

IT'S opening week at New York headquarters. Classes—basic and advanced—have been announced in English, French, Italian, German and Spanish, by the registrar Jenny Meyers.

The afternoon classes are over and a French class is about to begin. Confused questions are being asked in the front office about the "French lecture on economies." This involves a slight misunderstanding which the evening registrar, C. Lois Jessop, explains, speaking in French because some of the applicants do not understand English. With this over-size French class in progress and relocated, with her help, in a larger room, she will try to get the names sorted and entered, and will arrange folders for teachers and all necessary class materials for the rest of the evening.

At six o'clock the lobby echoes with Gallic voices melting away in retreat, as some head for the coffee shop and others arrive. They come in all sizes and ages, alone or in pairs. In very decorous low tones they reply to the evening registrar's questions, for she cannot direct them until she finds in what class they wish to register and present the proper form.

"Fundamental Economics or advanced?" she asks. "English, French, Spanish..." If the answer comes uncertainly she will have begun to surmise the native language of the person hesitating before her. Quickly she hands them the application to be presented in class and announces the room number. "Drei and furtzig," she says to one; to another "classe Trente-un;" the many Spanish visitors will be sent to sala cincuenta-cuatro.

The steady flow of students increases as another classtime approaches. Some stop to buy books, many ask lengthy questions as others wait. The telephone switchboard is jangling furiously. By

this time she asks someone to open the window which opens out on fashionable East 69th Street—she needs air!

On they come, each stopping to present a card silently because they do not wish to reveal their uncertainty in the English tongue. In a glance Miss Jessop senses the situation and answers in the applicant's language. As the "night show" goes on she quickly shifts from one to another of her five languages in which economics is being offered at the New York Headquarters.

The "regulars" stop in little groups to chat with each other—earnest looking teachers pick up their folders and gather for dinner in the dining room before meeting the new students. Volunteers will direct visitors to the self-service elevator and the classrooms. Others meanwhile are phoning in with questions about the course or the Friday at Eight programs. Late comers are still drifting in although the 7:30 class started half an hour ago.

All cards of applicants must be processed. The evening registrar's ear is tuned to the noise of earlier classes breaking up and the clatter of footsteps down the stairs. This means that students are leaving and she must take care of enrollment cards, records, purchases of books and any unusual situation that may have arisen, for she is the "trouble shooter" and the staff member most in evidence and the first to be consulted by the teachers or anyone with a problem.

By 10 p.m. she has had it—her hands are tired from much typing and handling of all cards which presumably are complete identification records for the new enrolees and advanced students. She hopes the teachers will not linger long beyond class dismissal time, but many of them get interested in a discussion and forget the hour.

As new students drift out this first

week they are still strangers to each other. A few may not come back—the subject of economics will seem too formidable. A few will have every intention of completing the course but will be prevented for some reason. But some will go right on to the end—and by graduation, 10 weeks distant—they will have made new acquaintances and perhaps new friends. They will have added another dimension to their interests and knowledge, and one or two may emerge as leaders, as some have—going to another city or another country to establish Henry George extensions. So from the registrar's office at 50 East 69th Street, an ever-widening circle represented by 692 new registrants this term, may spread to far-off continents.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The New York Henry George School is holding its Annual Banquet on Thursday, June 2, at the Seventh Regiment Armory, 67th Street and Park Ave. The theme is, "Applying Land Value Taxation in the New York Area," and speakers include Alexander Frame, Max Flechner, Gerald Schleicher and Sloan Wilson, with Paul S. Nix as Toastmaster. Reservations for dinner (\$4.50) should be sent promptly to the Henry George School, 50 E. 69th St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Have you set aside the dates July 20-24? It's St. Louis in '66, at the Sheraton Jefferson Hotel, for the School's 22nd Annual Conference. "Finding a Better Way" is the conference theme, and among those who will help find it are Prof. Pinkney Walker, Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, Henry Langenberg and Congressman Tom Curtis. Complete program will mailed to subscribers of the Henry George News. Meanwhile the host director, Loral Swofford, will be glad to receive your reservation and answer your queries. Write to him at 818 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. 63101.

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