Chapter 8

PRESIDENT OMWAKE'S LATER YEARS (1924 – 36)

The division of President Omwake's administration into two twelve year periods is symmetrical but arbitrary. No momentous event or change signaled the year 1924, although it did just precede the opening of the campaign for funds which was to provide for the expansion of facilities that began with the erection of Brodbeck and Curtis dormitories in 1927 and ended with the completion of the Science Building in 1932, a period of growth exceeded only by that of the present decade. President Omwake himself reviewed the progress of the College at ten year intervals, and a perspective view can be gained from his report to the Board, and the constituency of the College, in November of 1922.

As he said, figures do not "adequately represent the growth of an institution of this kind" but comparisons have some significance:

Ten years ago the Dean reported an enrollment of one hundred seventy-eight students. Today he reports two hundred sixty-one—a gain of almost 50 percent, notwithstanding constantly increasing discrimination in the administration of admission requirements. Since the War, the average rate of increase annually has been 13 percent. The income from tuition and other fees in 1911–12 was $15,277; in 1921–22, $40,303. Gifts for current use in 1911–12 amounted to $1,503.37; in 1921–22, to $8,530.73. The yearly budget of the Boarding Department advanced in the decade from $15,640.72 to $44,494.75. The total business of the College ten years ago amounted to $63,811.24. The report of the year just closed shows a total volume more than three times as great, namely, $194,348.76. Although the decade under review includes the period in which the claims of the College were yielded in favor of the urgent philanthropic needs incident to the War, the total of contributions received is over $300,000.

The President then listed all the additions and improvements to property which have been described in the last chapter.

In considering the "production" of the College, Dr. Omwake pointed out that
in the decade just ended the number of alumni had doubled, the total in 1922 being eight hundred and thirty. Of these the largest number were in education

which claims three hundred forty-seven Ursinus graduates. Of these fifty-three are presidents, professors and instructors in universitites, colleges, and theological seminaries. . . .

Nine of our alumni are principals or teachers in the State Normal Schools, twenty are public school superintendents and two hundred fifty-two are principals or teachers in high school. Our young women graduates enter largely upon teaching. The premier profession, as far as men graduates are concerned, is still that of the ministry. In her half century of existence Ursinus has turned out two hundred ninety-eight graduates and thirty non-graduates into the ministry of various denominational bodies. Seventeen Ursinus men and women have become missionaries, three having gone to India, nine to China, four to Japan, and one to Mexico. Quite a number of our recent graduates are student volunteers completing preparation for the foreign field or awaiting commissions. The professions of medicine, the law and journalism claim most of the rest of our graduates, although in the later years larger numbers have gone into business.

The reason for the preponderance of clergy in the alumni has been explained by the history of the College thus far related. It was to dwindle steadily and indeed had begun to do so well before World War I. Although Ursinus’ fame as a center for pre-medical studies was yet to be established, the number of men going into the healing arts or scientific research was steadily increasing. And the number of women, most of whom entered high school teaching or matrimony, had increased from a mere handful at the beginning of the century to two-fifths of the student body.

Finally President Omwake predicted the expansion in the student body which would necessitate an extensive building program. He anticipated an enrollment of four hundred twenty-five by 1926 and over five hundred by 1928. He was not far off. The enrollment in 1926 was three hundred eighty-eight and in 1928 four hundred and sixty. The discrepancy was caused by the fact that Ursinus was not able to acquire houses or build dormitories to house all the qualified candidates who were seeking admission in the mid-twenties.

The year 1925 was notable for two additions, one physical and the other symbolic, which have meant much to Ursinians ever since. The physical addition was the Eger Gateway, erected at the entrance of Freeland path through the generosity of George P. Eger, father of Sherman A. Eger ’25. Built of Chestnut Hill stone, as the library had been and the buildings soon to be erected would be, it had tablets inset which told of the history of education on the campus since 1832.

The symbolic addition was the adoption of the grizzly bear as the Ursinus athletic emblem, “because of the name of the College and because of his many traits suggestive for athletes.” As has been told, the family name of Zacharias Ursinus was Baer, which according to the practice of scholars in the sixteenth century he Latinized. Perhaps a Brown Swiss bear would have been historically more appropriate, but it would not have lent itself to the euphoniousness of the “Grizzly Gridder.” A plaque with the bear and the inscription “Ursini Collegii Artes Athleticae” was
Eger Gate, erected at the entrance of Freeland path in 1925, had tablets inset which told of the history of education on the campus since 1852.
made, and the football team and the other teams speedily became known on campus and in sports reporting as the Bears.

Increased emphasis on men's sports led to the decision to make Highland Hall, purchased a year earlier, into a training headquarters for athletes called the "Ursinus College Athletic Club." President Omwake reported that the better training conditions resulted in "greater endurance and fewer casualties."

The notable additions to the faculty that year were first Russell Davis Sturgis, a graduate of the University of Delaware with his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, who was elected assistant professor of chemistry following the resignation of Professor W. R. Gawthrop, and who after the death of Dr. Matthew Beardwood in 1940 headed the department of chemistry until his retirement in 1968. An active participant in the planning of the Science Building, Dr. Sturgis steadily built up the program and prestige of chemistry at Ursinus and encouraged promising students to pursue graduate study in chemistry. For his success in this work he was honored by his alma mater with the degree of Doctor of Science in 1964. His scholarship, devotion to the College, even temper and interest in his students are known by alumni of the last forty years.

Second was Franklin Irvin Sheeder, Jr. '22. After gaining his B.D. at Central Theological Seminary in 1925, he returned to Ursinus as assistant to the president and instructor in the English Bible. He was also made local office manager for the financial campaign started that year, and in 1932 became Registrar (now Dean of Admissions), an office he held until his resignation in 1946. To him belonged much of the credit for the steady raising of admission standards which produced successively better prepared freshman classes even in the depression years. Mrs. Sheeder (Josephine Xander '21) joined the faculty at the same time as instructor in Latin, then pageantry, and the English Bible. Their home, Lynnewood, served as a girls dormitory and a center for many extra-curricular meetings.

Third was William Wallace Bancroft '19, who took his doctorate at Pennsylvania and returned to Ursinus as instructor in English and also, somewhat incongruously to those who knew him, as graduate manager of athletics. His interest as scholar and teacher was divided almost equally between English and philosophy, and for many years until his death in 1947 he shared the teaching of philosophy with Dr. Tower. Tall, ruddy, dignified, and reserved, indeed quite shy, he longed to be hale and well met, but it was not in his nature.

