



HUNTER COLLEGE
of the City of New York



1870-1945

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary
Celebration

THE FACULTY AND ALUMNAE
OF
HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JOIN WITH
THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN REQUESTING THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE CELEBRATION OF
THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COLLEGE
THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH OF FEBRUARY
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE

PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 13, 1945

EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF HUNTER COLLEGE

Formal Opening The New York Public Library 10:30 a.m.

EXHIBITION: AS WE WERE AND AS WE ARE

Formal Opening Hunter College Playhouse 12:30 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM ON CULTURAL FORCES IN AMERICA

Professor Hoxie N. Fairchild, presiding

Hunter College Playhouse 2:00 p.m.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Grand Ballroom

Hotel Waldorf-Astoria 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14, 1945

FORMAL CONVOCATION

Hunter College Assembly Hall 11:00 a.m.

STUDENT TEA

North and South Lounges

Hunter College 3:00 p.m.

Commemorating
THE DIAMOND JUBILEE
of
HUNTER COLLEGE
of the City of New York
1870 1945

"Honor them in festive garments purple-dyed," are words not lightly borrowed from the Greek poet. The idea from which Hunter College took root was neither easily come by nor quick to find enthusiastic response. Men and women who cherished it founded this college. They did more. They worked in a spirit of freedom and magnanimity, abiding purpose and readiness to meet new educational demands. Why should it not have been obvious that the higher education of woman would benefit the community and the people? We ask the question, thinking it strange that in 1879 Thomas Hunter was a daring pioneer. But as we ourselves go forward, in a year when men and women alike have suffered and striven almost, we are compelled to believe, as men and women never before have done, it is well to be mindful that this dream was part of America's dream—that it was not government only which was to be the people's own, but insight as well into all the things in which there are truth, nobleness, worth, and beauty. Today more than ten thousand come here from all the city's neighborhoods. They come during the day, and when the day's work is done. We should like to say to them that our purpose is that which guided the men and women who seventy-five years ago banded together for significant intellectual adventure. We believe that our beloved country can give light and leadership to the world when it has given these to its own children. We dedicate ourselves anew to the conviction that the free mind is the supreme guarantee of freedom. And we ask all the graduates of the College, as well as its friends, to share with us this pledge and this commemoration.

George N. Shuster

February 14, 1945.

HUNTER COLLEGE

THE FIRST SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

For seventy-five years Hunter College has happily combined a progressive spirit with a respect for the best in the past. Symbolic of this union of vision and tradition are the two buildings most closely associated with its history, the gracious Gothic structure, center of college life from 1873 until the fire of 1936, and, erected on the same site, the modern skyscraper, severe and functionally beautiful. It was in the old building, reflecting the taste of another generation, that those who directed the college in its early years laid the far-seeing plans whose possibilities we are still exploring. And at the heart of the new building lies the idealism in which the college was conceived. Could Thomas Hunter visit today the institution named in his honor, he might miss the Gothic tower and the arched windows, but he would soon know that the steel and stone structure houses the living principle he fostered: the conviction of a democratic people that free higher education is productive of lasting good for the individual and for society.

Thomas Hunter, the first president, was a man of wisdom and courage. Exiled from Ireland for the freedom with which he urged his democratic views, he came to this country and lived as well as taught his principles. He translated his ideals into action. He loved New York; he realized its need of an educated and thoughtful citizenry; and for thirty-six years he devoted his great gifts to the task he felt could answer that need not only for his times but for ours.

The years from 1870 to his retirement in 1906, however, were not always easy ones. Hunter divided mankind into friends and foes of the college, and many a far-off academic and political battle bears witness to this oversimplification. But he met his difficulties with vigor and with strategy. This anniversary celebration is proof of his success. Throughout the years, the tradition of his humanity and his idealism has served as a surety: the college has never been without leadership marked by democracy and vision.

Seventy-five years ago, on St. Valentine's Day, Thomas Hunter opened the doors of the "Female Normal and High School," as the college was then called. Tall, dark-eyed Lydia Wadleigh, fresh from victories in her public school at Twelfth Street, but now Lady Superintendent, was there to help him. And it was well she was. Over a thousand students applied for admission at the second floor of a rented loft building on Fourth Street and Broadway. With a Lady Superintendent, four professors, and a curriculum directed toward teacher training, Hunter began the work that was to develop into the college of today, with a day student registration of over five thousand, with four deans, about three hundred and eighty teachers,

and a program in which teacher training now is but one of the many objectives of a rich and varied curriculum.

Shortly after the school opened, its name was changed to "Normal College." From the first, the president realized that the loft building would be inadequate, and he worked for better accommodations. Soon the college was given the square block from Sixty-eighth to Sixty-ninth Streets and from Park to Lexington Avenues. When architects and city officials moved too slowly for the president, he drew his own plans, found his own draftsman, cut through the red-tape of a hesitant board, and began construction.

"MEET GENERAL GRANT"—AND OTHERS

In September 1873, the girls of Normal College moved into their new home. College activity was dominated by the personality of the president. He believed in the educational value of frequent assemblies, and the college day usually began with chapel exercises to which prominent men and women were invited. Names in the Visitors' Book evoke vignettes of things past: General Grant, shy and uncomfortable in an ill-fitting suit, but recovering sufficiently to give, Thomas Hunter approvingly notes, "a good sensible speech"; and William Tecumseh Sherman, looking, to the ill-disguised disappointment of the president, more like a college professor than a general. Romantic figures such as Porfirio Diaz and Dom Pedro, the Emperor of Brazil, who was greeted by fifteen hundred voices singing his national anthem; Liliuokalani, of the Hawaiian royal family; and Eulalia, Infanta of Spain. Names famous in Victorian literature appeared in the Visitors' Book, and their owners were critically reviewed by the president: Freeman, the historian, inclined to be "irritable"; Lord Rosebery, "pale and aristocratic"; Dean Stanley, Monckton Milnes, and Thomas Huxley, with the saddest face Thomas Hunter ever saw.

