

PRESIDENT BARS VASSAR CAMPUS TO SUFFRAGISTS

Inez Milholland, Politely
Bowed Away, Forced to
Speak in Town.

ATHLETES GIVE "MANLY" EXHIBITION

College Heads Arrive for Ex-
ercises To-day—Barnard Pro-
fessor Arouses Alumnae.

By EMMA BURGEE.

Poughkeepsie, Oct. 12.—Feminism will out, and suffrage speeches will be made, even at Vassar. The scholarly dignity of the fiftieth anniversary celebration was ruffled to-day by two episodes symbolic of the new woman. Mrs. George Haven Putnam, professor of history at Barnard College, in a feminist address before the alumnae this morning advocated "testing the conventions" and training women in all manly arts, from heart breaking to pistol toting.

Coming out shocked and pulverized from this experience, the "old grads" heard rumors spreading about that Inez Milholland's suffrage meeting had been politely bowed off the campus. It is only a month since Vassar's militant pacifist was sent out of Italy for her peace writings. History repeated itself in this, her first public appearance since her return.

Bans Propagandist Speeches.

Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president of the college, explained to those who inquired that it was the feeling of the authorities that the jubilee was no place for propagandist speeches.

"I am a suffragist myself," he said, "but I don't think it is right to take advantage of a gathering like this to advocate it. I wouldn't hold up these people to argue my views on free trade. Mrs. Boiessevain's meeting was announced without the permission of the authorities, due to a superabundance of enthusiasm. It could not be allowed any more than a lot of college boys would be allowed to paint the fences red."

The yellow posters which announced the meeting were signed by Inez Milholland Boiessevain, Lucy Burne Crystal Eastman Benedict and Elsie Hill, all recent graduates. It was to further the cause of the Susan B. Anthony Federal amendment.

"Id Rather Play Hockey."

When Mrs. Boiessevain was told that the meeting was called off she only laughed.

"Oh, well," she said, "I'd rather play hockey, anyway. Come on, girls, let's see if we can borrow some gym suits and get up a game."

A bout of the old athletic champions who have come back was arranged on the spot, but first there was an exhibition of gymnastics representing the various periods of Vassar's athletic history.

Eugen Boiessevain, husband of the strenuous Inez, had never been to Vassar before, nor had he, being a Highlander, ever seen American girl athletes before. It is safe to say that he was the most interested of all the spectators who sat on the grass of the circle and watched the girls run, jump, play hockey and dance.

"Is that what you broke the records in?" he inquired of a pretty girl, with short curls tossing about her shoulders, who had just leaped over the hurdles.

"No, I only did the shot-put and basketball throw," said 1909's champion, ruefully.

Olden Wand Drill Amuses.

The most amusing number on the programme was the wand drill, typical of 1865. Fifty girls in ugly gray

JUBILEE HEROINES, 45 YEARS OUT OF VASSAR.



Three members of the class of 1867, the third class which was graduated from Vassar College, who have returned to the old familiar scenes of their girlhood to help celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Poughkeepsie institution.

dresses, with sashes of red flannel, pinked on the edges, went through a series of prim evolutions to the music of "The Anvil Chorus." There was also a group of croquet players in hoopskirts and sunbonnets. The programme was headed by a quotation from the 1865 catalogue of the college, which said: "It is settled, then, as an axiom in the administration of the college that the health of its students is not to be sacrificed to any other object whatever; and that, to the utmost possible extent, those whom it educates shall become physically well developed, vigorous and graceful women, with enlightened views and wholesome habits in regard to taking care of their own health and others' under their charge."

Matthew Vassar's schedule of gymnastics, however wise for his time, caused much laughter, as the graduates remembered the ideals of womanly activity which had been held up to them in the meeting by Mrs. Putnam.

Would Make Girls Manly.

"If I had my way," she had said, "girls would be brought up to be manly. They would be stripped of their hampering dress, itself a badge of physical incompetence; they would be practised in dangerous sports where life and limb depend on nervous control. Public opinion would require of them the same standard of physical courage that it requires of boys. They would not be allowed to cry when they are hurt. The schools would have courses in not being afraid of things. They would learn the art of self-defense and, in view of their special liability to attack, would supplement it with the open carriage of weapons when circumstances rendered it advisable."

"It is my belief that the new habits of mind begotten by such changes as these would work farther than we can easily imagine. I have in mind a young girl who had to be pulled out of an Adirondack Lake at great risk to the lives of two young men. Now, I do not say that she should have been allowed to drown, as an example to people to teach their daughters to swim, but I do say that if the young men had refused to risk their lives we could have found reasons for pardoning them."

Would Let Women Go to War.

"With the high heel I should like to see go the idea, which many women seem to hold who should know better, that war, irrespective of the motive for which it is waged, is a new form of self-indulgence that men have invented for themselves and of which women are the chief victims. So far am I from sympathy with these strange views that, if it should ever become necessary for the United States to go to war, I hope we shall see battalions of strong, disciplined, courageous young women as ready and as fit as their brothers to defend the right."

Miss Lillian D. Wald, of the Nurses' Settlement of New York, took up the reference to the women peace advocates by declaring that she was proud to be one of Jane Addams's followers. Her address was a review of the development of women's responsibilities, from the home to the community.

James Monroe Taylor, president emeritus of Vassar, spoke on "Vassar's Contribution to Educational Theory and Practice," urging the graduates not to forget the high standards of the early days of the college.

College Presidents Arrive.

The afternoon was devoted to social affairs, including a concert by the Russian Symphony Orchestra. Every train brought new guests from other colleges, who are to march in the academic procession to-morrow preceding the inauguration of President MacCracken. This will be one of the most notable gatherings of educators ever seen in this country. Presidents and professors from more than a hundred colleges in this country and abroad will pay honor to Vassar. President Hadley of Yale, President Burton of Smith, Denn Bertha M. Boody of Radcliffe, Professor George Lyman Kittredge of Harvard, John H. Finley, Commissioner of Education, President Pendleton of Wellesley and President Woolley of Mount Holyoke have all arrived.

The presence of so many men professors at Vassar is not without its humorous aspects. For example, a gray-bearded professor steps over to the sweet young thing at the information bureau and asks her if he ought to dress for dinner. Another announces that he won't be in until 1:30 o'clock and wants to know how to get in. She does not know. The emergency never arose at Vassar before.

The suffrage meeting, which was ejected from the campus took place in front of the opera house this evening before the performance of "Vassar's Milestones." Mrs. Inez Milholland Boiessevain, with an automobile full of her loyal classmates and her husband, challenged the men of Poughkeepsie to tell why they were opposed to woman suffrage. "You're too saucy," cried one man from the crowd, and, with that as a text, Mrs. Boiessevain concluded with a dissertation on democracy.