

# THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

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## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although my goal of 10,000 members in our Alumni Association is not yet in sight, I am glad to report that membership is moving ahead. We have over 300 new members as of this writing. If the 1,000 members who have not yet sent in their dues would do so promptly, we would have a paid-up membership of 3,000 or more before the end of 1957.

My thanks to all our members who have been sending to the Alumni office the names and addresses of graduates they know. If each member of the Alumni would send additional names and addresses of Hunter classmates, and if class presidents would activate the committees that work on bringing class lists up-to-date, we could possibly double the 12,000 or more corrected names and addresses which we now have. Thus we would be able, on Hunter's 90th Birthday in 1960, to present to the College a directory of all known graduates. Such a directory, which would also list known occupation, would be of invaluable assistance in uniting the Hunter family and in fostering a sense of kinship among all members of that family.

May I extend my warmest greetings for the coming holidays.

FRANCES ROTH ABRAMS, President

## COLLEGE BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

In response to the many requests of Alumni who claim they never get sufficient opportunity to talk to old friends, the committee has arranged the program for the 88th Birthday Party and Luncheon of the College, to be held on February 15, 1958, to provide ample time for that purpose.

The Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Astor Hotel, where the luncheon is to be held, has a very large reception area, in which milestone classes may hold pre-luncheon meetings, from twelve to one o'clock. (Class presidents or representatives are urged to communicate with the chairman, Mrs. Florence S. Strenger, without delay, to reserve space.)

The program, which will feature a short address by a prominent Hunter graduate, will terminate at 3:30. The remaining time—until 5 P.M.—will be allocated to visiting friends at class and chapter tables, which will be clearly marked.

Please use the form below to make your reservation NOW.

FLORENCE S. STRENGER, Chairman

Enclosed is my check for ..... reservations at \$5.50 per person.

Miss, Mrs., Mr. ....

Maiden name ..... Class.....

Address .....

Please seat me with.....

Make checks payable to Alumni Association of Hunter College and send to 49 E. 65 St.

## ANNIE E. HICKINBOTTOM MILLS

Born Aug. 22, 1864.

Graduated from Normal College, June 1884.

Taught in Veltin School for Girls, Sept. 1886-June 1887.

Became Tutor at Normal College, Sept. 1889.

Served as Head of French Dept., Normal College H.S., 1903-6.

Named Superintendent of Normal College, Sept. 1, 1906

Received rank of Professor, Jan. 9, 1907.

Received title of Dean, April 26, 1911.

Retired Sept. 1, 1934, as Dean Emeritus.

Died Sept. 25, 1957.



Harry Farlow's Painting of Dean Mills in the North Lounge of Hunter College  
Gift of the Sister Classes of June '20 and June '22  
(Photograph by Helen H. Taffel, '35)

## Miss Hickinbottom the French Teacher Dear Adelaide,

You ask me to tell of my early memories of the one who deeply influenced my choice of a career, my first teacher of French, Miss Annie E. Hickinbottom. It was she whom I so loved and admired when I was an "Introductory", the name given to the incoming class of Normal College, that my sole ambition was to imitate her in acquiring the French language in order to teach it.

Miss Hickinbottom was appointed to the Staff of Normal College as Instructor in Mathematics. She taught Ancient History and Astronomy as well as Algebra and French to my class when I entered the College. With her natural charm, vigor, and warmth of personality, her stately bearing, sunny golden hair, and bright blue eyes, she brought joy into the class-room. She communicated to us her students her enthusiasm and love of her chosen subject, French, so that the hours with "Miss Annie" were the happiest of the day. They flew by and there was always regret when the gong sounded to end the period. With her remarkable skill in teaching, she covered the ground of her program so thoroughly and rapidly that in two years she took us far beyond the limit of work prescribed.

The ambition which I had conceived in my

account of her for the NEWS. She herself prepared the notice of her death for the obituary column in the newspapers, and it was at her expressed wish that this notice did not appear until after the funeral services. She thought that if the notice was published in advance, many would feel in duty bound to travel up to Westchester for the last rites, and, characteristically, she wished to spare them the trouble. I followed her directions, for I have always throughout the many years of our friendship tried to carry out her wishes.

