A Letter From President Currell.

Dr. Currell Reviews Progress of University and Outlines Building Program for Greater Carolina.

To the Editor of the Gamecock:

I take pleasure in complying with your request for a report on some account of the work of the University for the Greater Carolina issue. At the outset I wish to commend the Gamecock for their enterprise in getting out this issue which will do so much to advance the interest of the community.

Never in the history of the University of South Carolina have its prospects been brighter or its sphere of usefulness to the State been more generally recognized. The atmosphere of the campus is stimulating and all the departments of University activity are working in harmonious cooperation.

The enrollment at present writing is 563,152, the highest since the total enrollment of 1920. Of the students entering this year, 576 are from South Carolina, 118 are law students, the largest number in the history of the Law School. From present indications of student numbers, law and academic will exceed the record enrollment of 600, of last year. The enrollment will be much larger but the standard of entrance has been raised so much that the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities, one of which the University is a member. By virtue of this raised standard the high schools of the State are encouraged to add a fourth year of work, and the University will close one of the 36 accredited colleges in the State. A passing of the plans of graduation are accepted everywhere in the United States for graduate work. The University has now reached a position of the first time in its history, in a class "A" amongst the colleges.

In the past few years the material equipment of the University has been wonderfully expanded. In 1914 only Woodrow and Davis were heated from the central heating plant. Now LeConte, DeSausure, Thornwell and Rutledge are heated and the heat and the capacity of the heating plant have allowed the extension of the plant to all the buildings of the University which will greatly diminish the fire risk and will add to the comfort of the students and professors. Eight new homes for professors have been erected, four on Summer Street and the others on Rutledge Street between the Irvinian and Divine Street. In the near future at least six more should be added to the comfort of those professors who are still unprovided with homes and who find it impossible to secure homes at a reasonable cost. All of the old dormitories have been renovated and modernized except Harper and part of Legare. After the renovation of the two dormitories has been completed the University has dormitories that will compare favorably with any in the South. In addition to the foregoing improvements a handsome new home building has been erected.

The rooms at Clemmons, Winthrop and the Citadel are furthered to the extent of the students who apply to these institutions apply also to the University. The rooms should be as nearly uniform as possible, there should be less of confusion and delay at the beginning of every session which could be avoided if the rooms were ready for occupancy as soon as the students matriculate. For the small sum of $1,000, one hundred rooms could be comfortably furnished and the additional fees for room rent would soon amount to the amount expended on the furnishing. By an increase in rent, the amount each year of all the dormitories could be furnished in less than four years.

The average cost of the land upon which the campus available for storing the college property and especially the property of the students when they are away from the College. The fact that the University is situated in the heart of the city and that the roads thus the campus is closer to the property of students and of the State is much expected. At present we are compelled to use dormitories. But the University property is scattered all over the campus.

The University has been coeducational since 1894. The number of women taking courses at the University has increased since 1910 from 25 to nearly 100. A new Woman's building will be erected. Women are crying necessities, therefore, at present. The argument in favor of the woman's building may all be summarized in the happy phrase of one of the prominent clubs women—a plea for justice. If women and men are to be educated in any one institution, the sexes should be granted equal privileges and opportunities. Every year women are added to the University and cannot enter because there are no adequate accommodations for them. They do not have a chance to complete their college life because they have no suitable common meeting place. To say that they should attend the other women's college in the State does not meet the issue. Many ambitious young women desire the prestige of a university education, and the training to be derived from the excellent courses offered in literature, science, education, commerce, and law. They must go elsewhere if they are to be equipped for the University of their own state.

An examination of the catalogues of 58 institutions shows that 816 students go outside of the State for their higher education. There would not be such an exodus of the best young talent of the State if adequate provision for their needs was made in the common community. It must be remembered that many of these are thus led to make their homes in other States and to denigrate the education of their State.

I am writing this to the Department of Education of the University to encourage the University to do all in its power to attract the best women to the University and to do all in its power to retain the University in the State. The State has the financial and cultural advantages of the University, the University of South Carolina.

I have been privileged to receive the gracious hospitality and the courteous welcome of the University of South Carolina and by the courtesy of the President and the faculty of the University, I have been permitted to make this statement.

W. S. Currell, President.