

BARNARD BULLETIN

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BARNARD UNION REVIVAL MEETING

Miss Virginia Taylor, 1906, much chagrined at the downfall of the Union, called a mass meeting in the Theatre on Monday, December 14th, to discuss its revival. It was such a flourishing, successful institution in her day that she could not understand why it should have failed; but the small handful of girls who came to the meeting was indication of the lack of enthusiasm, or even interest in any such organization at the present time.

Professor Shotwell, who gave the Union its initial impetus, gave a short history of its existence and explained how it had grown from a small literary society to a large representative undergraduate organization that did not live. He laid the blame for its decline on two things—the great pressure of college work that taxes any conscientious student to the utmost, and the fact that there is no hour set apart for the furtherance of this literary work. "We must know," he added, "that this college has a different rôle to play in the education of women and cannot succeed if based on the plan of other colleges. Here we are in competition with the university and the city, and this makes the procuring of distinguished outsiders to speak at Barnard impossible. * * * There is a possibility that there will be further changes in the curriculum that will make more literary activity possible, but if the students themselves cannot keep the interest alive it is not worth while for the faculty to do it for them."

Miss Gildersleeve, as former President of the Union, then made a short address on the organization and activities of the club in its prime. It was devised to carry on debating and literary work, besides furthering the social intercourse among the students. After 1904 the great debating class was graduated, however, the interest died out, in spite of two debates with Normal and the Gill prizes offered in 1907. The literary work was carried on at the open meetings at which various distinguished people spoke. The original plan of having smaller literary meetings with papers and informal discussions was never carried out. Miss Gildersleeve concluded by saying that there never could be interest in debating here, because the girls with the necessary brains and energy are too busy with their regular work. There might be room for an English Club, but unless there were at least 25 girls eager to organize it, it were useless, because real interest and genuine enthusiasm must be back of the enterprise to keep it alive.

Miss Taylor then called for the opinions of some of the undergraduates present, as

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CHRISTMAS PARTY OF 1909

The Class of 1909 gave itself a Christmas party in the Theatre at 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon, December 18. The principal entertainment of the afternoon was furnished by the district school, in charge of Mary Swenson as the "teach." At 4 o'clock the school entered the Theatre, to the vast amusement of the audience, who seemed particularly impressed with the teacher's make-up, which consisted simply of a pair of spectacles and a very tight manner of hair dressing as a disguise. The school was composed of Lilian Closson, Polly Johnson, Adelaide Smithers, Adelaide Richardson, Jessie Cochran, Margaret Frink, Eva Vom Baur, Jessie Levy and Antoinette Riordan, girls; Helen Aiguier, Florence Gerrish, Lucy Thompson and Mildred Woodhull, boys; and Josephine Dempsey, a three-year-old, in curls and rompers. After the class was seated, Cecile Debouy and Evelyn Holt did a freak dance, which was loudly applauded. Lee Alexander, dressed as a Dutch girl, sang "I've a Little Pink Pettie from Peter," in so charming a manner that the vociferous plaudits of the district school were with difficulty restrained. Following this was the arithmetic lesson by the school, all dealing with the number 1909, and containing "local hits" that delighted the audience. After the lesson was over, the school held its Christmas entertainment, which was a very creditable performance, in spite of the prods, pushes, coaxing and prompting considered necessary by "teacher." The program was as follows:

1. A Christmas Drill.....By Nine Girls
 2. Seeing Things at Night..Florence Gerrish
 3. Candy Man Town.....Margaret Frink
 4. Ode to Santa Claus...Antoinette Riordan
 5. Letter to Santa Claus from a Good Little Girl.....Lilian Closson
 6. Mournful Tale of 1909...Jessie Cochran
 7. Christmas Verses....Mildred Woodhull
- Eva vom Baur, who was to have spoken a piece, presented so many excuses that the teacher could not help accepting some of them.

The school closed with the announcement by the teacher that the children would serve refreshments to all who cared to remain, a remark which was greeted by a prolonged chortle.

The whole class then gathered round the stage, where a beautiful Christmas tree was placed, and where Santa Claus (alias Hortense Mirch) distributed to all their overflowing stockings, with a short speech for each.

After the stockings had been opened, dancing began and continued for the remainder of the afternoon.

THE SOPHOMORE DANCE

On December 18th the annual Sophomore dance was given under the auspices of the Class of 1911. The Thompson gymnasium was transformed quite remarkably into a ballroom by the judicious distribution of pennants and sofa pillows; the bare walls of Brook's Hall standing as with testimony of the diligence of the Dance Committee, for the Dormitory was robbed in a cold-blooded manner for the adornment of Thompson gym.

Miss Weeks, Miss Huttman and Mrs. Verlage, with Agnes Denike (Dance Committee Chairman) and Charlotte Verlarge (ex-officio), received. Mrs. Denike was absent on account of illness. The receiving line stood near the "ballroom" door, with Miss Weeks at one end and Miss Denike at the other; and if some of the guests did begin at the wrong end, meeting the others in the middle like two opposing streams, they were quite excusable, and any slight confusion was laughingly passed over.

The transformation of the girls from the quiet students, with their "thirst-for-knowledge" air familiar to most of us, into dainty and, perhaps, rather coquettish maidens, was a charming one; and their soft-colored gowns, set off by the conventional black of the men, the lights and the figures swaying in time to excellent music, made a picture long to be remembered.

The Dance Committee deserves the thanks of the class as a whole for their efforts, so richly successful, in making 1911's Sophomore dance one to be remembered in the annals of Barnard's social history. The only unpleasant feature of the evening was the general slipperiness of the floor at first, and the slight hoarseness felt by some as the strange powder on the floor got in their throats and on their lips. But this wore off as the evening progressed, and is, of course, only a minor difficulty. On the whole, the dance was splendid, and all were gratified in the extreme at the way 1911 "turned out" en masse to make it, thro their united efforts, a success.

