Co-education at Bucknell.

Of the three types of education that exist among the more than sixty thousand college women in the United States to-day, that of co-education is the most prevalent. According to the report of the Commissioner of Education a few years ago, two-thirds of the 389 colleges of Arts and Science in the United States empowered to grant degrees, are co-educational. This is not to be wondered at in these days when it has come to be a matter of universal belief that education is a right of personality rather than of sex.

Of these co-educational institutions, the larger number, without doubt, are what are looked upon by the "educationally elect" as small colleges. There has been a fashion among educated men and women of looking with scorn upon the small college. If there is one class of people who ought to be forever loyal in their support of the small college, it is the splendid army of educated women in our land. The small college has become the co-educational college, and has been a great factor in raising the standard of learning among women.

That young women may now enter many colleges that were originally meant for their brothers only and be welcome, does not mean that it was always so. The evolution of the co-educated college woman is a story with tragic chapters.

The college woman at Bucknell had a struggle in the beginning of her career. There were only three of her and she was not received with the most cordial enthusiasm. She belonged to the "collegiate class" organized at the Institute in the fall of 1883. She and her two brave comrades were allowed to recite in the college classes with the men, and to do all the work required of the men. They were therefore college women. This honor must have been too great to bear, for we only hear of one of these
women holding out until she received her degree of A.B. in 1887. In the meantime, however, another woman had entered the college and had been graduated in 1885 with the degree of Sc.B. Since 1890 there have been women in every class, the total number who have been graduated being thirty-five, though a larger number than this had matriculated. There are at present eighty-one women in the college, of whom sixteen are in the Senior Class.

That the attitude of the University toward women is now a favorable one will be seen from the fact that in three instances honorary degrees have been conferred upon women. In 1889 the first of these was given to Katherine B. Larison, for a number of years the honored principal of the Institute. In 1893 an honorary A.M. was conferred upon Lucy Ripley Bliss, and also in 1897 upon Mary E. R. Cobb.

In 1895 the first Master's Degree, conferred pro merito (on examination after one year's study of a prescribed course) upon any graduate of Bucknell, was awarded to Mary L. Bartol, A.B., and Mary B. Hains, A.B., both of the Class of '94.

The women of Bucknell have done splendid work as graduate students in some of our largest Universities. Several have received the degree of Ph.D., and others are candidates for it. In June of last year for the first time a Bucknell woman received the degree of M.D., and is now occupying a position of responsibility and honor in one of our largest State hospitals.

The position of the college woman at Bucknell to-day is in many respects a desirable one. She has most of the facilities for a college education that are to be obtained in other colleges; she has the same opportunities as her class brother for "getting wisdom;" she is rewarded according to the same standards as are the men of her class. As far as opportunities for scholarship are concerned Bucknell appeals to and provides for men and women alike. It is in the life outside of the classroom and the study that the Bucknell woman fails to get that which she would have at any of our large woman's colleges and at many of the co-educational institutions. This is due more largely to the fact that the
college women have no building of their own at Bucknell than to anything else. To the mind of an interested "co-ed" of former days this is one of the greatest needs of the University at present. Under existing conditions there is almost no opportunity for college-life among the women. Were they in a building that they could enjoy as their own, and were their Dean permitted to give all her time and thought to them, instead of being obliged to use up most of her energy in other directions, there would be opportunities for general cultivation in other lines than the purely intellectual, which would be of infinite value. A different atmosphere would be generated.

Co-education is ideal, but thus far it is so only in principle, not in form. In view of the great advances that have been made in many directions at Bucknell in a few years, it is easy to look forward to a day when its system of co-education shall have attained nearer to the ideal than its women have dreamed of.

Nellie W. Conard.
West College.

The ground for West College was broken April 3, 1899. The corners for the building were marked by stakes driven by the Presidents of the four college classes; the ground was broken by Judge H. M. McClure, of the trustees, and by Prof. W. C. Bartol, Ph.D., of the faculty. The cornerstone was laid on Tuesday of Commencement week, 1899, by Mr. Harry S. Hopper, chairman of the Board of Trustees, the address being made by Rev. A. J. Rowland, D.D. The architects are Wilson Bros., of Philadelphia, and the superintendent of construction, Mr. Joseph C. Nesbit, of Lewisburg.

The building is four stories in height, one hundred and forty feet in length, and forty-two feet in width, and will contain ninety-seven rooms, one of which, thirty by forty feet in size, will be used by the Young Men's Christian Association, and another as a reading-room. The other rooms will be used as private apartments for students.

The foundation and trimmings of the structure are of brownstone; the walls and all partitions are of brick; the exterior being faced with pressed brick.

The building will be opened to students at the beginning of the school year, September, 1900.