

The Last Class Room Is Filled Eighteen Hundred Students Enrolled

NEW YORK—On October 2 the fall 1939-40 term was opened. Three weeks previously nearly 75,000 invitations to the courses had been mailed or distributed, over 1,000 posters had been displayed in libraries, stores, offices, factories, clubs. This stupendous job, done almost entirely by volunteer workers, during a characteristically humid New York summer, brought its results.

There are eight class rooms on the two floors in the school building which had been renovated when it was acquired last fall. Each of these rooms seats an average of thirty students. Every room is occupied during the 8 P. M., to 10 P. M. sessions every night from Monday through Friday. There are seventeen classes held from 5:30 to 7:30 P. M., and six classes on Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 P. M.

Altogether there are 53 classes in Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy; nine in the Principles of International Trade (followed by the Science of Political Economy); two are studying "Democracy Versus Socialism"; one the "Philosophy of Henry George;" and there is a class in the Principles of Writing, and one Teachers Training Class. Committees will meet in the library or the Students' Room.

If it were possible to control the distribution of enrollments, these two floors could accommodate 2400. But such an ideal

is obviously unattainable. As it was, many who desired to enroll on Mondays and Tuesdays had to be shifted to other days—and shifting usually results in some dropping out.

Sixty-five of the teachers have "jobs" in the building. Classes outside the building (six in Jamaica, one each in Forest Hills, Astoria, White Plains, Bedford Y. M. C. A., Freeport) have been organized by some of these teachers; disappointments were unavoidable, though a few teachers welcomed the respite of one term. The problem of keeping them all occupied in the spring term, beginning in January, will be aggravated by the additions from the class in training. If it is found feasible to add classes during the daytime and on Saturday nights this will be done.

In one year these two floors have been filled to capacity, and now, once again, space is sadly needed. Approximately seven thousand dollars will be needed to renovate and equip the two top floors, which will more than double the class room capacity.

The problem for the fall of 1940 is quite definite. So are the possibilities for the crusade against economic ignorance. The school's Director remembers the bleak decades when no one would lend an ear to fundamental economics and social philosophy. Now his most agonizing task is—turning prospective students away.