

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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No. 5

## THE MAY ELECTION

My appointment of Inspectors and Tellers is as follows:—

Mrs. Joseph Neadle  
Mrs. Gaylord Worstell  
Miss Rosalie Rosenberg  
Miss Mary Gollow.

IRENE B. GRAFF,  
President.

## TEA TIME

Maytime is teatime! An air of festivity reigns in anticipation of the Spring Reunion and Tea of the Associate Alumnae, to be held on Saturday, May 14, 1938, in the North Ball-Room at the Hotel Astor, at 2:30 P. M.

For winter-jaded spirits there is no more effective tonic than crisp, merry, vivid conversation and entertainment; an interesting and varied program is planned therefore, keyed to spring, novel and entertaining, but brief.

We are playing favorites! There will be "curtain calls" for the Classes of 1928 and 1933, who are celebrating their Tenth and Fifth Anniversaries, respectively, at the Reunion, and taking part in the program.

For a day, '28 and '33 will look backward upon their days at College and affectionately renew their devotion to their Alma Mater. Mindful of their permanent membership in the great alumnae family, they deem it their greatest privilege to join with the Association for the ideals of the College.

On the musical program, the Class of 1928 will feature Mrs. Ann Moore Donnelly, soprano, who, with Mrs. Evelyn Back Zuckerman at the piano, will handsomely delight us with songs. Miss Catherine Weigl of the Class of 1933 will play two appropriate piano selections for your pleasure.

It is our privilege to have as guest artists a group of talented and versatile undergraduates who will entertain in a program of Choral Readings, directed by the gracious and charming Miss Helen Gertrude Hicks, of the Department of Speech and Dramatics.

This "bringing out" of our young students is an expression of the pride and affection the Alumnae have for their cherished charges. Do encourage these aspiring young women with an enthusiastic response.

After the program, tea will be served and a social hour will follow, during which time classmates may visit, exchange greetings, and renew friendships.

Let us all plan to come to the Reunion. Only there can one answer Spring's invitation, more enticing than ever.

MARY ABBOTT CURTIN,  
Chairman, Alumnae Spring Reunion.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Special Activities Committee on April 12, Alumnae present discussed possible ways of increasing membership in the Association among the recent graduates. Dr. Weintraub, a graduate of Hunter College and a member of the staff of the College, addressed the group. It was pointed out that, with the thousands of graduates Hunter has, a strong Alumnae could become a potent force in the City of New York. The possibility of our group's raising funds for a scholarship for some worthy alumnae for graduate study was suggested as a way of arousing interest among graduates. A committee was formed to discuss these plans with the President of the Alumnae Association before any definite action is taken.

The S. A. C. has pledged itself to give a party on the evening of May 13 for the junior boys' group at Lenox Hill Settlement. Miss Gertrude Goller will conduct the games, and all Alumnae interested are urged to come to familiarize themselves with the fine work being done at the Settlement founded by Hunter College many years ago. Come and help these children enjoy our party!

Enthusiasm for our Fifth Annual Formal grows apace, and prompt action is urged. All who wish to avail themselves of the "bargain" must do so within the next week. Until May 25, tickets are \$1.75 a couple; after that day and until the dance on June 4th, at 9:00 P. M., they will be the usual \$2.00. You will be furthering a most worthy cause and furnishing for yourselves and your friends an unusually delightful evening. A splendid orchestra has been engaged, and the latest games will be available for those who just wish to take things easy instead of dancing. There is no thrill equal to that of dancing to an arrangement of "Fame" in a delightful setting, our very own, overlooking the reservoir from the balconies of our lounge. Tell your friends about this gala affair which comes but once a year, and which no one should miss. Only through your coöperation can this dance be a success. If you cannot come yourself, get a ticket and send it to a friend so that she may see how gracious Hunter Alumnae can be and how lovely is dancing on a June night. Before May 25, send \$1.75 for a ticket for two, to either Grace Mary Stackman, 33-18 16th Street, Woodside, Long Island, or Henriette E. Judels, 700 West 179th Street, New York. Folders about the Dance and tickets will be mailed to interested friends if addresses are sent to either Miss Stackman or Miss Judels.

H. E. J.

nalism, Social Work, and Business. While the Faculty does not seriously question the value of these new Specializations, a sizable minority is troubled about the particular degree—A.B. or some other—that should be granted to students who complete them.

