

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## TREE PLANTING FOR MRS. ELLIOTT

On October 18, our distinguished president, Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, was honored anew by her fellow citizens. A tree in the Honor Grove in Central Park was dedicated to her in the presence of several hundred of her friends.

The Honor Grove, situated in the west section of Central Park near 81st Street, was founded by Mrs. William Albert Lewis, and now has forty-two trees, among which are those planted in honor of former Governor Alfred E. Smith, General P. Summerall, and Commander Byrd, whose tree, an oak, is adjacent to Mrs. Elliott's. The distinctive purpose of the Grove is to render honor to those prominent in civic or philanthropic work while they and their friends are still living.

It is significant that the speakers of the occasion, whose subjects were the merits of Mrs. Elliott, were all people of well known discernment. All remarked on Mrs. Elliott's nine years as Trustee of Hunter College, on her four terms as President of the Associate Alumnae, and on her work in the realization of the dream of new buildings for Hunter College.

Dr. James M. Kieran, President of Hunter College, was a simply swell (our editor is at liberty to substitute another word) opening speaker. He said, "If you don't know Mrs. Elliott, you ought to hasten to remedy the defect. She's good—able—kindly—honest—diligent. We of Hunter College esteem her very highly. We point to Mrs. Elliott as one of our graduates who have contributed of their life, of their substance, without thought of self. My hope is that this tree will drive its roots down deep into the soil and long remain as an emblem of her who is honored to-day."

Mrs. Gustave Gordon Schick, who presented Mrs. Elliott's name as one which deserved to be represented in the Grove, was the next to pay a tribute. She spoke of the dedication of the tree as "an honor she (Mrs. Elliott) richly deserves for years of service in the educational work of the city" as Trustee of Hunter College, President of the Associate Alumnae, and Chairman of the New Building Committee. "The elm with its wide-spreading branches," said Mrs. Schick, "is symbolic of her wide-spreading influence."

Mrs. Otto Hahn, our Vice-President, representing the Associate Alumnae, said in part, "Every year brings to the heart of a tree a new ring; so every year a new circle of loyal alumnae revolves around our Presi-

dent. This loving growing band rejoices in every honor which she acquires, as when a western college conferred upon her a master's degree; but we know what counts most with Marion Elliott is the appreciation she receives right here in the city of her ancestors; the assurance that we bring to her that in each successive administration she has welded together in closer, more loving contact, with more productive results, in united service to our College and our City, the long line of graduates of three-score years."

Dr. Harry P. Swift, of the Board of Trustees, speaking of Mrs. Elliott in her capacity as trustee, declared, "In spite of her many outside activities she always has time for Hunter College. No matter what work is assigned her, she always does it in the most efficient, quick manner. Practical things she has done will always be remembered. She was the first to make the suggestion to move Hunter College to Jerome Parkway."

Professor Blanche Colton Williams spun a clever little phantasy. In Robin Hood's day, Maid Marian chose as the tree symbolic of herself the elm, graceful, early-budded, growing rapidly, sound at heart. Many years later when the tree was to be cut down, the woodcutter prophesied, "Other elms shall arise under brighter western skies for another Marian." Professor Williams said that Marion Rhoads Elliott was rooted in Manhattan even as the elm was rooted, for she had served the city all her life; and turning, the speaker hailed this Marion of Modern Days as "Marion of Manhattan."

The last speaker, District Attorney Thomas C. T. Crain, gave the dedicatory address. He said that he could not "imagine a more splendid tribute that could be paid to any one than to have a tree in the honor grove. There is something about a tree emblematic of beauty, of the power to help, succor, and sustain. There is nothing more emblematic of the life and work of Mrs. Elliott than a tree."

Finally, Mrs. Elliott made a short speech of acceptance, declaring, "The memory of these exercises and the recollection of this honor will inspire me to greater efforts."

As soil was cast upon the roots of the elm by many hands, including those of Messrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, Senior and Junior, a number of Hunter undergraduates in cap and gown sang *Fame*. Mrs. Lewis attached the name plate to the tree and recited these lines by Van Dyke:

"Thou hast lived before, live after me,  
Thou ancient, friendly, faithful tree."

SUE MOSKOWITZ

## PRESIDENT KIERAN'S SCRAP BOOKS

President Kieran's Office Force has compiled—for him and for posterity—two beautiful scrap-books dealing respectively with the events leading up to his Inauguration as President of Hunter College, and with the Inauguration itself.

