

Denies Alleged Threats Against Bryn Mawr School



DR. M. CAREY THOMAS

BRYN MAWR CHARGES DENIED BY DR. THOMAS

**Chairman Of Board Says Miss Hamilton Was Not Forced
To Resign.**

ASSERTS ILLNESS IS CAUSE

**Parents To Meet Again Tonight To
Discuss Status Of Former
Headmistress.**

Dr. M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College and chairman of the board of Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, who was scored severely Monday night at a meeting of fathers of students and former students, countered last night by denying that she had forced Miss Edith Hamilton's resignation or that she had threatened to wreck the school.

Miss Thomas asserted that she had worked with Miss Hamilton in harmony for 26 years, during which time Miss Hamilton had built up the school and put it in flourishing condition, and that under such circumstances it was impossible to presume that she would force Miss Hamilton to leave the school.

Teachers of the school met yesterday behind closed doors and discussed a proposition which had been made to them by the board. It was announced after the meeting that definite moves probably would be made within a week.

Parents To Meet Again.

Another meeting of parents of students and former students is scheduled for tonight at the home of George L. Irvin, 1702 Park avenue, chairman of a committee of 10 men whose daughters are attending the school. The other members are Harry G. Evans, Charles Markell, Randolph Barton, Jr., W. Ainsworth Parker, the Rev. Dr. Arthur B. Kinsolving, the Rev. Dr. Harris E. Kirk, R. Marsden Smith, Sewell S. Watts and William L. Marbury.

Mr. Irvin said members of the committee with whom he has talked feel that Miss Hamilton should be asked to reconsider her resignations both from the board and as head mistress.

"The sentiment seems to be," he said, "that it is only fair that Miss Hamil-

"that it is only fair that Miss Hamilton should be allowed to continue at the head of an institution which she has built up from its foundations. I feel that we should ask Miss Thomas to withdraw from the situation. I think she would feel that her work in connection with Bryn Mawr College would be sufficient honor and that it would perhaps be a nice thing for her to leave the honor of having developed the school to Miss Hamilton."

Decision Rests With Board.

It was pointed out by several interested in the school that the final decision as to what shall be done will rest with the Board of Managers, which is a self-perpetuating body. In addition to Miss Thomas and Miss Hamilton, the board consists of Miss Marion Reilly, of Philadelphia, a director of Bryn Mawr College; Mrs. A. Morris Carey, Miss Thomas' sister; Miss Anna Bond, Miss Amy Steiner and Dr. Florence Sabin, a professor in Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Miss Reilly and Mrs. Carey have supported Miss Thomas. Miss Bond and Miss Steiner are alumnae of the school and have supported Miss Hamilton. Dr. Sabin holds the deciding vote. She is friendly to both elements. When asked last night if she would vote for a reconsideration of Miss Hamilton's resignation, should Miss Hamilton accede to the wishes of the parents, alumni and teachers, she said she would. Dr. Sabin, however, would not discuss the situation other than to say:

"I hope that the question of personalities will be eliminated quickly from the discussion. What is of much greater importance is the problem of school control and management."

Crux Of Problem.

It is understood that what Dr. Sabin had in mind and what the parents' committee is considering is whether the school should be a "one-man" institution or whether the board should be more truly representatives of all interest involved.

Under the will of Miss Mary E. Garrett, who died April 3, 1915, by which the school building, land upon which it is located, furniture, apparatus and equipment was given under certain conditions to the school, a provision was inserted which has given Miss Thomas practically a controlling vote upon the board. This provision of the will made the bequest with the following reservation:

"Upon the express condition, however, that the said school shall within one year after the probate of my will execute and deliver to my executrix, executor or other personal representative an agreement in form satisfactory to her or him, whereby the said school shall covenant that it will conduct and maintain and continue to conduct and maintain a school for girls as a college preparatory school exclusively, preparing girls to enter the college or colleges

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of the highest grade open to them at any given time.

Examinations Required.

