

# Four Hundred Young Women of Barnard College Govern Themselves

**B**ARNARD COLLEGE is at the beginning of a new era. It has given up commuting and boarding and moved into a home of its own and many are the changes which this demotion has brought into the college life.

From now on the girl who leaves her home to seek knowledge on the heights of Morningstar need not live at a boarding house. No longer need the suburbanites rush for trains as soon as lectures are over; no longer need the college groan over the dormitory jokes which appeared in each number of the Mortarboard. All these troubles have become a matter of history with the opening of Brooks Hall, the new

In this dilemma two of the seniors came to the rescue with a college skit called "Barnardesic." It was musical comedy in the widest sense of the word, but after two months of rehearsal it looked enough like a play to put on the stage. What is more, the actors enjoyed the play so much that the audience voted it was worth the money.

In the spacious hallways of the college building cosy little booths had been put up where the guests were invited to have tea or chocolate at 10 cents a cup or over. And mostly it was over. Altogether it was a very successful evening and netted something more than \$1,000 for the temporary dormitory.

The addition of this sum made the fund large enough to begin work on the alumnae

girls are free to work as they wish, free to govern themselves as they wish, free to select what they wish to do at any time.

The students are entirely independent and that is as they seem desirable; it makes the house rules and decides cases in regard to their infringement. The Brooks Hall announcement contains none of the phrases "Girls must be in their rooms and lights



STUDYING WITH THE CLASS BEAR.

When Barnard, in 1890, first moved from the little brown-stone house on Madison avenue to its present location at Broadway and One Hundred and Twentieth street, the building was used as a dormitory for those few girls who did not live in the city. But the growth of the college was rapid. Soon it became necessary to turn the sleeping quarters into lecture halls and the out-of-town girls had to look for boarding houses, but with the understanding that a dormitory would soon be built.

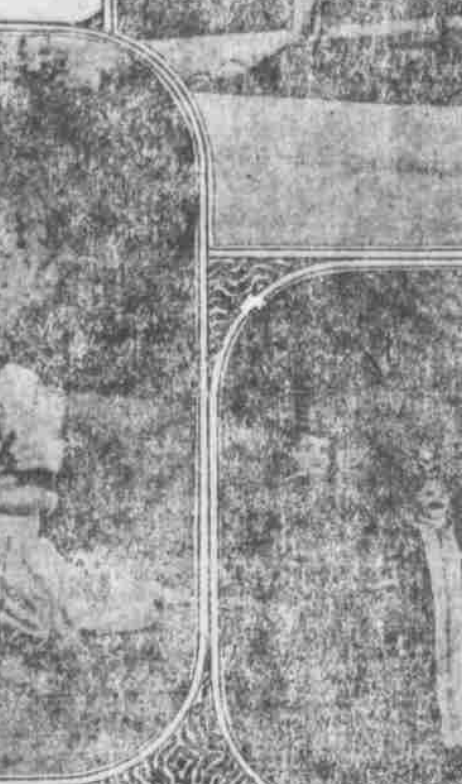
Every year, in fact, when the architectural exhibit took place in New York beautiful designs for a complete Barnard were on show. But the necessary funds were lacking, and year followed year without showing any progress.



BARNARD COLLEGE, MAIN HALL.

The alumnae, to be sure, had started a fund and asked the undergraduates to contribute, but their collections were small and interest in the project was about exhausted, when, in 1906, some of the more energetic alumnae decided to use their money to establish a temporary dormitory in some nearby apartment house. The undergraduate students received the plan with great enthusiasm. Here at least was something within the possibility of accomplishment.