During these years of pleasant excitement over distinguished guests, of commencements rich in student recitations of "elegant extracts," of public interest, proud yet affectionately amused at its Normal College with "female professors" and young ladies who could master philosophy and survive the rigors of the calisthenium—Thomas Hunter quietly worked and planned for the end he always kept in view: the improvement and the extension of the course. At first, the college offered a three-year program to girls who had finished elementary school. In 1879 the course was extended to four years. In 1888 the college was incorporated and two courses were offered, the "normal," a four-year course for future teachers, and the "academic," taking five years for completion. By 1903 the entire course was extended to seven years, and the first four years were legally separated and accredited by the Board of Regents as Normal College High School. By 1908, two years after Thomas Hunter's retirement, Normal College offered to qualified high school graduates a four-year academic course with a fully accredited degree of Bachelor of Arts.

GROWTH IN CRITICAL TIMES

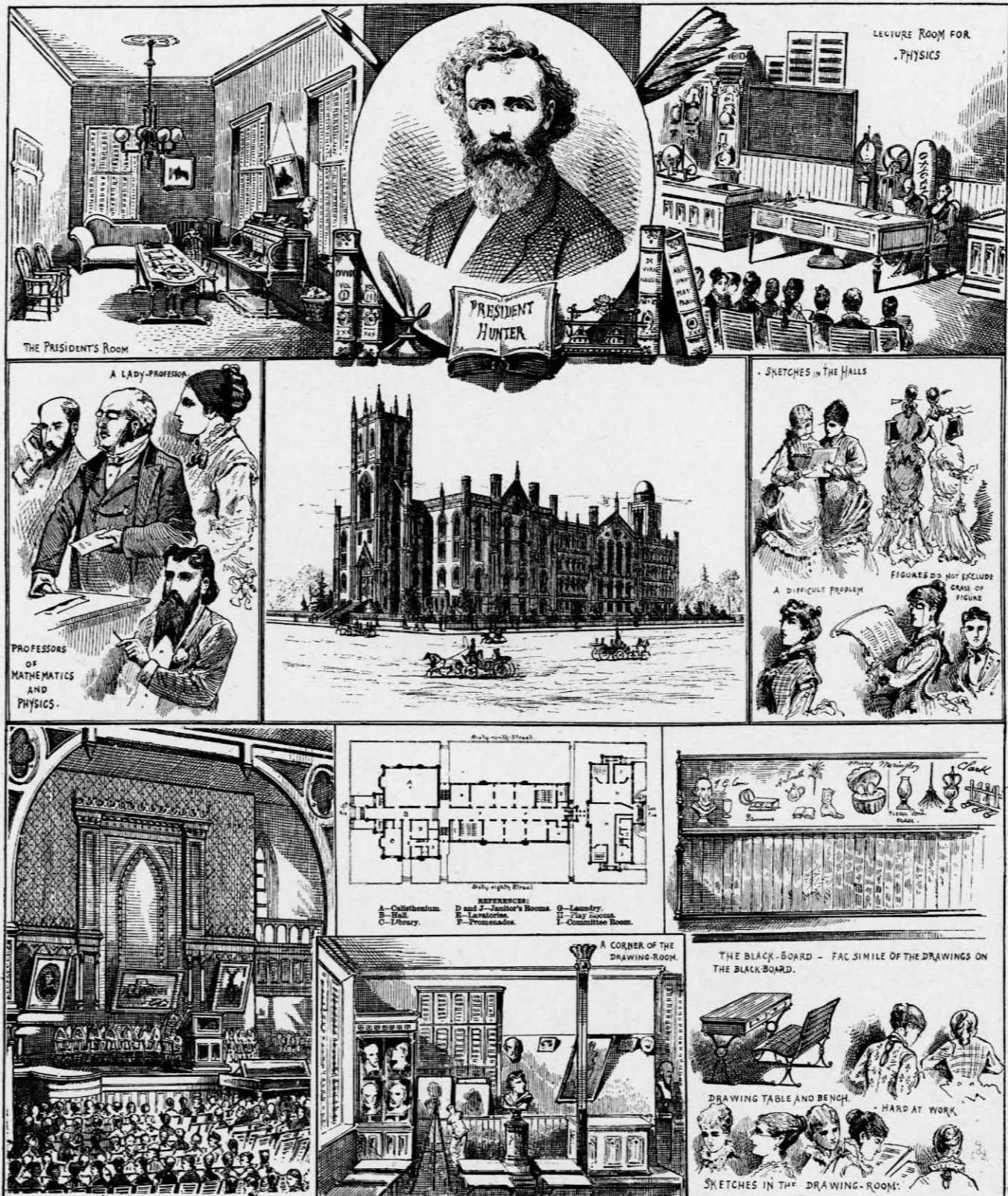
If the wisdom and foresight of Thomas Hunter shaped the early history of the college, the thoughtful administration of George Samler Davis, from 1908 to 1929, guided it through critical times. The curriculum, the plant, the administration, and even the name were changed in the twenty-one years of his presidency. Courses were liberalized, and the familiar pattern of major, minor, and optionals adopted. The growing student body necessitated a new building on Lexington Avenue, and in the twenties the college maintained a large Brooklyn branch as well. Problems arising from this steady expansion called for administrative changes, and in 1915 the college was given its own Board of Trustees. A second and greater change was made in 1926, when all city colleges were placed under the Board of Higher Education. One of the pleasantest events of these years honored the first president, when in 1914 "Normal College" became "Hunter College."

