

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL  
HARRISONBURG, VA.

October 20, 1917.

The Honorable, The Virginia Normal School Board,

Gentlemen:

The following special report concerning this institution is respectfully submitted for your information and consideration:

SUMMER SESSION

The Summer Session this year was the most successful in our history, both in point of attendance and character of work. The enrolment far exceeded previous summers, and was as follows:

	1st Term June 11-July 20		2d Term July 23-Aug. 30		Totals	
Normal School students	681	484	115	115	796	577
Training School Pupils	184	105			184	105
Canning Club Students			93	67	93	67
Totals	865	589	208	182	1,073	771

Deducting <sup>36</sup> 40 Normal Students who attended both terms, it is seen that the total number of different Normal Students attending the Summer Session was <sup>523</sup> 756; and the total number of different persons here, no name being counted more than once, was 1,033. <sup>735</sup>

This compares with enrolments of Normal Students in the past three summers thus:

Year	Enrolment	Increase over the preceding year
1915	585	---
1916	607	4%
1917	756	25%
<sup>1918</sup>	<sup>523</sup>	<sup>25 1/2%</sup>

The greatest difficulty was found last summer in securing suitable rooming accommodations for the students. Unless some better arrangement can be made for next summer it is probably advisable to limit the enrolment to a number considerably below that of last summer.

As stated in my annual report dated June 30, 1917, it was necessary to purchase a large amount of additional dormitory and dining-room furniture and equipment, in order that the large number of students attending the summer school might be accommodated. It was stated therein that we hoped to pay for this equipment out of funds derived from the boarding department during the summer session. It is gratifying to report that this was done and there yet remains on hand to the credit of the summer school account, after all bills have been paid, a balance of \$1,518.92. It is recommended that this amount be used for much-needed items which pertain chiefly to the summer session, namely: screens and window shades for the dining-hall building and screens for the new dormitory.



If there be any balance left after providing these, it is recommended that it be put into the general repair account, as it is certainly appropriate to charge a portion of the repairs that have to be made each year to the summer session, as on account of the large numbers the wear and tear on the buildings and equipment must be greater then than at any other period of the year.

#### INFANTILE PARALYSIS EPIDEMIC

The members of the Board are no doubt aware of the outbreak of infantile paralysis in this section during the latter half of the past summer. This matter has been discussed with Mr. Robertson several times and a full account was written in a letter to Judge Price just before the opening of the fall term. I think it wise to put the Board in possession of the facts concerning the matter as it affected our school.

The canning club girls came on July 21. On July 24 it was reported that there were a number of cases of infantile paralysis in the Eastern part of Rockingham County, with one suspected case within the city limits. The local health officers informed us that it was probable a quarantine would be established at once, and fearing that there might be some trouble in getting the girls out of the city, most of them being younger than sixteen years of age, it was thought best to send them home on the morning of the 25th. This action later proved unnecessary, since the quarantine was not immediately established, but it was warmly commended by the parents of the girls. A large number of cases of infantile paralysis developed in the county and a comparatively few rather mild cases in the city during the ensuing six weeks. No case was ever near our school. We kept in close touch with the health authorities, both State and local and kept our summer school students fully informed as to developments. There was no alarm among the students and we conducted the summer school thru to August 30th as planned.

The effect of this epidemic of such a dreaded disease was very bad upon the prospective enrolment for our fall term. Up to the first of August we had enrolled far more students than at the corresponding time in any previous year. On account of the exaggerated newspaper reports of the epidemic there was a constant stream of withdrawals during August, so that from July 28, to September 3 there was a loss of seventy-two names from our list of advance registrations for the fall term. These in most cases went to the other three normal schools. During September the disease greatly abated, and we were advised by the State Health Department that there was no need to postpone our opening. We accordingly opened on September 26th as planned. We had expected a great decrease in the number of applicants. We were greatly surprised, therefore, when at the close of the first day's registrations we found that we had admitted forty-one more students than we registered on the opening day the year before.

Dr. Williams, State Health Commissioner, visited the school and spoke to the assembly of students on the third day of the



session. He stated that as a result of the epidemic such sanitary measures had been taken that this year should be the best in the history of the school from the health standpoint. He made certain suggestions for further preventive measures, and insisted that we put screens at all windows of the dining-hall building at once. It is recommended that this be done, as stated above, with summer school funds still on hand.

FALL QUARTER ATTENDANCE

The students came this year more promptly than ever before, about two-thirds arriving the day before the opening. This enabled us to begin regular classwork on the first day of the session, which had never before been possible. To date we have registered more students than we did the entire session of 1916-17. Up to the present time the enrolment is 292 as compared with 289 for the whole of last year and as compared with 240 for the corresponding date last year, putting us 52 ahead.

