

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE SPRING REUNION.

Although, as President Davis said, we were competing with the sunshine of a beautiful May Day, the attendance at our spring reunion was gratifyingly large—at the close. If only people were a little more prompt in getting there! It does seem a pity to miss a part of any reunion—and especially of this one, the reunion of our Jubilee Year!

Miss Huebner reminded us of the importance of this year in college annals, then introduced the good friend who needs no introduction—President Davis. All listened with interest as he told of the college's need for increased funds, and of its attempt to obtain these through a bill providing for a tax of 9 1-3 hundredths of a mill per dollar on all assessed property, to be devoted to our institution. This bill, though handled in a masterly way by the committee in charge, was vetoed; but we have the consolation of knowing that our High School and our Model School benefit by the provisions of the Lockwood-Donohue bill, and of hoping that our College staff will be granted proportionate salary increases.

President Davis also spoke of the student body—of the excellence of their weekly, the *Bulletin*; of the admirable judgment which they show in their choice of officers, who command respect and support; of the ideal spirit which characterizes the relations between students and faculty.

There was, of course, hearty applause for the President, and again for the Dean, who arose in acknowledgment of our greeting. Then there was presented to us another old friend, Professor Whicher, who addressed us on "The College of the Future." This subject had been chosen because it was felt that, after all the reminiscences of the jubilee celebration, a touch of prophecy was now in order.

Professor Whicher expressed the belief that in the first place the Hunter College of the future will be marked by a growth in self-consciousness, in knowledge of its own worth. Already it is much better known in the community than it was, and the work of its graduates as scholars is being more widely recognized.

In the second place, there will be a growth in complexity and efficiency of organization, with the continued development of the evening session (which already numbers more students than the College proper) and the summer session, and with the introduction of university extension

courses.

Thirdly, there will be a growth in democracy—true democracy, of course, which does not imply any lack of respect for leadership or of opportunity for individual excellence. A real and vital forward step in this direction is the recent decision of the trustees that certain members of the staff shall henceforth send representatives to take part in the deliberations of the faculty. The progress of student self-government is along the same lines. Certain limits, of course, must always be observed; for, as Professor Whicher admirably put it, were the idea to arise that the older ones have no rights that the younger are bound to respect, we should indeed have a dreadful vista—a "Bolshevista." But there is no doubt that self-government works well when teachers are what they ought to be.

The college contact with the community will undoubtedly become closer. The war work done by teachers and students was a great contribution to the life of the city.

Professor Whicher also spoke of the future of the Associate Alumnae. He expects that much will be accomplished by a wisely and well planned Alumnae House. He wishes that the Alumnae had a larger official organ, wherein there might be space for the discussion of college problems, such as changes in the course of study or entrance requirements, and other matters that concern the alumnae as well as the faculty and the trustees.

Such are the changes—or rather the developments—that Professor Whicher sees before our college. But with it all he hopes and trusts that it will remain essentially what it is—a college, a place of liberal education for the young.

The other speaker of the day was Mr. Colin Campbell Cooper, the painter of the fine picture of Hunter College, which was exhibited at the close of the meeting, and which we hope may some day be on view in our own building "for keeps."

Mr. Cooper's subject was art. He began by explaining the relationship between art and nature. Art is more than a mere "holding of a mirror up to nature": nature itself is devoid of art and never competes with art; but it presents art with great possibilities and opportunities. A photograph is never a work of art, but it has the element of art introduced by the operator.

Mr. Cooper made a strong defense of classic art, and a striking arraignment of the so-called "modern art," which is not

art at all, but anarchy. This is an age of sensationalism, pose, and radicalism. There is no art in the monstrosities which their perpetrators hypnotize themselves or their spectators into seeing, and they constitute a serious menace. Mr. Cooper closed by doing a little prophesying in his turn, with a glance into a happier future when the sensible brain of a civilized people shall return, and truer models prevail.

