

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## Dr. Emily I. Conant.

When Dr. Conant retired from the faculty of Normal College last September, after nearly forty years of active service, the pedagogical department lost a representative who combined the strength and best traditions of the past with the highest standards and ideals of the present.

Her work at Normal College served as an associative link between the older and the newer times, so that her retirement seemed to weaken the ties which connect this and oncoming generations of teachers and pupils with a noble past. The feeling of loss on the occasion of Dr. Conant's retirement has deepened into sorrow because of her death.

Instead of leisure to rest, and to follow new and coveted activities, the reward of life, so well deserved—has come the right to eternal peace and infinite opportunities, the reward of death.

The mental attitudes which seemed most characteristic of Dr. Conant's life were a high sense of duty and untiring energy leading to an unusual forgetfulness of self, a remarkable degree of initiative causing recognition and adoption of whatever seemed progressive and good, an enthusiasm for science, literature and music, and a rare capacity for, and an appreciation of friendship.

In a recent address Dr. Jenny B. Merrill, a contemporary and friend of Dr. Conant, gave an account of her pedagogical achievements showing the fields in which she did pioneer work. After her appointment as critic-teacher in the Normal College in 1871, Dr. Conant studied the Kindergarten System under Mme. Marie Kraus-Boelte in order to explain and advocate its adoption.

Believing in the value of manual train-

ing, she went to Maas, Sweden, for two summers and brought back the Sloyd Method of working in wood, which she introduced at the Normal College.

She was a member of the first class granted the degree of Doctor of Pedagogy by the New York University.

In touch with Cornell and inspired by her work in the psychology laboratories of that University, she introduced scientific texts and experimental methods in her teaching of psychology, and gave helpful courses in the History and Principles of Education.

During all these busy years of teaching, Dr. Conant gave devoted service to the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College. As President, Chairman of the Committee on Lectures and on Child Study, and as member of the Executive, she was never too tired to work for the good of the College, attend meetings, and stand for the right as she saw it.

After such a full life, leisure came less as a reward than as a test of "Character and Culture."

She met the test with cheerfulness and hope, and lived her last year happily, dispensing hospitality and help to many.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held Oct. 10th, two committees were appointed, one to draw up appropriate resolutions setting forth the loss sustained by the Association in the death of Dr. Emily Ida Conant; the other committee to arrange for some suitable memorial to her. The Chairman of the second committee is Miss Emma Requa, of the Normal College faculty.

The following resolutions have been drawn up and are to be put in suitable form for transmission to the family of Dr. Conant.

"We, the Associate Alumnae of the

Normal College, desire to express our sorrow for the death of our dear friend and fellow-worker, Dr. Emily Ida Conant; our pride in her long record of faithful work, marked by notable efforts for the introduction of valuable new methods in education; and our warm gratitude for her steady and loyal service to this body, both as President and as an untiring member of important committees. We extend to her family the assurance of our earnest sympathy."

#### Mrs. Christian F. Groth.

During the first week of September there passed away one of the quiet but faithful and effective members of the Alumnae, Mrs. Christian F. Groth, nee Antoinette L. Miller, Class of '86.

Mrs. Groth stood high in her class at graduation, and was the winner of the first prize for German. She was a Life Member of the Association, a member of the Natural Science Committee.

Many will recall the Groth collection of Butterflies, which her husband so kindly loaned to the Association a few years ago, and in praise of which several articles appeared in the News at the time.

It is with deep sorrow that we learn of her decease and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her bereaved husband and son.

#### The Fall Re-union.

In spite of unpropitious weather, fully six hundred of the faithful charged upon the chapel on the twenty-first of October, and were nobly rewarded for their daring.

Dr. Hunter's greeting was first on the program. He received his usual enthusiastic welcome, and everyone was delighted to see how well he looked. He spoke of the teachers who had given up their work at college in the past year and struck a timely note in his request that we do all we can to refute the statement that women teachers have a feminizing influence on big boys.

An address by President Davis was to have followed, but to our great regret, a severe cold prevented his attendance.

Miss Lockhart sang charmingly "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes," and then came an absorbingly interesting address on Pageantry by Mr. Louis N. Parker, the author of "Pomander Walk," "Rosemary" and "Disraeli."

Mr. Parker told the story of the pageants from Sherburne to Warwick in which he had been interested, what they meant in the teaching of history, to what extent they awaken civic pride, and ended by reading in a most dramatic manner two thrilling poems that were included in the part of chorus in the pageants at Warwick and York.

Mr. Ashton-Jonson asked permission to say a few words in answer to Mr. Parker's hope that the pageant might be introduced in America, and spoke of the splendid pageant, during the past summer, in Peterboro, the home of McDowell.

Next on the program was a "May Dance" by children from P. S. No. 96, and the meeting in the chapel ended with the singing of the Ivy Song.

A "Pageant of the Seasons" in Senior Hall followed. Tables were decorated to represent Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, and a chorus of undergraduates rendered appropriate music and refreshments were served, of course.

#### Treasurer's Notice.

Despite the fact that two bills have been sent out, the original in May, and a duplicate in October, there is still owing the Associate Alumnae the sum of \$1,055.423 members owe for 1 year - \$423.00  
193 members owe for 2 years - 386.00  
82 members owe for 3 years - 246.00

698 members owe - - \$1,055.00

The Finance Committee earnestly request that this money be sent at once to the Treasurer, Mrs. A. Stewart Holt, Normal College.