

HISTORY OF OUR Y. M. C. A.

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rectors of the college, and president of the board of directors of the Y. M. C. A., is the one man who has fought the battles of the building all the way through. L. A. Coulter, State secretary of the Y. M. C. A., is another person whose service in the cause was heroic, and Dr. C. P. Fountain of the campus stood unflinchingly at the helm. There are others, but these three men have borne the brunt of the fight and where others have been liberal merely with dollars and cents these have been liberal with time and efforts likewise.

Planned First in 1910.

"The idea of a Y. M. C. A. Building originated in the spring of 1910, when G. W. Binn, assistant State secretary of the Y. M. C. A., met with the College Y. M. C. A. cabinet. A. L. Ward, colonel of the regiment at that time, was president of the association, and when it was suggested that the organization would never render that vital service necessary until a building was erected to house the organization, committees were appointed to confer with Col. R. T. Milner, at that time president of the college, with regard to interesting the alumni of the college in the proposition. Col. Milner called a conference of the alumni and within a few weeks a meeting was held. Col. Cushing, Russell Watkins, engineer for the Southern Pacific; A. C. Love, John Q. Tabor, an oil man of Houston, and James A. Cravens of Houston were prime movers in this meeting and advocated the organization of a campaign to erect the building.

"The first subscription ever taken for the Y. M. C. A. was taken immediately after this meeting when the cadet corps, after an enthusiastic meeting and an appeal by Col. Ward, pledged \$12,000. Many of the students paid their subscriptions, but the greater part of these pledges are still outstanding. Failure to meet these obligations as due in a large measure to circumstances which halted the work on the building at a later date.

"Following this first subscription application was made for a charter, and this application being granted, a board of directors was organized. Col. Cushing, Dr. Fountain and Col. Milner are the only members of that body who were members of the original board.

Rockefeller's Gift.

"It was through the efforts of Col. Cushing and Mr. Coulter that John D. Rockefeller became interested in the building movement. Mr. Rockefeller pledged a gift of \$30,000 provided the building should cost not less than \$65,000. After securing this promise and after \$6,000 in cash had been obtained the contract was let with the understanding that the work was to be done as the money was collected.

"It was a great day in April of 1911 when the ground for the new building was broken. Col. Milner and Col. Cushing were the principal speakers and a general holiday was declared at the college. Two months later the cornerstone for the building was laid by the Bryan Masons. Dr. William States Jacobs was the orator of the occasion. The work on the building then went on until the basement walls were completed and the first floor was laid. Then the money gave out and thereby hangs a tale. Work was suspended and troubles began.

About \$19,000 has been expended up until that time.

Troubles Begin.

"With the funds exhausted but with literally thousands of dollars in good pledges, the life of the very institution was threatened by a consolidation measure. Friends of the college succeeded in defeating this measure, and then came the fight on Senate Joint Resolution No. 18, which was in effect a simple resolution for consolidation. During all of that time, more than a year, no effort was made to collect old subscriptions and none put forward to obtain new pledges. It looked as though the college might be destroyed and efforts to obtain money or pledges in such times would have been fruitless. At the time there was about \$20,000 on the book of the committee and practically none of that amount has ever been collected.

"In the fall of 1913 Dr. C. P. Fountain assumed the leadership of the fight locally and work was renewed. Mr. Giesecke had withdrawn from the college and S. J. Fountain, head of the architectural department, and who died last summer, became architect for the building. Mr. Fountain entirely revised the plans for the building, no cost being entailed, and gave his services free of any cost. He also was a liberal contributor to the fund. On October 13 Dr. Fountain asked the campus people for a second subscription. Within six months he had raised \$15,000 in cash and work on the building began then. An elaborate campaign for funds from alumni and friends all over the State was planned, but was later abandoned when the floods ravaged the State. The money collected kept the work on the building in progress until June of 1914, and it was planned to make another attempt to get money over the State in the fall of last year. And then the European war broke and with that came the tumble in cotton, and again the plan of those at the head of the movement fell through.

Campus People Liberal.

"And then came word that in order to receive the last of the three installments of \$10,000 from Mr. Rockefeller the building would have to be completed and occupied by January 1, 1915. Dr. Fountain again called on the campus people for funds with which to furnish the building, provide light fixtures and other such equipment. The college officials gave \$1,500 in cash and Mr. Rockefeller's conditions were met.

"A study of the records kept by Dr. Fountain shows that Bryan citizens and institutions were very liberal, a total of nearly \$7,000 being obtained from that source. Some of the larger gifts there were \$1,000 by the First National Bank, \$1,000 by the City National Bank, \$500 by the First State Bank, \$500 by G. S. Parker, \$400 by Dr. J. L. Fountain, and many other donations.

"Gifts by the campus people have been marked by extreme liberality. In the three offerings taken from the official family of the college a fund of more than \$7,000 was raised. Dr. Charles Puryear gave \$300, Dr. C. P. Fountain gave \$300, Dr. Mark Francis \$250, and there were many gifts of from \$175 down.

"The largest contributor aside from Mr. Rockefeller was John Henry Kirby of Houston, who gave \$2,000. Cleveuand Dodge, a wealthy citizen of New York, gave \$1,000.

"The building as it stands cost approximately \$75,000. The first and second floors are complete. On the first floor are located the handsome chapel with a seating capacity of 400,

and the general lobby with reading and game tables, piano, etc. On the second floor are rooms for the press club, athletic council, Bible study rooms, alumni association and other similar organizations. During the commencement festivities the building will be utilized as headquarters for the alumni. Other distinctive features are a rest room for the ladies and a campus parlor or room where visiting ladies may be taken by cadets and instructors.

Plans for the Future.

"Future plans call for the early completion of the basement. In the basement will be located the swimming pool with white enameled brick. The pool is completed save for the brick. Three bowling alleys will be another feature of the basement. The dining room and kitchen will be fitted out. Provision also is made there for barber shop and lavatories.

"Later it is hoped that a fourth story can be added. This floor will be used as a dormitory for instructors and officers of the college and for transients.

"It would be hard indeed to estimate the good this building will do. Already it has taken its place at the head of all buildings as a social center, and some of the brightest, happiest social functions ever held at the college have been staged in this building. It means wholesome occupation for the student out of a job. It means self-improvement by reading and helpful association with classmates and instructors. It affords a place for social gatherings and amusements. Campus people and students will be brought closer together by this structure. The social life of the college will be quickened and placed on a higher basis.

"Cadets will really enjoy a visit from their sister, mother or girl, because the building will afford a place where their visitor may be taken for a chat while waiting for the car.

"The building will help in thousands of ways and although it was not formally opened until this week, its influence already is felt and its possibilities have been appreciated to a small degree at least.

"All honor to those who have made it possible."

DR. C. P. FOUNTAIN.

IS STATE'S GREAT- EST SPEAKER

(Continued from Page 1.)

call the words of Mark Antony over the dead body of Brutus:

"His life was gentle and the elements

So mixed in him that Nature might stand up

And say to all the world "This is a man."

"Of Dr. Truett the world says:

"His life is gentle and the elements

So mixed in him that Nature does stand up

And says to all the world, "This is a man.""

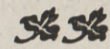
PROF. R. G. BRESSLER.

BASKETBALL TEAM RETURNS.

Nick Braumiller and Charlie Davis brought their championship basketball team back to College Sunday, after a victorious trip thru North Texas. They played seven games on the trip, and won six of them. This is the best record ever made by an A. & M. basketball team. Almost all of the teams played were among the strongest teams in the State.

Charlie Nitch now offers a good clothes cleaner to the public.

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