"This shall be interpreted to mean that the course of the school shall prepare all its pupils for said college or colleges and that the diploma of the school shall be given only to pupils who shall have passed the examinations or other tests required for admission to said college or colleges: and if the said school shall fail to execute and deliver the said agreement within the period of one year after the probat of my will, or should at any time fail to comply with the same, or should cease at any time for a period of a year or more to be maintained as aforesaid, and such failure to comply with said agreement or such cesser of maintenance of the school in the manner required by said agreement or by the terms of this article of my will shall continue six months after notice of such failure or cesser shall have been given in writing to the president or other chief officer of said corporation by my executrix, executor or other personal representative, or by my residuary legatee (Miss Thomas) or devisee or anyone entitled to claim under the residuary legatee or devisee, then all the property embraced in this devise and bequest shall revert to and become part of the rest and residue of my estate and be disposed of as such, and I give, devise and bequeath accordingly.

It developed yesterday that Miss Thomas expects to go to Europe at the close of the scholastic year at Bryn Mawr College, with the idea of remaining abroad for two years. This, according to the patrons of the school here, will preclude the election of a successor to Miss Hamilton for that length of time. Several of them said yesterday that they were unwilling to allow their daughters to return to the school next fall without a definite idea of what policy will prevail there.

Harassing Tactics Alleged.

Virtually all of parents and alumni of the school agree that Miss Thomas is a woman of great force of character and of indomitable will, and they insist that Miss Hamilton has broken down under the strain of endeavoring to cope with her views. Miss Hamilton, it was said yesterday, is far from being physically incapacitated, and her friends insist that her illness is due to the fact that she was constantly harassed by Miss Thomas.

Upon learning yesterday of the action taken by the fathers of the students at the meeting Monday night, Miss Thomas issued a lengthy statement which is said to be virtually a duplicate of the one she made at the teachers' meeting Sunday afternoon. She cited the minutes of the board meetings to show that on October 31, 1920, Miss Hamilton presented her resignation, to take effect in two years.

"The board at that time refused to consider it in the hope that Miss Hamilton's health might improve," said Dr. Thomas in her statement. "Instead of this it has steadily grown worse. She was in such nervous condition during last summer that she was unable to return to Bryn Mawr School until two months after the school opened."

Tells Of Differences.

She cites further evidences of Miss Hamilton's ill health and states that the board finally decided to accept her resignation. She goes on to say:

"An unfortunate difference of opin-

board and cannot be delegated to any one person.

"The board, with the exception of Miss Hamilton, is unanimous in feeling that it must make the best possible temporary provision for carrying on the school in order to take the necessary time to find a head mistress with the commanding qualities needed to carry out, as Miss Hamilton has done, the aims of the school."

It was said yesterday that all of the trouble in connection with the management of the school had transpired since the election of the two members of the alumnae to the board of managers. Miss Hamilton is understood to have felt that the school had grown so large that former students were entitled to a voice

in its management. This, according to the same authority, did not accord with Miss Thomas' views, and friction ensued.

A statement issued by Miss Thomas early in the day yesterday appeared as saying that during 1920-21 Miss Hamilton was "secretly unable to be at the school during the morning hours." This clause, according to Mrs. A. Morris Carey, Miss Thomas' sister, who also received a copy of the statement, was misunderstood over the telephone and the word "secretly" should have been "frequently." This correction was pointed out by Mrs. Carey to Miss S. A. Ostell, a member of Miss Thomas's office force at Bryn Mawr, who called attention to it and asked that it be corrected.

"An unfortunate difference of opinion has arisen between Miss Hamilton and the other members of the board of managers in regard to the choice of her successor. It has been only six weeks since we accepted Miss Hamilton's resignation and the board feels that this time is too short in which to choose a worthy successor to Miss Hamilton, whereas Miss Hamilton insists that we shall act immediately.

"In the interview Miss Hamilton refers to she told me that unless she were allowed to choose her successor, and unless I voted for someone she indorsed, I should see that the school would be ruined and would have to close. These are the words attributed in the paper to me."

The story in THE SUN yesterday did not contain any interview with Miss Hamilton nor were any remarks attributed directly to Miss Thomas. Both Dr. Harry Fielding Reid and his daughter, Miss Doris Reid, have declared they heard Miss Thomas make the statement that she would close the school unless her wishes prevailed.

Says School Must Continue.

Miss Thomas adds:

"Of course, it is needless to say that the board has no intention of closing the school. We regard the school as a legacy from Miss Garrett to the board of managers and we feel that the responsibility of maintaining it and of choosing a successor to Miss Hamilton rests with the