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### Women of Washington

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# Women of Washington



Dr. Anna J. Cooper

By FREDERICK FOGG

WASHINGTON—One who recognizes the needs of her community and for it calmly bears heavy responsibilities is Dr. Anna J. Cooper, president of Frelinghuysen University.

Mrs. Cooper believes that devotion to the ideals which caused Jesse Lawson in 1906 to found this group of schools for adult education will be the main factor in maintaining the institution.

"If each of us should discard the attitude of 'letting George do it,' we would be a more independent people. This is why I work earnestly for Frelinghuysen University; it is a Negro enterprise altogether," says Mrs. Cooper.

"Members of this school, being for the most part, serious, self-supporting citizens, deserve this opportunity to pursue college and professional courses unhampered by the presence of the dining, wine and cavorting youngsters who often disgrace the halls they had fondly planned to grace."

#### Home Now Leased

A visitor who last called upon Dr. Cooper in her home at 201 T Street, northwest, four years ago would be surprised to go there today, for it has been leased by the board of trustees of Frelinghuysen University under a five-year plan. The erstwhile sun parlor is now

the registrar's office; three classrooms are on the first floor.

Ascending "The Stairway of the Madonnas," so named by Mrs. Cooper, because her collection of prints still adorns the hall, one arrives at the second floor where the John M. Langston law school is located. Here also there is a classroom connected with the W. Ernest Jarvis school of embalming. Among the faculty of this university are found many illustrious professional men of the city as well as fine women who are devoted to this worthy enterprise.

#### Wrote Words to Song

This generation of local teachers as a whole can make vivid recollections of former contact with Mrs. Anna J. Cooper, Ph.D. Some remember her for her stirring contribution, the words to the alma mater song of Dunbar High School; others recall those Caesarean jaunts when Dr. Cooper taught Latin at Dunbar High; while those a few years older can remember when this same woman was principal of "Old M Street High School," from 1900 to 1906.

Dr. Cooper received her degree of doctor of philosophy from the Sorbonne in Paris, after a term of residence there.

The next time some one asks Mrs. Cooper how she manages to be so industrious, she might answer as she did to me, "I am fit."

*Apr 3-7-34*