

GREAT CONCERT BY SHORTER STUDENTS FEATURE OF COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

BY MARIE ALICE PHILLIPS.

ROME, Ga., June 4.—All day yesterday Shorter college was alive with visitors. There was something doing almost every hour of the day. There are many guests at the college and hundreds of them stopping in the city for the commencement exercises. After the class day exercises and art reception, the alumnae reception was in full blast for several hours. This is so much of a social function that it is hard to set a time limit. A great many of the alumnae were present to greet the young graduates and amid bright talk and lively reminiscences, the hours passed quickly. Delicious ices and drinks were served by the Juniors.

Despite the weather which insists upon being bad, a large audience filled and overflowed Memorial hall last night when the grand concert was given.

In the concert nearly all of the piano and vocal pupils took part. Miss Annie Worrell, as Mrs. Simmons' assistant, has done good work among her pupils this year and her reward is some beautiful voices.

Miss Mal Allen has a sympathetic soprano of wide range and while it lacks finish, her voice promises to develop into something unusual. She appeared to

who have heard her advise, she will make a great success. The two choruses sung by twenty fresh young voices were delightful; a specially beautiful effect was produced in the "Slumber Song," the voices sounding like a single violin. It was dainty and sweet, and the audience applauded vigorously.

Mrs. Simmons has made a feature of unison playing and singing in her college of music. As she says, it helps a pupil to a quicker appreciation and conception of a composition than twice the amount of individual training.

The first number on the program last night, a minuet by Mozart, arranged as a trio for eight pianos, was a fine exposition of the value of ensemble playing. Twenty-four young girls in white on the stage at one time was a diverting sight, and the perfect unison of delivery won the hearty applause of the audience.

There were no piano solos, all were arranged for eight pianos. Rossini's overture to "Semiramide" was the crowning feature of the evening. The orchestral effects were magnificent in some parts—the trombone piccolo and harp effects being produced almost perfectly.

Miss Virginia Pell, teacher of the piano, is from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and has been with Mrs. Simmons five years. She is a Vassar girl, with all the charm of manner, culture and dignity that usually dis-

tinguish graduates of that institution. She made her debut in Atlanta recently, when the public had an opportunity of observing the effects of her perfect training.

Mrs. Simmons has had all the advantage that masters can give and the benefit of these lessons she had tried to drill into her pupils.

Shorter has won considerable distinction for its good music; but while music is the dominant feature Shorter has other departments almost unexcelled.

The art department under Miss Lula Ross of Rome has done a fine work during the two years she has had it in charge. There is on exhibition here work done by pupils of two months training that is almost remarkable for the length of time given to it. There is some very finished work done by Miss Blanche Fleetwood, the only graduate of the class of 1901, and the Juniors. Among the latter there is much promising talent. Miss Kathryn Covington shows special talent and devotion to her work. The trouble with most girls is that they have no ambition beyond the decorative stage. A few water colors and some pen and inks a la Gibson fills present needs and they are ready to drop art for some other accomplishment.

Miss Ross has studied in New York and in Paris for several years. Her summers are spent abroad in salons, seeing what the world has done even when she is too



GRADUATING CLASS OF SHORTER COLLEGE, ROME, GA.

great advantage in the song, "Magic," from Meyer-Helmund last night. Miss Belle Cordle also won hearty applause in "The Swallows." She has a real dramatic mezzo and the rich qualities of her voice were brought out in this selection. Miss Fannie Stallings, who sang "Good-Bye Marie," has a small lyric soprano that promises a generous development.

Miss Worrell delighted the audience with the "Indian Bell Song," from "Lackme," she also sang the solo part of "Funiculi, Funicula." Miss Worrell has a dramatic soprano with all the tones and shadings of the lyric. Her selections last night showed the range and artistic poise of her beautiful voice. She has also a graceful stage presence, and if she eventually becomes a grand opera singer as all artists

tinguish graduates of that institution. She is a very finished musician and in her Mrs. Simmons feels that she has the proper element for the cultivation of an intellectual musical atmosphere among her pupils.

Mrs. Simmons is a very remarkable personality. As the dean of the college of music her chief interest of course is centered in that department, and in the three years since she and President Simmons have presided over the well-being of Shorter college she has made great advancement in the musical atmosphere of Rome. Besides possessing a beautiful voice herself, she seems capable of bringing out the very best that is in her pupils. Miss Annie Worrell was her pupil for three years and has been teaching in Shorter

much in need of rest to lend a hand.

Miss Sarah Peel, of Atlanta, took a conspicuous part in the program socially and instrumentally. While she has only been studying a short time she shows decided talent and is considered one of Shorter's brightest pupils. One of the best cultivated voices here is that of Miss Ida Wagner. She gave a dainty song of Rubenstein, "Thou'rt Like Unto a Flower," which brought down the house.

At 10 o'clock this morning the graduates in music, Misses Meta Fretwell, Kate Kittles, Beatrice Brett and Malda Williams, gave a recital. This was followed by an art reception. Tonight the commencement exercises will close with a literary address by Hon. W. D. Jelks of Alabama, followed by the conferring of degrees, etc.