SMITH GIRLS' WORK AND PLAY

COLLEGE HAS DEVELOPED A TYPE THAT'S ALL ITS OWN.

Criticised as Having Subordinated Scholarship to Social Interests, Its Record Proves the Other Way—Its Scholars Devoted to Athletics, but Do Not Meet Other Colleges—The Invitation House.

Sixteen hundred girls are learning at Smith College something which all the textbooks and professors in the world cannot teach, and that something is the joy of living. Even casual visitors cannot escape the contagion of it. But whether they wish to feel it or not, it is in the air, an exhilarating, magnetic quality, like an emanation from youth in the mass, alert, vigorous, happy.

Whenever college girls are discussed one hears much talk of the "Smith type," and when one has sifted and compared the explanations given of this phrase one finds it standing for a personality combining in rather remarkable fashion feminine consciousness with unaffected, almost boyish good comradeship; for a girl who doesn't take herself too seriously, but who is capable of any amount of enthusiasm over other people and other things; in short, for a girl who plays the game of life with spirit and a certain debonair grace which is half the battle.

Naturally not all the thousands of girls who have gone to Smith have conformed to this type. And it also goes without saying that the description would fit plenty of girls who have gone to other colleges or who haven't gone to any at all. But a composite opinion from people who talk of the "Smith type" seems fairly well expressed in the above description. On one point everybody agrees; the typical Smith College girl has learned the joyof living.

But this very joyousness of the Smith girl has brought about a curious state of affairs, for visitors have been so struck by it, have so fallen under the glamour of it, that every one of them that could drive a pen has gone away and written about it. Who wouldn't? Yet the consequence has been that people who know nothing about the purely academic side of the college life, the side of lectures and study and exams, have calmly taken for granted that in some strange fashion Smith was subsisting chiefly on the social graces.

Invidious remarks even were made in certain quarters, remarks to which for a long time the college paid no attention. It could afford to be serenely indifferent. It was growing at an unprecedented rate. It had a president and a faculty that believed in doing things and then, instead of talking about those things, in going ahead and doing more. Consequently it smiled at absurd rumors. But if by any stretch of the imagination Smith could be called a worm, one would say that the worm has turned at last.

ITS SCHOLARSHIP OF THE BEST.

"For a number of years," said a member of the faculty to THE SUN representative, "certain reports have been coming to our hearing, and though they were too absurd to be believed they have persisted until they seem now not only absurd but malicious. For instance, you will be told with bated breath that 'Smith almost lost its charter because its academic standard was not high enough.'

"In the first place, any one who knows anything about collegiate matters should know that the only way in which Smith, or any other college, could 'lose its charter' would be by the passage of a bill through the Legislature of the State which granted that instrument. It seems as if it should be unnecessary for me to say that no such action has ever for one moment been contemplated in regard to Smith. As for our standard, it is as high as that of the other colleges.

"So much for that rumor. Another has hinted in whispers that the college entrance examination board was not satisfied with our requirements and was going to—well, no one had the inventive genius to specify just what it was going to do, but it was going to do something. This showed simply more ignorance, for the board has nothing to say about the entrance requirements of any college whatever. It merely furnishes certain examinations which are accepted as standard. As matter of fact the board is perfectly satisfied with Smith requirements. President Seelye was a member of that body until he resigned last year and President Burton is a member now.

"Another absurd rumor is that Smith graduates are not eligible to the American Collegiate Alumnæ. When that rumor was first brought to our attention a Smith graduate was president and secretary of the A. C. A. (the two offices are combined) and another Smith graduate was its treasurer! And it is also true that ever since the A. C. A. was organized at least one important office in the association has been held by a Smith graduate.

"And that isn't all. For a long time there were people who persisted in saying that Smith couldn't have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. The reason Smith did not have a chapter sooner was because President Seelye did not want it, as he was opposed to anything like competitive scholarship. But when he found that some persons were declaring that Smith 'couldn't' have it he said:

"'Very well; we will!'

