

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly by the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College of the City of New York.

(Entered at the New Rochelle Post Office at the pound rate of postage)

Vol. XV.

NEW ROCHELLE, JANUARY, 1911.

No. 10

The Normal College of To-day.

The Normal College has kept pace with educational advances elsewhere and has adapted itself with wonderful facility to the constantly increasing demands of secondary and higher learning. This is perhaps best illustrated by the statement that the work done in the Normal College in its earlier days was practically of the standard of that now done in our high school department, although at that time it represented relatively something more. The addition of a fifth and then a sixth year placed us outside the category of secondary schools; while the subsequent extension of the course of study to seven years and finally to a course requiring four years of college work in addition to four years in the high school, separated the college completely from the high school and established an institution of full collegiate rank. In short what was little more than a secondary school, has become in a very brief time a real college, recognized by the Regents of the University and listed among the other Women's Colleges of the State.

Changes of this sort have not been peculiar to this institution. The College of the City of New York underwent a similar development differing only slightly in its final organization. During this period there have been a general progression and strengthening of work in all secondary schools and colleges, but none, I think, has had an evolution into a school of the higher learning so rapid as ours. The evolutionary process of reorganization has been almost too rapid, and we have not yet fully realized the difference demanded in the character of our work, the method of treatment, as well as in the mental attitude of both instructors and students. This realization, however, is

growing fast under the freer conditions existing. The change has been wholly successful, justifying in fullest measure the hopes and predictions of Dr. Hunter and Professor Gillett, to whom and to our able faculty must be given the credit for having skilfully and laboriously guided "The Good Ship, Alma Mater," through these untried waters into the pleasant seas on which she sails to-day.

Of our recent development little need be said. The hard work had been done; and my part required only that such material conditions should be established and maintained as would conduce to the furtherance of the plans already laid. This I have endeavored to do; and, I hope, a fair degree of success has been attained.

With those who planned this reorganization of the College it was felt that the demand among the young women of our city for a full collegiate education, even when it meant the accomplishment of four years work beyond the high school, would be sufficient to sustain the institution thoroughly. This feeling has been entirely justified; for from every public high school in the city, from every borough, from private, and parochial schools, young women are flocking with increasing numbers until to-day about eleven hundred students are enrolled in the College classes alone. Because of this we are sustained in our hope to make this at least the great women's college for the whole city. It is not, however, to size alone that our ambition points, except as greater size means greater service, but to the improvement as well of the character of the work of the students, to secure on their part fuller preparation and more independent, spontaneous thinking in connection with their subjects of study. This is the task of the faculty

now; and, if any faculty can accomplish it, ours can.

Of the expansion of our course of study, of the increase and strengthening of the faculty, of the devotion and enthusiasm of the student body and of their success in maintaining the high standards set by the older graduates, I might say much. But these things are nearly all implied in what has preceded, and it is useless to enumerate the obvious. To whatever good existed when you, our Alumnae, worked within the College walls, you may be sure we have held fast. Many things are different; old faces have disappeared and new ones have taken their place; but there remains undiminished the old purpose, first conceived and put into effect by Dr. Hunter, to encourage young women with high academic acquirements, to enter public service in the city schools; and now, with the broader education afforded, in the city high schools as well as the elementary. In this respect, the College continues to contribute to the schools an element that constitutes an indisputable claim that teaching in the City of New York, even in the elementary schools, is striving, through the efforts of the Normal College, towards the dignity of a learned profession. But this is not all; for while this purpose is emphasized, and while in the future the College may develop, as it should, other utilitarian aims, it stands first of all, irrespective of these things, for the principle of the higher education of women, their higher intellectual and spiritual development. In this the College is an incomparable jewel in the city's crown. No other community can boast its counterpart. Its lustre it is ours to keep bright. We must not let one of its facets become dimmed, lest the dimming be mistaken for a flaw. You, the Alumnae, in your affection, will wish to see the rays of this jewel extend farther and more brightly over our city and to see its glory outshine even its glory in the past. The glory of the past has been full and satisfying. The glory of the future will be no less adequate, if those responsible for future achievement have the loyal, unselfish, and sympathetic support of you

who helped to make the glory of the past so great.

George S. Davis,
President.

Gifts for the New Building.

The Committee on Buildings urges that action be taken with reference to the suggestion made by President Davis, to form groups of classes which will prepare to make gifts to the new building, as has been done by the alumni of the City College.

The representatives of the classes who are members of this Executive Committee should meet at once and organize.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1870 1875	1880	1885	1890
1871 1876	1881	1886	1891
1872 1877	1882	1887	1892
1873 1878	1883	1888	1893
1874 1879	1884	1889	1894
Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8
1895	1898	1901	1904
1896	1899	1902	1905
1897	1900	1903	1906

After 1906 by classes.

Groups subject to change according to need.

Hester A. Roberts, Chairman.

Treasurer's Notice.

350 members owe \$1.00 dues....	\$350.00
115 members owe 2.00 dues....	230.00
119 members owe 3.00 dues....	357.00
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584 members owe.....	\$937.00

May the first good New Year's resolution of the 584 delinquents be to pay their dues before the end of January. In February personal letters will be written to those owing for three years, and extra bills sent to those of the others whose addresses we have found to be incorrect. In the meantime, those who have received their bills are urged to pay them at once.

Mrs. A. Stewart Holt, Treas.,
Normal College.