

Women's College Queensland University

A well attended drawing-room meeting was held at Government House yesterday, in connection with the proposed residential college for women students at the Queensland University. His Excellency the Governor and Lady MacGregor received the guests in the hall, and thence they passed into the dining-room, where tea was served. Lady MacGregor wore amethyst nixon, and a toque composed of French violets and foliage. Miss MacGregor wore plain grey chiffon over crepe de chine, and a tagal hat garlanded with flowers. After tea an adjournment was made to the veranda, where chairs had been arranged.

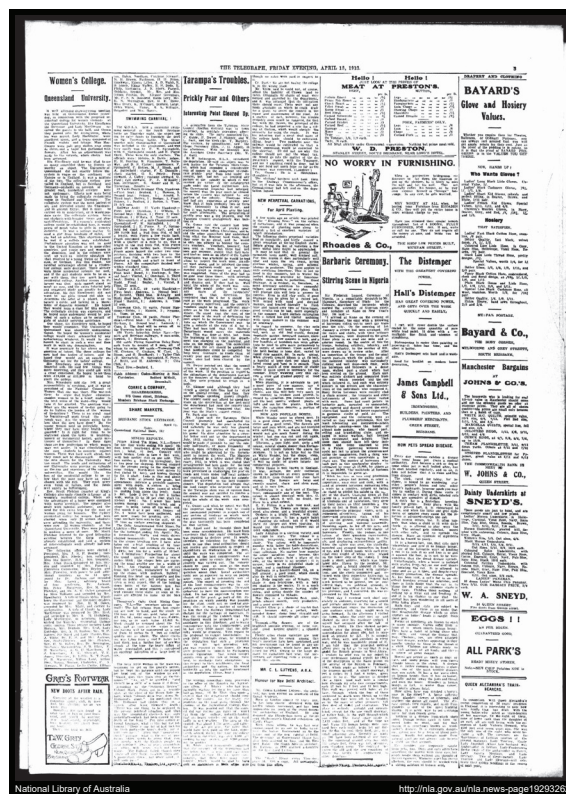
His Excellency said he was glad to see so many assembled there to discuss so worthy an object. The University of Queensland did not exactly follow the system in vogue on the continent of Europe or in England. It was a mixture of the two. The collegiate system prevailed in England, but in Scotland and Germany—probably on account of the greater cost, residential colleges were not customary. Efforts now were being made to bring the collegiate system into vogue in Scotland and Germany. The collegiate system was the most ancient of all, and prevailed among the Chaldeans and in ancient Egypt. But it must be carried on in moderation, or it would produce caste. The collegiate system turns out students with broader views and pleasant friendships. If a women's residential college could be established here, it would prove of great value to girls in country districts. It was a serious matter to send a girl from hundreds of miles, if she had no relatives. This objection would be met if a college were established. Preliminary education was not so good in the United Kingdom as in some other countries, and young men and women in the dominion, and in the colonies were sent up with an inferior education to that received by a young Swiss or French-[...], or German. For this reason, the tutorial advantages offered by a residential college were desirable. There already were three residential colleges for men, and if the girl students were to be on a par with them, they too must have a residential college. Another reason in its favour was that girls cannot stand as much as men, and the extra tutorial help and organised study are greatly to their advantage. He (his Excellency) did not want to see girls turned out able to determine the orbit of a planet, or to square a circle, and lacking in a knowledge of domestic economy. He hoped they would form a class for this subject. The collegiate system was expensive, and he hoped some endowment would be provided of such a nature as to permit of girls of ability receiving assistance.

One thing, his Excellency said, he hoped they would remember. The University of Queensland was absolutely undenominational. He hoped the women's residential college would start untrammelled by any sectarianism whatever. It would be dishonest to start in such a way and then work in with any denomination.

It was necessary to lay stress on the question of tutors. The three colleges for men had fine bodies of tutors, and he hoped they would get an equally enthusiastic set for the ladies' college.

