

The Tech.

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THE TECH.

Published on alternate Thursdays, during the school year, by the students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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THE only alleviation to the miseries of the examinations is the thought of the vacation that comes after them. That is the silver lining to the periodical cloud of question marks that has settled down upon the Institute. It is but a little vacation, after all, and comes at the very depths of midwinter,—a time when the college world is comparatively dull, and there is nothing doing at home or abroad; but in spite of all these failings it is thankfully received by everybody. The grind may, in his inmost mind, have scruples against being idle for a week; but even he is willing to admit, after a two weeks' siege of examinations, that a mental armistice is acceptable. And those who are not grinds make the best of the opportunity for enjoyment, and let the returns from the Secretary's office take care of themselves, as they are well able.

It is wrong to work in vacation: this is a canon which the THE TECH lays down with authority; and the man who would break it deserves to become a physical wreck and a mental failure,—an awful example for the *Boston Herald* to point the finger of scorn at. And in conclusion we hope that our readers may pass their examinations safely, and their vacation enjoyably.

THE ink of '92's "Technique" has scarcely had time to dry, and already '93 has begun to arrange the preliminaries for next year's annual. The important business of securing a board of editors has given rise to a surprising amount of wire-pulling, and shown that some of the Sophomores are eligible for a degree in political engineering. To be sure that none of the wrong men get into office, a new safeguard has been introduced into the electoral proceedings. A convention of seventy-five, or one delegate for every three members of the class, was first chosen. These selected twenty-five from their own number to make the final choice of the men who will have charge of the book. Evidently by this plan there are three times as many chances for electioneering as there would be if a direct vote of the class were taken; and from the scenes in Rogers corridor the past two or three weeks, it is plain that none of these opportunities were neglected.

If all this rivalry was solely for the purpose of selecting the best possible candidates for editors, there are no objections to be raised. The office of an editor has not been in past years considered so desirable as to cause much competition, and it is to a new element in the Institute that the present state of affairs is due. The fact has already been touched on in these

columns that with the introduction of a large number of new fraternities at the Institute has come a tendency to obtain control of undergraduate organizations, without regard to their needs or true interests, but merely for the sake of the influence or reputation which can be gained from them. Such a policy can be only demoralizing to those who promote it, as well as its success would be injurious to the organization in which it obtained its objects. Combinations for political purposes only deserve to be defeated; and the broken slates of some of the managers of the "Technique" plan of campaign, indicate that some such schemes have received the proper reward.

HAS not the time come when it would be feasible to have a track athletic team representing Technology? Every one must have noticed the universal interest of late in general athletics at Tech. Football is a very good thing; but many men are incapable of playing the game because they are of too light build, although they might be very good athletes if they took part in something better adapted to their physique. It is here that track athletics show up* most favorably. Every man who takes any active interest in the subject can find something which he can do, at least, fairly well.

Track athletics have many advantages over football. First of all, as has just been said, many besides the favored few who play football are perfectly capable of doing themselves credit in field sports if a little regular practice be done. Secondly, this practice required is simply refreshing and excellent, merely for the exercise that it gives. Thirdly, the time expended need not be much. The time football requires is largely taken up in perfecting the concerted action of the eleven, *i. e.*, "team work"; while in track athletics this is obviated, as all the work is purely individual. Fourthly and fifthly, the expense of running a track team would be small, and the training need

not be severe. For all events, except the long-distance runs, only light training is necessary. By light training is meant that every man practices five or six hours a week, and avoids smoking and drinking. Strict dieting is not essential.

If a team were formed to represent Technology, there is no reason why it couldn't compete on an equal footing with Dartmouth, Williams, Bowdoin, and Stevens. Our records may not be so good as theirs are; but this is mainly due to the fact that we have never had good practice grounds, and that our meetings have been held where the track made it impossible to establish any good records. If the B. A. A. track could be secured for the use of Tech. men, matters would be far different from what they are now; more interest would be taken, and, of course, better results would be obtained.

FROM the large number of entries, and the great interest shown in the last indoor meeting of the Tech. Athletic Club, one might well conclude that track athletics were in the future to be more prominent here than they have been in the past. As is stated in another part of this page, running has many advantages over football when the men who take part have so little spare time as do the Tech. undergraduates. All things considered, it seems that if we are to succeed in athletics of any kind, we have a better chance on the track than on the football or baseball field.

