

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## DR. HUNTER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Dr. Thomas Hunter's Autobiography will be published by his daughters as a loving tribute to commemorate his one hundredth birthday, October 19, 1931.

After Dr. Hunter's retirement from College he began to write the story of his life work, taking great pleasure in the memories as they came to him.

Many of the facts, like history, will bear repetition. The reader will find some stories old, others new, but all will be interesting to his "girls and boys" as he always called them.

It is a great pleasure to be able to place the book within the reach of all those who knew, admired, and loved him.

## THE SPRING REUNION

As this worthy sheet prophesied, a bright sun shone upon the Alumnae Reunion, which was sheltered under the roof of the Hotel McAlpin. "We of Normal College," said Mrs. Elliott in her opening remarks, "can remember when a rainy day kept us from a party."

Mrs. Elliott went on to speak of the work of the Unemployment Committee, which has successfully provided employment for a number of Hunter graduates. She also told us of the entertainment of three delegates of the International Association of University Women by the Associate Alumnae (represented by its president, who was seconded by Miss Henrietta Prentiss and by Miss Marguerite Jones). The delegates were from Lithuania, Esthonia, and Hungary. The Hungarian lady has left her address so that any one of us may visit her in Budapest.

It was announced that one of our members, Mrs. Jessel, "for love of her Alma Mater" is herself making for us a new banner, which will be one and one-half times the size of the present one. Three cheers for Mrs. Jessel!

President James M. Kieran began his speech by declaring that he sees us so frequently that there was nothing new to say. But his speech disproved that statement, for there was plenty of delightful information about the New Building. The first instruction unit will definitely be opened next September, and the second instruction unit and Cafeteria and Power Unit will be completed in the fall. In the last named, ladies, will be a room for the especial use of the members of the Associate Alumnae. The contract for the Gymnasium (and Swimming Pool) Building has just been let; and an appropriation of \$5,000,000 has been made by the Board of

Estimate for the Administration Building. The cornerstone will be laid in September.

Dr. Harry P. Swift, whom we are unfortunately losing as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was the third speaker of the day. "He has given unstintingly of his time, energy, and wonderful optimism," said Mrs. Elliott, in introducing him. "With his un-failing good humor, he was untiring in his efforts during the building campaign." On behalf of the Associate Alumnae, Mrs. Elliott presented Dr. Swift with a clock "every tick of which registers a heartbeat of the Associate Alumnae."

Dr. Swift spoke of the pleasure he has taken in his work at Hunter College. When he first was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1923, President Davis turned over to him the job of obtaining funds for Hunter College. At that time, it was very difficult to obtain sufficient funds to take care not only of the Budget, but also of the constant expansion of the College. Dr. Swift ably convinced the Board that they were obligated to provide the necessary funds. The present administration, however, has been very generous to Hunter.

Mrs. Elliott announced the results of the election. The Board of Directors for the coming year will have the following members:

Mrs. Samuel Bitterman  
Miss Dora C. Deis  
Miss Hannah M. Egan  
Miss Anna M. Hunter  
Miss Marguerite E. Jones  
Miss B. Elizabeth Kallman  
Miss Ruth Lewinson  
Mrs. Hannah Ottenberg  
Miss Hester A. Roberts  
Mrs. William Valet  
Miss Eva C. Wood.

The participants in the musical program were all graduates or undergraduates of the College, two of whom, Miss Goldie Moskowitz and Miss Claire Greenberg, may be remembered for their fine work in the recent production of *Pinafore*. The program was as follows:

1. Song—*Down in the Forest* Goldie Moskowitz
2. Song—"Waterboy" Claire Greenberg
3. Duets—"On Monday Morn", "Herbstlied" Misses Moskowitz and Greenberg
4. Bohn Trio—Alice Wachtell  
Sadie Talmage  
Eva Posen.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in Tea and Talk.

SUE MOSKOWITZ.

## TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO DR. SWIFT

At a dinner given on May 12 at the Hotel Commodore, four hundred members of the teaching and administrative staff joined in a tribute to Dr. Harry P. Swift, retiring Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The spirit of the gathering drew forth comment from more than one of the distinguished guests who addressed the assembly: so manifestly spontaneous was this gesture of appreciation to a man who has served Hunter with unintermitted faithfulness for eight years; so universal the regrets that the official association must end now.

