

## The Saga of LIFE

This fall the News Bureau, deciding it was time *Life* magazine paid some attention to the University, queried them. Were they interested in a pictorial story of what happened to freshmen in the orientation process of Freshman Week? No, sorry.

New Hampshires, the "Business Fowl of America," might very well be the Victory Bird to help solve a meat shortage and keep egg production at tops. The University could give the story. No, thanks, but keep coming, was *Life's* answer.

Then the News Bureau sent them a brief narrative of how the University, on its own initiative, had geared itself to help the country's war effort, hoping *Life* could be induced to record it pictorially. One brief sentence spoke of a new physical conditioning program for women. Tell them more about the undergraduate women's physical training program, came a wire.

On December 13th, *Life* 'phoned wanting to come four days later, December 17th. They understood the program was new and wouldn't expect finished results. But could they photograph the girls in mass instead of in

platoons of 50. Mass photographs were a fashion stemming from war. Neither New Hampshire Hall nor the Field House were adequate for drilling 650 girls at once. Winter had not yet come to Durham on December 13th. No frost was in the ground and the weather was exceptionally warm. Miss Margaret R. Hoban, director of Physical Education for women, had had one of her drill and conditioning classes outside in gym uniforms that day. *Life*, the News Bureau, and the Women's Physical Education department kept their fingers crossed but on Sunday it began to snow and the mercury sank.

*Life's* photographer, Alfred Eisenstaedt, arrived minus topcoat and gloves, but still urging outside shots whenever possible and worrying only about what cold would do to lenses.

The girls and Miss Hoban's staff were heroic and only the News Bureau huddled in furs. The superintendent of Properties cooperated in clearing deep snow from Memorial Field. Girls wore coats, sweaters, and slacks to the

obstacle course, which even the boys weren't using now that snow had come, shedding them for the pictures. Slacks and ski pants would have made a motley throng out of drill formations but it was put to a vote and, enthusiastically and almost unanimously, the 650 girls volunteered to drill in gym suits. All with colds were forbidden to participate. For once snow was unpopular in New Hampshire.

But actually the snow was a publicity "act of God."

Before January 11th copies of *Life* could reach Durham on the morning of January 7th, newsreel editors were on the 'phone asking permission to make movies. Miss Hoban rose to the challenge. On Thursday, January 14th, Paramount, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Universal, and Twentieth Century-Fox, accompanied by INS and Acme press association photographers, arrived and spent two days filming the program. Every department of the University, and including the weather, cooperated in the recording of New Hampshire undergraduate women leading the vanguard of American college "Women for Victory."



(Left to right): Alice Robinson '46 of Reading, Mass.; Anne Hall '45 of Gloucester, Mass.; and Dorothy Trow '44 of Nashua, N. H., skate for LIFE.