

# Dr. M. Carey Thomas Dies; Noted As Woman Educator

President Emeritus Of  
Bryn Mawr Succumbs  
In Philadelphia — Was  
Fighter For Equal  
Rights And Foe Of  
Chauvinism

Dr. M. Carey Thomas, Baltimore-born president emeritus of Bryn Mawr College, which she helped to organize, and crusader for women's rights, died yesterday in Philadelphia in her seventy-ninth year.

Although Dr. Thomas moved from Baltimore in the early 90's, she continued to keep alive her interest in this city, where her friend, the late Miss Mary E. Garrett, daughter of the late John W. Garrett, resided. Later Miss Garrett moved to Philadelphia to make her home with Dr. Thomas.

### Left Fortune

When Miss Garrett died, in 1915, she bequeathed her estate, valued anywhere from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000, to Dr. Thomas without incumbrances. It was learned later that Dr. Thomas also had made a will bequeathing her estate to Miss Garrett.

Shortly after inheriting the estate, which included Miss Garrett's town house at the southeast corner of Cathedral and Monument streets, Dr. Thomas loaned the building to a group of local art patrons then sponsoring a museum of art. In this building the present Baltimore Museum of Art had its inception.

Dr. Thomas was one of a group of women who gathered around Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Anna Shaw and others in their long fight for equal rights. Not only did Dr. Thomas have the distinction of being the first woman



DR. M. CAREY THOMAS

trustee of Cornell University, but she was also the first woman to receive the degree of doctor of laws from the Johns Hopkins University, where she was the first woman student.

### Won Degree At Zurich

In 1879 she received a degree of doctor of philosophy, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Zurich. So intense was her interest in the equal-rights cause that she, with Miss Garrett, raised \$60,000 to meet the expenses of the National American Suffrage Association from 1907 to 1912. She was one of the founders of the Association to Promote Scientific Re-

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search by women and was active in the International Federation of University Women supporting the League of Nations.

One of the theories of Dr. Thomas, who once said she preferred death to a possibility that she might not be able to attend college, was that government of nations should be turned over to men under 40 years of age. She contended that older men had outlived their usefulness and were backward lookers.

Born In Baltimore

She was born in Baltimore on January 2, 1857, a daughter of the late Dr. James Carey and Mary Whitall Thomas, and a sister of Dr. Henry M. Thomas, noted neurologist. Her father was a trustee of the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Thomas's elementary education was obtained at the local Friends School and at Granger Place School, Canandaigua, N. Y., where she prepared for college. She entered Cornell University, taking her bachelor of arts degree in 1877.

After leaving Cornell, Dr. Thomas entered the Hopkins, taking a special course in 1877 and 1878. Then she went to Germany, studying at the universities of Leipzig and Göttingen, but opposition of Chancellor Bismarck to higher education for women prevented her from receiving degrees. The one from the University of Zürich followed. Her next educational venture was at the Sorbonne, where she studied in 1883.

Made Dean At Bryn Mawr

At the opening of Bryn Mawr College, ten miles outside Philadelphia, the next year, Dr. Thomas was chosen dean of the institution and professor of English. She also was a member of the board of trustees of the Bryn Mawr School of Baltimore. With Dr. James E. Rhoads, first president of Bryn Mawr, she inaugurated there the first graduate school to be maintained by a women's college and worked out plans for resident and European scholarships and fellowships.

She served as dean until 1894, when she became president of Bryn Mawr.

women of the country to give their whole-souled support to the League of Nations.

In 1921 she was elected president of the Association to Aid Research by Women. In the same year, while delivering the founders' address at Mount Holyoke College, Dr. Thomas emphasized that "one of the greatest menaces to American schools and colleges is that teachers are being required to teach that things as they now exist in the United States, its Constitution and government are right and that our highly unsatisfactory government must not be criticized."

In her speech Dr. Thomas said "the new and almost universal appreciation of the power of education has brought upon us what I regard as the most terrible menace to American schools and colleges.

Fought Chauvinism

"The Federal and State governments, boards of education, Americanization societies, the American Legion and organizations of every kind are demanding that children and college students should be taught patriotism, concrete citizenship and one hundred per cent. Americanism.

"This means that school teachers are being required to teach, not how to make things as they should be, but that things as they are are right; that the United States Constitution is as perfect as written 134 years ago; that our highly unsatisfactory government must not be criticized; that the United States flag, which as we all know, flies over many cruel injustices which we hope to set right, must be revered as a sacred symbol of unchanging social order and of political death in life.

"What this perversion of education did for Germany it will do for the United States. We need progressive leadership of the most liberal kind

to save the world from revolution. It can only come from the young generation now in school and college."

Resigned In 1922

In 1922 Dr. Thomas resigned as president of Bryn Mawr and in her valedictory again called on youth to take the helm, asserting that "under young teachers in closest sympathy with youth, young students can most easily make their highest intellectual effort."

The same year she received her law degree from the Hopkins and turned over the old Garrett mansion to the Baltimore Museum of Art. Also in 1922 she was voted one of the twelve greatest American women by the Maryland League of Women Voters.

Returning from another European tour in 1923, she asserted that "elder statesmen are a mistake," adding, "I believe that if the men in control of affairs in this country and abroad were under 40, instead of over 60, the world would not be in its present condition, and, as far as I am concerned, I am going to try to confine my activities to applauding and backing up of the younger generation."

In 1928 Dr. Thomas gave \$100,000 to the local Bryn Mawr School to help pay off its debt.

Dr. Thomas spoke at a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Bryn Mawr's founding a month ago yesterday and said it was "probably my last speech." She explained that among congratulatory messages she received on the anniversary, the one she most cherished said:

"I have forgotten everything I learned at Bryn Mawr, but I still see you standing in chapel and telling us to believe in women."

she became president of Bryn Mawr, but despite her heavy daily programs, continued teaching her English class. In 1893, when the Johns Hopkins Medical School was about to be opened, Miss Garrett gave the school \$350,000, provided that women would be included among the institution's students. This provision, it was said, was instigated by Dr. Thomas. It was not until 1910 that Dr. Thomas took the first vacation in her educational career.

### Toured Europe

Ten years later Dr. Thomas made an extensive tour of Europe and, returning to the United States, urged the

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