

Bennington College  
Fall 1940

#### THE WINTER FIELD AND READING PERIOD

Bennington's winter period was designed to offset the disadvantage of rural isolation by providing an opportunity for students to get practical experience in a metropolitan center. Accordingly, the college year is divided into two residential terms, each of four months' duration, separated by the winter recess which covers the period from Christmas to Washington's Birthday.

Plans for the most effective use of this period are made by each student and her counselor. In a majority of cases, actual experience in her field of interest is considered advisable and an effort is made to place the student with the particular organization or institution which can best supply that experience for her. The nature of the work done naturally varies, in accordance with the training of the student, from simple observation or routine work to actual participation and assistance. Except in rare instances, the arrangement is on a volunteer basis.

At the end of the period, the counselor receives written reports which become essential parts of the student's college record.