

# Jeanette Mann Read

*June 24, 1909 — March 24, 1959*

Jeanette Mann Read was born and brought up in Ithaca. During most of her life she was associated with Cornell University. As a child and adolescent, she knew the University through her father while he was a member of the faculty, then Dean of the College of Agriculture and, later, Provost of the University. She earned both her baccalaureate and Master's degrees at Cornell, the first in 1931, the other thirteen years later. In 1944, Mrs. Read became a member of the faculty of the New York State College of Home Economics. From that time until the day of her sudden death, March 24, 1959, she was a vital part of the life of the College.

Mrs. Read brought unswerving loyalty to Cornell, professional competency, intellectual acumen, and enviable personal qualities to her position in the College. Her undergraduate major in the College of Arts and Sciences was mathematics; her graduate major, counseling and guidance. Her post-Master's study was done in the field of education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her scholastic ability was reflected in her election to Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Lambda Theta. This broad formal education and that derived from the academic atmosphere in which she spent her childhood, as well as her experience as a homemaker, a mother, and a community worker, gave Mrs. Read a rich background for her work with college students. Her poise and her sympathetic and serene nature were major factors in the development of young people who looked to her for guidance and leadership.

When Mrs. Read left the Counseling Service in 1951 to become assistant to the Dean of the College of Home Economics, she did so with the enthusiastic support of her colleagues whose admiration and respect she had already won. They were aware of her understanding of the scope of the College program and of the nature of the factors which were essential for its effective operation. Also, they were cognizant of her keen analytical mind and her excellent memory for detail, significant qualities for the type of work that her new responsibilities would require. Direct not only in her mind but also in her manner, Mrs. Read was forthright and courageous. She was able to strike a happy balance between a sympathetic understanding of any given situation and the hard facts of reality. Always approachable, she gave thoughtful consideration to the matters concerning which her colleagues sought her assistance. At the same time, she was objective, her sense of fair play ever uppermost. Those who conferred with her came away with a sense of moral support and a basis for further action.

Mrs. Read moved quietly but effectively in University circles. As a participant in the work of several University committees and as a keenly interested member of the board of the Statler Club, she not only rendered service to

the University as a whole but also won respect for the contribution of the College of Home Economics to Cornell University and the State University of New York. In addition to her local academic activities, Mrs. Read was a member of the American Home Economics Association and the New York State Association of Deans and Guidance Personnel.

Mrs. Read had an exceptional capacity for making and holding friends. She was well known in the social as well as in the professional life of the Ithaca community. One of the fortunate persons able to combine a satisfying home and community life with professional responsibility without jeopardy to either, she lived an ordered existence, giving deep devotion to her family and unstinted service to her profession.

Students who grew in stature under Mrs. Read's guidance, and faculty members who had the privilege of working with her, have a deep sense of personal loss, but their spirits are quickened as they remember her, a gracious, unselfish, fair-minded friend who was always ready to share her time, knowledge, and judgment with them, and who left with them a feeling that life is good.

*Margaret Hutchins, A. L. Baldwin, Jean Failing*