Reference was made earlier to the three divisions of a liberal arts curriculum; namely, the Prescribed Work, the Specialization, and the Optional Work. As to the last of these, the curriculum study committee has recommended two changes, both of which have been made effective, in whole or in part. It recommended that optionals be made free. Behind this lay the desire to remove limitations that had grown up historically around this part of a student's college life. If optional work has real meaning in a liberal arts curriculum, its meaning would seem to lie in providing an opportunity for a student to ride her own intellectual and esthetic hobbies—whether for occupational efficiency or for avocational fulfillment. In curriculum terms, this point of view transmutes into the provision that there shall be no limitation on the proportion of the optional work which may be taken in any one department or subject.

The second change with respect to optional work has been the committee's move to have the various departments reexamine prerequisites for courses, retaining only such as are essential to success in these courses. Every Hunter graduate will recall how certain courses were barred because they were attractive castles at the top of a steep mountain of prerequisites. In the early days of short-unit courses for farmers, this same curriculum vestige discouraged many an ambitious adult at the agricultural schools. The farmer desirous of learning how to correct murrain among his cattle was faced with the requirement of elementary biology, if not also of physics and chemistry! He started, and he quit, until his felt needs could be more economically and directly met. At Hunter College, the reexamination of prerequisites for optional courses has been proceeding, and some of the steep mountains have been made less steep. But we seem to be in the presence here of a deep-grained academic presupposition; namely, that to profit by C, a student must pass all the way through A and B, even where it is patent that only tiny areas of A and B have any bearing on C. Thus some colleges set up a course in physics as prerequisite to the study of general psychology.

And so, the curriculum revision at Hunter College, begun on a large scale in the winter of 1933 and still in progress, has attempted to keep in mind student aptitudes, interests, and needs on the one hand, and present occupational demand on the other. Indeed, the reconciliation of these two constitutes the real challenge to enlightened liberal arts college administration in our day.

PHILIP R. V. CUROE,  
Professor of Education.

## THE FIRST EARLE LECTURE

All interested are cordially invited to attend the first Earle Lecture, to be held in the West Lounge of the Bronx Social Hall on Tuesday, May 17th, at 4:15. Tea will be served at the close of the lecture.

The Earle Lectures, which will deal with the Greek language, literature, art, and civilization, have been made possible by a generous bequest to Hunter College by Miss Elsie Earle, one-time Recording Secretary of the Associate Alumnae, in memory of her sister, Miss Josephine Earle, Hunter Alumna of the Class of 1894, "to promote the study of Greek".

The first Earle Lecturer will be Mr. Gilbert Highet, Fellow and Tutor of Oxford University, this year visiting Associate at Columbia University, and just appointed to Columbia's permanent staff.

The subject of the lecture will be "The Place of Art in Greek Life".

E. ADELAIDE HAHN,

Chairman of Committee on Earle Lectures.

## MEMORIAL MEETING IN HONOR OF GEORGE M. WHICHER

On March the third there was held in the College Auditorium Building a singularly beautiful Memorial Meeting in Honor of George Meason Whicher, Head of the Department of Latin and Greek, 1899-1924. The program, which was arranged by the Chairman of the Meeting, Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, Head of the Department of Latin and Greek, who, as student and colleague, knew Professor Whicher well, brought to those privileged to be present a composite picture of the life and influence of a truly "white soul". Like Professor Whicher's poems which, in the words of Professor Nelson Glenn McCrea, reflect the "moods . . . of life" in their range "from grave to gay," the tributes paid so eloquently and so reverently to his memory by those who knew and loved him—and to know him was to love him—ranged from attempts to evaluate that "something precious, something lovely", which in the words of the chairman every student of his carried away with her, to the vivid recollection of some amusing incident in his classroom, which was so joyous a place that his students appear to have resented bitterly even national holidays when they necessitated absence from his Latin class.

The program opened with a musical selection rendered with admirable technique and spirit by the Misses Beatrice and Anna Brown, 1937 and 1938. There followed an address by Professor Edgar Dawson on "George M. Whicher as a Member of the Hunter College Faculty". Professor Dawson recalled Professor Whicher's indefatigable and eminently successful efforts to secure for Hunter College that place in the sun which she so proudly holds to-day. It was he who worked with unceasing zeal both

to raise the standard of scholarship within the College by insisting upon rigid requirements for college entrance, and to secure recognition for the College from without by laboring loyally and triumphantly for the establishment at Hunter of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

After Mrs. Joseph L. Herzog (Eleanor Guiterman) had read an appreciative critique of Professor Whicher's light verse by that master in the field, her brother, Arthur Guiterman, and the same poet's delightful poem in honor of Professor Whicher's Golden Wedding, four of Professor Whicher's former students, Miss Minnie Obermeier, Mrs. Evelyn Flynn Bailey, Professor Marie K. Gallagher, and Professor Bertha Goldman Gold, in brief talks stressed respectively their master's scholarly integrity, his sympathetic understanding, his power to make his subject live through profound scholarship and the lighter humorous touch, and his delightful facility as *raconteur par excellence*.

