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 served 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 to resigning of that she had threatened to wreck the school.

Miss Thomas asserted that she had worked with Miss Hamilton in harmony for four 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.

Another meeting of parents of students and former students is scheduled for tonight at the home of George L. Irwin, 1762 Park avenue, chairman of a committee of 16 men whose daughters are attending the school. The other members are Harry G. Evans, Charles Markell, Randolph Bacon, Jr., W. Alan Waugh, Parker, the Rev. Dr. Arthur R. Kincaid, the Rev. Dr. Harris E. Kirk, R. Marden Brown, Mr. Seward B. White and William L. Marsh.

Mr. Irwin is a member of the board and has been a close friend of the late Dr. J. H. Woods, who was the founder of the school.

The sentiment seems to be that it is not fair to Miss Hamilton to blame her resignation on the board and headmistress.
The sentiment seems to be, he said, that it is only fair that Miss Hamilton should be allowed to continue at the head of an institution which she 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 much more fitting 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 alumni 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 students, she would not. 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 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 and Miss Hamilton 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 be maintained within one year of the probate of my will, I 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 be maintained that it shall conduct and continue to conduct and maintain a school for girls as a college, or an academic institution, exclusive of preparatory girls to enter the college or college school."

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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 headmistress shall prepare all its pupils for said college or colleges and that the diploma of the school is to be awarded only to those who shall have passed the examinations or other tests required for admission to such institutions. In the event that such examinations shall not be made at any time to fulfill the same, or should cease at any time for a period of two years, as provided by said agreement, the school shall be continued in the manner required by said agreement for the time being.

The article of this agreement shall be continued in force, and in case of non-abatement of the same, or of the said agreement, the said agreement shall be interpreted as if made at any time to fulfill the same, or should cease at any time for a period of two years, as provided by said agreement, the school shall be continued in the manner required by said agreement for the time being.

It developed yesterday that Miss Thomas expects to go to Europe at the beginning of December, and to remain abroad for two years. This, accordingly, means the end of her connection with Bryn Mawr College, with the idea of returning to the States in the Spring of 1922. In the meantime, it is said that Miss Hamilton has been discussing with the Board of Directors the advisability of making the school at Bryn Mawr All-women's.

Harassing Tactics Alleged

All parents and alumni of the school have been receiving letters from Miss Thomas, in which she states that she is ill and that her life is threatened by the strain of endeavoring to cope with her views. Miss Hamilton, it is said, has been feeling ill for some time, and it is thought that they were unwilling to allow their daughters to return to the school next year.

Miss Hamilton tells of differences

She cites further evidences of Miss Hamilton's ill health and states that she is suffering from a serious illness. She goes on to say:

"An unfortunate difference of opinion between Miss Hamilton and myself has arisen, and I believe that the best interests of the school will be served by my resignation."
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’ 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 chose her successor, and unless I voted for someone she endorsed, 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