The great event of 1925 was the launching of the financial campaign to attain the objectives outlined by President Omwake in 1922 and the intervening years. He told the Board that Ursinus needed $600,000 to liquidate the indebtedness and bring the endowment to the $500,000 minimum set by accrediting agencies. The same amount plus a little more was needed for development—$90,000 for a men's dormitory, $200,000 for a women's dormitory and dining hall, $300,000 for a science building, and $20,000 for an infirmary. The fund raising company of Ward, Wills, Dreichman and Gates of New York was engaged to conduct the campaign, with Bayard Hedrick as the manager and Willard S. Rosenberger '24 as his assist-
ant. The honorary chairman of the campaign was Cyrus H. K. Curtis, president of the Curtis Publishing Company, whom Dr. Omwake had interested in the College, and who had been a member of the Advisory Council since its establishment in 1913. Mr. Curtis was to be the most generous contributor and the greatest benefactor of Ursinus since Robert Patterson.

One of the campaign goals, apart from the securing of large sums from foundations and wealthy donors, was to raise a quarter of a million dollars each from the alumni, the Reformed churches interested in the College, and Montgomery County. To promote interest in the churches Rev. J.M.S. Isenberg '93, a member of the Board since 1906, gave up his church in Dayton, Ohio to become first "Extension Pastor" and then vice-president, a position he held until his tragic death in 1930.

Although the campaign was thus ambitiously planned and conducted, it proved to be too large a venture for the still very small Ursinus constituency even in the flush years of 1925-26. By November of 1926, sixteen months after it started, the pledges amounted to $287,404. It was the million that was missing. The actual receipts by February of 1927 were $178,495, and the College still needed $15,000, which it borrowed from the Board of Ministerial Relief, to settle the outstanding accounts for the building of the library completed four years earlier. Some of the campaign pledges were in the form of building and loan shares which matured in

Curtis and Brodbeck dormitories, opened in 1927, provided much needed housing for men students.
the latter years of the depression and proved very helpful in a tight time. Ursinus did gain from it all, though not in the measure hoped.

If you can’t do what you would, do what you can. Although he never uttered these words, they represented President Omwake’s philosophy at this time as throughout his administration, and courageously he moved the College forward. In November 1926 the Hon. Andrew R. Brodbeck, a member of the Board since 1905, offered to give $25,000 for the construction of a men’s dormitory to be built immediately. Encouraged by this proffer and by a Christmas gift of $75,000 for endowment by Cyrus H. K. Curtis, the Board instructed Frank R. Watson to prepare plans which were put out for bid in February. When the bids (fifteen) were received they were reviewed, the architect was instructed to make revisions, and as a result of this further consideration the Board in March, 1927 resolved to build two identical dormitories and awarded the contract for the two to Heavner-Guthridge Company for $132,850. The decision was influenced by the receipt of a bequest of $50,000 for endowment from the estate of William Welsh Harrison, Hon. ’04, which the Board invested in the project.

The contract was awarded on March 19, ground was broken, without ceremony, on March 25, and the cornerstones were laid on May 9, a remarkable example of celerity. Incidentally this ceremony was performed by students, Stanley M. Moyer ’27, president of the Men’s Student Council, and Frank E. Strine ’28, president of the Senior Class. Along with the usual documents of historic interest, a freshman dink was placed in each cornerstone. The Weekly commented that a “great surprise awaits those who shall open the boxes centuries hence.” Construction proceeded apace, and the dormitories were formally opened on November 22, at which time the one nearer Stine Hall was named Wilson Brodbeck Dormitory in memory of Andrew Brodbeck’s son and the second one was named Cyrus H. K. Curtis Dormitory. Like the Library and the Eger Gateway they were built of Chestnut Hill stone, in colonial style, and were planned to house fifty-four men each. Despite the naming they were for several years after completion usually called simply the “new” dorms. The complete cost, including furnishings, was $145,447.

Meanwhile, since funds were not available for a women’s dormitory and dining hall, the Board decided to build a dining hall on top of the kitchen because with increasing enrollment the “lower” dining room as it came to be called was totally inadequate. Plans prepared by Frank Watson were approved and the contract was given to Heavner-Guthridge, the cost to be $12,625. Seating 300 persons the “upper” dining room, as it was always called, was completed and put into use in October, a few weeks after college opened. In the same contract one of the main floor rooms in Freeland was made into a lounge and another into a private dining room for the President’s use.

Still another project of 1927 was the improvement of the athletic facilities. In the construction of Brodbeck and Curtis the two tennis courts west of Stine Hall were removed, and the six courts the College now has were constructed. Patterson Field was regraded, and a quarter mile track and 220 straightaway were laid. The
major improvement was the enlargement of the gymnasium whereby the Thompson Cage and the Field House were incorporated into one building having a second matching shower and locker area, an enlarged playing floor, offices for the Physical Education staff, a bleacher or second floor stand on the one side of the gymnasium, and a stage for dramatic productions on the end toward Patterson Field. It was estimated that all of this construction would cost $40,677, and an appeal was made to the alumni to contribute to what was now called the Thompson-Gay Gymnasium, coupling with Robert W. Thompson the name of George Henry Gay, whose tragic death in 1913 has been recorded. The estimate in this project was fairly close, for at the Board meeting in June, 1928 the completed cost was reported as $42,235. At that time President Omwake stated that all the projects just described plus one smaller one not mentioned here had cost $233,666. All of them except the dormitories were compromises, but since only $88,000 had actually been given for them up to that time, they were all that could be accomplished.

Moreover, they were a necessity. The average increase in enrollment had been nine per cent a year, the national average, from 1920 to 1924. In 1925 the gain was eleven per cent and in 1926 it was twenty-eight per cent, the entering class numbering one hundred and seventy-three, larger than the entire student body of twenty years earlier. One hundred and six resident students had to live off campus in houses not owned by the College. This included the students living in Glenwood, which had been leased as a dormitory for women since 1922, and Lynnewood and Fircroft, first used for the same purpose in 1926. Fircroft, the erstwhile Vanderslice home and one of the few ancient houses in the borough, eventually became the property of Mrs. Ella Ermold and by the generosity of her daughter, Miss Sara E. Ermold, was given to the College.

