

# NORMAL COLLEGE HEAD OUT AFTER 37 YEARS

Dr. Thomas Hunter Has Had a  
Most Interesting Career.

IS NOW PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Retiring President Has Served in the  
Public Schools Since He Was  
19 Years Old.

Dr. Thomas Hunter, who has been President of the Normal College ever since its foundation in 1869, presented his resignation at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of that institution yesterday afternoon. He told a TIMES reporter that he wanted to retire in the full vigor of his manhood, and not when decrepit, as he had seen other men do. The resignation was accepted, and will go into effect on Sept. 1. Here is Dr. Hunter's letter:

The Trustees of the Normal College:

Gentlemen: Having reached the seventy-fifth year of my age and the fifty-sixth of my service in the public educational system of this city, I respectfully request my retirement from the Presidency of the Normal College, a position which I have held for nearly thirty-seven years, the retirement to take effect from the first of next September.

I take pleasure in stating that during my long service I have been treated by every Board of Education and every Board of Trustees with uniform courtesy, consideration, and kindness, for which I feel deeply grateful. Sincerely yours,  
THOMAS HUNTER.

William A. Wilmer, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Normal College, presented the resignation to the Trustees. Mr. Wilmer paid a tribute to Dr. Hunter, and then moved that the title of President Emeritus be conferred upon him.

Mr. Man, who up to February of this year, had been for many years Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Normal College, moved an amendment to this resolution. He requested that in addition to conferring the title of President Emeritus upon Dr. Hunter, the Trustees should give him a voice in the deliberations of the Board of Trustees and that the by-laws should be suspended in order that this might be done. He also moved that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a suitable memorial of the life and work of Dr. Hunter to be presented to the Board of Trustees at the first meeting in September. The resolution was adopted as amended. The Board of Education retired Dr. Hunter with an annual pension

of \$5,000.

"Dr. Hunter's retirement does not come as a surprise to his friends," Mr. Man said later. "He has had a remarkable career. As Principal of Public School No. 85, in Thirteenth Street, he earned the love of many pupils. Parents preferred to send their children to his school rather than to private institutions."

After the meeting of the Board of Trustees Dr. Hunter gave a TIMES reporter an account of his career. He said:

"I was born in the County of Down, Ireland, in 1831. I was educated there at the Santry Science School, which is really the equivalent of a college in this country. I came to America at an early age and settled in this city, where I have always lived. Here I improved my education by reading and study.

"I became a class teacher in Public School 35, in Thirteenth Street, when I was 19 years old. In 1857 I became Principal of the school. I was the first Principal to abolish corporal punishment in the schools and my action was the direct cause of the legal abolition of corporal punishment. My school was really the equivalent of a high school. At that time there was no legal warrant for a high school in this city. Graduates from my school were admitted to the freshman classes of the College of the City of New York.

"In 1863 I organized the first evening high school in the United States. This school became the model for all evening high schools. The same year I was elected an Associate Superintendent under City Supt. S. S. Randol. I de-

... as I preferred to stay a Principal.

"In November, 1869, I was elected President of the Normal College. It was then a Normal School, but it has gradually come to have a high school course of four years and a college course of three years. When first established the school stood at Broadway and East Fourth Street. In 1874 it was moved to its present site."

Several colleges have conferred degrees upon President Hunter. He told some interesting anecdotes in connection with these degrees. He said:

"I got the LL. D. degree from New York University through a former teacher of mine named Arthur Forbes. He wrote me in 1897, saying that he was studying for the Presbyterian ministry, and asked my aid in getting him a D. D. degree. I agreed to help him, and wrote a letter to Chancellor McCracken of New York University. In reply Dr. McCracken wrote that the Board of Trustees of the university had decided to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws upon me. I received the degree, but poor Forbes did not get his.

"I received my degree from the University of Omaha in a similar way. The Rev. Dr. Finley, a Presbyterian clergyman and a friend of mine, was responsible for it. When a young man he was a Presbyterian clergyman in this city, but he was not a brilliant success. He moved to Nebraska, and bought some property there. The City of Omaha was built around his property, and naturally its value increased. When the city became large enough to have a university the inhabitants found that they had no suitable ground for the institution. Dr. Finley gave the site. At his suggestion the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon me."