

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. XVI.

NEW ROCHELLE, APRIL-MAY, 1911.

No. 4-5

Lenox Hill Settlement.

Since the issue of the March "News" the work of incorporating Lenox Hill Settlement has moved on to completion. On March 8th, Mr. Justice Guy of the Supreme Court approved the certificates of incorporation submitted to him by our counsel, Mr. Adam Frank, and duplicate copies were filed by Mr. Frank with the Secretary of State at Albany and in the County Clerk's office, New York City.

The lease, constitution and by-laws, having been agreed to by both the Board of Managers of Normal College Alumnae Settlement and the Board of Directors of Lenox Hill Settlement, were approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Associate Alumnae at a regular meeting on March 27th. On that day it was moved and carried "That a Chapter be formed to be called 'Normal College Chapter of the Lenox Hill Settlement,'" and "That the Board of Managers of the Alumnae House become the Board of Managers of the Chapter."

I have found since the incorporation of Lenox Hill Settlement, that there seems to linger in the minds of some Alumnae the idea that we have gotten rid of our Settlement.

Some have even expressed joy at that supposed achievement, which is about as creditable as it would be for a mother to feel that she had "gotten rid" of her daughter in marriage and should cease to be interested in her welfare.

The Settlement is still ours in a very real sense though it has a new name. Its recent Board of Managers has become The Board of Managers of the Normal College Chapter and we hope all our friends will continue to subscribe through our chapter. Just at this time our loyalty to the settlement is on trial as never before. We have asked the neighbors to help us in order that we

might have increased facilities. It would be unfair for us to do less than we have been doing—it would be better to do more to convince others of the value of such work. We are very anxious that all subscriptions in arrears should be paid as soon as possible in order that we may have enough money to carry us through the summer.

According to law membership corporations must have definite dues and the following classes of annual membership have been created. Subscribing members, \$5; contributing members, \$10; sustaining members, \$25; donors, \$50; patrons, \$100. Annual subscribers of all these classes, whether belonging to chapters or not, are voting members of the Lenox Hill Settlement Association, having the right to vote for officers and directors at the annual meeting each year.

We hope that many of our contributors who have been giving two and three dollars will raise their subscriptions to five, but to the givers who feel that they cannot increase the amount we want to say, that the Settlement needs your gift just as much, it will do just as much good, we are just as glad to have your name on our books and probably your gift means more in self-sacrifice than many a larger one.

Chapters may have representatives properly elected from amongst all their subscribers who shall be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. But, have you always taken advantage of your voting privilege heretofore?

In accordance with its constitution the Lenox Board of Directors met on March 30th and the following officers were elected: Dr. Godfrey R. Pisek, President; Dr. Seth M. Milliken, first vice president; Miss Carol A. Harriman, second vice-president; Mrs. Harry A. Day, third vice-president; Mrs. George M. Daily, recording secretary; Miss Eleanor I. Keller, Corresponding Secre-

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

Published Monthly
by the New Rochelle Pioneer for
ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE OF THE
NORMAL COLLEGE

Editor,
Mrs. Joseph L. Herzog
Editorial Staff:

Assistant Editor,
Mrs. Theodore Ladenburger
College Editor, Dorothea C. Hess
Alumnae House, Alice P. Gannett
Business Manager,
Miriam Werner

Send all business communications to New Rochelle Pioneer, 12-14 Lawton Street, New Rochelle, N. Y., or Miss Miriam Werner, 523 West End Avenue, New York.

Send all manuscript to Mrs. Joseph L. Herzog, 32 Union Street, New Rochelle, N. Y.

The business manager of the "News" should be notified immediately of any change of address.

The Retirement of Dr. Merrill.

Mr. A. Stern, on behalf of the Committee on Elementary Schools, offered the following:

"The Committee on Elementary Schools announces with sincere regret the retirement on February 1st, of Miss Jenny B. Merrill, who for a full third of a century has rendered honorable and useful service in the cause of public education in this city. Her entire mature life has been devoted to this work, and now on account of ill health she has felt obliged to apply for retirement. Miss Merrill, after graduating from the Normal College, became in October, 1871, critic teacher in the Training Department of that institution. From 1878 to 1896, she was a teacher in pedagogy in the Normal College. In her last year in the Training Department she organized and taught the first public kindergarten in New York City. In October 21, 1896, she was appointed to the position of Supervisor of Kindergarten Instruction for the then City of New York, and that position she retained

under the School Board for the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx from 1898 to 1902. Upon the re-organization of the Board of Education in the last-named year, her title was changed to that of Director of Kindergartens, and subsequently she was put in charge of the kindergartens in the Borough of Richmond as well as those in the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx.