The first book, entitled "Appointment of Dr. James M. Kieran as Acting President and President of Hunter College," opens with a copy of a Resolution passed by the Board of Trustees on January 19, 1928: "Resolved: That upon the recommendation of the President, Dr. James M. Kieran, Head of the Department of Education, be made Acting President during the leave of President Davis." There follow numerous letters, cards, and telegrams in honor of this appointment, some of them prophesying the later disappearance of the word "Acting" from the official title. In May came a series of fresh felicitations on Dr. Kieran's being named Provost, and finally arrives the grand climax in the shape of the Trustees' action in choosing him as President, December 20, 1928. Here there is once more an excerpt from the minutes of the Board of Trustees, giving the record of their unanimous action, of the naming of Mrs. Mulqueen, Mrs. Elliott, and President Ryan as a committee to escort Dr. Kieran into the meeting-room, and of the tribute paid Dr. Kieran by President Ryan. And after that are pages and pages of congratulations on this crowning achievement.

The second book, entitled "Inauguration of Dr. James M. Kieran as President of Hunter College," records first the preparations for that auspicious event. There is a list of the Faculty Committee appointed to make arrangements, which consisted of Professor Busse (Chairman), Dean Hickinbottom, Professor Snow, Professor Cohen, Professor Reilly, and Professor MacLear. The responses to Professor Busse's invitation to attend the Inaugural Ceremony proper, and also the ensuing Luncheon under the auspices of the Associate Alumnae, are most interesting reading. Acceptances are on view from figures high in New York's civic life, such as Joseph McKee and Vernon M. Davis, and in its educational life, such as William J. O'Shea and members of the Board of Examiners; Hunter's own special notables, including her Trustees, retired teachers of distinction, and Officers and Directors of the Associate Alumnae; and the representatives of other institutions of learning. A specially pleasing touch is the inclusion of the acceptance sent by President Kieran's son Leo.

Beside these responses there is the usual array of greetings from friends and colleagues innumerable, and page after page of press clippings referring to the great event. After these is inserted a copy of the *Holy Cross Alumnus*, recording the granting by

that institution of an honorary degree to President Kieran, and a copy of the *Hunter College Bulletin*, with its report of the inauguration. And here the scribe experienced a thrill at finding the May 1929 issue of the maternal ALUMNAE NEWS, with her own account of the Inauguration and Anna Michels's account of the Luncheon arranged by the Alumnae.

Next in order may be seen the array of messages sent by some of Hunter's sister-institutions—some sonorously couched in Latin, some exquisitely illuminated—greetings from Polytechnic Institute, Mills College, Harvard, Princeton, the University of Illinois, the University of Chicago, Yale, the Catholic University of America, the University of Iowa, Georgetown, Columbia, Wittenberg, Rutgers, and Lake Forest.

And the book closes with a copy of the program of the Inauguration.

Of course of special interest are the personal messages of congratulation on the successive advances of Dr. Kieran's career. Of equal significance are the very wide variety of walks of life from which they come, and the uniformity of the spirit that marks them all—a spirit of sincerity, of spontaneity, of joy in the well-merited triumph of a valued friend.

There are letters from personal friends, of course, from people to whom President Kieran is "James" or even "Jim"—and it is interesting to note to what outstanding persons our President is "James" or "Jim"—but even in letters where there is not quite the same degree of intimacy, in letters from his official fellow-workers here or in the public schools, in letters from his former students to whom he is the teacher rather than the comrade, the same tone of friendship, even of affection, still prevails.

Many valuable autographs are here—signatures of persons prominent in political and in educational circles, both in Albany and in New York. Naturally, New York City educators play a large part. We see such well-known names as those of William L. Ettinger, William A. Boylan (who has since been the recipient of congratulations for a similar cause), Gustave Straubemiller, William E. Grady, Benjamin Veit, Maurice E. Rogalin, Katherine Bauer, Millicent Baum, Hannah T. McLaughlin (then Principal of P. S. 76, now Principal of the Hunter College Model School). Several sister-institutions are represented by messages from their heads—we read felicitations from Livingston Farrand, President of Cornell; from Brother Cornelius, President of Manhattan College; from Father Deane, Dean of Fordham University. Even foreign lands are represented: here we find a greeting from D. L. Crawford, President of the University of Hawaii; and here from Edna K. Beckman, principal of the oldest school for girls at Amoy, China. Miss Beckman sends interesting snapshots of her pupils,

and we realize with a thrill of pride how these sturdy Chinese girls are being helped by Hunter—for Miss Beckman is one of our own graduates, of the Class of 1910.