I worked in the office with her for twenty-seven years, and during the entire time there was never one cross word or misunderstanding. The close intimacy there begun continued throughout the twenty-three years of her retirement.

KATHERINE MATTISON HORGAN

The members of the Westchester Chapter of the Alumni Association of Hunter College express their sorrow and deep feeling of loss on the passing of their friend and counsellor, Annie Hickinbottom Mills, Dean Emeritus of Hunter College, in her ninety-fourth year.

Our long pleasant friendship with her will always remain a happy memory.

MARGARET S. ROONEY, President

#### IN MEMORIAM

The death of Dr. Estelle Forchheimer in her 84th year became generally known only after several days had elapsed. On May 21st last, her maid found her in a coma from which she never recovered. She died in a hospital on June 5th, and according to her wishes, her nearest relative, a nephew, arranged for a private burial before publishing the notice of her death.

Dr. Forchheimer received her A.B. degree from Normal College in 1893, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from New York University in 1919. During that interval she taught successively in Normal College High School and the School for Ethical Culture, and in 1908 became Instructor, and later Assistant Professor, in the Department of Education at Hunter College. She resigned from the last position in 1920.

The most outstanding characteristic of Estelle Forchheimer was her love for people. For years and until the very end, she maintained "open house" on Friday evenings; and how she did enjoy the companionship of the friends who gathered!

Members of her classes in Psychology will remember that in order to facilitate an atmosphere of comradeship among students and teacher, she had the chairs arranged in a semi-circle and sat with the group instead of on the raised platform above and apart from them.

For many years Miss Forchheimer aided German immigrants to acquire a working knowledge of English. She untiringly translated their letters and other documents from one language to the other.

So has passed from among us the visible

presence of a devoted teacher, a loving and faithful friend.

JEAN CONKLIN

The foregoing tribute has a touching history.

At the suggestion of Miss Harriet H. Keith, we turned in seeking an obituary of Miss Estelle Forchheimer to her close friend, Miss Daisy Jean Conklin, a Life Member of the Alumni, whose Hunter career had coincided fairly closely in time with Miss Forchheimer's. (A member of the Normal College Class of 1887, she received the degree of B.S. in 1895 and that of M.S. in 1898, and, after a period of eight years in elementary school, she taught at the College in the Department of Physical Science, first as Tutor and then as Assistant Professor, from 1895 until her retirement in 1921.)

We telephoned Miss Conklin on October 18, and received a ready consent to write the article requested, as well as the good news that she was feeling well except for occasional shortness of breath. With exemplary promptness, she sent her article on October 20, together with a letter in which were included the following words: "Originally I had written another paragraph at the end, but later thought it inappropriate to indicate my own views in the matter. What do you think?"

The paragraph follows. "I would like to close with the following quotation from our Chinese contemporary Lin Yutang: 'Death comes to everything that lives, be it plant or animal or human. It is natural, it is universal, it is according to law.' And after that—what? The answer will come for each of us, as, in our turn, we enter into the Great Adventure."

Just two weeks after the Editor received this communication, on November 4, Miss Conklin, aged eighty-nine, entered into the Great Adventure.

E. A. H.

The Class of 1904 records with deep sorrow the passing of one of its most beloved, loyal, and outstanding members, Sadie Bleistift Sacks. She was a member of the Normal College Basketball Squad. This Varsity Team played "Men's Rules", which meant playing all over the field, and requiring extraordinary activity. Later, as a school principal, she introduced basketball teams into the New York City school system.

She was a member of our Alumni Association for a great many years. She was a very generous contributor to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund since the day it was organized by our own classmate and former president, Victoria Bitterman.

ANITA PASCHKES, President

Grace Isabel Crystal, President of the Class of 1909, passed away on September 3 after an illness of several months.

She had taught in the Model School of Hunter College, and after her retirement she lived in Belle Island, Conn., with her devoted friends, Professor Sally Kutz and Miss Alice Kutz.

FRANCES LOCKS, '09