

Florida N & I President Awarded Ph.D

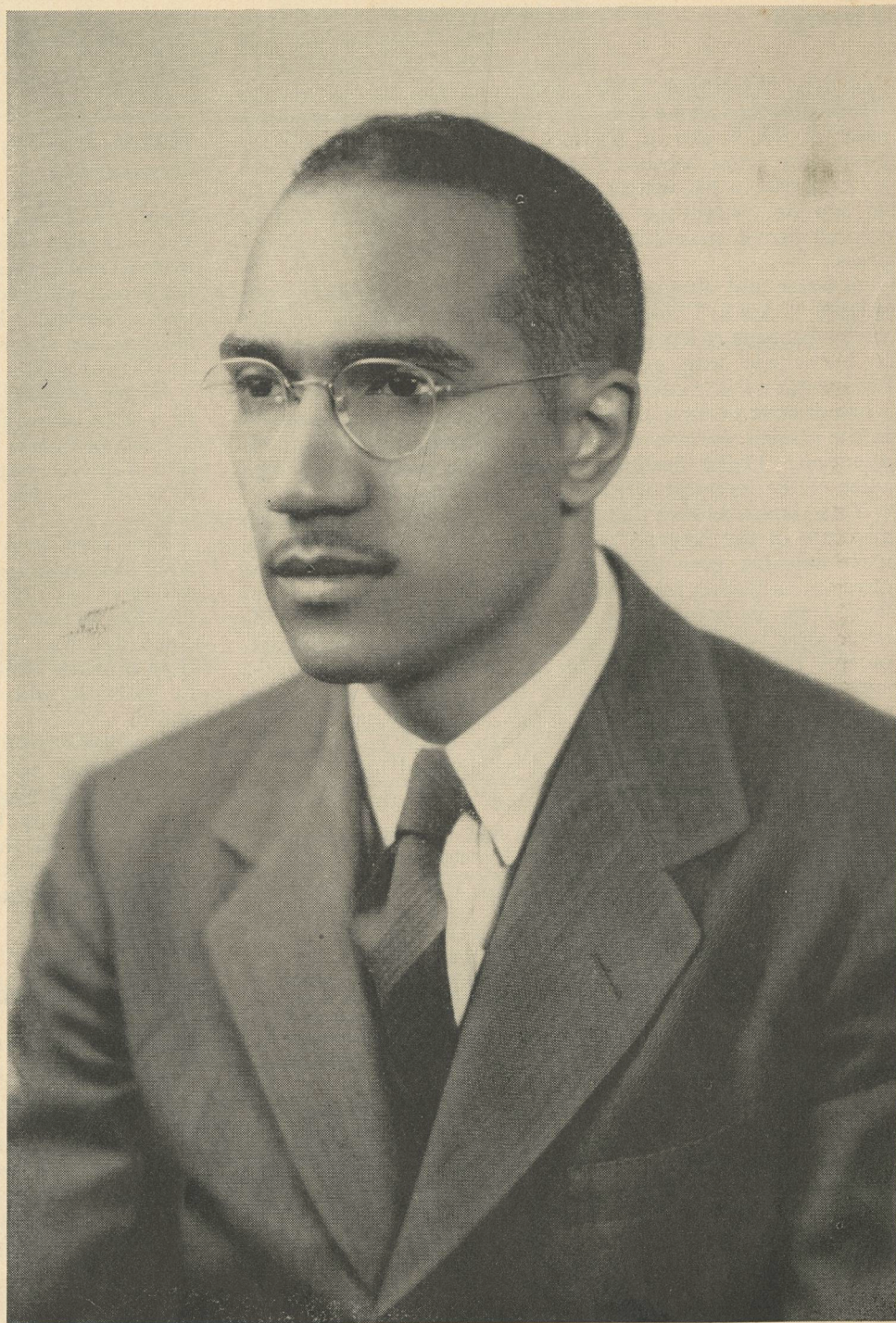
MR. William H. Gray, Jr., president of the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute, Saint Augustine, Florida, was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Pennsylvania on Tuesday, June 2, and thus becomes at 30 the youngest Negro college president holding this coveted degree.

Doctor Gray, son of the Reverend Wm. H. and Mary Smith Gray, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was born in Richmond, Virginia. Graduating in 1929 from the high school department of St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, Lawrenceville, Virginia, he continued his study at Bluefield State Teachers College and received his B.S. degree in 1933 from the University of Pennsylvania. In December 1941, Doctor Gray was elected to the presidency of Florida Normal and Industrial Institute to succeed the late Nathan W. Collier. He comes well prepared to take over this most important work having served as Director of the Kentwood Summer Normal School, Kentwood, Louisiana; Field Director, Extension Division, Southern University; Director, Homer Summer Normal School, Homer, Louisiana; Instructor, Berean Business College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Professor of Education, Southern University. For the past year and a half Doctor Gray has served as Principal of the Demonstration Schools, Southern University.

Doctor Gray is the first Negro to receive the Ph.D. degree since Doctor Howard D. Gregg, President of Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, was awarded his doctorate also in the field of administrative education. It is interesting to note that both of these illustrious educators are heads of sister institutions located but 38 miles apart.

As an undergraduate Doctor Gray took a most active part in extra curricular activities. An outstanding athlete, he played football, basketball, and baseball at St. Paul and Bluefield. In addition he served as editor of the "Bluefieldian," the college paper, class president for three years, member of the college Y.M.C.A. and the glee club and was elected to Alpha Kappa Mu, National honor society. Since graduation he has worked as sports editor, Baltimore Afro-American.

In addition to his other many activities, Doctor Gray has found time to make periodic contributions to the Louisiana Colored Teachers Journal and the Sphinx Magazine. Other writings include contributions to the Journal of



DR. WILLIAM H. GRAY, JR.

Negro Education; Co-author, *Geography of North America and Louisiana*, 1936; and several other works including, *The Support and Control of Private Negro Colleges and Administrative Provisions for Personnel Work in Negro Colleges*.

Doctor Gray is Chairman of the committee for the study of publications for

Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society; Member of the Florida State Defense Council; Member of National State Tuberculosis Association; member of Florida State Teachers' Association, the American Teachers' Association, and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

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