly increased: first, the fees must be lowered; second, the requirements for admission must be eased, or at least made to correspond more fairly with the preparation afforded students in the Delaware schools; third, courses in accord with the needs and the desires of prospective students must be offered; fourth, the facilities must be made more acceptable if not more comfortable than they were; and, fifth, the faculty must be expanded as the number of students increased.

The fees do not seem high by modern standards. Tuition charges in 1888 for a school year of three terms were sixty dollars. Room rent was an additional ten dollars, and such other charges as fuel (there was then no central heating), janitor's wages, library fees, and incidentals brought the total bill for a year to ninety-three dollars. In addition, "good table board," as the catalogue phrased it, was available at the College for three dollars a week "or at still lower rates in a students' boarding club." There was also a chemistry laboratory fee of five dollars, and another five dollar fee was charged for entrance to the lowest class in each course, a similar fee being collected for each additional year. Room furniture might be provided by the student or could be rented from the college, to the extent of a bedstead, mattress, bolster, washstand, study table, and chairs, for three dollars a year.

Aside from the cost of meals, the sixty-dollar tuition fee was by far the largest item in a student's budget. It was this, therefore, that Raub sought to eliminate. Ten legislative tuition scholarships already existed for each county, these dating from the time when the school was made a state college. In view of the very small enrollment, the tuition fee was therefore almost non-existent for Delawareans.²¹ But Dr. Raub, with an eye to the future and to gathering students wherever he might, secured the authorization of the trustees at their first meeting after he assumed the presidency, to admit ten additional students free of tuition charges, "the Faculty exercising their discretion in bestowing such favors."²²

Of the problem of entrance requirements, Raub declared in his first report to the trustees: "One of the serious difficulties the Faculty have to contend with is the fact that most of the students

²¹ *Catalogue for Delaware College, Newark, Delaware, 1888* (Wilmington, 1888), 28.

²² Board Minutes, Aug. 14, 1888, II, 185.

who present themselves for admission have not the necessary training in the ancient languages. As a consequence, it is found necessary to do considerable preparatory work in this department, in order to hold the students. . . . In nearly every case we have to admit Freshmen *on conditions*. Some who desired to enter have gone elsewhere because they could not meet the established requirements." He recommended that "Latin Prose and Cicero" be dropped from the requirements, "at least for the present," and suggested, "these conditions will necessarily exist for some time to come, as but few of the public schools to whom we must look for students, give any attention to Latin, and fewer still to Greek."²³

Another prerequisite to attracting large numbers of students was the offering of courses which they demanded. Before Raub's election, the Board had undertaken a revision of the curriculum, and this revision was carried forward under his leadership.²⁴ In the first catalogue of the Raub administration, such new studies appeared as zoology, psychology, and physiology, while a whole new course was introduced, the Latin-Scientific. To enter it no Greek prerequisite was required, and the General Scientific course required not even Latin.²⁵ In this way, too, was encouraged the entrance of students from Delaware high schools too small to provide adequate training in the ancient languages. Several other changes were made in the curriculum, the entire revision being so considerable that Raub in his first report to the trustees admitted "the Faculty experiences some difficulty in readjusting the instruction so as to make the transition from the old to the new curriculum."²⁶

The matter of curriculum revision, however, was not dropped here. In March of 1889 the report of a trustee committee on curriculum revision was referred to the faculty with full power to act in revising the course of study "as may seem best adapted to the needs of the institution."²⁷ At the same time Dr. Raub asked

²³ President's report, March 26, 1889, Evans Papers, 8352. "In 1885, when I came to the college as professor of Mathematics," wrote Dr. George Harter, "the feeders of the college, the old academies, were already dying and the new public high schools were not yet ready to send students of proper fitness for college work." Undated letter, *The University News* (Newark), V, No. 6, March, 1940.

²⁴ Board Minutes, Aug. 14, 1888, II, 182.

