

FACULTY IN SERVICE

The non-academic world, the butcher, the baker, and candlestick maker have long envisioned the college professor as a solitary figure in an ivory tower. Some among our ranks here at Hunter, perhaps, may still unconsciously link the college teacher with the sheltered academic life. The annals of World War II, however, explode this fallacy. Approximately fifteen professors and teachers at Hunter College were directly and actively associated with the war effort.

Ask how the Bursar and Business Manager of Hunter became a connoisseur of the G.I. viewpoint and no one will oblige more willingly and modestly than Dr. Carl V. Noll himself. In June, 1945 he joined the American University at Florence, Italy as a professor of economics. The school at Florence, a part of the Government university opened in Europe after V-E Day to give soldiers awaiting transportation home a few months of college training, functioned until November, 1945. Dr. Noll was well equipped for the course in Labor-Management Relations which he taught. While he was still here in the United States in 1945 he was sole arbitrator in the labor dispute between the Engineers and Salaried Employees Association and the Wright Aeronautical Company. Previous to this, from the fall of 1942 until June, 1945, Dr. Noll was the Institution Representative in charge of the Engineers, Science, Management War Training program in the Hunter Evening Session. As chairman of the committee which altered the Hunter curriculum to meet the war emergency, he was also the man responsible for our War Training Areas.

Forgive Dr. Noll his connection with War Training Areas and listen further to the tale of his very rewarding sojourn in

Florence. The soldiers at the University ranged from one Lieutenant Colonel to many Pfc's, from doctors of philosophy to boys recently out of high school. Among these men were members of the celebrated 442nd Japanese-American Division which did such a creditable job in the European Theatre of Operations. "All the men studying there had seen action," Dr. Noll revealed, "and a considerable number of them had received the Purple Heart."

"The most striking aspect of all, however," declared the Bursar, "was the intense desire to learn prevalent among the men." There was a marked desire to learn the Russian viewpoint which was indicated by the almost endless flood of requests to study the Russian language. Each man not only carried a heavy program but attended every class with Rover-like faithfulness. The quality of their work, moreover, was something that any college could be proud of. "Griping was non-existent . . . that is, almost," Dr. Noll added with a confidential twinkle in his eye.

Whether Hunter's Bursar was aware of it or not, a colleague of his was associated with the Biarritz Branch of the American University as a member of the teaching staff. Dr. Lester J. Hill, Associate Professor of Mathematics, returned to Hunter this January even though the Biarritz division is still functioning. The courses at Biarritz were open to WACs, and French, Indian and Canadian soldiers as well as to American soldiers. In addition to discovering the same conscientious attitude among the students that Dr. Noll did, Professor Hill detected a distinct collegiate atmosphere. "We teachers may have been vaguely responsible," Dr. Hill conceded, "with our happy practice of addressing both brass and rank as Mister." The sol-

diers were very comfortably billeted in the most luxurious hotels Biarritz afforded. The faculty "roughed it" in quarters on the outskirts of Biarritz. Dr. Hill will dismiss such hardships with a philosophic shrug and will tell of the invitation he received during his stay at the college. Not every American Professor is asked to lecture at the Sorbonne before an audience of distinguished scientists and mathematicians.

Another member of the Math Department remained on this side of the Atlantic in "living" his contribution to the war effort. Tall, blond, quietly poised Professor A. Day Bradley spent twenty-eight of his thirty-two months in the Navy as an instructor in Naval Air Stations at Dallas, Texas and Norman, Oklahoma. The Aviation Cadets, Reserve men, Annapolis men, and Free French, who received their flight training under Hunter's Professor Bradley knew him as Lieutenant Bradley, a very regular one at that. "Although the men ranged from college seniors to men recently graduated from high school," Dr. Bradley explained with a characteristic smiling-seriousness, "all the men had to be young in order to undergo the strenuous physical training."

The Math Department counts a third member of its staff as a direct contributor to the war effort. Professor Mina Rees was an executive assistant in the Office of Scientific Research and Development. Her work was more specifically concerned with the applied mathematics panel in this civilian controlled division of the National Defense and Research Committee.

Although Professor Rees is not yet able to discuss the details of her work, she revealed that she actually worked on the

development of every major defense weapon, including the atom bomb and radar. O.S.R.D. members solved problems sent to them by the army and navy in their quarters in the Empire State Building. Professor Rees did not interpret V-J Day as a signal for relaxation. She is presently doing research in the afternoons at the Empire State Building. Her final comment on her war contribution was, "I believe that the mobilization of scientists in the O.S.R.D. during the war will be a basis for the establishment of a national science foundation."

It looks as though this mass interview will only prove that numbers speak louder than words. The Pacific coast claimed a fourth member of our Mathematics Department, Dr. Leo A. Aroian. At the University of California at Berkeley he did statistical work on bombing problems from June until August of 1945. A Hunter June graduate who is now taking her M.A. at Berkeley assisted him in the laboratory. The paper he wrote during that time will soon be released. Any similarity between this information and a government report is remarkably coincidental. Uncle Sam has officially dampened any loquacious tendencies of Dr. Aroian. He did divulge, however, that the slice of California he viewed from his home in the hills near Berkeley was very tasteful.

Only five of the fifteen faculty members were available at the time these "prose portraits" were taken. The Departments of Economics, Education, Home Economics, Psychology and Philosophy, Geology, Physics and Astronomy, and Chemistry also lent some of their members to the war effort. We're happy to welcome them back to Hunter College.