

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly from October to June, inclusive, at 12-14 Lawton Street, New Rochelle, N. Y., by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College of the City of New York.

Entered as second class matter, 1895, at the post-office at New Rochelle under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. XLV

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1940

No. 8

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S VISIT

On October 28 Hunter was honored by a visit from the President of the United States.

The President and his entourage arrived at about one, and were entertained at luncheon by members of the Board of Higher Education and representatives of the Faculty. At two the group mounted the platform of the Assembly Hall, before a mammoth audience of staff, students, and alumnae. Meanwhile an overflow of girls crowded into the Auditorium and the Lounge to listen to the exercises on loud-speakers. Classes were of course suspended to give all a chance to hear, and if possible see, their Chief Executive.

The general air of happy excitement was refreshing. At the President's arrival, throngs of girls filled every vantage-point in halls and on stairs, and even on the sidewalks outside—all well-behaved despite the great pressure and discomfort, all charming in their youthful enthusiasm.

President Roosevelt entered delightfully into the infectious spirit of the day. He must have sensed the eager expectancy that electrified the air during the brief introductory words of President Shuster and Dr. Tead, the latter of whom referred to the "hope deferred" at the time of our Dedication that had now become "hope realized"; and to his expression of pleasure at attending "the final Dedication of Hunter College", he added the assurance that this was not his final appearance there, since he had not seen enough of the students or of the building.

After a gay reference to the Mayor's skill in "wangling" millions for the City, he showed a sympathetic understanding of the overcrowding in the teaching profession in New York, but added encouragingly that in many parts of the country there is still need for more teachers and better-qualified teachers. As for our College, he declared that, as a neighbor, he knew Hunter well, and knew that "there is no question about its usefulness in the community".

Then he repeated his promise to come back and look over Hunter completely, "modern lighting" and all; for, though "an old man of 58", he was still "young enough to take an interest in this generation and advocate changes". He reiterated his belief, with a good-humored reference to the "razzing" occasioned by his original use of the phrase, that nation and state and city did not want to return to "the horse-and-buggy days"; and then, growing deeply and impressively serious, he declared that we do want to maintain one thing alive in the "horse-and-buggy days", patriotism. "For some things that are old *are* worth preserving—life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness; our form of government; and America!" E. ADELAIDE HAHN.

DEDICATION WEEK

By E. ADELAIDE HAHN

Not since its Golden Jubilee, over a score of years ago, has the Alma Mater known such a week of celebration as came to its share last month. Classes were suspended on October 8, 9, 10, and 11; and Hunter gave herself up to ceremonies and festivities. The Grand Marshal, Associate Professor James M. Hendel of the Chemistry Department, together with his diligent and devoted band of co-workers, had planned the program with zeal and care; and the result was a succession of events to be recorded in red letters in the Annals of our College.

The dignified and impressive invitation sent to "the Colleges, Universities, and learned Societies of the Western Hemisphere" over the signatures of Professor Hendel and Dr. Tead announced that it was being issued "in recognition of the vision of Thomas Hunter, his associates, and the City Fathers who in the year 1870 founded the first free college for women in order that those who did not share in this world's goods might claim their birthright to the riches of the mind, and that this institution, known as Hunter College, might fruitfully symbolize that basic article in the creed of the American nation, to wit, equality of opportunity for all, regardless of race, position, color, or creed; the great work accomplished throughout seven decades in preparing thousands upon thousands of students to give of their best efficiently to insure the progress of an increasingly complex civilization, and in maintaining, while so doing, standards of discipline and culture transmitted from the great colleges of the past; the devoted series of graduates who have taken their places in many fields of public and private endeavor—in teaching and law, in government and social welfare work, in medicine and philanthropy, in the arts and letters, in business and journalism—and who have manifested unstintingly their abiding affection for the College which trained them; the coöperation of City, State, and Federal Governments in the erection of a new setting for Hunter College endeavor—a modern structure in the heart of New York, sixteen stories in height, equipped with lecture halls and auditoriums, gymnasiums and laboratories, roof terraces and gardens, all beautiful and useful alike; the hope for a bright future under the leadership of President George N. Shuster". This invitation was accepted by 164 institutions of higher learning (including five South American universities), 25 learned societies and educational associations, and several civic and professional organizations of various types.

THE INAUGURATION TEA

Directly after the Inauguration ceremonies, tea was served in the North Lounge under the auspices of the Hunter College Faculty Club. Assistant Professor Stern, President of the Club, was in charge.