Classroom space was at a premium, seating in the chapel had to be increased, and the only solution in the dining rooms for the next year was to crowd eight at a table instead of six. Such expedients solved this kind of over-crowding, at least for a time, but the situation in science instruction demanded bolder measures. Even with the enlarging of the chemistry laboratory by its removal to the basement of Bomberger in 1921, the laboratories were in effect no larger and no better, except for the addition of new and more sophisticated equipment, than they had been in 1893 when Bomberger Hall was completed. The number of students majoring in science increased, though there were a few momentary decreases, year by year, particularly through the stimulus given by the teaching of Russell D. Sturgis in chemistry and, from 1926 on, of J. Harold Brownback '21 in biology. The national trend, too, was clearly toward greater concentration in science.

President Omwake had foreseen the need at least as far back as 1916 in his "Program of Development" for the College. In August of 1917 C. Edward Bell '17 gave $2,000 towards the construction of a science building, which was invested to await further gifts. The financial campaign of 1925 brought subscriptions of $26,759 for the purpose. At that time the President estimated that a building of the sort
needed would cost, equipped, $350,000 (in 1916 he had estimated $90,000). In 1926–7 the energies of the administration were chiefly occupied in the construction projects already described. But the science building was not forgotten, and from the beginning of 1928 on it occupied the forefront of the President’s planning and effort.

He was concerned not only with the procuring of new and larger laboratories but with a better educational use of them, in which there could be “more opportunity for native spontaneity on the part of the student, and whereby, especially in the more advanced work, the spirit and method of original research might prevail.” To this end he enlisted the assistance of a special advisory committee on research methods in undergraduate study and its bearing on laboratory construction. The committee consisted of Dr. Robert M. Yerkes ’97, famous for his studies at Yale in the primates, Dr. Ralph H. Spangler ’97, who as a practicing physician had done extensive research in allergies, epilepsy and other medical problems, and Dr. John Raymond Murlin Hon. ’28, of the University of Rochester, who had been professor of chemistry at Ursinus from 1901 to 1904. Their ideas were coalesced with the President’s thinking in a statement, endorsed by the faculty, called “Original Inquiry and the Research Method”, or, as it was familiarly called, the “Ursinus College Plan.”

The objectives of the “Plan” were threefold:

1. To have the student get as large a possession as possible of organized knowledge;
2. To arouse the spirit of inquiry;
3. To disseminate the spirit of thoughtful inquiry throughout the entire institution.

The teacher’s role in the implementation of these objectives was to counsel, to teach, and to investigate, i.e., to pursue his own research, both for its and his own sake and as a model and inspiration for his students. The hope was that the learning process would thus become for the student his own responsibility so that he would become “a more active agent, entering upon the pursuit of learning on his own account.” If this hope was realized students would work at their own pace, and a flexibility in the use of time and facilities would result. The assumption was implicit that in the upperclass years the student would attain to greater command of his subject and ability to proceed independently on it.

That the “Plan” was largely a generalization made to create the climate to prevail in the new science building is shown by the fact that although there was no introduction into the curriculum from 1928 to 1932 of seminars or independent study patterns, the one specific proposal made in it was that the “unit of equipment” for each professor should consist of a “small but comfortable and attractive conference room or sanctum in which the professor performs his service as counselor”, a classroom “fitted up in the usual manner”, and a laboratory or work-room “in which he serves as investigator and in which, under his direction, students are trained in the methods of research.” It was suggested that such an arrangement of
Pfahler Hall, opened in 1932 as the Science Building, provided thirteen teaching laboratories, two research laboratories, nine professors' laboratories, six classrooms, a lecture hall seating almost four hundred, a library, and numerous other special facilities.

Laboratories in Pfahler Hall made possible further improvement in the instruction in the biological and physical sciences for which the College had been winning laurels over the past ten years and increased the number of high school students who wished to attend Ursinus to major in science.
facilities, perhaps with several departments sharing a common laboratory, could also be useful in the social sciences.

In fact, as one who was then an undergraduate can testify, the “Ursinus College Plan” of 1928 did not materially affect the general educational expectations the faculty had for their students or noticeably increase the amount of self-propelled or, to be more pedagogically courteous, independent study. And when Pfähler Hall was built, the triune pattern of study, classroom, and laboratory was only imperfectly embodied. Yet of the rightness of President Omwake’s thinking there can be no doubt, and it is a rueful testimony to the fact that colleges, like the mills of the gods, can grind “exceeding slow” to find that President Helfferich was advocating in the second “Ursinus Plan” of the mid-sixties those ideals of independent study and self-propelled research that President Omwake envisioned in the prospectives of almost forty years earlier.

During 1928–29 preparatory study for the new building was carried on. President Omwake and Vice-president Isenberg inspected science buildings in New England and the Middle Atlantic states. Mr. Watson, the college architect, and the President saw new buildings at Cornell and Wesleyan. The special advisory committee was consulted and also the Committee on Laboratory Architecture of the National Research Council. This careful groundwork was needed, for not only was the projected building the largest and most ambitious construction ever contemplated at Ursinus but also the most costly. At each stage its estimated cost rose; by 1929 it was $450,000, not far short of the total endowment ($474,000). Thanks to lowering prices caused by the depression, the general contract bid, that of F. L. Hoover and Sons, accepted by the Board on January 15, 1931 was $391,268.

The real go ahead signal was given by Cyrus H. K. Curtis’s “Christmas gift” of 2000 shares of Curtis Publishing Company stock in 1929, worth at that time over $200,000. He promised an additional $100,000 in 1931 just before the contract was awarded.

The site for the new building, chosen by President Omwake in 1916, was on the western edge of the campus. To clear it, Olevian Hall and its barn-carriage house had to be razed. The barn burned on October 27. Investigation by the administration and the M.S.G.A. suggested that a lit cigarette butt was the cause, but no one found out who was smoking in the barn at 4:45 A.M. The contractors burned Olevian itself on February 20, 1931, having found that the old Victorian farmhouse was so sturdily constructed as to make demolition a slow, costly process. Also destroyed in the clearing of the site were three great sugar maples which had for years graced the west campus.

Ground was broken on Founders Day, February 19. President Omwake, turning the first shovelful of earth, used the same shovel that had been used forty years earlier to break ground for Bomberger and in his “Tower Window” column pointed out the parallels between the situations of the College then and now and the significance of these two major buildings for its growth. The cornerstone was laid on Commencement Day, June 8, again paralleling the construction pattern of
Bomberger forty years earlier. The building was substantially completed and opened for inspection on Alumni Day, June 4, 1932, and occupied in the following September.

