

## THE KATHARINE COMAN MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The vesper service on Sunday, January 31, was a memorial service for Professor Katharine Coman. The speakers, introduced by President Pendleton, were Professor Ellen Hayes, Professor George Herbert Palmer of Harvard University, President Mary E. Woolley of Mt. Holyoke College, and Professor Emily G. Balch. All of them had, in some way, come into close personal contact with Miss Coman during her life.

Miss Hayes had known Katharine Coman as a little girl. She told of the childhood days on an Ohio farm, of the child's development, of qualities of steadfastness and dependability through her eager and persevering zeal in grappling with the last hard example in arithmetic "which had sunk like lead to the bottom of the page," or in learning the spelling of the last, long word, and of the physical, mental and spiritual stimulus of her home life.

Professor Palmer spoke of Miss Coman as he had known her, as Alice Freeman Palmer's friend. He told of the beginnings of that friendship when Alice Freeman and Katharine Coman were undergraduates at the University of Michigan, and of its continuance in later years at Wellesley. He spoke, too, of the keen, high-minded intellectuality of Miss Coman.

President Woolley, for six years a member of the Wellesley staff, had been closely associated with Miss Coman. Miss Woolley said that it was the combination of an ability to look at a thing impersonally, and to judge it in a detached way, with a rare power of sympathy and of making the other person's problem her problem, a union of broad-mindedness and warm-heartedness, that made Miss Coman the great personality she was.

Professor Balch told more intimate details of Miss Coman's work and interests, of her absolute self-forgetfulness in putting forth all of her effort, even to the end, in doing big things or little things for other people. Of Miss Coman as teacher and writer, Miss Balch said that one of the characteristics of her method was to leave students or readers entirely at their liberty to form their own conclusions from facts as they were; she never forced her opinion upon anybody. That the children who knew her should have loved her so dearly, and that the little nephew should have refused to have his Christmas tree, this year, because the Aunt Kate, who had been his companion on certain of his fishing expeditions up the creek, was so ill, testified again to the wide, warm sympathies that went close with the high uncompromising intellectuality of the woman. In conclusion, Miss Balch read extracts from some of Miss Coman's letters, brief sentences that showed, once more, the beauty, the strength, the power and the faith that were hers.

A choral antiphon after the recessional brought the service to a close.