

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE COLLEGE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The festivities in honor of Hunter's sixtieth anniversary, which opened with the Alumnae Breakfast on February 12, closed with the Chapel exercises held just a week later. Our dear old Chapel, itself nearly of an age with Alma Mater, was filled to overflowing for the occasion, with Alumnae in two of the front sections, seniors, stately in cap and gown, in the other two, juniors crowding the space behind the transverse aisle and the gallery, and faculty and distinguished guests occupying all available space upon the platform. These distinguished guests included four Trustees, namely, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Lewinson, and Mr. Steiner; Dr. Ryan, President of the Board of Education; Professor Emeritus Cone; Mr. Zabriskie, Principal of Washington Irving High School; the three Vice-Presidents of the Alumnae, Mrs. Lilly, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Hahn; and Mr. and Miss Cohen, donors of the Hattie Cohen Prize. And they also included Mrs. Kieran, who modestly concealed herself in a remote corner, but appeared at the end of the ceremonies to exchange greetings with her many friends among faculty and alumnae.

The program opened with the reading of the Nineteenth Psalm by President Kieran.

This was followed by a selection sung by the choir, "Ring Out Wild Bells"—unfortunately not to Hunter's own dear music. (Could not, at least one Alumna wondered, some of our loved traditional songs be revived? Possibly the present generation does not even know Professor Mangold's lovely, lively setting of this old favorite.)

Next President Kieran announced, with that genial simplicity that makes his manner of presiding so singularly happy, "Introductory Remarks—by me."

These "Introductory Remarks" were of great interest. We were reminded that, in the course of her sixty years of life and growth, our institution has changed her course from the original one of three years following directly on graduation from elementary school, to one of four years based on four years of high school work; has admitted over 45,000 students, of whom 60% remained to be graduated; has increased the size of her graduating class from 19 in 1870 to 957 in 1929, and of her staff from 27 in 1870 to 472 in 1930. She has also liberalized her course of study, originally strictly uniform. The first step in this direction was the introduction in 1905 of an idea then comparatively new, the establishment of required work and optionals, and of a group of majors each one accompanied by its own

specific minor. To-day any student of ability may combine any major with any minor, and she has 17 majors (as against 10 in 1920) and over 20 minors to choose from. In 1870 our institution's aim was to provide better academic education for elementary school teachers. To-day our graduates include superintendents, principals and first assistants in high schools, about a third of all the principals of the elementary and junior high schools of the city, and several heads of departments in our own college. In 1916 was established our Summer Session, which in 1929 had an enrollment of over 3,000 students and a staff of 137; and in 1917 were established our Evening and Extension Sessions, which in 1929 had a register of nearly 12,000 students and a staff of 540. To-day Hunter is instructing over 20,000 students in all her sessions, and is now granting master's as well as bachelor's degrees. In both day and evening sessions she maintains more rigid admission requirements than do most colleges, and she drops those students that cannot maintain certain academic standards. Hunter has always had a large number of students that did not mean to teach, but desired preparation for other professions: now to take care of the growing demand for business training, she has established commercial majors combined with the same academic requirements, and resting on the same broad cultured foundations, as the old majors.

President Kieran paid tribute to the generosity always shown by the City of New York in the matter of higher education for women, and gave assurance that our graduates will always give a full measure of service in return for the city's investment in our College.

One particular representative of the city, and one who is a specially staunch friend of Hunter College, the Honorable Joseph V. McKee, was expected to follow President Kieran as a speaker; but unfortunately his special duties as Acting Mayor, in addition to his regular ones as President of the Board of Aldermen, kept him away.

Next on the program was our loved Professor Helen Gray Cone. The title of her address was down on the program as "A Word from the College of the Past"; but, as President Kieran declared in introducing her, though she may speak of the past, she is always of the present, and is, we hope, long to be of the future. In her own inimitable way, she took us back to the days of "little old New York", in September, 1873, and brought before us the impression that the College of those days made on a "simple little girl with long braids" just come from

COLLEGE NOTES

Dr. Margaret Barclay Wilson, Professor of Physiology and Hygiene, has just presented to the Academy of Medicine a collection of about 4,000 volumes and a like number of pamphlets and clippings.