"And Smith did have it immediately and has had it ever since. It has never been our way, either among the faculty or the students, to talk about what we were doing. We consider that the true scholar does not boast of his attainments. While some other colleges have been collecting figures and publishing them Smith has gone quietly on doing its work and not talking about it. But if you want outside proof of the ability and standing of the Smith professors, look in the technical magazines and the book lists. If our English department needed a monument we could build one out of the successful books written by Smith graduates. And if you want evidence of Smith's achievement in what is after all the highest work any college can accomplish, the building of character, we have almost 5,000 alumnæ and no finer body of women can be found anywhere.

"But the climax of the fearful and wonderful fabrication concerning Smith came last year. Last year, if you please, when we had 900 girls registered for admission and accepted only half of them, a member of the faculty of another college actually said in the presence of a member of our own faculty that the enrolment at Smith last year was lower than it was ten years ago. Do you wonder that we cannot explain these absurdities except on the ground of jealousy? It is really the most charitable point of view to take."

Indeed the growth of Smith has been so phenomenal that it wouldn't seem fantastic if it did excite a little envy. While the college has not taken definite action limiting the number of students there is a concerted plan to restrict the total enrolment for the immediate future to about 1,600. This means denying more than half the applications, and the shrewd mothers, many of them old Smith girls themselves, who are determined that their little daughters shall be sure of acceptance are actually registering the babies now. They will be at the top of the list sixteen or seventeen years from now and will be reasonably certain of getting in.

A WOMAN FOUNDED IT; A MAN MADE IT.

It was a woman who founded Smith College, but it was a man who made it what it is to-day. Although Sophia Smith left almost half a million dollars for its establishment when she died in 1870 it is no exaggeration to say that the personality of the man who three years later became head of the as yet unformed college meant far more in the making of the institution than all the money it has ever received. For years President L. Clark Seelye has been a remarkable figure in the educational world. His hold upon the reverent affection of the thousands of girls who have come under his influence has been phenomenal. And his wise foresight when nearly forty years ago he outlined his ideals for the future has been equalled only by his consistent development of those ideals.

At Vassar and at Wellesley a large part of the initial endowment was put into a huge building capable of accommodating several hundred students. This at once made the running of the college an expensive business and it was necessary to have a large quota of students to keep it going. But in those days girls who were fitted to enter college couldn't be counted by hundreds. So while Vassar and Wellesley did open with several hundred students apiece scarcely a tenth of them were equipped, educationally speaking, for college. For the first four years of their existence both institutions did more preparatory work than real college work.

President Seelye started out on quite another plan. He said that Smith was to be a true college from its very beginning even if it didn't have more than a corporal's guard of students. That was all it did have, in fact, for it opened with an enrolment of just sixteen. At that opening in 1875 President Seelye said: "This is the only female college which insists upon substantially the same requisites for admission which have been found practical and essential in men's colleges."

Another point at which he took issue with Vassar and Wellesley was on the wisdom of having several hundred girls housed in a single building. He believed they should be grouped in smaller residence halls where there would be a nearer approach to family life. And the wisdom of his ideas on this subject has since been recognized by the other colleges.

In that same inaugural address thirty-five years ago he took occasion to answer those critics, their name was legion then, who prophesied that higher education would rob women of their femininity; that if they didn't die from overstraining their feeble intellects they would become that most pathetic mongrel a female pedant and bluestocking. To this awful prediction President Seelye replied:

"May we not preserve the social graces and add to them those which come with intelligence? This at least shall be our aim. We shall have our department of social culture. An accomplished lady, herself accustomed to the best society, will make it her special work to organize the social life of the institution and to preserve and insure those graces of manner and of social life which we justly esteem so highly."

THE IDEAL OF THE "INTELLIGENT GENTLEWOMAN."

