

CHRISTMAS, 1943

Dear Friends:--

The past year has been full of events for the Brainard family. In this respect we are no different from other families during these war times. Naturally our interests center around the Teachers College. A number of our faculty have joined the armed forces, several of whom have not been replaced. Ninety-five per cent of our men have joined the armed services and likewise many of the women students have left to marry or to work for attractive wages. One of the dormitories, Lawrence Hall, has been vacated to give way to the two hundred and fifty soldiers of the 72nd College Training Detachment Army Air Forces who are being trained at the college. President Selke left in February to accept a position as War Manpower Commissioner. Dudley was elected president for the duration.

Virginia was graduated from Iowa State College with major work in home economics and journalism. In June she joined the staff of the Clinton Herald in Iowa. She writes a Home Economics column for the paper twice a week with a by-line. Besides this work, she does reporting for the paper. Needless to say, she enjoys her journalistic work. We are anticipating her return home for a short visit at Christmas time.

Constance, a sophomore here at T.C. spent an enjoyable summer at a Camp Fire camp near Battle Creek, Michigan where she was a counsellor. This year she has been acting as church secretary for the Presbyterian Church.

Eleanor is a senior at Technical High School. She is the family's student—and a very conscientious one. Her chief interest is science. She spent a month at the Duluth Y.W. camp last summer and was happy to win her Senior Life Saving badge in swimming at that time.

Charles is in the 9th grade and Ned in the 7th grade in Riverview Junior High. They continue to be good business men for the Minneapolis Star Journal. Charles went to the Minnesota-Wisconsin game because he had sixteen new subscribers for the paper. Ned was at a Minneapolis Y.M.C.A. camp at Lake Independence while Charles spent a month at Camp Miller near Duluth last summer.

As in former years, Grandmother Brainard came to spend the summer with us. She celebrated her 88th birthday in August and enjoys keeping up with the latest war news. Merl went to Michigan for her, and while there attended Dudley's niece's wedding. She visited her sister also at her farm home, Axdale Acres, near Ionia, Michigan. Virginia accompanied her grandmother to Chicago when she returned to her daughter's home this fall.

Because of the gas shortage, we were unable to take a vacation, so we lived quietly at home sending first one child and then another off to camp. It seemed strange at times to have only one of them home. We were busy however—Dudley with his duties and Merl with canning vegetables and fruits and juggling rationing coupons.

To all of you we again extend our greetings for the holiday season. With all of you, we fervently hope and pray that the New Year will bring peace on earth and good will to all mankind.

Sincerely,

DUDLEY and MERL