

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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The May Reunion.

We are all still young enough to enjoy surprises, and the delightful one furnished by the Reunion Committee on May 15 was most successful. We sat with the tense interest of children listening to a fairy tale, while the very human and dramatic story of *The Yellow Jacket* was unfolded to us by Dr. Frederic Poole. His representation of all the characters and the manner in which a few descriptive touches set the scenes were a most powerful call upon the imagination, so powerful that the touching farewell of the mother to her child brought tears to the eyes of many. The dramatic climax, where the heartless coquette, Tso, meets her fate, was thrilling in Dr. Poole's rendering. It made a stronger impression upon us than the stage representation which we had seen several winters ago. Dr. Poole gave us the spiritual and literary values of the old masterpiece of which we had been only dimly aware.

His wonderful transformations from one gorgeous aspect to another by removing one layer of Chinese costume after another, added much to our pleasure, as did his artistic blackboard and chalk illustration of Chinese words and his interpretation of their imaginative and often humorous symbolism, with which he prefaced his performance.

The singing and dancing of the Misses Huey in beautiful Chinese costumes were most interesting and enjoyable and were a suggestive indication of the extent and variety of the resources of our own members and of the students of the college and high school.

Dr. Hunter and Dr. Davis made short addresses and received their usual warm response from the Alumnae.

Professor Cone set forth the aims of a new college society, the *Fellowship of Goodwill*: "To deepen in the life of the individual, and thus to spread in the life of the community, the spirit of goodwill to men, irrespective of differences in race or nationality, and all other distinctions tending to become barriers." She remarked that the play which we had been enjoying through Dr. Poole's recitation strikingly illustrated, by its moving human quality, one of the beliefs of the Fellowship—the faith that the study of comparative literature will reveal an essential kinship underlying all difference. She stated that the membership of the society was now about one hundred and seventy; that all Alumnae, as well as students of the college and members of the staff of the college, high school, and model school, were eligible for membership; and that notifications and further particulars would be sent to any one addressing her at the college.

Hunter College Trustees.

We have won the privilege of having our own Board of Trustees for Hunter College, which was hitherto under the control of the Board of Education. The full text of the new measure was printed in the February NEWS.

John Jasper Memorial.

A large and noteworthy audience assembled in the College Chapel on Thursday evening, May 28, in order to honor in fitting form the memory of the late John Jasper, former Superintendent of Schools. The College orchestra contributed appropriate music in the most commendable manner. On the platform were the distinguished speakers of the evening, all of whom had known Mr. Jasper most intimately, and who referred to his many sterling qualities of mind and heart in the most impressive manner. Mr. Churchill, President of the Board of Education, presided. The Honorable Everett P. Wheeler, John Jasper's intimate friend, paid a most beautiful tribute to his departed friend. Our own Dr. Hunter then delivered in impressive fashion a most eloquent address in honor of the former superintendent of schools. Our esteemed President Emeritus concluded by reading the following poem, which he had written in Mr. Jasper's honor:

We meet to honor him, the brave and true,
The greatest Chief Manhattan ever knew,
Commanding forces many thousands strong;
But not with shot and shell, he battled long
'Gainst latent darkness deep, and sin and
crime,
With all the nameless vices of the time.
His banner bore the Justice he had taught,
Tempered with Mercy and with Love in-
wrought.

He was no stoic centered in himself,
Nor selfish seeker after gain or pelf;
He was in truth an honest, simple man,
Whose gen'rous heart his ample means outran.
Endowed with humor, sign of genius pure,
And wit whose shaft was keen and sure,
Imparting power to gain his noble ends,—
These gracious gifts endeared him to his friends.
Born near the Hudson where it meets the sea,
He loved the flowers that grew upon the lea;
He loved his native town with passion grave;
He loved the land that Lincoln toiled to save.
At home with wife and children always gay,
And ever cheerful as a summer's day.
How they will miss his never failing care
That neither time nor sickness could impair.

President Davis made a motion that there be some permanent memorial to Mr. Jasper, perhaps to take the form of a tablet, in addition to the proposed naming of the present large school Number 9 after its old pupil. Mr. Churchill, in pursuance of the motion, appointed a committee to take charge of the matter, the members being President Davis, Chairman, Associate Superintendent Straubenmuller, Mr. Wade, Mr. Jameson, and Miss Hester A. Roberts.