²⁵ *Catalogue for 1888*, 8, 10-18.

²⁶ President's report, March 26, 1889, Evans Papers, 8352; Board Minutes, Sept. 24, 1888, II, 188.

²⁷ Board Minutes, March 26, 1889, II, 191.

that three of the seven terms of botany required in the Latin-Scientific course be dropped since it was "more than twice as much as is usually given." The modern observer would be inclined to agree with Raub that this course was "very full in Botany." He also proposed that the degree of Bachelor of Arts rather than Bachelor of Science be awarded graduates in this course, because the faculty wished "to present inducements equal to those of other first-class colleges in securing students."²⁸ The significance of this move was that Greek would no longer be a requirement for an Arts degree.

Raub further suggested that "the establishment of a liberal course in Engineering would be of great benefit to the College" and advised the Board that a West Point graduate was being assigned to the college by the War Department and that this man, by reason of his experience and training, would be well qualified "to establish a technical course in Civil Engineering." "Many colleges similar to ours" made such use of the military instructor.²⁹

Improved facilities were also necessary if new students were to be attracted and retained. In Raub's first year, water was introduced into Old College and gas into the chemical laboratory there.³⁰ Seven sets of bedroom furniture were purchased at the cost of sixteen dollars a set, and tables for the drawing class were also secured. The campus back of the college buildings was "ornamented," the walks were improved, a new fence was erected on the east side of the campus, and the old fence was painted.³¹

But all the furniture and fences in the world would not suffice to draw and hold students if there were no faculty to teach them. Consequently, plans were set in motion even before Dr. Raub took over the presidency to revise salaries upwards and to add new members to the faculty. The fifteen thousand dollars coming to the college annually by the Hatch Act made the achievement of both of these goals possible. The salaries of the professors were raised from the \$995 which each of them had received in the year 1887-1888 to \$1250. Establishment of the agricultural experiment station made possible additions to the college faculty. Dr. A. T. Neale, who replaced Dr. Purinton as director of the station, was

²⁸ President's report, March 26, 1889, Evans Papers, 8352.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Report of prudential committee, March 26, 1889, Evans Papers, 8350.

³¹ Report of agricultural committee, June 18, 1889, *ibid.*, 8354; report of prudential committee, June 18, 1889, *ibid.*, 8364.

added to the college staff as professor of agriculture. M. H. Beckwith became a member of the station staff and professor of horticulture and entomology. Charles L. Penny became assistant chemist at the station and professor of German. Dr. Harter was relieved of responsibility for modern languages and was left with absolutely no duties except those pertaining to his positions as secretary of the faculty, professor of mathematics and physics, and station meteorologist.³²

Two other plans of the early months of the Raub administration seem to have been abandoned, at least in part. One was Dr. Raub's suggestion, at his first meeting with the trustees, that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy be awarded to "any graduate of Delaware College who shall have taken a prescribed course of special reading for three years after graduation, passed satisfactorily examinations in said course, and presented an approved Thesis showing evidence of original work."³³ Though this plan was not accepted, the Master of Arts degree was awarded under similar conditions.

We have no knowledge of the success achieved through another plan of the early months of Raub's presidency. This plan was announced in the 1888 catalogue, at the end of the list of prizes, in these words: "A special prize of a gold medal is also offered by one of the Trustees to the student who shall bring in the largest number of new students during the year."³⁴

IV

The efforts and the achievements of the first year of the Raub administration clearly pointed the way to its subsequent course. As increasing numbers of students came to Delaware the forty existing tuition scholarships were soon exhausted, and Dr. Raub, "after informal consultation with other members of the Faculty" and some of the trustees, determined "to increase the number" of students "as much as possible, and thus give the college such a reputation for progress as will popularize it among the people of the State and silence its enemies by converting them to friends."

