REPORT OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION OF THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL
COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA
FOR 1909-1910.

By HATTIE FRANK LOVE.

The last year has been one of the most successful in the history of the Y. W. C. A. Under the excellent leadership of the President, Miss Sarah Morris, and under the sympathetic and practical aid and advice of our Advisory Board, the Association has made wonderful advances.

In the spring of 1909 we reported at the Alumnae Association that Brinton Hall was sadly in need of repairs and new furnishings, that the Association wished to dispense with the colored woman and her family then occupying the ground floor, with the exception of the prayer room, and to install a companionable house mother and housekeeper, convert the parlor on the second floor into a double room for two additional student lodgers, and to open a reading room on the ground floor for the use of the students.

Since last spring all this and more has been done, having been made possible by the gifts of Alumnae, friends, and students. The students also conducted apron and rummage sales and a stereopticon lecture, from which they realized $125.

As soon as College closed, the work of repairing and renovating began. All the students being away during the summer, had it not been for the constant supervision of the work by Drs. Tracy and Potter, our faithful true friends, who gave so much of their vacation time to the work, Brinton Hall would not have been the attractive place that it is today.

The interior was given a thorough renovating so far as walls and woodwork are concerned, a new roof was put on, the furnace and range repaired, the old parlor converted into a double room for two students, and one of the ground floor rooms into a library and reading room—these two rooms being furnished by Dr. and Mrs. Milligan and friends in memory of their daughter Sarah, one
of our deceased members. The library contains a fairly good-sized collection of general literature, while the beginning of a circulating library of medical text-books is being installed in memory of Miss Milligan, for the use of students whose finances may make it impossible to secure the necessary text-books. There are current magazines and a daily paper furnished for general reading. The previous need of such a reading room has been proved by the constant use made of it this year by the students.

By these changes the attractiveness of the Hall has been greatly increased and more rooms opened for the use of the general Association, the whole of the ground floor, including the parlor, the library, and the kitchen, being now at their disposal. The installing of Miss Howitz, a competent and refined matron, who keeps the house in perfect order and takes a personal interest in the welfare of the Association, adds greatly to the comfort of the students.

While the “run-down” condition made it necessary to expend about $700, all of which but $145 has been paid within the year, we still need a sinking fund to buy coal with every year, some renovating in the furniture line, more books in our medical library, and we hope to add to our building as soon as possible, because our present quarters are far too small to meet the requirements of the students.

The other phases of the Association also, show an advance over last year. We have added to our membership during the session 23 new student members, 7 life members, and 7 honorary members—a total increase of 16 over the previous year.

The Advisory Board, made up of Alumnae and lay members, has been organized, with Mrs. J. R. Milligan as President; Dr. Martha Tracy, Secretary; and Dr. Ellen Potter, Treasurer.

In the early fall the Association had an open day, during which prominent men and women of the city spoke, and the memorial rooms were dedicated. Invitations to this were sent to the churches of the city.

Besides the opening reception in the fall to the new students, weekly afternoon teas have been given during the year, which have been made more attractive and better attended because held on the ground floor.

The weekly prayer meetings have been addressed by excellent speakers and the attendance has been good. Dr. Mary Noble, of the Class of 1901, now of the Woman’s Medical College of Ludhiana, India, gave several fascinating talks. In addition to these meetings, we have held in both the College and the Woman’s Hospital, on Sunday, ward services of song and prayer.
Two mission classes, one on China, led by Miss Li Ynin Tsao, and one on Mohammedanism, led by Dr. C. A. R. Janvier, were conducted most successfully. The latter was held at the noon hour, and was largely attended by the city students. Last year $47 were raised for the Ludhiana Woman's Medical College in India. This year the amount was increased to $75, to be used for a scholarship.

In connection with Bible study, in addition to classes taught by students, we have been most fortunate in having had Dr. Everitt give a series of talks on the fundamental truths of Christianity. We hope that these will be continued next year.

For next year we hope for still greater things for our Y. W. C. A. We hope the successes of the past session will be only the beginning of larger things. One of them we are dreaming of, even boldly planning for and expecting is a larger Brinton Hall—a veritable dormitory—which will accommodate thirty to fifty students, instead of only ten, which it can care for at present. There is a real need for such a dormitory. We trust this report and our aspirations for the future meet with the approval of the Alumnae and that we may still have their coöperation, as we have had it in the past.