Dr. Boylan Dies, Was Brooklyn College Head

First President of School Retired in '58; He Was in City System 30 Years

Dr. William A. Boylan, first president of Brooklyn College and former associate superintendent of schools in charge of buildings and schools, died yesterday at his home, 536 West End Avenue. He was seventy-one years old. He retired as president in September, 1938, because of illness.

When Dr. Boylan came to Brook-lyn College in 1939 by appointment from the Board of Higher Education, he had completed approximately thirty years as a thirty-year district superintendent and associate superintendent in the city school system. He was given the responsi-

bility of developing the college-

- was organized in 1939 through the consolidation of the branches of Hunter and City Colleges, into a full-grown institution offering all types of courses.

Dr. Boylan immediately began the three-point program. He extended the college curriculum to a full four years, obtained the right to award degrees, and added in obtaining the present site for the college at Bed-

ford Avenue and Avenue J. When he first assumed the presidency, the college was in cluttered buildings scattered about downtown Brooklyn. He also arranged for the transfer of 683 women students at the Maxwell Training School for Teachers to branches, one of academic institutions for training instructors, to the college.

Dr. Boylan took a six-month leave of absence from the college late last Decem-

ber 20th year just prior to 1928 because of illness. He returned one year later reaching the retirement age of sev-

enty. He was succeeded by Dr. A. David Goodman.

A native of New York, Dr. Boylan was graduated in 1887 from St. Francis Xavier College, where he received the degree of Master of Arts and taught for five years. He received a honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from Fordham University in 1930.

As a teacher in the public school, one of whose pupils was featured in James J. Walker. Thirty years later, when he was a district superinten-

dent of schools, he urged 14,000 parents in his Bronx district to back for Mr. Walker for Mayor "in name of democracy."

After Mayor Walker had been elected associate superin-

tendent of schools by the Board of Education. For three and one-half years he was in charge of the board's building program, supervised the construction of 100 schools. As the Board of Education's representative before the Board of Estimate hearings on the school budget, he frequently asked for additional funds for school construction to prevent overcer-

taining in the classes.

After Brooklyn College had be-

come one of the largest liberal arts institutions in America under his guid-

eation, Dr. Boylan was constantly on guard to preserve the personal relationship between the student and faculty member that existed in the small college. He was an advocate of strict supervision of the lives of college students. To permit immature college students to discontinue, he frequently said, was an unwise policy.

Dr. Boylan was the co-author of several textbooks used in the city school system. He wrote "City Arithmetic" and "Corrective Exercises in English" and "Required Reading for Av. Teaching," and "New Methods in Teaching," and career planning," with Mrs. Mary E. McCarron.

Dr. Boylan frequently went abroad for study and observation. He traveled extensively in Italy, France Spain.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Mary E. McCarron and Mrs. H. Wright, and two brothers, Arthur A. and Frank Boylan.