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# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS,

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE  
ASSOCIATE ALUMNÆ OF THE NORMAL COLLEGE,  
CITY OF NEW YORK.

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BUSINESS MANAGER, MISS HELEN A. STEIN.      TREASURER, MRS. J. SCHEEL.

*Subscription, 50 cts. a year. Single copies, 10 cts.*

Send all subscriptions to Mrs. J. SCHEEL, 121 East 83d Street.

Send all business communications to Miss HELEN A. STEIN, 158 East 72d Street.

Send all contributions and other correspondence to Miss CLARA AUB,  
243 East 105th Street.

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## EDITORIALS.

It has been said that newspapers restore some of that enthusiasm brought by social contact, and bring to large bodies the stimulus of intercourse which does more than any other agent, perhaps, to produce unity of aim, unflinching zeal in ordinary minds, and effective harmony of action. In the political and the social field, the work of the newspaper as the conductor of energy between widely separated bodies is too well known to be dwelt upon.

It is precisely this object of uniting the scattered members of a large body which is proposed as the aim of the ALUMNÆ NEWS.

The Alumnæ Association is composed of over 1,200 members, who represent all professions and walks of life, whose interests are as manifold as they are various. They have one common interest—their debt to the Normal College, and their desire to express in some comprehensible form their sense of obligation; or, to put it plainly, a deep and active interest in the work of the Associate Alumnæ. It is hoped that this interest may become deeper and more active, in order that the work itself may become larger and better. It is for this that the Associate Alumnæ have established the ALUMNÆ NEWS as a medium of communication between the different members of the Association.

In an Association where so many different lines of work are

carried on, few can know by sight or word all that is going on. Many, again, know almost nothing of what the Alumnæ does or proposes doing. They are asked to help in some undertaking. It is too much to expect their interest to spring up suddenly without seed or ground. To keep the members informed, and so interested, in regard to the work and projects of the Association, it has been felt for some time that there was needed a means of constant and systematic reporting. It is right that you should know of your own. If the family is scattered, let there be correspondence between its members. If there be any who have lost track of their sisters' work, let them resume their rightful connection.

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Of course, outside of this, there are many topics of interest to Alumnæ, as such, which may be touched upon. But we do not aspire at present to fill any place but that of a news-giver to Alumnæ. While we hope never to offend the critical, nor to fall short of that excellent plainness of speech which means good breeding, we make no claims to literary excellence as such.

We have—we speak the fact with pride—many among our members whose pens are no strangers to grace and charm. If so be that they, as Alumnæ, will speak the word of fellowship to us, we shall be glad and proud of the added weight and delight of charmed speech.

But let none think herself debarred from our columns because her pen lacks cunning. If she has a word to say that Alumnæ should hear, let her rest assured that the plain speech of an earnest mind will bear weight where many words with lighter meaning would fall unnoticed.

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There are so many questions asked of Alumnæ as to the organization of the Society, the different branches of work it is doing, that we feel that a part of the work of the NEWS must be to answer these queries. But it cannot answer them unless they are asked.

If there is something you would like to know pertaining to Alumnæ matters, let us see if we cannot tell you; or, if the answer does not come directly from us, there will surely be some other member who can give the desired information. This information, which perhaps no one would have thought of giving otherwise, may interest and attract others—what one wanted to know, many others consciously or unconsciously may also have wished to hear—beside the added stimulus which the paper will thus have from the knowledge that it is being read and that its items are being noted.

If you have anything to say, question to ask, criticism to make, or message to deliver, drop a letter into our Letter Box, which will hereafter be open to all readers.

Send all communications to Miss Clara Aub, 243 East 105th street, New York City.

Business communications should be addressed to Mrs. J. Scheel, 121 East 83d street, New York City.

Subscriptions may be sent to Mrs. J. Scheel, 121 East 83d street, or can be left with Miss Rice, at the library.

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While the ALUMNÆ NEWS will, of course, set its face against any kind of personal news that borders on mere gossip, it does solicit information about different Alumnæ members and their work.

There is no reason why this should not be sent in by the members themselves; it is in no sense a setting forward of yourselves. The Alumnæ are anxious to know in what lines of work the graduates of the College are represented, and if you can give us information about this work you will be furthering the aims of the Association and its paper. It can be done in an entirely impersonal way, all notices of this kind being written in the third person, while the emphasis will certainly be put upon the work. There are those who have been studying law, medicine, architecture, art, philosophy, pedagogy, who have done work in literature, in the schools, in the world at large. Let us hear of them, through their friends or from themselves.

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There has been much rejoicing at the appointment of Mrs. Rainsford as Trustee. It should be remembered that this appointment is the more significant, as the position is one which is concerned primarily with the business of the schools, and thus shows the confidence which those who appointed her repose in woman's administrative ability.

It is true this is a step forward, but we should be sure that it is as an advance in the right and natural direction that we welcome this, not as an unusual compliment for which we should give glad and humble thanks.

It is believed—we cannot vouch for this statement—that Mrs. Rainsford is not altogether an enthusiast on the question of the extension of woman's duties. Her acceptance of this position is, therefore, a sign that it is as a legitimate branch of woman's peculiar work that she has entered upon educational lines. Even those who put a comparatively narrow interpretation upon the universally received opinion that woman's work can never be

identical with man's, must claim a share for her in all that relates to the training of children.

