

# Fisk University News

Vol. XI.

NASHVILLE, TENN., JUNE, 1921.

No. 9.

Published monthly by Fisk University. Entered as second-class matter July 26, 1910, at the postoffice at Nashville, Tenn., under the act of July 16, 1894. Acceptance of mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, and authorized on August 20, 1918. Subscription, One Dollar the Year.

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

ISAAC FISHER,  
University Editor.

FAYETTE AVERY McKENZIE,  
President of the University.

Changes of name or address, and dates of deaths of Alumni and other friends, should be promptly reported in *writing* to the office of the News.

Fisk University News is published in the interest of Fisk University. Address all communications to Editor "Fisk University News."

You Will Want to Read

THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON

*"A PECULIAR PEOPLE"*

Printed on the Next Page

According to our custom, the Editorial gives  
way to the doings of Commencement.

—Editor.

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Wednesday, June the First, at Eight O'clock, P. M.



“Snapshot” of the Fisk Band in Their new Uniforms

The various meetings described in preceding pages, interesting as they were, are but annual preludes to one day of the General Anniversary season—Commencement. Toward this all else moved, This year, Commencement seemed personal to a great many because so many of the graduating class had come all the way from the bottom of the University's academic courses, and have been here long enough to be familiar to the entire University. The class was the largest in Fisk's history, 40 in number, and was known for its ambitious projects and ideas. There were four students receiving certificates in home economics, and one, a diploma in Music. Long before eight o'clock all seats had been taken and the Commencement crowd, for the first time in six years, had overtaxed the seating capacity of Fisk Memorial Chapel, many standing in utter discomfort during the whole evening. The program follows:

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Fisk Memorial Chapel

*Class Motto*

Lifting Others As We Climb

Organ Solo—March (Militaire).....*Shelley*

Miss Maude Smith

Prayer

Background and Perspective . . . . . Grace Beatrice Broyles  
 Principles of Peace . . . . . Charles Wesley Ransom  
 Chaos or Christianity . . . . . Wilmer Tyson Shamborguer  
 Song—Creation Hymn . . . . . *Beethoven*

Ludie D Collins

Vitalized Education . . . . . Otelia Roberta Shields  
 "Consent Thou Not" . . . . . James Cling Whitaker  
 Disarmament, A Key To Peace . . . . . Charles William White  
 Chorus—Festival Te Deum . . . . . *Buck*

Mozart Society

*Commencement Address*

JOSEPH WILSON COCHRAN, JR., D. D., LL.D.  
 Pastor Woodward Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 Detroit, Michigan

Jubilee Song

Presentation of Class to the President by  
 the Dean of the University  
 Presentation of Diplomas  
 Conferring of Degrees  
 and

Presentation of J. G. Merrill Commencement Prizes

PRESIDENT F. A. MCKENZIE

Presentation of Home Economics Prize

Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah) . . . . . Handel

Mozart Society

Benediction

Seated upon the platform, and adding a touch of color to the whole were Chaplain Laubenstein, Dean Ortman and the presiding officer, President McKenzie, each wearing the academic costume suited to his rank. Very soon there appeared at the doors through which the members of the Mozart Society pass to their seats, two lines of seniors—the graduating class—in caps and gowns; and when Miss Maude Smith, candidate for a music diploma, began playing Shelley's *March Militaire*, the great audience, led by the President rose to meet them and remained standing until they had passed to their seats. Here the prayer was offered by Chaplain Laubenstein and the program of the evening had actually begun.

GRADUATES SPEAK.

Soft-spoken, modest, but thoroughly at home, Miss Grace Broyles discussed her theme, "Background and Perspective," and pointed to history as a valuable key to the past—a past from which solvents of the problems of the present and future can be found. She spoke at a great disadvantage by reason of the bustle caused by the effort of so many persons to find seats, but her message was well delivered.

Charles Wesley Ransom went back to the prophets of old as the basis of his "Principles of Peace" and he treated it as if he were a "theolog." Gracious, dignified and perfectly at ease as he called the God's-men of old to help him lay down the ethical bases of local, national and international peace, Mr. Ransom made a splendid impression for himself. More than this: his address was the introduction to a series of graduating addresses which went to the Hebrew Scriptures for their keynotes. He was followed by Wilmer T. Shamborguer, whose "Chaos or Christianity" was one of the sensations of the evening. Naturally a speaker of great power, his discussion took on marked dignity as he laid down the major proposition that Civilization stands at the forks of the road today and "nothing save the blood-stained Cross of Jesus" can save the world from chaos and ruin. He swept his audience before him as he appealed to the Judge of the World to lay certain truths upon the people of the world, "Lest We forget."

