

Edited by LAURA BREST

## New York School Celebrates Commencement Exercises Students and Friends Gather for Graduation

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Another New York Commencement has come and gone.

Impressive ceremonies, followed by a delightful reception, marked the Fall Semester Commencement exercises of the Henry George School of Social Science in New York, which were held on January 23, 1942. A near capacity audience filled the attractive Engineering Auditorium, on West 30 Street, to hear a number of interesting addresses and a group of songs by one of the School's advanced students. The program was arranged by Sydney Mayers, and George Hansen acted as master of ceremonies; Messrs. Mayers and Hansen are instructors at the New York school.

After a few words of greeting and welcome, Mr. Hansen introduced as the first speaker Anna George de Mille, president of the Board of Trustees of the Henry George School of Social Science. Mrs. de Mille needed little introduction and received a cordial reception from the audience, who heard with pleasure her "Message to the Graduates"; as always, her talk was charming and enjoyable. It was a splendid beginning for a splendid program.

Next presented was Paul Peach, member of the New York faculty and assistant editor of *The Freeman*. In a brief address, replete with anecdote and humor, Mr. Peach offered an earnest plea for tolerance in these times of stress. He pointed out in cogent fashion that those who profess to struggle for democracy and decency in our way of living cannot consistently allow themselves to employ discrimination in their social and cultural activities. His remarks seemed to hit their mark, for prolonged applause concluded his speech.

Following Mr. Peach, four student speakers, in three-minute talks, expressed what their courses at the school had meant to them. Vincent C. Schwoyer, of C. O. Steele's class, observed that he had

"found the light" after groping in the dark for an answer to the problems of the world. Samuel J. Sussman, of Herbert von Henningsen's class, then told how he had started the course with great suspicion, how he had attained enlightenment, and how his studies inspire him to thought every time he reads a newspaper. Sonja Steingut, a graduate of Sydney Mayers' special high-school class last summer, captivated everyone with her droll comment that she anticipated the day when the College of the City of New York, her present alma mater, would become a subsidiary of the Henry George School of Social Science. The last student speaker was George V. Rumage, of William O'Connor's class. Mr. Rumage, too, had started his studies with extreme skepticism, but ended by being so impressed with the teaching of Henry George that he is now seeking to apply some of the famous merchandising methods of the "Man-Marketing Clinic," of which he was a founder, to spreading further the tenets of the philosophy of freedom.

At this point, a rare treat was presented in the form of a group of songs, beautifully sung by Valiere Esty, brilliant young Canadian born contralto. Mrs. Esty wasn't released by the audience until she had sung several encores. Indeed, far from being just a musical interlude, her singing was one of the high spots of the evening.

Dr. Adele E. Streeseman, in the principal address of the evening, chose as her topic, "Freedom—a Necessity, Not a Luxury," demonstrating clearly that her reputation as a brilliant speaker was well deserved. She inspired those present with her social philosophy, and delighted them with her humor.

The ceremonies were closed with the singing of "America," after which the audience enjoyed delicious refreshments (including warm ice cream) served in the banquet hall.