Y. W. C. A.

On Monday afternoon, December 14, the Y. W. C. A. held a recognition service for its new members in Earl Hall. Mrs. Merritt introduced Miss Wilbur, one of the secretaries of the National Board. Miss Wilbur, in her address, welcomed the new members and told them of the joys and inspiration that come from membership in the Y. W. C. A. She also spoke of the need of Christian work in any college and of the help that the Freshmen could give in that work. After Miss Wilbur closed, refreshments were served and an opportunity was given the new members to meet the speaker and the other members.

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1912

EDITORIAL

To an outsider it might seem surprising that there is no literary society at Barnard, and the BULLETIN has given voice to this idea editorially, but those who understand the conditions are evidently of the opinion that such an institution is no detriment to our Alma Mater. It was gratifying to see at the revival meeting of the Barnard Union that the students knew what they wanted and what they had to feel for, and maintained their standpoint in spite of the sentiment and tradition that lurks in the hearts of some graduates who cannot bear to see things otherwise than they used to be.

There is absolutely no use in trying to build up a club in artificial surroundings, and when the need for it is felt it will grow of its own accord. The literary society appears without coaxing and whispering without prodding and pushing, with a genuine institution that will last and be of true benefit to the members of the college through their efforts.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

There was a first class party on Tuesday, December 11th, and spent the afternoon in entertaining themselves with a Christmas tree in the Theatre. The committee had provided an old-fashioned quiet-while party and each girl followed her friend until she reached the Christmas tree, where a present awaited her among the branches. After the presents had all been found, refreshments and dancing were indulged in.

BARNARD BEAR

Harriet Fox has been obliged to resign her office of editor-in-chief of the *Barnard Bear*. The next number has gone to press under her supervision, but the last two issues of the year will be edited by Pauline Johnson, 1909.

THE FRESHMAN PARTY TO THE SENIORS

Perhaps it was the superior way in which Sophomores had been giving out dance cards; perhaps it was the as yet untried longing to be met, certainly one or both of these facts must have prompted the Class of 1912 to give their first official dance on Wednesday, December 16th, to the Class of 1910. It is altogether unprecedented for the Freshmen to give their sister class a party so early in the year, and it is also quite unusual for Freshmen to attend such a grand social function, but both the idea and the manner in which it was carried out were extremely successful.

Each Freshman had a Junior assigned her as her partner, and for weeks before she was busy filling out a dance order, by exchanging dances with her classmates. On the morning before the dance, it was clearly stated that the girls of 1912 would be the men, as there was no room for doubt, and the Juniors were fully prepared to act the ladies of the ball. This is the first appearance of such a male attire, the class may certainly be congratulated; frocks, gowns, and wraps—all were worn immaculately, while gloves, even, were worn by some of the gentlemen, and the all dressed early, so they would have plenty of time to admire one another and tell their friends what "stunning" men they made. The Juniors did better to carry out the scheme. Most of them came in light party frocks into the Theatre, a mass of merry-making and dancing, and the night was spent. The suggestion that there have been extended from over a long list of couples dancing at once was received with some degree of enthusiasm by the undergraduates. These were surprising, and all were present continuously throughout the evening, so that the undergraduate party was an extremely popular one. There were about four dances, and the first two were very successful. The first two dances were very successful.

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Continued from Column 2.)

Girls were given the privilege of asking the gentlemen for a dance. A great surprise to all was the Christmas tree, which suddenly appeared on the stage during the intermission. And a yet greater surprise was that Santa Claus had left an appropriate, and sometimes very attractive, gift for each Junior, accompanied by the good wishes of her sister class. Even Miss Mahoy, who, as honorary member of 1910, was present, was surprised with a bunch of flowers appropriately tied with brown and gold ribbons.

After the twenty-fourth dance, after cheering for Julia Goldberg, who played all afternoon, after cheering for themselves, for each other, and for the excellent work of the committee in charge, and especially after the light signals, which warned that time was up, the gentlemen escorted their ladies to the cloak room and gave them an appropriate good-night.

BASKETBALL

In the first of the series of interclass basketball games played on Monday, December 14th, the odd classes were again victorious, as the Seniors won from the Juniors by a score of 14-8, and the Sophomores from the Freshmen, 24-5. The line-ups were as follows:

1909	1910
A. Smuthers	G. Hunter
B. Smuthers	H. Woodhull
C. Goldberg	T. McGrath
D. Van Buren	B. Holman
E. Murch	M. McCann
F. Taylor	N. Hamburger
1911	1912
G. Levedge	A. Wall
H. Gleason	S. Gleason
I. Schaeffer	N. Wegman
J. Randolph	Mary Stearns

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M. Conroy
E. Burne.....guards.....P. Hoffman
The Sophomore team is probably the best trained, as the present line-up have practiced together faithful since their first game. In the game with the Freshmen the ball was in the center most of the time, as there the teams were more evenly matched. Had the 1912 centers had a good support in the rest of their players, the game would not have been so one-sided. The Juniors put up an excellent fight and are to be commended for the improvement in their work. The Seniors are holding their own—and that is doing very well for Seniors! The sensation of the game was the basket made from the center by Mamie Wegener, 1912.

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well as of Florence Wolff, '08, the last President of the much-discussed and lamented Union. The opinion was almost unanimous against the present re-establishment of a Union, altho a few girls stated their conviction that an interest in purely literary activities was growing, but it is not quite ready for definite organization. The meeting was closed without any definite action being taken.

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