The boarding attendance is distributed as follows:

Rooming in Dormitories, 3 in a room-----	132
"    "    "    2    "    "    "    -----	101
Rooming temporarily in Infirmary-----	8
Rooming in Rented Rooms outside campus-----	25
Total boarding students-----	<u>266</u>
Officers boarding at school-----	11
Total boarders, except servants-----	<u>277</u>

The normal capacity of the dormitories is only 188 students, hence we have them crowded 28% in excess. The rooms in which three girls room are of the following sizes:

7	rooms	are	13	x	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	feet,	63	sq.	ft.	to	each	girl
16	"	"	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	x	15	"	72	"	"	"	"	"
21	"	"	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	x	14	"	52	"	"	"	"	"

Since a bed takes about 18 square feet of floor space the only way in which three girls can be put in the smaller rooms is by the use of the "double-deck" beds.

For the rented rooms we have to pay \$3.00 per student per month. These students pay the school the usual amount for board and we pay the rent for them. This, counting in the usual increase in the spring quarter, means an outlay of about \$900 for the nine months session for room rent. This is 6% on \$15,000, which is almost one-half the cost of the new dormitory building.

The dormitory students in excess of the normal accommodations number 53. The number rooming off the campus is 25. The total 78 is slightly in excess of the number that can properly be accommodated in a dormitory like the one last built; and this takes no account of increased numbers in the spring and summer quarters. Any considerable increase in the enrolment cannot be expected until we have more dormitory rooms.



ACADEMIC DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS

According to years of courses entered the students registered up to date are distributed as shown in the following table, which also gives a comparison for the last three years:

Year of the Courses entered	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18
4th Year of Normal Courses	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0) 10
3d " " " "	0 (0)	0 (0)	17 (6) 14
2d " " " "	78 (29)	73 (25)	68 (23) 100
1st " " " "	95 (36)	104 (36)	161 (55) 115
4th Year High School Work	33 (13)	45 (16)	21 (7) 32
3d " " " "	25 (9)	14 (5)	11 (4) 0
Irregularly classified	34 (13)	53 (18)	14 (5) 14
Totals	265 (100)	289 (100)	292 (100) 289

(The figures in parentheses denote the per cent. of the total enrolment in each case.)

The distribution into the various course programs is according to the following table, which also shows the same for the last three years:

Course Program chosen	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18
For Primary Grades Teaching	47 (18)	50 (17)	53 (18) 49
For Grammar Grades Teaching	40 (15)	39 (14)	40 (14) 40
For High School Teaching	30 (11)	41 (14)	81 (28) 77
For Household Arts Teaching	56 (21)	64 (22)	72 (24) 75
Completing High School Course	58 (22)	42 (15)	32 (11) 32
Irregular and Partial Courses	34 (13)	53 (18)	14 (5) 12

(The figures in parentheses denote the per cent. of the total enrolment in each case.)

It will be noted from the first table given above that we have 17 students registered in the third year of the four-year courses we are offering this year for the first time. This will ensure us a graduating class in this advanced work in June, 1919. The Senior Class in the two-year courses has decreased during the past three years, owing largely to the great demand for teachers caused by war conditions. This year a large number of those who completed the Junior Year last June were called into service, and yet we have refused a very large number of applications for teachers to fill vacancies thruout the State, simply because teachers are not to be found. While we regret the depletion of the Senior Class we must consider it a badge of honor as these girls have responded to the call to service at a time when they are badly needed to carry on the school work of our State.

It is exceedingly gratifying to note that the entering Junior Class is immense, being 55% of the total enrolment of the school and larger by 52% than any entering class of preceding years. For the most part these students come from accredited high schools which give sixteen units of work. The number of such students has been increasing somewhat from year to year, but the gain this year is remarkable. It is probably explained in several ways, namely; (1) the development of high schools thruout the State, (2) the discontinuance of the teachers' certificates for purely high school



work, (3) the raised standard of admission to this school, which guarantees to graduates of the best high schools that they will be in company here with almost altogether professional students, and (4) the establishment of the four-year advanced course, which is attractive to the best type of high school graduate.

It will be noted from the table that the number of professional students, that is, those who have four years of high school work at entrance, increased from 61% of the total enrolment of last session to 84% of the total enrolment to date for the present session. At the same time, of course, there has been a decrease in the number of students with less than four years of high school preparation, this number being reduced this year to 46 or 16% of the total number enrolled. This includes the "irregular" group, a few of whom might properly be classed with the professionals, The number entering the third-year high school class this year is so small (11 students), being only 4% of the total enrolment, that it is recommended that this group be eliminated next session, and that three years of high school work be the minimum requirement for entrance instead of two years as at present.

Further, it will be noted that only 21 students, 7% of the total enrolment, entered for fourth-year high school work this fall. It may not be expedient to withdraw this work next session because of the third year students who will come up from this session for it; but if the number entering for it next year is as small as this, it is recommended that it be dropped thereafter. If this be done, in the session of 1919-20 the school at Harrisonburg will have no high school students, all of its students being graduates of four-year high schools at entrance. In this way the standard of this institution could be raised to that of the best normal schools in the United States, and all of the students would be taking professional and technical work of college grade.