Complete expression was given to these sentiments by the speakers of the evening. Dr. Reilly, toastmaster of the occasion, introduced in turn Mr. Laurence L. Cassidy, acting Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. William A. Boylan, President of Brooklyn College; Dr. George J. Ryan, President of the Board of Education; the Honorable Joseph V. McKee, President of the Board of Aldermen; and President Kieran. Dr. Swift acknowledged the tribute in the last address of the evening.

Again and again the same note appeared in the speeches, as Dr. Swift's association with the College was reviewed from different angles: a recurring emphasis on that unselfish loyalty and persistence of effort which have accomplished so much for Hunter, and have won him the esteem of those who have worked with him.

In commenting upon the growth of the educational facilities of the City of New York, Judge McKee took occasion to refute the criticism which has lately been launched against the system. The text of his speech has appeared elsewhere, but part can well stand repeating in this place:

"It has been said that our educational system is all wrong and that our boys and girls don't know how to read and write. This dart is pointed at politicians and public figures, but it passes above and beyond them and strikes every teacher and educator in the school systems of to-day! But these accusations are absolutely baseless and false. Spurred on by the sacrifices of Dr. Swift, I have tried to see that the resources of the City be placed at the disposal of the Trustees, in order that Hunter might have something worthy of its work in and for the city. The new buildings in the Bronx will undoubtedly constitute one of the best educational centers the country knows. And no one is more interested in getting that institution built than the present City administration and Mayor Walker! I should like to see Hunter not a college through which girls will be ushered in educational contagion; not just for numbers who are forced to go to college for lack of something more congenial to do; but a college for the *aristocracy of the intellect*. It will be too bad if we make a Grand Central Station of Hunter College. The city is now providing primary education

for every one of its children,—the educational budget in New York has reached the enormous sum of 240 millions a year,—but now I hope to see *higher education* within the reach of every person worthy of continued education. In working toward this I have been cognizant of Dr. Swift always at my side, Dr. Swift, who is a 'gentle' man in every connotation of the word, and, if I may quote the Scriptures, I hope that his hamper of life will be filled up and crowded with all the choicest blessings."

In his unequalled way, and with a sincere simplicity, Dr. Kieran expressed to the guest of honor another thought shared by those who will be intimately affected by his withdrawal: "We do not know how we are going to get along without you." Then addressing his remarks for a moment to Judge McKee, he expressed appreciation for the generous cooperation always to be found in that quarter, and gave his assurance that the care which Hunter takes in admitting students will remain a guarantee for its ideals.

Dr. Swift's own summary of his association with Hunter are very flattering to the College. In 1923 he came without knowing very much about us, but in a short time he had become infected with the Hunter spirit that revealed itself in the pride which seemed to be shared by any one connected with the institution.

In the course of the evening telegrams were read from Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, Dr. Blanche Colton Williams, the Associate Alumnae, and the faculty and students of 85th Street, all expressing the good will of the senders for the guest of the occasion. Dr. Reilly, whose witty introductions charmed the audience, disappointed us only by the brevity of his own speech, which he asserted to be a triumph of assonance doomed to go to the waste basket unuttered. But on his own behalf he offered for Dr. Swift a wish to which those who listened gave consent: "And whatever may betide, wherever he may go, I trust to-night may be as a benediction in his memory."

An impressive moment in the course of the evening came when the main lights of the large ball-room were suddenly dimmed while a huge birthday cake, brilliant with lighted candles and destined for the Guest Table, was borne in high on the shoulders of two white-clad chefs. Thus was a double occasion celebrated.

Dinner music was provided by a trio, and Miss Ethel Harrison of the Music Department entertained with two soprano solos.

The guests of honor, besides Dr. and Mrs. Harry P. Swift, included: the Honorable and Mrs. Joseph V. McKee, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence L. Cassidy, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Golden, Mrs. Marion Mack, Mrs. Mary Gilroy Mulqueen, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Sinnott, Mr. Sam S. Steiner (who was unable to attend but sent a message through President Kieran), President and Mrs. James M. Kieran,

President William A. Boylan, Mrs. Marion Rhoads Elliott, and Professor Joseph J. Reilly.