³² Board Minutes, June 19, 1888, II, 180; Aug. 14, 1888, II, 182-183; Sept. 24, 1888, II, 187-188; *Catalogue for 1888*, 6-7; Vallandigham, *Fifty Years*, 50, 52-53. One of the most distinguished members of the faculty throughout this period was Dr. Theodore R. Wolf, who for a time bore the splendid title of "Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, Geology, and Sanitary Science." *The Junior Annual, 1908* (Newark, 1908), 39.

³³ Board Minutes, Aug. 14, 1888, II, 184.

³⁴ Page 32.

By this means, he told the trustees, "we should have a stronger claim than otherwise on the law-making power, should State aid be sought." Agreeing with Raub's argument, the trustees voted, in March of 1890, "that scholarships shall be free for all Delawarians who may ask for them; and that the Faculty shall have five at their discretion."³⁵

Free college tuition having thus been secured for all young men of the state, Dr. Raub continued his efforts to make the entrance requirements conform to the preparation afforded in Delaware schools. In 1890 he told the trustees it was his intention "to request of the high schools of the State that they shape their higher work as nearly as may be to fit the requirements for entrance into the College, trusting," he added, with much foresight, "that in this way Delaware College may become practically the head of the school system of the State, as the University is in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and other states, without in any manner interfering with its usefulness in other directions."³⁶

But because such a program could not immediately be effected, Dr. Raub thought it necessary that numerous students improperly prepared to take the entrance examinations be admitted on condition of making up their inadequacies. To regularize this procedure, he suggested in 1893 that students holding a diploma from a Delaware high school should be admitted without examination, but the trustees balked at this step and insisted, in their own words, that "the requirements for admission . . . shall in future be strictly adhered to, except that reasonable conditions may be consented to by a majority of the Faculty at a regular meeting, for good reasons."³⁷

A year later, however, in 1894, the trustees allowed one exception to this rule by voting "that a certificate of graduation from the Wilmington High School shall be held by the Faculty to be equivalent to an examination in all the studies covered by such a certificate"—which resolution followed a recommendation of the standing committee on instruction and discipline that such a decision would aid the development "of mutually helpful relations

³⁵ President's report, March 25, 1890, Evans Papers, 8358; Board Minutes, March 25, 1890, II, 202; June 17, 1890, II, 205.

³⁶ President's report, June 17, 1890, Evans Papers, 5478.

³⁷ *Wilmington Every Evening*, June 21, 1893, in W. D. Lewis, *Calendar of the George G. Evans Papers*, MS. (Memorial Library, University of Delaware), 222; Board Minutes, June 20, 1893, II, 266-267, 274. See also Board Minutes, March 28, 1893, II, 263.

between the college and an institution that may become a valuable feeder.”³⁸ Encouraged by this concession, Dr. Raub once again, on the very day on which he submitted his resignation, urged that “this same courtesy” be “extended to the other high schools of the State.” This plan, he argued, was “pursued by all the great universities of the West, and by such institutions as Rutgers, Pennsylvania State College, Cornell and others in the East.” “Why not,” he concluded, “give our boys the same chance that boys have in nearly all the other states?” But his plea was unavailing. The inequality of the different Delaware high schools, the trustees felt, would make adoption of Raub’s plan a mistake.³⁹

The inability of Delaware high school graduates to pass the entrance examinations of the college did, however, cause the trustees concern. A committee discussed the possibility of establishing a preparatory school at the college but abandoned it as inexpedient.⁴⁰ In order to avoid embarrassments to boys who came to Newark in September, only to fail the entrance examinations, the Board of Trustees approved a faculty request that the examinations be given in a number of Delaware towns in June during the week following commencement.⁴¹

Meanwhile the course offerings at the college were being enlarged, particularly in the field of engineering. “The time has now come,” one of the trustees asserted in 1889, “to make some provision for the benefit of the Mechanic Arts.”⁴² For the moment, the only provision that could be made was the establishment of a course in civil engineering under the Army officer assigned here, but two years later, the promise of vastly increased federal aid, through the passage by Congress of the New Morrill Act, made possible the employment of a full-time professor in mechanical and electrical engineering (F. A. Weihe) and another in civil engineering (Frederic H. Robinson).⁴³ The engineering courses proved very popular; in 1893, half of the graduating class took their de-

³⁸ Board Minutes, Sept. 12, 1894, II, 317; minutes of standing committee on instruction and discipline, Sept. 11, 1894, Evans Papers, 5829.

