less”; but she quotes also Dean Alford’s gracious defence that “in conversation they serve to help the timid, to give time to the unready, to keep up a pleasant semblance of familiarity and, in a word, to grease the wheels of talk.”

However small the space accorded them in grammar, exclamatory expressions count for much and need to be handled with care in literature, as in life. These explosives are powerful. They are also dangerous. They produce rapid and sweeping changes of atmosphere and reveal character in swift flashes. As a speaker’s prepositions inevitably show his sense of idiom, so his ejaculations most quickly register his degree of refinement, if not of reverence.

Elizabeth P. Cleveland

**COLLEGE DRAMATIC CLUBS IN VIRGINIA**

Eight college dramatic clubs of Virginia have for their goal the erection of new buildings for the campus, such as a college theatre or student building or gymnasium. This information was obtained by sending questionnaires to twenty-eight Virginia colleges. Nineteen replies were received, of which thirteen gave sufficiently complete information.

In several colleges dramatic clubs formerly active have been through a period of disorganization; in other colleges dramatic clubs are only now being developed. The Roanoke College Dramatic Club and the University of Virginia Dramatic Club were both organized in the fall of 1924.

The Little Theatre Movement, which has made such notable progress in the last few years, seems to be having its effect on college dramatics. Although Hollins College is the only Virginia school in which a little theatre has been definitely established, the Little Theatre idea has taken root in various institutions.

Below is presented a list of the colleges and the dramatic clubs on the basis of which this report is made. The questions submitted are offered in italics, and after each is an analysis of the replies received.

**COLLEGE** | **CLUB**
---|---
1. Averett | Averett Dramatic Club
2. Farmville Teachers College | Farmville Dramatic Club
3. Hampton Institute | Shakespearean
4. Harrisonburg Teachers College | Stratford Dramatic Club
5. Hollins College | dramatic Association
6. Lynchburg College | Lynchburg Dramatic Club
7. Roanoke College | Roanoke College Dramatic Club
8. Randolph-Macon Woman's College | Sock and Buskin Club
9. Sweet Briar College | Paint and Patches
10. University of Richmond | University of Richmond Dramatic Club
11. Virginia Normal and Industrial School | Tongue and Pen Society
12. Virginia College | The Studio Players
13. Washington and Lee University | The Troubadours

In some colleges—Shenandoah Collegiate Institute and Bridgewater College, for example—there is no organized club, but the presentation of plays is carried on by the Expression or English department.

**What are the officers of your club?** In most cases, the officers of the club are practically the same, consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and business manager. However, a property man, costumer, and scene artist have been added to the executive staff of several of the organizations.

**Is there a business staff?** In eight of the college clubs, there is a business staff separate and distinct from the general officers, though the Business Manager is often the chief executive of the staff. The business staff of the Washington and Lee Troubadours consists of:

- The Vice-President of the Dramatic Club
- The Vice-President of the Glee Club
- The Vice-President of the Mandolin Club
- The Vice-President of the Orchestra

In other clubs the committee is ap-
pointed or elected among the members of
the organizations.

What is the method of obtaining members? There are various methods of sup-
porting dramatic clubs. At Hollins College
the entire student body joins the Dramatic
Association and in turn the Little Thea-
tre; the dues and fees are then cared for
in the budget.

For admittance to the Washington and
Lee Dramatic Club, participation and suc-
cess in the various departments of the Trou-
badours is essential. This department in-
cludes

1. The Mandolin Club
2. The Glee Club.
3. The Orchestra.

“Open” or trial membership is most
popular in obtaining members. That is, the
total student body is privileged to try out
and the most competent are selected.

There are some few colleges, Harrison-
bury, Hampton Institute, and Virginia Nor-
mal and Industrial School, that still hold to
the invitation method, but even in these
cases several tests proving ability are re-
quired before a student may become a mem-
ber.