To appreciate what enlargement of facilities and opportunity for study and research the Science Building provided, one must recall that faculty and students were moving from three laboratories, two of them only 30 by 40 feet in size and almost antediluvian in design, to a four story building (96 by 186 feet) containing thirteen teaching laboratories, two research laboratories, nine professors' laboratories, six classrooms, a lecture hall seating almost four hundred, a library, temperature rooms, a balance room, a dark room, storage rooms which alone equalled the old laboratories in size, and all the necessary ancillary areas. All this made possible a great further improvement in instruction in the biological and physical sciences for which the College had been winning laurels over the past ten years and accelerated the tendency of good high school students who wished to major in science to come to Ursinus. Furthermore, the space freed in Bomberger was converted into classrooms and faculty offices, improving conditions there as well.

At the same time there was a darker side to the picture. Although Cyrus H. K. Curtis, the College's chief benefactor in this period, had given over $300,000 in preferred stock for the construction of the building, the total cost was about $540,000. In the collapse of stock market prices which began on "Black Tuesday" (October 29, 1929) and was continued by the bank crashes of 1932, securities which the College held for the purpose of financing the construction fell in value. Rather than sell them at a loss, the administration decided to borrow to meet contractors' bills as they fell due. But this was a temporary expedient which only increased the total indebtedness accumulated through the years.

Therefore the Board in August, 1932 at the suggestion of Edward S. Fretz, the College treasurer, authorized the issuing and sale of $475,000 ten-year 6% gold notes, to mature in 1942. But the market was so depressed that the notes sold slowly. As of August 31, 1933 only $83,400 worth were sold, and by June 30, 1934 the total was $119,600. In fact, the whole issue was never sold because it was found that the bills to external creditors could be met without sale of the complete issue. This did not mean that the Science Building was paid for, in the long term financing of construction. It merely joined the long list of recent projects for which monies sufficient to pay the entire cost had not been secured. In the Treasurer's report for 1935–6 the attention of alumni and other potential donors was called to the need for giving to "The Alumni Memorial Library, Brodbeck Dormitory, Curtis Dormitory, the Dining Hall, the rear campus, the athletic grounds, Thompson-Gay Gymnasium, Science Building, and Fetterolf Hall." For all these projects completed and in use there were open accounts in the Treasurer's books.

The unfortunate coincidence of the building of the Science Building in a depression era, though planned before the depression and begun before its extent and duration were realized, was not the only circumstance that drained the College's financial strength. The income from endowment dropped, both from the securities
the College held in its own portfolio and especially from two large endowments, the Patterson and Housekeeper Funds (totaling $200,000), which were managed by trust companies. The income from tuition and fees dropped because of decline in enrollment, although this drop was not as great as that experienced by some other colleges, nor was it constant. The enrollment figures from 1929 on are these: 1929, 482; 1930, 468; 1931, 448; 1932, 457; 1933, 444; 1934, 466; 1935, 459; 1936, 505. In 1933 the entering class was 156 where the year before it had been 162. The hope had been for a class of 200. By extraordinary efforts Franklin I. Sheeder secured an entering class of 173 in 1934, the largest to date. It was reported that over 200 applications were received and "Nearly a score were rejected," which prompts the reflection that either the candidates that year were of unusually high calibre or that the College took almost anyone who chose to apply and could pay the fees.

Comparatively small as these changes in enrollment may seem, their effect from year to year was great because with increasing debts and debt service charges and with decreasing income from an inadequate endowment, the income from students was three-quarters of the College's annual budget. Even this had to be in a sense discounted, for many of the students could not or did not pay their whole bills. Many gave notes, and collection on these unpaid bills and notes was slow. The effect of this situation was that in June of 1936, when President Omwake's administration ended, the amount owed by students for the current year plus that owed in unpaid notes or accounts for preceding years amounted to $56,768.

Even this does not tell the whole tale. The depression lowered the incomes and resources of those who had been or might be benefactors. Most fund solicitations had been the personal effort of President Omwake, who, despite heroic effort, could not do everything and was hampered by growing fatigue and illness in the last years of his administration. He simply could not get money from frightened or, as they felt, impoverished donors. The result was that after 1931 gifts to Ursinus dwindled to a mere trickle, not enough to counterbalance losses in current income from lessened dividends. The total of gifts in 1931–2 was $47,126; 1932–3, $72,531 (an artificially high figure in one sense, for over $48,000 of it was realized from the maturing of building and loan shares taken for the benefit of the College by alumni in the 1926 financial campaign); 1933–4, $22,880; 1934–5, $8,059; and 1935–6, $16,091.

No campaign for funds was conducted during these years. Had one been attempted it would probably have been fruitless, for the New Deal did little to get the wheels of commerce turning as they had turned before 1929. In the College itself everyone did what he could. The faculty voted in November, 1932 to donate ten percent of their salaries for the remainder of the academic year to help pay current expenses. Thanks to this action current operations ended in the black by about $750. This palliative was continued, and from 1933 to 1936 the faculty gave from five to fifteen percent annually to help meet the annual deficits (the salary scale ran from
Even so monies had to be taken from the gifts to wipe out annual deficits. In 1933–4 $16,000 out of the gift total of $22,880 had to be devoted to this purpose. Constant recourse was had to short-term borrowing from as many as ten different banks, but the credit of Ursinus was constantly eroded until, as President McClure said in later years, in 1936 the College couldn’t buy a loaf of bread on credit.

Surprisingly enough this growing financial crisis, although it prevented expansion of facilities (the building of a women’s dormitory group, projected several years earlier, had to be postponed for a quarter of a century) or large enrichments of the educational program, did not affect the daily round in classroom and on campus or the spirit of the College community as much as, in retrospect, it would seem likely to have done. Morale was good, there was a feeling all through these twelve years that progress was being made, and a spirit of loyalty to Ursinus and its future was pervasive.

The story of academic development barely started earlier in this chapter now claims our attention. In 1926 Dr. Ezra Allen, professor of biology since 1919, was granted leave of absence to do research for the Carnegie Institute. In his stead was named J. Harold Brownback ’21, who had been pursuing graduate study at the University of Pennsylvania. Although he took no graduate degrees there, Dr. Brownback (he received an honorary Sc.D. from Ursinus in 1937) at once proved to be a thorough, demanding, and dynamic teacher. The temporary appointment became a permanent one, he rose to full professor in six years, and until his untimely death in 1952 Dr. Brownback instructed and inspired generations of premedical students, future researchers in biology, and all who entered his classes, whether they were science oriented or not. Knowledgeable in antiques, proud of being “Pensilvawish Deitsch”, nervous, vivid, he made a strong and lasting impression on all who knew him.