³⁹ President’s report, March 23, 1896, Evans Papers, 7516; Board Minutes, March 23, 1896, II, 340-341.

⁴⁰ Minutes of standing committee on instruction and discipline, Nov. 17, 1893, Evans Papers, 5829; Board Minutes, March 27, 1894, II, 284-285, 287; March 23, 1896, II, 340.

⁴¹ Board Minutes, March 27, 1894, II, 285-287. See also *ibid.*, June 19, 1894, II, 309.

⁴² *Ibid.*, June 18, 1889, II, 198. The trustee was Dr. Purnell.

⁴³ President’s report, 1891, Evans Papers, 5697; Board Minutes, March 24, 1891, II, 218; May 29, 1891, II, 223; July 14, 1891, II, 235.

grees in civil engineering, while in 1895 Delaware College awarded its first degrees of B.M.E. and B.E.E.⁴⁴

Although the agricultural experiment station under Dr. Neale had soon begun its career of usefulness to the farmers of Delaware, land for experimentation having been secured in New Castle and Kent counties, much difficulty was found in attracting students to the courses offered in agriculture.⁴⁵ Various curricula were adopted, lasting four years, three years, and two years, and including a short course for just the winter term, but none of them were very popular.⁴⁶ Though special appropriations were made to advertise these courses, the trustees were still asking, in the last year of the Raub administration, "What further can be done to the end that boys who are contemplating farming as their life work, shall be more fully informed of the larger provision for their education now existing at Delaware College?"⁴⁷

Following the assignment of a regular Army officer to the college in 1889, many Board meetings were disturbed by the problem of the extent to which attendance at drill should be compulsory. Raub feared "too much militarism," but agreed that the military department aided the efficiency of the college.⁴⁸ In 1893 it was said that only forty students out of ninety gave any regular attention to drill, but conditions gradually improved until, in 1896, the attendance was reported to be ninety-six per cent, which was, according to the professor of military science and tactics, as much as could be expected "where a large proportion of the students are non-residents."⁴⁹

Several developments of these years seem very modern. Students were authorized in 1895 to elect additional studies not prescribed in their courses if they were doing satisfactory work and if room for them existed in the class so elected.⁵⁰ Postgraduate work was being offered, or at least was being pursued by Raymond Du Hadway in 1894 in mathematics, French, German, Latin, and

⁴⁴ Board Minutes, June 20, 1893, II, 271-273; June 18, 1895, II, 326-327.

⁴⁵ Board Minutes, Sept. 24, 1888, II, 188; June 17, 1890, II, 211; March 23, 1896, II, 336.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, March 28, 1893, II, 262; March 26, 1895, II, 321.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, March 28, 1893, II, 262; May 9, 1894, II, 299-300; June 19, 1894, II, 308-309; March 23, 1896, II, 342-343.

⁴⁸ *Wilmington Every Evening*, June 21, 1893.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*; president's report, March 23, 1896, Evans Papers, 7516. The professorship of military science and tactics was recognized as one of the professorships of the college in 1891. Board Minutes, July 14, 1891, II, 236.

⁵⁰ Minutes of standing committee on instruction and discipline, April 19, 1895, Evans Papers, 5829; Board Minutes, June 18, 1895, II, 328.

