

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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

Entered as second class matter, 1895, at the post-office at New Rochelle under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. XXXVIII

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., JUNE-JULY, 1933

No. 6

## HUNTER'S NEW PRESIDENT

The fourth President of Hunter College, who will take office on September first, 1933, is Dr. Eugene A. Colligan.

Dr. Colligan was graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1908, with the degree of B. S. He also holds the degrees of A. M. and Ph. D. from Fordham University, and of LL. D. from Manhattan College.

He began his teaching career in P. S. 148 Brooklyn, where he remained from 1908 to 1912. He then went to Eastern District High School, Brooklyn, where he served in various capacities for a number of years, as teacher from 1912 to 1918, as First Assistant from 1918 to 1922, and as Administrative Assistant from 1922 to 1924. In 1924 he became Principal of Boys High School, Brooklyn, a post which he held until January, 1931, when he was named Associate Superintendent of Schools. This position he will give up on August 31 of the present year, in order to come to Hunter College.

He has also taught at various times at Fordham University, in the Graduate School and in the Summer Session, and at the Catholic Summer School of America.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FELLOWSHIP

The new Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, administered jointly by Tufts College and Harvard University, offers five fellowships of \$1,000 each for study in Public and International Law, Diplomacy and International Relations, and International Economics. These are awarded competitively to "candidates of outstanding ability and character." "College and university graduates of high calibre are eligible." For further information, application is to be made to the Dean of the School, Medford, Mass., as soon as possible.

PHILIP R. V. CUROE, Chairman,  
Com. on Scholarships and Fellowships.

## CALENDAR—1933-1934

Wed., Nov. 1—Officers and Directors  
Wed., Nov. 8—Executive Council  
Sat., Nov. 25—Alumnae Day  
Wed., Nov. 29—Alumnae Day  
Wed., Jan. 3—Officers and Directors  
Wed., Jan. 10—Executive Council  
Wed., Feb. 14—Birthday Celebration  
Sat., Feb. 17—Alumnae Breakfast  
Wed., Mar. 7—Officers and Directors  
Wed., Mar. 14—Executive Council  
Wed., May 2—Officers and Directors  
Wed., May 9—Executive Council  
Sat., May 19—Spring Reunion, Election  
Wed., June 13—Commencement Day.

## COLLEGE NOTES

Events have piled up during the final weeks of the semester in such numbers as to make the task of reporting them adequately in the limited space at our disposal a difficult one.

The interest which attended the selection of our new President, and the notices which that important news received in the public press, make lengthy comment unnecessary. Since Dr. Colligan has been named to the office, he has spent many hours at College conferring with President Kieran, and meeting some of his Faculty. On May 23, in company with Dr. Kieran and Dean Hill, he visited the Bronx Buildings. Besides his appointment to the Presidency, Dr. Colligan has recently received another signal honor in the conferring by the Italian Government of the Medal of Merit for distinguished service in the field of education.

The final weeks of the term, following Dr. Kieran's return from his trip, were marked by many events designed to allow a partial expression of the affection in which he is generally held at College, and our deep sense of loss upon his retirement. At all three buildings, there were given Student and Faculty teas which we should like to describe in greater detail did space permit, but we can stop only to say that thoughtful and elaborate preparation, and the large attendance in each case, left no doubt about the popularity of the guest of honor.

As a material expression of the sentiments of the entire staff, the presentation of a handsome gold watch and chain was made on May 26. Monogrammed on the outside, it bore inside its case the inscription:

"To our President, with enduring affection and esteem. From the Staff of Hunter College. 1904-1933."

The President was obviously affected by the token, which came as a complete surprise to him. The Gift Committee consisted of Professors Luetz, Fay, and Small, representing the Main Building, 32nd Street, and the Bronx respectively.

Another event in which the entire staff was prevented from participating only by the wish of the President, who dared not subject himself to the emotional strain which a larger gathering might entail, was a dinner given in his honor on May 24 at the Hotel Commodore, and attended by the Full Professors of the Faculty, twenty in number. Our chief account of the function comes from Professor Busse, who was Chairman

of the Committee and Master of Ceremonies; and his report of the thoroughly enjoyable informality of the occasion has been supported by the comments of others who were present. Long after the arranged program had been concluded, the diners, affected probably by the reminiscent spirit of Dr. Kieran's own address, which dealt largely with his early teaching experience, continued to exchange memories of more or less remote College history.

