

University of the State of New York.

THE
THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FACULTY

OF THE
College of the City of New York

TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

December, 1881.

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1882.

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COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 1, 1881.

The Committee appointed to prepare the Annual Report to the Trustees of this College, respectfully submit the following for the consideration of the Faculty, and unanimously recommend its adoption.

JOHN C. DRAPER, } *Committee of the*
SOLOMON WOOLF, } *Faculty.*
JAMES WEIR MASON, }

On motion, the Report was adopted, and the President and Secretary were directed to sign and transmit the same to the Board of Trustees.

ADOLPH WERNER,

Secretary to the Faculty.

REPORT.

To the Board of Trustees of the College of the City of New York:

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with section 19 of the Manual of the College, the Faculty herewith submit their report for the year ending June 23, 1881.

On Commencement Day, June 24, 1880, there were on the rolls of the College 1,078 students, classified as follows:

In the Senior Class	50
“ Junior “	84
“ Sophomore Class.....	127
“ Freshman “	244
“ Sub-Freshman Class { Coll., 329 } { One year, 244 }	573
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	1078

During the first term, ending January 7, 1881, there left, or were dismissed—

From the Senior Class	2
“ Junior “	21
“ Sophomore Class.....	29
“ Freshman “	62
“ Sub-Freshman Class { Coll., 67 } { One year, 82 }	149
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Total	263

During the second term, ending in June, there left, or were dismissed—

From the Senior Class.....		1
“ Junior “		3
“ Sophomore Class.....		9
“ Freshman “		19
“ Sub-Freshman Class	{ Coll., 12 }	45
	{ One year, 33 }	
		77

The examination for admission took place June 6th, June 7th and June 8th. Of the 801 applicants, 582 were admitted on approbation to the Sub-Freshman Class.

The examination for advancement was held from June 2d to 10th inclusive. When the results had been ascertained and collated, 47 members of the Senior Class were recommended to your Board for graduation. Of the

Junior Class.....	47	were advanced;
Sophomore Class.....	61	“
Freshman “	114	“
Sub-Freshman Class.....	156	“ and

48 left from the one year division, receiving certificates that they had completed the prescribed course to the satisfaction of the Faculty.

At Commencement the 47 Seniors recommended by the Faculty were graduated, leaving on the rolls of the College 926 students, viz.:

In the Senior Class.....	47
“ Junior “	68
“ Sophomore Class.....	123
“ Freshman “	191
“ Sub-Freshman Class	{ Coll., 297 }
	{ One year, 200 }
	497
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Total.....	926

For the names of the Students admitted, as required by the Manual, the Faculty respectfully refer you to the Thirty-third Annual Register of the College of the City of New York.

From the inspection of the foregoing statistics, the Faculty feel justified in calling your attention to the continued prosperity of the College, exhibited in the large attendance during a period of unwonted business activity. While it is true that there is a diminution in the number of Students compared with those of 1879, and in the two or three years immediately preceding, still an explanation is readily found in the increasing stringency of the examination for admission, and in some measure in the probation of eight weeks to which those who have passed the admission examination are subjected before being finally enrolled among the regular students. The statistics of the College will show, we believe, that during periods of commercial depression the applicants have been more numerous and the attendance has been longer continued, attributable, in all likelihood, to the difficulty of obtaining remunerative employment and to the desire on the part of parents keeping their sons usefully engaged.

It is a matter of congratulation, therefore, that during the

present period of great and general prosperity, despite the many inducements offered to young men to engage in the various business occupations of life, we are still enabled to retain our hold upon so large a number. May we not reasonably regard this as a sign of the estimation in which the higher education is viewed by those classes to which our College especially appeals. For the main part of the students who attend the College are the sons of those to whom their services in the workshop, the store or the counting house, would prove an additional source of comfort and ease. No stronger argument can be adduced to prove the prosperity of higher education than the daily sacrifices thus made by the middle and poorer classes to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the College.

