

DILLARD GIVES DEGREES TO 29 AT 1ST FINALS

Students Meet Dr. Nelson First Race President

By REV. H. H. DUNN
NEW ORLEANS, La., June 19—
(Special)—Twenty-nine students received degrees of bachelor of arts at the first commencement exercises of Dillard university, held on the campus of the university, Friday, at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Leslie Pinkney Hill, president, Cheyney Teachers college, Cheyney, Pa., delivered the commencement address.

The degrees were conferred by Dr. James Hardy Dillard, of Charlottesville, Va., for whom the university is named. The candidates were presented by Dean Horace Mann Bond. Music was furnished by the university chorus of 60 voices directed by Prof. Frederick Hall, director of music of the university.

Dr. Dillard Honored

Dr. Dillard returned to New Orleans to participate in the graduation exercises. His visit is in many ways the culmination of a long life devoted to the educational interests of both races of the South. Fifty-five years ago, Dr. Dillard came to New Orleans as professor of Latin in Tulane university of Louisiana. In 1924 he became dean of arts and sciences at the rapidly growing institution which he helped to make. As the years passed, Dr. Dillard became one of the most prominent civic leaders in the city of New Orleans.

He was president of the New Orleans library board, and as president, did much to lay the foundation of the public institution that is now so dear to the hearts of residents of the city. He served as member of the state board of education for Louisiana, and was a member of the trustee boards of several state higher institutions.

Secured First Library

Dr. Dillard's first interest in the intellectual advancement of our people came during his service as president of the library board. With the cooperation of Mayor Beherman he secured an appropriation for the first Race library from the Carnegie cooperation. This was the first branch library for our people in the South.

Later he evinced so much interest in Race education that he was elected to serve on the trustee boards of New Orleans university, Straight university, Leland college, and Southern university. In 1907 he was elected president of the Anna T. Jeannes Fund for the establishment of rural schools for the Race children in the South, and the payment of salaries for supervisors of Race schools.

The movement began in Virginia and spread throughout the South. By 1932, the sum of \$1,670,847 had been spent by the Jeannes Fund for the improvement of Negro schools, while \$1,990,747 had come as a supplement of this fund from local public school boards.

In 1910 he was appointed president of the John F. Slater Fund, which like the Jeannes Fund was devoted to the cause of Race education. Through this fund thousands of Race teachers have been trained. Dr. Dillard has been described as a statesman, a scholar, a gentleman, and an "apostle of good will."

Here are the Graduates

The following is the list of graduates: E. Joseph Atkins, Thaddeus Francis Subry, summa cum laude; Jessie Douglass Brown, cum laude; Thelma Gertrude Bryant, Alton Meredith Childs, Leslie Morgan Collins, cum laude; Terbertha Smith Dixon, cum laude; Felton J. Earls, Mertile Flora Belle Farrar, Iris M. C. Garrett, Elmore Joseph Green, Eugenia Mae Jackson, Clarence Johnson, Freda Portia Gibbs Johnson, Clyde Gabriel Jones, summa cum laude; Gladys Olga Jones, Lawrence Lee, Eunice Concordia Oubre, magna cum laude; George W. Parker, Willie Arnett Richardson, Bernice Dayton Robinson, R. James Rogers, Thelma Kendrick Shelby, Arthur E. Straughn Jr., Laura E. Turnbull, and Joseph Hardin Williams.