

FOREWORD

THROUGH THE YEARS

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THE SPIRIT THAT IS BLOOMSBURG" brings to mind the following lines from Lowell's "The Present Crisis":

"New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth;
We must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth."

As we move forward through the years, we find significant change at the State Teachers College here at Bloomsburg. Carver Hall is still midway up the hill, a familiar landmark to the oldest alumnus. But the physical plant of the College has climbed the hill. The modern Benjamin Franklin Laboratory School, Navy Hall, the Centennial Gymnasium with its swimming pool and other excellent facilities for health education, topping another Mount Olympus, are examples of the way in which plant improvements follow curriculum trends in spite of wars and depressions.

And through the years curricular emphases have been changing; for example, the child centered school, the community as an educational resource, intercultural and citizenship education, audio-visual education, and more recently, aeronautics.

Kahlil Gibran, the poet-painter of Lebanon, Syria, has said: "No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge." As you strain eagerly toward those years to come, hold fast to your precious heritage from the years that are gone.

The three dimensions — length, breadth, and depth, are substantial, measurable factors in the material world; but there is a fourth elusive and dramatic dimension. To bridge the space between the present and a certain point in the past, to telescope all time that intervenes by the creative force of one's imagination — that is a challenging fourth dimension. Yet only in this way can we identify ourselves with the great teachers of the past and understand how each of them met the needs of his generation — the Greek slave, Aesop, teaching an understanding of universal truth through his fables; the philosopher, Socrates, compelling his followers by his questions to search their own minds and hearts; the young carpenter, Jesus, teaching sublime spiritual truth to a simple rural people by parables drawn from their daily experience. If you would be a teacher, practice the use of this fourth dimension and live close to the great teachers of the past.