The dinner committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Adolf Busse, included Professor A. Broderick Cohen, Dean Annie E. Hickinbottom, Mrs. Hannah T. McLaughlin, Professor Anne Bush MacLear, Professor Joseph J. Reilly, Professor Lillian M. Snow, Miss Louise M. Webster, and Professor Helen L. Young.

M. R. S.

The following are two of the telegrams which were read at the dinner in honor of Dr. Swift:

To-day we wish you every goodly gift,  
And may the coming of your joy be Swift.  
Let all delight come quickly, Doctor,  
though  
We would have Time's long flight alone be  
'slow.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF  
EIGHTY-FIFTH STREET ANNEX.

Best wishes to you and congratulations to ourselves upon your birthday anniversary.

THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE  
OF HUNTER COLLEGE.

### THE 1931 SING

To describe a Hunter Sing is a delicate task; for to those readers who have witnessed the spectacle, a word picture must surely fall short of the actuality, and to those who have missed it, a description can never adequately convey an idea of that spirit and sweep of feeling that have made the Sing one of our greatest traditions.

The palm this year went to the Seniors, and the decision of the judges in the matter seemed to meet the general approval of the audience. It seems most fitting that the class which has four years of tradition and experience behind it should show the most real spirit, and in this particular instance their heartiness seemed to gain something from the confidence that they had struck a good idea, and carried it out effectively.

For at the proper signal, the Opera House seemed to be suddenly devil-ridden, first by the "common or garden variety", ordinary red devils; presently, after this blaze of color, by devils that were gentlemen and wore the swallow-tails and top-hat badges of the species. After them came devils that were policemen and devils that were gunmen, and finally bringing up the rear were tormentors into whose hands had fallen a few luckless souls in academic apparel. Then slowly onto the stage of the Metropolitan came the Houseboat on the Styx "with a cargo of souls who missed their goals." Among them were Lucrezia Borgia ("the girl who practiced chemistry without a Ph.D."), Nero, Don Juan ("Just a Gigolo"), Queen Elizabeth, Napoleon, Henry VIII with his wives, and Helen of Troy.

The Juniors, who were awarded second place, entered with as much effervescence, but a shade less confidence. In the costumes of France of the Fifteenth Century, came first the third estate followed by the aristocrats, and when the assemblage was complete, the audience was treated to the spectacle of the coronation of Louis XI at Rheims. Then, for an instant, Saint Joan appeared; but the sublimity of that moment was short-lived, for there suddenly crashed in upon the scene a rabble of noisy camera-men, and the truth was revealed: we had been witnessing nothing more than a Hollywood "set".

The Freshmen and Sophomores were, as is usually the case, a little outdistanced by their sister-classes, but in many respects they showed splendid promise for future Sings. The Freshmen turned to Arthur's Court for their inspiration, and the Sophs to Neptune's. The former were not quite sure as to the degree of seriousness expected of them, and their uncertainty on this point resulted in a curious juxtaposition of the Connecticut Yankee riding on a bicycle into King Arthur's Court, with a scene in which Galahad ecstatically worshipped an illuminated Grail that miraculously descended against the backdrop of the stage.

The Sophomore entrance has been particularly commended for the effectiveness of the lights and colors used. Through a gray-green mist slowly writhed green and red monsters grotesque with sea-weed, while down the aisles danced aquamarine mermaids who later showed a quality not generally thought of as a siren possession: not only could they sing, but they could follow a leader!

But there is more to the Sing than the hilarity of the competing classes. It was a revelation to look about that huge Opera House and see each tier of boxes crowded with eager interested spectators; it was a joy to hear the enthusiastic response which every quip brought forth, particularly when a shot was sent home to some point of common interest. And finally, it was a complete education to witness the sincerity of applause with which the losing classes greeted the announcement of the decision by Professor Kengla, Chairman of Judges. In a flash the great stage of the Metropolitan became figuratively (and, in view of the costumes, almost literally!) a pandemonium. Thousands of times has that place been the scene of spectacles, but I wonder if ever before has such a riot of costume and color taken possession of it?

M. R. S.

### THE IVY PIN

An Ivy Pin is the best present for a Hunter graduate. Send a check for \$4.17 (payable to Mrs. Theodore Simis) to

Mrs. William S. Cross,

28 East 10th Street.