Political science, which had always been a sort of appanage of history, became a full fledged department in 1926, and after a year in which the professorship was held by John Thomas Salter, Dr. J. Lynn Barnard returned to Ursinus, where he had begun his teaching career in 1897–1904. In the interim he had been a professor of social studies in the Philadelphia School of Pedagogy and later Director of Social Studies in the State Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Barnard at once showed that the enthusiasm and confidence in the abilities of his students which had proved so infectious in his earlier tour of duty were not lost. The number of students preparing to enter law, government service, or the teaching of political science increased, and until his death in 1941 Dr. Barnard proved the truth that motivation by encouragement is as effective as motivation by fear. Every male was “Mr. Man” to him, and all were potential scholars in his sight.

The second important appointment of that year was George Russell Tyson as professor of education. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, from which
he got his Ph.D. in 1936, he had been a specialist in testing in the U.S. Army and professor of education at Cornell College before coming to Ursinus. He at once began to strengthen the teacher training program which had been languishing after the resignation of Paul A. Mertz in 1924 and firmly controlled this large part of the College's program, including during that time the teaching of advanced psychology, until his retirement in 1961. Short, precise, positive, somewhat combative, he missed no opportunity to advance the scholarly and professional status of teacher preparation.

Still another sign of the enlargement of the student body and the concomitant expansion of the curriculum in 1927 was the creation of a chair of physics, which through the years had been handled as a younger brother of chemistry or mathematics and taught only on an elementary level. To this professorship the College called Foster Ellis Klingaman, who had recently gained his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins. Professor Klingaman at once expanded the offerings from a year-long course to five courses, among them optics, radio-activity, and atomic structure. After five years he resigned, to be succeeded in 1932 by John W. Mauchly, professor of physics from 1933 to 1941, began the electronic computer revolution in Pfahler Hall by building counting devices to assist in his weather research. He was co-inventor of the ENIAC, which was hailed as the first all electronic digital computer. (Pictured 1972.)
of physics here until 1941, who was to be one of the pioneer inventors of computerization.

In 1928 the English Department was enlarged by the addition of Norman E. McClure '15 as associate professor, a rank instituted for the first time the year before. After two years at Pennsylvania State University, where he gained the M.A., Dr. McClure joined the faculty of Pennsylvania Military College, where he was professor of English literature eleven years as well as registrar for ten before returning to Ursinus. As he was to become president in 1936 and lead the College for twenty-two years, his achievements will be recorded in detail later.

The second appointment of that year was Harvey Lewis Carter. A graduate of Wabash and Wisconsin, from which he received his Ph.D. in 1938, Dr. Carter was instructor in history and public speaking. He moved up through the ranks and was a full professor before he resigned in 1945, when the state of his health compelled him to move to a drier climate. Tall, loose-limbed, sleepy-eyed, he had a Hoosier drawl that counterpointed his keen wit.

In the following year the one appointment of importance was that of Maurice Oberlin Bone as associate professor of economics and business administration. After his graduation from Northwestern University Mr. Bone was engaged in business, and he brought a knowledge of business practice and accounting which complemented Dr. Boswell's primary interest in economic theory. A doer rather than a talker, he served in all sorts of thankless capacities, auditing endless accounts of student organizations as well as teaching his full stint in the College and after 1952 in the Evening School until his death ten years later. Friendly, unobtrusive, efficient, he was a man of sense.

Most of the faculty members who have been briefly described, and only those who were at Ursinus for a lengthy service have been named, represented by their coming an expansion either of an existing department, i.e., an addition to its manpower, or of actual curricular coverage. The one man department was soon to become the rarity rather than the rule. But these additions were made within the framework of the group system. Since the introduction of Economics and Business Administration in 1921, there had been no new groups. Changes occurred suggesting that the group system was nearing the end of its usefulness. After English was divorced from history in 1927 four of the seven groups then in existence were in effect majors in a single subject. Now another single subject group was to be created.

In 1930 physical education, which hitherto had been physical training, i.e., two years of courses, the first required for all students in gymnastics and outdoor exercise, its primary intention being to promote good health and facility in games for non-athletes, was made a full fledged academic department. Courses in such subjects as applied anatomy and physiology, diagnosis and anthropometry, and the history, principles and methods of physical education were introduced, along with a full complement of applied courses. In the next year the Physical Education Group was created and Professor Brownback was named advisor.
Some members of the faculty and the college constituency were less than enthusiastic about this innovation, for two reasons. They believed that physical education was not really a liberal arts subject, on a par with history or chemistry or philosophy, that it was appropriate to a state teacher’s college rather than to one like Ursinus which now had accreditation from the Association of American Universities and was approved by the American Association of University Women. Something of this feeling probably dictated the choice of faculty members from science or education as advisors of the group for many years.

The other reason was that some feared such a course of study might become the natural haven of football players and thus be a dubious, though legal, means of insuring that varsity players could stay eligible. It is true that for the first seven years of its existence the Physical Education Group had more men than women, but from 1939 on women majors have outnumbered men usually two or three to one. The fear proved to be unfounded, and the purity of our intercollegiate teams was never questioned.

Creation of the new group necessitated an enlarged staff. This was a problem for several years as instructors, full and part-time, came and went. The group was by its very nature involved with the College’s sports program and its coaching staff. For women the problem was solved by the appointment in 1931 of Eleanor Frost Snell as instructor in physical education and coach of women’s athletics. Few could have guessed that this tall, quiet, self-possessed young woman would become the “winningest” coach in Ursinus history and a legend in her own time. A Nebraskan who was graduated from the University of Nebraska and from Columbia University, she taught briefly at several high schools and teachers colleges before coming to Ursinus. The shape of things to come was to be seen in the hockey season of 1931.

Eleanor Frost Snell, appointed in 1931 as instructor in physical education and coach of women’s athletics, became the “winningest” coach in Ursinus history and a legend in her own time. Her nationally ranked field hockey teams, known as “Snell’s Belles,” made Ursinus synonymous with women’s athletics.
when the first team of "Snell's Belles", as in later years they were called, won seven and tied one in a nine game schedule.