It was under President Davis that the Summer Session was founded in 1916, the Evening and Extension Session in 1917. And during his administration the college experienced the impact of war. The strain was less prolonged, the danger less immediate, in 1917 than in 1941, but staff and student response was no less generous and prompt. They helped with the military census; they joined the Women's Land Army and organized the "Hunter College Minute Men"; they donated four ambulances to the Red Cross; and they raised over a million dollars in Liberty Loan drives. Two years after the Armistice, we celebrated our Fiftieth Anniversary, and were honored on that occasion by the establishment of the Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

George Davis was succeeded by James M. Kieran. Associated with this well-loved president is a succession of events that made college life happier for many of the lower classmen. From 1929 to 1933, his term of office, construction on the Bronx Buildings was in process, and one after another, Gillet Hall, the Student Hall, Davis Hall, and Burgess Hall, were ready to receive the freshmen and sophomores, who delighted in campus life on the spacious site in the Bronx.

NEW BUILDING—NEW CURRICULUM

Late in 1933 Dr. Eugene A. Colligan took office. One of his contributions was the reorganization, in 1937, of the curriculum, as a result of a four-year study by the Curriculum Study Committee. But one great change during Dr. Colligan's administration was caused by an event no one could foresee. In 1936, on the morning of the college's sixty-sixth birthday, the old Gothic structure burned. The president arranged for classes to be continued in borrowed quarters, and immediately, with Alumnae support, he pressed for the construction of the new Hunter College on the old site. The fire and the adjustments it necessitated were a test of spirit; the college met the test well. During these years a change in administration, perhaps greater than

