

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## Alumnae House Notes.

We so often state our needs and appeal for help to the readers of the News that we are sure they will rejoice with us over the following

Causes for Gratitude:

1. Mrs. R. Shainwald has given Alumnae House a beautiful punch bowl and glasses.

2. Mrs. Harry Content, in response to Mrs. Day's appeal in the last News, has sent us a generous check to use for a party for some of our women friends who do not often go to parties. They are to have ice cream, cake, a pretty favor to carry home, and, we hope, a good time.

3. Miss Griffiths, who is not a Normal College Alumnae, but only kin to one, comes once in so often and mends our linen. She carries home lots of work to do also, a dozen napkins which came back exquisitely hemmed by hand, a whole bolt of goods to make into curtains, —and she marks the napkins, etc., with our house number, a crowning cause of gratitude.

4. Miss E. C. Fessenden comes once a week and catalogues most systematically and exactly all new addresses, club lists, lists of donors, and of those who receive. This is an invaluable service and for the first time our card catalogue is up to date.

There are other causes for gratitude, but we still have a few **needs** which we should like to turn into **causes for gratitude**. They are as follows:

1. Teachers of sewing for both Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

2. A good teacher of advanced basketry, both rafia and reed work.

3. A thorough teacher of kitchengarden.

4. A new ice box. Please consult us as to size.

5. A small clothes hamper.

6. A small and a large pad to go under the table cloth. Mary A. Hill.

## Executive Committee Notes.

A regular business meeting of the Executive Committee was held on January 10. We were honored by a visit from Commissioner Wilmer, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Normal College. We had an informal friendly talk on the College and its affairs. Of course the subject of its future President was foremost.

A set of resolutions portraying our idea of the "ideal president" was presented. As the hour was late it was decided to adjourn until Friday, January 18, when the resolutions could be gotten into better shape. In the meantime we could thoroughly investigate our own minds upon the all important topic.

## Treasurer's Notice.

The Association is hampered in its work for lack of funds. It has over a thousand dollars in outstanding dues which should have been paid in October.

On March 1st, the duplicate bills for dues will be mailed to delinquent members. At present writing, the Treasurer has received \$250.00 less in dues than at this time last year, and twelve hundred duplicate bills must be sent out. It will surely be recognized that this is a very poor showing for our membership of two thousand, and the Finance Committee makes a personal appeal to each member to pay at once.

Mrs. A. Stewart Holt, Treas.,  
224 W. 132 St.

no stinted measure have these qualities won for him the affectionate admiration of his colleagues, the respect and gratitude of his pupils. His departure from the scene of his long and devoted labors will be the withdrawal of a unique and gracious influence from the life of the institution.

It is proposed by his friends to gather into a permanent and fitting form as many as possible of the expressions of esteem which this retirement will inevitably evoke. The undersigned volunteer committee undertakes to receive, and hereby invites, resolutions or other records of appreciation for Professor Aubert's character or services from Trustees, Faculty, members of the staff of teachers, from the student body or from societies, and especially from the Alumnae. In particular, the classes over which he has presided are asked to send some communication,—a greeting from their Presidents, or photographs of the class. It is desired also to include other memorials of a less formal nature:—letters from former instructors, or from friends who have been associated with Professor Aubert by other than academic ties; photographs of former professors; pictures of the College building; any and all mementos of the many fruitful years which he has given to the life of the College.

It is proposed to bind all these into a memorial volume. Documents which are to be preserved in their original form should be on paper 8x10 inches in dimension, leaving a margin at the left for binding. Other documents will be engrossed, and pictures mounted, under the direction of the committee.

Those to whom this communication comes will please interest themselves to see that all material be sent not later than May 25.

J. A. Gillet.  
A. R. Hickenbottom.  
Claudine Gray.

#### Dr. Thomas Hunter.

(From the School Journal.)

The recent resignation of Dr. Thomas Hunter as president of the Normal College marks the close of one of the greatest educational careers of the past century.

Having been called upon at a day's notice to write a short article relating to the work of this famous man, I will simply ask and briefly answer the question, "What has this man done?"

Thomas Hunter built up the most celebrated school New York City has yet known, "Old No. 35." Although Dr. Hunter resigned from this school in 1870, its name is still a rally-call for his old pupils and only a few years ago "The Thomas Hunter Association" was formed to perpetuate its memory.

Secondly, Dr. Hunter was the first principal of the Men's Evening High School in New York City and his success in this advanced line of work as well as his previous teaching in the Saturday Normal School marked him as the man to organize Normal work in New York City.

Thirdly, Dr. Hunter organized the Normal College of the City of New York and has presided over it for thirty-seven years. Beginning as a High and Normal School with a three years' course, Dr. Hunter leaves it as a high school and college with a seven years' course.

From the beginning Dr. Hunter's aim has been to advance the academic requirements for the teachers' profession. He retires just as the seven years' course has been fully established, and his last public official act was to confer degrees upon the first young women to complete its advanced requirements.

The three institutions which I have mentioned, the school, the high school, and the college, are the outward signs of Dr. Hunter's work, but to know the man one must have heard him teach, tell a story, or must have seen him smile upon

a little child. For back of all that Thomas Hunter has achieved is his extraordinary love of little children and his personal ability as a teacher.

This love of children is practically evidenced by the fact that Dr. Hunter, more than any other one man, aided in bringing about the abolition of corporal punishment in the public schools of the City of New York. This should be honor enough for one man but to him also must be added the honor of introducing the kindergarten system into the city. To show Dr. Hunter's early interest in the kindergarten, I will quote a paragraph from his report to the Board of Education for the year 1870. "The kindergarten system with its instructive plays, games, and amusements will attach the children to the schools, engender a love for books and studies, for regularity and order, and for freedom and justice. This plan of teaching is in harmony with nature, it takes up the work where the mother leaves off, and therefore prevents that sudden transition which so frequently shocks the child. Although the Normal College is in favor of all improvements in the methods of teaching it is wedded to none. Wherever an appliance will simplify a subject, it will be recommended. Toys, blocks, colored balls, leaves, flowers, minerals, all that art or nature can furnish will be used in the unfolding of the youthful mind."

So ably, so enthusiastically was the training of teachers carried on in the Normal College in the seventies, that as each new phase of educational advancement has developed in our city, it has only seemed to me the natural outgrowth of the seed sown in those early days. "First the seed, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear."

Jenny B. Merrill.

#### Confessions of an Alumna.

A few weeks ago an alumnae told me this story. During her first year as a

teacher she was asked to contribute to a number of things and in order to meet these demands she determined to drop into a little bank sums equivalent to any she spent for candy or ice cream soda. At the end of the first month she counted up her savings and found she had eleven dollars and seventy-five cents! She wisely concluded that she could afford to contribute to Alumnae House and other worthy objects.

This same Alumna told me the other day that on the first of January she started a little bank for our Settlement and she wouldn't be surprised if there were about twenty dollars in it by the end of June.

Will you go and do likewise?

One of the College professors stopped me in the corridor not long ago and said she was so pleased with the way Alumnae House was being carried on that she intended to double her subscription. Several have done that in the past year.

There are so many Alumnae who give nothing. I wonder if they realize how great a burden they throw upon the committee and how thoroughly up-to-date is the work done by the Settlement which bears their name and which they should be proud to support generously.

J. W. D.

## Nature Study Leaflets

issued by the

Natural Science Committee of the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College, New York City.

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2. Nature's Seed Sowing—Mrs. John I. Northrop
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