

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College of the City of New York

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

VOL. XXVI

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1921

No. 2

THE REVEL

On the eighth of January, the Alumnae began the New Year and completed the Jubilee Year with a combined New Year's Revel and Jubilee Finale. All the classes, beginning with those fifty years young, joyously followed the Spirit of Youth into Chapel at the stroke of the gong, leaving all cares behind with their wraps and lunch-boxes, and changing fond memories into miraculous realization.

As in the olden days, all turned attentive faces toward the faculty places on the platform; and, lo and behold! these were not empty, for there to receive us were our two Presidents, Dr. Davis and Mrs. Popper, and Professors Hickinbottom, Whicher, Cone, and Requa. The two last-named afterwards joined their classes on the floor of the Chapel; but our first vice-president, Mrs. Moffett, in her airy-fairy costume of the Spirit of Youth, afterwards mounted the platform, and there, too, sat our second vice-president, Mrs. Content, like a personified Spirit of Learning in her flowing Greek garments.

Mrs. Popper and Dr. Davis gave us a hearty welcome home; and then the Spirit of Youth assumed her beneficent sway, and turned us into an enthusiastic menagerie which heartily roared, barked, mewed, hissed, and even crowed. It was suggested that this last function, owing to an accident of sex, might with more justice be performed by Professor Whicher; but he declined to be a rooster, with rare presence of mind selecting the role of a crocodile instead. Fortunately, the only tears of the day were of the variety which he proceeded to shed into his handkerchief.

There might have been a few tears when Mrs. Strauss insisted on stepping to the platform and putting us through an examination; but apparently there had been some successful cramming, for merry and satisfactory answers were promptly forthcoming. Nore the less, some rebellious soul proposed a strike against lessons on Saturday, and the quondam examiner went meekly back to her post as nurse-maid to her charming group of "Lolly-Poppers", a lusty set of infants who sold lollypops at the remarkable rate of one for a dime, two for a quarter.

These "Lolly-Poppers" were Lillian Bartel, Helen Deakin, Helen Fischhofer, E. Vera Loeb, May McCarthy, Margaret Meade, Helen Mehler, Charlotte Sternberg, May Trainor, Elva Wald.

Then came our New Year's Song—"Ring Out Wild Bells"—and our New

Year's Resolutions, one given by each class in response to roll-call. The answers were varied, some individual and some collective, including prose and verse, cheer and song. At the close of these were distributed prizes—perhaps to be regarded as "étrennes" or New Year's Gifts. Mrs. Popper received the reins of office, Dr. Davis a flóral crown, Dean Hickinbottom a corsage bouquet of chrysanthemums, Mrs. Lilly a bunch of lilies, and Professor Cone an ivy leaf. The call upon Professor Cone for a speech was so insistent that she was forced to anticipate her place on the program, and give us then and there her talk on "A Right Good Willie-waught for the Sake of Auld Lang Syne." A "good willie-waught," we learned, should really be a "good-willie waught," and assuredly the good will still remains, although some of the other ingredients are lacking now-a-days.

Next we heard from some of our other poets. Amelia Josephine Burr gave us a quaint small-boy poem with her usual grace and charm; and Jeannette Sewell Davis' spirited companion-piece to "The Good Ship Alma Mater"—"Alumnae Hall Our Houseboat"—was read by Elsie Hoertel. Finally, the apt lines which Gertrude C. Leerburger had written to the tune of "The Love Nest" were finely sung by Irene Weinstein, all joining in the chorus.

The audience then scattered to various "love nests" in both buildings, to enjoy a love feast of lunch and chatter for the space of the "Merry Lunch Hour."

The strains of the Hunter Orchestra, directed by Flora Rubin, recalled us to the Chapel, where we enjoyed a number which, though not printed on the program, was perhaps the most welcome of the day: namely, the presentation of a handsome silver bag containing a gold pocket-piece, to Emma D. Huebner, as a slight token of the grateful appreciation which all alumnae extend to the president who-guided us so peacefully and sun-shinily through a period of strife and storm, and through the subsequent joys of the Jubilee.

Next was displayed the Hunter College Exhibit of Our Own Screen Stars. Now there was an opportunity to see how various familiar characters looked in infancy or shortly thereafter. Pouts and smiles, chubby shoulders and quaint costumes, made the entertainment one of varied interest. In approved movie fashion, there were first thrown on the screen, portraits of the producer, Simony Friedberger Strauss, of the scenario-writer, E. Adelaide

Hahn, of the photographer, Lewis D. Hill, and of the interpreter, Lillian Armstrong Lilly. Then followed, in alphabetical order, a whole host of faculty and alumnae celebrities. Much applause greeted the pictures of Miss Beach, Miss Hunter, and other favorites. A hearty debt of thanks is owed to Mrs. Lilly, who read so well, and with such apt and amusing comments, the verses forming the "scenario"; to Professor Hill and his assistant, Mr. Hilliker, who manufactured the slides in record-breaking time; and to all the brothers and sisters, husbands and wives (or at least one wife, Mrs. Whicher), who, under pledge of strict secrecy, assisted the producer and the scenario-writer in their arduous and mysterious quest of pictures of our own Better Babies.