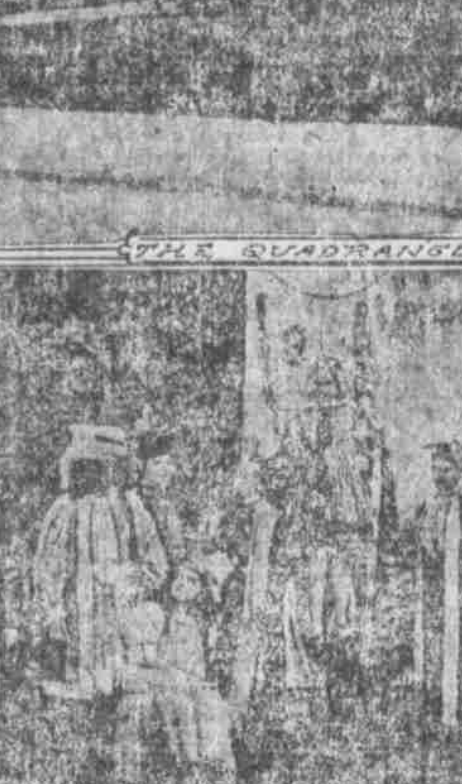
They decided to give a musical comedy for the benefit of the new fund. No ticket cost less than \$2, and any mother or friend who was willing to buy ten tickets was enrolled as a patroness. The enthusiasm of the girls spread to their friends and the success of the enterprise was assured before the girls had found a play to produce.



SCENE FROM "BARNARDESIC" MUSICAL COMEDY GIVEN BY THE COLLEGE FOR DORMITORY FUND.

factor who wished to remain unknown had given \$100,000 toward the fund for a permanent dormitory. Of course that settled the matter. Ground was broken immediately, the cornerstone was laid on November 3, 1906, and at the beginning of college this fall the girls moved in.

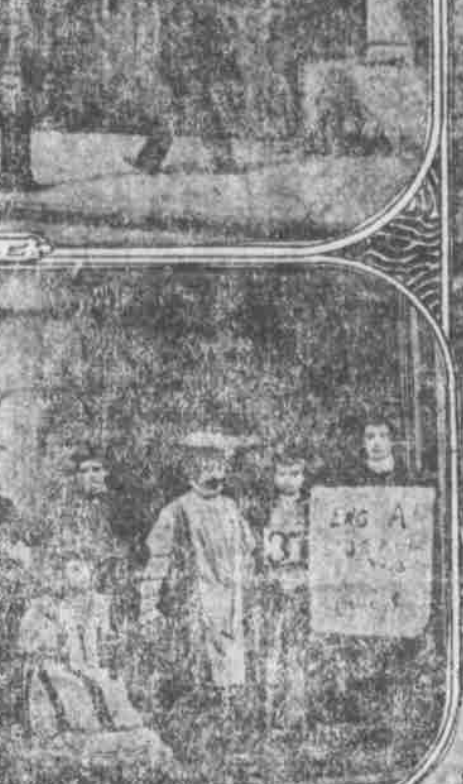
Brooks Hall, as the new dormitory is named, after Arthur Brooks, is built in accordance with the general plan of the existing university buildings, of red, overburned brick and terra cotta, after the style of architecture of Henry II. The hall contains ninety-seven private rooms, sixty of which are already occupied. Besides the single rooms there are suites with private baths and telephone service. All the furniture is big and comfortable and prettily upholstered in light colored cretonne.



THE QUADRANGLE.

The dining room, which is two stories high and seats more than 100 persons, is paneled in dark wood. The main reception room is finished in light blue and white, the college colors.

The life of this large family of girls is very different from that at any other college because of Barnard's peculiar situation. It is not like most other women's colleges, such as Wellesley, Bryn Mawr and Holyoke, the dominant note of a small village, but a comparatively unimportant part of a large city; moreover, it is not a unit in itself, but closely allied with that larger institution, Columbia university.



BROOKS HALL.

The first condition necessarily deprives the Barnard girls of the freedom and outdoor life which is possible to college students in smaller communities, but the second factor which influences Barnard life, the proximity of the university atmosphere, more than compensates the students for being hemmed by a great city.

Since many of the Columbia professors are also members of the faculty of Barnard, that college has gradually assimilated university methods. The lecture system prevails almost entirely, and no one is there to say to the students as in most women's colleges: "You'd better do so much Latin or mathematics or Greek because if you don't I shall find it out and then—" The



ON THE CAMPUS NEAR THE SUN DIAL GIVEN BY 1907.

shall be out at 10 o'clock. "Chapel is compulsory," etc., with which other colleges have made people familiar.

"This independence naturally leaves its effect upon the students in their daily life. It marks it with a dignity and a calm self-reliance seldom found in girls of their age. For the Barnard girl is very young and her dignity is not that of age but of experience. When girls of twenty are in charge of an organization of some 400 others the effect upon their characters must necessarily be marked.

