



O.A.C. Photo

At the conference banquet. Left to right: Dr. C. D. Graham, guest speaker; Miss Florence P. Eadie, Supervisor of Junior Home Economics Service; Mrs. Branion and Dr. Branion of the College.

"It is not necessary to remind you that homes like this don't just happen. Your home is built with a father's hard toil, a mother's love and devotion, and the co-operation of the family. That is where **you** come in. There **are** families who take home for granted. They never think of the toil and devotion and the sacrifice that makes a house a home, and a shelter. They use it as a sort of glorified boarding house,—a place to sleep and eat, and they look upon father and mother as a couple of servants whose duty and privilege it is to provide for all their wants, and ask nothing in return.

"Young people seem to have a queer idea that their parents owe them a home. Let me assure you that the world doesn't owe you a home any more than it owes you a living,—and, also let me remind you of the great truth of life, that we lose what we do not appreciate.

"What do we owe to our homes? We owe respect and love. We owe it to our parents to make them proud of us at all times, now and in the days to come. We owe appreciation, and we should pay that debt before the day when we are called home to a funeral. And we owe practical help.

"In a word, we owe thoughtfulness. You know, the greatest heartbreaks and tragedies in the world are caused, not by downright wrong doing, but by thoughtlessness. The greatest tragedies in human life are explained by the lame and pitiful excuse, 'I didn't think.'

"And don't blame your parents for everything that goes wrong with you. I know it is the fashion today, inspired by a silly modern psychology that will be laughed at by wiser men some day, to hold parents responsible for every flaw in our nature, from mental illness to plain laziness. A particularly cussed woman I know explains her ugly disposition by saying, 'My mother once told me that I wasn't pretty'.

"Let me tell you this: That our personalities are warped, not by things that happen to us, but by the way we react to those things. It is yourself and no one else who will determine what kind of a woman you will become. Florence Nightingale's parents hemmed her in with restrictions that would be against the law today, and frustrated her every desire from childhood. Yet she became Florence Nightingale. It is wrong and cowardly to blame others for what we are. You are not a mere lump of clay for parents to mold; you are a person with a will of your own, which shows itself in rather obvious and painful ways at times. You resent people interfering with your lives; then you must be courageous and mature enough to take the responsibility for your own life.

"I cannot look at you without thinking of the homes of the future—your homes. I am old-fashioned enough to believe with all my heart that the greatest career for any woman is the making of a good home. Good homes are the foundation of society, and a nation can rise no higher than the level of its homes. As the women of tomorrow, that is your destiny, your challenge, your sacred responsibility.

"Let me remind you, in closing, that every good thing in life, including the homes of the future, must be paid for in advance by preparation and by self-sacrifice. Happiness, satisfaction, success,—all these must be purchased on a cash-on-the-line basis.

"But the thing for young people to remember is that the miseries and regrets and failures are paid for on the installment plan. You know how it is. The salesman tells you not to worry about paying for your new car. It is so easy to buy things if you don't have to worry about paying for them. It is easy to do wrong. Don't worry about the bills. But the bills come in, and they have to be paid. And the tragedy of it is that the bills come, not only to ourselves, but also to those we love the most.