INAUGURAL ADDRESS

The justification for an academic function like this,—an inauguration in war-time—however modest and simple in plan, is that it affords opportunity to present to the constituency of the college its friends and itself, a body of concrete facts, a survey of actual conditions, which constitute a challenge to the institution, to its spirit, its aims, its capacity, its product, and demand of it that it show in what manner it has visualized its opportunity and recognized its obligation and gone about its task of supplying to a needy, imperiously needy world, educated persons of character, understanding, power and vision.

The very kind and gracious words of encouragement, appreciation and confidence which we have just heard from representatives of sister, not to say maternal institutions, would argue that even this
young college had heard with a thrill the challenge flung down to the educational world; and with an enthusiasm that shall never be rashness, and a zeal that shall always be intelligent, in a courage that shall not falter, and by a faith that shall not die, had laid hold of a task obedient to an ideal that makes its eyes to glow in radiant hope and expectation.

It is my high honor and privilege today as one who is not yet even slightly responsible for what Connecticut College is, to bring my humble confirmation of what these friends and witnesses have felt to be true of her,—and to declare that her enthusiasm, her zeal, her courage, her faith, her ideals, may be equalled by colleges that are older, but are surpassed by none of any age. And further it may be accorded me as one generously honored in being called into her service to speak a word in appreciation of what one meets on this campus that cheers and
strengthens him, and then to speak of some ways and means by which these superlative qualities may, it is hoped, express themselves, and make their worthy contribution to the life of mankind.

Let me record first of all some great assets in the enterprise upon which we have already set forth together, in the very gracious and generous confidence manifest by the Board of Trustees, and their active disposition of helpfulness and counsel; in the hearty comradeship and fidelity of a Faculty of rare quality, and of unusual congeniality; and not least, in the very sincere and spontaneous loyalty and cooperation of a student body of whose evident and intrinsic worth I dare not speak. Suffice it to say, that there is a tonic and a tang in the air on this hilltop that finds its way to your soul, because it issued from young and buoyant souls; there is a ruggedness of life that is not all of the boulders and the fields and the
hills, but meets you in the energy and verve of these teachers and students who are made of pioneer stuff. There's a spirit of industry, and fidelity, and generosity; of friendship, sympathy and loyalty, that welds into a type of democracy far surpassing what our American national experiment therein can reveal.

And then up here on this eminence, is faith, and hope, and radiant expectation; and noble determinations; and a certain unusualness in viewpoint, yet rational and healthy withal; and a fascinating passion to do things, if possible, both better than, and different from the way they have been done heretofore. Here traditions are being forged, and who can but envy those who forge traditions, contrasted with those who are bound by them! Here noble ideals are being set up, ideals for woman in all her future relations, and who doubts but in refining power and delicate charm they shall prove more puissant in the days to come,
than ever before, and easily more formative than those which masculine minds can create!

And here work is done in conscience, and with the fine compulsion of self-respect and pride, and ambition, as is so often noticed in colleges for women, as contrasted with colleges for men, where the accepted policy among undergraduates, before these more serious days, was "Don't let your studies interfere with your education", and where a fair sprinkling of A grades in his report would send a man to the college physician in panic, for serious mental ailment.

Yes, there's gladness, and joy and ringing laughter, and pure fun, but there's also downright hard work and no play when that's the program, and a passion for the acquisition and absorption, and digestion of facts, and principles, and relations, that shall be transmuted into power, and action, of noble living, and glorious use
fulness.

Now these things couldn't properly be said by the speaker, if he were in a measurable degree responsible for these happy and commendable conditions. But may he not be permitted to state them as his observations and opinions and honest judgments?

And if by any chance he has made overstatement, one can just imagine that the persons concerned, in all good conscience, might accelerate and intensify their efforts, to make it all true after all, and save their chief the ignominy of being a poor judge of students—and of Faculty and Trustees, also, if you please.

But seriously, now, if our conditions are as happy and fortunate as described, why may we not frankly acknowledge that "to whom much is given, of them also much shall be required." One of the most obvious facts that emerge even in these dark and lurid days of war, is that woman is
not only destined to, but will immediately and irrevocably assume and grace a larger place in the life of the world than formerly. She is this moment performing, as substitute for man, more than a hundred tasks, which heretofore were thought either beyond her strength, or out of her line, or above or beneath her range of intelligence or dignity. Some of these that sap her strength unduly and wear her down and subject her to unwholesome conditions may she ere long be able to relinquish! But some she will not relinquish, and in some, by reason of her greater delicacy, and patience and imagination, she will surpass men, and hold the field against them.

Who does not know that noble women not a few, of rare organizational and executive ability, not to speak of splendid sacrificial spirit, have sprung to the help of staggering officials, and confused departments, and enmeshed and entangled beneficent organizations, and brought order
out of chaos, and steadiness out of uncertainty, and efficiency out of futility.