Among the more formal tributes prepared for the occasion was a poem by Professor Blanche Colton Williams in the Chaucerian manner. A masterful and witty piece of mimicry, enough like the Canterbury characterizations to be slipped in among them, it nevertheless has made no compromise with facts, for in it we find described Dr. Kieran as we all know him. With Dr. Williams's permission, we include it here:

#### SKETCH OF A LATER PILGRIM

A college President, and that a worthy man  
That fro the terme that he first bigan  
To techen and expowne, he loved to studie  
In bokes of lerning; yea, philosophie  
Of Froebel, Pestalozzi, and that route.  
This goodly man, whom here I telle aboute,  
At Hunter College was when it was yonge;  
Ful many a tyme his name has been y-songe  
By student prees, and eek by techers alle.  
Ye knowen whom I mene; for men him calle  
James Michael Kieran, him so noble and trewe,  
No bettre man than he noon never knewe.  
"On bokes for to rede I me delyte,"  
He seyde in chapel, and he wol hem write.  
At Albany he was when salaries were y-wonne;  
Ful ofte tyme he has the bord bigonne  
Aboven other college compaignye,  
Not oon of hem might evere him defye!  
Crist! but it was soote to see him fighte  
For rightes of Hunter, somtyme sad in plighte  
Hadde he not souned voice her to defende,  
Hadde he not ofte to City Hall him wende  
To speke of matters touchinge the moneye  
Wherewith thise students get hem to scoleye,  
And for to lerne Classics, English, Math,  
And alle thinges wommenes college hath  
To maken lite scolers of hem alle.  
This President, whom may no harm bifalle,  
He hath a golden hert, and by our feith,  
"James Kieran, live forever!" loude we seith.  
Lyk Chaucer's knight, thou hast a sovereyn prys,  
And thereto thou art digne, curteis, wys:  
Sothfast, resounable, and honourabye bent,  
Thou art a verray, parfit President!

Professor Reilly made the chief address of the evening. Its warm simplicity deeply stirred those who heard it. Humorous and whimsical at its start, it presently touched a more vibrant note in references to a few occasions, outstanding in the speaker's memory, when the genuine esteem of those of all ranks who know Dr. Kieran has spontaneously and artlessly expressed itself. Just such an occasion occurred at the last Alumnae Breakfast, when he announced his decision to retire.

No finer tribute could be paid, nor a more graceful one, than is contained in Dr. Reilly's concluding words:

"You, and your career, Mr. President, bring new support to the truth of one of my deepest convictions. For me you prove that

consideration for others, unflinching courtesy, and untheatrical ways may go hand in hand with energy of purpose and moral courage.

"There is an empire of the spirit, nobler and more universal than any social or political federation, for its far-flung borders embrace men of many climes, many races, many faiths. Its citizenry is made up of those who have furthered the inter-wedded causes of heart and intellect. To that high company, Mr. President, you belong; you have never played false to your ideals; you have cherished 'all things that are lovely and of good report'.

"You have reared a monument more enduring than the bronze of Horace, for it is made of hearts that love you. God bless you, Sir, and may contentment and serenity abide with you always."

Professor Chase was the author of the unique menu card for the dinner.

At the conclusion of the addresses and informal comments, Dr. Busse brought the meeting to a close, "in order to open it for another purpose." The other purpose was a reference to that other change to which the College must adapt itself in September. At a recent meeting of the Administrative Committee, leave of absence was granted to Dean Hickinbottom, and although we whose positions have brought us into daily contact with her at College, can best appreciate how much she will be missed, even those who have enjoyed her guidance only during their student years will find it difficult to imagine College without her.

She has been part of it almost uninterruptedly since her own student days. Graduated from Normal College in 1884, she returned to teach mathematics in 1888. Under the regime of Dr. Hunter, however, extensive demands were made on the versatility of the staff, and her program soon included several other subjects (one term, as many as six), among which were Greek and Roman History, Elementary English, and French. Eventually the last became her specialty; and when the High School Department was separated from the College, she was appointed Head of the French Department, a position she continued to occupy until 1906, when she became Dean.

We shall miss her, and we are certain that she will miss us, for her unaffected warmth and friendliness could reflect only genuine affection. But we hope that even while missing us, she may have the restful peace and happiness which her devoted service to Hunter has earned for her.

Leave of absence for one year has also been granted to Professor K. Louise Hartt. Although Professor Hartt's duties have been such as to make contacts with the general staff less frequent, her valuable work on their behalf in relation to salary schedules and pensions has been much appreciated.