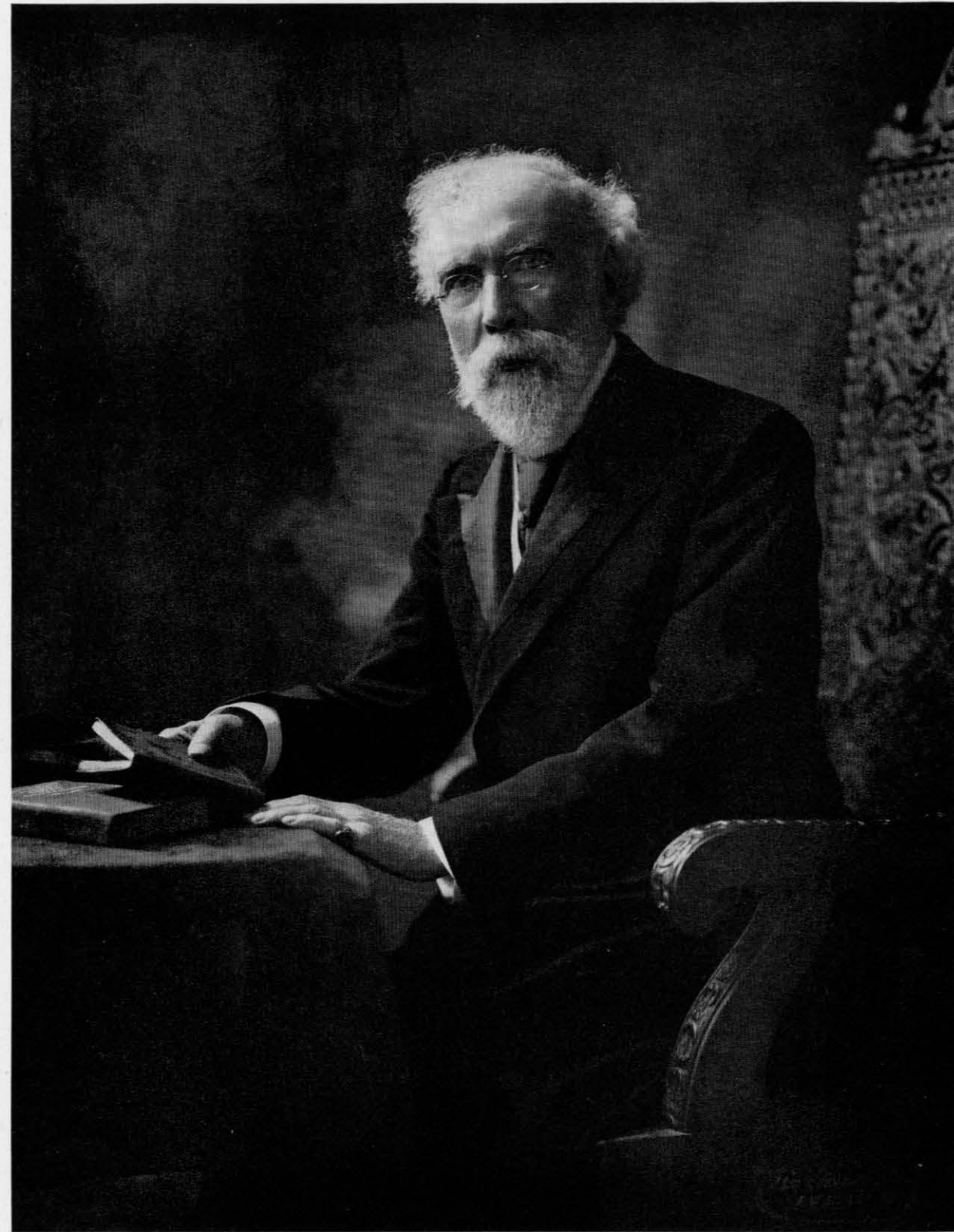




YOUNG LADIES
OF THE
CLASS OF 1884



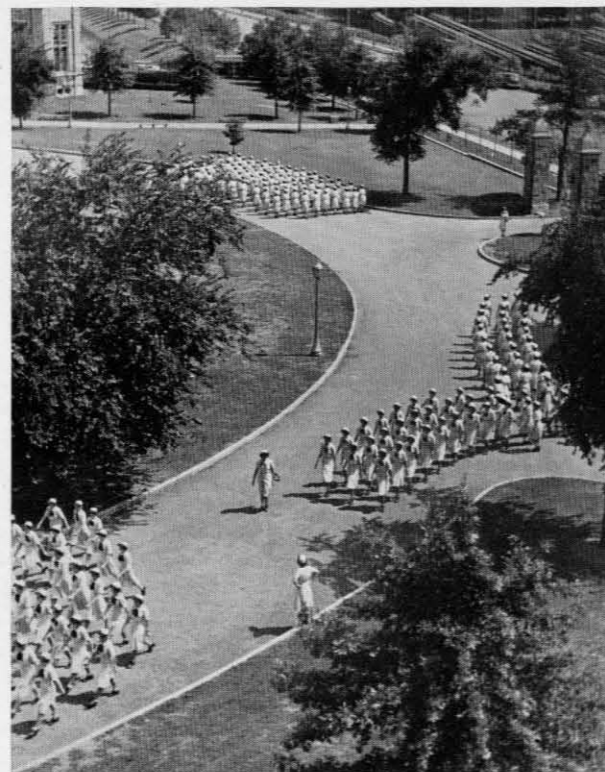
THE OLD BUILDING
1873-1936



THOMAS HUNTER
THE FIRST PRESIDENT
1870-1906



STUDENT BUILDING
ONE OF THE FOUR
HUNTER COLLEGE
BUILDINGS OF THE
BRONX CAMPUS



THE WAVES
WHO NOW OCCUPY
THIS CAMPUS



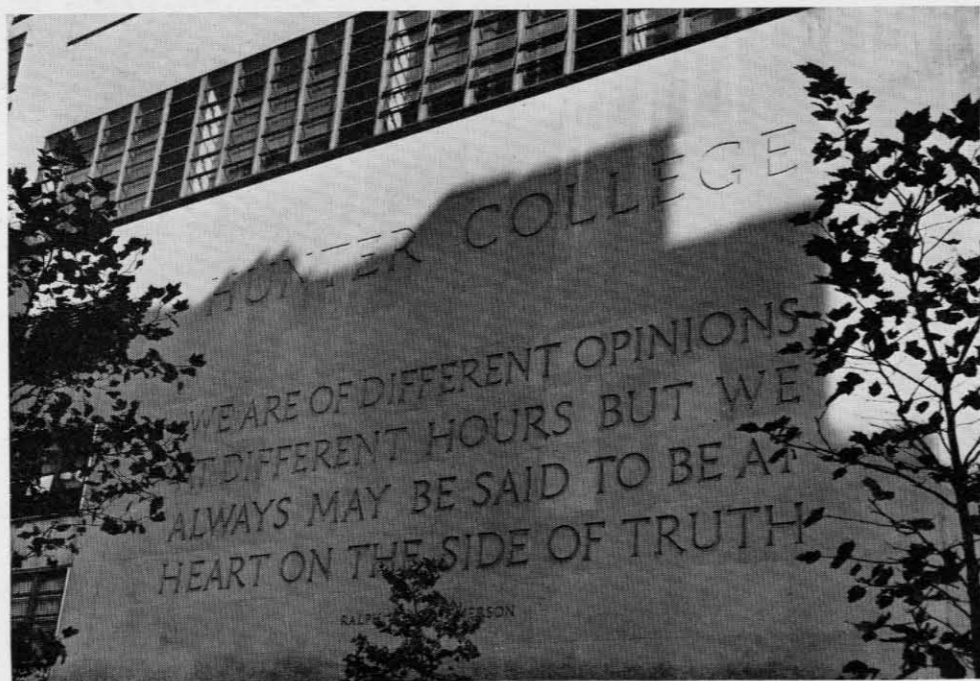
THE SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT
MEMORIAL HOUSE
ONE OF THE LIBRARIES