The Faculty cannot but regard with pleasure the creditable position which their undergraduates and graduates assume in the active competition in the medical, law and technical schools, in the honorable duties of the teacher's profession, and in the ranks of the business community. The explanation of their success may be found, in a large measure, in the somewhat peculiar character of the College curriculum. Thus, it enjoys one rare advantage in having a five years' course instead of the ordinary one of four, and in requiring an attendance of four hours each day in the class room instead of three, as is the general custom; in having a preparatory class, which, fresh from the hands of the most experienced and successful teachers of the public schools (a number of whom are graduates of the College), is moulded before entering the regular collegiate course into a homogeneous body. By this means the diverse early training is harmonized, and results are thus attainable, which

would seem well nigh impossible under that other condition where the work of the first year must be expended upon material as diversified as the source from which most Colleges derive their students. An eminent authority upon educational matters has very justly observed "that the process of artificial education should, from the beginning to the end, be one continuous system, governed everywhere by the same principles, and subject everywhere, if possible, to the same superintending intelligence."

It is gratifying to find so complete a vindication of the correctness of the policy which has been pursued by our College; nor is it less gratifying to find that not alone in this, but in regard to other features which have until of late been peculiarities since our foundation, the same authority has given the weight of his approval, notably in the recognition of the study of the modern languages as a useful part of collegiate training in connection with the studies of a scientific character. Thus, the farsightedness of those in whose minds the scheme of the College was matured, is day by day receiving the acknowledgment of the most advanced thinkers; and the study of the modern languages, of science and art, seems destined at no distant time to become, as with us, an integral part of every College curriculum. And satisfactory as is this outside approval of the theory of education here adopted, the Faculty, on its side, has never found any reason to be dissatisfied with the practical working of the plan, nor with the value of the training throughout its prescribed course.

In a previous report the Faculty called attention to the overcrowding of the class rooms through want of suitable accommodation. The diminution of numbers, of which mention has

already been made, has modified to some extent this difficulty, and rendered the efforts of the instructors correspondingly more effective. Setting aside the question of instruction, however, and considering only that of the health of the students, it is clear to any one acquainted with the recitation rooms in the two College buildings that it is not safe to overstep the limits long since laid down by the Board of Trustees, viz., thirty-five in a section of the lowest class, taught mainly in the new building, and twenty-five in a section of the older students, taught mainly in the old building. Until greater accommodation can be afforded, there is no method by which the overcrowding of rooms and the overtaxing of instructors can be avoided, save increased stringency of examination for admission and the early elimination of undesirable material by the system of probation. The Faculty feels constrained, in view of this continued difficulty, to press upon your Honorable Board the necessity of considering some plan of extended accommodation, being convinced that only thus can any material augmentation in numbers be invited or justified.

Upon an inspection of the schedule of studies given in the Annual Register, and upon an investigation of the methods and the character of the instruction, the Faculty believes it will be conceded that the College has not fallen behind other kindred institutions, but, on the contrary, has been among the first to adopt measures consonant with modern progress in the acquisition and application of knowledge. But, fruitful as this work is, it expresses but a part of the usefulness of the College. Standing at the summit of the system devised for the free education of the youth of our great commercial metropolis—indeed, the natural

outgrowth of that system—the College had as its first duty to regard the practical aims of life, without overlooking the needs of higher culture. It thus became the center to which all public instruction tended. By offering the reward of its more advanced training, it elevated the schools and incited a generous emulation amongst them. It has become the goal towards which thousands of young men have looked with eager expectation and hope. It has held out to the laborer and mechanic the prospect of seeing his children rise above his own humble condition, or, at least, of being better able to compete with their more favored neighbors. It has extended to him an incentive and a reward for his peaceful industry. It has opened to the lowly as to the high those fields of labor in which intelligence is the criterion, and has fostered that broad fellowship which is founded upon the community of intellect, and not the accidents of fortune.

In conclusion, the Faculty expresses to your Honorable Board its appreciation of the attention and care with which you have governed the College during the past year. The Faculty expects this interest to continue, and assures you that it will endeavor by its efforts to maintain the reputation of the institution, and to enlarge its sphere of usefulness.

ALEX. S. WEBB,
President.

ADOLPH WERNER,
Secretary.