Witness women of rank and of gentleness and women of no rank, but equal gentleness, serving by thousands, close up to the front line of trenches and paying by scores with their lives, for their daring and devotion. Witness hundreds of college girls, threading the doubly, trebly perilous deep, responding instantaneously to the call of Servia and Armenia, of Russia and of France, of Italy and of Belgium, subjecting themselves to terrors and dangers of the front and to the worse dreads of filth and disease and the sight and knowledge of hideous suffering and anguish. I doubt not but that when the story of this World-War is fully known and truly told, if ever that shall be, the part of woman, passive and active, will be not less spectacular, less heroic, less noble, than that of any man, of any rank or grade.
These considerations, and examples carry with them the corollary of the widening of woman's sphere, geographically. Women have traveled for pleasure heretofore, and a relative handful have worked in missions in all lands, but consider what tremendous demands the world-wide and necessary reconstruction in all lands will make upon the technical training, the professional equipment, the socialmindness, and passion for human welfare, of the educated women of America.

Many an American College girl, not a few of this college, whose happy dreams of the future have pictured her always the American, with all the delights and privileges and satisfactions of the land of her love and her devotion poured out upon her, may within three years be beginning in stricken lands across the sea, a life-long service of sacrifice and toil, expressed in friendly, disinterested, and utter investment of herself in behalf of orphans, or widows; of blighted, maimed, or blinded men; as social
workers, welfare directors, district nurses, superintendents, what not, in a land whose speech today is utterly unknown to them.

One first essential requirement of all college students, from this day forth,—in view of America's emergence from her policy of isolation and of her entrance nationally into internation councils, and personally in her representatives in world-wide social work,—is the mastering of at least one European language beside English, not omitting from the list the Russian and other Slavic tongues. The best intentions and kindest hearts in the world will fail of their highest values, if American lips cannot speak the words of comfort, cheer, inspiration and friendship, in the only tongue that can be music to the ears of Europe's saddened, grieved and lonely unfortunates.

I hope that no student will be granted the diploma of this college who cannot, at the end of her course, read, write and speak with facility, either French, or Italian, or
German. Facility in these will make easier if you need to learn them, the Russian, the Polish, and other kindred tongues. Frankly, among other splendid and unique things that I would have the diploma of this college certify of its graduates, is this ability in at least one other language than English.

There is much that might properly here be said of the technical training of women, offerings in which this college aims to be increasingly liberal and practical, but I beg your permission to pass these by, for today, with only this very old-fashioned and practical sentiment and opinion, that it seems to me in respect of one of her natural, not to say professional activities, as well as for the health and happiness of any for whom she may be responsible under her roof, not least on account of that somewhat dim and distant, yet withal chivalrous and gallant individual who will smile at her over the cut glass, and push the roses aside to get an unobstructed view
of her, -- "every woman should be a good homemaker."

Don't, if you value your chances, and value the good opinion of the men of to-
morrow, boast of your ignorance of house-
keeping. I can well believe that the splendid fellows who have dedicated themselves to the highest cause men have ever espoused, after a career in the National service with its dependence upon army and heavy fare, will have no silly nor slight reason for some reasonable insistence on culinary ac-
complishment in the women of their ac-
quaintance. And further they will rightly seek for life-companions, those women who will add to their personal charm and grace, the specific knowledge and ability to direct and manage with skill a household, whether of a modest or more pretentious sort; and will create in this their high-
est realm, a spirit, an atmosphere, a quality, of contentment, of peace, of fidelity to highest ideals, of mutual
understanding, and happy comradeship, of generous, human sympathy, and of sublime faith, that shall make its door the holiest objective of his eager footsteps, and its name and thought the most sacred and mighty of human influences upon him.

Shall we stop to say that these are woman's highest functions, along with the maring and moulding and inspiring of her own children, and that the new age will either fulfill our dreams and hopes, or bitterly and grievously disappoint us and shatter our faith very much according to the success or failure of our wives and mothers, and other home-makers.

The man-power of Christendom for three generations is going to be depleted, unless the agencies of social and moral conservation prove even more potent than their most sane and sanguine exponents expect; unless all factors for goodness, and honor, including the Church of God, tremendously intensify and rationalize.
and spiritualize and assiduously and wisely prosecute their program for universal welfare and righteousness, then,—and it may be even in spite of these efforts,—men everywhere with few exceptions, will suffer the blight and almost inevitable demoralization of so hideous a conflict as this in which we are engaged.

Therefore the more highly imperative demand than ever is for women of ability, of tact, of charm, of uncompromising ideals and of noblest conception of her responsibility and function.

Add to this the fact, undoubted, that men everywhere on the declamation of peace and upon addressing themselves to the gigantic tasks of reconstruction, will become so engrossed, so immersed in affairs and materials, and so obsessed with the very pressure and fascination of the universal enterprise that the maintenance and incarnation, and demonstration of the sweeter, holier, mightier and truer realities of
life must be made by women.

Let every woman know then assuredly that there is every reason to believe and confidently to expect, that she will be called upon indeed to do all the things she has been asking as her right and privilege, but now for even higher and better reasons than ever; not omitting, not diminishing, in the least, upon pain of precipitating worse world tragedies, than this war, her immemorial, God-given function, of wife and mother,— humanity's first teacher, first friend, first confidant, first interpreter of God, whose task and high calling if it be disregarded, slighted or degraded, produces loss and anguish and tragedy, for which, under the stress of our life, there can be no atone-ment.