The only other change in the group system was the discontinuance of the Classics Group in 1934. The lineal descendant of the original curriculum of the College and of the European liberal arts tradition of education, it had long lost place to other majors. Its demise was the result of several factors: one, that pre-ministerial students no longer felt that it was the only proper preparation for seminary; two, that students no longer had to offer four years of Latin as credentials for admission; three, that interest in classical languages was dwindling rapidly all over the country. At Ursinus interest in Greek died rapidly because of a scholarly but cold and withdrawn professor. In 1931 there were twenty-four in the group; in 1934 there were five.

An innovation of 1934 was the Introduction to Science Course (Biology AB). The rationale of this team-taught course, using instructors in biology, chemistry, physics, and astronomy, was that non-science majors needed an orientation in all the major branches of science, a broad over-view that would be liberalizing in itself and would help the individual student to choose more wisely the particular science he would wish to study in a laboratory course in his sophomore or junior year. It never lived up to the expectations upon which it was designed and was dropped, unlauded by all, in 1940.

The final academic innovation of this period was the institution of comprehensive examinations. The move to comprehensives originated in the English Department, where Professor McClure suggested that permission to give them as a part of the group requirements be requested from the faculty. When this request was presented to the Academic Council and the faculty, it was made for English alone with no thought of forcing it on departments who did not wish to follow suit. As at Harvard, whose experience was cited in the discussions, the hope was that departmental autonomy should govern. The Academic Council approved this procedure in November of 1933, but by the time faculty approval was secured President Omwake came to the conclusion that it would be wiser to make comprehensives mandatory for all groups, and thus the action was taken, to begin with the class of 1938. The actual operation of comprehensives belongs to the next chapter.

In the years from 1930 to 1936 a number of persons joined the faculty who were to become long term members of the College community. Frank Leroy Manning succeeded Ralph Veatch as assistant professor of mathematics. A graduate of Cornell and Rutgers, Dr. Manning gained his Ph.D. at Cornell in 1935 and taught here until his retirement in 1965.

In 1932 Donald Gay Baker, Haverford College A.B. 1926 and Harvard University Ph.D. 1932, was elected assistant professor of Greek and Latin. An All-American soccer player, Dr. Baker assisted in coaching the soccer team, in a sport which had been introduced only a year earlier, and has coached it from 1932 to the present. By rank he is the senior member of the faculty.
Paul Raymond Wagner '32 became after graduation an assistant to Dr. Brownback in the Department of Biology. Named an instructor in 1934, he completed his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 and moved up through the ranks, succeeding Dr. Brownback as chairman upon the latter's death in 1952.

After a series of less than successful instructors in chemistry, William Schuyler Pettit was appointed to that department in 1933. A graduate in engineering and chemistry of the University of Pennsylvania, where he took his M.S., he at once became a successful and demanding teacher. In later years his administrative abilities were put to use in his appointment as assistant registrar and then as registrar from 1948 to 1954 and even more notably as dean of the College from 1954 to 1969. In 1969 he was named vice-president for academic affairs; in 1970, he succeeded Dr. Helfferich as president of the College.

During Professor Frank Manning's leave of absence in 1934-5 to complete his doctorate, Foster Leroy Dennis '31 was appointed instructor in mathematics. Having taken his A.M. at Cornell in 1932, he later completed his doctorate at the University of Illinois and continues as a member of the department to the present, being the chairman since Dr. Manning's retirement.

Increased teaching loads in the Modern Language Department brought the appointment of George Wellington Hartzell as instructor in German and French. After graduation from Lehigh he was an instructor in his alma mater for three years and completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania before joining the Ursinus faculty in 1934. After the death of Dr. Calvin D. Yost in 1942 he became head of the German Department.

In August of 1934 Dr. Homer Smith died after a long and fruitful career (he came to Ursinus in 1903). Dr. McClure became head of the department in his stead. The department was completed by the appointment of Calvin D. Yost, Jr., as instructor in English.

Not a member of the faculty, but a most faithful member of the staff was Helen M. Moll, R.N., who was elected resident nurse upon the resignation of Gladys H. Mayberry. Except for the years of World War II, when she served in the Army Nursing Corps and attained the rank of major, Miss Moll has attended to the medical needs of the College community to this day.

During President Omwake's leave to recover his health in 1935, four appointments were made of persons who have served the College long and well. William Franklin Philip succeeded Jeanette Douglas Hartenstine as instructor in voice and director of choral singing. Educated at the Troy Conservatory and in Germany Dr. Philip had extensive experience as a choral and orchestral conductor before coming to Ursinus, where two years later he began the annual presentation of Handel's Messiah which has become so beloved a part of the Christmas season.

Eugene Herbert Miller '33, a second generation Ursinan and valedictorian of his class, returned after completing his M.A. at Clark University to teach history during Professor Carter's absence. After attaining his Ph.D. at Clark in 1940 he

President Omwake's Later Years (1924-36)
became assistant professor of political science in 1941 and moved through the ranks rapidly, serving for two years each as registrar and as acting dean of men. His career as a Fulbright lecturer in Japan and India and as a teacher at the Army War College in Carlisle, in which his wife, Jessie Ashworth Miller, lecturer in sociology at Ursinus from 1947 to 1966, joined him, is well known.

As was mentioned in the account of the establishment of the Physical Education Group, most of the people appointed in that department in the early thirties did not stay. Miss Snell was the first permanent appointee, as it turned out, and the second was Everett Martin Bailey, a graduate of Springfield College and Columbia University, from which he came to Ursinus in 1935 as instructor in physical education. Elected professor in 1948, he has been Director of Athletics since 1944.

The last appointee of 1935, Alfred Miles Wilcox, unfortunately died in the middle of his career, while completing a quarter century of teaching here, in 1960. A graduate of Wesleyan and Brown, Dr. Wilcox got his Ph.D. at Pennsylvania in 1939. Devoted to the literature and culture of France, he was also fond of music and puns, of which he perpetrated many.

In student affairs, apart from the changes in styles, fads and language which Ursinus students in these years shared with their congeners on other campuses, two of the greatest changes in this period were the dissolution of Zwing and Schaff after almost sixty years of existence, during most of which time they were the centers of extra-curricular activity, and the rise of the local fraternities and sororities.

