

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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No. '1

## REPORT OF ALUMNAE COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

The work of the Committee on Unemployment is progressing.

This committee was appointed by Mrs. Elliott:

Mrs. Emanuel van Dernoot, Chairman; Miss Elsie R. Kengla, Secretary; Mrs. Theodore Simis, Miss B. Elizabeth Kallman, Mrs. Leslie Graff.

Many communications and applications for help have been received and have been personally investigated by the committee. It has worked daily in its efforts to help our own graduates and undergraduates, and is happy to report that its offer to help has reached many needy cases. In a number of cases through the advice of the committee, the applicants have procured positions relieving them of immediate distress. If no position was available, *a job was created*, the committee pledging to pay a reasonable salary. *Money has been paid without delay or red tape at once to applicants in urgent need of immediate funds.*

All of this work, however, requires *more money* than we have at hand to carry on, and unless the small fund donated so generously by the Associate Alumnae is augmented by voluntary contributions, the work of the committee will be seriously restricted.

*An appeal to your generosity is therefore necessary. Any donation, no matter how small, will help.*

Address all communications and contributions to Mrs. Emanuel van Dernoot, 55 E. 72nd St., Chairman of Alumnae Committee on Unemployment.

## HELP!

In response to the Editor's plea for contributions to the Fund for the Relief of the Unemployed, the Treasurer has received donations amounting to \$59.00. Adding to this the \$500.00 given by the Associate Alumnae, our Hunter Relief Committee has received \$559.00 to carry on its work.

The Committee takes this opportunity to thank those who have so generously given! So many requests for help have come to us from Hunter women who are in real need. It gives our workers renewed energy and encouragement to receive a generous gift signed "for Somebody's Christmas".

May we not hope that more of our members will send us donations, small or large, for Somebody's New Year!

HELEN L. SIMIS, Treasurer  
4501 Matilda Ave.,  
New York, N. Y.

## A NEW HONOR FOR OUR PRESIDENT

Just as we go to press, we hear the interesting news that the Higher Board of Education has named Mrs. Elliott Assistant Dean in charge of the New Hunter College Building. This means that Mrs. Elliott will have especial charge of the entering Freshmen, who will be the first students to be moved up to the new building on Jerome Park Reservoir.

Our congratulations go to Mrs. Elliott and to the Freshmen who will be under her care.

## ALUMNAE BREAKFAST

In October, in November, and in December the Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, anticipating Einstein's visit, generously offered "space" to the Chairman of Breakfast. In October, in November, and in December, the Chairman of Breakfast thanked the Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, but pleaded for "time"; time for the Breakfast Committee so that their preparations might not be spread over too many months of the year, and time for the readers of the ALUMNAE NEWS to celebrate Thanksgiving, Vergil, and Christmas before hearing the call to Alumnae Breakfast.

But now, when at last the call sounds, "space" and "time" become one, for space says it is time—time to make your reservation for 1931 Alumnae Breakfast!

Except for the baby alumnae of June, 1930, and January, 1931, who have ahead of them initiation and hearty welcome to their first Alumnae Breakfast, it hardly seems necessary to announce the when, where, why, and how of this friendly occasion. For, as usual, it will be held in the Grand Ball Room of the Hotel Astor at one o'clock on Thursday, February 12th. The Committee hoped to schedule the Breakfast this year on the anniversary of the occasion it actually celebrates, the opening of Hunter College, February 14, 1870. But although February 14, 1931, comes on a Saturday, the Committee found to its regret that the Ball Room of the Astor Hotel was pledged to the Foreign Policy Association for one of its regular scheduled discussion luncheons. So once more we shall celebrate St. Valentine's Day on Lincoln's Birthday. But what is time to us who, like Einstein, are, relatively speaking, masters of both time and space?

The when and where having been thus simply disposed of, it is left only for you to realize the how and why.

The Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, in friendly collaboration with the Committee, has inserted elsewhere in this issue a printed

The Christmas Chapel was necessarily held earlier than usual this year, inasmuch as Wednesday, December 24, was given over to the Christmas plays. In his greeting, President Kieran took occasion to add a special word of encouragement for those students who will leave us at the mid-year, and for whom this was the last formal chapel.

Dean Hickinbottom was the guest of honor at a Thanksgiving Tea given by the Senior Class and Student Council on November 25th, in a newly redecorated Council Room. Many members of the Faculty dropped in during the afternoon to share in the festivities.

Dr. Ruth Lewinson acted as hostess for the Faculty Club on December 1.

On Thursday, December 18th, the Senior Class entertained at a tea given to honor Dean Hill.

On January 6th, President and Mrs. Kieran will be the guests of honor at a faculty tea at Thirty-second Street Annex.

The outcome of a basket-ball match between the Faculty and Varsity on December 9 was a decisive victory for the Varsity, the score being 31-15.

The members of the Music Appreciation Class in the Evening Session were allowed the rare pleasure of hearing Mr. Adolph Lewisohn in a short song recital on Wednesday, December 17. At the age of 82, Mr. Lewisohn thus shows that his interest in music is more than that of the philanthropist. Dr. Henry T. Fleck recently pointed to a growing tendency among eminent public men toward more active participation in the arts as evidence of the march of civilization in this country, and surely no more striking example of this need be sought than in the contributions of this man who has done so much toward the advancement of interest in fine music. His generosity to our own College in this respect is well-known to everybody.

MARY R. SHEEHAN

#### FACULTY NOTE

On Monday, December eighth, Dr. Samuel W. Patterson, since September Associate Professor of Education at Hunter, was tendered a reception by his former colleagues of the New York Training School for Teachers. During his ten years' service as head of the English Department of that school, he had made many friends who took this opportunity again to wish him happiness and success in his new post.

D. C. D.

#### ABOUT LIBRARIES

A recent announcement by the New York Public Library Foundation has impressed on our minds a fact that many people have never before fully appreciated, namely, that this institution is supported by private funds, and consequently subject to private control. That the public has been allowed the privileges of the Forty-Second Street Reference Shelves with their many rare volumes, has been without doubt for the purpose of encouraging original research by mature students to whom no other means would be available. Therefore, though the immediate effect of the announcement may be rather staggering, we are scarcely justified in criticizing the Library authorities for their new policy in excluding from that department those to whom other sources of information are accessible, or whose work is of minor consequence from the general point of view: explicitly, undergraduate students of colleges in New York City.

In thus commenting upon the new ruling, Dr. Joseph Reilly, under whose administration the College Library has reached to just short of the 50,000 volume mark, pointed out that, although the new situation would inevitably carry with it much inconvenience to our students, it might ultimately result in an advancement of the moment when our own facilities will adequately fill the needs of undergraduate courses. He sees as a promise of the not-too-far future—what will almost surely be a reality by the time the new College will have begun to function as a unit—a library of at least 75,000 books, of which many will have been acquired by gift.

Plans for this library of the future are still nebulous, and must necessarily hinge on building details, but one ideal which Dr. Reilly hopes to see realized is the establishment of a special reference room—"sanctum sanctorum"—equipped with about 10,000 volumes of particular interest or rarity, and reserved for the staff and such students as, by demonstrating unusual ability, earn the special permission of their instructors to use the room.

At present the work of building up is largely directed toward filling the most obvious gaps in all fields, but that is only one of the problems which must be faced. "Upkeep" of a library is not a small consideration, and each year a significant proportion of the budget must be laid aside for rebinding those popular volumes which have passed through so many hands. Still another difficulty to be met is the replacement of a single unit in a set when, as often happens, one book receives more use than its fellows. In the case of a work that is out of print, this may occasion a long, tedious search, sometimes with no success.

But undoubtedly the gravest catastrophe is the occasional destruction by a careless or

thoughtless reader of a valuable or even irreplaceable volume. Accidents of this sort have once or twice made necessary the purchase of an entire new set, though the damage to the old may have involved only a few pages.