The charming, old fashioned phrases sound unaccustomed to our modern ears, but they never went out of fashion with the man who spoke them. The twentieth century made no change in President Seelye's ideals. The last freshman class to which he gave his inimitable address of welcoming counsel heard from his lips the sentence which has been familiar to the ears of all Smith girls. When any one says "an intelligent gentlewoman" in the presence of a Smith girl she smiles with quick response. The phrase has become a tradition there, for it is the one in which President Seelye has expressed from the first his ideal for the girls of the college.

This appreciation of the human and social side of life has never ceased to influence Smith. For the reassurance of those anxious intellectual Marthas who are troubled about the academic housekeeping at Smith let it be said once and for all that 129 professors and instructors are earning their salaries there by arduous attention to the education of those 1,600 girls in just as strong a curriculum as you will find at the other colleges.

Indeed President Burton, who has succeeded President Seelye at the head of the institution, thinks that the professors are earning more than their present salaries. He is working for an addition of a million dollars to the college endowment and he proposes to spend part of its income for a larger and better paid faculty. The campaign for securing this sum is under way now. It is hoped to get part of it from the alumnæ and their friends and part from the General Education Board.

In connection with this undertaking the record of the business management of Smith has been somewhat of a surprise to those who hadn't appreciated to just what extent the college has followed its theory of going ahead and doing things without talking about them. Smith has never had a debt. Yet it is not rich. Its "productive funds" as given in statistics of American colleges are lower than those of Vassar or of Bryn Mawr, the latter of which has less than 500 students. Its income is given as less than half that of either Vassar or Wellesley. Until the present year, when the fee was raised to $150, its charge for tuition was $100 a year, as compared with $150 at Vassar, $175 at Wellesley and $200 at Bryn Mawr.

Smith has had no large benefactions. Since Sophia Smith's endowment the largest single gift with one exception has been $100,000. A gift slightly larger than that was made by a man who, by the way, never let his identity be known to any one except the president and the secretary of the college. Yet President Seelye's management was so successful that the college now has over forty substantial buildings and an acreage three times that with which it started. The General Education Board has a list of questions it puts to the heads of institutions applying for grants of money. One of these questions is, "What is your annual deficit?" In the case of Smith the novel substitution was made of "What is your annual surplus?"

THE NEW PRESIDENT'S AMBITIONS.

President Burton's desire is to add at least thirty additional instructors so that no recitation at Smith shall be attended by more than thirty or thirty-five students. That indeed is the present limit, but it involves a hard working faculty. This is President Burton's first year at the college. He came to it from the ministry and in order to familiarize himself with the methods and standards of women's colleges he spent several months going from one to the other of them. He says that in some institutions where a nominal limit of thirty was put on the attendance of classes he found by actual count that more than 100 students were present. These were not lectures. A large attendance at a lecture is inspiring to the professor and therefore is desirable. But these were recitation classes.

"You can go into any classroom at Smith," said Dr. Burton to THE SUN representative, "and you will find only one instance where more than thirty-five students are in attendance on a recitation course. That is a case of the temporary doubling up of two classes owing to the absence of an instructor. The simple fact that one college has 500 students and another has 1,500 does not prove that the former are more thoroughly supplied with instruction. It is the distribution of the students in classes that counts, and the maximum of thirty-five at Smith challenges comparison with the classes numbering over 100 which I personally visited in another institution which has much to say about proper academic methods."

In its situation Smith is unlike Bryn Mawr, Wellesley or Vassar. It is not as much in the country as any one of them. The charming old town of Northampton half encircles it. But on the other side of the campus is a picturesque little river which widens at just the right point to a tiny lake known as Paradise Pond to the girls who have boated and skated on it and have studied and dreamed under the trees overhanging its shores.