The comparatively quick demise of the literary societies was the result of internal and external factors. Through the years the energy which members put into the weekly programs waned. Complaints about carelessness and cheapness appeared as early as May, 1922. A few months later another editorial in the Weekly suggested that they were getting too large and unwieldy to effect their purpose as a means of self-improvement and entertainment for the whole student body. There had been an unwritten rule for years that every student must belong to one or the other. A high percentage did, but with the rapid increase of enrollment in the mid-twenties (for example, the freshman class in 1926 numbered 173) involvement by everyone and even attendance at the meetings became impossible. The rapid formation of clubs devoted to special interests, the rise of the fraternities, the great popularity of dancing after it was permitted on campus—all tended to destroy what had for decades been a homogeneous unity.

Beginning in September, 1927, the societies met on alternate Friday evenings in Bomberger chapel, Zwing as the older having the first meeting. When Thompson-Gay Gymnasium opened, a few meetings were held there, but the end was in sight. Although both societies presented anniversary plays, Schaff staging “East is West” on December 9 and Zwing “The Sign on the Door” on March 23, 1928, the holding of one meeting by Zwing and the election of a slate of officers by Schaff were the last gasps of activity. In the next year under the auspices of Professor and Mrs. Sheeder a temporary “Board of Extra-Curricular Activities” was organized. It proposed that all extra-curricular activities be assembled into three groups—
musical, literary, and dramatic. In effect three clubs, each specialized, were to be organized. Representatives of Schaff and Zwirg were asked to “appeal to these societies, now defunct, to officially disband” and to support the new organizations by turning over their finances to the Board of Control, to be formed. In the sequel all did not work out as planned, but Zwirg and Schaff were dead. Ave atque vale.

Fraternities and sororities, and some clubs having their characteristics without the name, had formed from time to time in the past. One of President Omwak’s early acts in 1912 was to have them barred from the college. But the tendency of students to band into exclusive groups reappears in each generation. Around 1921 there flourished briefly the “Big Nine”. When the present local fraternities began to form in the mid-twenties, they did so quietly and with little public activity. Accounts of their existence and activities do not appear in the Weekly or the Ruby up to 1929–30. The oldest of them was Demas (Derr Ever Mighty and Strong), now known as Delta Mu Sigma, which began in 1924. In 1925 came Alpha Phi Epsilon, in 1926 Beta Sigma Lambda, and in 1928 Sigma Rho Lambda. Sororities appeared a little later. The oldest in modern existence was Alpha Chi Lambda, founded in 1926. Then, in a fever of activity, five were established in 1929—Alpha Sigma Nu, Alpha Phi Lambda, Sigma Omega Gamma, Tau Sigma Gamma, and Chi Alpha Tau. Several of these were to die or change their name in future years, but in 1931 Phi Alpha Psi, which had been founded in 1907 and later disbanded, was reactivated, historically the oldest of all these organizations.

By the time the faculty was fully aware that fraternities and sororities were again in active existence, their number and strength were too great for a repetition of the summary ban of 1912. Besides, the size of the student body and the social climate had changed in seventeen years. So, feeling it was wiser to “guide by wise direction than to control by force”, the Academic Council recommended and the Faculty agreed that the College adhere to its “time-honored position in not permitting the intrusion of outside social organizations”, but that the rules be amended to permit students to organize “other societies among themselves for mutual improvement” provided that the constitution, laws, and “workings” of the proposed societies are approved by the Faculty and are “at all times open to its inspection.” There were some grumblings then, as there have been through the years since, that national affiliation and fraternity houses were banned. But the system has worked fairly well, though at times to the detriment of other activities through fraternal block voting.

Coordination and regulation of activities was provided for by the organization of the Inter-Fraternity Council in January, 1930. Its first action was to organize and run an inter-fraternity basketball league. The Inter-Sorority Council was organized that same month, and the two bodies have functioned to the present time.

The organization of the inter-fraternity basketball league coincided with efforts on the part of the new Physical Education Group to stimulate intra-mural athletics generally. A league of dorm and day student teams was organized to play schedules in touch football, basketball, and softball. Gridirons were laid out in the
lower reaches of Price Field and a softball diamond at the west end of the tennis courts. Intra-mural sports for men lasted far longer than those for women and continued indeed for the better part of twenty years. However, they never evoked the enthusiasm that encouraged the efforts of varsity teams attempting to bring victory to the Red, Old Gold, and Black in intercollegiate matches. In the twenties this enthusiasm was so high that students would gather on the old grandstand to cheer the football team during its practice sessions.

In the years immediately after World War I the team was coached by Ralph Mitterling '15 from 1919 to 1921, Allison Cornog for the next two years, and Harold Zimmerman in 1924 and 1925. Ronald C. Kichline '16 came in 1926, and during his five years as head coach (he was assisted by Ray Schell '28 from 1928 to 1930), although the seasons were not spectacular, Ursinus defeated her arch-rival, Franklin and Marshall, four years out of five. In the 1927 game, after most of the squad had been sent to the showers, in the closing moments an Ursinus man was injured and had to leave the field without a replacement available. The remaining ten men scored a touchdown, making the final score 32-7.

In 1930 a new era in athletics began with the appointment of Russell C. Johnson '16 as graduate manager of athletics and coach of baseball. "Jing", as he was known by all from his college days as a star pitcher and his career in professional baseball, bent every effort to make Ursinus the "winningest college in the East." With Donald D. McAvoy as head coach and Ralph "Horse" Chase as his assistant, the football varsity won six out of nine in 1930 and 1931. The next few years weren't as successful, but the 1934 team covered itself with glory by defeating the University of Pennsylvania 7-6, matching the feat of the famous 1910 team. Appropriately, that year, 1933-4, the *Grizzly Gridder* began publication with Irving E. Sutin '34 as the first editor.

Baseball had its ups and downs. Before 1930 whoever was coach of football coached at least one other varsity sport, and that not always one of which he was a master. Winning seasons came in succession from 1922 to 1924. From 1928 to 1930 Ursinus had more victories than defeats, and under "Jing" Johnson the Bears became a strong contender in the Eastern Pennsylvania League, though none of the seasons compared with those of 1914 to 1916, when he was pitching.

Increased interest in sports showed itself in the introduction of cross-country, wrestling, and soccer in the years 1929 to 1931. Soccer, which had been characterized as "too English" for Ursinus in 1913, was sponsored by Oscar Gerney, one of the new instructors in physical education in 1931. It got its real start with the coming to the College as professor of Greek of Donald G. Baker, a former all-American at Haverford. "Doc" has been coach since that time, and soccer has been important in the fall sports program ever since.

