

Howard, the National University of the Negro Race

*Established by Gen. O. O. Howard During Reconstruction Period.
All Work Now of Collegiate Grade. Medical School Rated as a
"Class A" School. School of Law and of Religion*

By EMMET J. SCOTT
Secretary-Treasurer Howard University

TWELVE million colored people of the United States need college-trained leaders in the professions. Nearly every profession among them is pathetically undermanned. These professional leaders must be trained



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largely in their own schools. Howard University is strategically located and undertakes the place of leadership in giving direction to these proper aspirations of the Negro people. Founded by Gen. O. O. Howard in the days of reconstruction following the Civil War, Howard for over half a century has fulfilled the high hopes and prayers of her founders. She has supplied the colored race with leaders in every profession and walk of life. When the call came for men in the war across the seas, almost 2,000 of her sons entered the ranks as officers and enlisted men.

Howard University each year, by sending forth hundreds of graduates from its collegiate and professional schools, is justifying its right to leadership in the educational life of this great body of American citizens.

All Secondary Work Discontinued

Following the lead of the most advanced American colleges, Howard in 1919 adopted a new plan of organization. By vote of its board of trustees, all secondary schools were discontinued, thereby devoting the facilities of the university wholly to collegiate and professional training. A junior college consisting of the first two years of the college course was established with Prof. Kelly Miller as dean. The courses in the junior college are made preliminary to entrance to the schools of liberal arts, education, applied science, commerce and finance, religion, medicine, music, and law.

The adoption of the quarter system by the university was another step in its progressive policy. This system has proved advantageous over the semester plan. It intensifies the work and raises

the standard of scholarship. Perhaps its most appealing advantages has been that students may enter at the beginning of any quarter and receive full credit toward their degree.

Howard has seen fit to provide in its program opportunity for those who for economic and other reasons are not privileged to attend its day sessions by the establishment of evening classes. These classes are of full college grade and yield the usual credit toward academic degrees.

Recognizing the importance of the teacher as one of the two indispensable components of any school, the administration of Howard University has in the past three years set about getting into sympathetic touch with every outstanding negro scholar who might be available for the work of the university, and the faculty has been strengthened by the addition of several capable men and women. Parallel with this effort to add to the fac-



Main building, Howard University

ulty new strength and vigor from without has been the generous policy in force toward teachers on the staff who are ambitious to pursue further studies. A number of such teachers have spent a year on leave engaged in study in the great universities of the North and West. One of the first research fellowships granted by the National Research

Council was given to Dr. E. E. Just, a professor of Howard University.

The professional schools at Howard offer special advantages to ambitious students. The Howard School of Medicine is rated as a "class A" institution by the American Medical Association. Freedmen's Hospital, erected by the Federal Government at a cost of \$600,000, is closely allied with the school of medicine.

In 1920 the General Education Board of New York City, after a thorough inspection of the facilities of the School of Medicine of Howard University, made a conditional gift of \$250,000 provided a like sum be raised by the university within a given time, the purpose being to maintain the school of medicine as a class A institution.

Howard University, with the help of its alumni, officers, faculty, student body, and friends, met the challenge of the General Education Board. The cooperation and support which the university has had from its alumni and friends in its efforts to secure this conditional gift is evidence of the large place which Howard occupies in the hearts of the colored people of the United States. One of the significant things brought out by this campaign is the new spirit of philanthropy among colored people as shown by the sixty-eight individuals and organizations making a gift of \$1,000 each and one making a gift of \$10,000.

During the school year 1922-23, 2,100 students were enrolled in Howard Univer-

sity. The graduating class that year numbered 311.

The school of law, because of its downtown location, is in easy reach of the city courts, the Federal courts, and the Supreme Court of the United States. Its evening classes make it convenient for those engaged in other work to pursue courses in law.



Thirkield Science Hall, Howard University

The school of religion is undenominational and foremost in the training of Christian ministers for the colored people not only in this country but also in Central and South America.