Greek.⁵¹ In 1891 President Raub presented to the Board a student petition for the establishment of a "chair of Physical Development," but although the Athletic Association had hired an instructor and obligated itself to pay him for one month's service, the Board took no action on the petition.⁵² At various times lecture series featuring guest lecturers were presented for the student body and for all others who would contribute toward them.⁵³

Part of the federal funds available through the Second Morrill Act were immediately applied to faculty salaries, which were raised from \$1250 to \$1750 in 1891.⁵⁴ Gradually additional members of the faculty were secured, until in 1893 there were thirteen teachers for less than ninety students.⁵⁵ Among the memorable faculty additions during the Raub administration were Elisha Conover, who first came here in 1895 as a substitute for an ailing classicist, and Frederic Robinson, who, as mentioned, developed the civil engineering course after 1893.⁵⁶

As the number of course offerings grew to six—Classical, Latin-Scientific, Agriculture and Science, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical Engineering—many additions to the faculty were proposed which the Board felt it unwise to grant in view of the limited enrollment and the equally limited funds available. In his final report, Dr. Raub declared that the large number of courses offered resulted in an overworked faculty, but yet all the courses except the Classical and the Latin-Scientific were necessary to conform with the federal laws which provided funds for operation. Too few people teach too many subjects, he said. The same amount of preparation is required of the teacher, whether the class has two or twenty students, while "the matter of arousing proper interest and enthusiasm is much more difficult with a few students than with a larger number."⁵⁷

⁵¹ Entry for Aug. 29, 1894, Minutes of the Faculty of Delaware College, MS. (Memorial Library, University of Delaware), III, 210.

⁵² Board Minutes, March 24, 1891, II, 220. Cf. Evans Papers, 5605. The instructor was a Mr. Whitelock.

⁵³ Board Minutes, March 27, 1894, II, 287-288; June 19, 1894, II, 309; president's report, 1891, Evans Papers, 5697; Faculty Minutes, March 20, 1893, III, 142; Dec. 3, 1894, III, 213; Dec. 10, 1894, III, 214; Dec. 17, 1894, III, 215.

⁵⁴ Committee report, March 24, 1891, Evans Papers, 5644; Board Minutes, March 24, 1891, II, 218-219; May 29, 1891, II, 224.

⁵⁵ Wilmington *Every Evening*, June 21, 1893.

⁵⁶ Minutes of standing committee on instruction and discipline, Sept. 16 and Dec. 20, 1895, Evans Papers, 5829; Board Minutes, March 27, 1896, II, 336.

⁵⁷ President's report, June 16, 1896, Evans Papers, 7596.

Steps were taken in the Raub administration to allow the faculty more democratic rights in its own government.⁵⁸ Faculty meetings decided many problems of student conduct and discipline, problems such as absences from class, exemptions from tests, privileges of commuters, football schedules, plays, publications.⁵⁹ It is interesting to note that the faculty in meeting on September 16, 1889, adopted "*Blue and Gold*" as the college colors and that on several occasions it refused to approve the scheduling of football games with teams not representing any college or school.⁶⁰ Such aspects of college life, however, cannot be discussed here. They deserve an essay of their own, such as Dr. Reed's excellent account of "Student Life at Delaware, 1834-1859."⁶¹

The improvement of equipment, grounds, and buildings which marked the first year of the Raub administration was continued through the succeeding years. Steam heat was introduced and finally central heating for all the college buildings, although the first central heating experiment met disaster when the arrival of winter showed the lack of wisdom in erecting an unsheltered boiler out of doors.⁶² In 1891 the General Assembly was prevailed upon to give the college twenty-five thousand dollars for a new building, and as a result Recitation Hall soon squatted incongruously beside Old College.⁶³ The experiment station building, the present physical education office, had already arisen, and several temporary structures also appeared on the campus, such as a wood-working shop and a combined gymnasium-drill hall, for which latter building public subscriptions were secured.⁶⁴ The athletic grounds were purchased,⁶⁵ apparatus was secured for the technological

⁵⁸ Board Minutes, June 14, 1892, II, 253; report of committee on revision of by-laws, June 14, 1892, Evans Papers, 5964.