The next number on the program was the feature of the day—the stupendous Skidding Pageant written by our able Revel Chairman, Viola Yoerg Hartman, and produced by her celebrated organization, the Peptimists. This pageant skidded with wondrous celerity over a century of time, revealing all sorts of merry marvels, from the demure crinolines of a bygone day to the startling costumes and customs of the future. The question paramount at the close of the performance was, "Was that a real cigarette?" In our limited space it would be impossible to attempt to do justice to the details of this ambitious and successful production; we must perforce be content with a brief summary of the scenes and the cast, which were as follows:

The Fates—Ada Content, Anna Bell Friess, Martha Glauber. Orpheus—Alice Ifwerstrom.

Episode I—A Tea in Washington Square, 1850. Mabel Gilbert, Ida and Bettie Goldwasser, Flora Loeb, Clara Martinez, Emma Huebner, Mabel Richardson, Florence Katzenberg.

Episode II—A New Year's Party, 1869. Esther Valet, Kitty Kelly, Alice Styles, Sara Katzenberg, Sarah Cohen, Harriet Keith, Carrie Becker, Sarah Ullman, Leonora Wagner.

Episode III—On the Beach at Long Beach, 1890. Jessie Diedel, Essie Wells, Elizabeth Faulhaber, Carrie Taylor, Emilie Fries, Grace Styles, Elsie Hoertel.

Episode IV—An Evening at Home, 1920. Ray Rovere, Viola Huber, Frieda Riess, V. Olsa, O. Riess.

Episode V—At a Summer Hotel, 1950. Rosa Heintz, Isabelle Franklin, Elizabeth Leon, Essie Wells.

Accompanists—Misses Dubois and Glickstein.

There followed two of the graceful and artistic dances such as we always expect when we see Augusta W. Neidhardt's name on the program: Sea Dreams, depicted by Eva Tarlow and Etta Greenberg; and Spirit of Joy, rendered by Rose Mendell.

Having enjoyed pictures, drama, and dance, we were now treated to still another art, oratory. Mrs. Lilly made a stirring appeal for Alumnae Hall, and in conse-

quence all responded readily when the March of the Months, led by the Jubilee Year, was directed to their purses. Many were the coins, and still more the bills, that found their way into the receptacles tendered by this baker's dozen of attractive young alumnae. The Jubilee Year was represented by Florence Abrams, appropriately clad in lavender and white and gold; while her followers, the Months of the Jubilee Year, were:

February, Dorothy M. Helbig (valentine); March, Mildred Pettinger Plank (St. Patrick's lass); April, Gertrude E. Buggeln (shower and sunshine); May, Charlotte Sternberg (spring-maid, with butterflies); June, Pastoriza Flores (rose-maid); July, Sidonia Levine Hoffman (Liberty); August, Frances S. Clevan (bathing-girl); September, Pearl V. Tickell (school-girl); October, Miriam Graham (Hallowe'en witch); November, Frieda Heckel Muhlhauser (Pilgrim maid); December, Hortense Lion (holly-girl); January, May Linsky (skater).—N. B. Owing to the lateness of the program, Miriam Graham was unable to remain, and handed over her role and her costume to Regina Frey.

The next number on the program was "As King Solemn One Decides: a Hope-You-Like-It Skit," by Gertrude C. Leerburger. This play very wittily showed a contest between Shakes-peare and the Modern Peer, Moving Pictures. The latter's up-to-date and uproarious methods seemed to be winning the day, till the judge, King Solemn One, cheered the dejected Bard with the reminder that he was assured immortality by the teachings of a certain "vestal thronéd in the west," the occupant of the chair of literature in a well-known college. Mrs. Leerburger herself, the versatile and gifted author-producer, was capital in the part of Moving Pictures, while Calm M. Hoke lent genuine distinction to the role of Shakespeare. Olive Dillon and Leslie Illig, as Rosalind and Celia, were a winsome pair. Their lively attendant, Touchstone, was impersonated by E. Adelaide Hahn, while Eleonore F. Hahn had the title-role, King Solemn One. Personal and filial modesty prevents the present scribe from extended comment on the two last-named characters. She cannot refrain, however, from referring to the awful moment when Touchstone quite unintentionally plunged right through the bottom of the inverted trash-basket doing service as a tree-trunk—an awful moment, at least, for the anxious King Solemn One, who, as (s)he confessed afterwards, was sorely tempted to spring to the rescue with the cry, "The mother comes before the king."