Girls from other colleges sniff at the size of the campus and call it crowded. But the Smith girl herself loves it. She declares that it makes the life of the place a more intimate and friendly thing. She tells you that no more buildings will be put on the campus and she approves of that. But she really thinks she wouldn't part with a single one of those already there. She loves them all. Maybe they aren't the finest achievements of the finest architects. They're Smith! And to her loyal heart that is "all e know and all ye need to know."

The campus has a very genuine charm even for the outsider. One cannot but love fine old elms, the ivy covered buildings, the winding paths, the glimpses of Paradise (it is just 'Paradise,' not 'Paradise Pond' to the Smith girl) and the old apple orchard whose real blossoming seems to come with the groups of girls who flock to its shadows with the first spring days. At Bryn Mawr the girls are so fond of a group of Japanese cherry trees that they petitioned the president not to let anything endanger those trees. The old apple orchard on the Smith campus may have a less exotic beauty, but every Smith girl has a personal affection for it.

When several new buildings were contemplated a few years ago and possible sites were being discussed the orchard was mentioned as one available space. Even if the powers that were could have brought themselves to sacrifice that particular specimen of academic grove the dismal state into which the girls were plunged by the mere suggestion settled the matter. At considerable expense land adjoining the campus was acquired and the orchard was spared.

BEAUTIFUL NEARBY COUNTRY.

If you ask the Smith students if they feel cramped in their forty acres, when other colleges count theirs by hundreds, they will point to Mount Tom and Mount Holyoke towering above the Connecticut River meadows and in the other direction to the foothills of the Berkshires coming down as it were into Smith's own back yard and tell you that they have explored all that lovely country in person. Cramped! Why, they think nothing of taking a six mile walk over to the old Hadley cider mill and back just for the fun of it. And they know a dozen woodsy places where Smith girls are allowed to build a fire and taste the delights of a "bacon bat."

Some of the most interesting and picturesque villages in New England are within half an hour's drive or trolley ride of Northampton; Old Hadley, Old Deerfield, Amherst and a little further afield Ashfield and Cummington. In all these places are approved houses (approved by the president and faculty) where the girls may go, under certain restrictions, and have a good meal served. Generally it is a private house presided over by a woman of intelligence and breeding, who is responsible to the college for the observance of certain regulations. In every way the girls are encouraged in a wholesome love of outdoor life. And not the least of the things they learn at "dear old 'Hamp,'" as they fondly call Northampton, is to appreciate the beauty of the country around it.

The life at Smith has an almost indefinable quality which differentiates it from that of the other colleges. It is a little more vivid, a little more intense. The visitor to any of the leading colleges for women must be impressed by the almost unfailing courtesy of the students to a stranger. But at Smith there seems to prevail a touch of responsiveness which translates abstract courtesy into friendliness. For instance, a woman visitor asked one of the girls hurrying across the campus if a certain building was the library. A mere polite "yes" was all that was really necessary; but instead there was a friendly smile and a bubbling little speech.

"Yes! Have you been inside? Oh, you mustn't miss seeing it. Let me open the door for you. Please be sure to see the browsing room. Oh, we just love our browsing room! It's at the left and we think it's quite wonderful."

There you have it. Of course the visitor had a nice warm glow at her heart as he went in and looked at the "browsing oom." It has some such official title as he "standard authors room," but surely he man who gave it as a memorial to his daughter must like much better the affectionate name the girls have given it. And right here one may mention the fact that many of the gifts which have come to Smith have been from "fathers." Last spring in recounting the benefactions of the past year President Seelye mentioned one of $1,000, which a father of a student then graduating had just given "as a token of his indebtedness to the college." One can imagine how a father would prize that friendly joyousness which seems to permeate the Smith atmosphere. Perhaps "the type" does put the human above the academic. There are those who say she does. But far be it from one who has basked in that warm responsiveness ever to deplore it.

SOCIAL SIDE NOT OVERDEVELOPED.