Now all this involves the possession by women of a power which it is especially the function of the college to stimulate, and if it can to impart, and that is the power to think,—the power to think straight,
clearly and aright. We can trust, in general, her womanly instincts; we have already learned how oft inerrant are her intuitions; we watch, we men, often, for the illuminative effect upon us, of her reactions, to people, to ideas, and to propaganda, and to great, human needs. But, may I be permitted to say, in fairness, that the restrictions that have been put upon her and the dependence she has been obliged to live under, have not given her the opportunity, nor even provided the necessity for that degree of initiative, vision, logical reasoning, and coordinative thinking which the new age will demand of her.

The wiser and more gracious women of today acknowledge that women are not logical, that they lack understanding especially of another's point of view: that they are not "graceful losers," not "generous winners", that they are often impatient, impractical and impolitic. Well,
so are men, you say—but we are pleading for that splendid type of modern woman that is to be, and no standards of "mere man" will satisfy, least of all, shall they be our defense.

Now women can think straight, and straight through intricate problems; and they can think clearly; even in frightful, maddening days like these, witness not a few most clear analyses from the trenchant pens of women we delight to honor and to give heed to; and they can think aright; in justice and honor, and without personal bias; a tragic and classic, indeed, sacred illustration of this appears in Edith Cavell's last words:

"I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness toward anyone."

There's a world of philosophy, of clear and right-thinking in those sentences.

"To think without confusion clearly" that is the power I covet for the women of
this college; for intelligence is power, and a right thought and a right method, and a right goal for effort, are the only factors that this desperate world of ours will tolerate, or that God can own and bless.

So then I come in my final recommendation to urge the importance of studies that furnish the mind with a knowledge of mankind. Though it be old-fashioned, I dare to affirm that basically "the proper study of mankind is man". A better life will issue only out of a better knowledge of life. Therefore, the humanities, the unfolding record of the thought and achievement, the follies, faults and fortunes of men. Therefore, the study of philosophy, the history of thought, ideas, and intellectual principles. If I could have autocratic power to fashion a curriculum, required subjects for every student candidate for a degree would be, the History of Philosophy, Logic, Ethics and a course at least in general Psychology. I hope to
secure this here, though something very much finer than use of autocratic power.

As training and aid also to right and clear thinking, I would require mathematics, certainly for the freshman year, and I would strongly urge its election in sophomore year, the more for those who demonstrate small ability in independent thinking and reasoning by poor grades in the freshman year.

And finally I would urge a valiant championing of the Classics, partly indeed for their disciplinary value, but even more because of the vital dependence of our speech and institutions upon the Greek and the Roman tongues and life, and for the revival and elevation of the qualities of poise, of intellectual power, of aesthetic soundness and of social vision, with which their life and literature is replete, and which, by immersion, therein (not through scant class requirements) can be absorbed and
reincarnated.

And for the teaching of these and all other subjects that may properly find their way into the not too discursive curriculum of a college whose ideals are ours, I would have only qualified teachers, who love to teach, love their subject, love humanity, love honor, and knowledge and power and truth, and goodness and God. These I affirm are fair and necessary critiques to apply for the retention or the engagement of any teacher in a college like our own, which aims to supply rare women, to a rarely needy world in a day when these objects of affection and devotion must be elevated and served as never before.

"A Dream of Fair Women", is mine today. A dream, it is, I know, that shall come true. And they are fair, because they are beautiful in spirit, and noble in ambition, and reverent of soul.

They are strong and lithe of body, and they are vigorous and facile of mind. The
radiance of the superlative is about them, for they have given their best: they have become familiar with the world's best thought; they count as friends and intimates the world's best minds: they have welcomed, with enthusiasm, the difficult processes that have developed the best in them, and they are going out into life, into homes, and schools and colleges, into offices, and institutions and positions of public trust and responsibility— the fair guild of the apostles of the best.

Can you not then understand the fascination of our life here together? Can you not see why these women glory in the yet crude and unfinished imitation of our project? Why they whistle at the winds, and laugh at the storms, and defy the cold and accept, as pioneers, inconvenience and inadequacy, and lingering incompleteness with hilarity?

Imagine our immediate need of a worthy expandible Library; of adequate departmental housing for Social Sciences and Fine Arts;
of an ample and attractive Assembly or Convocation Hall; a dignified and chaste Chapel where our young spirits may worship and meditate as befits their aspirations and highest loyalties; and then conceive, if you can, with what pain and shame we may have shortly to write to candidates for next year's entering class, "Very sorry, no room": unless dormitory accommodations are provided, before next September for at least one hundred additional students.

I am confident these accommodations, of every sort, will come, as the years proceed, not too slowly into being, but "he gives twice," even to a college, "who gives quickly!"

Let me call back for a moment my "Dream of Fair Women", and let me bid you make it yours; yours, as its friends, yours as its very personnel, and claim me,—and may I include my colleagues of Faculty and Trustees, for all we have and are, to make the dream come true.