Now, as nearly every one knows, the Boston Athletic Association will hold a handicap meeting on February 14th. The events to be contested include most of those usually given, and every man who has had any experience at all in athletics will have a fair chance of obtaining a prize in one of the events. The handicapping is done by the A. A. U. official handicapper; and each man will receive a start that will, as nearly as can be judged,

give him an exactly equal chance with every other contestant. It is needless to say what a great advantage it would be to the cause of athletics at the Institute if we could make a good showing in these games.

A better time to hold the meeting could not, so far as we are concerned, have been chosen. The semies will be things of the past, and the annuals only a very distant day of reckoning; while the two weeks from the first of the term to the 14th of February will just be sufficient time to get into condition. Some six men will probably enter from the Institute Athletic Club at any rate; but there is no reason why every man who competed in the twenty-yard dash in our games should not enter in the short run on the 14th of February. Entries for these games can be made to the Secretary of the M. I. T. A. C., or at the B. A. A. Club House, on or before February 4th.

WHEN the Class of '85 originated and published the first "Technique," the acceptance of the claim that it was the best one published was a logical necessity. And since then the board of editors of each successive "Technique" has felt compelled to maintain the standard thus set; and have, in fact, succeeded in publishing each year a "Technique" better than its predecessors. Now, it is hardly necessary to point out that this advance cannot continue indefinitely. If the grade of '85's "Technique" had been lower, or if the improvements in each successive volume had been less, such a system might have continued for some years longer; but the advance having been rapid, the "Technique" of this year has reached a size and general excellence of execution not often surpassed in undergraduate college publications, and the query naturally arises as to the quality of the next one.

With the constantly improving methods of typographical reproduction, and the experience of former boards of editors, will '93 in its

turn publish the "best" "Technique"? and, if it can, is it desirable that it should try to do so on the same line as former classes? The maintenance of this excellence which keen class competition has produced, contains in itself a cause that cannot fail to effectually operate to prevent coming classes from doing their best.

Each year the board of editors, though increased in size, has found it more and more difficult to carry on at the same time Institute and "Technique" work,—a maximum effort being reached in '92's board. It has reached a point where a man cannot hope to act as an editor of a "Technique" much more elaborate than '92's, and at the same time maintain his standing in the Institute.

The brightest men in each Junior Class, who naturally make the best editors, already recognize this, and refuse to undertake the work,—thus throwing it into the hands of less capable men, whose production will, of course, not represent the best work, the class might do. In addition to this sequence of results, it is, indeed, a question if we have not been going backward instead of forward. An inspection of the annuals of the larger colleges, where the custom has had, and has profited by, an experience running over many more years than our own, will show that the literary side of such books, prominent as it was at first, has been entirely dropped, and that they have become to a large extent directories, more or less comprehensive in scope.

It is in this direction that coming Junior Classes can materially improve our "Technique." Such a change would make it smaller, and more convenient, the work would be less, and a more able class of men would take part in it than will if the present system is followed much further; and "Technique" will return to what its founders intended it to be, to what convenience and common sense would have it,—simply a collection of permanent information about the men that is not to be found in the catalogue.

To do this properly, means to leave out the courses, the by-gone dinners, and class-day exercises; and to append to the names of the upper class-men, especially, concise lists of class honors, and the organizations to which each one belongs.

On this line '93 can publish a "Technique" that will be better than its predecessors in proportion as its usefulness becomes a direct function of its size.

INTENSE interest in Institute affairs has never been a prominent characteristic of Tech. men, but at the same time there are fellows here who do realize that this is, and in future will be, their *Alma Mater*; and to such we wish to say that, in response to repeated inquiries, we have decided to put on sale volumes of back number TECHS. The number of complete files is of course small, so we advise those who want them, to speak to the Business Manager at once. For the benefit of the younger classmen we would say that these volumes contain many good stories, are freely illustrated, and are especially interesting in the history of the earlier days at the Institute.

