Whitehead Hall Formal Opening Marked by City Officials' Talks

Without a fanfare of trumpets or a rattle of drums, Alfred North Whitehead Hall was officially opened, Tuesday.

The special program marking the formal curtain-raising of the college’s newest building consisted of a luncheon and a series of addresses by noted guests.

The list of distinguished guests present at the opening ceremonies included Dr. Mason W. Gross, president of Rutgers University, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, President of Brooklyn College, Gladys Dorman, chairman of the BC Committee of the BHE, Dr. Gustave Rosenberg, chairman of the BHE, Abe Stark, Brooklyn borough president, and T. North Whitehead, son of the man for whom the building was named.

Keynote Address

Dr. Gross delivered the keynote speech, “Philosophers and Kings,” which dealt with Alfred North Whitehead, the man and philosopher. He noted that the new building was appropriately named, for, although primarily a mathematician and logician, Whitehead in no way favored the separation of the social sciences from the rest of the body of human knowledge.

In his remarks, Mayor Wagner, touched upon BC’s outstanding record in business, government and the academic world, commenting that the college is a “brilliant illustration of the benefits” of the free tuition system. The Mayor also pointed out that “Alfred North Whitehead Hall stands as a redeemed pledge, made by both the government and people of our city, to our youth ...”

Brooklyn Borough President Abe Stark recalled the “humble origins of this fine institution,” while BHE Chairman Gustave G. Rosenberg spoke of the right to education of aspiring youth. Dr. Rosenberg envisioned that one of the primary values of Whitehead Hall will be that it will enable Brooklyn College to increase its number of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. classes.

College’s Role

President Harry D. Gideonse, who introduced the various speakers, spoke of his belief that colleges should have a role in determining how far modern developments are good for and applicable to educational techniques. He noted that, to this end, BC has installed a TV studio in the new hall.

The President noted that, including the new building, the college now allows 36 square feet per faculty member. Commenting ironically upon this, he stated that “a federal ruling exists which requires 25 square feet for every chicken in the U.S. “Therefore, each faculty member is equivalent to one and one-half chickens.”

Also attending the program were representatives of the BHE, the presidents of the seven member units of the City University, delegates of local colleges, “selected members of selected departments” and student leaders.

Space Allotments

Authorized in 1957 to help relieve overcrowding as it then was, the new social science build-

President Harry D. Gideonse accompanies Mayor Robert F. Wagner to the opening ceremonies of Whitehead Hall.

ing adds 100,000 square feet of floor space to the college facilities, including 41 classrooms, five department offices (Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology-Anthropology), 21 faculty staffrooms, a television studio, two lecture halls, a sculpture court and television and art workshops. In addition, there is a 300-seat student cafeteria.

‘Whitehead—Living Tribute to a Man’

—See Page 5

which has not yet been completed.

Following the example of the college’s other buildings, Whitehead Hall will soon boast a plaque, which will read, “Alfred North Whitehead Hall. This building is dedicated to the memory of Alfred North Whitehead, 1861-1947, who as scientist, educator and philosopher exalted the mind and spirit of man. In the conditions of modern life the rule is absolute. The race which does not value trained intelligence is doomed.”

Dean of Administration Francis Kilcoyne noted that this quotation from Whitehead’s writings “stresses one of his basic concerns—namely, that if we don’t pay attention to the nurturing of the intelligence of our citizens, we as a nation will not long survive.”

—B.R.