⁵⁹ Faculty Minutes, Sept. 16, 1889, III, 97; Nov. 25, 1889, III, 99; Oct. 26, 1891, III, 112; Feb. 10, 1892, III, 116-119; Nov. 28, 1893, III, 172; Dec. 10, 1894, III, 214; Dec. 17, 1894, III, 215; Feb. 11, 1895, III, 221.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, Sept. 16, 1889, III, 97; Nov. 3, 1891, III, 112; Oct. 1, 1894, III, 208.

⁶¹ In *Delaware Notes*, VIII, 40-74.

⁶² Vallandigham, *Fifty Years*, 143; Board Minutes, June 17, 1890, II, 210; president's report, March 25, 1890, Evans Papers, 8358; A. N. Raub to G. G. Evans, Newark, Aug. 26, 1890, *ibid.*, 5512; president's report, March 28, 1893, *ibid.*, 6333.

⁶³ Board Minutes, May 29, 1891, II, 222-223; June 16, 1891, II, 233; July 14, 1891, II, 237-238; March 22, 1892, II, 240.

⁶⁴ Vallandigham, *Fifty Years*, 143; list of contributions and expenditures, certified Oct. 18, 1890, Evans Papers, 5601a.

⁶⁵ President's report, March 25, 1890, Evans Papers, 8358; Board Minutes, June 18, 1895, II, 329.

studies,⁶⁶ parallel bars, flying rings, and the like were bought for the gymnasium,⁶⁷ and at last the long-neglected library received some attention.⁶⁸

Dr. Raub's relations with the Board of Trustees and with the faculty were usually pleasant. Differences of opinion did arise between the trustees and the president over entrance requirements, as has been related. In 1894, a newspaper reporter unfriendly to the college administration charged it with maintaining poor discipline and with laxness in upholding its entrance requirements, while criticism was also leveled at the attention given by Dr. Raub to his writing and publishing activities. A committee of trustees investigated these charges and concluded that on the whole they were without justification. The discipline, they decided, was generally good. The standards for admission had been improved and were now lived up to. The little time the president devoted to his private interests had not interfered with his college duties. They were impressed by "the love and respect which the students" felt for Dr. Raub and also by "the admirable personnel" of his faculty.⁶⁹ On another occasion the trustees spontaneously congratulated Dr. Raub for increasing the number of students and for providing additional facilities for instruction.⁷⁰

V

The chief achievements of Dr. Raub's administration are easy to note, because they grow directly out of the needs of the situation. The near-chaos of the last year of Caldwell's presidency made it essential that the new president be an efficient administrator. This Raub undoubtedly was. In his reminiscences of Delaware College, Edward N. Vallandigham speaks of Raub in such terms as "a

⁶⁶ Board Minutes, March 24, 1891, II, 219; president's report, March 23, 1896, Evans Papers, 7516.

⁶⁷ Board Minutes, March 26, 1895, II, 323; June 18, 1895, II, 331; president's report, June 18, 1895, Evans Papers, 7345; receipt, Feb. 10, 1896, *ibid.*, 7473.

⁶⁸ Board Minutes, July 14, 1891, II, 236; March 22, 1892, II, 243; March 27, 1894, II, 284; receipt, May 8, 1894, Evans Papers, 6855; minutes of standing committee on instruction and discipline, Nov. 17, 1893, *ibid.*, 5829; president's report, March 23, 1896, *ibid.*, 7516; president's report, June 16, 1896, *ibid.*, 7596.

⁶⁹ Board Minutes, May 9, 1894, II, 290-298; Lewis, Calendar of Evans Papers, 221-225, 236-240; Manlove Hayes to G. G. Evans, Dover, May 10, 1894, Evans Papers, 6859; G. G. Evans to L. C. V[andegrift], June 19, 1894, *ibid.*, 6910; G. G. Evans to M. H[ayes], [n. d.], *ibid.*, 7166.

