

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S VISIT

On October 28 Hunter was honored by a visit from the President of the United States.

The President and his entourage arrived at about one, and were entertained at luncheon by members of the Board of Higher Education and representatives of the Faculty. At two the group mounted the platform of the Assembly Hall, before a mammoth audience of staff, students, and alumnae. Meanwhile an overflow of girls crowded into the Auditorium and the Lounge to listen to the exercises on loud-speakers. Classes were of course suspended to give all a chance to hear, and if possible see, their Chief Executive.

The general air of happy excitement was refreshing. At the President's arrival, throngs of girls filled every vantage-point in halls and on stairs, and even on the sidewalks outside—all well-behaved despite the great pressure and discomfort, all charming in their youthful enthusiasm.

President Roosevelt entered delightfully into the infectious spirit of the day. He must have sensed the eager expectancy that electrified the air during the brief introductory words of President Shuster and Dr. Tead, the latter of whom referred to the "hope deferred" at the time of our Dedication that had now become "hope realized"; and to his expression of pleasure at attending "the final Dedication of Hunter College", he added the assurance that this was not his final appearance there, since he had not seen enough of the students or of the building.

After a gay reference to the Mayor's skill in "wangling" millions for the City, he showed a sympathetic understanding of the overcrowding in the teaching profession in New York, but added encouragingly that in many parts of the country there is still need for more teachers and better-qualified teachers. As for our College, he declared that, as a neighbor, he knew Hunter well, and knew that "there is no question about its usefulness in the community".

Then he repeated his promise to come back and look over Hunter completely, "modern lighting" and all; for, though "an old man of 58", he was still "young enough to take an interest in this generation and advocate changes". He reiterated his belief, with a good-humored reference to the "razzing" occasioned by his original use of the phrase, that nation and state and city did not want to return to "the horse-and-buggy days"; and then, growing deeply and impressively serious, he declared that we do want to maintain one thing alive in the "horse-and-buggy days", patriotism. "For some things that are old *are* worth preserving—life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness; our form of government; and America!" E. ADELAIDE HAHN.

DEDICATION WEEK

By E. ADELAIDE HAHN

Not since its Golden Jubilee, over a score of years ago, has the Alma Mater known such a week of celebration as came to its share last month. Classes were suspended on October 8, 9, 10, and 11; and Hunter gave herself up to ceremonies and festivities. The Grand Marshal, Associate Professor James M. Hendel of the Chemistry Department, together with his diligent and devoted band of co-workers, had planned the program with zeal and care; and the result was a succession of events to be recorded in red letters in the Annals of our College.

The dignified and impressive invitation sent to "the Colleges, Universities, and learned Societies of the Western Hemisphere" over the signatures of Professor Hendel and Dr. Tead announced that it was being issued "in recognition of the vision of Thomas Hunter, his associates, and the City Fathers who in the year 1870 founded the first free college for women in order that those who did not share in this world's goods might claim their birthright to the riches of the mind, and that this institution, known as Hunter College, might fruitfully symbolize that basic article in the creed of the American nation, to wit, equality of opportunity for all, regardless of race, position, color, or creed; the great work accomplished throughout seven decades in preparing thousands upon thousands of students to give of their best efficiently to insure the progress of an increasingly complex civilization, and in maintaining, while so doing, standards of discipline and culture transmitted from the great colleges of the past; the devoted series of graduates who have taken their places in many fields of public and private endeavor—in teaching and law, in government and social welfare work, in medicine and philanthropy, in the arts and letters, in business and journalism—and who have manifested unstintingly their abiding affection for the College which trained them; the coöperation of City, State, and Federal Governments in the erection of a new setting for Hunter College endeavor—a modern structure in the heart of New York, sixteen stories in height, equipped with lecture halls and auditoriums, gymnasiums and laboratories, roof terraces and gardens, all beautiful and useful alike; the hope for a bright future under the leadership of President George N. Shuster". This invitation was accepted by 164 institutions of higher learning (including five South American universities), 25 learned societies and educational associations, and several civic and professional organizations of various types.

THE DEDICATION TEA

At the close of the Dedication exercises, all present were invited to adjourn to the spacious North Lounge on the third floor, where tea was served by the Associate Alumnae.

