

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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No. 7

A GREETING FROM OUR PRESIDENT Dear Fellow Alumnae:

When I visited Eton this summer, I was impressed with the many traditions, among which is one that brings back to Eton by their request prominent men, to be buried under the pavement crossed every day by the students of the Sixth Form. We of Hunter should like to see more and more of our graduates returning in the fullness of their lives to give service to their Alma Mater. As I greet you in my new and distinguished office, that of President of the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College, may I hope that you will join hands with me in striving to increase the membership of our Alumnae Association, and at the same time to add to the feeling that our greatest tradition is service to Hunter.

September 19, 1924. Marion R. Elliott.

COLLEGE NOTES

The overwhelming size of the entering freshman class is the dominant theme for conversation at College these days. Because the class was absolutely full, registration was closed on September 19 at 4:30 P. M., but two places were held open until September 22, one for a student who had applied at the proper time but was unable to attend, and one for a student who applied by radio from the *Berengaria*.

The class numbers 638 members, distributed as follows: city day high schools (including 137 from Hunter), 487; evening high schools, 2; parochial and private schools, 35; institutions outside the city, 64; students admitted on basis of Regents' and College Entrance Examinations, 7; admitted with advanced standing, 8; transferred from the College Evening Session, 11; readmitted, 24.

Several changes in the faculty are to be noted.

Dr. Tomlinson Fort and Dr. Ernst Riess, whose appointment was announced in the May NEWS, have taken charge of their respective departments — Mathematics and Classics.

Several recent graduates have just been appointed to serve at College for the year. They are: Anna Michels, '22, English; Dorothy Heine, '24, Mathematics; Ruth Spero, '24, Education.

Recent promotions in rank are: from assistant to associate professor—Dr. Simons, Dr. Burlingame, Miss Tanzer, Dr. Carter; from instructor to assistant professor, Miss Werner, Miss Byrnes, Miss Remy, Mrs. Farrington, Miss Hollis, Miss Messenger, Miss Kennerly; from tutor to instructor, Miss Swain, Miss Merritt, Miss Levy, Miss Kengla.
E. A. H., '15.

THE REUNION

The reunion, on October 25, is to be a real party, with tea, and music, and plenty of time for chat with your officers and your other friends. Don't miss it!

THE FIRST ALUMNAE CHAPTER

The California Chapter of the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College was organized on Saturday, March 8, 1924, at the Hotel Huntington, Pasadena, California. The members present were:

Miss Nellie Sinclair, '77;
Mrs. Minnie Jerome Day, '78;
Mrs. Maude Doak Fitzgerald, '78;
Mrs. H. Mary Thompson Marsh, '05.

A New Yorker, Mrs. Hannah Goldenberg Ottenberg, '78, was present as guest.

Mrs. Fitzgerald was elected President, and Mrs. Marsh, Secretary and Treasurer, of the Chapter.

On May 24, 1924, a second meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Marsh and two new members joined: Mrs. Mary Rothwell Baker, Associate Member, and Mrs. Lina Ruth Grey (Mrs. Zane Grey), 1903.

Three others signified their desire to enter the Chapter, although unable to be present at the meeting: Miss Harriet Stryker, Mrs. Mildred Mindlein Lewin, and Mrs. Hiltrud McSpadden.

Since then five graduates in different parts of California have been urged to enroll their names in our Chapter, even if unable to attend all the meetings. They are:

Mrs. Annie Goethals Prout, '78, San Francisco;

Mrs. Jessie Dryfoos, San Francisco;

Mrs. Henry Schlesinger, '78, Stockton;

Mrs. C. H. Snyder, Berkeley;

Mrs. Ernest Tabor, Escondido.

Names and addresses of other graduates residing in California are earnestly desired. Kindly send them to

Maude Doak Fitzgerald,

(Mrs. Harry A.) President,

244 So. El Molino Avenue,

Pasadena, California.

In response to an appeal in the May NEWS from Mrs. George W. Kruger of 180 Claremont Avenue, the Chairman of the Statistics Committee, for volunteers to establish Alumnae Chapters outside New York, Mrs. Roland Whitehurst (Althea Wettlaufer), 1915, of 4100 Keokuk St., N. W., Washington, at once wrote offering to organize those of our graduates who reside in our national capital.

As Mrs. Kruger says, "it pays to advertise." Are there not some others who will increase the returns?