Nor does this early acquired mental balance hinder these girls from having all the fun that other colleges boast of. Every night when dinner is over they dance as long as they please, and three times a year they have men dances. And parties galore! Halloween parties, soap bubble parties, county fairs with all sorts of games and freaks, amateur circuses, "exciting wonderful feats of daring and skill," anything as long as it is worked out in some new and original manner.

For at Barnard originality is prized. The worst condemnation that can be passed on a girl is: "Oh, of course she gets a fearful amount of A's, but she's about as original as an afternoon tea."

The energy which Barnard does not expend on shows and plays is expended on athletics, for in the spring comes field day and the interclass contest for championships of the college. Besides the usual events, such as running, jumping and putting the shot, a baseball game between the upper and lower class girls is played and many and wonderful are the innovations which a league player would discover in the game as it is played at Barnard. There is much rivalry for the honors of the day, chiefly because the champions can parade through the college buildings and grounds on the following day, flaunting their trophies and shouting songs of self-glorification at the defeated classes.

# A Trip Through the Land of Cush on a Soudan Government Steamer

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**W**ADY HALFA, Oct. 31.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—For the last two days I have been steaming up the Nile, above Egypt, through one of the oldest lands of the globe. I have been traveling through the country which belonged to Noah's grandson, Cush, and which in later days was known to the Greeks and Romans as Ethiopia. The Egyptians called it Nubia, from their word nub, which means gold, and it is known that a large part of the gold of ancient times came from the mines of Nubia working in it today. It has been recently parceled out by the government to three English syndicates, with capital ranging from \$200,000 to \$1,500,000, and one of these companies, known as the Soudan Goldfields Limited, has already sunk three shafts in the ancient workings of Om Nabard, and is now building a railroad to connect them with the government line which crosses the desert from Wady Halfa to Abu Hamid.

Each tribe has a certain number of wells, and their water is the principal part of its visible wealth. During the last few years the English officials of the Soudan have located these wells, and they have now information as to their depth and the quality and flow of the water. The government has also sunk some wells and has found water at about 100 feet.

The Nubia of today is a part of the Upper Nile valley. If you will imagine a cultivated strip, about a quarter of a mile wide, winding its way like a snake from north to south as far as from New York City to Detroit, and embracing both sides of a river as large as the Mississippi, you may have some idea of this country. You must not think that the cultivated strip has any regularity of width. In some places the desert comes close to the river, and in others the stream is walled with black rocky hills, which rise, almost straight up, a thousand feet above it. Farther on may be yellow sand, spotted with black rocks which show signs of volcanic origin, and farther still a low bend in the river where the water can be conducted out over the sands and make a cultivated patch three miles in width. In no place can you get out of sight of the desert. There are always rock and sand on the other side of the river, and generally only a thin strip of green with the black, bare desert reaching out beyond to the horizon.

can be seen here and there, high up on the banks, with their strings of buckets hanging to them. As the buckets descend, each dips into the water and carries to the top a few quarts. In some places men raise the water in baskets or buckets, and in others they carry it up by hand and water little patches twenty or thirty feet wide, where the river slopes at such an angle that this can be done. Every low place in the river is used, and, as the Nile falls, the sand banks and islands are planted.

Wherever there is a strip of cultivated land, a village of huts, made of mud and stones, has grown up, and such villages spot the banks for hundreds of miles. At times there will be no green except between them and the river, and one wonders how men can be born and live and die there. Nevertheless, there are more than 200,000 people to whom this region is the center of the earth.

I understand that this Nile strip is very fertile. The government officials tell me that it raises excellent cotton, and that a movement is under way to open up cotton plantations wherever there is a big enough block of land for the purpose. At present the chief crops are wheat, barley and millet, and the chief fruit is dates. The date tree thrives, and the fruit is sweeter and larger than that grown farther down the Nile valley. One sees date palms almost everywhere along the banks. The government looks on them as a source of revenue, and taxes them at the rate of 10 cents per tree.

desert begins. The ship is a sternwheeler, much like those on our rivers. It is about twenty feet wide, 150 feet long, and it draws only six inches. We make about six miles per hour, and our pilot, a dark-faced, short-haired Nubian in turban and gown, winds his way from one side of the river to the other as we go on up the stream.