CLASS spirit is a very fine thing, and should certainly be encouraged at Tech., where we are just beginning to realize the many advantages that it brings us, but, like all good things, too much of it is apt to be injurious; and when it is carried to such an extent as on the occasion of the Freshman Drill, where it departs entirely from a form of friendly rivalry, and approaches very nearly to what may be expected at an Irish wake, it is time that the Sophomores put themselves under control.

The performances at the drill have been increasing from bad to worse in the last few years, and if this increase continues, it is sure to lead to serious consequences.

The theory of the greased pig is a very pretty theory, without doubt; but the pig himself is rarely consulted, and is very liable to obey his own instincts rather than the wishes or directions of his employers, as was aptly illustrated last Saturday.

But, although the pig generally fails to carry out the plan of conduct laid out for him, there is nothing to prevent his diving into the midst of the-spectators, where his appearance would be anything but welcome, and would certainly not satisfy any of the Sophomore's yearnings for the confusion of the Freshmen.

The Boston Baseball Grounds make a very satisfactory battle field; let the bloody part of this Sophomore-Freshman business be settled there, and don't disgrace Tech. and seriously annoy everybody present by wild endeavors to expose this implacable animosity on every public occasion.

The President's Report.

BELOW is given a brief abstract of President Walker's report for 1890, which has just appeared:—

The total registration this year amounts to 937,—a gain of 28 over last year,— and is divided among the several classes as follows: Graduate of the M. I. T., candidate for advanced degree, 1. Fourth year, regular, 115; special, 32. Third year, regular, 138; special, 71. Second year, regular, 154; special, 84. First year, regular, 250; special, 92.

Of the 365 students who were not connected with the school in 1889-90, 265 were admitted on examination, 165 without conditions; 14 had been connected with the Institute at some previous time; 26 were admitted provisionally without examination; 60 were admitted on the presentation of diplomas or certificates from other institutions.

Thirty-eight States of the Union, besides the District of Columbia, are represented on the list of students. Of the total number of

937, 517, or 55.2 per cent, are from Massachusetts; 108 are from the other New England States; and 312 from outside New England, of whom 36 are from foreign countries. Thirty-three towns send four or more students to the Institute.

The average age of 246 students of the first-year class is 225.66 months,—a marked increase over any previous entering class.

The total number of special students is 279, or 30 per cent of the whole. There are 23 women students in the Institute. Forty-two graduates of other institutions are pursuing courses of study here. Of these, 10 are graduates of Harvard University; four each of Brown and Yale Universities; two each of Boston University, Amherst College, and the Michigan Mining School; while one comes from each of the following institutions: Oregon State University, Oberlin College, Hobart, Swarthmore, Hamilton, Kenyon, Trinity, Robert College, Georgetown College, Smith College, Iowa State College, Alleghany College, Haverford College, Spring Hill College, Rose Polytechnic Institute, Cornell University, Denison University, and the University of the City of New York. Twenty-five out of a total of 48 graduate students take special courses.

The courses in Electrical, Mechanical, and Civil Engineering are the largest numerically, having 105, 95, and 79 regular students respectively. Since 1868, 757 students have graduated in the regular courses.

There are more than 18,000 volumes in the departmental libraries of the Institute, exclusive of pamphlets,—the increase for the year having been 1,867. The number of different periodicals received is 297.

The number of instructors of all grades is 95, exclusive of 14 lecturers for the current year.

The progress of the work of the Institute in the various courses is outlined, and the instruction in English and mathematics particularly discussed.

My Friend, John Smith.

JOHN SMITH is not my bosom companion; he is not even an intimate of mine; but since we are old acquaintances, with kind feeling always between us, I think I may call the subject of this sketch "My Friend." John is a negro, a big, heavy fellow, born and bred down South, and with all the best traits of a Southern negro. Although he has a pretty good share of personal vanity, he combines with it the best of good tempers; he is slightly lazy, and very talkative, and is possessed of a rapid utterance that would do credit to an auctioneer.