Is the club membership limited? If so,
to how many? From the thirteen replies
received eight stated that there was no limit
to the membership. The others hold to the
following limits:

- Farmville: 30
- Hampton: 50
- Harrisonburg: 25
- Randolph-Macon: 75

Lynchburg College and Virginia College
limit their membership to those interested
enough in the drama to take advantage of
the Expression course offered in the college.

Are there regular meetings? How often?
Eleven college clubs out of the thirteen
which replied hold regular meetings.

- Weekly: 2
- Bi-weekly: 6
- Monthly: 2
- Semi-annually: 1

The Washington and Lee Dramatic Club
only holds meetings for the purpose of re-
hearing plays.

Is attendance at the meetings compulsory? In only seven clubs of the eleven
which have regular meetings is the attend-
ance compulsory. In some colleges in order
to insure attendance a fine is exacted for an
unexcused absence, and in others two suc-
cessive unexcused absences mean exclusion
from the club.

Are there regular programs at the regular
meetings? Only six dramatic clubs have a
definite program for each meeting. They
are: Averett, Farmville, Harrisonburg,
Lynchburg, Randolph-Macon, and Virginia
Normal and Industrial School. The Uni-
versity of Richmond Club has a program
for every other meeting, while the club at
Virginia College holds strictly business
meetings. At Farmville the special study
this year has been Make-up, surely worth
definite attention of every club.

Who plans programs? To this question
ten replied that a committee plans the pro-
grams. There are three clubs in which
the programs are planned by the director,
sometimes assisted by a student committee.

How are the plays chosen? A committee,
with the aid of the coach or director, reads
a number of plays and makes a choice of
the one best suited to club and audience in
nine of the college organizations. In the
other colleges plays are chosen by the coach
or director alone.

In order to secure the best plays, the
University of Virginia Club, only recently
organized, is divided, according to the Rich-
mond Times Dispatch, into groups which
read two or three well-known and well-
written plays at each meeting. From these,
the plays to be presented are selected by the
club.

By whom is the club trained? In eleven
of the college clubs there is a coach or di-
rector from the Expression department, by
whom the club is trained. At Hollins Col-
lege there are student coaches who not only
lighten the work of the dramatic instructor, but also receive the training and experience themselves. The English faculty of the Virginia Normal and Industrial School has charge of the dramatic training.

*What is the average length of time spent in training for each play?* There is a great variation of time spent in training for each play, ranging from two weeks to three months, depending upon the length of the play.

*What plays have been presented in the last three years?*

1. Averett
   1. Golden Days
   2. The Day of Dupes
   3. The White Christmas
   4. Her Christmas
   5. Averett, Son of Old Japan
   6. Nativity
   7. The Revolt

2. Farmville Teachers College
   1. Captain Letter-Blair
   2. Why the Chimes Rang Out
   3. Come Out of the Kitchen
   4. Friend Hannah
   5. The Yellow Jacket

3. Hampton Institute
   A. Shakespeare Club
      1. Julius Caesar
      2. Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
      3. The Scarlet Cocoanut
      4. The Taming of the Shrew
      5. Two Tanks
   B. Sophoclean Club
      1. Ulysses
      2. The House of Rimini
      3. The Lost Silk Hat
      4. Nevertheless
      5. The Slave with Two Faces
      6. Oedipus Rex
      7. The Knave of Hearts

4. Harrisonburg Teachers College
   1. The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife
   2. Monsieur Beaucaire
   3. The Rehearsal
   4. Little Women
   5. The Florist Shop
   6. Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil
   7. Indian Summer
   8. The Bluffers, or Dust in the Eyes

5. Hollins College
   1. You Never Can Tell
   2. The Importance of Being Earnest
   3. Major Barbara
   4. The Doll's House
   5. Prunella
   6. Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh
   7. Cousin Kate
   8. The Tragedy of Nan
   9. The Dover Road
   10. All of a Sudden Peggy
   11. If
   12. You and I

6. Randolph-Macon Woman's College
   1. Clarence
   2. Belinda
   3. Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh
   4. Dulcy
   5. Mr. Pim Passes By

