THE WESTERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

OXFORD, OHIO

Founded 1853

Historical. Fifty-eight years ago, upon a hilltop overlooking the town of Oxford in the beautiful Miami valley, the Western Female Seminary, now grown to be the Western College for Women, was born. Possessing at first only thirty acres of land, it has gradually extended its boundaries until it now claims three hundred and fifty acres of the most beautiful woodland and meadow, hilltop and valley, to be found in any part of this broad land of ours.

Although the flames have twice destroyed the main building, it has risen each time from its ashes larger and handsomer than before and now bears the name of Helen Peabody Hall, in honor of the first principal who for thirty-three years toiled on through storm and stress and who, more justly than anyone else, has the right to claim to be the founder of The Western College. To Dr. Leila S. McKee Welsh, her successor, is due the credit of the erection of beautiful Alumnae Hall, which houses the library of nearly sixteen thousand volumes, and provides attractive recitation rooms and well-equipped laboratories, and also the New Hall of Residence, than which there is nowhere to be found a more delightful home for girls. A fourth building, a gymnasium, has lately been erected in the beech grove just east of Helen Peabody Hall court.

A friend of the Western College has written, "From the day of its founding to this there has been no interruption in the career of the school. It has known the asperities of poverty and a toilsome path of progress, but the souls of its founders have marched on." Under the dome of the library shines a great art window wherein the torch of truth in a maiden's hand is being lighted from the lamp of knowledge, and beneath are the words, *ad astra per aspera.* This ancient maxim has lived in the experience of Western from its beginning. It has bred a resolute spirit in her teachers and friends that has made the college what it is today and thrust the iron of courage into more than two generations of women students.

In addition to blessings of garden and woods and splendid pedigree, which after all do not make any college, there is the chiefest glory in this educational enterprise, viz., an adequate scholarship dedicated to the task of perfecting womanhood through learning, and setting that womanhood into the life of her day, capable and responsive.

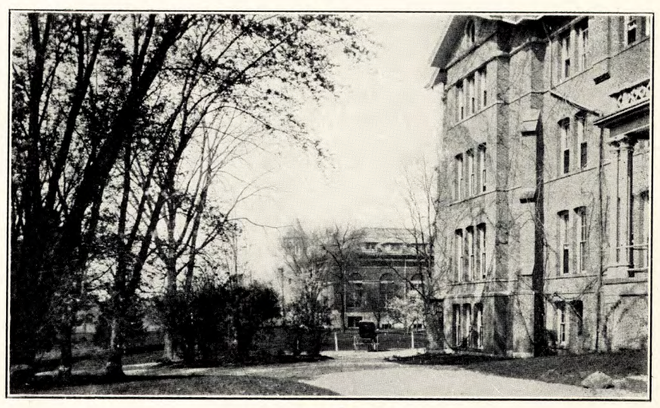
The Western is a small college and proud to be so. It believes that two essentials in education are personal contact between teacher and student, and the opportunity for individual development. It is more than the things of literature, science, and art that the teachers teach. The culture of the school is genuine, a part of its life and not a forced product.

Spiritual. The Western is a Christian college, but undenominational. In its training stress is laid upon the building of Christian character. Its Christian life is void of cant and perfunctoriness and hard regime. It is a spontaneous, unaffected womanly something that fills the school with a cordial glow and enriches life for all time. It brings girls sanely to face life's issue and to test the worth-whileness of things, and has sent nearly one hundred into the most heroic services of modern times to help plant a Christian civilization in non-Christian lands.

THE DRIVE

NEW HALL.

PORTRAIT OF DEAN SAWYER,
Painted by Miss Annette Covington,
of the Class of 1895.



HELEN PEABODY HALL

SENIOR PLAY, "AS YOU LIKE IT".

Intellectual. The Western College is a member of the Ohio College Association and so ranks with the leading colleges of the Middle West. It is also a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Its classical and scientific course of four years leads to the A.B. degree, which admits to graduate work in any university. Western College graduates have had no difficulty in securing the Master's Degree after a year's study in the best colleges and universities. Scholarships have been granted by such institutions as Cornell, University of Chicago, Wellesley College, and Bryn Mawr.

Special attention is given to art and music, and courses in these subjects count toward the degree. The art rooms occupy the entire third floor of Alumnae Hall and courses are given in drawing, painting, sketching, art crafts, and history of art.

All the teachers in the music department have enjoyed unusual advantages in this country and abroad. The students have frequent opportunities of hearing the great artists at the college, in Oxford, and in Cincinnati. They have recently heard Harold Bauer and Godowsky, and in the college itself they have enjoyed Madame Jane Osborn-Hannah, Paulo Gruppe, Arthur Shattuck, Josef Lhevinne, and Ysaye.

In the fall of 1910 Edgar Stillman-Kelley, composer, teacher, lecturer, and critic accepted a Composer's Fellowship at The Western College. A studio was fitted up in a cottage on the campus and here the composer has devoted himself almost exclusively to creative work. During his residence at the Western College Mr. Stillman-Kelley has written a book on Chopin and has a book on Wagner well under way. Here he has finished his New England Symphony, which had its first performance at Norfolk, Conn., in June, 1913. During this time Mrs. Stillman-Kelley, with her brilliant attainments in musical lines and power gained by long experience, has devoted herself to teaching piano at the college. The emphasis she gives harmonic thinking is in line with the Western's well-known estimate of music as a college study of high intellectual value.

The courses in the department of Household Science are arranged to run throughout the four college years and may be taken as a major subject. A student receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts with household science as a major is prepared either to teach domestic science in the public schools or to become a practical housekeeper.

Physical. Regular courses in physical training are required of all classes, the object being not only to develop the body, but to train the student to conserve and to use her physical powers. Those having need are given special training. In addition to regular work in the gymnasium, daily outdoor exercise takes the form of walks, golf, tennis, basket-ball, hockey, horseback riding, skating, coasting or skeeing.

Democratic Spirit. A spirit of sincere democracy rules the Western College students. It is an inherited virtue that succeeding classes are proud to perpetuate. There are no harsh vertical or horizontal distinctions that separate the women into estranged groups. There is fine class feeling and genuine rivalry, but all these small differences are merged in a large feeling of comradeship and inter-dependence.