So much has been said and written about the social side of Smith life that some persons seem to think the girls are always dancing, giving plays or having receptions, teas and—only the rank outsider knows what. As matter of fact the social life is by no means so complex as it seems to the uninitiated. As the girls put it: "We dance geographically and play alphabetically." Which being interpreted means this: There are about 1,600 students in the college; just 100 times as many, by the way, as it opened with thirty-five years ago. With the completion of the two new buildings there will be sixteen dormitories owned by the college. Only about half the students can be accommodated in these campus houses, as they are called. About 800 students must live in off campus houses under private management. All of these must be listed as "approved" by the college. Some of them are as large as those on the campus; others are much smaller. Altogether about seventy-five houses are occupied by students.

Until within a year or two each house had an independent social life. It could and did give its own entertainments, and one heard therefore of so many functions of one sort and another that it sounded like quite a whirl of gayety. In reality comparatively few girls were invited to many of these minor affairs and fewer still went to more than two or three. But there was an impression of confusion which the faculty decided to correct.

The college houses were therefore divided into sixteen "geographical groups," each group including about a hundred girls. Eight dances are given in the Students' Building each year, one by each of eight of the groups. The other eight give their dances the next year. In this way about half the students act as hostesses in one year.

For dramatics the three upper classes are divided alphabetically into four groups, each of which gives one play in the Students' Building during the year. No freshman may take part in any play. Short plays requiring not more than half an hour in production nor more than the leisure time of three days in preparation may be given by the girls of a particular house in their own house, with the approval of the lady in charge. All evening affairs must end so that students can be in their rooms by 10 o'clock. The junior promenade, the rally on Washington's Birthday and the glee club concert are the only college social affairs to which the students may invite men.

SOCIAL REGULATIONS.

In contrast with the other colleges Smith has a 10 o'clock "lights out" rule, which applies to all houses whether under the college management or not. It also has a printed list of what are called "social regulations," to which every girl is required to conform. Permission must be obtained from the registrar's office for absence from college exercises and for games (football and baseball) except at Amherst and Easthampton. For social entertainments at other colleges involving absence over night written permission must be brought from the girl's parents.

Permission must be obtained from the head of the house where a girl lives if she is to be absent from town or college without being absent from any college exercise; also for an entertainment in a neighboring town not involving absence ever night, for all luncheon or dinner parties at hotels in town or at any hotel or house out of town, and so on. In the list are specified the occasions on which chaperonage is required, a list of approved chaperons and a list of "duties of students to chaperons." There are regulations too in regard to Sunday observance and for walking and driving. Each house has a student "house president," but she is to consult with the head of the house. This is the older woman in charge, who not only conducts the actual housekeeping but is supposed, even as President Seelye said of the first one almost forty years ago, "to preserve and insure those graces of manner and of social life which we justly esteem so highly."

JOYS OF RALLY DAY.

One of the big influences in the determining of the Smith type has been its interest in athletics. The big day of the college year from the students' point of view is Rally Day. This always comes on Washington's Birthday and is a festival occasion worth going miles to see. Somebody lectures in the assembly hall in the morning, but even the poor deluded man himself must wonder later why he did it. A lecture projected into a day of such radiant and throbbing enthusiasm seems more incongruous than an elephant as première danseuse.

Rally Day is to Smith what the Yale-Harvard football game is to those institutions. At Smith basketball is the sport and the first tussle for supremacy between the freshmen and the sophomores is known as "the big game." The whole college goes into costumes which would make a rainbow look dull and gray. The scene in the gymnasium, where the encircling gallery is packed with hundreds of excited girls, is really thrilling. And yet at this supreme moment one runs up against that odd mingling of traits which keeps one's interest in the Smith entity on the qui vive. It is not good form at Smith to break in by a sound upon the silence which is considered the proper accompaniment of sportsmanlike playing. Applause is permitted when a basket is made; but with that exception 500 girls, all quivering with excitement, preserve absolute self-control in obedience to the ideas they have accepted of fairness to the players.

