

200 Years at Columbia

By NASH K. BURGER

AS part of that scholarly celebration up on Morningside Heights, there is being published a nineteen-volume series, *The Bicentennial History of Columbia University*. This series, under the general editorship of Dwight C. Miner, Professor of History, boasts seventeen monographs on the university's schools and colleges and a two-volume over-all history, "Two Centuries of Columbia University." The nineteen volumes are being written by a platoon (reinforced) of seventy-five authors.

Mr. Miner, who has been working on the project for six years, was not very deep into it before he realized that the proliferation of Columbia's schools and colleges made it impossible to tell their story in any single, readable narrative. Then came the idea for a brief, separate book on each school, with a two-volume summary history to give a bird's-eye view of the whole story from King's College down by Trinity Church to Columbia University on Morningside Heights.

Six of these Columbia University Press books have appeared, and the others, plus the two-volume history (which Mr. Miner himself is writing), will be a-borning later in the year.

A member of the Book Review staff, Mr. Burger lived eight years on Morningside Heights.

Of these, perhaps the volume that will have the widest general interest is **A HISTORY OF ADULT EDUCATION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY: University Extension and the School of General Studies (\$2.50)**.

Written by John A. Burrell, Professor of English, the book traces Columbia's pioneering work in the field of adult education from 1830, when such courses were first proposed, on through the tentative beginnings with lectures and "post-graduate courses" to the establishment of the School of General Studies in 1947. This school alone now enrolls 10,000 students yearly and has stimulated similar programs in other ivied halls across the nation.

The university broke new ground, too, with its woman's college, opened in 1889 and named for Columbia's President F. A. P. Barnard, who had something to do with its establishment and with convincing educators and the public that woman's place is in the classroom. The sixty-five-year history of the school is covered by Marian C. White, a Barnard alumna, in **A HISTORY OF BARNARD COLLEGE (\$3.50)**. Mrs. White recalls, often humorously, the many financial, social and academic problems that vexed Barnard's early days. She gives credit to outstanding teachers and friends and shows how successfully the college has met the hopes of its founders.

IT was in the Eighteen Nineties that Joseph Pulitzer proposed a school of journalism to Columbia and offered to supply the money, but it took a good many years for the two strong minds of Pulitzer and Columbia President Nicholas Murray Butler to meet on the details. The school opened, finally, in 1912, and the story of its founding and later history is told by Richard T. Baker, Professor of Journalism, in **A HISTORY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM (\$2.75)**. In the telling, the names of so many important newspaper editors, publishers and writers appear that the book almost becomes a history of American journalism for the period covered.

One of the oldest of Columbia's schools, the College of Pharmacy, founded in 1829, has existed 125 years geographically separated from the university's main campus. Its present buildings are located in West Sixty-eighth Street, a mile or more from Morningside Heights. Charles W. Ballard, the college's retired dean, has written an account of his school in **A HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY (\$2)** that stresses its intimate connection with scientific research and training in both state and nation.

Theodor K. Rohdenburg, Assistant Professor of Architecture, is the author of **A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE (\$2.50)**. Elective courses in architecture

(Continued on Page 28)



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(Continued from Page 3)

were introduced as early as 1836, and a full architectural course offered in 1881, as part of the School of Mines—an unlikely arrangement at first glance, but Mr. Rohdenburg shows it to have been reasonable at the time. Starting with two students the school has grown to a full-time enrollment of 150, with thirteen full-time and eight part-time instructors. Mr. Rohdenburg traces the important part the school has played in the growth of American architecture from its low ebb in the Eighteen Eighties to its present flourishing state.

One of the newest and most active of Columbia schools is the Graduate School of Business. Its story is told in **A HISTORY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** (\$2.50), by Thurman W. Van Metre. Opened for undergraduates in 1916 with a small staff and sixty-one students, the school, under the pressure of student demand, has become a flourishing graduate school, offering 120 courses to 1,000 students. Among the activities the school administers is the American Assembly, organized by Dwight D. Eisenhower during his tenure as Columbia president, which brings together outstanding American leaders to discuss problems of national interest.

STILL to come in the series are the following volumes: "A History of the School of International Affairs and Associated Area Institutes," "A History of the New York School of Social Work," "A History of Columbia College on Morningside," "A History of Teachers College," "A History of the School of Engineering," "A History of the School of Library Service," "A History of the School of Law," "A History of the Faculty of Political Science," "A History of the Faculty of Philosophy," "A History of the Faculty of Medicine," "A History of the Faculty of Pure Science," and, in two volumes, "Two Centuries of Columbia University."

The theme of the bicentennial observance is pretty well known by now: Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof. Mr. Miner and his co-authors show just how varied and extensive the areas of knowledge are to which Columbia's 38,000 students have right of access.