

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Belden James Lehn

After two months of hospitalization, on December 2, 1956, death came to Mrs. Mary Belden James Lehn, whose association with Hunter College spanned more than fifty years.

In September 1903, Mary Belden James was admitted to Normal College from the high school in Dover, New Jersey, and she was graduated two years later with the degree in the Six Years Course. The following September she returned to take additional work and was again graduated in June 1906, this time earning one of the first recognized degrees which the College granted. At the time of her graduation, she had the distinction of being designated as Honor Student 2. After a brief period of teaching in the public schools, she returned to the College in 1907 to help with the clerical work in the President's Office. However, in a short time she was transferred to the Registrar's Office because there was more need of help there than in the President's Office. During the period when the separation of the High School from the College was in progress, Miss James worked in the High School Office. Soon after the separation was completed, she returned to the Registrar's Office of the College. With the growth of the College and the expansion of the Office, Miss James was appointed Assistant Registrar.

When Professor Lillian M. Snow retired as Registrar in 1932, Mrs. Lehn was appointed her successor. Up to that time, she had helped to organize and develop the Evening Session, the Summer Session, the Brooklyn Branch of Hunter College, and the Bronx Campus. The present system of preliminary registration was introduced under her leadership as Registrar. For many years a pre-admission program was conducted jointly by the Bureau of Educational Guidance and the Registrar. Over the years, she served faithfully and devotedly as Secretary of the College Faculty and of the Faculty Council, and as chairman or secretary of many important policy-forming committees. She always had confidence in the Hunter College student and gave wise counsel to many. Each year former students returned to renew friendships formed in undergraduate days and to give testimony to her good advice. Mrs. Lehn was elected to Alumnae Membership in Phi Beta Kappa and was active in the College Chapter for many years.

While pursuing her career at College, Mrs. Lehn also found time to write. More than fifty short stories have appeared in various publications. "Broken Arcs", a volume of poetry, was published in 1950. Each issue of the Registrar's Guide at College carried a letter to the student body.

In 1940, Mrs. Lehn was widowed by the untimely death of her husband Herman Lehn, production manager for the Kerite Wire and Cable Company. At the time, her two daughters were students at Mount Holyoke College. Each is now the mother of three children,

whose pictures always occupied an important place on Mrs. Lehn's desk and about whom she never tired of talking.

In addition to her career at College, her writing, and her role as mother and later as grandmother, Mrs. Lehn gave a large share of her time to her church. She was a devoted member of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, where for many years she had been the tireless leader of a group which held weekly meetings.

At the College Commencement in June 1956, Mrs. Lehn was awarded the honorary degree of Master of Humane Letters with the following citation: "Mary Belden James Lehn, for nearly fifty years a participant in the administration of Hunter College, Registrar since 1932, Secretary of the Faculty and of the Faculty Council for many years. Kindly adviser and friend of innumerable students, devoted alumna and loyal servant of the College cherished by generations of associates. Poet, master of amiable retort to colleagues amiable or otherwise. In her treatment of College records meriting praise antithetical to that bestowed on a fellow bard, Oliver Goldsmith, by Dr. Samuel Johnson—She adorned nothing in these sacred files that she touched. Leaving as she departs an unfading remembrance of gentle integrity and of integral gentility, of firmness in affection and of affection in firmness. Deserving finally Spenser's line, "She heard with patience all unto the end".

On September 1, Mrs. Lehn retired from the College she loved so well, and on October 2 entered the hospital as the result of a fall.

The large attendance of her many friends at the beautiful service arranged and conducted by Dr. John S. Bonnell and the numerous floral pieces were a fitting tribute to one who had given a life of service to her college, her church, and her family.

EDNA M. ROMER

FACULTY FACTS

Last summer Professor Laura Guggenbuhl '22 of the Mathematics Department was a delegate of the American Association of University Women to the Congress of the International Federation of University Women, which was held in Paris, August 3-10. Professor Guggenbuhl was also named chairman of a committee on local arrangements for the meetings of the History of Science Society and Section L of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which were held in New York City during the last week in December.

Professor Carolyn Eisele '23 of the Hunter College Department of Mathematics spoke on Nov. 27 before the Metropolitan New York Section of the History of Science Society at a meeting at Hunter College. Her subject was "Charles S. Pierce, 19th Century Man of Science". Professor Eisele has been using a grant from the American Philosophical Society for the purpose of research on Pierce's activities as a historian of science.