The newly-inaugurated President stood in the reception line, together with Mrs. Shuster, Dr. Tead, Mrs. Mack, and Professor Stern. Those invited to pour at the tea and coffee tables included Dean Egan and Assistant Dean Anthony; Dr. Brown, Principal of the High School, and Dr. Brumbaugh, Principal of the Elementary School; Professors Gallagher and Hahn; Associate Professors Bushey, Jacobson, Neidhardt, Wyman, and Young; Miss Bush, Mrs. Kimball, and Mrs. Lehn, heads of the College's three important offices. Those presiding over the punch-bowl were: Professors Busse, Chase, Curoe, Daugherty, Fairchild, Fordrung, Lehnerts, McDuffee, Moore; Associate Professors Helfer, Roller, Woehl; Assistant Professor Riess; Dr. Meehan. The following served as assistant hostesses: Associate Professor Elliott; Assistant Professors Dexter, Gold, Greene, Hathaway; Mrs. Epstein, Dr. Simpson, Miss Walker; Mrs. Shmerler.

Miss Lehnerts, daughter of Professor Lehnerts, rendered several songs in her rich soprano, including one the words of which were written by Associate Professor Wilson.

THE INAUGURATION DINNER

The big social event of Dedication Week was the Inauguration Dinner at the Commodore, attended by over 800 persons including representatives of every branch and division connected with Hunter, from the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education to the Custodian-Engineer.

The Cocktail Room of the Commodore, where the preliminary reception was held, and the Grand Ballroom, the scene of the dinner itself, presented the gayest of appearances. Hunterites in gala array are a goodly spectacle, and this evening everybody was happy as well as dressed-up. The folk on the floor admired the dignitaries on the dais; the dignitaries on the dais probably admired the folk on the floor; and Professor Joseph J. Reilly made a very handsome toastmaster. From the preliminary cocktails partaken of by some, to the glowingly illuminated cakes distributed to all, every detail spoke of good cheer and glad festivity.

The first speaker of the evening was Dr. Shuster's fellow-President, Dr. Paul Klapper of Queens College. He greeted his new colleague, concerning whom he truly said that student opinion echoed faculty judgment, and said how suitable it was that one of the municipal colleges should have a President come to it—as had President Klapper's own former President Dr. Finley—from the world of letters.

Dr. Klapper was followed by Mrs. Walter S. Mack, Jr., Chairman of the Administrative Committee of Hunter College, who,

not to be outdone by Mayor La Guardia with his story of his Jean, reported how her Tony (who is really headed for Harvard) had proclaimed that some day he was going to Hunter College. Then, turning serious, she told of the high standards set up by the committee entrusted with the responsibility of finding a President for Hunter College, of the hard search conducted in quest of one who should meet these standards, and of the happy results in the choice of Dr. Shuster. She closed with good wishes to this "great teacher, great scholar, great humanitarian".

Next Professor Harry Morgan Ayres of Columbia University told how, in winning his doctor's degree at that institution, Hunter's new President had charmed his examiners; and welcomed him into the "communion of saints" that has Thomas Hunter as an illustrious example, with the hope that the date of his own academic canonization might be long postponed.

Mrs. David DeSola Pool, invited to speak as an alumna of the College, recalled her undergraduate enthusiasms, stressed the importance of spiritual values—"unless the Lord build the house in vain the toilers build"—and foretold that the qualities possessed by Dr. Shuster, whom it had been her privilege to meet in various undertakings, would be given by his girls to the world.

Next Mrs. Irita Van Doren, Editor of the *Herald Tribune Books*, indulged in some charming reminiscences of the year she spent at Hunter some thirty years ago, when, she said, she learned more than she taught. Her affectionate reference to Helen Gray Cone was especially moving. Then she spoke with gratitude of Dr. Shuster's reviews for *Books*, which she felicitously described as commanding the respect of the learned as well as of the general reader, and the interest of the general reader as well as of the learned.

Miss Kathryn Starbuck, Secretary of Skidmore College, told in friendly manner of her contacts with Hunter and with Dr. Shuster.

Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, President of Vassar College, treated several topics on which he may be regarded as an authority—the uniqueness of the American college, and particularly of the American college for women; the kinship of Vassar and Hunter; and the qualifications of a college president, so well met by Dr. Shuster.

And finally we heard from the "hero of the occasion", as the toastmaster called him, himself. Dr. Shuster spoke of the Hunter of the past and the Hunter of the future. In connection with the Hunter of the past, he paid graceful tribute to President Hunter, to Miss Wadleigh, to Dean Mills. As to the Hunter of the future, let one of the audience speak instead of the modest new President, and express the hope and joy and gratitude with which we who cherish the Hunter of the present see her entrusted to the leadership of this loved and respected new counsellor, guide, and friend.