

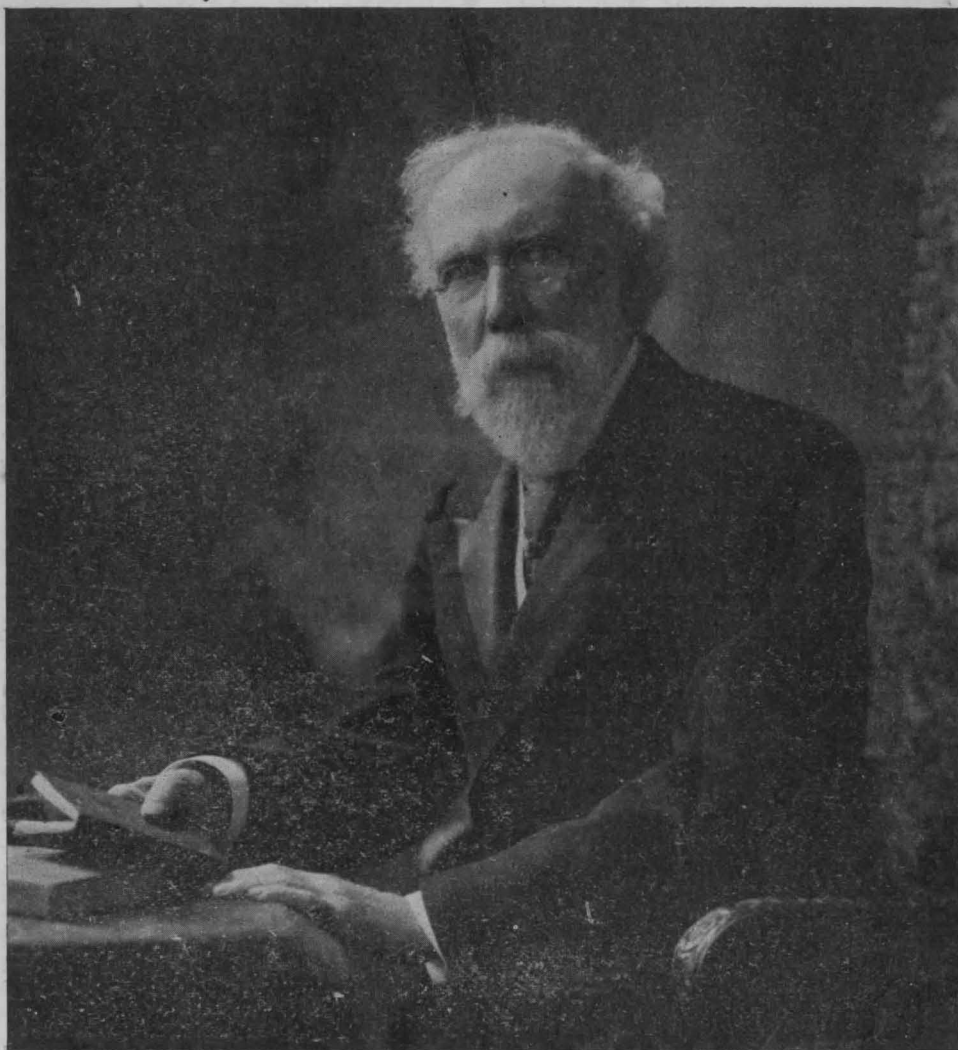
THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College of the City of New York.
(Entered at the New Rochelle Post Office at the pound rate of postage)

VOL XX

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1915.

No. 7



In Memoriam Thomas Hunter, LL.D., President Emeritus of Hunter College

One of the lyrics in "Pippa Passes" is a song of an ancient king who, in his long and wise rule, had quite outgrown the infirmities of age, and the very necessity of death itself.

"The gods so loved him while he dreamed,
That, having lived so long, there seemed
No need the king should ever die."

Somewhat in this way have we of the Associate Alumnae regarded our dear President Emeritus. It hardly appeared in the nature of things that he should pass away from us; and his death, even at so advanced an age, has not only most deeply grieved but startled and shaken us all. In the confusion resulting from this shock, it

is hard to marshal our ideas. The writer does not presume to think that she can in this brief article touch upon all sides of President Hunter's character or career. Each of us will doubtless feel that she has an individual word to say. Here it will only be possible to indicate those few qualities and principles which have appeared to one of the Alumnae essential and central in his life and work.

First, Thomas Hunter was a true American. He was born, indeed, in Ireland; one was often reminded of that by his humor, elaborate courtesy, and charm; but when he came to this country in 1849, a youth of eighteen, he adopted American ideals and

OPEN LETTER.

Greetings to Alumnae from the State of Washington.

My thoughts often turn to "little old New York" and the dear old College.

I want to add a word of encouragement for the cause of suffrage, which I hope may be granted to you all next November.

Out here in Washington we vote on all questions; and while we are not claiming that woman's vote is righting all wrongs or accomplishing great reforms, we do claim that a new element has been introduced into local and state politics. Women are becoming students of social questions.

Suffrage will come in time to all because the reason for its adoption is fundamental. The state has been educating its women, giving them trained minds and cultured thoughts; economic conditions have taken out of the home so much of the "busy" work of house-keeping that leisure has come to even the busiest of home women. What will she do with this leisure? Will she spend it in idleness and extravagance? Or will she put her training to the big questions of the day, helping to solve the problems of municipal house-keeping in its manifold features? Will she return to the state some of the money spent by giving of her culture and training? Does she not owe it to her state?

Women and men must work together. I have no sympathy with the thought that men have been all wrong and that women will make everything right; but by a long race history woman's view-point is different from man's. They must work together in the nation as they do in the home.

* * * * *

I find that the questions of pure food and sanitation, garbage disposal, vocational and industrial education, the regulation and censorship of commercialized recreation, the establishment of parks and playgrounds, and prohibition touch my own home very closely; and, yes, even the questions of a minimum wage, an eight hour law, the right of labor to organize, the abolishment of private employment agencies, and the great problem of unemployment come very near, for my son has started as a mechanic's apprentice. And the questions of the value of the initiative, referendum, and recall, the problem of the immigrant, and this great thought of universal peace, not only are interesting, but are worthy of all the skill and education one can bring to them.

I am still running my home and caring for my husband's socks, and the biscuits are not burned; and may I add that my husband is always urging me on, for he feels that I have so much more time than he to study and investigate these social questions. Together we discuss things, and we go to the polls and cast a ballot that represents our convictions.

Many women here are enjoying similar experiences, our clubs have received a new inspiration.

Let us not fear that word "politics". It is only the science of government, and haven't we the most ideal theory of government in the world?

I wish I might be in New York and help in the campaign, but I will write to every male relative I have there and every friend I can remember, urging each one to vote for the amendment that will give you the franchise. Urge your friends to do the same; ask them to allow it as an experiment, and if they feel that it does not work out well, a later legislature can bring up the question of revoking the privilege.

Wishing you success,

Sincerely,

ELLA A. BALABANOFF,
Class of '86.