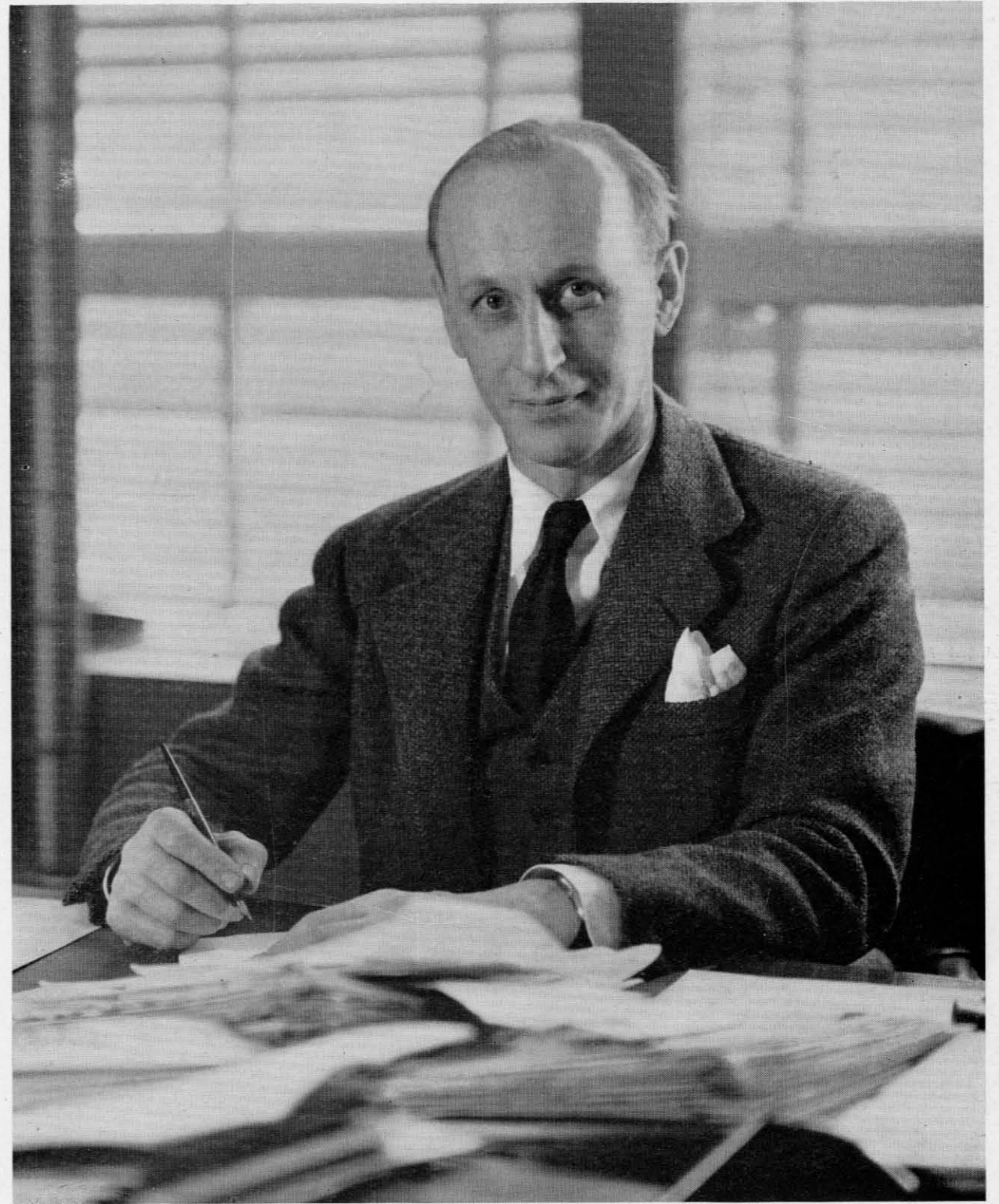
THE ENTRANCE
47 and 49
EAST 65th STREET



HUNTER COLLEGE
695 PARK AVENUE



CARVED
INSCRIPTION
ON THE
SIXTY-EIGHTH
STREET WALL



THE PRESIDENT
GEORGE N. SHUSTER



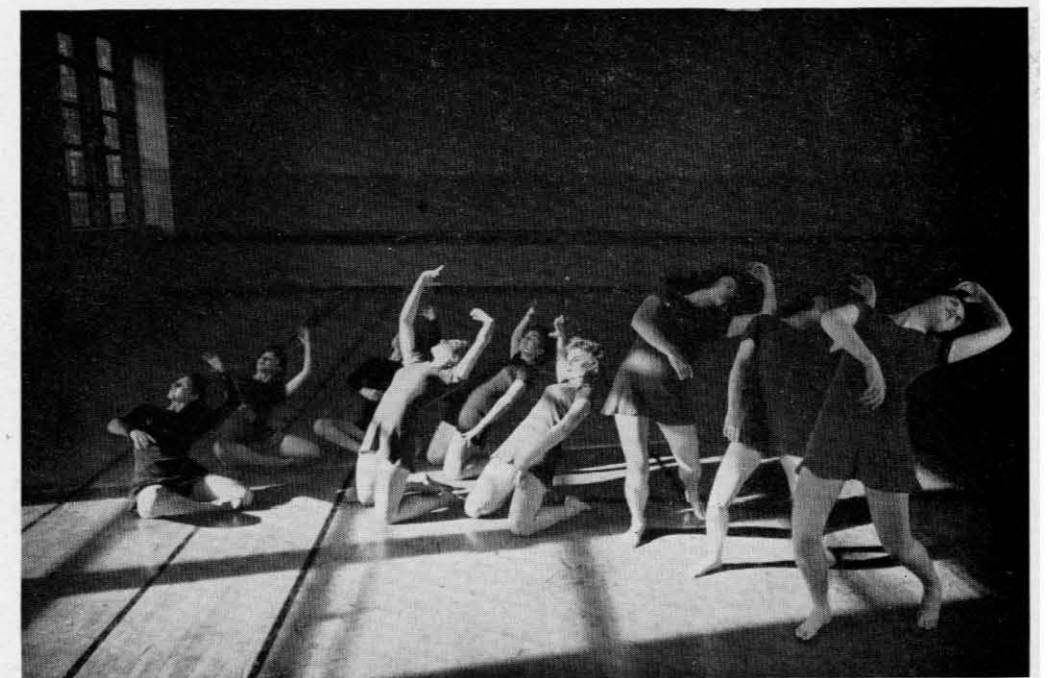
THE ASSEMBLY HALL



*THE DESIGN STUDIO
FOR STAGE AND COSTUME*



*A SECTION OF
THE FIVE HUNDRED VOICE
CHOIR SINGING
IN THE
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL*



*THE GYMNASIUM
MODERN DANCE
A STUDY IN
COMPOSITION*



