

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE ALUMNÆ BREAKFAST

The Alumnae Breakfast has a new and delightful feature. Between the Mocha of a perfect meal which figured in the program merely as "Breakfast", and the rest of the program, ten minutes were set aside for "Auld Acquaintance". People at even-numbered tables stayed at home, while odd-numbered tables went visiting. Everybody played the game with great gusto.

Miss Marguerite E. Jones, Chairman of Arrangements for the Breakfast, opened the program with a word of special appreciation for Professor Prentiss, Mrs. Powell, and Miss Christman, for their help. She then introduced Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott in her new capacity as Assistant Dean of Hunter College. Mrs. Elliott will be in charge of the Freshmen at the New Building.

"For sixty-one years," said Mrs. Elliott, "faculty, students, and trustees have been selling the idea of free education. The result is that in the midst of a period of depression, Hunter College is moving forward to one of the greatest milestones in its history. We are going to have a building that will far surpass our wildest dreams."

Mrs. Elliott presented our senior trustee, Mrs. Mulqueen, and our junior trustee, appointed on February 11, Mrs. Mack, a Wellesley graduate and the granddaughter of Adolf Lewisohn.

Mrs. Graff, Third Vice-President, made "Post-Prandial Acknowledgments" which consisted of thanks to the Hotel Astor, the trio who provided the music, Miss Jones and her committee, and Professor Prentiss, who carried on in Miss Jones's absence.

President Kieran was greeted with particularly enthusiastic applause.

"College is progressing as it always has," he said. "It is probably still the largest woman's college, even without the Brooklyn girls. Our endeavor is to keep it good, and make it better. And that is going on in every way. We are trying to improve the course of study; but that was made so good in former days that we find it difficult. We don't think it's the best, but we're trying to make it better.

"There are 3,000 in the summer college and nearly 13,000 in the extension division. We endeavor to keep both of these up to the standard of the day college. Every department, not only in the day college, but also in the other divisions, is under the direction of the department head in the day college.

"We're going to open the first unit of the new building in September. We couldn't

open in February because we were afraid the girls might drop down into the holes about the building. As soon as everything's ready, however, we're going to open it and send Mrs. Elliott to take charge of it. You know I'm her boss now. And she's doing very well."

President Kieran went on to say that the second instruction unit and the Social Hall (the power house and cafeteria) would soon be completed. Plans and specifications for the Gymnasium Building are before the Board of Estimate.

One of the best features of the breakfast was, as always, the reading of "A Valentine to Alma Mater" by Professor-Emeritus Helen Gray Cone, our Poet Laureate. Our beloved alumna read the poem in a voice which never fails to move her hearers. There is no doubt about the sincerity of the love and admiration that Hunter College feels for Professor Cone.

The Fifty-Year Class, this year the class of 1881, was represented by Miss Jenny Hunter, daughter of the college's first president. Twenty-five members of the class were present. The sum of four hundred dollars, the contribution of '81 to the fund for the Fence, was turned over to the Alumnae.

The Twenty-five Year Class, 1906, was represented by Miss Margaret A. Lindquist. That class was the first to enter the Normal College from the High School. Ten members were present at the Breakfast.

For the second part of the program, Mrs. Elliott yielded the chair to Mrs. Lilly, First Vice-President. This part of the program consisted of tributes to Thomas Hunter, George Samler Davis, James M. Kieran, and our own President—Mrs. Elliott.

Mrs. Eleonore F. Hahn and Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, "Two Generations of Hunter Graduates", mother and daughter, paid tribute to President Hunter. He was born just a century ago, but still, as Mrs. Hahn began her speech, "He lives!" She rapidly outlined the main events of his life—his vigorous championship of the cause of liberty which led to his being forced to leave his native land of Ireland at the age of nineteen, and his subsequent career as a schoolman in America, where he served as drawing teacher, as Principal of P. S. 35, seat of the Thomas Hunter Association, and finally as President of the Normal College, later renamed for him. "It fills us with happiness," said Mrs. Hahn, "to recall that he lived to receive that tribute."

Mrs. Hahn emphasized the vision that stressed the need of a broad academic train-

ing for those who intended teaching, the good advice which the "beloved guide" gave his girls every morning, the versatility that enabled him in every class-room "to add charm and value to the theme" of any lesson being taught, the kindness that led him to "cover sharp places with flowers". She summed him up in conclusion as "an inspired teacher, an ideal leader, a superb guide, a true American," and ended as she had begun, "He lives!"