We have our special treasures, too, to which nothing must ever be allowed to happen. A recent sensation was the "discovery" by Professor Simons that the Mathematics alcove harbored books in editions that come close to being invaluable. Up to that moment they had been like any other books in the library; now they are an exhibit of special interest and have been given the position of special dignity and protection which they deserve. They are:

Chace, Arnold Buffam—The Rhind Mathematical Papyrus. In two volumes; photographs, text, translation, and commentary. Mathematical Association of America, 1929.

De Morgan, Augustus—The Connexion of Number and Magnitude. London, 1836.

Leslie, John—The Philosophy of Arithmetic. Edinburgh, 1817.

Newton, Sir Isaac—Arithmetica Universalis. 1732.

Ozanam, Jacques—Cursus Mathematicus: or a Compleat Course of the Mathematicks. In five volumes. London, 1712.

Peet, T. Eric—The Rhind Mathematical Papyrus. London, 1923.

Of course, it is to be expected that the library must suffer "growing pains" with the institution of which it is a part; but the future holds promise of their relief, and in the light of that promise, we need be less alarmed by an announcement which would seem to deprive our students of a major source of education.

MARY R. SHEEHAN

### CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE

Miss Jane Bliss Taylor of the Speech Department of Hunter College, who is a member of the Society for the Study of Disorders of Speech, was invited by President Hoover to be a delegate to the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection held in Washington from November 19 to November 22. The conference marked the culmination of an exhaustive survey into the problems of child welfare which has been carried on during the past year by experts in many fields at the direction of the President, whose recognition of the bond between this and the problems of national welfare is indicated in a single sentence of his opening address:—"If we could have but one generation of properly born, trained, educated, and healthy children, a thousand other problems of government would vanish."

The members of the assembly were deeply impressed by the sincerity and fervor with which he pleaded for all children, particu-

larly for the physically handicapped, whose appalling numbers was a fact established by the survey. President and Mrs. Hoover further showed their personal interest in the work of the conference on the day after its opening by receiving each member individually in the beautiful oval blue room of the White House.

As part of the working program, morning and afternoon sectional meetings were held, and friendly luncheons and dinners were devoted to round table discussions of such interesting problems as Vocational Guidance, The School and Juvenile Delinquency, The Rural Family, etc. One of the largest and most brilliant dinner gatherings was attended by a thousand guests. Among those who addressed the gathering on this occasion were Willis A. Sutton, President of the National Education Association, Dr. Mary E. Woolley, President of Mt. Holyoke College, and Dr. Russell, former Dean of Teachers College, Columbia University.

The conference terminated with an address by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, and the adoption of a nineteen point program built up on the results of the survey and the work of the convention.

M. R. S.

### HUNTER COLLEGE COMMITTEE OF THE LENOX HILL NEIGHBOR- HOOD ASSOCIATION

The Hunter College Committee of our historic foundation, Lenox Hill House, ends the year with a modest balance in its favor. An appeal was made this fall to the Alumnae and other kind friends, and already contributions running up to two hundred and fifty dollars have been received by our Treasurer, Mrs. P. J. Casey.

We have now five undergraduate members of the Committee, including the Chairman of the Student Social Service, and appreciate deeply the coöperation of the student body. Miss Marjorie Miller designed an appealing tag to be sold in conjunction with the student drive for the children's lunches. The wistful eyes of the little girl, at a table yet unset, brought in donations amounting to two hundred dollars. A train of envelopes full of pennies, dimes, and even bills, is still coming. Our warm thanks are due to Miss Alice Leon, Chairman, 68th Street, and Miss Mildred Miller, the 32nd Street Chairman.

The December meeting of our Committee was held at the home of Mrs. Jerry Stern (Louise Burkard), whose hospitality is as whole-hearted as that of her mother, the late Mrs. William Burkard, one of the most beloved of our Alumnae.

New members are Mrs. V. J. Peré and Dr. Hannah M. Egan, Dean at the 32nd Street Annex, where the next meeting will be held.

CLARA BYRNES,  
Chairman.