His talkativeness shows itself in a readiness to discuss any and all topics. It is only necessary for him to have an idea, however hazy, of what the conversation is about, for him to plunge into the middle of it. He prefers, however, to talk about himself; not necessarily of himself personally, but of his affairs, and especially of his family. By occasional conversations with him I have gradually learned his whole family history, even for several generations back. He boasts of an almost pure African descent, though with a slight streak of the Indian. But John's grandfathers do not interest him so much as the present generation, himself included; and from his talk I have gathered the following brief outline of his history.

He was born down South before the war, though he never was a slave. There he married, and two children were born to him. Coming to the North, he established himself in a little town in one corner of Connecticut, where he has remained ever since, with his wife and family. Things go fairly well with him, and he can support his family in moderate comfort. His children have increased to seven,—seven little, mild-mannered, clumsy Smiths, with an array of names to daunt a census officer. His wife is a good, industrious woman, who helps the family finances by taking in washing. John himself is sexton, during the whole of the year, of the little

Episcopal Church; but the pay for that is small, and he makes most of his money in the summer by working as stableman for one of the large boarding houses in the town. He is not needed there, unluckily, during the winter, and I imagine that it requires quite a good deal of foresight to make both ends fit well together, though he tells me that he never has been pinched very hard. The town is quite a summer resort, and occasionally gives him chances at little jobs. He waits, sometimes, at the dances in the hall, and once he got a temporary place as private coachman, when the K——'s man fell sick.

I like to look at John; it is positively a pleasure. Great, awkward fellow, he has no points of beauty, but he is the mildest appearing of all human creatures; his good nature sticks out all over him. He smiles perpetually, for the pure love of smiling, I think, with a grin that is a trifle inane, but awfully amusing. It sets me smiling myself, even when I am in a bad humor, to catch a glimpse of John's grin. It is perhaps the outward sign of his willingness to talk, a conciliatory signal for a parley. This seems to be a family habit, for each of his children—all of whom, by the way, are of the same mahogany brown as John himself—has the same good-natured, senseless smile. I like it, senseless though it be, for it certainly is good natured. A man with a grin like John's cannot be bad; one who smiles so continually has not much that is wicked in his composition.

John's family is his pride; though he is always ready to talk of himself, he is still more eager to tell you of his children. He has at his tongue's end a catalogue of the young ones,—a catalogue complete in every particular. Their names,—three names to the child, besides the regulation "Smith,"—their ages, dates of birth and baptism, chronicles of sicknesses, everything, are comprised in his list. It seems to be stereotyped in his memory,—or rather impressed upon a phonographic roll situated in his brain, ready for instant use. I

love to have him declaim it, or rather to see him as he gives himself full swing, leaving all other work on account of the absorbing interest of his new occupation, and speaking with his soft, voluble utterance.

He is an enormous fellow; he stands over six feet, and is of a very heavy build. Although he is so big he is by no means fat, for I think that his two hundred and forty pounds are all of solid bone and muscle. But being so large physically must react somewhat unfavorably upon his mental organization, for he is very slow in comprehension, especially in seeing a joke, and is, consequently, the butt of the stable; an uncomfortable position for most men, but I am afraid that John looks upon the numerous jokes as redounding to his credit, and thinks himself a greater man in consequence. But upon one or two subjects he is very touchy. He has learned that allusions to the size of his feet are not intended as compliments, and is always displeased at hits upon his laziness. The whole human race has the ambition to have smaller feet. The Chinese ladies set about correcting the fault, but the rest of the world suffer in silence, their ambition unrealized. John is unduly sensitive upon this point, which has become irritated by constant friction. As for his laziness, I must acknowledge that there is truth in the story, though John regards it as a malignant falsehood. He gets excited when the stablemen speak of it; and as he is not pleasant when roused, they generally abstain from referring to the subject. I can, and occasionally do, chaff him about his feet or his indolence; but it distresses the good fellow so much that I generally choose a subject that will give him less annoyance.

