

tion. My one thought in undertaking the work of the next two years is how best to serve faithfully and loyally, not mine alone, but your Alma Mater.

### PRESIDENT HUNTER'S LETTER.

(Read by Mrs. Gibson at the Alumnæ Reunion.)

NORMAL COLLEGE,

New York, Oct. 29, 1898.

MRS. KASSON C. GIBSON, President Associate Alumnæ, Normal College, New York City.

*Dear Mrs. President:*

Owing to the death of my dear friend, Mr. S. S. Packard, whose funeral I must attend as a pall-bearer, it will be impossible for me to be with you this afternoon. How much I regret my absence you will understand when I mention the fact that I have not missed a meeting of the Associate Alumnæ since its organization.

It has been my custom every year in a short address to render to the Associate Alumnæ a brief account of my stewardship; to state what progress the College has made, what changes and alterations have taken place, and what are its hopes and purposes for the future. It was my intention this year to state more in detail our aims in connection with the new educational conditions and problems; and since I cannot be present with you in the body, although always with you in spirit, if you will permit it, I would like to make my little speech by proxy—that is to say, through the voice of the President of the Association.

The physical changes during the year have been the conversion of the old calisthenium into a large library, divided into two nearly equal parts. To the eastern division has been transferred the Alumnæ Library, together with the scientific and other apparatus which your Association has so generously furnished for the benefit of your younger sisters. This room will be your educational home—the headquarters of your various committees. At the same time, it goes without saying, both divisions of this new library will always be at your disposal. It is the intention of the Executive Committee, under the able direction of its chairman, the Hon. Jacob W. Mack, to equip the library with the most approved appliances.

Recitation-room No. 30 has been converted into a botanical laboratory to enable Miss Isaacs to give the best instruction in this most beautiful of all the inductive sciences; and we intend to turn lecture-room B into a laboratory, in which Dr. Wilson will teach physiology objectively. When the latter shall have been com-



pleted we shall have in the College four laboratories for instruction in natural and physical science.

Notwithstanding the establishment of high schools, which I advocated for years, and which I hoped would relieve the pressure for admission to the College, I find that the attendance has increased from 1,875 in 1894 to 2,600 in October, 1898. In other words, 725 students have been added to the roster, with 13 additional tutors to instruct them. You can form an idea of the demand for admission by the fact that a large number of candidates from high schools fitted for higher grades have been refused admission for lack of room. In view of this unprecedented growth, which is only equalled by the growth of the Greater New York, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has cheerfully granted the unanimous request of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Trustees for an additional appropriation of \$25,000. If "money be the sinews of war," it may be said with equal truth that it is also the blood and muscle of the educational system.

I think you will remember that I have repeated over and over again that a good education is the only solid foundation on which good teaching must be built. In fact, this is a self-evident truth. There are, however, exceptions which only prove the truth of the rule. Oftentimes we find good scholars who have no aptitude for teaching, and poor scholars who are good teachers—as far as their limited education will permit. But the superior teacher is always an excellent scholar. No greater injury can befall our noble profession than prolonged practice, (as in many normal schools) on a narrow educational basis. It tends to create a class of teachers who are mere worshippers of iron-clad methods, devoid of the mental training which will enable them to comprehend the great underlying principles.

Ever since the College was established my chief aim has been to raise the standard of scholarship. We began our work in 1870 with a three years' course of instruction; in 1880, when we found that the public would tolerate it, the course was raised to four years; and in 1888, when much of the prejudice against the higher education of women at the public expense had disappeared, the course was raised to five years, giving the College the power to confer the usual academic degrees. The Normal Department, however, was retained for good and sufficient reasons, and it will be continued as long as the city is in sore need of teachers.

We have graduated 619 young women with the degree of A.B. since 1892, and of this number 110 received the Arts degree last June. At the same time the number of Normal graduates has not diminished.

The time is not far distant when it will not be possible for any teacher to obtain an advanced position in the profession without a degree of some sort. Realizing this, the Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the Faculty and the Executive Committee, has established a post-graduate course, by which any normal graduate may obtain a degree by one, two or three years study, according to the amount of time at her disposal. In order to facilitate the gaining of these outward symbols of inward grace, the Faculty, at a recent meeting, passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That examinations for the degrees of A.B., S.B. and Pd.B. will be held on the second Thursday in May and December; that candidates intending to present themselves at the next examination shall notify the College of their intention as early as the first of the month; and that candidates may present themselves for examination in one or more subjects at the same time, and the result of such examination will be recorded to their credit.

The subjects of post-graduate study, with conditions and regulations, will be printed and sent to the public schools and placed in the hands of Miss Rice for distribution among those who are not engaged in teaching.

I intended to say a great deal more on this subject of the higher education of women, but I fear I have already used too much of your time.

Wishing you and the Associate Alumnæ God-speed, I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

THOS. HUNTER.



#### COLLEGE NEWS.

The new year at College begins with an array of alterations and additions, signs of vigorous life and growth. The outer face of the dear old building is still the same—we hope it always may remain so, for it could never seem more beautiful to us than it does now—but inside the walls there are many changes. We find not only new class-rooms and a new library, but other innovations which reach below the mere externals of the College life. Instead of the half-hour and the four hours following to which we were accustomed, the study time is now divided into five periods of about forty minutes each. Formerly the singing lesson came immediately after the opening exercises; now the first and second periods are devoted to study. The pupils are thus enabled to begin their more severe work with "shining morning faces," and all the freshness and vigor that animates the mind early in