After the curtain had fallen upon a merry Elizabethian round, it rose again to reveal six jolly members of 1920 clad in line bloomers and middies and ranged in line across the stage. They were Portia Broadbent, Helen Deakin, Lillian Ehrlich, Emmie Hyams, Elodie Kellogg, and Margaret Meade; while Irene Stritter was at the

piano. These, our babies, proceeded appropriately to entertain us with a kindergarten song, a spirited description and imitation of the various instruments of an orchestra.

Perhaps inspired by their example, or led by the program's ingenious and ingenuous appeal, "Sing Out, Wild Belles," the entire audience became vocal, and joined with a will in our own "Ivy Leaf," so dear to us all, and yet not wholly welcome, since its rendering was a sign that the moment was at hand when we should have to say, "Our revels now are ended." And yet our pageant did leave more than "a wrack behind," in the shape of one more loving memory which we hope to revive once again next year.

E. A. H., '15.

Those who missed the Revel missed It! The Committee had no idea of *another* next year, but the *demand—demands it*, and so they are choosing a date right now, that no one may be disappointed because she had a "previous engagement."

It was another "Day of Days" full of surprises and delights for all, from President Davis down to the writer.

A. D. S.

THE REVEL COMMITTEE

Alice Isaacs Popper, Ada Oberndorfer Content, Harriet Webb Moffett, May Morris Holderer, Simony Friedberger Strauss, Carrie Smith Gibson, Lillian Armstrong Lilly, Gertrude Cohen Leerburger, E. Adelaide Hahn, Emilie Olivia Long.

Viola Yoerg Hartman, Chairman.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Many attending the "Revel" at College on January 8th stopped at the Alumnae Booth to register and pay dues.

In all 63 new members were enrolled, including one lady from Portland, Oregon.

If any of the new members find they are not receiving the ALUMNAE NEWS, it would be well to write to the Treasurer, Mrs. George M. Daily, 525 West 149th St., New York, giving correct name and address. Possibly some mistake may have been made when names were copied for the rolls.

GRADUATE GIFT COMMITTEE

Please put your year and address in all letters to the Graduate Gift Committee. Many classes are not getting credit because graduates do not put the year in their letters.

About \$800 in cash and pledges came in on January 8 at the "Revel." It is hoped that those who didn't attend will be equally generous.

J. W. D.

A bag was found at the Revel. The owner may apply to Mrs. James H. Moffett, 75 Fifth Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y.

THE DAY AFTER

O the joy of coming back to the dear old College for a day of "mirth and laughing"!

May we have a "Stunts' Day" once a year!

The wonderful "actors" that have cropped up in our midst, after hiding their lights so long! The singers and the dancers! The wit,—the repartee!

Which did you enjoy the more, the morning's program, or that of the afternoon?

I'm sure you could not choose.

Those who missed Mrs. Popper's gracious welcome, Dr. Davis' jolly speech, Dr. Cone's "Willie-waught," or Miss Burr's lovely little poem—well, they missed a lot! To say nothing of our beautiful "Spirit of Youth," Mrs. Moffett, whose joyous personality sent thrills of delight among us all!

The classes responded to Roll-Call with witty verse and lively song. The "Six-in-Ones" were a lovely picture in their kerchiefs and wistaria. We were all so happy to see Miss Betsey Davis, Class '78 "did themselves proud" by a big attendance and their always wonderful enthusiasm. (O dear recent graduates, take '78 as a model and organize your classes!) Words fail me, when I tell of the merry reception to the 86 Pep Song! There's a jolly class! The "blossoms and butterflies" of '94 were a glowing touch of beauty. It is impossible to mention all the delightful things about our morning's Revel. I'm sure all enjoyed the lively questioning of "la Bonne d' Enfants", Mrs. Strauss, and fell in love with her pretty "Lolly-Poppers"!

I am so grateful to you all,—you clever Alumnae, who worked so hard to make our Revel a success.

Mrs. Strauss and Miss Hahn are to be congratulated on the great pleasure they afforded us all with their merry "screen stars." Mrs. Lilly proved indeed to be our "Voix d' Or," and we are very grateful to her. Miss Neidhardt's dances were lovely. And—Mrs. Leerburger's clever play was chuckled over, and appreciated by all that happy hearted audience.

As to the Peptimists,—my eternal gratitude. To prepare our little pageant, they worked with "vigor, vitality, vim, and punch": they hunted the highways and byways of Time for proper costuming; and all praise be to these delightful, untiring, patient "Peps"!

My sincere thanks to Miss E. Adelaide Hahn and her most "appealing" and lovely "Jubilee Year" and "Months," and to Miss Rubin for her splendid music.

I am most grateful for all the wonderful help I have received, which made "The New Year's Revel" the Delight it was!

Viola Yoerg Hartman,
Chairman.