YOUNG SCIENTISTS
OF THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE YOUNGEST
THE NURSERY SCHOOL



A SPEECH CLASS
OF THE HIGH SCHOOL
PREPARES
A RADIO PROGRAM



THE SEVENTH GRADE
DEVOTES ITSELF
TO COMPASS
CONSTRUCTION



IN THE GREENHOUSE
PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

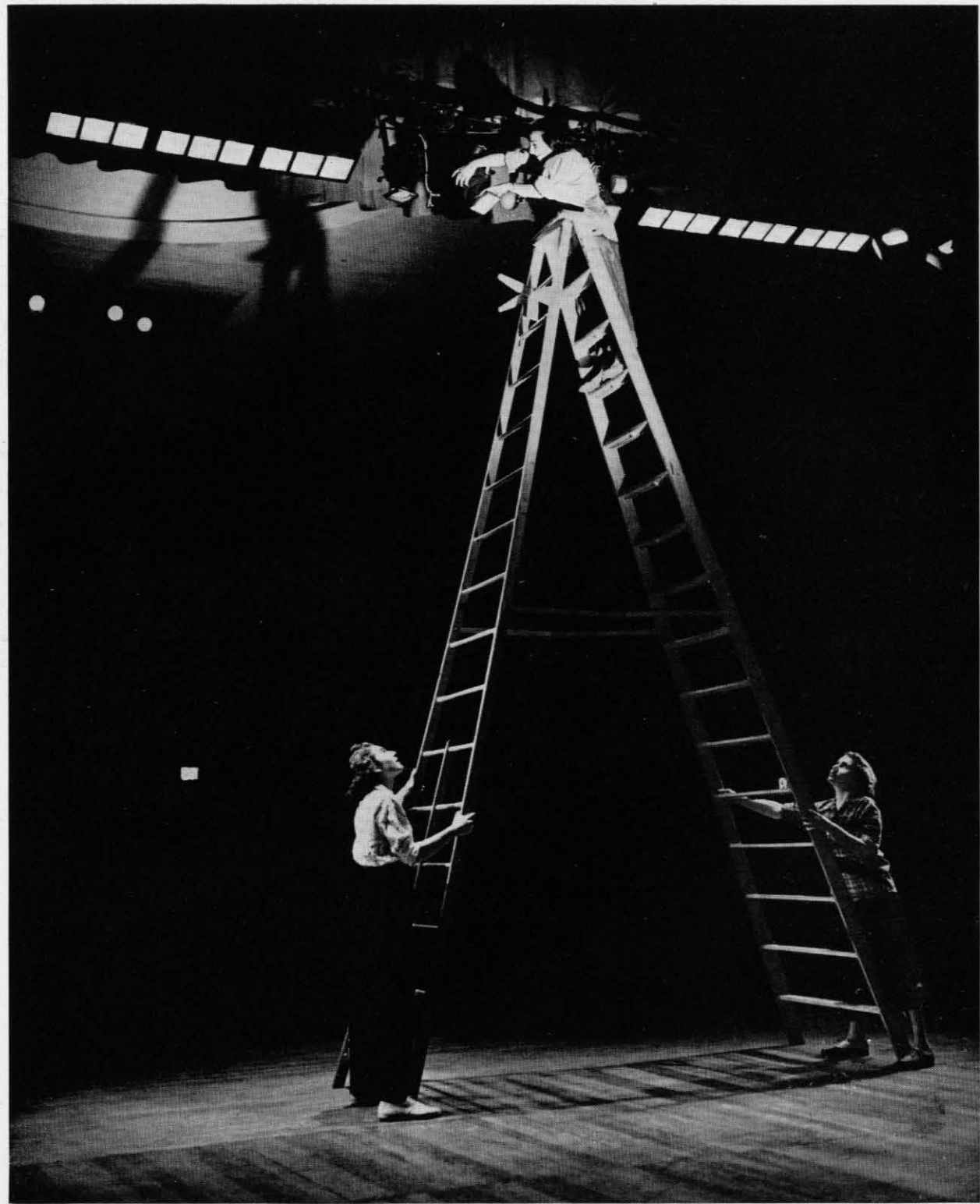
THE STUDY OF
BLOOD PRESSURE



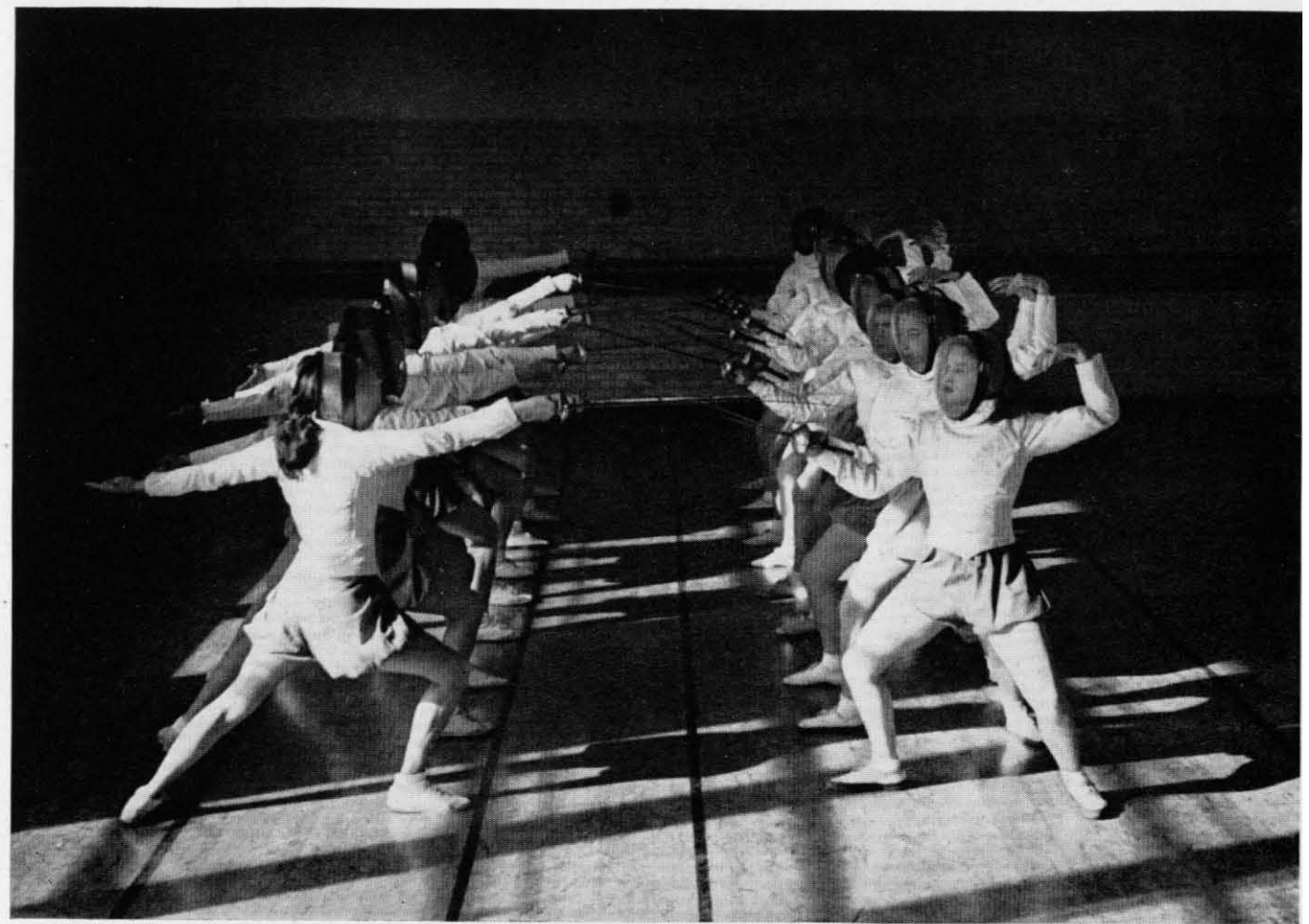
HOME ECONOMICS
QUANTITY COOKERY
IN KITCHENS EQUIPPED
TO SERVE 6,000
STUDENTS DAILY