Between the halves they sing songs, many of them written for the occasion and hurling scorn and defiance at the opposing class. And after the game is over two wildly circling rings are formed, one by each class, and victors and vanquished alike go round and round, singing, laughing, triumphant or hopeful, as the case may be. There is a little old chariot which is the treasured possession of the even classes and in which all the basketball heroines for years have been hauled around the gymnasium after the big games by the members of the even team. THE SUN representative who was lucky enough to be present at the game this year was watching the pell mell enthusiasm and the hurtling chariot rides when an unmistakable smell of something burning was perceived. But John, who has janitored through so many Smith seasons that he is as much a fixture as College Hall itself, reassured the visitor:

"Don't worry. It's just the wheels of the chariot. They got 'em so hot runnin' it around you can smell it across the campus."

SPIRIT OF FAIR SPORT PREVAILS.

The spirit of sport is strong at Smith. A senior who stands for all that is finest in college said to the writer: "I have played in almost everything since I came to college and I have known dozens of other girls who have been in the sports. And I have never seen or known of an unfair thing done by any player. So far as I know, and I think I know the situation thoroughly, there could not be cleaner sport than there is here. The standard of fairness and of honor is perfect."

This year for the first time a college basketball team was named. It was merely the conferring of the highest athletic honor on the girls chosen, for Smith never plays any outside team. But the manner of the choosing of the players was interesting. Miss Berenson, who is the head of the department of physical training, associated the captains of the teams with her as judges and she says that the conscientious impartiality with which these girls rated their fellow players on the several points considered was admirable.

The "ethical side of athletics," as Miss Berenson calls it, is at the bottom of much that is conspicuous in the best type of Smith girl. She is taught to be fair, to be honorable, to be plucky, to be generous, to be willing to sacrifice her own position for the general good. A few years ago the captain of one of the teams somehow went stale in her playing and the team deposed her. She not only lost the captaincy but had to yield her place on the team and drop back to the position of a sub. She did it without a question. In fact she said to Miss Berenson:

"It's right. I'm not playing well. I don't know why, but I'm not and it's up to me to do the right thing for the team."

After the big game there is a supper for the teams and the subs wait on the table just for the pleasure of showing their loyalty. This deposed captain took her position as cheerfully as the rest and waited on table and sang to the victorious captain who had been put in her place. But that wasn't all. For she stuck to her "job," pulled herself up to the old mark again, and the next year was reelected captain solely on the strength of her playing.

"That's the kind of spirit my girls have!" said Miss Berenson.

Besides basketball the girls play hockey, tennis, golf, cricket, and have curling, archery, volley ball, croquet, swimming and clock golf. The milder sports were introduced specially to provide some outdoor game for every girl, no matter how unathletic she might be. Smith is fortunate in having a big athletic field of about seven acres, with a clubhouse containing lockers and shower baths. The girls can get afternoon tea there if they wish.

AS TO EXPENSES.

Speaking of afternoon tea brings one to the old question of what college girls eat. One of the most amusing transformations which take place in the freshman is that which substitutes in the scheme of affairs a box of certain health food crackers for a plate of fudge. As one girl said: "We don't mess around much in our rooms. We go out instead for a tramp or a game and wind up at Boyden's or the Rose Tree Inn or the Copper Kettle or some such place and have tea or chocolate or ice cream. And you know everybody says they're good for you!"

This undoubtedly costs more than to make fudges in one's own room, and it is probable that the average allowance of Smith girls is larger than at the other colleges. It is hard to judge, but there seems to be more money spent on riding, on flowers and in the quaint little tea houses where they stop for a sandwich or a fruit salad or a toasted muffin after their long walks. But it is mere guesswork. Girls who were asked about the size of the average allowance declared that they did not know the amount received by any one.

"It is something that is never talked about," said one of them. "If you believed what the girls say you'd think everybody was 'broke' all the time. Once in a while a girl rashly announces that she has some money and invites her cronies to celebrate. But the celebration generally turns into a perfectly innocuous bite at one of our approved places of refreshment."

