

Southwestern In Focus
DR. TEMPLIN TEACHES
CHARACTER

By Marjorie Graham
EPT Sundial 7/25/65

Education at Radford School for Girls includes much that is not in the curriculum.

It is characterized to a large extent, by the personal philosophy of its principal since 1927, Dr. Lucinda de Leftwich Templin.

Deemed an educator in every sense of that word, her philosophy is based on the belief that there is no easy road to education and that there is no substitute for character.

She is one who has, for nearly 40 years, focused the esteemed attention of the educational community in the United States upon this school in the Southwest.

"Many years ago, when I was a graduate student at Harvard University," Dr. Templeton recalls, "I was browsing in the library and picked up a small book entitled 'Not in the Curriculum.' The introduction was by Henry Van Dyke. It, was dedicated to Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton University, in appreciation of the many things not in the curriculum but learned from him.

"The book was written by two young men who had learned that the finest of the arts is the art of living and the highest of sciences is the science of conduct. They also realized that, even one man, by persistent striving, can change the whole tone of a class or a college, that their school or college is just what they and their fellows make her."

Dr. Templin recalled that, in that period, college students were deeply interested in discussing ideals, practical Christianity and belief in God.

CONCERNS CHANGED

But, about 1930, the concerns of college students had changed. They were studying the liberal ideas of the period. One graduate attained a certain "fame" by writing a radical thesis attempting to prove that everything in this country was wrong, that a belief in ideals, in God, was either a pose or rank stupidity.



EDUCATOR - *Dr. Lucinda de Leftwich Templin, above, principal of Radford School for Girls since 1927, is one of the Southwest's leading educators. She came here from Lindenwood College in Missouri, where she was dean, to arrange for the endowment of the former El Paso School for Girls by the late Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Radford, of St. Louis, Mo., and to serve as administrator.*

"He became the idol of the Park Avenue set," she said.

"Then, in 1960, another movement swept our colleges. Conservatism became the topic. Students were taking an interest and working in politics, striving to elect conservative men to public office. This interest continues to grow."

And she would like to see another movement sweep the campuses today.

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morality, scrupulous honesty, faith in the future of this country and a firm belief in God. America needs their support in this.”

She was disappointed in way the recent situation at University of California developed.

“The first thing I would have done would have been to throw the trouble makers off the campus. And then I would have expelled every one of them.

“I think President (Clark) Kerr made a fatal mistake when he resigned and then reconsidered, when he compromised. You can’t have privilege unless you have discipline. There has to be authority, and the students should have been made to realize that the administration of the university was fully in control, that, after all rules were complied with, their grievances would be heard.

“As the situation developed, it was dreadful.”

Further, every student who came to class barefooted should have been sent home, Dr. Templin feels.

ENFORCE RULES

“Laxity in dress and cleanliness leads to laxity in many other ways,” she added. “Colleges should enforce their rules on proper dress. I impose the obligation on every Radford graduate to try to live up to this school’s standards of appearance and ethical conduct, to add to its academic prestige,”

Her own academic prestige has been responsible for thousands of dollars being donated to Radford by individuals and foundations. Many contributions for scholarships have been based solely on personal contact with Dr. Templin.

“I am bitterly opposed to federal aid to education, to educational control passing to

government,” she said. “It is inevitable that it will. Many things the government has done have demoralized the people, and this public apathy as government dictates what will be taught is evidence that something has happened to American character.”

Schools which accept federal aid must comply with the government’s ban on prayer, she said. Radford, which has never accepted federal assistance in any form, by resolution of its board of directors, continues to have non-sectarian chapel services three, times a week.

CLOSER CONTACT

At the college level, she sees the personal relationship between the best minds of the universities and the individual student being slowly lost through government financed research and as dedicated teachers are being forced into published writing in order to advance.

“It is one of the biggest farces in education and a great disservice to the dedicated teacher, whose teaching should come first and then his writing,” she said. “One published work was concerned with the amount of fatty tissue on the butterfly’s wings.”

To counteract this, she advocates a broader system of junior colleges, which will afford closer contact between undergraduate student and teacher, while graduate study and research are consigned to the universities.

Dr. Templin was educated at the University of Missouri, from which she holds A.B., B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. Further graduate work was at Harvard and Columbia universities, after which she was dean of Lindenwood College from 1916 until 1924.

Following a year’s work as research scholar in 1924-25, she came here in 1927 as

principal of El Paso School for Girls, later renamed Radford to honor the late Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Radford who, through Dr. Templin's intervention, erased a \$45,000 mortgage, endowed the school and assured its financial stability with bequests in excess of \$500,000.

During her administration, there have been more than \$1 million in physical improvements to the 22-acre campus.

"Radford graduates are accepted each year by the leading colleges in the country," Dr. Templin said. "We prepare girls well for college, but our emphasis also is upon education of the heart and development of character. Too few realize that character is built, day by day, in our choice between right and wrong. We forget that what we say or do may be important to our future welfare and happiness.

"We want our students to know that life never was and never will be safe. It is an adventure -not a safe retreat. Real education is learning to think for yourself, to make intelligent decisions, to build a firm basis on which you can continue to learn.

MORAL COURAGE

"We want our graduates to have the moral courage to take a stand for the right—even though it means standing alone. For these are serious times, and there are too few who realize the menace which lies within our own country."

Member of the nation's leading educational organizations and honorary societies, named consistently to "Who's Who in America," Dr. Templin began a war museum, at the outset of World War II, which today is highly valued for its educational and historical interest.

"Familiarity with, this museum, which is a reflection of our past social and cultural history is part of the educational experience at Radford which is not in the Curric-

ulum," she said. "Since the War, there has been much criticism of the educational curriculum, but too little consideration of what is not found in the curriculum.

"For the purpose of education is preparation for living."

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