

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

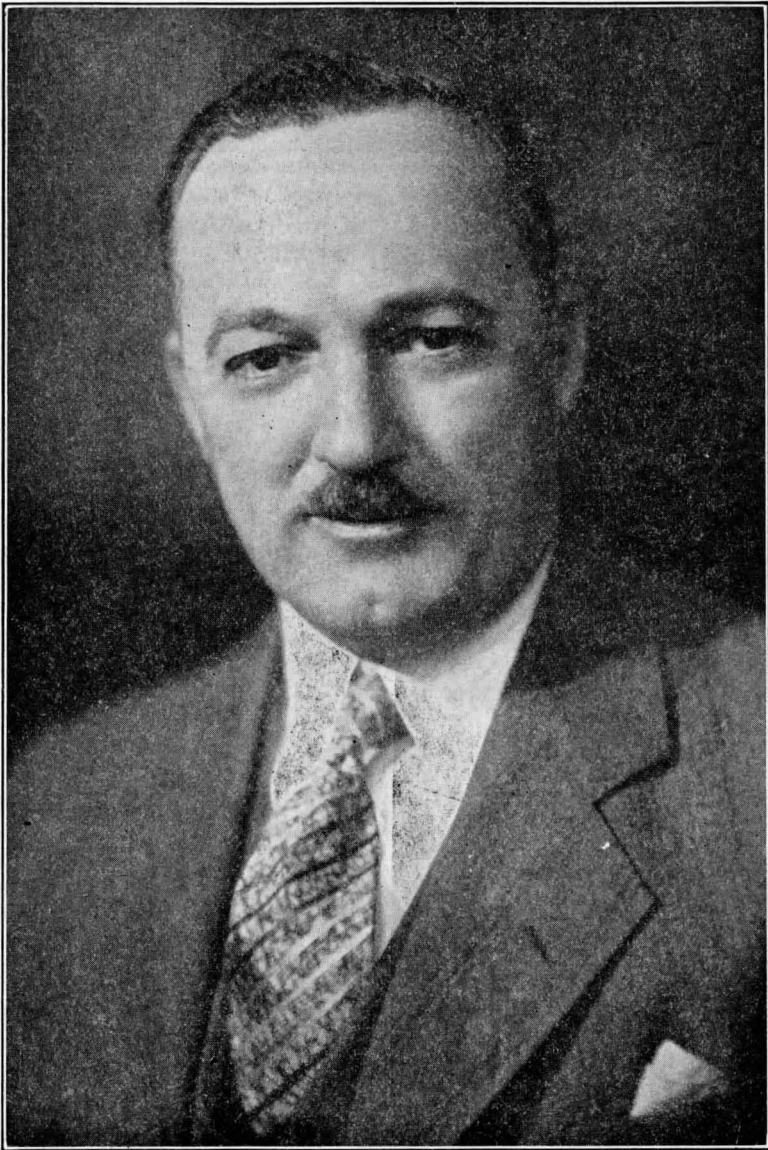
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No. 6



DR. EUGENE A. COLLIGAN, Fourth President of Hunter College.

On May fourth there was a grand sight to see at Hunter College—our dear, dusty, time-worn old Chapel all spic-and-span with fresh new paint, its platform banked with flowers vividly abloom against a background of trailing greenery, in honor of the Inauguration of Hunter's Fourth President.

What a throng in that renovated, decorated Chapel! Rows and rows of girls, low-classmen white-frocked, seniors black-gowned; in the front seats a large group of close friends and relatives of the new President, with the tall young son towering proudly on the middle aisle; other guests too, our own loyal alumnae, looking forward eagerly to a continuation of that march of progress that had always seemed to have its starting-point in this same loved old Chapel; and

finally the long academic procession, somber black of the caps and gowns relieved by the gleaming silk lining of hoods, by many a proud golden tassel or vivid stripe of science's yellow or philosophy's blue—a seemingly unending procession that advanced stately up the middle aisle to the wide platform, and overflowed therefrom to many rows of seats upon the Chapel floor. But those waiting within the Chapel had lost the pretty preliminary scene that occurred in Chapel Hall where, as the highest officials and honored guests, ascending from Senior Hall, marched down the corridor, staff members stood in double rows waiting to receive and then in turn to follow them, meanwhile watching with the eagerness of undergraduates to recognize many an outstanding leader

of civic or educational circles, or bursting into spurts of spontaneous applause as some old friend such as President Emeritus Kieran or Dean Mills went smiling by.

