

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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The terrible catastrophe that has befallen our College has shocked and grieved us. But in the midst of our deep concern and bewilderment there is a feeling of gratitude that no one was in the building at the time of the fire.

Let us therefore cease to lament, and rather use this occasion as a spur for the building of a finer Hunter.

I have placed my services at the disposal of President Colligan, and have assured him of the full coöperation of every member of the Association. I know that I have not spoken vainly, and that when the call comes you will respond with all the love and loyalty we have always pledged to our Alma Mater.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF.

COLLEGE NOTES

In the dark hour of adversity following the fire which destroyed the central portion of the old building on Friday, February 14, it must have been heartening to President Colligan to be met by the eager and loyal support of staff and students.

Offers of help came from many sources. Mayor La Guardia and other city officials came to the College to support the President.

With the resumption of classes, students found themselves incommoded by the lack of library, bookroom, laboratory, study hall, and locker facilities. The suspension of classes regularly held in the west building also inconvenienced hundreds of College and Model School students.

Work in the Lexington Avenue building has been conducted without a break for day and evening session students. Julia Richman High School is being used for evening and extension students whose classes were held in the old buildings. Hygiene and home economics classes, which lost all their laboratories, met for field trips.

The Executive Board of the Student Self-Government Association of Hunter College, at a special meeting on Monday, February 17, passed a resolution to arrange for a hearing with the Mayor and the Board of Estimate, to discuss the erection of a new building at 68th Street and Park Avenue, in preference to rebuilding the 63-year-old building.

Mrs. Leslie Graff, president of the Associate Alumnae, sent a telegram to the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education, Mr. Charles Tuttle, urging the erection of a new building on the present site as a protection for the lives of the students.

It is the hope of all of us that great good will come from the united action of students, parents, teachers, and alumnae.

K. M. LAVELL.

THE FIRE AND ITS AFTERMATH

The campaign for the erection of an adequate and safe building for our Hunter College students was inaugurated, on February 17, by the editor of the *Bulletin* with an editorial in the form of an open letter addressed to the members of the Board of Estimate. Copies of this editorial were sent to each member of the Board of Estimate and to the metropolitan newspapers. Excerpts from the open letter appeared in a number of papers.

The Executive Committee of the Student Self-Government Association, headed by Eleanor Tomlinson, has circulated a petition for a new building among students of the College and High School, their parents and teachers. The students have also written letters to the newspapers on the subject.

I trust that the ALUMNÆ NEWS will take cognizance of the splendid spirit manifested by the students when sessions were resumed after the fire. The arrangements made over the week-end by President Colligan, Dean Egan, and Mrs. Lehn, the Registrar, were carried out without the slightest confusion or grumbling, despite the serious inconveniences to which the students and many of the staff were subjected.

A temporary emergency program, providing one hour weekly in the Lexington Avenue building for the classes which met from one to nine hours weekly in the "old building", went into effect on Monday, February 24. The permanent program for these classes will be announced as soon as the necessary arrangements for new quarters are completed.

President Colligan has received many messages of sympathy and offers of help from various sources. Telegrams of sympathy were sent by some of the merchants of the city, including Bloomingdale, Hearn, Saks-Fifth Avenue, and S. Klein. Generous offers of the use of building facilities were made by Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Beth-El, the Y.M.H.A., the School of St. Ignatius Loyola, the Board of Education, and other groups.

As a result of the offer brought to Dr. Colligan by Dr. Ruth Lewinson, the Model School is now in session at the Community House of Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street. Twenty-five class-rooms in a fire-proof building with a large auditorium were made available to the Model School through the courtesy of Judge Irving Lehman, president of the Congregation, and Mr. Sydney H. Herman, vice-president.

At a meeting of the Sinking Fund Commission on February 27, the request of our Administrative Committee for approval of a

HOW IT LOOKS

On Saturday, February 16, your Reporter rambled through the Old Building. Possibly this was neither safe nor sane, but she lives to tell the tale.

The fire seems to have done its worst in the neighborhood of the chemistry laboratories on the two lowest floors; yet, miraculously, there was no explosion. The most severe damage was in the middle of Senior Hall, which collapsed completely—lockers, desks, chairs, everything—into the first floor. There were also yawning gaps in Chapel Hall; and Gallery Hall, though it showed no serious injuries, was said to be unsafe for transit.

Fortunately, most of the losses were of such a kind that they can be made good by the use of money. Our irreplaceable possessions are for the most part safe. Our dear old Chapel seems unscathed, save for a hole near one east door; it is true it can never be used again, but its prized contents, such as our stained-glass windows and the oil-paintings of Presidents Hunter, Davis, and Kieran, are all in place and can be salvaged. The Library did not suffer badly; the valuable collection of books loaned us by the Century Theater Club escaped all damage. Since the fire did not spread as far as our most important offices, those of the President and the Secretary on Park Avenue and those of the Registrar and the Dean on Lexington Avenue, our priceless records are intact.

Above all, we are blessed in that the fire occurred when the building was unoccupied, since otherwise, in a structure known, despite every precaution of plan and make-shift and fire-drill, to be a fire-trap, there must have been appalling loss of life.

Thus it is with mixed feelings that your Reporter writes. She loved that Old Building; she recalls clearly, as a child of five or six, having its then ivy-mantled walls pointed out to her, as enclosing the place where her mother had once studied and where she was some day to study; and from that day to this, she has cherished every gate and tower. But she realizes that this disaster, which might so easily have been so incalculably more terrible, may yet prove a blessing in disguise. With the unflagging help of our tireless Trustees, and under the inspiring leadership of our indomitable President, we shall yet see a new and even greater Hunter rise Phoenix-like from the ashes of the old. Old and yet new, and above all ever young, surely our sixty-six-year-old Alma Mater can say, even in this moment of trial,

“Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be.”

E. ADELAIDE HAHN.