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THE MUNICIPAL
UNIVERSITY *of* AKRON

A HISTORY *of its*
ESTABLISHMENT

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of the
ESTABLISHMENT
of the
MUNICIPAL
UNIVERSITY *of* AKRON

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ISSUED BY
THE MUNICIPAL UNIVERSITY *of* AKRON, OHIO
1914

A History of the Establishment of the Municipal University of Akron

The nucleus for the Municipal University of Akron which began its official existence on January 1, 1914, was Buchtel College, an institution of higher learning founded under the joint auspices of an Akron citizen, John R. Buchtel, and of the Ohio Universalist Convention in the year 1870 (chartered May 31, 1870). The foundation of Buchtel College is described in the catalogue of that institution as follows:

"Buchtel College was founded in 1870 by the Ohio Universalist Convention and took its name from its most generous benefactor, Hon. J. R. Buchtel, who consecrated his life and wealth to its support. It was chartered by the Ohio Legislature in the same year as a College of Liberal Arts and letters, and first opened its doors for the admission of students, in September, 1872."

Statistics given in the catalogs of earlier years show that Buchtel at first drew her students largely from denominational sources. For example, the catalog of 1883 shows that out of a total of 314 students (including college and preparatory school), 120 professed to come from Universalist families. From a total of 246 in College and Academy, only 88 students—36% came from Akron. The rapid multiplication of educational institutions in all parts of the country gradually brought about at Buchtel, as well as elsewhere, a falling off in the number of foreign students and a corresponding increase in local attendance. This progressed to such a degree that the catalog of 1912-1913 shows the following figures (college exclusive of academy): total attendance, 175; from Akron 109=62%. A count of de-

