BROOKLYN COLLEGE OPENED AFTER YEARS OF AGITATION

New Educational Centre to Relieve Pressure on Manhattan Institutions of Higher Learning

BROOKLYN College opened its doors last Friday to the 1,000 students enrolled—the first public centre of collegiate instruction in the downtown section of the borough. The establishment of the institution came as a climax to years of agitation for adequate public collegiate facilities in Brooklyn.

Of recent years Brooklyn boys and girls who were receiving a college education at the city's expense faced an embarrassing situation. The existing public institutions, City College and Hunter College, in the upper part of Manhattan, were difficult of access with relation to most residential sections in Brooklyn. Students spent two and three hours daily traveling to and from college. In spite of the handicap, they flocked to the colleges in such numbers that higher standards were adopted in order to restrict enrolment.

Last Spring Senator C. Nicoll and Assemblyman A. Hearn obtained the passage of a bill, subsequently signed by Governor Smith, creating a Board of Higher Education to "select a suitable site for an education unit or centre under its control and administration in the borough or similar subdivision of the city which has the largest public high school registration at the time the article takes effect."

The Brooklyn College, a comprehensive institution housed in suitable buildings, was still a question of the more or less remote future. Ways and means of relieving the Brooklyn situation as soon as possible were, therefore, the immediate task before the board.

An office building at Willoughby and Bridge Streets was just being completed when the board began to look around for the necessary space. The upper eight floors were rented. The cooperation of City College and Hunter College was enlisted and the two institutions supplied a staff of teachers to begin instruction.