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INGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1940.

World Lapsing Into 'Dark Age,' Dr. Beard Says

Historian Addresses Delta Kappa Gamma; Assails F. B. I.

A warning that blind irrationality throughout the world is plunging civilization into an age of darkness—and that the Nation's Capital is not free of its active evidences—was being pondered today by several hundred women educators in annual convention here.

Dr. Mary Beard, author and historian, issued the warning last night in an address before members of Delta Kappa Gamma, national honor fraternity for women, gathered at their presidents' dinner at the Wardman Park Hotel.

"While creative intelligence exists in considerable measure, our age is marked by an appalling flight from reason," she said. "There are awful indications that the modern era of enlightenment may be giving way to a new era of darkness."

Dr. Beard scored the Federal Bureau of Investigation and declared that "under the aegis of our Federal Government an incipient OGPU or Gestapo appears to be taking form."

"Black Network."

"In our very National Capital," she said, "a black network is being made of every man and woman in every trade and profession who is a staunch advocate of free speech and free assembly—a person called 'subversive'."

The society, holding its 11th annual convention, was to meet this morning for a presentation to the

National Council of figurines representing outstanding women in education who have died. A birthday luncheon was to follow, at which a symposium on social implications of present-day discriminations against women was scheduled.

Further discussion of the discrimination issue will take place at the founders' day dinner which will conclude the convention at 7 o'clock tonight. Senator Caraway of Arkansas will speak on "The New Women on Trial." Other after-dinner speakers include Florence Reynolds, Avis Stevens, Virginia White James, Debbie Shaw and Rose Parker.

Hits Disinterest.

Dr. Beard found fault with members of her sex for their lack of knowledge of historical accomplishments of women and their apparent disinterest in seeking this knowledge.

The speaker said that if a history "could be written in terms of women" and that "if we taught a history of creative intelligence instead of man's history in terms of violence," reason and symbols of civilization "might yet be saved and the complete flight to irrationality avoided."

Dr. Beard was introduced by the national president of the society, Dr. Maycie Southall of Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. Dr. M. Margaret Stroh of Wilson Teachers College, in charge of convention arrangements, acted as toastmistress at the dinner. Miss Margaret Paterson, principal at Fillmore School, was chairman.

Dr. Helen R. Messenger of DeKalb, Ill., professor of education at the Northern Illinois State Teachers' College, told the convention yesterday there should be more men—including fathers—teaching in nursery schools, kindergartens and elementary schools.

"If there were an equal number of men and women teaching in the school system, from nursery schools through college, then boys and girls wouldn't grow up to think so differently as men and women," she said.

"In a democracy it is important that men and women think alike."