7. Shenandoah Collegiate Institute
   1. The Charm School
   2. The Hottentot
   3. Come Out of the Kitchen
   4. Sunshine
   5. Esmeralda

8. Sweet Briar College
   1. Daddy Long Legs
   2. The Charm School
   3. Lady Windermere's Fan
   4. The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife
   5. Pomander Walk
   6. The Frederick Girl
   7. The Sweetmeat Game
   8. The Amazons
   9. Folly With a Past

9. University of Richmond
   1. The Importance of Being Earnest
   2. Alice Sit-by-the-Fire
   3. Twelfth Night

10. Virginia Normal and Industrial School.

11. Virginia College
   1. Prunella
   2. The Foresters
   3. The Tempest
   4. Enter, Madame
   5. A Scrap of Paper
   6. The Shadowy Waters

12. Washington and Lee University
   1. Officer 666
   2. The Bad Man
   3. Mlle. Gaby
   4. Eyes Up
   5. The Lady in Green
   6. Seven Keys to Baldpate
   7. The Sailor Made Man

*What plays written by your members have been produced?* There is only one college, from among those which replied to the questionnaire, whose members have written and produced plays. The Washington and Lee "Troubadours" have produced three original plays:

   1. Mlle. Gaby
   2. Eyes Up
   3. The Lady in Green

The Virginia College Club has written and produced only burlesque, pantomime, and pageants.

The dramatic club recently organized at the University of Virginia has for its purpose the writing and production of original plays. For the present, plays by well-known dramatists are to be presented in order to keep the club at work. Dr. A. L.
Hench, the instructor in advanced composition, has included a course in play writing. They hope to be able to present several good original one-act plays in the near future.

In your club’s experience, what type of play has been most popular with audiences? With the rise of the one-act play, some critics thought the longer play would be almost entirely replaced in college dramatics, but there is no evidence to indicate this result. In all but two of the college dramatic clubs replying, the three-act modern comedy or farce still enjoys the greatest popularity. Virginia College leans to the one and two-act modern or fantastic comedy and Hampton Institute holds to the three-act period play.

Do you present your plays elsewhere than at your own college? If so, where? Six of the colleges from which replies have been received have presented their plays in nearby towns and in other colleges.

- Farmville—Crewe, Blackstone
- Hollins—Lynchburg, Norfolk, Richmond
- Sweet Briar—University of Virginia, V. M. I., Washington and Lee
- Virginia College—Roanoke, Salem
- Washington and Lee—Lynchburg, Roanoke, Staunton

The other colleges have only presented their plays in the city in which they are located.

Has your club ever sponsored outside lectures on dramatics or any kind of play? The college dramatic clubs have taken little interest in sponsoring lectures. Hollins College has sponsored college glee clubs, professional readers, actors, and artists.

The Washington and Lee “Troubadours,” the Virginia Military Institute Dramatic Club, and the Haverford College Players have given performances at Sweet Briar under the auspices of the dramatic club. The Ben Greet Players and readers have been sponsored by the Virginia College Dramatic Club.

Is there a theatre on your campus? If not, where are your plays presented? Farmville, Hampton, Hollins, Randolph-Macon, and Virginia College are among those having a college theatre. The other colleges use the college auditorium, gymnasium, or chapel, the town hall, or the municipal theatre.

What are the stage dimensions? Answers to this question were received from only seven clubs. Hollins College has the best equipped stage, being 40x50 feet, Hampton Institute has a stage 40x30 feet. The other colleges’ stages vary greatly as follows:

- Averett: 13x24 feet
- Hampton: 40x30
- Hollins: 40x50
- Randolph-Macon: 30x20
- Shenandoah Collegiate Institute: 18x24
- Sweet Briar: 24x16x14
- University of Richmond: 18x12

How many drops are there? There were only five answers to this question. Farmville has two sets of drops, an indoor scene and an outdoor scene; Hampton Institute has three. Hollins College is better equipped for dramatic work, having a valance, working curtain, draperies, three flies, and a cyclorama. Randolph-Macon has only one set, while Sweet Briar has three.

