

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly by the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College of the City of New York

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## Alumnae House Notes.

We so often state our needs and appeal for help to the readers of the News that we are sure they will rejoice with us over the following

Causes for Gratitude:

1. Mrs. R. Shainwald has given Alumnae House a beautiful punch bowl and glasses.

2. Mrs. Harry Content, in response to Mrs. Day's appeal in the last News, has sent us a generous check to use for a party for some of our women friends who do not often go to parties. They are to have ice cream, cake, a pretty favor to carry home, and, we hope, a good time.

3. Miss Griffiths, who is not a Normal College Alumnae, but only kin to one, comes once in so often and mends our linen. She carries home lots of work to do also, a dozen napkins which came back exquisitely hemmed by hand, a whole bolt of goods to make into curtains, —and she marks the napkins, etc., with our house number, a crowning cause of gratitude.

4. Miss E. C. Fessenden comes once a week and catalogues most systematically and exactly all new addresses, club lists, lists of donors, and of those who receive. This is an invaluable service and for the first time our card catalogue is up to date.

There are other causes for gratitude, but we still have a few **needs** which we should like to turn into **causes for gratitude**. They are as follows:

1. Teachers of sewing for both Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

2. A good teacher of advanced basketry, both rafia and reed work.

3. A thorough teacher of kitchengarden.

4. A new ice box. Please consult us as to size.

5. A small clothes hamper.

6. A small and a large pad to go under the table cloth. Mary A. Hill.

## Executive Committee Notes.

A regular business meeting of the Executive Committee was held on January 10. We were honored by a visit from Commissioner Wilmer, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Normal College. We had an informal friendly talk on the College and its affairs. Of course the subject of its future President was foremost.

A set of resolutions portraying our idea of the "ideal president" was presented. As the hour was late it was decided to adjourn until Friday, January 18, when the resolutions could be gotten into better shape. In the meantime we could thoroughly investigate our own minds upon the all important topic.

## Treasurer's Notice.

The Association is hampered in its work for lack of funds. It has over a thousand dollars in outstanding dues which should have been paid in October.

On March 1st, the duplicate bills for dues will be mailed to delinquent members. At present writing, the Treasurer has received \$250.00 less in dues than at this time last year, and twelve hundred duplicate bills must be sent out. It will surely be recognized that this is a very poor showing for our membership of two thousand, and the Finance Committee makes a personal appeal to each member to pay at once.

Mrs. A. Stewart Holt, Treas.,  
224 W. 132 St.

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Published Monthly  
by the New Rochelle Pioneer for  
ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE OF THE  
NORMAL COLLEGE

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Send all manuscript to Miss Eleanor Guiterman, 209 West 97th Street, New York.

The Business Manager of the "News" should be notified immediately of any change of address.

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### A Settlement Study Hour.

The following article, the third in our series on some points of contact between the settlement and the school, is a practical plan which any settlement with a free room might adopt if the teachers of neighboring schools urged it. It is noticeable that such a room, as Miss Marot describes, is included in the house for boys just presented to Miss Addams of Hull House, Chicago, of which another head-worker says "The house is a translation of the whole boy and his needs into brick and mortar."

Mary A. Hill.

In October, Hartley House opened a study room for those members of its clubs or classes who wanted a quiet place to work. No rules whatever were made in the beginning. As occasion arose the suggestions were offered that it was unfair to do anything which disturbed other people, and that those who were not studying or who had finished should go home. It took only a few days to establish a wholesome atmosphere, and now study has become the aim voluntarily lived up

to. Why should it not be voluntary? This is what each child comes for. New students who want to play or to idle soon grasp the significance of this argument, and join in the busy quietness of the room. A special lesson is necessary now and then to convince the unruly, but the only punishment needed is exclusion from the privilege of the room. No compulsion was put upon regular attendance: a child comes only when he has work to do; he is the one who decides.

Both boys and girls attend, some because they have no quiet place at home, and some because they want help. The former is the reason more frequently given. Children living in the close quarters common to our congested districts have no chance for concentration of mind in the family living room. The demand for an opportunity to study is evident; for in spite of the insufficient character of the furnishing, the several inconveniences of approach to the room, and the requirement that those who come must do nothing but study, there is a considerable waiting list of children for whom there are no seats.

A room for this purpose opened in a public school would appeal to a much wider circle, and would draw a larger attendance. Is it not possible also, that **voluntary** attendance in a public school study room might react to modify the popular feeling that school is compulsory; and to be of help towards substituting the more fruitful idea that education is a privilege, and the right of every citizen?

Mary Marot.

### A Tribute to Professor Aubert.

Professor Aubert's decision to retire from active service next February will awaken regret in the minds of all those who, for a generation past, have been connected with the College in any capacity. His unfailing optimism, his transparent sincerity of word and deed, his exquisite courtesy, his noble idealism, in

no stinted measure have these qualities won for him the affectionate admiration of his colleagues, the respect and gratitude of his pupils. His departure from the scene of his long and devoted labors will be the withdrawal of a unique and gracious influence from the life of the institution.

It is proposed by his friends to gather into a permanent and fitting form as many as possible of the expressions of esteem which this retirement will inevitably evoke. The undersigned volunteer committee undertakes to receive, and hereby invites, resolutions or other records of appreciation for Professor Aubert's character or services from Trustees, Faculty, members of the staff of teachers, from the student body or from societies, and especially from the Alumnae. In particular, the classes over which he has presided are asked to send some communication,—a greeting from their Presidents, or photographs of the class. It is desired also to include other memorials of a less formal nature:—letters from former instructors, or from friends who have been associated with Professor Aubert by other than academic ties; photographs of former professors; pictures of the College building; any and all mementos of the many fruitful years which he has given to the life of the College.

It is proposed to bind all these into a memorial volume. Documents which are to be preserved in their original form should be on paper 8x10 inches in dimension, leaving a margin at the left for binding. Other documents will be engrossed, and pictures mounted, under the direction of the committee.

Those to whom this communication comes will please interest themselves to see that all material be sent not later than May 25.

J. A. Gillet.  
A. R. Hickenbottom.  
Claudine Gray.

### Dr. Thomas Hunter.

(From the School Journal.)

The recent resignation of Dr. Thomas Hunter as president of the Normal College marks the close of one of the greatest educational careers of the past century.

Having been called upon at a day's notice to write a short article relating to the work of this famous man, I will simply ask and briefly answer the question, "What has this man done?"

Thomas Hunter built up the most celebrated school New York City has yet known, "Old No. 35." Although Dr. Hunter resigned from this school in 1870, its name is still a rally-call for his old pupils and only a few years ago "The Thomas Hunter Association" was formed to perpetuate its memory.

Secondly, Dr. Hunter was the first principal of the Men's Evening High School in New York City and his success in this advanced line of work as well as his previous teaching in the Saturday Normal School marked him as the man to organize Normal work in New York City.

Thirdly, Dr. Hunter organized the Normal College of the City of New York and has presided over it for thirty-seven years. Beginning as a High and Normal School with a three years' course, Dr. Hunter leaves it as a high school and college with a seven years' course.

From the beginning Dr. Hunter's aim has been to advance the academic requirements for the teachers' profession. He retires just as the seven years' course has been fully established, and his last public official act was to confer degrees upon the first young women to complete its advanced requirements.

The three institutions which I have mentioned, the school, the high school, and the college, are the outward signs of Dr. Hunter's work, but to know the man one must have heard him teach, tell a story, or must have seen him smile upon