Here the tension was broken by Ludie Collins, rich round baritone voice, as he sang Beethoven's "Creation Hymn," after which the only professional subject on the program—"Vitalized Education"—was discussed by Miss Otella R. Shields. Among the concrete items which she included under her program were Americanization of aliens and newly-adopted immigrants, universal education, physical education better general preparation for living, and a better adaptation of moral and religious education to the needs of the times. Miss Shields' oration was rich with statistical material, and was very helpful.

Once more the Bible was laid under tribute for a student address. This time by James C. Whitaker, who from the conditional Bible clause, "My son if sinners entice thee," selected for his subject the imperative mandate, "Consent thou Not." The whole address went to the Scriptures for its sanctions, and was an unusually fine bit of moralizing. Mr. Whitaker, is also a pleasing and powerful speaker and he received an ovation when he concluded his speech. The last speaker, Charles William White, astonished all of his friends by the power and keen analysis which he brought to the discussion of his theme—"Disarmament a Key to Peace." Heart and soul wrapped up in his advocacy of reduction of armaments, the subject made him eloquent, and the audience could see that he had studied the theme with great care. Like three of the other speakers, he turned back to the Hebrew Bible to give authority to his plea for universal peace, and he was warmly applauded as he sat down. Following him the Mozart Society sang Buck's "Festival Te Deum" Chorus with splendid effect.

#### THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.

The Commencement address was pitched on a high plane. Dr. Cochran discussed "America First" with a keenness of conception of the needs of our times which ranks him with the constructive statesmen of the day. Elsewhere we print a digest and summary of the matters in which he argued that America must be first. One feature of his address which was noticed in a marked degree was his constant references to and quotations from the student speakers. He began his address by stating that he would be proud to know that the speakers at his own Alma Mater, the University of Michigan, acquitted themselves with such credit; and that the addresses at Fisk would do credit to the Commencement exercises of any American Uni-

versity. Although he spoke from manuscript, he turned frequently from its pages to commend and endorse some sentiment of moral grandeur that had been expressed by one of the students. But it was not alone to him that the moral dignity of the graduating addresses appealed. It was remarked again and again in the audience that the number of speakers who had turned to the Scriptures for their inspiration was unusually large; and there were some who hoped that it might be a sign that in increasing numbers, Fisk men and women will help to lead America back to the "Faith of our Fathers." Following the address which was vigorously applauded Prof. Work led in singing, "I know the Lord's laid His hands on Me," and then began the—

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES.**

Dean Elmer J. Ortman, for the first time, had the pleasure of presenting the classes to the President. He presented first the four students who were to receive certificates in home economics; then the student for a music diploma; and finally, the class upon which were to be conferred the degree of bachelor of arts. Pronouncing the time-honored formulae, President McKenzie gave to each candidate the reward of many days of striving.

**AWARDING OF PRIZES.**

The W. C. T. U. Prize of \$8 had to be divided this year between two contestants. Constance Fisher's paper on "Cigarettes and Scientific Facts" having led all the competitors on that subject; and Edmonia White's paper on "The Menace of Beer and Wine," having been voted the best on that topic, it was decided to divide the prize between them, each receiving \$4.

In presenting the J. G. Merrill Commencement Prizes, Pres. McKenzie called attention to the fact that since their award one year ago, Dr. Merrill had been called home, and the prizes this year were significant because of that fact. The judges voted that the best two student addresses of the evening had been delivered by James Cling Whitaker and Wilmer T. Shamborguer. The first prize of \$15 was therefore awarded to the former and the second prize of \$10, to the latter. It should be remarked that both of these young men had been members of the University's two successful debating teams this year and have already been referred to as having received gold medals for excellence in intercollege debating contests. The prize in Home Economics, given by Miss Johnette E. Goenz, H. Ec. '10, was awarded to Mary B. Jackson who received a certificate in Home Economics.

**SPECIAL TESTIMONIAL FOR MRS. EDMISTON.**

At this point President McKenzie called Mrs. Althea Brown Edmiston to the platform, and announced that the special collection that had been taken to aid her in publishing the dictionary and grammar of which she is the author had amounted to \$200 in cash and over \$100 in pledges; and he handed these amounts and pledges to her. Continuing, he called attention to the fact that while Fisk University can not confer honorary degrees, the corporation desired to show some special mark of appreciation of her fine character and valuable work as a missionary in Africa. It had been decided, therefore, to present to her on parchment a formal testimonial of recognition of her scholastic work. The testimonial reads as follows:

## COMMENCEMENT DAY

JUNE 1, 1921

## FISK UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, TENN.



## A TESTIMONIAL OF APPRECIATION

*of*

## MRS. ALTHEA BROWN EDMISTON

*Grand-daughter of the Old Africa**Builder of the New Africa**The Great Commission—*

Yakanyanya ibuina, buhixa ba ba malonca makima beki, bubabatixa a dina di Tata i a di di Muana i a di di Nyuma Anxeka; bubalaka mbok'akela makama makima mibuloxidi mimi; neded'i buina xu ikima i a moma mu hueta akuiya.

