ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

DEAN

OF

LINDENWOOD COLLEGE

MAY 1934
To the Board of Directors and the President of Lindenwood College:

Sirs:

We are closing another academic year,—a year that has been difficult, I believe in the history of all colleges. If enrollment has not been reduced, revenues in every case have. More than that, the students in the colleges to-day, with the terrific competition that is going on to obtain them, rather feel that they are conferring an honor on an institution by attending it and that everything, therefore, must be done for their pleasure and comfort. None the less, I feel that we can look with considerable satisfaction to the type of student which we have had at Lindenwood College this year and can definitely make the statement that there has been no lowering of our academic standard in any way. I think we have a class of students considerably above those found in a good many institutions today. Therefore, as I say, I feel that our graduating class, as well as the other students, have held to a very reasonably high academic standard.

The Executive committee of the Board was good enough some months ago to listen to a new plan of curriculum revision which I laid before them. May I, at this time, recapitulate some of the things of which I spoke at that meeting.

For some time, I have felt that the curricula of our educational institutions should be revised. I feel that we are not doing what we presumably claim to be doing—educating young people for life in the world as it is today. If we fail to do that, the institution of higher learning, as I see it, has no excuse for existence. One of the greatest failures I believe is in graduating students without high ideals and a high type of character. If we send them out into the world with the idea only of praying on their fellow men because of their superior intellectual attainments or with irresponsible ideals of conduct because they have a little more of this world’s goods, in so far as students with those ideals are concerned the college that has graduated them has failed. There should be more attention paid to character education and that is what we hope to stress in our new plan. It is as difficult as it is intangible. Words without example are of comparatively little importance but there will be the aim in a great many of the subjects taught of stressing the need in the world for honor, honesty, and integrity and all the traits which make for high Christian character. I am convinced that it can be taught.

In the second place I feel that in a college for women there must be more stress laid upon educating the young woman for family life. It seems to me ridiculous that a girl should complete her education and know nothing whatever of the responsibilities concerning that phase of her existence which will, in all probability, take up a great share of her life during most of the years after she leaves college. We, therefore, have planned on courses leading to the end of a girl’s acquiring a knowledge of the facts and a sense of the values connected with family life. I shall mention later on some of these courses.