

Miss Boddie



For forty-three consecutive years Miss Boddie taught Latin in this College. For all of these many years, except the last when she was retired on a part-time basis, she was head of the Latin Department. Last summer she resigned.

In the history of higher education in these United States there can be only a very few women who have equalled, or excelled, such a record in length of service and achievement.

But her service in the cause of education goes further back than this. "For more than fifty years," Miss Boddie remarked this fall, "I have been in a classroom every year." During that half century she taught in every type of school to be found in the State of North Carolina: as a governess in a private family; as a teacher in a private co-educational academy; in a one-teacher, one-room country school; in two denominational colleges for women; in a graded public school; in the State Normal and Industrial School, which evolved successively into the State Normal and Industrial College, the North Carolina College for Women, the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. During the last ten years of her service at this College she did not miss a single class.

In 1889, pretty Miss Viola Boddie entered Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, for professional training in the field of teaching. There was no place

in her own state where that type of instruction could be secured. She had given up her work as a teacher in Henderson College to enter upon two years of additional study. By competitive examination, in which forty young men and women contested, she had won a scholarship to the Tennessee institution,

on the further condition that she return to North Carolina and teach in the public schools for at least three years. One of the conditions imposed upon the examiners was this: "If two papers are of equal merit, and one of these papers is the work of a young man, he shall be given preference over the young woman!" So Miss Boddie had to stand a *better* examination than any young man in the group, if she won the scholarship. She did.

In the Tennessee institution, what did her teachers think of

her? This is what her professor of Latin wrote in May 1891, the year in which she was graduated: "Her standing in the College, as a student and as a woman, is the highest. In my own department Miss Boddie has done work of the very highest type, and her knowledge of the subject is so thorough that she is capable of giving the very best instruction in it. But it is not in Latin alone that her scholarship is of the best. It is the same with all her studies. She possesses to a marked degree those qualities that indicate the successful teacher.



MISS VIOLA BODDIE