"INVITATION HOUSES."

Certain elements of the Smith life are thought by outsiders to foster a feeling of exclusiveness in some of the girls and of "excludedness" in others. For instance, there are about half a dozen "invitation houses," as they are called, which are more like fraternity houses than anything existing at the other women's colleges. Most of these are for seniors only. One is for juniors and seniors and one is for mixed classes. During the sophomore or even the freshman year a little group of congenial girls will get together and decide to spend their senior year, if possible, in a certain invitation house. They apply to the person who manages the house and if on inquiry this person is satisfied that the girls are responsible and will form a household which will be a credit to her she agrees to receive them for their senior year. The application may be made by only two or three girls. In that case they fill out the number which the house accommodates by inviting their congenial friends.

Other invitation houses are managed by the girls themselves, always with a woman in charge, who must be approved by the college. In the houses where there are mixed classes the newcomers are chosen each year by the older girls who are already in the house. It is considered quite an honor, of a social sort, to be asked to live in an invitation house and it used to be almost unheard of for a girl to decline. But this year at least six girls who had been invited to go into outside senior houses preferred to remain on the campus in the same environment where they had spent the rest of their college life. There seems therefore to be a less exalted opinion of the distinction conferred by dwelling in an invitation house. As only about 100 out of the 1,600 students live in these houses anyway they scarcely form a preponderating element.

The girls themselves say that the spirit of the place is too democratic to allow any distinctions of a mere social kind to count. It is personal popularity that seems to win: that and character and athletic ability. When the freshman basketball team was chosen this year and the junior team, as is the honored custom, went around in a body and gathered up the freshman players they invaded a kitchen of one of the college houses and bore off in triumph a girl who is putting herself through college by waiting on table. And that was by no means the first honor to go to girls who have done the same work.

SOCIETIES SOMETIMES CRITICISED.

Besides the invitation houses there are four other elements which are sometimes criticised. They are the two semi-literary Greek letter societies (which, however, are not fraternities in the sense of belonging to any national organization) and the two comedy elements, the "A. O. H." and the "Orangemen," whose mutual fooling fills themselves with rapture and mildly amuses the whole college. It is true that the 150 girls who belong to these societies are prone to feel that they are at the top of the college scale. But the other 1,450 do not seem excessively concerned about it.

Although student government does not exist at Smith as it does at the three other large colleges there is a student council and every member of the college is under its jurisdiction. This council is the medium of communication between the faculty and the students and between the several classes. It is intended to influence the girls in their attitude toward the college and to bring about a right spirit in all the phases of their college life. It has entire charge of the students' building and of order in chapel and assigns dates for all entertainments.

The wise liberality with which President Seelye recognized the human equation in the problem of setting up Smith standards is shown in a hundred details; as, for instance, in the conduct of chapel. The great assembly hall cannot be crowded every morning, for it seats 2,300; but there is always an inspiring number of hundreds of girls present. Up to the striking of the first chord on the $20,000 organ these hundreds of girls make a cheerful buzz of conversation. It is the unescapable joyous note which is so constantly heard. There is no reason here why they should not talk and laugh. The assembly hall is not a chapel in the strict sense. But at the first sound of the organ the girls become as silent and as reverent as if the purely religious service which follows had consecrated the building.

WORK TO AID OTHERS.

The Smith College Association for Christian Work is the religious organization among the students. Last year it had 646 members. "And they were all working too," said this year's president. "They were not just names and dues. Every girl who joined was expected to so some real work." As an example of the sort of thing they did do one may take the report of the People's Institute committee, which shows that 223 Smith girls last year taught classes in that institution. In these classes over 600 persons were registered. The girls taught almost everything from sewing and dancing to Greek and Latin. The work of the institute is philanthropic and a large part of it is carried on by the college girls.