After the mother's reminiscences of Dr. Hunter's activities as President, the daughter, who said she had "been brought up on President Hunter by the previous speaker," went on with the story to show how even after his daily association with the College ceased, the President Emeritus "was still a real, vital influence in the lives of all within the well-loved halls that he himself had planned." This she realized clearly, for her own period as a pupil in our institution—from her entrance to the Model School (old T. D. N. C.) in 1906 till her graduation from Hunter College in 1915—coincided precisely with the years of Dr. Hunter's life after his retirement. Professor Hahn outlined her own personal memories of President Hunter. She began with her first, on her graduation from the Model School in 1907, when she was impressed by the beauty of the venerable figure—"the snowy hair, the ruddy cheeks, the dancing, sparkling blue eyes"—and also by the "courtly courtesy" and "genial kindness" of this great gentleman. And she ended with her last, her own College Commencement, the last College Commencement that President Hunter ever attended, when he showed how vigorous he still was by responding to an unexpected call from President Davis with a speech which, "while quite extemporaneous, was indeed masterly."

"Dr. Hunter," said Miss Hahn in conclusion, "stressed both learning and love of work, both mind and heart. He has indeed left an indelible mark in all our minds, trained as they have been by the institution that owes its very being to his wise planning and wide vision; but it is not in our minds alone, it is in our hearts as well, that Thomas Hunter is forevermore enshrined."

Ruth Lewinson, trustee, spoke in honor of President Davis. "He was a man of such great modesty," she began, "that he was wary of fulsome praise." Miss Lewinson went on to speak of President Davis's attitude towards student affairs; of his championship of the Honor System; of his untiring work in raising the standards of the college; of his help in establishing the Hunter College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and in bringing about a system of student self-government. "He always had a lesson worth while," said Miss Lewinson.

Very fittingly, an undergraduate, Renée Adler, President of the Student Council, spoke in praise of President Kieran. "He is always so good-natured, so jovial, so friendly. He understands the students' problems, and

is interested in their ideals and in the attainment of their ideals. We say in the words of '28:

"We'll tell the world we're cheerin'
For Dean, Professor, Doctor, President
Kieran!"

Laurence L. Cassidy represented the Board of Trustees in his tribute to Mrs. Elliott. He said, "The career of Dean Elliott represents consistent progress. Hers is to be distinguished from those too frequent meteoric climbs to fame which suggest influence rather than sagacity. There are careers which are molded in the crucible of hard work. The faithful application to duty has its own natural reward.

"The work of Mrs. Elliott on the Board has meant labor and sacrifice. In regard to the New Building, it has been well said that our present state of realization is the direct result of the energy and influence of Mrs. Elliott.

"We all join in expressing our gratification and thanks to this distinguished lady who has done so much for the college she loves and who will go on to greater heights. We join in her constant ambition for a still greater Hunter."

Mrs. Lilly conducted the ceremony of lighting the candles in honor of Alma Mater. Miss Anna M. Hunter, Miss Helen Stein ('73), and two Freshmen ('35) lighted the candles, Miss Hunter representing the College as a whole, Miss Stein the first "New Building" at 68th Street, the Freshmen that at Jerome Park.

"1935," said Mrs. Lilly, "light the way for our president, Marion Rhoads Elliott, and as she enters the gate of her dreams pass to her the symbol of the certainty and permanence of Alumnae and Hunter Spirit that with her it may enter the portals of the promised land."

Mrs. Elliott in her reply spoke of the beauty of the new buildings. "I realize that all of those who first tread those floors will be lifted by a greater effort to achievement. I expect to play the part of coordinator. The buildings are for the students—not the students for the buildings. The Freshmen will be my care during this first year, and I will endeavor to surround them with all the hopes and ambitions of Hunter College. You too will be there to encircle the Freshmen with the loving care of friends."

The members of the Breakfast Committee were:

Carolyn Eisele, Bertha Goldman Gold, Helen Kunte, Anna Michels; Lillian Armstrong Lilly, Chairman of Program; Marguerite E. Jones, Chairman of Arrangements.

On behalf of the Associate Alumnae, we thank them.

SUE MOSKOWITZ

The Breakfast Committee wishes to express particular thanks to Mrs. Mary S. Epstein for her most generous coöperation and assistance.

A. M.