The last event of the day was the announcement of the election of all the candidates on the ticket prepared by the Nominating Committee, and the installation of the new president, Mrs. Popper, who said a word of greeting to the alumnae and was in her turn greeted by general applause. Mrs. Popper's duties as president began then and there with the putting to the audience (who of course were unanimous in their approval) of a motion made by Mrs. Hahn that a hearty vote of thanks and appreciation be extended to the retiring president, Miss Huebner, for the unflinching loyalty, graciousness, and devotion to duty that had characterized her two terms of office.

E. A. H., '15.

THE TWO ORPHANS.

The big Jubilee performance was a success dramatically. Its financial success will not be definitely known until the accounts are settled; but with such a worthy object as the Graduate Gift Fund, that, too, ought surely to meet the expectations of those who managed the play.

Melodrama calls for an exceptional ability on the part of the actors in order that the improbability of the story may not degenerate into the ridiculous. And it speaks well for the Hunter Jubilee Players and the Lenox Hill Players that the credulity of the audience was not unduly taxed. *The Two Orphans*, by D'Ennery, has in it the usual combination of unmitigated goodness, unmitigated evil, and remarkable coincidences, such as are never found outside the covers of a book.

Miss Florence Flynn, who played the part of the blind orphan, contributed the major part of the first element. She made a pathetic and appealing figure, an excellent foil for the rascally machinations of the old hag who had practically enslaved her. Mr. H. Blackman as Pierre Frochard, the crippled son of the old hag, also belongs in the "goodness" category. His was a hard part to play, for he had to call up sympathy for himself through the reality of his bodily affliction and thus make plausible what at first seemed like moral cowardice. Mr. Blackman was very successful in this difficult role. Miss Marion Mede as the second orphan gave a very pleasing performance, exhibiting now and again genuine dramatic force and fire.

By far the most outstanding piece of

acting in the play was that of Marie Piquion as La Frochard, the villainous old hag, who is a truly melodramatic combination of cunning and malevolence, entirely devoid of any of the finer human qualities. Miss Piquion succeeded not only in convincing the audience of La Frochard's wickedness, but added a touch of humor for which the lines of the play were not responsible. Her pantomime was remarkable and her facial expressions were characterized by a mobility that was surprising. Aiding La Frochard in her wickedness was Jacques, her rascally son, played with skill and understanding by Mr. Seplow.

Gravitating between these two extremes of goodness and evil was Marianne, a product of the Paris underworld, who, however, retained some of the human virtues. Mrs. Dickenson, who played the part, was a satisfying Marianne, appropriately melodramatic in the earlier scenes, and displaying in the prison scene a restraint and a certain charm that made her a very likable character, and her sacrifice very real.

A word must be said of Mr. James Cagney as Picard, valet to the Chevalier De Vaudrey. He added a delightful bit of real humor to the play by his excellent pantomime and his amusing vocal inflections. Mr. Burton James was an adequate Chevalier. Miss Clara Byrnes as the Countess de Linières made an imposing and dignified figure.

For the benefit of those unfortunate people who failed to see *The Two Orphans* be it said that they missed both an enjoyable performance and an opportunity to contribute to the Graduate Gift Fund that yielded a return much greater than the investment.

E. H., Jan. '20.

THE APRIL TEA.

It was a happy afternoon that the Seniors and Alumnae spent together on the day of the Senior Tea, April 21. Miss Bildersee's hearty welcome and Miss Huebner's cordial words of greeting alone made us glad to be there. Then followed the Community Sing, led by Miss Weihe, with Miss Johnson at the piano. Which we enjoyed more, our dear old college songs or the ice-cream and cake that came with them, would be difficult to say. The program ended with cheers for Miss Bildersee, our hostess for the afternoon, for the Alumnae, and for the author of the best college song ever written—Professor Cone. Nor can we forget the very gracious words spoken by Margaret Meade, "the splendid president of a splendid class"—to use Miss Bildersee's words—in which she told us of the praiseworthy aim of the class of June, 1920—100 per cent. membership in the Associate Alumnae.

K. W., '17.