

HELPING THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE

With £9000 already in hand and the possibility that this amount will be raised to £10,000 by the end of the year, the committee which is sponsoring the appeal for funds to build a Women's College at St. Lucia considers the position is most gratifying.

A recent tour of northern centres by the Principal of the College, Miss Freda Bage, O.B.E., M.Sc., revealed that interest in the project is keen. Some of the towns have advanced a long way towards filling the amount the local committees have set themselves out to raise.

The Women's College at the University of Queensland was founded in 1914 when a number of people in Brisbane, who were troubled at the difficulties encountered by women students at the University in obtaining accommodation, by means of public collections and assistance from the Government, established the college. Miss Bage was appointed the Principal, the college opening in March 1914. Maryborough has a direct link with this institution since Miss F. Ida Bourne, the present Principal of the Girls High and Intermediate School was the secretary of the committee which organised the establishment of the college.

GROWTH OF COLLEGE

Opening with 18 students, the college has now grown to such an extent that there are now 41 students.

This number is the absolute limit which the college can handle at present. Last year 30 students had to be turned away because of the lack of accommodation. Beginning with three houses the college now has six houses under its control, four of which it owns. This system has always been looked upon as a temporary arrangement, and when the new University was planned at St. Lucia—having been made possible through the generous gifts of the late Dr. and Miss Mayne—sites were set aside for two women's colleges in the grounds.

The college is now denominational and thus differs from the men's colleges, of which there are four supported by various churches. Catering almost solely for country students the value of the college can well be seen.

In 1938 when the committee to raise funds for a new building was formed, the sum of £50,000 was set [...] the college's financial needs. At that time it was proposed to collect £30,000 and obtain £20,000 on loan from the Government, the Government having offered to lend to all colleges on a pound for pound basis up to £2[...],000. This sum was considered sufficient to meet the needs [...] providing for a college to house 60 students. However, altered conditions since the war have caused a change in plans which now are to collect £50,000 and borrow also from the Government. It is realised that a building to house 60 students would not suffice.

ROOMS NAMED AFTER DONORS

Miss Bage pointed out that a donation of £300 would build a student's room which could be named after the donor or dedicated in memory of someone.

Some of the northern towns would have rooms named after them, and school groups had taken advantage of this scheme to have rooms named in memory of past Principals.

So far the town which is leading in donations is Mackay, which already has £1000 in hand out of the suggested £1500. Bundaberg has set itself a target of £750 and Townsville has raised £400 out of a prospective £1000. Enthusiasm has also been shown in Toowoomba, Warwick, Cairns and other centres. It is possible for donors to join the Circle of Friends of the Women's College for which the membership fee is £5 per annum, or obtain a life membership for £100. Collection boxes have been distributed and [...] these boxes which were on a penny a week basis, have yielded over £300.

Miss Bage will address a meeting in the Council Chambers on Monday night.