Mr. Isaac Bell.

Mr. Louis Bell has lately presented to our College a portrait of his father, Mr. Isaac Bell, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude beyond power of expression, as he was one of those noble men who founded the College, that greatest gift to the womanhood of New York. We are delighted to receive the portrait, and extend our thanks to the generous donor.

It affords us pleasure to print the following lines regarding Mr. Bell, very kindly written by Dr. Hunter:

Isaac Bell, a retired merchant, who for many years had devoted his time and services to the welfare of New York, his native city, discovered that many of the younger teachers were sadly lacking in academic education and in the normal training so necessary to produce the best results in the work of instruction.

He was appointed a Commissioner of Public Schools in the winter of 1869; and on the organization of the Board of Education he was made Chairman of the Committee on Normal, Evening and Colored Schools; and as such, he introduced in the late autumn of the same year sixteen resolutions to the members of the Board of Education, assembled at a dinner at his home. The first of these resolutions was as follows: *There shall be a Normal and High School for the education and training of female teachers*, which was passed unanimously.

This resolution constituted Mr. Bell one of the principal founders of the Normal (now Hunter) College of the City of New York.

Lenox Hill Settlement.

The Settlement is planning again to cooperate with the Yorkville Neighborhood Association in the summer work. 1,348 people, the majority children, were last summer sent away on trips averaging in length about two weeks, while 3,285 mothers and children enjoyed single day trips. The summer was record-breaking in its results. Comparison with other years will bring out two facts: a maximum of persons benefited, a minimum of expense, a minimum not proportional but actual.

This year, however, we are facing a very different proposition. The war has taxed the purses of the generous philanthropists to the utmost extent for the sufferers on both sides of the water. Bread, coal, and rent have been of immediate importance. Our people have survived the winter only under the severest difficulties, and this year, when the undernourished little bodies of the children are more than ever in need of the health-giving summer trip, camps are closing. On all sides we are meeting the answer, "Owing to the lack of funds, we shall be unable to send so many children this year."

Having demonstrated by last year's work the need and the demand for vacations, we are brought to the question, "How can we meet this year's problem?"

The work of the summer must be carried on along slightly different lines. We can not depend altogether upon the free agencies, they will have too many demands on them. Our task must be to supplement their work as best we may.

The Settlement can find innumerable places for children, by a small payment of money, twenty-three cents a day in one camp, (forty-five cents for adults), with two gorgeous weeks at the seashore.

We must have funds for the unexpected party; funds to pay the board of the specially frail child, who comes to us in an emergency, and for whom there will be no place in the free parties; funds to make up in some other way to the children who will of necessity be denied all the joys of rolling on the grass without fear of the whistle of the policeman.

We who see the need, and with dread are facing the disappointments of the summer, urge you to help us. You have done much, you have helped us to grow, and with growth has come a larger realization of the needs of the people. Of paramount importance, in any real work of the neighborhood, is the care of the *health* of the future worker, health and strength and power to shoulder his own burdens; and the child who has this winter been underfed and poorly clad, and has lived with the nerve strain of a worried and harassed mother, needs his vacation as never before. R. M.

Natural Science Committee.

The 45th Flower Show was held on May 4, 5, 6, 7, in Public School 91, Forsyth and Stanton Streets, of which Miss Emma Sylvester is principal, and which is attended by almost 3000 pupils.

Through the efforts of the workers, who are drawn from the Public Education Association, the Fruit and Flower Guild, and the Natural Science Committee, children and flowers, both wild and cultivated, are brought together, and a foundation for some happy rambles is being laid.

The interest of many of the teachers was reawakened by the informal talks given by Mrs. Northrop and Mrs. Popper; and then the influence was passed to the pupils, who sent charming notes of appreciation to some fifty friends who had sent the flowers.

Flowers came through the appeal in the NEWS, and should these not have been acknowledged, we use this opportunity of making good any shortcomings due to the lack of addresses, and at the same time ask further co-operation for the ensuing year. E. F.

Class of '74.

A reunion of the Class of '74 was called for Saturday, May first. A circle of twenty-two responded to the call of the chairman, Mrs. Mary Corbould Green. The afternoon proved a most enjoyable one in the old and familiar surroundings of our beloved College. Dr. Hunter was the guest of honor on this happy occasion.

MARY R. DAVIS.