

On February 15, 1949, Dr. J. Hall Pleasants retired as President of the Board of the Peabody Institute. He had held this position since February 15, 1937, when he succeeded General Lawrason Riggs. With the exception of Dr. Bowman, Dr. Pleasants had served on the Commission longer than any other member. In a sense, though, Dr. Pleasants' direction of the affairs of the Hall of Records even antedates the formation of the Commission in 1935. He was one of the first in the State to propose the creation of a central archives, and when the late Judge Carroll T. Bond was asked by Governor Ritchie, in 1930, to study the needs of the State in the matter of record keeping, Judge Bond asked and received the assistance of Dr. Pleasants. He was to continue to work for this project until it was successfully accomplished. Dr. Pleasants has devoted a large part of his life to the study of Maryland History; he has been active in the affairs of the Maryland Historical Society; he was until recently editor of the *Archives of Maryland*; and he is the author of numerous articles and books dealing with Maryland. He has brought to his work as a member of the Commission a thorough knowledge of Maryland records and record keeping. Dr. Pleasants was succeeded by Mr. William L. Marbury.

On the last day of the fiscal year, June 30, 1949, Mr. John S. Kieffer resigned as President of the St. John's College. He had served as a member of the Hall of Records Commission since April 22, 1947, succeeding Stringfellow Barr, who had left the Presidency of St. John's on December 31, 1946—in the interim, Mr. Kieffer had been acting President and, therefore, not a member of the Commission. During the short period in which he had been associated with the Hall of Records, Mr. Kieffer had demonstrated a sympathetic interest in its work, and he had been, above all, a kind neighbor. No successor has been appointed; the Hall of Records Commission is, therefore, at this writing composed of only six members.

One meeting of the Commission was held during the year, on February 3, 1949. When the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, all the members of the Commission were present with the exception of Dr. Bronk who had informed the Archivist in advance that a prior engagement would prevent his attendance.

The agenda of the meeting consisted for the most part of Hall of Records business which was being considered by the General Assembly, then in regular session. The Commission approved a measure which would abandon the county abstract system and substitute microfilming of the deeds, mortgages and releases of mortgages for deposit in the office of the