Well might that academic procession thrill and impress, including as it did an imposing host of dignitaries—marching first Mayor La Guardia with Mr. Mark Eisner, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education; then our new President himself, with the Chairman of the Inauguration, Mr. Laurence L. Cassidy, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of Hunter College; next a group of speakers at the exercises; behind them the long line of officials of the Federal, State, and City Governments; members of the Board of Higher Education and the Board of Education; Delegates (130 in all) of Colleges and Universities, and of educational organizations; school officials of the City of New York, including the Board of Superintendents, the Board of Examiners, and members of the educational and administrative staff; various friends and guests of the College; the Directors of the Associate Alumnae; Delegates from our sister institutions, City College and Brooklyn College; and finally our own Faculty and Teaching Staff.

The exercises were opened by the Chairman, the Honorable Laurence L. Cassidy, who requested the Right Reverend William T. Manning, Bishop of New York, to offer the invocation. After the moving prayer of this most distinguished churchman, Dr. Cassidy greeted the guests, and paid tribute to Hunter's new President, declaring that such an important event as his installation must be marked with formal exercises, even though the President's own personal wishes had been against them. He then told something of the organization and accomplishments of Hunter College, and ended amid applause with the hope that this new young President would, like his predecessors, continue to serve the College and the City for the long period of time till he, too, should have reached the age of retirement.

The next speaker, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, emphasized the particular need in this age of transition for seeking to reach firm ground and above all to make sure that each one receives his share of the human inheritance, for environment changes but standards of excellence do not change, and there is really nothing new beneath the sun. "Life," he declared, "is not always beginning anew. Life is a continuous process, and the individual comes into it as an inheritor of a great estate, and what mockery it would be for education to insist upon depriving him of his inheritance!"

President Butler's words on what educational institutions should do were followed most appropriately by those of the next speaker, the Honorable Mark Eisner, on what the head of an educational institution should be—a scholar, a leader of thought,

one who understands youth, and one in touch with the community. Then, addressing Dr. Colligan as one preeminently able to be what he had just described, he proceeded, in the solemn words of tradition, to induct him into his high office. The audience arose and applauded with fervor both the induction and the new President's response, given with a ring of earnest and intense sincerity that communicated itself to all his hearers: "Mr. Chairman, having been duly installed in the high office of the President of Hunter College, and having received the key and the seal symbolic of this office, I herewith accept the duties, the rights, and the privileges of the office, and publicly pledge that I shall fulfill the obligations that this office imposes to the best of my ability, so help me God."

The office into which Dr. Colligan was thus impressively inducted is one "of the five highest, most important and useful offices in the City of New York," according to the next speaker, no less an authority on the subject than the City's head, the Mayor himself. In a speech flavored with wit and vigor, Mayor La Guardia piquantly took issue with President Butler, telling the girls not to turn to his own generation in reaching back for the experience of the past, and maintaining that there *is* something new under the sun every day. "Dr. Colligan, today you are new in our life," he said in conclusion. "You bring renewed hope for the future. You have my best wishes and my cooperation."

The thought of the past and of the future was present also in the speech of Dr. James M. Kieran, our own President Emeritus, who spoke of his privilege "of representing visibly the link that binds the College of the past to the College of the future", and declared that he would "look back for a few minutes to the achievements of the past" before voicing his hope for the future. Among these achievements he listed President Hunter's philosophy "that instruction in the tools and devices of teaching can produce effective results only as it is properly subordinated to the broad cultural objectives of higher education", President Davis's work in developing a truly collegiate curriculum and raising the standards of the College for both teachers and students, and the efforts of his own administration, ably assisted by Dean Hill, in providing the physical facilities for expansion on which further progress depended, as well as in maintaining the high standards set. Then, turning to the days to come, he declared that Hunter College under President Colligan "faces a future no less illustrious than its past", and concluded: "With most profound confidence I bid you, Dr. Colligan, Godspeed in the new and glorious adventure into the future, and I feel happy that the future destiny of Hunter College is in the hands of one possessed of your vision and integrity."