A HALF CENTURY OF SONG

An Anthology of Hunter College Verse

Under the able editorship of Professor George M. Whicher, a collection of verse written by alumnae, students, and members of the faculty of Hunter College during the past fifty years was published in May, 1924. The appeal of this volume, so attractive in form with its soft tone boards and the imprint of our College seal in gold, is not limited to those who love Hunter but extends to all who love poetry. To most of us this collection proved a delightful surprise. We have long known and rejoiced in the gift of song granted to some of our number—the poems of our beloved Helen Gray Cone (to whom the anthology is most appropriately dedicated), of Amelia Burr, Margaret Deland, Mary Low, and of the editor himself have been familiar sources of pride, but until now we have not known how truly "we are a nest of singing birds."

Although the poems cover a wide range of subject and style, one notices that very little experimentation in metrical forms is represented; our singers have for the most part conformed to conventional poetic standards. There is nowhere slavish imitation of any of the great English poets but there is evident throughout the love for and the influence of the master lyrists. In this volume one finds songs for every mood; here we have

"Music that lifts the thoughts from trodden places
And coarse confusions that round us lie,
Up to the calm of high cloud-silvered spaces,
Where the tall spire points through the soundless sky."

Poets of all times have sung of the eternal things—of Nature and of man, of faith and hope, of love, and life, and death—and our volume holds songs on every theme. The verses of Grace Bentley Beach, vivid, colorful, speak of a love of Nature deep and abiding. Reading, one sees and remembers November's

"Gaunt trees etched black against a copper sunset;"—
one hears

"The air is athrill with the softest trill,—
The Voice of the Trees in the dark."

Pride of race thrills in Florence M. Bennett's *The New Englander Speaks*, in Golda Goldman's *In the Candle Light*, and in Marguerite Weed's *America*; the love of home burns bright in Ethel May Ericson's *Afar in Tuna*, Risa A. Lowie's *After a Year in the City*. The love of beauty again and again finds lyric expression in the verses of Mary Lowrey Babcock, Irma Brandeis, Adelma Burd, Heloise Davison, Ethel Fenerlicht, Eva Fidler, Evelyn Flynn, Alice Glasgow, Isabel Schein—but to continue were to list all of the names in the index!

The poignant appeal of Josephine A. Meyer's *Songs from an Invalid Chair* must bring response from every heart. Her *Epitaph*, with its passionate love of Nature

and of life, its high courage, reminds one inevitably of that other brave young singer now silent, Rupert Brooke, the great lover. We are one with sorrow and courage again in the beautiful pathos of Hedwig W. D. Hilker's *Haunted Room* and in the brave sincerity of her *To One of My Students* with its haunting refrain.

To those of us who see no more the old familiar faces the inclusion in this volume of some of the work of former members of the faculty seems particularly happy. The courtly, gentle Eugene Aubert lives in his *Où Je Vondrais Aller*, as does Dr. Kayser in the wise tolerance of *Mein Glaube*, and our beloved president, Dr. Hunter, in his ringing verses.

Beauty of imagery and of phrase brightens almost every page. Here

"Sorrow and beauty and laughter weave
A pattern the soul would fain believe."

But not all of the verse is characterized by the high seriousness of noble purpose; some very delightful poems in lighter vein testify to the gay moods of some of our singers. Notable among these are Professor Whicher's whimsical *On First Looking into Stedman's "American Anthology"*, E. Adelaide Hahn's well known versions of Horatian odes, and Gertrude Purcell's *Ballade de Bon Conseil* (Dedicated to ye Students Using ye Elevator).

Of the numerous bits of occasional verse in the volume the finest are the poems written in memory of the "young priest of Beauty", John Keats, in February, 1921, the centennial of the poet's death. In each poem there is confession of faith in Keats' doctrine of Beauty, a joy eternal.

This anthology is one of which we may justly be proud; surely each one must feel a debt of gratitude to Professor Whicher and his assistants for their labor in bringing together this admirable collection. It goes without saying that *A Half Century of Song* will hold high place among the book treasures of every loyal alumna. "Haec olim meminisse juvabit."

E. K. T., '06.

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY GLEE CLUB

The Women's University Glee Club began its sessions on September 29 at 7:45 P. M., in the Allerton House, 130 East 57th Street. All college women who have had musical training and have belonged to their college glee clubs or choirs are eligible for active membership. Any one may become an associate member. The annual dues are \$15.00 for active members and \$25.00 or more for associates. There are two concerts a season, for which no tickets are sold, but active members are entitled to two tickets and associates to four.

Those who wish to join may communicate with Mrs. Westly M. Hunt, 471 Park Ave.