

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

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THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Eighty years after Lydia Wadleigh led her famous procession of three hundred maidens from the old Twelfth Street School to the building on Fourth Street and Broadway where, under an armory and over a carriage-store, a floor and a half were opened up to the new Female Normal and High School, Hunter's daughters—and sons!—with a number of good friends gathered, 534 strong, in the Grand Ball-Room of the Waldorf-Astoria, to celebrate the day. Out-doors St. Swithin and St. Nicholas seemed to have overcome St. Valentine, but indoors all was a picture of warm, sweet, hearty love.

A delightful time was promised by the charming souvenir program, its cover a lavender lace-paper valentine adorned by pictures of Thomas Hunter and George Shuster, of the old Gothic building and the modern sky-scraper Palace on Park Avenue. And these promises were well fulfilled.

After the singing of the National Anthem, and the Invocation by the Reverend Frank Grebe, Minister of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and Chaplain of the Protestant Students of the College, President Shuster gave the first of the greetings of the evening, beginning with a salute to the great character whose birthday was being celebrated, and her great career ever since the day she was born. He read from Thomas Hunter's first "Report to the Board of Education as President of the Normal College", issued on May 13, 1870, dealing with his efforts to provide "requisite training for teachers", and with the "home feeling" that was growing up among the students, naturally, since a college for all races and creeds must be a friendly place. Then from Thomas Hunter's Biography President Shuster recounted the amusing tale of Lydia Wadleigh and what she did to a student's would-be "young man".

The greetings of the City were then, in the absence of Mayor O'Dwyer, tendered by the City Budget Director, Mr. Robert Patterson, who expressed regret that he could not report a subscription of \$100,000 from the City of New York to the Scholarship Fund.

The address of the evening followed, presented by the eminent citizen John Foster Dulles. He, like President Shuster, opened by going back 80 years—to the just realized prediction of his grandfather, who had been Secretary of State, that the day would come when women would serve as ambassadors. Then he in his turn looked forward, expressing the hope that youth would do better than older people, and women better than men. Finally he surveyed the present, when, he said, the country is for the first time in

its history facing a danger immense, imminent, and one that can well be fatal. Prudence may require our making hydrogen bombs, but they cannot give us security, for, lacking righteous and dynamic faith, and relying merely on material things, we are vulnerable from within.

Externally, he continued, our foreign policies are limited and inadequate. In the last century we were the least militarized of any western nation, but conditions changed as others began to think of us more as a source of money and goods, less as a source of inspiration and guidance. Sovietism, though it has caught the imagination of the peoples of the world as once the American experiment did, is a delusion, and its exponents will not permit their home to be open to inspection. Their culture, according to Toynbee's division of societies, represents the social development of communities as opposed to the spiritual development of souls. We as adherents of the second ideal must recapture our faith in the primacy of human liberty, our faith in man as a creation of God, our belief in individualism as an essential part of our religious heritage, our acceptance of the commandments to "love God" and to "love thy neighbor as thyself". Our individual duty to other men demands self-control, whereas an unfree irreligious society emphasizes government-control—but it is not necessary to go over to atheism and materialism in order to obtain justice.

"If war should come—which God forbid," said Mr. Dulles in conclusion, there would come with it a great spiritual revival. But if these finest qualities are reserved for war, we shall never have a lasting peace. Can we not have them also in time of peace?

The anxious thoughts aroused by Mr. Dulles' earnest words were lulled to rest at least temporarily by the soothing strains of sweet music as provided by Hunter's own cherished songbird, Molly Lippenholtz Starkman. Regina Resnik, too, was to have been on the program, but was unexpectedly prevented from attending by participation in a performance of *Don Giovanni* in Philadelphia that evening. However, the Metropolitan was well represented by another of its stars, the bass-buffo Gerhard Pechner, who entertained us delightfully a little later in the evening with the rendering of some charming humorous selections.

After Mrs. Starkman's songs, Dr. William Jansen, Superintendent of Schools, brought us the greetings of the public elementary and high schools, with the assurance that the entire staff of the public schools joined him in congratulating us, and that Hunter has no better friends than in the public schools.

The next greetings were from the Presi-

dent of the Associate Alumnae, our own Mrs. Robert E. Draddy, introduced by President Shuster as "Louise in whom wit and wisdom are combined". Recalling earlier enterprises, such as the raising of funds for permanent Alumnae headquarters and for an organ at College, she pointed out that never before has there been quite so ambitious an undertaking as the present drive for a Scholarship Fund of \$250,000. It is particularly noteworthy that except for one big gift of \$5,000, from Mrs. Abrams of '22, and three or four of \$500, the rest have been in smaller amounts—\$100 or less. But still we already have about \$50,000, and we hope eventually to have the rest. Meanwhile there is considerable need for volunteer help in the Alumnae Rooms in connection with the work of the drive.