⁷⁰ Board Minutes, March 22, 1892, II, 247.

conspicuously able school administrator," "a man of force and energy, with a remarkable power for work," and "a man of more than common acumen and ability."⁷¹ The records of the college bear out this testimony of the president's efficiency, and his impressive list of publications bulwarks it.

Besides giving Delaware College efficient administration, Dr. Raub gave it a new transfusion of its life-blood, students. Where but sixteen boys had been enrolled the year before Raub became president, eighty-two students were enrolled in his second year. A high mark of ninety-seven students was reached in the year 1891-1892, and seventy-one were enrolled in 1895-1896, when Raub resigned the presidency to devote his remaining years to lecturing and writing. In the antebellum years from 1838 to 1859 the average number of new students matriculating at Delaware College was 22; during the Purnell administration, from 1870 to 1885, it was 19, including coeds; during the Caldwell administration, from 1885 to 1888, it was 10; while during the Raub administration an average of 31 matriculations was received yearly.⁷²

More remarkable to us, however, than Raub's efficiency in administration or his skill in attracting students was his farsightedness in viewing the future of Delaware College as dependent upon an increasingly close connection with the state. Many of his statements already quoted give evidence of this. In 1895, at Dr. Raub's invitation, the state legislature inspected the college and lunched here. In the same year he suggested to the trustees "that an occasional honorary degree worthily bestowed, especially on its own distinguished alumni or distinguished Delawareans, could do no harm to the College, and it might add greatly to its strength."⁷³ It was his proud boast in his last report to the trustees that Delaware College during his administration had drawn a higher proportion of the college students in its state than had "similar colleges in other states."

Few states, he added, furnish more than "one college student for each 2000 population." According to this ratio applied to Delaware, the college in the eight years of his association with it drew more than eighty per cent of the college students of this state. Since, to quote his report, "we are in direct competition

⁷¹ Vallandigham, *Fifty Years*, 50, 53, 54.

⁷² Undated note, Evans Papers, 7515; president's report, June 16, 1896, *ibid.*, 7596.

⁷³ President's report, June 18, 1895, *ibid.*, 7345.

with Washington, St. John's and Johns Hopkins to the South, and Swarthmore, Princeton, La Fayette, Muhlenberg, Ursinus and the University of Pennsylvania to the north and east, all within a range of 100 miles, there is surely no cause for discouragement."⁷⁴

* * *

The latest issue of *The University News* carries an article by Major William B. Gray, of the class of 1887, in which he recalls that when his father remarked that Delaware College was small, Professor Mackey answered, "a horse can drink as much water from the town pump as he can from the river."⁷⁵

The stream of education that Dr. Raub presided over was no river; it was indeed more like a community pump. But the president and his faculty and the trustees tended it carefully, keeping in in working order, replacing and improving its parts. They brought boys there to drink of the water that was knowledge. They remembered that it existed to serve the community. And in due time, as the need arose, the community awakened to it and enlarged it and extended its service. And the pump stream was a river.

Note.—All of the manuscript material cited in the foregoing footnotes is in the Memorial Library of the University of Delaware. The author is grateful to Miss Lena Evans, of Newark, for giving to the university the papers of her father, George Gillespie Evans, upon which this essay is largely based; to Mr. William D. Lewis, university librarian, whose detailed knowledge of the contents of this large collection, and of the university's history in general, was placed freely at the author's disposal; and to the three daughters of President Raub, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Hossinger, and Mrs. Frazer, for further information about their distinguished father. However, since none of these persons read the resulting essay, they should in no way be held responsible for any errors of fact or judgment that may be found in it.

⁷⁴ President's report, June 16, 1896, *ibid.*, 7596.

⁷⁵ "As We Were: Hazing, Beards—And Coeds, in the '80's," *The University News*, XIII, No. 2, Dec., 1947, p. 6.