John is delightfully credulous, and the men once took advantage of the fact to play a good joke on him. A cousin of one of the stablemen coming in town was incited to call himself the county sheriff, and to arrest John for debt. This he did by means of a letter, which he passed on John as a warrant, and which had perfect success, as John can neither read

nor write. Poor man! he was in a fearful state when told he had to go to prison. He swore that he was innocent; but the "constable," a clever man, made out a clear case against him, which all pretended to believe. John finally came to believe it himself, and despondently offered himself to the stern officer, who suggested that bail might be secured. This was as a straw to a drowning man. A document was drawn up, and John brought it to his employer, who was in the joke, and who gravely signed it at John's prayerful entreaty. The "constable" departed with the document, promising to send a summons in two days. Two days passed, but no summons; and conscientious John had all but decided to go and give himself up to the authorities, when the men let him into the joke. The disclosure made, they fled from his wrath, and kept out of his sight until he had time to cool down. To this day such words as "bail" and "warrant" make him exceedingly uncomfortable.

John has one rule of life, and that is to be "skientiffit." To have "skience" in all he does is his ambition. There is a peculiar way of cleaning a horse, I believe, on which he pins his faith; and I suppose there is a certain best method of sweeping a church, not to use which is to do wrong. He believes in the manly art; for one day when I laughingly challenged him to fight, he "put up his dukes," and feinted and parried, advanced and retreated, in a very lively manner, supposed to display his proficiency, and to intimidate his opponent. The stablemen nudged each other, and in stage whispers remarked on his skill as a boxer, which set him up very much, until I told him that he held his hands wrong, and thereby hurt his feelings. I did not shake his faith in being "skientiffit," however; for later he read me quite a lecture upon the subject, vividly portraying the abject condition of the man that "didn't know how ter do thin's right."

Good-natured, happy John! He is child-

like in his simplicity—the slow, unquestioning simplicity of his race,—but he is a good father to his family, a kind husband to his wife. He has no vices. Of course he has his faults, as have all of us, but I imagine that they are not of a serious nature. His life is as happy as most of ours. A life of toil, the quiet, uneventful life of the lower classes, has its compensations, and he thoroughly enjoys the ones he gets. Careless of the troubles that oppress other men, happy as long as he and his are clothed and fed, he is enviable for his contentment, for his light-heartedness, almost for his pickaninnies.

Such is John! So may his children be after him. Indeed, they bid fair to follow in his footsteps. They are as smiling and happy a brood as ever I saw,—true Africans in that respect. I remember a habit of the young ones that always struck me as being a pretty one. Their little house is on a road that is very much traveled, and someone, John, perhaps, has taught the children to wave their hands to everyone who passes. Each traveler sees the group of little brown morsels of humanity, all, down to the baby in his chair by the door, waving their tiny black paws till the carriage is out of sight. It always pleased me greatly to see them start into life as I came along,—the little black toddlers coming from their mud pies, or tumbling out of the cottage, to stand and wave at me till I was round the corner. Good-bye to them! good-bye to John; and peace to them all! I don't know that I shall ever see them again; but if I come back to the pleasant Connecticut town next summer, or ten years hence, I am sure that I shall still expect to see the group of darkies waving at me with their flapping little hands as I come up from the station, and to see the same old John, his face beaming as ever, holding the horse as I get out of the carriage.

The Crescents have been awarded the championship of the American Football Union for 1890.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Technology Electric Club.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This organization shall be called the Technology Electric Club.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this Club shall be to bring together, for discussion and mutual improvement, persons interested in the study of electricity.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, an Executive Committee of three, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

SECT. 2. The Vice-President shall be a member of, and act as chairman of, the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The membership shall be both active and honorary, active membership being confined to students of the M. I. T.

SECT. 2. A majority vote of the active members shall be necessary for admission to membership.

SECT. 3. Proposals for membership must be presented on membership blanks and countersigned by two members of the Club.

ARTICLE V.

Ten active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. Meetings of the Club shall be held monthly throughout the school year, such meetings to be held during the first week of each month.

SECT. 2. Extra meetings shall be held if called for by a quorum of the active members.

SECT. 2. One week's notice of all meetings shall be posted.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The election of officers shall take place at the last meeting of the school year.

SECT. 2. The duties of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be such as usually devolve upon such officers.

SECT. 3. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows: To project and arrange for the meetings of the Club, whether excursions, indoor meetings, or dinners, and to procure lecturers.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. There shall be no initiation fee.

SECT. 2. Assessments will be levied from time to time, to be equally borne by all active members, to meet current expenses or to provide a fund for contingencies.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. This constitution and by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the active members.