Mrs. Crotty, who was in charge, had invited the following to assist her:—As hostesses: Mrs. Bitterman, Mrs. Curtin, Mrs. Draddy, Mrs. Graff, Dr. Lewinson, Mrs. Nugent, Mrs. Valet; Professor Gray, Associate Professor Carter, and Mrs. Horgan, retired members of the College Staff; Dean Anthony and Mrs. Lehn, of the College; Dr. Brown, of the High School; Dr. Brumbaugh, of the Elementary School. To aid in greeting the guests: Professor Gallagher, Associate Professor Kengla, Assistant Professor Guggenbuhl. As assistant hostesses: Miss Crotty, Miss Ericson, Mrs. Graham, Miss H. Judels, Miss Miller, Miss Sheerin, Mrs. Shmerler, Miss Treubig, Miss Weigl.

THE DEDICATION DINNER

On the evening of Tuesday, October 8, a gathering of 200 assembled at the Savoy-Plaza for dinner. Charming lavender programs listed the distinguished speakers in a column on the left-hand page, and the delectable courses on the menu in a corresponding column on the right-hand page, item opposite item, enabling the genial Toastmaster, Hunter's good friend Professor Harry J. Carman, to strike a gay note at the outset by declaring that, no matter what names he had been called in the past, he had never before been termed an "old-fashioned grapefruit au kirsch". (One irrepressible guest secretly wondered whether he had not been dubbed a "peach"!)

As was most appropriate on this day of the New Building, there were present representatives of both the distinguished firms of architects (Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon; and Harrison, Foulhoux) that had collaborated in its planning; and the first speaker of the evening was the senior member of the former, Mr. Richmond H. Shreve. Mr. Shreve gave a clear account of the difficulties confronting the architects as a result of the restrictions in space available (a usable area of only 50 square feet per student), financial limitations (such economy and efficiency were employed that each cubic foot cost less than 60 cents, though the City had advised an expenditure of 65 cents), zoning restrictions, and the particular needs of the building. The result was an edifice which, if spread out in a series of one-story structures, would cover more than the territory bounded by Madison and Third Avenues, 67th and 70th Streets. Mr. Shreve described the building as "the logical and simple answer to the demands of an unprecedented program", as completely honest in its simplicity, as rooted in social necessity, and consequently (despite some adverse criticism) as beautiful.

The next speaker was also one intimately

connected with Hunter's destiny, formerly as a member of the Board of Higher Education, now as the holder of the purse-strings—the Honorable Joseph D. McGoldrick, Comptroller of the City of New York. It is indeed gratifying to have an ex-Trustee in charge of the treasury, for with inspiring vision he emphasized the need in this time of crisis for maintaining and protecting our school system more than ever before, and for preserving all liberties, not least among them that of academic wisdom to seek for truth.

The Budget Director, Mr. Kenneth Dayton, who took the place on the program of the Regional Director of the Federal Works Administration, Mr. Maurice E. Gilmore, after raising a laugh by a facetious comment on the selection of "a rock-ribbed Republican in a campaign year to speak in place of a P. W. A. representative", then grew serious and paid a hearty tribute to Colonel Gilmore and his P. W. A. associates for their willingness to give New York what it wanted.

Next came an unexpected treat in the reading by Professor Coffin, the author of the afternoon's fine Dedicatory Ode, of three charming short poems from his versatile pen, all reminiscent of the New England countryside, by which he completely endeared himself to the hearts of his audience.

The last speech of the evening was delivered by still another former member of our many-sided Board of Higher Education, and one too who, by virtue of his special talents, had stood in close contact with the New Building as a consultant. This was Mr. Lewis Mumford, art critic and noted author. After voicing his envy as a City College man for Hunter's new glories, he proceeded, as Mr. Shreve had done, to defend the modernistic movement in art represented by the New Building, explaining that the use of a steel structure has set the artist free, and thus the new art springs out of the needs of a living people, reflects its needs, and is capable of changing. He admitted the building has its limitations, notably the lack of a campus, for which an extra block would have been necessary, but added encouragingly, "Open spaces are coming back." Perhaps Hunter will acquire another block on Park Avenue! He concluded by declaring that the new building is bound to put both teachers and students on their mettle, and, reverting to the theme uppermost in the minds of so many of the day's speakers, termed it the symbol of democracy, as it gains, first, control of itself and, second, of the instrumentalities by which it expresses itself.

The whole dinner was a cozy, friendly affair. The intimate note of humor and good humor struck by the Toastmaster in his opening speech prevailed throughout. The combination of gayety and seriousness well befitted the celebration of a dream at last realized—a castle in the air at last planted on solid earth.