

Prof of the week



By Bob Aldrich.

DAILY staff photo by George Royal.

"The relation of teacher to student is all wrong. The student ought to be the one who seeks knowledge. He should come to the teacher and say, 'This I understand, this I don't.' If only students would take the initiative in learning instead of leaving it up to the teacher, the vitality and happiness of school life would be greatly increased."

These statements are from a small, dark-haired lady (this department finally having recognized that there are women teachers on the campus) whose stream of sharp-witted remarks on education and life has brightened many a class room in business composition, Miss Mamie Jane Meredith, instructor in English.

But the fault is partly in teaching methods, Miss Meredith continues. "I have been in classes where the student who dared to interrupt the even flow of the lecture by asking a question was made to feel out of place." In Miss Meredith's classes students are not only encouraged to ask questions but are urged to visit her office for personal instruction.

Too many outside activities.

"Students have too many activities out of the classroom," she exclaims. "They don't have time to get acquainted with themselves. We should all find time for self-withdrawal to get a perspective on ourselves. This feeling of constant hurry is destructive. The less attempted, the more done... I don't think anything worthwhile is ever accomplished."

"We have the wrong standard, the wrong ideal. Why should we adapt ourselves to everyone?" She scorns the current movement to make glad-handers of us all, as exemplified by *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. "We have always had that type of writing with us. People seem to swing to that point of view every so often and such books come in floods. Luckily they are soon forgotten. That view of life is a self-delusion. The moral fibre of the will and mind are hurt when we go into that state. People are encouraged to make resolutions that they will never fulfill. It is immoral."

Born in Illinois.

Miss Meredith was born in Clinton, Ill., 100 miles south of Chicago and known as "the city of 1,000 scandals" on account of babies' bones found in walls of buildings and other odd happenings. Miss Meredith managed to avoid scandal by moving to Nebraska before starting school. She majored in English, minored in German at Wisconsin, got another degree from Chicago, and two from Nebraska. She used to read German as much as English but has dropped the habit lately.

She once taught literature and enjoys it more than business composition but long ago came to the conclusion that the student can dig out literature for himself. Her teachers used to spoil her favorite books for her so she became "reconciled to composition—at least I know I'm not spoiling a book for a student, which is something of a crime."

"Afraid of life."

Students who are uncertain whether to continue their schooling beyond graduation might well

consult Miss Meredith who has definite ideas on the score. "I have told many students who planned to get a master's degree not to come back. They would be better off trying themselves out in the world—not because of lack of intelligence, but because they are afraid of life."

"The timidity of many seniors is terrible. They have begun to doubt themselves and their capabilities and are using only a fraction of their mental energies. In a way they know it but don't know what to do about it. They have gone stale. They should work awhile and then come back to school or go to another university... not all people benefit by a university education."

Her principal hobbies are traveling and reading. She denies that she is a collector but crams desks and books with clippings, mostly about books and authors. Her friends send them to her and she pastes envelopes in the backs of books to keep the clippings. Her range of tastes in reading is wide—fiction, history, biography, and science.

Has syndicated articles.

Her articles on *American Life and Customs* were syndicated in the eastern and midwest papers. She still has material and intends to continue the series sometime. But her main outside work has been a series on the *American Language*. Starting with the Civil war she has traced coinages through modern trends, getting material from what she has heard, newspapers and magazines, and letters. She is on the advisory board of *American Speech* published at Columbia, on the staff of *American Business Writing* at Illinois, and has done writing and editing for numerous other magazines.

She liked *Gone with the Wind*, says it stacked up with the way people actually felt at that time, according to the many diaries she has read. *Grapes of Wrath* was good but should have been edited, not for purity but for too much sentimentalism, and the ending was trite. "It was hurt as art by its ideas, not by its details."

She devotes her summers to traveling, likes California, Canada, and the Ozarks especially. It helps to store up energy and gives you new points of view, she says.

Her list of favorite authors can't be boiled down to less than 12. Thomas Hardy ranked as her favorite in college. She found Hardy inspiring and not all depressing, likes the architecture of his novels. She thinks a short story doesn't need a plot, a novel does.

The students she likes best are those who try to grasp knowledge for themselves. She recalls one student who wrote down everything in the lesson he didn't know, came to her for the answers, and, incidentally, graduated with the highest honors ever obtained in his college.

She advises other students to do the same, says it is as important to discover what you don't know as what you do.

An eternal optimist, she decides that a few more students are showing initiative in learning than used to—but she hopes the number will increase.

Women plan leadership conference

Dean of women, Mortar Boards schedule meet for 'officer orientation'

Mortar Board and the office of the dean of women will hold a women's leadership conference here March 30, April 1, 2 and 3.

In charge of the conference, designed to integrate women's groups and to orient newly elected officers into their duties, are Selma Hill, general chairman, Janet Lau, and Peggy Sherburn.

Hosp opens

At Saturday's opening session, at 9 a. m. in the Union, Miss Helen Hosp, dean of women, will speak on "Place, Work, and Worth of Extra-Curriculum in College Life." Selma Hill will preside.

Present for the conference will be Mrs. Fred Coleman, national president of Mortar Board, who will speak at 9:30. Her subject will be "Analysis of Leadership."

Parliamentary drill will be the theme for the 11 meeting. Breta Peterson will lead the meeting with a panel of present Mortar Boards holding a mock meeting to dramatize parliamentary procedure.

Publicity men.

Publicity chairmen for various organizations will meet Monday at 4 p. m. in Ellen Smith. Carroll

YWCA offers...

Future teachers leadership training with new program

Students in teachers college will have an opportunity to receive a certificate testifying that they are able to lead a girl reserves group if they participate in a program to be sponsored by the YWCA and teachers college. The program will be conducted over a period of six weeks and a meeting will be held each Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:30 in Ellen Smith. The certificate which those who attend the meeting will receive, is, according to authorities in the teaching profession, a definite aid in obtaining a teaching position.

Fills definite need.

The fact that most teachers lack training in leading a girl reserves group was the incentive for offering such a course. This is the first time such a program has been conducted on the Ne-

Chouinard and Richard deBrown will speak.

From 4 to 5 Monday Faith Medlar will preside at a treasurer's meeting at which John K. Selleck will speak.

Incoming and outgoing presidents of campus women's organizations will hold a luncheon Tuesday noon, Tuesday at 4 p. m. secretaries of women's organizations will meet in Ellen Smith. Peggy Sherburn will preside. Presidents will meet from 5 to 6 Tuesday with Elizabeth Waugh in charge.

The meeting will conclude April 3 with a discussion of the point system led by Janet Lau.

braska campus, although many other colleges have used it for several years and often give credit for it. Eleven other colleges are using this program in this region.

Jean Simmons, vice-president of the YWCA is the head of the committee. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, when Mr. Alden Eberly, boys' work secretary of the YMCA, will speak on the "Philosophy of Group Work."

May queen—

(Continued from Page 1.)

on the DAILY, and was a member of Coed Counselor board for the last year.

Candidate activities.

Virginia Clemans is a Mortar Board, president of the AWS, a member of Tassels, and a member of last year's Junior-Senior prom committee.

Selma Hill is a Mortar Board, president of Tassels for the past year, and editor of the 1939 "N" book.

Faith Medlar is a member of Mortar Board, Palladian, Coed Counselor board, and also Alpha Lambda Delta.

Maxine Lake was vice president of the YWCA for the last year, and a member of Coed Counselor board.

Priscilla Wicks is a member of Mortar Board, past president of the YWCA, and a member of Student Council.

Spring

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