SECT. 2. One week's notice must be posted of any amendment.

Statement of the Treasurer of the M. I. T. Tennis Association for the Fall Term, 1890-91.

RECEIPTS.

Initiations at \$2.00	\$44 00
Dues of new members	22 00
Dues of old members	24 00
Deficit	3 87

\$93 87

Dues still uncollected amount to \$5.00.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Deficit from 1889-90	\$3 35
5 doz. balls at \$4.00	20 00
Wages for boy, 27 days at \$1.00	27 00
Wages for boy, 6 days at 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ cts.	4 00
Marking court, storing nets, twine, pins, etc.	1 57
Tennis net, \$4.00, board for court-marker, 45 cts.,	4 45
1 bbl. lime and expressage	1 50
E. M. McLaughlin (rolling court, etc.)	13 50
Broken glass in Rogers Building	5 50
4 prize cups	13 00

\$93 87

(Signed)

ELWYN W. STEBBINS, *Treas.*

COLLEGE NOTES.

England has but one college paper.

The duty on "The Angelus" was \$16,500.

The Day of Prayer for colleges is Friday, January 30th.

The Princeton Junior promenade takes place February 13th.

There are eleven university clubs in the United States.

There are over six thousand Alumni of Phillips Exeter Academy.

The number of students at Brown is 352, —an increase of 76 over last year.

Stagg has been offered the directorship of the Johns Hopkins Gymnasium.

The U. of P. will hold an athletic exhibition in Philadelphia during this month.

Riggs has been elected captain of Princeton's football team for next year.

Harvard College has given \$250 to the Cambridge Fireman's Relief Association.

The library of Williams College is open from two till five o'clock on Sunday afternoons.

The candidates for the Williams College nine are to commence active practice January 20th.

The Harvard overseers have decided that it is inadvisable to shorten the course by a year.

During the last six months Yale has received bequests amounting to \$700,000.

"Carmina Princetonia," containing all the old and many new songs, has just been issued.

Williams College will build a science building with the \$100,000 which has recently been left her.

Harvard graduates in Kansas and Missouri organized the Harvard Alumni Association of the South-West on December 19th.

The new Yale catalogue, just out, shows a total of 1,645 students in the university, as compared with 1,477 last year.

One of the buildings of Buchtel College, in Akron, Ohio, was destroyed by fire last week. Two ladies were burned to death, and several others sustained serious injuries.

Sherrill, the Yale sprinter, will make several attempts to break his records during the winter.

The average weight of the Freshman class at Yale is 135 pounds; the average height is 5 feet 8 inches.

Quite a sensation has just been caused by the objection to two colored students at the New England Conservatory of Music.

A National Cricket League will be formed this spring, embracing the cities of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Baltimore, Pittsburg, and Chicago.

During the past two years Minnesota and Wisconsin have established more than 12,000 school libraries.

About one half of the men who have been training with the Harvard Freshman crew have been dropped.

Caps and gowns will probably be adopted at Brown for class day, in accordance with the custom set by the last two graduating classes.

A number of Harvard alumni will present handsome silver loving-cups to the members of the Harvard eleven, as a memorial of their victory.

Hugh Janeway, the big heavy-weight of football fame, has been ordered to prepare to give an exhibition skirt dance in the coming M. A. C. theatricals.

Since the organization of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1876, Harvard has scored 108 points, Columbia 93, Yale 57, and Princeton 53.

President Patton, of Princeton, once remarked about going to college, that he believed it was better to have gone and loafed, than never to have gone at all.

In the University of Michigan twenty-eight per cent of the students in the literary department are women; seventeen per cent of all the students in all departments are women.

During the year 1889 the American colleges received contributions amounting to \$4,000,000. It is said that sixteen of these are now without executive heads.

A matched contest is talked of between Sherrill of Yale, Lee of Harvard, and Cary of Princeton, the distance to be run being 50, 100, 150, and 220 yards, for the intercollegiate championship of America.

The seven Harvard men who snow-shoed in the White Mountains this last vacation succeeded in making the ascent of Mt. Washington. Mt. Washington has been climbed by snow-shoers but twice before.

