

The President's Letter

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The fall quarter at Asbury Theological Seminary opened with an enrollment of one hundred eighty-seven students. This represents an increase of twenty-seven percent over the enrollment of the fall quarter of 1945. Four years ago, the enrollment was seventy for the same quarter.

The emergency measures taken by the building committee for additional housing during the summer months, bore gratifying results at the opening of the fall quarter. The committee provided for seventeen additional apartments for married students, twenty G. I. houses for G. I. men, and fourteen additional rooms for women students. The committee made provision for fifty-one additional students, who otherwise could not be in the seminary this year. This additional housing was provided at a cost of approximately seventy-five thousand dollars.

One of the features which commands attention in our enrollment this year, is the increase in the number of our women students. Thirty-two women students are enrolled. Most of them are working for the degree, Master of Religious Education. This is a new degree offered by the seminary and is proving to be quite popular.

Wilder R. Reynolds, Ph.D., the new professor of Church History, delivered his inaugural address at a convocation held on October the 17th. Commendatory evaluations of his address on the subject, "The Church and the Crisis in Religion," have come from numerous sources since its publication in the fall issue of the Asbury Seminarian.

Clarence V. Hunter, A.B., B.D., is the new spiritual life counsellor for the seminary. This new department has been added to the seminary this year with the view of keeping the spiritual tone of the seminary at a high level. A spiritual life survey was made of each student at the opening of the fall quarter. In this survey, ten percent of former students and fourteen percent of new students indicated a definite need in specific spiritual life problems. These problems are receiving the personal attention of the spiritual life counsellor through the personal invitation of the students. It was under the supervision of this department that a twenty-four hour period of prayer was arranged, preceding the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 18th. The chain of prayer started at six a. m. and continued unbroken until six a. m. on the following morning. Students and members of the faculty were coming and going throughout the entire period. Some great victories were obtained during this day of prayer.

Efforts are now being centered on the completion of the Morrison Memorial Administration building, which is one of the four new buildings now in the

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thrust it into my side," spoke One to a chronic doubter. It was ever thus! We may dazzle man with Socratic wisdom and move him with excruciating pathos, but until man tastes and sees for himself he will remain as Christless as the untaught native in the highlands of Tibet.

In contemplating a campaign for the souls of men we shall by no means ignore the claims of reason, although we know that dependence upon this

factor alone is a questionable procedure; we shall remember to invest heavily in the resources of emotion, for truth freighted with feeling will by God's grace bring men to the very borders of Christian experience; but having exhausted all our energies of mind and heart we shall not for a moment fail to proclaim with Job-like tenacity that the faith we seek to promulgate is to be "tried and tested only in action."

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process of construction on the seminary campus. The cost of this building, without furnishings, will be approximately one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars. Every effort is being centered upon completing this building by commencement, with the view that it must be completed by the opening of the fall quarter in 1947.

Another significant event in the life of the seminary was consummated in October. The Free Methodist Church has officially designated Asbury Theological Seminary as the seminary to which they will send their students sponsored by the Wesley Foundation. A Wesley Foundation House will be established near the campus of the seminary for Free Methodist students, beginning with the fall quarter of 1947. The plan of cooperation between the Free Methodist Church and the seminary extends over a period of three years.

The next outstanding event at the seminary will be the Minister's Conference for 1947 which will be held February 25-27. Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes and Dr. R. P. Shuler will each deliver five lectures at the conference. There will also be daily class sessions in connection with the conference, and other special features. More than three hundred ministers were in attendance at the 1946 conference, coming from a territory extending from New York to Louisiana. The conference is open to laymen as well as ministers. Those who have planned to attend the conference in February, should make reservation in advance for entertainment by writing to Dr. W. D. Turkington, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky.