

THE WOMEN'S WORLD

Women's College Comes of Age

More Than 200 Students in 21 Years

On March 16, the Women's College within the University of Queensland will come of age, for it was on that date in 1914 that the first students entered the College. Since then more than 200 women have found a home there during their years at the University, and considerable changes have been made to the college buildings, which stand among lofty trees in Shafston Avenue, Kangaroo Point.

These trees are the college's natural glory, for they impart both privacy and shade to the grounds all the year round, and in their flowering seasons envelop it in the hazy blue of the jacaranda, the vivid scarlet and gold of the poinciana, and the glossy red and green of the mango tree leaves.

With the generous help of the Government, as well as of private donors, the college was established by a standing committee in 1914, and it began with two buildings — Chislehurst and Oskarsholme (both of which still stand), and a rented house. In August of the same year another building was put up. It was christened Warrawee, an aboriginal name meaning "Our little home." The newest building, Thorneton, was erected in 1927, and named after one of the college's benefactors, Mrs. William Thorne. There is room for 24 students in these main buildings, but by renting a cottage across the street a total of 29 can be housed at the college.

Considerable forethought has gone into the planning of the girls' bed rooms. Curtains in soft colours and harmonising bedspreads give them an attractive appearance, and each student has a combination chest of drawers and desk, specially designed for the college, in dull-polished silky oak. There is a common room in Oskarsholme, with a piano, and the students have their own sewing machine and laundry—the latter being described by Miss Freda Bage, M.Sc, who has been principal of the college since its foundation, as "the most used place in the college!"

SOME OF THE EX-STUDENTS

Counting the present students there has been a total of 209 at the college since it opened, although a number of these did not graduate. Very few of the students have been completely lost sight of, for Miss Bage keeps records with the names and addresses of all the girls who have passed through her hands. Many of them are now married, and the majority are still living in Queensland, although quite a number have gone abroad.

There are two in New York, while other distant addresses listed in the records include Khartoum, South Africa, Ceylon, and England. Miss Nora Holdsworth has obtained a library post in England, and recently Miss Margaret Freeman, who has the distinction of being the Queensland University's first reader in classics, left for London, where she will pursue her studies in archaeology.

There are graduates from the Women's College teaching in Brisbane's State High, Grammar, and Church schools, among them being Misses M. A. Macmillan (Girls' Grammar School), Ruth George (Brisbane High School for Girls), and Gwen Hughes (State High School). Misses Gwen. Horton, of St. Hilda's, Southport, and Marjorie Harrison and Margaret Dawson (Maryborough), are also from the Women's College, while prominent among the ex-students who have won distinction in other States is Miss Lucy Shaw, who was recently appointed headmistress of Glen Osmond, the Presbyterian Girls' School in Adelaide. She was formerly head mistress of the Presbyterian Girls' School in Ballarat, and when she left that city she was accorded a civic farewell. The very first student at the college was Miss Dora Lockington, who is now Mrs. George Golden. The college is undenominational, and is maintained on an annual grant from the Government and the students' fees.

SHARE OF PRIZES

The students at the Women's College have always won a very fair share of the few prizes that there are in the University, and Miss Bage considers that much of this success is due to the college's resident and visiting tutors, who coach the students for various subjects of their University work. The tutors are nearly all graduates of the



college, and those resident [*sic*] have included Mesdames Arthur Bell (who was Miss Isobel Bartholomew), Monty White (formerly Miss Jessie Smart), and Misses Margaret Dawson, Ruth George, Nora Holdsworth, and Joan Cue.

The college has always been fortunate in the members of its council, who are responsible for its internal arrangements. Mr. P. B. Macgregor has been the chairman of the council since the foundation of the college, and among the past members have been the late Mrs. J. S. P. Bourne, Mrs. M. H. Brydon, and Miss Martha Burns.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In permanent commemoration of the college's coming-of-age the standing committee and the past students are opening a fund to endow a scholarship for the college, and the standing committee is also arranging an invitation evening for March 15, when Miss Rhoda Felgate will produce a masque (something after the style of 'A Dream of Fair Women'), which was written for the 21st birthday of the Sydney University, and performed at its 40th birthday a few years ago. On March 16 there will be a dinner for the past and present college women.

At present the college is undergoing some urgent repairs, and parts of it are being repainted, so it should be looking its best by the time its 21st birthday arrives.