We fly the Egyptian and Soudanese flags, but the steamer belongs to the government of the Soudan, and that means it is English. The captain, however, is a German, and the rest of the crew are Nubians, most of whom are as black as your hat. The captain speaks German, French, English and Arabic. He attends to everything connected with the steamer, even to the meals, so seeing that the passengers are properly served. Our waiters are black-faced Nubians, in long white gowns, belted in at the waist by sashes of bright red. They wear white turbans, and their feet are either bare or clad in red slippers.

I find the steamer comfortable and the company agreeable. The boat has two decks. On the lower one are thirty cabins and the dining room, where our meals are served table d'hote. Over the upper an awning is stretched, so that we can sit out and watch the scenery as we go up the river.

Our party consists of several commercial travelers, who are bound for the Soudan and Central Africa, to sell or buy goods; two missionaries who were going up the Sabat river; a capitalist, largely interested in land development, enterprises about Khartoum, and of people who are on their way to the Blue Nile to hunt big game. Among the latter are a German baron and his wife and several British army officers from India, who are

spending their leave in this way. Most of our party appears in evening clothes at dinner, although we are away in the wilds of Nubia, with nothing but desert on each side. Our meals are served in courses, with a half dozen changes of plates, knives and forks, and we have napkins.

**How One Suffers in the Desert.**

Indeed, it may interest you to know just how one suffers out here in the desert of Nubia. I will give you the bill of fare for one day. At 7 this morning, while I was yet in bed, my black boy appeared and handed me a cup of hot tea, with two sweet crackers on each side of the saucer. At 8 o'clock the bell rang for breakfast in the dining room. The meal was as follows: Fried fish, fresh from the Nile; bacon and eggs, bread and butter and jam, with tea or coffee to order. At 1 o'clock came luncheon, consisting of rice, giblets, chicken, mutton chops and fruit, with bread and butter and cheese. Coffee, of course. At 5 o'clock we had dinner, and the menu was as follows: First, an excellent soup, then a boiled fish just out of the Nile, followed by a complot of pigeons, roast lamb and mint sauce, with potatoes and string beans. Then there was a course of tomato salad, and after that a pudding and fruit. All this was eaten about as far above the Mediterranean sea as Omaha is above New Orleans, and the meals were served well. The charge for the food alone is \$2 per day, and the fare without food for the two days' trip is \$3.

I do not find travel in Africa at all cheap. If one travels along the Nile he must expect to spend \$10 or \$15 a day, the cost increasing as he goes up the river. My trip

from Shellal to Khartoum and back by rail and steamer, not much longer than from New York to Chicago, will be \$15, or about 6 cents per mile, and I shall doubtless have to pay at Khartoum a hotel rate of at least \$5 per day. Almost every good hotel in Egypt charges that much, and the extras are proportionately high.

If one attempts to travel economically he must expect many discomforts. On the best first class passengers only are carried. We have some second and third class passengers, but they live not on the steamer, but on a low barge, which we tow along by our side. This barge has a flat deck of rough boards, covered by a roof. The people upon it carry their own bedding and lay it down on the boards. They must supply their own food, and, as the servants of the first-class passengers and natives, who are none too clean, go in that way, the company is not overly desirable. Besides it is very cold after dark and those who sleep on the decks have the desert breezes blowing over them all night long. It is cooler here than in Egypt, although we are nearer the equator. I have a woolen blanket on my bed, and on top of that a heavy traveling rug, and still am none too warm. In the early morning I wear an overcoat when on deck, although at noon it is so hot out of the breeze that I would fain take off my fish and sit in my bones.

sometimes wear bunches of smoldering grass twisted about their heads to keep it away.

As to the flies of Egypt, they are probably the descendants of those which the Lord sent in to afflict Pharaoh when he would not let the children of Israel go. They look not unlike the common fly of our country, but are more bold and hungry. Their feet stick to one as though they were glued, and they will not move until brushed off. Their favorite feeding place seems to be on one's eyes, and the Egyptian peasants have become so used to them that they let them feed at will. This is especially so of the children, a common sight being a child with its eyes so fringed with flies that it seems to have double eyelashes. The flies cover the heat in the markets, they roost on the buffaloes, camels and donkeys, and they attack the tourist to such an extent that the selling of fly brushes has become an Egyptian industry. The brushes are tassle-like affairs with long strings similar to the hairs of a horse's tail.