NURSING EDUCATION
EVENING SESSION



THE HUNTER COLLEGE PLAYHOUSE
PLAY PRODUCTION CREW



FENCERS
THE LUNGE



A CORNER IN THE
OIL PAINTING STUDIO



APPLIED PHYSICS
A HUNTER COLLEGE GRADUATE
IN A WAR PLANT



A METEOROLOGY STUDENT
IN A LIFE BELT
CHECKING THE INSTRUMENTS
ON THE WEATHER LADDER
ATOP THE COLLEGE
SKYSCRAPER

any other in the history of the college, was also introduced. New by-laws framed by a committee of the Board of Higher Education, provided in 1939 for the democratic organization of all departments and the faculty.

In September 1940, after a year's leave of absence, Dr. Colligan retired and was succeeded by George N. Shuster, who had come to Hunter in 1939 as Acting President and Academic Dean. The war years have probably made greater demands on college presidents than any other period in educational history. To administer successfully seems to require even more than the gifts needed under normal conditions. It is well if the president can move freely beyond the limits of the academic world; if he is aware of the movements of the times and of those roots in the past from which the complicated present stems; if he is in contact with the forces likely to shape the future; and if he has the breadth of view necessary for the reconciliation of divergent but constructive elements. Hunter College has again experienced the good fortune that has consistently marked her quest for leadership. In October 1940 the college celebrated the dedication of the new building and the inauguration of the fifth president.

HUNTER AND A SECOND WAR

In 1941 war was declared, and for a second time the college experienced the transformations a world conflict demands. Two days after Pearl Harbor, the Hunter College Committee on Defense was organized, and all forces were marshaled in a program of intelligent and effectual help. Hunter names appeared on lists of nurses' aides, blood donors, control center operators, air raid wardens, and workers for many other organizations. Courses to help the war program were introduced and others were modified to meet the needs of the hour. The Evening Session offered a complete curriculum leading to the degree of B.S. in Education for teachers in schools for nursing. Reminiscent of World War I, Hunterites organized war stamp drives and bond rallies, collected for relief, and provided entertainment programs for service men. This work continues unabated. In February, 1943, the college temporarily gave its Bronx buildings to the government for use as a training center for the Waves, and our administrative staff solved another problem in adjustment when they transferred twenty-five hundred students and their teachers to the Sixty-eighth Street buildings.

Perhaps most remarkable from an educational point of view are the War Service Training Areas, formulated by a special committee whose consultations with government officials and industrial leaders resulted in the organization of courses, old and new, in sequences that would prepare every student to fill a position created by the War emergency. Nor were general curriculum problems forgotten; the Emergency Curriculum of 1943 modified the first two years of the Liberal Arts course so that most of the prescribed work is now completed in the freshman and sophomore years.

Two of the pleasantest events of recent Hunter history are associated with

the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt: his memorable visit to the college in October 1940 and the purchase of the Roosevelt home on East Sixty-fifth Street by a group of citizens and its presentation to us as the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House. The religious clubs meet there regularly and it is also the home of the college's major social organizations. It seems particularly fitting that Hunter should take an active part in promoting tolerance through knowledge and understanding. It is also fitting that those activities should be housed in a place rich in associations of liberalism and kindness.

Thomas Hunter was a man of vision, but it is doubtful if even he could foresee, when he drew the plans for the original building and proudly listed thirty large classrooms, two great lecture rooms, a calisthenium and a chapel, that the college would eventually require the skyscraper we occupy today. The sixteen-story structure was designed by Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, and their associates, Harrison and Fouilhoux. It was built at a cost of over six million dollars. It includes ninety-five classrooms, two floors of gymnasias, a swimming pool, twenty-two lecture rooms and studios, an assembly hall seating twenty-six hundred, cafeteria, and fifty science laboratories. From a technical point of view, our Little Theater is one of the three best equipped in the country. Lee Simonson was the consultant designer and engineer. The library was started in the last century by the Alumnae, who encouraged the students, particularly the members of the Philomathian Society, in their efforts to form a collection. Later the college took over the work. In 1889 there were 3000 titles; today there are over 150,000 volumes. This growth has been fostered by the present Librarian, Professor Joseph J. Reilly.

THEY ALSO CELEBRATE

The Elementary School associated with the college also celebrates its seventy-fifth birthday. Thomas Hunter, realizing the need for a demonstration and practice school for the college students, began the model school in St. Mark's Place while the college was still at Broadway and Fourth Street. Later it was moved to a three-story, red brick structure on the site of the present high school. Miss Isabelle Parsels was the first principal: the training department, soon establishing a reputation for pioneer work in pedagogy, initiated some of the best procedures adopted by the New York public school system. With the support of the president, it also organized one of the first public kindergartens in the country. Dr. Florence Brumbaugh is the present principal; and now the educational world watches with interest the experiments in the training of superior pupils being conducted in the pre-kindergarten and elementary division.

Intimately connected with the history of the college is Hunter College High School, which for many years has provided sound preparatory training. In addition, since 1907 it has cooperated with the college in training secondary school teachers. For a long time the high school department was part of the college. In 1903, however, the secondary school was legally separated

and accredited by the Board of Regents as Normal College High School. It continued under the supervision of a college committee until 1913, when Grace B. Beach became its first principal. She was succeeded by Louisa M. Webster in 1920; in 1934 Dr. Jean F. Brown, the present principal, was appointed. Upon the transfer of grades seven and eight from the Hunter College Elementary School in 1943, the high school became a six-year secondary school. It continues its policy of sifting applicants by an entrance examination in mathematics and English, and the proof of the wisdom of the plan lies in the record of achievement consistently maintained by its graduates.

