

## QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

### THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE INTERESTING ADDRESSES

At the City Council Chambers yesterday afternoon there was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen in response to the meeting convened by the Mayoress (Mrs. Curtis) for the purpose of meeting Mrs. Scott-Fletcher and Miss D. Lockington, B.A., who were making an appeal on behalf of the Women's College, an institution associated with the Queensland University. The Mayor (Aid. R. G. Curtis) presided, and explained the object of the meeting, which was to meet Mrs. Scott-Fletcher and Miss Lockington and hear what they had to say with regard to the Women's College, which had been in existence for some time, but was subjected to certain financial obligations, which Mrs. Scott-Fletcher would explain. The College, he said, fulfilled a long felt want for the accommodation and guidance of the country girls leaving home for the first time to attend the University. He formally introduced Mrs. Scott-Fletcher, who was received with applause.

At the outset, Mrs. Scott-Fletcher thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for their kind reception to the representatives of the College during their brief stay in Bundaberg, and also for making it possible for the speaker to meet many ladies on Saturday afternoon, and which was very encouraging to the work they were pursuing in connection with the College. Proceeding, Mrs. Scott-Fletcher referred to the interest manifested in the women, particularly the women in the country, since the war, which had been the [...] in their womenfolk. She referred to the Country Women's Association, a branch of which would ultimately be formed in Bundaberg, and to the establishment of Rests and maternity homes throughout the State. So much for the country women of the State, who were deserving of all that could be done for them. (Applause). In a smaller way they were appealing to the State for funds in connection with the Women's College, which she explained was a Queensland affair. She recalled the establishment of the Queensland University in 1911, in which the then Governor, the late Sir William Macgregor was a leading spirit, giving up his own home that it might be utilised for University purposes. As the University developed it was deemed necessary to establish homes for the students living away from their own homes, particularly those from country centres. The matter was taken up by the Churches, all of which now have their own Colleges. In 1912 the womenfolk awoke to the fact that no accommodation had been made for the womenstudents [*sic*], and a move was made in the direction of establishing a Women's College, which was non-political and non-sectarian. As the College did not come within the sphere of any particular church, the committee interested had no one to appeal to but the general public, which had been most generous. After the first block of buildings had been secured, it was found that the accommodation was not sufficient. The Government, on being approached, decided to lend the Council £2,700 for the purchase of new buildings, and also made a grant [...] £300 for the principal. Part of that money had since been repaid, but there still remained a sum of £1,800 owing, and it was to obtain this sum that the appeal was launched. The money must be raised or the College would cease to exist. However, she was confident that the money would be forthcoming. The mothers fully realised the necessity of such a home being provided for their daughters who leave their homes to attend the University. The £3,000 would be sufficient to meet the requirements. She was satisfied that the College would then pay its way. The College provided the students with the ordinary comforts of home life, college tuition, moral oversight and guidance for the sum of £63 per year, which year consisted of 33 academic weeks. This sum, with a generous Government subsidy, met current expenses. The present buildings explained Mrs Scott-Fletcher were worth upwards of £4,000, and the furniture, &c., was worth another £1,500, were they to be sold, in the event of the College being removed to the new University site. Concluding, Mrs. Scott-Fletcher referred to the interest His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan [*Governor of Queensland*], had manifested in the welfare of the College, which he said was not a matter of concern for Brisbane, but for the people of the Country who had everything to gain from it. (Applause).

Miss Lockington, who was received with applause, delivered a graceful and interesting address on College life, explaining the various rules of discipline, &c., after which the Mayor, in making an appeal for donations, emphasised the urgent necessity for such a home, which he was pleased to learn was un-sectarian. If they [...] were to progress at all, they must be more tolerant in their ideas; there must be a brighter outlook, and he was



pleased to say that this was provided for in the Women's College which embraced all classes irrespective of creed, or whether they be rich or poor. He hoped that the citizens of Bundaberg would realise the importance of such a College. (Applause).

Mrs. Gibson moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Scott-Fletcher and Miss Lockington for their interesting addresses, and expressed the hope that the response to the appeal would be a generous one. The vote was carried by acclamation.

Mrs. Scott-Fletcher mentioned that it was suggested to her that the next Matron's Subscription Ball might be devoted to the College. If so, she suggested that if an early invitation was extended to His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, that he would endeavour to be present at the function.

The following donations have already been received:—

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Gibson, £10/10/; Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Gibson, £10/10/; Lieut.—Colonel and Mrs. J. F. Boreham, £10/10/; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. McCowan, £5/5/; Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Walker, £5/5/; Mr. Jas. Little, £5; Mrs. Romeo, £5.

The Mayor, on behalf of the committee, will be pleased to receive further donations, large or small.