

Derrick Shorthand School

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

A WORD ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE SCHOOL

(Extract from "Philadelphia Tribune," February 2, 1918.)

"A Splendid Example of What Courage and Energy Can Accomplish"

"Miss Minibelle J. Derrick, the daughter of the late Bishop Derrick, and the founder of the Derrick Shorthand School, has been a resident of Philadelphia for the past few years. She graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago, and entered Oberlin College afterward, completing her work at Columbia University. The following fall term she was appointed to the Chair of French at Wilberforce University in Ohio, holding the same until the illness of her father brought her to his side. It was after his death that she decided she would not go away again to teach. In January, 1916, she decided to take a business course, but this thought was not a new one, for always she had desired work pertaining to stenography, as a business training is the door leading to almost every opportunity; but she had always been discouraged by those who wanted her to continue her classical studies and finish abroad. Therefore, she entered the 30-Day Business College with more than the average energy and determination, and applied herself to the work so that at the end of twenty-six days she was sent to her first position. At the end of sixty days she was able to repay in full her tuition.

"Colored young men and women are not welcome in the 30-Day College any more than any other business college, and this thought preyed upon Miss Derrick's mind. So it was not surprising that the President of the College was approached by her with the proposition that she be allowed to teach colored students this special system of which he held the exclusive rights. He was at first entirely out of sympathy with her, but before the call was over he had promised to think it over and asked her to call again. The next call secured the sub-contract rights to teach the system.

"The School was then started in a small room which Miss Helen Biddle loaned. It was in a building on Arch Street—American Book Company—and was the property of Miss Biddle. With a rented typewriter and desk, and no capital nor financial help from any source, Miss Derrick started her work. Later in the season she was doing so well that she removed to the Transportation Building on South Fifteenth Street. Here the large number of graduates turned out and the excellent positions secured for them brought such an overflow of applications that it was again necessary to remove, and so larger floor space was leased in the Childs Building, at Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets.

"Miss Derrick has always been proud of the fact that she had the wisdom to see the advantages of this short course. Not only time and money were saved, but a great deal of useless brain fatigue, for the methods were simple and complete.

"It is the thinking people who are endorsing the work and taking the course, through the press and from the platform everyone is strongly advised to take the course, if they are competent and in earnest, for it is not every day that such a wonderful opportunity is presented."

The School is at present located at 1435 Chestnut Street, but plans are being made for still larger and better quarters, and it is confidently expected that the students will always point with great pride to the DERRICK SHORTHAND SCHOOL