

WILLIAM N. JONES

Managing Editor of The AFRO-AMERICAN



William N. Jones, one of the most active figures in Negro journalism today, is a native of South Carolina. Before graduating from the graded school of Spartanburg, he attended the Clemmons Episcopal Mission School, and after a year in the printing department of Tuskegee Institute, he entered Benedict College, where he graduated from the College Preparatory and the College Departments, receiving the degree of A. B.

Like most southern youths, Mr. Jones has supported himself since he was 18 years of age and worked his way through school. During the last two years of his college course he was a student teacher of printing and directed the South Carolina Standard.

Although unassuming, he early demonstrated capacity for potential leadership. In school he was president of the Douglass Debating Club, student manager of athletics, for a while conducted the College Band and "Mayor" of the school government, a system of student government

which he helped to inaugurate at Benedict College and which had judicial and legislative departments which completely controlled student life and taught self government.

After leaving Benedict he taught physics at Haines Institute, Augusta, Ga., and for two years was head of the science department of Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, where he taught biology and conducted the work in chemistry and physics. While teaching at Haines he became a protegee of the late C. H. Turner and helped him in his research work in biology, making studies upon which the biologist wrote some of his pamphlets on ant life.

While doing summer work at the University of Chicago, Mr. Jones became interested in social investigation and upon the suggestion of workers at Hull House decided to enter this field. He gave up his place as head of the science department at Bishop and took a job as chauffeur in Memphis as a beginning in social service work.

Very soon he attracted the attention of Dr. George E. Haynes, then a secretary of the National Urban League, who included his work in the Urban League program.

In Memphis Mr. Jones developed the first municipal playground ever started in the South and created the first position of Municipal Director of Social Survey of Memphis. As Director of Municipal Social Survey of Memphis, he had charge of municipal recreation, band concerts, public dance halls, the City School Department and branches of the city library, helped to develop the juvenile court and the Woman's Protective Department, with a policewoman connected with the police department.

He guided the recreation department to its purchase of the \$85,000 central auditorium and recreation park, formerly owned by Robert R. Church.

Down on the register of Benedict College in 1899, Jones wrote his life objective as that of journalist, and six years ago he left the social service field and joined the staff of the Afro-American. Starting as court reporter, he was promoted to City Editor and then to his present place as Managing Editor of what has been adjudged America's best Negro journal.

Incidentally, since his connection with the Afro-American, Mr. Jones has organized the first evening class in journalism ever conducted in a colored high school. He is at present President of the Baltimore Century Club, affiliated with the Baltimore Association of Commerce; Vice-President of the Baltimore Urban League, a member of the Executive Committee of the N. A. A. C. P., a member of the State Central Committee of the Progressive Party, a member of the Boy Scout Council, and a member of the Association for the Handicapped.