Not that we mean to imply that Mrs. Rainsford holds the more conservative opinion. Whether she does or not, of one thing we may rest assured: That her duties will be performed as zealously and as effectively as if a man were in her place; and, more than this, that since a woman holds it, we shall see the fulfillment of our legitimate expectations that in many directions the work will be done more tactfully and understandingly.

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It is proposed to take notice in the ALUMNÆ NEWS of all courses of lectures or other events which are of interest to members of the Associate Alumnæ as such. In this way we hope to bring to the eyes of our readers many things which would otherwise escape their notice. Such, for instance, was the recent lecture by Dr. Parker at the Teachers' College. We have no doubt that there are a great many members who would have reckoned such an opportunity precious. It is hoped that we will have the pleasure of announcing such occasions as these in our columns, and so again emphasizing the fact that we desire to be in touch with everything that will improve, broaden or spiritualize our work.

It is with the same aim of including all matters of interest to Alumnæ that we intend having a word said about any books which will be helpful to them in their work. As far as possible, we desire to have those who have made a special study in any line speak of the new books in that line—or, indeed, old ones, when of especial value and particularly appropriate to present needs. We have enough members who are specialists in various lines of work to make such notices comprehensive and valuable. We request any member who has met with a book which has helped her in her work and which she thinks will help others, to send us a brief sketch of it.

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We desire to thank heartily all those who had faith enough in our undertaking to give it their support before the paper was actually in existence. We feel that we are under obligation to them especially to make the NEWS in every way worthy of the Association for which it stands.

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It is pleasant, indeed, to find helpers and friends even when they come singly to us. When a number, already organized for effectual work, come forward with the offer of their services, only those who know the difficulty of making many small forces act

together can appreciate how great a burden they may lift. Such a ready hand of help the NEWS has had the good fortune to have extended to it by the Comrade Club, composed of members of the classical section, Class of '93. They have promised to aid—and have already shown substantial results of their work—in both the business and editorial departments. It is with a deep sense of the encouragement given to it and all Alumnæ work by such hearty desire to join in it, that the NEWS expresses its thanks to the members of the Comrade Club.

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We desire to call the attention of our readers to our advertisements. All who advertised with us in this issue—and most of the firms have made contracts for a year—have given the Alumnæ a high mark of respect and confidence, in placing their advertising with a journal which was as yet not a fact. It is, therefore, due to them that we express the same confidence in them, in the same substantial way—the only way appreciated by advertisers—by giving the things advertised at least a fair trial.

Again, if we are to urge with any truthfulness the value of the NEWS as an advertising medium, we must be able to say that our readers make it their business to give our advertisers the preference. We therefore appeal to you to read the advertising pages of this and succeeding issues, and wherever it is possible to you, to buy of those whose names appear there—of course, giving due prominence, while so doing, to the fact that you were led to do so by seeing their names on our pages.

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### Greeting.

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It is with the greatest pleasure that I send you a greeting through the pages of the ALUMNÆ NEWS. I have great hopes that this little monthly will prove a new bond of union, and that it will help to make us a much more strongly organized body. With our great numbers, it is possible for only a small proportion to serve on committees, and our meetings are few and far between. Living, too, in a great city with its manifold distractions, and with so many interests continually knocking at their doors, it is a very easy matter for our graduates to drop out of the Association when not taking an active part in it.

Every year brings us a hundred or more new members, and unless there is some new bond, we run the risk of falling to pieces from our own weight. Yale and Harvard both have Alumni journals, and it seems to us the time has come for us to follow their example.

Heretofore, the President of the Association has been practically the only one who was cognizant of all the work being carried on by the various committees, but now every member who is sufficiently interested to subscribe to our news-sheet will be able to keep in touch with all that is being done.

The paper will also be of the greatest interest to our non-resident members who are scattered over many of the States of the Union, and we hope that it will help to keep in our ranks many who would otherwise drop out when they leave the city, and bring back others whose names have already been dropped from the roll.

Again, the Association will now have an official organ, and in it will appear the minutes of the Executive meetings and of the committee meetings that are of general interest, thus doing away with the objection that the members at large know nothing of the way in which the business of the Association is carried on.

We hope that a still further advantage of this paper will be the saving of considerable expense to the Association—so many of our annual dollars at present have to go for postage—as it costs at least 25 dollars to send out any notice. If every member, or even a large proportion of the members, subscribes to the ALUMNÆ NEWS, notices of meetings, circulars of committees, etc., can appear in that, and our annual dollars can be put to some better use.

We hope that these considerations will induce you to send in your subscription at once, and that each one of you will constitute yourself a committee of one to interest others in subscribing. Our annual reports have been efficient in bringing old members back into the fold, and we hope that these monthly bulletins will prove of still greater use for that purpose.

Standing on the threshold of our second quarter of a century, it seems an auspicious time for this appearance of our paper, and let us hope that as the years go by, it will prove one of the links in a chain that will bind us ever closer in all good works.

In the name of the officers of the Association, let me remind you again of the monthly "At Homes" and tell you how glad we are to meet the members of the Alumnæ socially. Miss Rice, the Chairman of the sub-Committee on "At Homes," asked a representative of the class of '70 to pour tea at the October meeting, and we are going through the classes, thinking that in this way, perhaps, more old friends would come together. Our next "At Home" is on April 5th, and we sincerely hope that many will come who have never come before.

ALICE R. NORTHROP.