

## MARY LANDON SAGUE

1885-1971

Mary Landon Sague spent most of her life at Vassar College and in the City of Poughkeepsie. Like so many of her generation of teachers at Vassar, she combined her duties as a member of the college family with those of the larger community surrounding it.

From her entrance as a freshman in 1903 until her death last March, her love of Vassar College and her interest in it never waned. She joined the faculty in 1909 as an assistant in Chemistry. Her long association with Chemistry 105 made fast friends of many generations of Vassar students. They recognized her worth as a teacher and her interest in them as an advisor. At her retirement and more recently at her death, many alumnae wrote with great affection telling how much having her as a teacher and friend had meant to them through the years. Rather early in her career the chairmanship of the Department of Chemistry was thrust upon her and immediately her genius for getting things done in an orderly fashion was given full play. She recognized certain shortcomings in the staff in Chemistry and began, by thoughtful appointment, to gather about her a staff of permanent, competent instructors. She was well aware of the needs of the library, too, and with the staff began to build up the collection of books and journals in the science.

Perhaps Mrs. Sague was best known on the campus as the marshal of the faculty and for her direction of the affairs of the Committee on Fellowships and Graduate Study. Members of the faculty had such faith in her ability and fairness in dealing with all aspects of the difficult task involved that they re-elected her chairman term after term for many years. Her service on committees was sought but on this one she shone. As she approached retirement, she was asked to undertake the indexing of the faculty minutes. She accepted the assignment, hideous as it was in detail and magnitude. After four years of painstaking labor the Index of Faculty Minutes from 1965 to 1958 had been completed. At that moment in 1958, she must have been the leading authority on the history of the Vassar Faculty.

### MARY LANDON SAGUE (continued)

Mrs. Sague without seeming effort organized her time so that she could enter fully into the life of the Poughkeepsie community. Her service to the Vassar Brothers' Hospital in the years of its expansion from a small community venture to one that holds a dominant place in the Hudson Valley was invaluable. She was on the Board of Directors of the Family Service Association (now the Family Counselling Service) and soon became its president and served as its presiding officer for many years. After her retirement from Vassar and from many community affairs, she was honored again and again by organi-

zations in the city in recognition of her contributions. At its twenty-fifth anniversary dinner, the Poughkeepsie chapter of the American Association of University Women honored her as one of its founders and its first president. As late as 1965, she was the honored guest at a luncheon given by the United Fund. This was in recognition of the work that she had done for the Fund as a member of the board and finally as campaign chairman and president of the Community Chest as it was called in her day.

She was proud of her Vermont heritage and did not let one forget that her roots were there. Each summer she returned to Greensboro, Vermont, a place she loved dearly. At the height of her career, it was particularly fitting that Middlebury College conferred upon her the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, recognizing her both as an educator and as a Vermonter. In the final analysis, though, Mrs. Sague's life was centered in Vassar College. She loved her college and worked consistently to keep it a great institution. The well-being of students was one of her primary concerns. She enjoyed teaching them. She liked to talk with them and her office was open all hours of the day for conference or just for casual conversation. She used her resources anonymously to help many a student. She entertained them at her house in town. In her last annual report to the President submitted on June 28, 1951, she wrote: "Chemistry is a thrilling subject and teaching it is an enthralling, exciting profession." Teaching was her life. Mary Landon Sague was a scholar, a fine teacher and tireless worker and a devoted, charming friend.

Winifred Asprey

Mary O. Hillis

Edward R. Linner