Now came the time for the giving of the gifts. For the Golden Class of 1900, Helen Sardy delighted the audience with the youthful buoyancy of her amusing speech. She recalled the very different days of 1900, when eggs were 14¢ a dozen, when life expectancy was 49 years, and when Republicans were in office (she did not state whether there was any mutual connection among these items!); and in conclusion, after paying tribute to the money-getting prowess of her classmate Charity Blauvelt Hutchinson, and expressing pride at being President of her Class for fifty years, she happily presented President Shuster with a check for \$1092.05. Then for the Silver Class of 1925, Sibylla Alice Mellor spoke proudly and charmingly of the double Silver Anniversary—that of the Class and that of the Class Song which has become the College Song, "Fame". Looking forward to their Golden Anniversary, she offered a tribute to the College and the High School that gave of their best that we in turn may give of our best, and then offered as the gift of her class a check for \$2100.

Dean Marie K. Gallagher, who had served as chairman of the faculty committee in connection with the recent faculty melodrama, recalled that the proceeds of that enterprise had been \$2800.35. This led Mrs. Draddy to urge all to attend if the faculty again give a play. She declared that the awe which she had formerly felt vis-a-vis of the faculty (query: of whom is Louise ever in awe?) had been quite dissipated as a result of her seeing Dean Anthony smoking a pipe, President Shuster pushing people around, and Professor Hahn flirting with a policeman—who was a real policeman.

At this point Dr. Ordway Tead, who had been delayed and who was present only at great personal sacrifice, arrived and was presented by President Shuster as one who had given most generously and unrestrainedly of energy and enthusiasm. Mr. Tead like earlier speakers spoke of past events and then looked forward, declaring that Hunter would continue to minister to the deepest needs of the future. He then spoke of the

report by an outside appraiser, Professor Cottrell of Ohio State University, which he had just seen in proof. Since the contents of this report were still unknown to his audience, the full import of his words on the subject could not be completely comprehended; but he declared reassuringly that he hoped we would not be alarmed, and gave his assurance that he saw the great wisdom and the great necessity of the continuance of Hunter as a women's college, even though this might mean a quantitative diminution. In conclusion he declared that the fulfilment of Hunter's future was safe in the skillful, sensitive, and discerning hands of her President, and paid tribute to the integrity, the devoutness, and the devotion to the cause of the best in women's education found in George Shuster.

Then Mrs. David de Sola Pool (Tamar Hirschensohn, 1913) gave a short speech in which she stressed as Mr. Dulles had done the ascendancy of the spiritual over the material. More terrible, she said, than the hunger of the body—than thirst or humiliation—is the hunger of the mind and spirit, which serves as a challenge to us as Americans to rise above the level of a world built of material things, a challenge in answer to which we must go out to raise the money that will still the hunger for learning.

As if by way of reply to her money appeal, the giving of gifts was then renewed by Barbara Kuhn, President of the Student Self-Government Association, who told of the many ingenious undertakings of the student body that had led to the amassing of the sum represented by the check for \$4026.73 which she now presented to President Shuster, and which he in accepting it pronounced the most signal contribution ever made to the city colleges. Barbara, too, looked forward into the future, and perhaps the farthest of all, for she envisaged the return of her own class for its Golden Anniversary in the year 2000.

Very properly, since the future rests with the students of to-day, the speeches ended with this student greeting, followed, at Mrs. Draddy's request, by the rising of all the students present. Mr. Grebe then pronounced the Benediction—and Hunter's Eightieth Anniversary celebration was over.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN

The Committee in charge of the Birthday Dinner included the following: from the Associate Alumnae, Mrs. Theodore E. Simis (Chairman), Mrs. Samuel Bitterman, Mrs. Robert E. Draddy, Miss Sibylla A. Mellor; from the College Faculty, Professor Jewell Hughes Bushey, Professor Edgar H. Hemminghaus, Professor James M. Hendel, Professor Edna Wells Luetz, Miss Isabel C. McLaughlin; from the College Administrative Staff, Miss Belinda A. Carmody, Mrs. Alva C. Cooper; from the Student Body, Miss Helene Goldfarb, Miss Barbara Kuhn, Miss Florence Rosenfeld.