—*Matt. 28:19, 20, in Bukuba.*

For

## *Althea Brown Edmiston*

born in 1874 at Russellville, Alabama, Bachelor of Arts, Fisk University, 1901. Graduate of The Methodist Training School for City, Home, and Foreign Missions, Chicago, 1902; Missionary in Africa 1903 to date; creator of the written language of the Bukuba people; author of the first and only Bukuba Dictionary and Bukuba Grammar.

## *Fisk University*

grateful for the achievement of her loyal and faithful daughter hereby places on record

## *Appreciation*

of her high attainment in scholarship as represented in the Bukuba Dictionary and Grammar, and proclaims her

## *Pioneer of Civilization*

and worthy successor in the splendid lineage of men like Eliot, Carey, Morrison and Judson, who also put in written form the languages of various people.

*In Witness Whereof, the Great Seal  
of the University is affixed*

F. A. MCKENZIE,

President

E. J. ORTMAN,

Dean

Mrs. Edmiston in a few words tried to express her gratitude for the "great kindness and confidence" of the University and the great honor done to her. She said that she was going to begin anew and prove that the confidence in her was not misplaced.

After all old members of Mozart Society had been invited to sing the last number with them, that Society rendered the thrilling "Hallelujah Chorus," the benediction was pronounced by Chaplain Laubenstein, and another commencement had come to an end.

### THE GRADUATES

The list of students receiving degrees, diplomas, and certificates, was as follows:

#### CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

##### BACHELOR OF ARTS

##### *Major In Chemistry*

Blanchi, Benjamin Abbott  
 Grant, Viola Turpin  
 Jackson, Algerita Willellia  
 Kelley, Clifford Vivian  
 Lewis, Rose Douglass  
 Ransom, Charles Wesley,  
*Magna Cum Laude.*  
 Smith, Aubrey Hinton  
 Stewart, Ferdinand A., Jr.,  
 Walden, Isabelle Beatrice  
 Whitaker, James Cling, *Cum*  
*Laude.*

##### *Major In Classics*

Braden, Zedrick Thomas  
 Mebane, Ethel Louise  
 Warren, John Thomas

##### *Major In Education*

Drake, Emmy Fynch  
 Holman, Susie Naomi  
 Howse, Alma Zenobia  
 Hundley, Aurelia Kempt  
 Shields, Otelia Roberta  
*Magna Cum Laude.*

##### *Major in English*

Bloodworth, Eunice Ophelia

##### *Major In History*

Zeigler, John Henry

##### *Major In Home Economics*

Harris, Ora Juanita  
 Jackson, Florence Beatrice

Scruggs, Louise Evelyn

##### *Major In Latin*

Boyd, Alice Erma

##### *Major in Mathematics*

Ryalls, Ella Johnnie  
 Shamberguer, Wilmer Tyson,  
*Cum Laude.*

##### *Major In Music*

Scott, Mary Cassandra

*Major In Physical Sciences*

Barden, Daniel

*Major In Political Science*

Broyles, Grace Beatrice, *Cum Laude*

*Major In Social Science*

Bush, James Estelle  
Goldstein, Percy Arthur  
Harris, Solomon Parker  
Harwell, Hazel Juanita  
Mitchell, Thelma Elnora,  
*Cum Laude.*

Taylor, Helen Anita  
Terrell, Cleveland Augustus  
Warren, Thomas Henry  
Watts, Kathryn Buckner  
White, Charles William,  
*Magna Cum Laude.*

Williams, James Cornelius

CANDIDATE FOR DIPLOMA

*Music*

Maude Henrietta Smith

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATES

*Home Economics*

Mary Bradford Jackson  
Mayme Elinore Osby  
Mabel Anette McGavock  
Motta Louise Sims

---

**Peace Plan of News Editor Adjudged one of "Three Best" on the Japanese Question**

The following comment from the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner of July 3, may interest our readers:

"The university editor at Fisk university, Isaac Fisher, has been awarded the third prize of \$75 by the Metropolitan Magazine of New York City, for writing one of "the three best letters from our readers," proposing a practical and peaceful solution of the Japanese question, in which papers the writers were expected to answer the question, "Can we keep peace with Japan?" The announcement of the award is contained in the Metropolitan Magazine for August, just on the news stands.

There were but three prizes, a first prize of \$300, won by Gregory Mason, one of the editors of the Outlook magazine; a second one of \$125, awarded to John Collier of Taos, N. M.; and the third one of \$75, given to Fisk's editor."