The second table given above also presents some significant figures. From it will be noted the fact that the number of students coming here to complete high school courses has been reduced in three years from 22% to 11% of the entire attendance, and the number of irregularly graded students has been reduced from 13% to 5%. It is seen that during the past three years the number of students preparing to teach in the primary grades has remained practically the same and that the same is true of those preparing to teach in the grammar grades. On the other hand, the number of students preparing to teach in the high school has increased in three years from 11% to 28% of the total enrolment; and the number preparing to teach home economics has increased in the same period from 21% to 24%. The increase in these two lines has, we believe, been due largely to the announcement of the advanced course consisting of four years over and above high school graduation. It seems remarkable that the number preparing this year for high school teaching should be just double the number registered in this group last session, and the reason just stated must be correct, altho the greatly increased demand for high school teachers on account of the army draft should doubtless be considered also a factor. It may certainly be said that the establishment of the four-year advanced course leading to the degree has been in



every sense a success and gives every promise of proving itself a wise policy.

FINANCES

The healthy condition of the Summer School fund has been referred to above, there remaining at date \$1,518.92 to the credit of this account, with, so far as we can ascertain, no bills payable to be charged against it. In my report of June 30 I stated that we had borrowed temporarily \$3,000 from the Summer School fund for the use of the regular support fund and that the same would be repaid out of the August and September installments received from the State. This has been done, the amount being paid October 1; and not only so but also the \$665.10, which was likewise borrowed in the summer of 1916. This squares the account between the Summer School fund and the regular support fund.

Some months ago I stated to the Board that the deficit which had been shown by the accounts of the school for several years was being reduced and that it was probable that before the end of another year it would disappear entirely. I am happy to be able to state that this result appears to have been almost if not quite accomplished. The Treasurer's report for the month of September, which has just been placed in the hands of the Secretary-Auditor, shows the following:

Balance on hand October 1, 1917-----	\$12,983.57
Outstanding accounts on October 1, 1917:	
All unpaid bills, approximately,-----	\$1,439.71
Accounts paid on October 1, 1917-----	<u>9,273.94</u>
	10,713.65
Credit Balance-----	<u>\$ 2,269.92</u>

As considerable receipts have come in since October 1, I asked the Treasurer to give me as nearly as possible a statement of the present condition of the general account, which I submit as follows:

Bank balance at date (Oct. 18)-----	\$5,568.50
Bills Payable-----	\$1,439.71
Board paid in advance to count on	
November and December account-----	2,844.00
Medical Fees ditto-----	<u>173.33</u>
	4,457.04
Credit Balance	<u>\$1,111.46</u>

It is not known accurately what the bills to be paid between now and November 1 will be, but it seems reasonable to presume that the above balance together with the receipts between now and that date will practically cover all obligations so that the October statement will about balance. The financial condition of the school is thus seen to be better than it has been for several years.



## GROUNDS, BUILDINGS, AND EQUIPMENT

It is presumed that the Board will have a special meeting later for the preparation of the budget to be presented to the coming session of the General Assembly; and at that time we shall wish to submit estimates of the cost of needed improvements to the plant. Attention is asked at this time to the following list of needs so that members of the Board may have an opportunity to see for themselves while on the ground.

1. Dining Hall and Service Building to be completed:
  - (1) Basement, 1st, and 2d floors of Service Building
  - (2) Basement of main building
  - (3) Front porch and connections to dormitories
  - (4) Equipment for portions to be finished, as above
2. Heating Plant and Laundry
  - (1) Building for combined Heating Plant and Laundry
  - (2) Boilers and accessories
  - (3) Pipe-lines to various buildings
  - (4) Machinery and equipment for Laundry
3. Grounds
  - (1) Cement walks
  - (2) Grading
  - (3) Drainage tile and cement work
  - (4) Trees and shrubbery
  - (5) Survey and planting plan
4. Another Dormitory Building and Equipment
5. Repairs and Additions to Present Buildings:
  - (1) Science Hall
    - (a) Metal ceilings
    - (b) Replastering or covering side walls of halls
    - (c) Heating equipment
    - (d) Fitting up two rooms at South end of basement
    - (e) Additional equipment in laboratories
  - (2) Cottage
    - (a) Remodeling and renovating for use as infirmary
    - (b) Equipment for infirmary
  - (3) Dormitory No. 1
    - (a) Remodeling in basement
    - (b) Replastering or covering walls where needed worst
    - (c) Tools for repair shop
  - (4) Dormitory No. 2
    - (a) Replastering or covering walls of halls and rooms where needed worst
    - (b) Swimming-pool in present boiler-room when heating apparatus is removed to new heating-plant
6. Ford automobile for use in extension work, observation and practise-teaching in country schools.

Respectfully submitted,

  
President.