

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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THE WOMEN'S BUILDING

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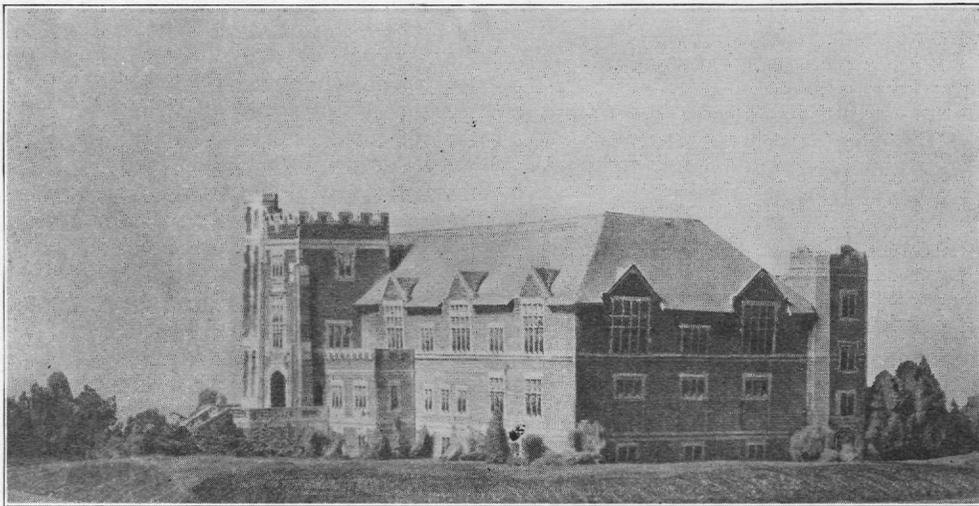
In the early days of Ohio State University, the present private office now occupied by President Thompson was the social center for the young women attending the University. It was very appropriately named the "Gab Room." Later the increasing enrollment of young women demanded larger quarters which resulted in the "Gab Room" being transferred to the large room east end, second floor of University Hall, where it is maintained and probably will remain for some time in the future.

With the appointment of a Dean of Women a new need required consideration, that of a Women's Union, including offices for the Dean of Women and rooms for the campus social center for the girls. This was first realized by assigning the east wing, except the basement, of Orton Hall, formerly occupied by the University Library, for the use of the girls. The coming of the World

shaped building on the site located on the east side of Neil Avenue, between Mirror Lake and Oxley Hall. One wing extending east and west facing Mirror Lake was arranged to accommodate the Women's Union. The other wing extending north and south, parallel to Neil Avenue, was designed for the work of the department of physical education for young women.

The cost of building remaining high, the Trustees deemed it best to use the appropriation for the construction of the Gymnasium wing and erect the Union wing at a later date. This arrangement will provide the young women with an "up-to-date" gymnasium, freeing the present one to the exclusive use of the young men, and will permit an all-day schedule for gymnasium work for both men and women.

Many of the Alumnae felt that the original movement had for its main object a women's



NEW WOMEN'S BUILDING

War required this space for military work and the young women, together with the Dean of Women, were transferred to the Home Economics Building.

The next move will be into the new Women's Building, for which a contract has been awarded. It will require approximately twelve months to complete this new structure, which will provide a permanent location for the young women and their social activities and also serve for the department of physical education for some years to come.

This building has its origin in a movement carried on by the young women in 1917, when they secured an appropriation of \$150,000.00 from the State Legislature to which has been added \$90,000.00 in 1919, making a total of \$240,000.00. The war created conditions making it advisable to hold the project in abeyance.

The building as originally designed was planned to contain two wings, forming an L

union, and were reluctant in giving up to the gymnasium idea, but after a conference with the Trustees, of all concerned, a compromise was decided upon, agreeable to all, to erect the gymnasium wing and assign the ground and second floors for physical education and the first floor for a social center or a women's union.

