

DENNETT DENIES SLUR ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Williams Head, at Dinner Here, Explains His Statement on Preparatory Centers

Dr. Tyler Dennett, president of Williams College, denied last night that he had insulted preparatory schools by saying recently that Williams had too many "nice boys" from these schools. He spoke at the annual dinner of the Williams College Club of New York at the Hotel Plaza.

Tom K. Smith of St. Louis, president of the American Bankers Association; Frank J. O'Neill, president of the Williams College Club of New York, and Heywood Broun, newspaper columnist, were the other speakers. More than 300 alumni attended.

Dr. Dennett referred to an address he made to Williams alumni in Boston last month, in which he declared that "we have on the Williams campus too much uniformity of type." Some persons took this as an insult to preparatory schools, he said, because the overwhelming majority of Williams students are from such secondary schools, he declared.

"An equally fair inference, however," he added, "is that we wish Williams College to be something quite different from a prolonged preparatory school."

High school graduates in the last entering class at Williams dropped to 18 per cent, he said, but he denied emphatically that Williams had tightened its entrance requirements to bar many otherwise eligible high school graduates. Williams welcomes high school graduates, he declared, commenting that on the average high school graduates do better at Williams scholastically than preparatory school graduates.

Mr. Smith criticized what he termed "over-specialization in college courses at the expense of education in broad fundamentals."