Miss Tamara Zmitrovich, 1938, accompanied by Miss Eleanor Kohs, 1939, then sang with rare felicity Professor Whicher's poem *The Spring*, which Professor Charles W. Hughes had set to music. Immediately thereafter four of Professor Whicher's poems were read with deep appreciation and remarkable adaptation to the poet's mood by the Misses Bernice Crammes, 1939, Ethel Edith Cohen, 1938, Tippins Brown, 1939, and Urania Parrino, 1939. The first three poems showed respectively Professor Whicher's love for Vergil, Horace, and Keats, while the last, "On First Looking into Stedman's 'American Anthology'", was a delightfully human poem in a lighter, more whimsical vein.

The second formal address of the evening, on "George M. Whicher as a Man of Letters", was delivered by Professor Nelson Glenn McCrea of Columbia University. From Professor McCrea's magnificent appreciation of the George M. Whicher who still lives through his poems, in which "one finds everywhere the seeing eye, the understanding mind, unfailing kindness and courtesy, . . . humor that is often Horatian in its ironic quality, intense sympathy with the pathos of human life, an ardent love of sensuous beauty, . . . a keen enjoyment of the use of language as a fine art, . . . and finally a pervasive *urbanitas* . . .", one either became "intimately acquainted with the spiritual and artistic riches of a new friend" or voiced a prayer of heartfelt gratitude that "an enduring expression of the various traits" of "the engaging personality" of a dearly beloved old friend would ever remain for those who were not privileged to know him "in the flesh".

An exquisite poem in honor of Professor Whicher by Amelia Josephine Burr was feelingly read by Mrs. Leslie Graff, President of the Associate Alumnae. The program closed with the reading of a group of poems

recalling the poet's own life: "Two Memories", a charming recollection of the town and forest of his boyhood in Muscatine; "To E. M. from Maine", a paean of praise for "the glory of New England Hills"; "Amity Street", a delightful appreciation of "a harbor safe, a glad retreat" where, he spent his last days; and "On Jack's Remembrance of Me", showing him as a grandfather. These were read with grace and charm by Professor Elizabeth-Vera Loeb Stern, once one of Professor Whicher's students; Professor Pearl Cleveland Wilson, who had had the distinction of being his classmate at Columbia; Mrs. Anna Michels Trinsey, who had come to know him well through their common friendship for Professor Cone; and Dr. Harry L. Levy, who met Professor Whicher on his last public appearance in New York and came under the spell of his delightful personality. The last poem of the group, a hauntingly beautiful one called "Earth Hunger", was read in a deeply moving manner by Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, Chairman of the Meeting. With this reading the program concluded on the same high plane consistently maintained throughout.

Both those who had the inestimable privilege of knowing and loving Professor Whicher—and to few men or women has it been vouchsafed to inspire such deep and abiding affection and respect in the minds and hearts of those with whom they come in contact—and those who had hitherto known and admired him only through the enthusiastic encomia of his friends or through his "lines eloquent of the man", were the better and the happier for having surrendered completely to the charm of his engaging and radiant personality which pervaded this beautiful Memorial Meeting. To the audience for its sensitive understanding, to those who participated for their excellent interpretations, to the chairman, Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, above all, for her graceful and admirably well chosen words in introduction and appreciation as well as for a program brilliantly conceived and magnificently executed, "gratis persolvere dignas non opis est nostrae".

THELMA B. DEGRAFF.

#### EARTH HUNGER

How often have I schooled my restless heart  
No more to crave those joys that long were  
mine;  
To watch unmoved earth's pageantry depart,  
Nor grieve for what so soon I must resign.  
I am content (I think) to leave it all:—  
The mid-May orchard foaming on the grass,—  
The bluebird's tender, wavering mating-call,—  
I will not hunger for them; let them pass.  
But then, what purple shadows in the pines!  
What sunrise glory on the hill-top breaks!  
The full moon through the groping hemlock shines!  
And once again the lifelong hunger wakes.

O World-to-come, of unimagined bliss!  
How can I leave, for you, a world so fair as this?

GEORGE MEASON WHICHER.