From these general remarks leading up to the construction of the building, it will be in order to give a description of the building. The structure will be three stories in height. The first or ground floor, which is entered at grade, will have a locker and checking room 40' x 60', a dressing room 23' x 60', provided with individual compartments in which to dress for gymnasium work, a shower room with thirty-two showers all under central control. The shower compartments are constructed of white Carrara Structural glass, the most sanitary material manufactured for this purpose, two toilet rooms, a hair-drying room and two stairways complete the floor plan of this

story. The floors of all rooms and corridors are of terrazzo. The walls are finished with buff glazed brick.

The first floor, originally designed to provide for a corrective gymnasium, a lecture room and the executive offices of the Dean of Women, physician for women, and the director of physical education, will be devoted to the social uses of a women's union for the present. No important changes in the room plan will be necessary. A committee of women, after a conference, decided that the room arrangement would fit admirably into the needs of a social center, providing a large lounge 40' x 60', a study room 23' x 34', a social room 34' x 37', a kitchenette and offices of the Dean of Women and the physician for women, a toilet room, corridors and two stairways.

The second floor will have a large gymnasium floor, 60' x 102', and offices for the director of physical education. The walls of the first and second floors will be finished with a gray mat surfaced brick wainscoting, with Terra Cotta cap moulding. The walls above the wainscoting and the ceiling will be plastered. The main corridor will have an ornamental plaster ceiling.

The exterior walls will be built of kiln run brick laid English bond, trimmed with buff cut stone. A very liberal amount of cut stone will be used which is called for in the architectural design of this building, namely, English Tudor.

The roof of this building will be a fine example of weathering green slate used in varying sizes, decreasing from the eaves to the ridge of the roof. All metal work used in connection with the roof will be copper thereby insuring permanency.

The windows will follow the old English Tudor architectural practice of metal sash and frames for all windows with movable sash and leaded sash, leaded into the cut stone window trim for the fixed sash. The window treatment will be an innovation in this section of the country and will be of the very best window construction possible.

The construction of the building will be of fire-proof type. The outside walls and interior bearing walls are of brick masonry. In the ground floor are a number of "Bethlehem" steel columns thoroughly fireproofed. The construction floors are "Meyer" system of reinforced concrete. The finished floors of the first and second floors are maple laid on a "Nailcode" base.

The heating and ventilating will be by a split system of forced hot water circulation with the temperature of rooms automatically controlled. The ventilation will be accomplished by an electric motor-driven fan forcing 35,000 cubic feet of air per minute into the building. The temperature of the air will be automatically controlled by thermostats, so that it will enter the rooms between 68° and 70° F. The room temperatures will be controlled by direct radiation automatically regulated by thermostats.

The plumbing has been given careful attention. All fixtures are of the best grade vitreous china, fully guaranteed. All enclosures about the fixtures, together with wainscoting in toilet rooms, will be white Carrara structural glass, the very best sanitary material obtainable. The showers are arranged in four groups of eight, all under the

central control of an attendant, the temperature of the water being automatically controlled at a predetermined comfortable warmth. The number of plumbing fixtures total eighty-two, which is evidence of the thoroughness of this installation, which will contribute to the comfort, convenience and sanitary needs of the building.

All electric wiring is installed in the best type of concealed conduits, which insures safety in the electrical work of the building. The installation consists of a two-panel slate switchboard, three distributing cabinets and one hundred and thirty-three electric light outlets, requiring thirteen thousand two hundred watts for artificial illumination, from which it is very evident that the building will be amply illuminated. In addition to the above mentioned outlets there are also outlets for projection lanterns and receptacles in the offices for desk lights. Conduits are installed for telephones in the different offices in the building.

The completion of this building will not only provide excellent facilities for the activities of the young women but will release the present gymnasium for the all-day exclusive use of the young men and the much-needed space in the Home Economics building occupied by the Dean of Women.

In this case, and in fact the erection of every new building on the campus, not only provides increased facilities for University work but at the same time releases space in other buildings, thereby extending the benefits to other work, or, in other words, adds greatly to the facilities of the entire University.