

ABBY LEACH

1855 - 1918

By the death of Abby Leach, Professor of Greek, on December 29, 1918, the college lost a member of its faculty who had served it ably and faithfully since 1883, and who in her teaching strove for "that partnership between teacher and taught which," says Professor Butcher, "has given to the world the highest thought of Greece." Under her initiative Greek was made a separate department, and the college was among the first to stage a Greek play, Antigone. She also promoted the study of Greek by her work in Classical Associations, as a member from the outset of the Board of Managers of the American School at Athens, and as President in 1899-1900 of the American Philological Association. She was an active member of the Associate Alumnae of Vassar, and the President in 1899-1901 of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. Her interest in other than academic matters was keen; her circle of friends and acquaintances, large; and her influence, far-reaching. Resolute, conscientious in duty, self-reliant yet upheld by Christian faith, she battled at the last with a painful disease but held steadily to her regular work until vacation and death came together.

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