His Excellency also referred to the financial side. He said few things were more deserving, and they could ask within a clear conscience. He hoped to see them with £10,000 or £15,000 in hand to start the college.

Mrs. Kingsbury said she felt a great responsibility in speaking, and it was as president of the National Council of Women that she was there. She was not there to argue that higher education enables woman to be a home maker in the best sense of the word—they would take it for granted. The question was: What are the women of to-day going to do to lighten the burden of the women of to-morrow? There is no royal road to learning—all must tread the same rough way. Are the women going to do less than the men have done? Do the young women need no collegiate home, where they may have their health safe-guarded? Is it right for them to be scattered about the town in boarding-houses or uncongenial homes, quite mistresses of themselves? In these days there are few professions to which women may not aspire. It was stimulating for the men students to compete against women. There was hard work ahead, but they must not be discouraged. Already the site chosen for the University was too small. The youth and enthusiasm of our University were proving as valuable as the age and experience of the southern universities. She would like the fees of the residential college to be so low that the poor may have an equal chance with the rich. They must never even think of failure, and the funds will surely be forthcoming.



Rev. Scott Fletcher (master of King's College) also spoke strongly in favour of a women's residential college, where all the advantages of a home were combined with moral oversight. The speaker also dealt with tutorial assistance, and the need for this extra help for the man or woman going for honours. The Sydney residential college for women had been started when only 22 women students were attending the university, and there were now 52 women students at the Queensland University. They were justified in making a move at once. Mr. Scott Fletcher referred to the good fellowship existing between the three colleges already established, and said a system of inter-collegiate work had already been arranged.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. J. S. P. Bourne; vice-president, Mrs. Steele; hon. secretary, Miss Ida Bourne, B.A.; hon. treasurer, Mrs. Allan Dakin (proposed by Mrs. Brydon and seconded by Mrs. Parnell); Executive Committee, Mrs. Brydon and Mrs. Priestley, with power to add additional members up to 12 (proposed by Dr. Jackson and seconded by Mrs. Love), advisory board of four gentlemen, Dr. Jackson, Mr. Peter Macgregor, Rev. M. Scott-Fletcher, and Mr. A. W. Oakes (proposed by Miss Williams and seconded by Mrs. Hawthorn). A vote of thanks to his Excellency the Governor and the other speakers was proposed by Rev. E. M. Baker, seconded by Miss White, and carried by acclamation. A vote of thanks to Lady MacGregor was proposed by Mrs. Real, and seconded by Mrs. A. M. Hertzberg. Lady MacGregor, in returning thanks, wished the Women's residential College every success. Those present included Lady Morgan, Mrs. Denham, Mrs. Real, Lady Rutledge, Mrs. A. H. Barlow, Mrs. W. H. Barnes, Sir David and Lady Hardie, Hon. J. White, Dr. E. S. and Mrs. Jackson, Rev. Scott-Fletcher and Mrs Fletcher, Rev. E. M. Baker, Rev. Dr. Merrington, Mesdames Macnaughton, J. W. Blair, E. [...] Macartney, A. G. C. Hawthorn, J. J. Kingsbury, J. K. Stewart, T. E. Jones, Priestley, F. Little, W. T. Paget, P. B. Macgregor, Witton Love, Arthur Feez, Moxon, Morrow, Cholmeley, C. A. Bernays, W. Pagan, Leslie Corrie, Elkington, Dakin, Needham, Cumbrae Stewart, [...] Brown, Pattinson, H. H. Dixon, Brockway, Edwyn Lilley, A. D. Walsh, B. D. Steele, Edgar Walker, R. S. Dods, R. Philp, Hertzberg, J. D. Story, Parnell, Diddams, Brydon, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gilson Foxton, Dr. Eleanor Greenha[...], Mr. F. S. N. Bousfield, Rabbi Levy, Mrs. E. N. Merrington, Rev. G. E. Rowe, Miss Drury, K. McConnel, Bedford, Large, Helen White, Copas, M. A. Williams, Brigadier and Mrs. Harris.