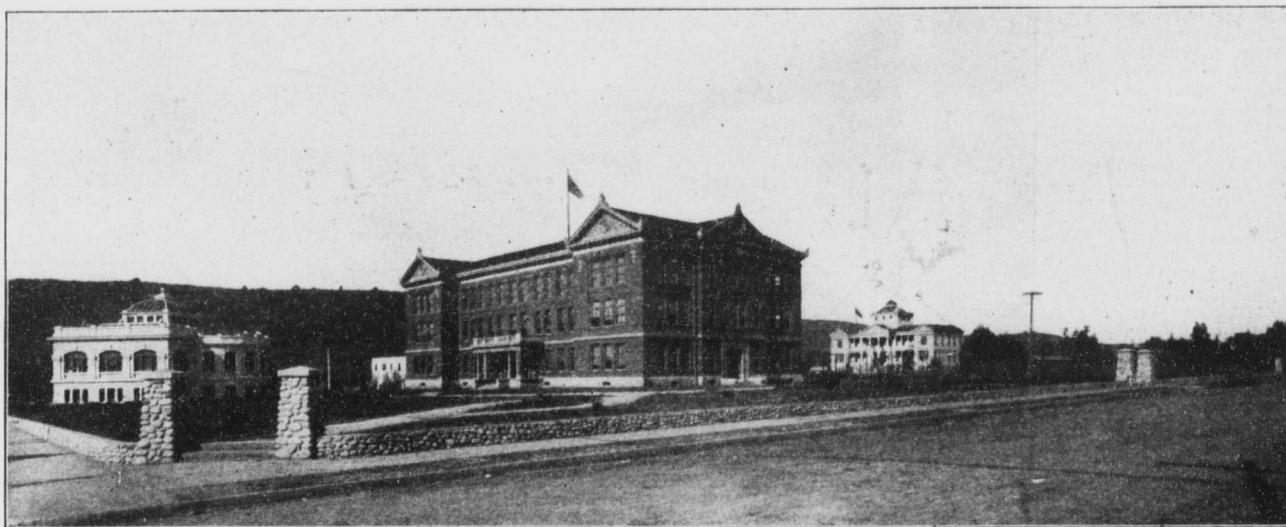


# Occidental College at Highland Park



Occidental College and Campus

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Dean of the Faculty

Half an hour from the Pacific Electric station, in the midst of a natural amphitheater of hills, stands Occidental college, the pride of an unusually cultured community. Ten years ago neither town nor college was there. Today Highland Park is one of the most attractive suburban towns of California, while the college has attained a rank among the chief seats of learning in this half of the state.

This is the institution presided over by John Willis Baer, LL. D., so well known in national and international circles of Christian Endeavor. Here, as elsewhere, his superb genius for the leadership of young people has aroused an enthusiasm rare even among students. After allowing full credit to his predecessors for the enduring character of their work, it is no injustice to say that Occidental's special prominence dates from the inauguration of Dr. Baer as president. Gathering about him a faculty strong in scholarship and personality, he lost no time in grappling with the problems which a growing college has to face.

One of these, the most imperative at the time, was the demand for a curriculum of larger scope—extensive enough in the work of each department to allow the student a four year's course in his chosen subject, at the same time broad enough in its range of required subjects to cover the best definition of liberal culture. The scheme finally adopted was similar in its main features to the undergraduate curriculum of the Johns Hopkins university, but adjusted to the "upper and lower division" plan of Berkeley. The wisdom of its framers is evident from the great favor with which it has been received, not alone among friends and patrons of the school, but among the best known educators of the country.

Another problem of equal or greater

importance was the standard of scholarship. President Baer was heretical enough to believe that a young college on the west coast had as absolute right to set up and maintain high standards as a university hoary with age in New England or New Jersey. The actual working out of this theory is giving

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for the current semester are students from twenty-five states and territories.

The material equipment of the college keeps pace with its growth in attendance. The process has been one not of addition, but multiplication. While every department has been enlarged, the greatest advance has been made in the



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Occidental a name for thoroughness which the young people in the high schools have not been slow to recognize. The consequences are just what might be expected.

A certain class of prospective students has been frightened away, but those whom every college is desirous of securing have come in greater numbers. How the tide is setting toward Occidental may be judged from such figures as these: Freshmen five years ago, 38; present freshman class, 100; graduating class five years ago, 11; last

has gone abroad is further shown by the fact that among those registered departments of natural science, whose facilities have been increased not less than fourfold. For the work in pure science no college of liberal arts this side of Stanford is able to boast a better equipment.

In athletics, now generally rated as an important adjunct of student life, Occidental holds an honorable position. Naturally such activities are treated as secondary to the main purpose of a college education. Professionalism is rigidly excluded, and one who falls in the class room is not allowed to represent the school in any interscholastic event. On the other hand, a team sent into the field to represent Occidental has all of Occidental behind it, from the president and faculty to the last freshman. Season championships have frequently been set down to her credit, and when not champion her victories have usually quite outnumbered her defeats.

The chief aim of President Baer and his associates is to send out strong men and women—strong in body, strong in intellect, strong in moral fiber—able to fight their own battles, able also to bear their part in the solution of those vital problems with which society is being constantly confronted. That the task has been committed to competent hands has already been demonstrated. Greater success waits only on greater resources, the growth of which will be more rapid in the future than in the past. Such an institution within her borders is not the least among the advantages which are attracting to Greater Los Angeles multitudes of the best classes from every clime.



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