Dr. Kieran was followed, after the College Choir had finely rendered a chorus from

"Cavalleria Rusticana", by the Honorable James Byrne, Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, who likewise spoke of the accomplishments of Hunter's three former Presidents and of those of their successor. He showed an intimate knowledge of the achievements of all four men, and also of the spirit and tradition of Hunter College itself, which he justly described as one of "unity, peace, and good will, and a kindly and friendly relation of president, faculty, students, and alumnae, of loyalty one to the other, of devotion to all the interests of this College," finally "of pride in its rich and abundant courses of study, and above all, of grateful recognition of the generosity of this great City".

And now came the climax of the occasion, the new President's Inaugural Address—which was indeed what an Inaugural Address should be, thoughtful and thought-provoking, clearly indicative alike of breadth of culture and of breadth of mind. He emphasized the importance of education from Aristotle's day to our own, the great responsibility of education in these present troubled times when only through education can the solution of our problems be achieved, the duty of education in a democracy to emphasize the importance of the individual and to develop him for effective social usefulness, the especial obligation upon the graduates of our great municipal colleges to contribute to a more efficient society. Thus he came to Hunter College itself, and pledged for it "continued emphasis upon the importance of the social, personal, and moral influences of the College without minimizing the intellectual influences and the scientific disciplines". He told of the various methods by which Hunter has been seeking to realize these aims—the Educational Guidance Bureau; curriculum research, and an emphasis on "the vocational outcomes of all subjects in the curriculum without sacrificing those effects in stimulating and training straight thinking and in broadening the intellectual outlook afforded by the liberal arts program"; the Dean's work in a program to develop good character and pleasing personality; the coöperation of the Alumnae in providing Lenox Hill Settlement House as a laboratory for social work; the assistance given to adults in continuing their education through courses in the Extension Division, through free lectures and radio talks by our faculty; the newly-established Student Forum, to be "characterized by careful study and free discussion under educational auspices with tolerance of belief on the plane of good manners", and perhaps ultimately to develop into a great Institute of Women in Public Affairs.

His final words were these: "The joy and gratification brought to me by election to the high office of President of Hunter College have yielded to a realization of the grave responsibility involved. This impels me to dedicate myself to the maintenance of those

splendid traditions of high scholarship, development of individual student capacity and community service by faculty, students, and alumnae, which my distinguished predecessors established and cultivated. Humbly and sincerely I pray that the Great Judge of all—tempering His justice with His mercy—will vouchsafe to me sufficient strength of mind, of body, and of soul, one day to merit His verdict—'Well done, thou good and faithful servant'."

There followed, in keeping with this final solemn note, the benediction pronounced by the venerable Vicar General of the Archdiocese of New York, the Right Reverend Monsignor M. J. Lavelle. Then the members of the College Orchestra once more took up their instruments; the academic procession filed out, stately as it had filed in, with the general audience decorously waiting its passing to follow in its steps; and thus ended the great event so ably planned by Professor Busse and his aids, the stirring Inauguration of Eugene A. Colligan as Fourth President of Hunter College.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN.

THE REUNION

On Saturday afternoon, May 19, more than 500 Alumnae gathered at the Annual Spring Reunion, which was held in the Music Room of the Hotel Biltmore.

Mrs. Leslie Graff, President of the Associate Alumnae, made the welcoming address with the hope that the meeting would be "full of joy, of hope, and of everything we wish each other".

To Dr. Ruth Lewinson, member of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Graff presented a fitted overnight case in token of the gratitude of the Alumnae for her services as counsel. Dr. Lewinson's speech of acceptance stressed her happiness at serving the College.

The entertainment feature of the gathering was the program of Dorothy Sands, diseuse, in "Styles in Acting". The changing trends in the theater were discussed by Miss Sands as a prelude to her interpretation of various scenes in the manner of the time in which each was originally performed. Among the scenes performed by Miss Sands were selections from the following: Congreve's *Way of the World*; Dryden's *The Conquest of Granada*; Henry Arthur Jones's *The Silver King*; George Bernard Shaw's *Candida*; Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*; and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, of which she did the sleep-walking scene in the manner of Haidee Wright, Ethel Barrymore, and Mae West.

Alice Wachtell, '21, cellist, rendered two solo selections.

The program was concluded with the induction into office of the new officers of the Associate Alumnae, and the presentation to the Alumnae of Professor Hannah M. Egan as the new Dean of Hunter College.

KATE ROCHMIS.