University of Richmond, Harrisonburg, and several others have only curtains.

What are the lighting effects? The colleges which have a campus theatre are naturally better equipped than those which have only temporary theatres. The lighting effects in some cases are excellent. The various colleges are equipped with the following lighting effects: Farmville—footlights, spotlights; Hampton—footlights, four borders, two spotlights; Harrisonburg—footlights, spotlight, overhead lights; Hollins—red, white, and blue footlights, red, white, and blue borders, olivets, two baby-spots, gallery spot, color screens for olivets, dimmers for all; Randolph-Macon—footlights, four overhead lights; Shenandoah Collegiate Institute—headlights, footlights; Sweet Briar—spotlights, footlights, overhead lights, trough lights; University of Richmond—footlights, overhead lights, spotlight, wing light.
**What is seating capacity?** Replies to this question have been tabulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Averett College</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmville</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrisonburg</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollins</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph-Macon</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shenandoah Collegiate Institute</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Briar</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Richmond</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Normal and Industrial School</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington and Lee</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What admission price is your community accustomed to pay? Is it flat or scale price?**

There is a great variance in admission prices to college theatricals ranging from 15 cents to $2.00. Eight of the thirteen replies state that there is a scale price, that the prices vary according to the location of the seats. The other colleges have a flat rate ranging from 50 to 75 cents for all seats in the theatre.

**Do your proceeds go to your club treasury?** Twelve clubs replied in the affirmative to this question, though only part of the proceeds go to the treasury at Randolph-Macon; at the Virginia Normal and Industrial School all proceeds are used for some special benefit.

**Are you collecting a fund toward the erection of a college theatre or for some other purposes?** Three colleges are collecting a fund directly for a college theatre. They are Averett, University of Richmond, and Virginia College.

Hollins College is paying off the debts incurred by the erection and equipment of her theatre. A new Student Building which includes a plan for a theatre is the goal Sweet Briar is striving for.

Farmville is working for a new Student Building, while Shenandoah Collegiate Institute and Virginia Normal and Industrial School are collecting funds for a new gymnasium.

The information gained from the foregoing questions lead to these conclusions:

1. Hollins has the best equipped stage for dramatic work among all Virginia colleges.
2. There has been a great variety of plays presented by college dramatic clubs in the past three years.
3. The idea of a campus theatre is taking deep root in the minds of members of the dramatic clubs.
4. The value of a dramatic club has been recognized by most of the colleges of Virginia.

Mary K. Warren

**WHEN SPRING COMES TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL**

**I. OUR GARDEN**

A Nature Study Unit for the First Grade

This year the first grade children in the Harrisonburg Training School seemed to take notice of every sign of approaching spring. Every day they would come in bubbling over with something new to tell the class. When the question of planting a garden arose, I encouraged the children to talk about it, and finally led them to want a garden of their own. An account of the garden is given below.

I. What the children did.

A. They planned to have one large plot belonging to the entire class.
B. They raked and hoed the garden, made the rows, and a border.
C. They arranged the garden with vegetables on the inside and flowers on the outside.
D. They planted the following seeds:
   - **Vegetables**
     - Radishes
     - Beets
     - Carrots
     - Turnips
     - Butter beans
     - Lettuce
   - **Flowers**
     - Zinnias
     - Portulaca
     - Candytuft
     - Larkspur
     - Nasturtiums
E. They discussed how plants grow.
   1. The wind, sun, and rain help
   2. We can help by:
      a. Keeping soil loose.
      b. Keeping the weeds out.
F. They studied seeds.
   1. The seeds were planted in sand.
   2. The sprouting process and the growth of the plants were observed.
G. They dramatized the story, *The Little Old Woman and Mrs. Rabbit*.1