

MONTROSE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
DEDICATION OF THE VOCATIONAL BUILDING

October 9, 1941

Reisterstown

TODAY marks another step in the continued progress of this school. The buildings comprising the institution represent a tremendous advance over those in which your activities were carried on at Carey and Baker Streets. Careful planning in the development of the work has been exercised by the devoted group of men and women comprising the Board of Directors. As the physical property of the institution has improved, so has the spirit which directs its destinies. It may be said that the general attitude of our people also has changed, and has developed a willingness to bear larger burdens that the wards of our State may have better care.

No longer do we think of institutions, such as these, as places of confinement. The opprobrium attaching to the former name has, fortunately, entirely disappeared. Organized society, speaking through its government, has decreed that the problem be approached from the standpoint of education and training to correct defects of environment, and to counteract harmful influences.

Today this emphasis is properly placed on education and training. This approach merely makes effective for a selected group the principles which we apply to young people in the population at large; namely, that in the complex society in which we live, specialized training is absolutely necessary to fit the individual to be self-supporting, and to have some knowledge and appreciation of the physical world in which we live. The emphasis today is strongly on education and vocational and professional training, and the activities of government in this and other matters, should and does merely reflect the will and desire of the people.

And so we find the four-point program of this institution built largely around this concept of governmental responsibility. Hence, under the able direction of the Superintendent, Mrs. Gardner, consideration is given first, to academic education, offering instruction from the fifth grade through high school. Thus is carried out the mandate of the General Assembly, which, in its classification of State functions, associates this institution with the Department of Education. Under capable teachers, regular academic courses, comparable to those given in the public schools, are offered.

Secondly, a recreational program is, in effect, utilizing a fully equipped gymnasium and an adequate campus. Appropriate athletics, wholesome play, and the development of a spirit and practice of fairness and good sportsmanship, characterizes the recreational program which has been most helpful in the development of those committed to our care.

Third, proper emphasis on the spiritual side of life. In a world all too prone to forget Divine guidance and to neglect the practice of moral virtues, it