The Summer Session, founded in 1916, and the Evening and Extension Session, founded in 1917, the youngest of the divisional units, have had the most extraordinary growth. In 1917, under the direction of Adolf Busse, the Evening and Extension Division began with twelve classes, eleven instructors, and a total enrollment of eighty-two students. In 1925, Professor Broderick Cohen became director. This year there are 467 classes, 217 instructors, and an enrollment close to five thousand. In addition to the curriculum leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts a number of non-credit adult education courses are offered in widely varied fields. A special advantage of the Evening Session is the flexibility with which it can adapt courses and hours to community needs.

Such is the institution that has developed from the Female Normal and High School of 1870. But though we are far from the simplicity of the days when the president interviewed the entering freshman, the center of college life is now, as it was then, the individual student, and every agency within the school works to make her four years as rich an experience as possible. Lydia Wadleigh's role has been supplanted by a growing guidance program. Everything the means at our command will permit is done to help the student in her educational, social, vocational, and personal problems. The program includes the work of the Office of the Dean of Faculty under Dean Eleanor Hunsdon Grady, of the two offices of the Deans of Women, under Dean Hannah M. Egan and Dean Ann G. Anthony, and of the Bureau of Educational and Vocational Guidance under Associate Dean Marie K. Gallagher. It also includes the Medical Office, the Bureau of Occupations, and, under the direction of Mrs. Mary Belden James Lehn, the Office of the Registrar.

Though the guidance program is noteworthy, no less remarkable are the activities growing out of student initiative. The Student-Self-Government Association sponsors the Student Exchange; the publications, *Bulletin*, *Echo*, and *Wistarion*; "Sing," one of the best loved of Hunter's traditional functions; and "Varsity," the annual dramatic production. There are sufficient clubs to satisfy almost every interest. With its many inter-collegiate affiliations, the Athletic Association offers a wide selection of sports. Twenty-two sororities are in the Pan-Hellenic Association, and House Plan, a recent

development, encourages the organization of friendly and informal student groups. The maintenance of the high academic standard for which Hunter is known, is encouraged and preserved by ten honorary societies.

When the Hunter student completes her course, she no longer thinks solely of becoming a teacher; perhaps this change in vocational aim marks the greatest contrast between the college of the present and the past. A recent survey by the Office of the Dean of Faculty shows that, though the majority of Hunter graduates remain in the city, many are now found all over the world, and the positions they hold are strikingly varied: accountants, chemists, and engineers, lawyers, librarians, and translators, photographers, engravers, and ballet dancers, psychologists, traffic managers, and social workers, painters and designers.

The history of the college might well be the story of the loyalty of its graduates who now number almost forty thousand. The Associate Alumnae which was founded in 1872 has its headquarters in the Alumnae Rooms in the Hotel Woodward. The Association with its thousands of members has a long record of service to both community and college: it was an Alumnae project that developed into the nationally known Lenox Hill Settlement. The Association has provided numerous gifts and prizes to the undergraduates, including the funds that founded the library in 1873 and the Bureau of Occupations in 1917. At the dedication of the new building, 1940, the Associate Alumnae presented the Aeolian Skinner Organ. This inspirational gift provided the one instrument necessary to fully realize the architects' plans for a perfect Assembly Hall. Recently the Alumnae furnished several rooms in the Roosevelt Houses. Their war work has been extensive; one of their most popular projects is a canteen for service men. In every crisis in the history of the college, and in the long, quiet years of steady accomplishment as well, the presidents, from Thomas Hunter to Dr. Shuster, have gratefully acknowledged the generous help of the Associate Alumnae.

With a democratic tradition, with a leadership both intelligent and resourceful, with a serious student body, a well-trained staff, and a loyal alumnae, with a sincere wish to become more and more a moving and beneficent force in the life of the city, Hunter College looks to the future with courage and with the hope that her plans will be realized and her vision blessedly fulfilled.

THOMAS HUNTER SPEAKS

It is a beautiful sight to behold a thousand young ladies all assembled under the same roof and representing all classes of society, steadily and happily studying the higher branches of knowledge, and receiving that culture and finish which will enable them to teach others and to become the ornaments of whatever society they may enter. In no other country in the world is such a public institution for all classes of females possible. Rich and poor, high and low, all meet together upon the same educational plane,

in perfect harmony, and the only caste recognized among them is that of ability, fidelity, and integrity. This is the true democracy which "levels upward." The Normal College is justly satisfied with its work; and the officers trust, with the help of Divine Providence, to build up an institution which will be a credit to the city that supports it.

Thanking your honorable Board and the Committee on the Normal College for your generous and unwavering support,

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,



President, Normal College

From the Annual Report of the President of the Normal College for the Year 1871.

This great building, which we dedicate today, cost, without the furniture, \$350,000, and is much superior in architectural design, in size and in all the appliances for the proper prosecution of study to any other edifice of a public kind in the country, perhaps in the world. It is worthy of the imperial city of New York. I think that Mr. David I. Stagg, the worthy and efficient architect and superintendent, who planned it and directed its construction, deserves very great credit for his masterly work.

Young ladies, remember that the great responsibility for the success of this institution mainly devolves upon you; it rests with you whether the city will be amply repaid for the immense sum of money expended. From what I have seen of your past I expect the very best results in the future. If in the old quarters, unfitted in every way for purposes of instruction, so much was accomplished, we can surely predict for you in your new edifice a career of usefulness and success which will gladden the hearts of all your friends, and of all who have labored on your behalf. The Normal College had to grow; it could not spring into life, perfect in all its parts, as Minerva sprung thoroughly armed from the head of Jove. Ladies, we point with pride to what the city has done for you, and we trust that you will ever be able to look back with deep satisfaction to the period passed within this building—the largest and the best ever constructed for public school purposes.

Address at the Dedication of the New York Normal College Edifice, October 29, 1873.