Physical and Military Training

Special provision has been made for the physical and moral training of the students. A department of physical education for both men and women has been established under competent instructors.

The War Department maintains at the university a unit of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Its object is to qualify students for commissions in the Officers' Reserve Corps by a systematic and standardized method of training. At the commencement exercises held in June, 1922, 17 students were awarded commissions in the United States Army as second lieutenants, and at the commencement exercises in June, 1923, 35 students received commissions.

"National Congress of Parents and Teachers"

New Name Adopted by National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. Report of Conference in St. Paul.

By FANNIE A. ABBOTT

Publicity Committee, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

"TRAINING for parenthood" was the central theme of the twenty-eighth annual convention of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, held in St. Paul, Minn., early in May. This was the last meeting to be held under the old name, for the "National Congress of Parents and Teachers" is the title which was adopted for the organization.

A striking feature of the convention which indicates the growing cooperation of the Nation's educational forces was the joint meetings of May 8 in which the second annual conference for Home Education called by the Commissioner of Education participated with the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. These meetings were reported in the May number of *SCHOOL LIFE* (p. 223) and that account need not be repeated.

Dr. Richard Burton, of the University of Minnesota, closed the cooperative conference with an address on "Good literature in the home," in which he made a plea for more family reading, as in the days of the past. Doctor Burton allows no excuses for reading poor books when so many good ones are available and so many experts are at work preparing lists for all ages and minds.

A motion picture, "Playing for Health," by Dr. C. Ward Crampton, of New York City, national chairman of physical education, was followed by an address on "Recreation for young and old" and a demonstration of games.

An address on "Training for parenthood" was made by Alma Binzel, of the Federation for Child Study, and in an illustrated lecture Dr. Bird T. Baldwin, director of child welfare research station, Iowa University, stressed the responsibility of parents in making or marring the character of the child and building for healthy, happy life or sending him out into the world a victim of every temptation, mental and physical, that besets his path. That more time, money, and energy are expended every year for the study of child problems was shown by both speakers. Doctor Baldwin stated that as many as 105 children of from

2 to 6 years are brought to the research station daily for observation.

Reports of State presidents, following a "presidents' pageant," showed tremendous growth in numbers and activities in all parts of the Nation. Minnesota won the membership banner by an increase in membership of more than 200 per cent. Chairmen of the committees of better films, program service, spiritual training, and humane education reported great advance in their work. Scores of cities and towns are cooperating with the congress by permitting approved films only. To educate the public to know what good films are and how to obtain them is one of the aims of the parent-teacher association.

The department of home service was represented by papers on "Children's home reading," by Sarah Askew; "Home economics," by Abbie L. Marlatt; "Home education," by Ellen Lombard; "Pre-school circles," by Mrs. Clifford Walker; "Recreation and social standards," by Mrs. B. L. Langworthy; and "Thrift," by Mrs. Ella C. Porter.

The executive secretary, Mrs. Arthur Watkins, reported that universities and normal schools in many States offer parent-teacher courses in their summer schools.

The educational exhibit, to which 20 National organizations representing various aspects of child welfare contributed, was an outstanding feature of the convention and was in line with the program topic. The twenty-ninth annual convention will be held in Austin, Tex., in May, 1925. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers will have a part in the next convention of the International Congress of Women.

The present membership of the Congress is more than 651,000. Forty-six States are organized and carrying on programs in line with the national aims and purposes. Study circles, pre-school circles, expert lecturers, and courses in child psychology are included in the programs. Health teaching in school and home, health habits and principles will be stressed throughout the land and "Cooperation with every organization concerned with the welfare of the child" will be a slogan.

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Prompt Action on Uniontown Survey Report

After a survey of the school-building situation in Uniontown, Pa., in February, 1924, the United States Bureau of Education suggested a definite program of improvement. In April the people voted 8 to 1 in favor of a bond issue of \$600,000 to erect and equip two junior high school buildings as recommended in the survey report.