

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE SPRING REUNION.

Although, as President Davis said, we were competing with the sunshine of a beautiful May Day, the attendance at our spring reunion was gratifyingly large—at the close. If only people were a little more prompt in getting there! It does seem a pity to miss a part of any reunion—and especially of this one, the reunion of our Jubilee Year!

Miss Huebner reminded us of the importance of this year in college annals, then introduced the good friend who needs no introduction—President Davis. All listened with interest as he told of the college's need for increased funds, and of its attempt to obtain these through a bill providing for a tax of 9 1-3 hundredths of a mill per dollar on all assessed property, to be devoted to our institution. This bill, though handled in a masterly way by the committee in charge, was vetoed; but we have the consolation of knowing that our High School and our Model School benefit by the provisions of the Lockwood-Donohue bill, and of hoping that our College staff will be granted proportionate salary increases.

President Davis also spoke of the student body—of the excellence of their weekly, the *Bulletin*; of the admirable judgment which they show in their choice of officers, who command respect and support; of the ideal spirit which characterizes the relations between students and faculty.

There was, of course, hearty applause for the President, and again for the Dean, who arose in acknowledgment of our greeting. Then there was presented to us another old friend, Professor Whicher, who addressed us on "The College of the Future." This subject had been chosen because it was felt that, after all the reminiscences of the jubilee celebration, a touch of prophecy was now in order.

Professor Whicher expressed the belief that in the first place the Hunter College of the future will be marked by a growth in self-consciousness, in knowledge of its own worth. Already it is much better known in the community than it was, and the work of its graduates as scholars is being more widely recognized.

In the second place, there will be a growth in complexity and efficiency of organization, with the continued development of the evening session (which already numbers more students than the College proper) and the summer session, and with the introduction of university extension

courses.

Thirdly, there will be a growth in democracy—true democracy, of course, which does not imply any lack of respect for leadership or of opportunity for individual excellence. A real and vital forward step in this direction is the recent decision of the trustees that certain members of the staff shall henceforth send representatives to take part in the deliberations of the faculty. The progress of student self-government is along the same lines. Certain limits, of course, must always be observed; for, as Professor Whicher admirably put it, were the idea to arise that the older ones have no rights that the younger are bound to respect, we should indeed have a dreadful vista—a "Bolshevista." But there is no doubt that self-government works well when teachers are what they ought to be.

The college contact with the community will undoubtedly become closer. The war work done by teachers and students was a great contribution to the life of the city.

Professor Whicher also spoke of the future of the Associate Alumnae. He expects that much will be accomplished by a wisely and well planned Alumnae House. He wishes that the Alumnae had a larger official organ, wherein there might be space for the discussion of college problems, such as changes in the course of study or entrance requirements, and other matters that concern the alumnae as well as the faculty and the trustees.

Such are the changes—or rather the developments—that Professor Whicher sees before our college. But with it all he hopes and trusts that it will remain essentially what it is—a college, a place of liberal education for the young.

The other speaker of the day was Mr. Colin Campbell Cooper, the painter of the fine picture of Hunter College, which was exhibited at the close of the meeting, and which we hope may some day be on view in our own building "for keeps."

Mr. Cooper's subject was art. He began by explaining the relationship between art and nature. Art is more than a mere "holding of a mirror up to nature": nature itself is devoid of art and never competes with art; but it presents art with great possibilities and opportunities. A photograph is never a work of art, but it has the element of art introduced by the operator.

Mr. Cooper made a strong defense of classic art, and a striking arraignment of the so-called "modern art," which is not

HUNTER COLLEGE ON CANVAS.

A year ago a very determined effort was on foot to secure from the city an appropriation to build the new section of our college buildings fronting on Park Avenue. Its success would have meant the demolishing of our fine old Gothic structure with its dearly beloved tower. Then it was that our dear Betsey B. Davis suggested that before such a thing could happen we ought to have a fine painting of the college, destined to grace our Alumnae Hall when built, and invaluable as an historic record of an important city building.

Mr. Colin Campbell Cooper, who has painted so many fine pictures of our city's streets and buildings, was asked to look at the college and see if it interested him as a subject for a painting. And so in June, 1919, while the glow of the western sun lighted up the Park Avenue front, Mr. Cooper made some studies from the window of Mrs. Anderson Fowler's residence on the southwest corner of 68th Street. Mrs. Fowler kindly permitted this during the last week of her occupancy. Her home was torn down soon after, so we were just in time to secure this advantageous place from which to work.

In order that the picture might have unity of character we secured various photographs, showing the old training school building and the old residences on 69th Street; and with these in the background Mr. Cooper painted a picture 40 in. by 50 in. of our beloved Alma Mater. A few of those in the secret visited Mr. Cooper's studio from time to time, and, when the work was finished this spring, we were kindly permitted to exhibit it in the Chapel at the Reunion. Did you see it?

Think how valuable that painting will be when the old building is torn down, as it must be if Hunter is to secure the facilities she so greatly needs. Shall we ever love a new building as we love this one? And it records also the shrubbery in the little park on Park Avenue, laid out in 1879 and nick-named "The Joy Forever"—all of which was ruthlessly torn up this spring.

Mr. Cooper has put a very moderate price on the picture, for so large a canvas, and it has gone back to his studio for safe keeping. Two checks have already been sent to Mrs. Day towards its purchase, and we believe that many will want to have a hand in securing this painting for an alumnae treasure; but do not let it interfere with your furtherance of the Graduate Gift. That should be finished as soon as possible. Any checks sent to Mrs. Day for the picture should be plainly designated for that purpose. In the years to come how *proud* we shall be of it!

J. W. D.