Basketball and tennis, like baseball, had crests and troughs: 1925, 1926, and 1928 were winning seasons on the court. From 1931 on Ursinus was a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Basketball League but won no laurels in it during the next several years. The tennis team of 1926 under captain Samuel Reimert '27
suffered only one loss, and the record of the next several years was almost as good. Then there was a slump out of which Ursinus gradually emerged to win five out of seven in 1935 when Jesse G. Heiges '35 was captain.

Track and field had a rather hard time of it until 1927. Before the Alumni Memorial Library was built, men practiced the hundred yard dash on the cinder path from Bomberger to Sprankle, and as late as 1925 milers worked out on local roads such as the Gravel Pike to Rahns. When Patterson Field was rebuilt in 1927 a quarter-mile track and 220 straightaway were built and track took an upswing. Results were not spectacular until in 1931 the cross country team was undefeated. Dr. Nathan Rubin, a former McGill runner, was coach.

Wrestling began in 1930 under the influence of Charles Carleton, a University of Minnesota star who taught for a few years in the modern language departments. He was succeeded by Kuhrt Wienecke in 1933, but triumphs on the mats were the exception rather than the rule for some years to come.

Women's athletics took a decided turn for the better from 1926 on under the coaching of Helen Errett, but the great change in their scope and success came, as noted earlier, with the advent of Eleanor F. Snell in 1931. Winning seasons became the rule, the sports program for women expanded (tennis had become a major sport in 1930 under Carrie Cureton), and all went merry as a wedding bell.

In extra-curricular activities, because of the expansion of the student body and the demise of the literary societies, many clubs concerned with special interests were formed. As has been indicated in the preceding chapter debating was in its heyday and the local chapter of Tau Kappa Alpha, the national honorary debating society, was formed in 1924. To name only a few, the Literary Club was formed in 1928, the Music Club and the International Relations Club in the same year, the Physics Club in 1929, and the Philosophy Club in 1930. The Biology Club of 1929 was supplemented in 1932 by the James M. Anders Pre-Medical Society for juniors and seniors intending to become doctors.

Under the aegis of Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Sibbald, who came to Ursinus in 1931, the Dramatics Club, formed after the literary societies died and renamed the Curtain Club in 1930, took on new life. The Sibbalds began coaching in 1933 and the quality of plays presented and of their performance increased year by year, beginning with “Double Door” in October of 1933 and “Death Takes a Holiday” in April of 1934.

Literary activities continued to center in the English Club, started by Dr. Homer Smith many years ago and later sponsored by Dr. Norman E. McClure and Dr. Calvin D. Yost, Jr. The chief innovation of this era was the establishment of a literary publication, The Lantern, the first issue of which appeared in May, 1933 under the editorship of Eugene H. Miller '33. Published three times a year The Lantern took its name from the lantern, or cupola, atop the new Science Building. Defying the notorious tendency of such student magazines to falter and disappear it has continued to the present.

The “Y” organizations, which through the years had carried on similar but
separate programs, combined in 1934-5, though retaining separate officers and cabinets, and strengthened their common activities. They carried on the big and little brother and sister plan for freshman orientation, gave out freshman handbooks, united with Student Council in giving a reception and a Halloween party in the gymnasium. They held panel discussions, conducted the annual candlelight communion service at Christmas (first held in 1929), presented the program for Religious Emphasis Week, held vesper services, and a variety of other activities to serve the college community.

Student government continued in its unbroken but uneven course, periodically revising constitutions and administering justice in the light of current campus atmosphere. Typically in 1934-5 it regulated freshman customs, put on two parties and two dances, sponsored a band, installed a lighting system for dances, managed two bonfires, and investigated cases of misconduct. The dances, Old Timers’ Day and the Lorelei, were a joint project of both councils. Supervising Rec Hall, forming a booster committee to stimulate campus enthusiasm particularly for the varsity teams—these were typical concerns of the times.

Dances were as always popular and up to World War II were always held on campus. Much energy was devoted to planning and decoration. At the Junior Prom in 1936, for example, the “gymnasium was decorated in white and two shades of blue. Dark streamers, from which stars were hung, ran from the sides of the building to the center, where they were attached to a chandelier of the same material. The walls were hung with light blue and white slash crepe paper, and silhouettes were hung along the walls at intervals.” To encourage those who were not steady daters and who needed to be drawn out, the Y’s had a nightly informal dance session in the basement of the Library. Whether it affected the intended public is doubtful.

Campus traditions which were to lose their hold in the abnormal conditions of World War II still prevailed, such as the requirement that all freshmen must walk around the long side of the circle in front of Bomberger and the one that permitted only upper classmen to sit on Freeland steps. Traditions of a less recognized authority existed too, particularly around hallowed spots farther from the center of things like the college woods and the Glenwood Memorial.

It was a happy time, yet one that was darkened toward its close by the increasing infirmity of President Omwake. He had given himself unstintingly to the College for almost three decades and had paid for this devotion in intermittent periods of illness. The depression made the burden of the presidency even more onerous. In 1934 he found it necessary to seek assistance, and the Board appointed his son, Stanley Omwake ’31, who had just taken an M.B.A. at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, as assistant to the president. But good health did not return, and in June 1935 the President was granted a year’s leave of absence. To carry on the internal administration of the College an Administration Committee was appointed, with Dean Kline, who had been in charge during Dr. Omwake’s summer European tour in 1933, as chairman. The other members were Professors Brownback, Clawson, Sheeder, and Yost.
Unfortunately, release from his manifold responsibilities came too late to restore the President to his former vigor. Although his health did improve a little, he presented his resignation, to take effect on June 30, 1936, on November 26, 1935 because as he stated in his letter of resignation, “to pursue the active life to which I was accustomed in the past and which our institution will obviously require appears to be out of the question.” That his decision was correct was sadly borne out by his death on February 3, 1937, seven months after his administration of twenty-four years ended.

One might have written in 1936 of President Omwake what was inscribed for Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul’s Cathedral, “Si monumentem requiris, circumspice.” As his successor wrote in his first annual report, under Dr. Omwake’s “wise direction” the College had grown greatly in size and influence and had attained an “unquestioned place among the best liberal arts colleges in this country.” The details of that growth have been set forth in this and the preceding chapter. Perhaps one of the greatest testimonies to his wisdom as president is that the next administration found so little to change or undo. He had built upon the firm foundation of Bomberger and Spangler and left as a heritage the prospects of further success in years to come.