Miss Merrill devoted herself without reserve and with unswerving fidelity to the duties of her position. Her work as Supervisor and Director of Kindergartens has been of great benefit to the public schools of this city, and has had a wide influence in kindergartens throughout the country. That influence will not cease with the termination of her official connection with our educational system. The circumstances which render her cessation from active service are most regrettable, and her retirement leaves a vacancy which cannot easily be filled.

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby expresses its most sincere regret that Miss Jenny B. Merrill, Director of Kindergartens for the Boroughs of Manhattan, The Bronx and Richmond, feels it necessary to sever her active connection with the work of the Department of Education, and its earnest hope that she will, after a lifetime devoted to the public service, enjoy many years of happiness and well-earned leisure."

The resolutions of the Committee on Elementary Schools, printed above, will be of interest to the Executive Committee of the Normal College Alumnae Association, and to all the members who know Dr. Merrill or remember her during her eighteen years service as teacher at Normal College. Those who were fortunate enough to have been her pupils will recall her classes as rare opportunities for acquiring not only knowledge and culture, but a broad outlook in educational and philanthropic fields.

Her attitude toward the student might serve as an example in solving the social problem of the relationship between teacher and pupil. Although discouraging sentimentality she was eager for social contact and never disappointed a

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

student who looked to her for friendship or advice about life, work or study.

When Dr. Merrill accepted the office of "Supervisor of Kindergartens," the teachers in the public schools found in her the same attitude. Her criticisms were constructive and strengthening, her appreciation of superior work prompt and generous, her supervision such that it encouraged and fostered personality, original methods and ideals. These are characteristics too rare to pass unnoticed.

So Dr. Merrill's work received wide recognition in many ways and many cities. We like to remember that she still belongs to us as a friend of the college and a member of the Alumnae Association.

Estelle Forchheimer.

For "Hunter College."

The blanks sent out with the February "News" in connection with the argument for "Hunter College of the City of New York," should be returned to Mrs. Kramer with the signatures of men and graduates who have not already sent in their names.

A number of graduates have added sentiments to their names. Among those recently received are the following: "The recent pamphlet has convinced me. It is a masterly argument."

Jenny B. Merrill.

"Every reason stated in your pamphlet convinced me that 'Hunter College' is the worthiest name for the institution and our respected President still more entitled to the honor."

(Mrs. I. H.) Pauline B. Behr,
Fort Plain, N. Y.

Silvae.

This is the name of the new monthly publication of the Classical Club of the Normal College. Its object is primarily to serve as a means of communication among the members of the Classical Club, and to further its work. The significance of the title is thus explained in the first issue:

"Silvae is a word which Vergil uses more than once in the Georgics. It may be rendered in general 'underbrush,' or by an older and prettier English word,

'underwood.' The poet applies it to the slender stems of a clump of asters or the shoots that spring up from the roots of a fruit tree under the shelter of the parent boughs. (That it also means 'weed' is not to our purpose here!) Later more than one Latin writer used *silvae* to mean 'minor writings,' e. g., the *Silvae* of the poet Statius. In like manner, following an older English writer, Stevenson modestly called his verses **Underwoods**.

"It is in view of these usages that the name of this bulletin has been chosen. The main crop of classical studies will be harvested elsewhere; *Silvae* will attend to the unconsidered trifles. But every good husbandman knows how important they are."

It would be well for all of our Alumnae who are genuinely interested in the progress of the College to obtain fuller information concerning this club and its work than we can give here. The president, Miss Ruth Cleaveland, 220 West 59th street, or the secretary, Miss Elsie Redman, 1131 Park avenue, will be glad to answer all inquiries.

The Spring Reunion.

The Spring reunion of the Associate Alumnae will be held May 20th, at 2.30 in the College Chapel. This will probably be our last meeting in the old building, so let us muster in force to say farewell to the well known places. We have been fortunate in securing that most magnetic speaker, Dr. James J. Walsh, to make the principal address.

A Flower Show.

The Natural Science Committee will close the year as usual with a flower show. With the aid of our invaluable helpers from the Public Education Association and from the Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild, we hope to make this one of our finest exhibitions. Mr. Mandel the principal of P. S. 188 (East Houston and Lewis streets), has under his care an army of 4700 children, most of whom rarely have an opportunity to see that part of the world, so different from their daily surroundings, to which we are to open their eyes for a few days in May—16th, 17th and 18th. May those days mark a bright spot in their lives!