

The Alumnae House-Warming.

It was 3 P. M., on the afternoon of the 10th of May, when I stepped into the Alumnae House. Doors were wide open, as befitted the occasion. The little Kindergarten tots trotted up and down the front stoop, and in and out of the rooms. They didn't quite understand, to be sure, what all this unusual bustle and general air of gayety meant; but it was all taking place in *their* Kindergarten House, and not in any other of that sober row of dwellings; therefore, they took a personal interest in the bell-pulling and hand-shaking, the flitting to and fro, and—things in general. Mrs. Northrop's welcome, as one entered, was most cordial; and to cross the threshold was to be "At Home" at once, for were not all the old Alumnae friends there? And in the distance, framed in the open window, sat President Hunter, looking as if he heartily enjoyed this most practical expression of belief in the Kindergarten and all that it implies.

"Tell us what it is all about," beg the half-dozen or more reporters, whom Mrs. Northrop unfeelingly turns over to me. "Why, it is our Kindergarten—the formal opening—don't you know?" No, they *didn't* know. Was the Kindergarten a school? and did the children wear uniforms? and how much did they pay? Was I quite sure the Normal College claimed over a thousand graduates? It must be quite an institution! Was this it? I tried very hard to give them a definite idea as to what this, our Kindergarten, so well known to you all, was doing and what it wanted to do—quite sure, however, that the morning papers would have President Hunter as Assistant Kindergarten and Miss Wells as President of the College.

It was a glad day for Miss Wells, and she expressed her pleasure in a few hearty words when the President planted the ivy. Standing with her hand on the tiny Bianca's shoulders (Bianca, whose name will go down in the archives of the Kindergarten as the fortunate one to whose lot it fell to hand ivy to the great President)—standing thus, as she always has stood, with hands protecting, guiding and encouraging the little ones, Miss

Wells expressed our sense of the fitness of things—that he, who for so many years had watched, with eyes of friendly interest, the growth of all educational good things, who had seen, twenty-five years ago, the first Kindergarten started for the training of those then studying in the old College in its down-town home, should stand sponsor, as it were, for this new growth.

Nor was the President's reply less happy. With sharp strokes he broke the all-too-narrow pot which bound the struggling ivy, and with strong words of profound belief in the inherent ability of this ivy branch to *grow*, he gave it to Mother Earth to tend. Laughingly, Mrs. Northrop trod down the tumbled soil about the roots, making all firm and ready for the daily watering—her unconscious act being most typical, to my mind, of the part the Alumnæ must play in shaping the environment in which this plant of their own tending must live and thrive.

Refreshments were served by Miss Betsey Davis and Dr. Emily Conant, and presently, the little cooking class sent up visible proof of its afternoon's work, in the shape of hot biscuits. Good, too—as we must testify, who, venturing doubtfully to partake, returned for more.

I am unable to say how many of the Alumnæ were present during the course of the afternoon—a goodly number, I am sure, from the way the windows of all four floors seemed to overflow. Many distinguished visitors, among whom was Mrs. J. C. Croly, also showed their interest by their presence. Flowers made the place a veritable garden; and, best of all, Alumnæ babies smiled loving approval at their mother's interest in other folks' babies.

ELIZABETH JARRETT, M.D.,
Chairman Press Committee.

[We are glad to be able to state that about 200 were present at the "House-Warming."—ED. NEWS.]

It has been deemed best to postpone the publication of the Alumnæ Report for the working year 1894-'95, until the Fall. The reports have always done much toward bringing back old members, toward bringing into the association graduates of past years, and toward giving the general public an adequate idea of Alumnæ work.

There will be classes in Mathematics and Physics, under Professor Gillet, during the Fall and Winter, for those desiring to continue those subjects, and work for the advanced degrees.

The next "At Home" is on June 14th, at the Alumnæ Library, at 3.30 P. M. The Class of '78 will be the hostesses on this Friday.