Professor Wilson is a recognized authority on diets, food, and cookery. During the World War she solved many problems of feeding the civilian as well as the military forces.

Many years ago Professor Wilson started her collection of the important books on foods, cookery, gastronomy, and allied subjects from all countries. The most important single item of the collection is a nineteenth century manuscript, in Latin, of the work of Caelius, which he called "Apicius". It is a collection of recipes made in the third century of our era and founded on Greek originals. This book alone is considered one of the Academy's most precious possessions.

Hunter is honored in having as one of her own, a person who is receiving such praise as is being bestowed on Dr. Wilson from all over the world for this outstanding contribution to science.

Dr. Harry P. Swift, chairman of our Trustees and a Fellow of the Academy, urged Professor Wilson to give her collection to the Academy at this time.

On Saturday, February 15, Hunter gave a very delightful program over the radio at station W O V. The College was invited by the World to give this program to celebrate Hunter's sixtieth anniversary. President Kieran spoke on the history and aims of the college. Professor Blanche Colton Williams gave a critique of Helen Gray Cone's poems and read "The Common Street" and "Chant of Love for England." Professor Henrietta Prentiss read the following poems from the Anthology edited by Professor George M. Whicher: "A Call to Youth", Elsie Jean Jacobs, 1922; "Where Love Is", Amelia Josephine Burr, 1898; "To E. F. K. V. F.", Clara Byrnes, 1893; "The Tea-Cup", Evelyn Grace Flynn, 1903; and two short poems by Josephine A. Meyer, 1903. The orchestra and the choir rendered several lovely selections.

The students who register in the Evening Session are an interesting and heterogeneous group. We have eleven students in their sixties, 123 between 50 and 59 years of age, 500 between 40 and 49, and more than 1500 between 30 and 39. Three times as many as in the total of the above are in their twenties. In this group we have secretaries, teachers, housewives, blacksmiths, engineers, dancers, lawyers, actresses, artists, bookkeepers, carpenters, cashiers, designers, nurses, milliners, and stenographers.

There is a total enrollment of 9,879, housed in twenty-six centers of instruction distributed throughout the five boroughs.

According to Professor Lillian M. Snow, Registrar, Hunter is now the largest woman's college and the sixth largest college in the United States. The total enrollment of Hunter College is 16,948. Columbia is the largest educational institution in the United States with an enrollment of 33,367.

The College is offering to upper seniors a course in Stenography without credit. The introduction of this course is the result of the lack of teaching positions and the desire of our students to fit themselves for commercial work.

The Thirty-second Street Annex will give a Tea on March 26 in honor of President Kieran. This date marks the anniversary of his inauguration.

Some of the activities of the Department of History and its members are as follows:

Professor Edgar Dawson, head of the Department of History and Social Science, has been elected President of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Dr. Jacobsen has returned to Hunter after a year's leave of absence. During that period she received her doctor's degree from Yale University.

Professor Spahr has received the degree of LL.B. from Columbia University and has been admitted to the New York Bar.

Miss Lynsky has just received her doctor's degree from the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government.

Miss McKinney and Mrs. Goebel have been made Assistant Professors, and Miss Rose D. Fitzgerald has been added to the staff. Miss Fitzgerald obtained her Ph.D. from Yale University.

The Alumnae will be interested to know that Professor MacLear has completed a biography of President Hunter for the Dictionary of American Biography.

Dr. Weber is the author of a book in the series edited by Professor C. E. Merriam on "Primitive and Historic Types of Civilization."

Dr. McEntee has written many interesting book reviews, including one of Hachett's "Henry VIII", and one for the *Commonweal* of "Jacques Coeur: A Merchant of the Middle Ages", by Albert Boardman Kerr.

In order to finish a book, Dr. Wolfson is away on a six months' leave of absence.

The New York Commission on Old Age Security recently conducted a survey of the City of New York. One of the classes in Statistics of the Department of History, that of Dr. Agnes Byrnes, took an active part in this work. The students reported on the block bounded by First and Second Avenues between Seventieth and Seventy-first Streets.

Two new graduate courses are now offered by the Department: "A Social Survey of England from the 17th Century to the Present" and "The Economics of Investment."

JULE G. McGRATH