The pictorial life at Smith is quite unlike that at Wellesley, for example. Again it is the human touch, not the academic. Instead of Elizabethan masques or Greek choruses, one finds the girls dressing up for Rally Day in costumes of their own devising, or parading during commencement week in comic Chinese garb, or merely a lovely flock of summer girls of their own time and fashion at the glee club concert in the old orchard. They have their own kind of pageants, but they are generally "made at Smith." They give plays, little and big, the crowning event being "senior dramatics," which just precedes commencement and which is generally Shakespeare drama admirably staged and acted. The girls themselves, working under a students' committee, design and make all the costumes except those for the principals.

DR. BURTON, THE NEW PRESIDENT.

The new president of Smith, Dr. Marion Le Roy Burton, is a somewhat rare combination of youth, enthusiasm and scholarly attainments. He needs all those qualities, for it is a pretty big undertaking for any one man to keep the college moving toward the ideals that have been set for it. When a man has to send word over the long distance telephone that his first free evening is a full month away it is evident that he has no sinecure. That is what Dr. Burton did in THE SUN reporter's hearing. The new president has the advantage of his predecessor's counsel and cooperation, for President Seelye (he would always retain the title with the girls anyway) is now president emeritus. With two such men guiding the fortunes of the college its friends predict a splendid future for it. At the time of his retirement last spring, however, President Seelye reiterated his highest hope for the girls under the Smith ægis when he quoted something that had just been printed in a Massachusetts newspaper. It was this:

"The women who graduate from Smith seem to preserve most faithfully the characteristics of a true womanhood."

FIELD DAY.

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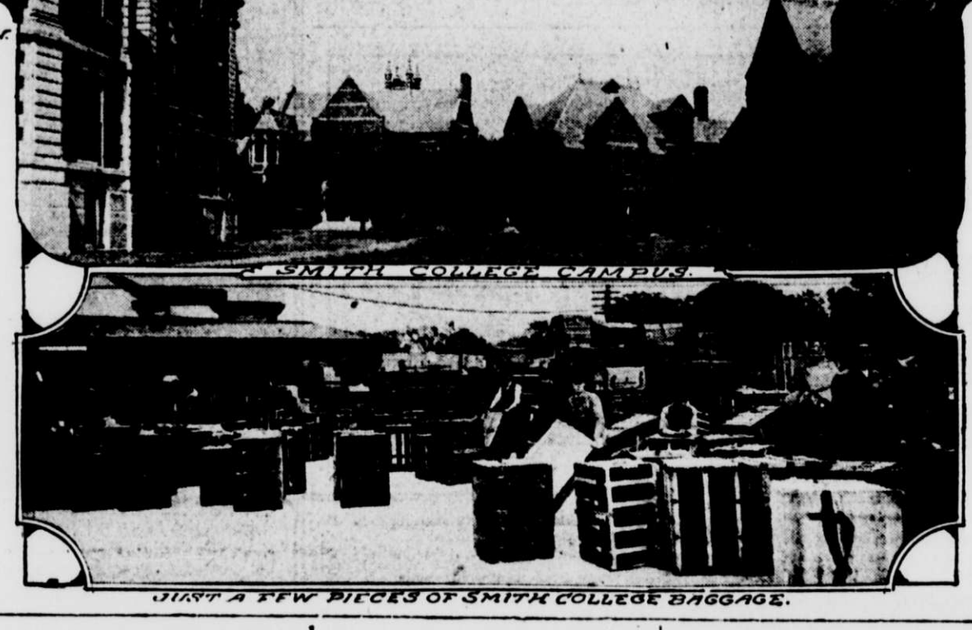
PRESIDENT MARION LEROY BURTON.

ENTRANCE TO SMITH COLLEGE GROUNDS.

PARADISE POND.



SMITH COLLEGE CAMPUS.

JUST A FEW PIECES OF SMITH COLLEGE BAGGAGE.