Every one knows that flies carry disease, and many of the troubles of the Egyptians of today are due to them. This is especially so of ophthalmia. There are blind people everywhere, and one-eyed men and women are common. Diseases of the eye are so universal that one of the charitable features of lower Egypt is a company of traveling eye doctors. These men are supported by a rich Englishman, who has given a fund for the purpose. The doctors go from village to village, carrying their tents with them. As they enter a town the word goes out that the poor will be treated without charge, and crowds come to their tents to have their eyes examined and cured. They remain in one town for a month or so, and during this time the poor are attended to without money and without price. I am told the institution does great good.

**Ancient Nubia.**

Ancient Nubia had a considerable population, and it was noted for its riches and power. It was something of a country about the time the pyramids were built, and in the most prosperous days of old Egypt it had large towns and magnificent temples dedicated to the worship of the Egyptian gods. On my way here I passed Abu Simbel, great temple on the banks of the Nile, which was cut out of the rocks by Rameses II, the Pharaoh who oppressed the Egyptians and would not let them go; and a little further down the river lies the Temple of the Lions, where that same old king himself was worshipped as a god.

Nubia was tributary to the Pharaohs until 1100 B. C. It then became independent, and later still its armies overran Egypt and conquered it. As other nations came into the lower part of the Nile valley they sent armies against the Nubians, only to be driven back, and at the time the Romans entered Egypt the country was ruled by a succession of queens named Candace, one of whom made war upon Rome. Shortly after Christ the people adopted Christianity, and later, when the Mohammedans took possession of Egypt and the upper Nile valley, they were converted to Mohammedanism. They are still followers of the prophet, and they formed some of the boldest soldiers of the Mahdi in his recent war against the forces of Egypt and England.

**Irrigation in Nubia.**

The valley of the Nile here is narrow to an extreme. The river has cut its way through the rocks, and is so walled with hills that its waters have to be lifted in order to flow over any level place whatsoever. This is done chiefly by sakeys, of which there are something like 4,000 on the Nubian Nile. The great wheels, moving in

**On a Government Steamer.**

The Isis, on which I have been traveling, is one of the little steamers of the Soudan government, which goes twice a week from Shellal, just above the Assouan dam, to Wady Halfa, where the railroad across the

**Will Philiae Be Drowned?**

The port of Shellal, where I took the steamer for Wady Halfa is just opposite the island of Philae, and during my stay there I rowed over and took photographs of the ruined temples as they have been more or less affected by the backing up of the water from the Assouan dam. Now that the dam is to be built fifteen higher the most of the temples will be drowned when the reservoir is full, and the probability is that they will soon pass away. When the dam was first proposed a great outcry came from the savants and archeologists of the world on account of the injury that it would do to Philae, but the official results have been so valuable to Egypt that the dam is to be raised regardless of the preservation of these ancient ruins. Something like \$100,000 was spent in fortifying the old structures during the building of the dam, and it is probable that twice this amount would suffice to take up the temples which are now there and carry them to the mainland, or even transport them to Cairo, where all the world might see.

The island of Philae is situated on the

(Continued on Page Five.)

**Nubia in 1907.**

A land with such a history ought to be a rich one. The Nubia of today is about as barren as any country on earth. With the exception of a narrow strip along the Nile, it is altogether desert. It begins in the sands of Libya and goes for several hundred miles eastward to the Red sea, and it is only in a few places that the soil has enough moisture to furnish a scanty pasture for camels and sheep. The bulk of the desert population is made up of Bishari Bedouins, who live in tents of matting and move about with their flocks from place to



STEAMER ON WHICH CARPENTER ASCENDED THE NILE.



WAITERS ON THE "ISIS"



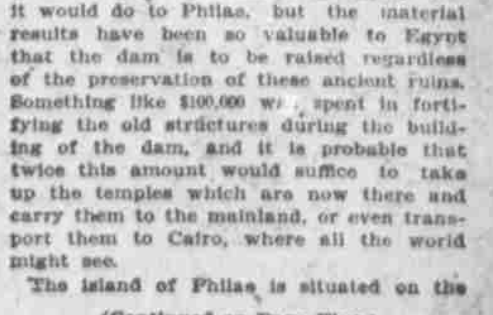
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