Many of our Alumnae are represented, of course. Mrs. Elliott is there; there is a joint telegram from Maxwell and Marion Elliott (Mr. Elliott is also represented by a letter in which he refers to the fact—a fact that President Kieran has mentioned in Chapel—that the President is one of his father's old boys). Anna M. Hunter is there: she writes of her father's tradition, and of the new President's fitness to carry it on. Sarah Rhoads Casey, Ella M. Requa, Hannah Ottenberg, Eleonore F. Hahn are there. An official touch is added by the Resolution drawn up by a Committee of the Associate Alumnae consisting of Professor Helen Gray Cone (chairman), Hannah M. Egan, Esther G. Valet, and Marion Rhoads Elliott; and by the greetings sent from the District of Columbia Chapter, Althea Wettlaufer Whitehurst, president, and from the Pennsylvania Chapter, Naomi Crohn Roseman, president. Many of the Alumnae proudly write in the character of President Kieran's "old girls." Some add an extra touch of intimacy: thus Olive Dillon writes that she is the daughter of two old friends; M. Rose Collins, that her mother is an old friend, and she and her sister are both Alumnae; Anna Gilchrist Ackerman, that she was the friend of Dr. Kieran's daughters in her undergraduate days. The not so old girls are represented too, what with greetings from the Student Self-Government Association; the Classes of Jan. '28, of Jan. '29 (proudly inscribed "your first graduating class"), of June '29, of June '30; and the Newman Club.

Somehow even more touching than the letters from the "old girls" are those from the "old boys." They are well-grown men now, these boys who still so vividly recall the days at P. S. 3, or P. S. 32, or P. S. 96, or P. S. 103, with our President as teacher or principal. Here is a member of the first graduating class of P. S. 96—the class of '97. Here is an old P. S. 103 boy who bore the proud title of "banker"—that is, he made deposits for some educational organization of which Dr. Kieran, the Principal of the school, was treasurer. What a thrill that service must have brought him, to be thought of still! It is only the *real* teacher or principal whom his pupils so love to serve! The Alumni, too, of P. S. 32 send formal congratulations. We Alumnae aren't the only ones who can claim Dr. Kieran as our own.

His fellow-teachers, too, of those old days remember Dr. Kieran with affection, and hear with pleasure of this new advancement that has come to their one-time co-worker. Especially interesting is the letter from Bessie Campbell Hebbard (our only alumna in Rochester), who speaks not only of the successful grammar school teacher who was

James Kieran, but also of that especially successful primary school teacher whom she was sent to observe, Miss Kate Donahue. Kate Donahue is Kate Kieran now. One wonders whether the romance was already on its way.

Of course the colleagues of the Hunter days are even more numerous. And the very genuine note of joy expressed by these constitutes what must be perhaps the most gratifying tribute of all to him who received them. We find greetings here from Professor Adele Bildersee for the Brooklyn Branch, from Professor A. Broderick Cohen of the Evening Session and his Office Staff, from the Romance Language Department, from the Registrar's Office (a dear little verse this), from the Hunter High School Faculty, from Miss Ruth E. Messenger for the Hunter High School Faculty Club, and many, many personal letters. Some of these last are from old friends that we no longer have a chance to see very often—Betsy B. Davis, George M. Whicher, Christine Reid, Marie Bell Coles, Eugenia Bowne of the Model School (who proudly refers to the fact that she helped "bring up" Helen and Kitty there). Now and again one sees a signature from a hand that writes no longer—Frances Sanford, Mary S. Kennedy. Another departed friend, Professor Carl F. Kayser, is represented by a note from his wife. There are moments of sadness as well as of gladness for the readers of these books.

And what, one wonders, of the many items included, does President Kieran prize the most? Is it the salutations of some fellow college-president of world renown? Is it the letter from the boy who was "banker" at P. S. 103? Perhaps he could hardly say. Perhaps he cherishes each all the more for having the other.

"All are needed by each one.  
Nothing is fair or good alone."

E. ADELAIDE HAHN

#### GILLET MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Who of us who knew the genial smile, the dignified bearing, the personal magnetism of Professor Gillet will ever forget him!

Could any instructor ever hope to inspire to a greater degree those he taught? Surely the hours spent in his lecture room stand out as among the most precious of our College days. His name must assuredly live. And what finer and more commendable tribute can we pay his memory than by assisting worthy students to higher education?

Let us rally then—all of us, those who remember him fondly from personal association, and those later ones, who, too, have benefited by his teaching—and help, to build up the fund for this fellowship as a fitting climax to the other Memorial already established. Send contributions to

Mrs. Edmond Weil, Chairman,  
48 East 83rd Street, New York.