

# Brooklyn College Now Boasts A Real Campus in Flatbush

Mayor Dedicates Five New Buildings—Once Students Had to Dodge Traffic, But Soon They'll Walk on Landscaped Grounds—Site Cost \$1,200,000.

The formal opening today of five new Georgian buildings by Mayor La Guardia and the members of the Board of Higher Education ended the era in which Brooklyn College, one of the four publicly-supported colleges in New York City, got along without a campus.

The 13,000 young men and women who attend Brooklyn College used to have a sort of campus, but they shared it with the sidewalk auctioneers and street-corner evangelists who inhabit the Borough Hall section of Brooklyn.

## No Vine-covered Elms.

Established eight years ago, the institution was housed in five business and loft buildings in the side streets off Borough Hall, and the student who went from a philosophy class in one building to a chemistry class in another had to dodge around street cars and automobiles on the way. And he walked under the elevated instead of the stately, vine-covered elms that are generally associated with the higher learning.

The new campus at Bedford Ave. and Avenue H, Flatbush, however, fulfills all the academic traditions, even if it was erected through public funds rather than the generosity of a Rockefeller or a Harkness.

The five buildings—an academic building, a science building, a library, a gymnasium and a heating plant—are made of brick, tasteful and dignified. They stand around a quadrangle which will be landscaped later. And they are sufficiently separated from the surrounding apartment buildings to enable the institution to develop a sense of unity.

## Once a Golf Course.

The site they occupy consists of forty-two acres which the residents used to call simply "the lots." For years it was used only for sandlot baseball games. Occasionally the circus set up its canvas there for a week's stand. About a dozen years ago someone built a golf course on it, but that enterprise died in 1929 when the neighbors found better ways of spending their money.

The city purchased the site for about \$1,200,000 and the buildings were erected with \$5,500,000 of Public Works Administration funds, of which 45 per cent was a grant and the remainder a loan. In addition, the city has spent about \$400,000 for equipment, and the Works Progress Administration estimates that it will have spent \$358,000 before the landscaping is complete.

## Efficiency Is Keynote.

The designers tried to combine a maximum of efficiency with a minimum of expenditure in the buildings. The only pretentious rooms are those occupied by the president, William A. Boylan. They are paneled with walnut, furnished with Chippendale chairs and tables, and they boast the only open fireplace in the institution.

Other features of the Academic Building include a complete broadcasting studio connected directly with station WNYC, a speech correction laboratory, several art studios and sound-proof music rooms.

The library has reading space for 750 students and several floors of stacks. The gymnasium has a 75-foot swimming pool and two large basketball floors.

## Have Special Locksmith.

One can get an idea of the size of the development from the fact that there are more than 1,600 locks in the buildings, and a special locksmith works full time to take care of them.

Although the new buildings provide space for 21,500 students in day, evening, summer and post-graduate courses, nearly doubling the previous capacity, present plans for the construction of additional buildings which will bring the total cost of the project to about \$10,000,000.