A movement is under way to form a league between the Freshman classes of Amherst, Dartmouth, and Williams, championships to be contested for both in baseball and football. The different colleges favor this plan, as it will have a strong tendency to develop athletic material in the entering classes each year.

From a physical examination recently made of the entire Freshman class at Yale, Dr. Jay A. Seaver, the authority on such subjects there, finds that out of 260 men, 30 are in bad physical condition, 75 in fair physical condition, 100 in good physical condition, and 55 in first-rate health. The average age is about 19, the average weight 135 pounds, height 5 feet 8 inches; 15 per cent are tobacco users.

Rev. H. M. Dexter, of Boston, has bequeathed to Yale a most valuable collection of 2,000 volumes on "The History of the New England Puritans," many of the books being very scarce and costly. He was also at work on "The Influence their Life in Holland had on the Pilgrims," the manuscripts of which have been given Professor Dexter.

The supply of natural gas is failing in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the manufacturers who have been using it for fuel in a number of cities have been notified that they must return to the use of coal. Thus are fulfilled the prophecies of a large number of unscientific people who ignorantly maintained that it didn't "stand to reason" that the natural gas supply was inexhaustible.

The Senior class of Trinity has elected the following class-day officers: President, W. C. Hicks; Orator, E. B. Finch; Poet, E. R.

Stockton; Presenter, G. N. Hamlin; Historian, H. Scudder; Epilogue, C. H. Young.

Newly elected captains for next year's football teams are as follows: Lehigh, W. W. Blemt, '92; Amherst, W. H. Lewis, '92; Trinity, W. C. Hill, '93; Princeton, J. C. Riggs, '92; W. M. Irvine, P. G., Franklin and Marshall.

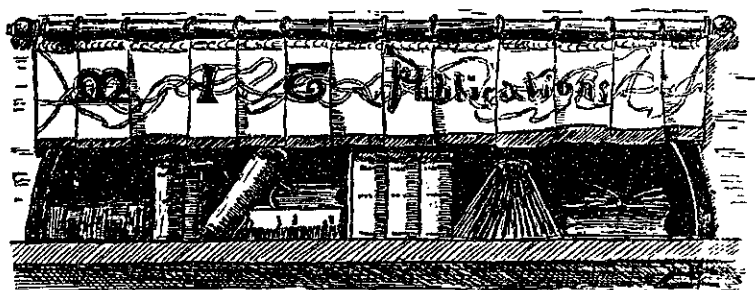
The trustees of the proposed new University of Chicago have fully indorsed the proposed place. Although Professor Harper of Yale has not yet accepted the presidency, there is little doubt of his doing so before long. Building will begin very shortly. The university is to be kept open throughout the year, and allow men to take their degree as soon as they are prepared for it. It is expected that the new plan will raise the standard of work and revolutionize education.

It is not often that men become great benefactors of mankind by accident. The discovery lately made by Dr. Koch furnishes an illustration of the great patience and devotion which result in great service. For five years, at least, possibly much longer, he has been making a great variety of experiments, and more than once it seemed as if all that he had done must result in failure. After finding at last a substance which arrested the development of bacillus in material prepared in glass tubes, he discovered that it had no effect in living animals. Then he began again, and after many thousand experiments, he discovered the substances which he has adopted, and which seem likely to prove an effective cure for consumption.

An Annie Laurie and an Annie Rooney have been peacefully slumbering beneath the sod of the cemetery at Brunswick, Me., for many years.

The members of the football team at Williams College will each receive a gold medal as mementoes of the championship victory.

The dramatic association of Trinity College will give as their first entertainment a piece entitled, "Bad Advice."



“College Algebra,” by Prof. Webster Wells of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, opens with eighteen chapters in which the subject of algebra as far as quadratics is rapidly reviewed, so that this part of the book may be used or neglected by the instructor, according to the needs of his class. The remainder of the volume, amounting to nearly twice as much as this introductory part, covers the ground usual in such text-books, and two appendices are given Cauchy’s proof that every equation has a root, and the demonstration of the fundamental laws of algebra for simple imaginary and complex numbers. [“College Algebra.” Boston: Leach, Shewell & Sanborn; 8vo.]

Ninety-Four’s Class Dinner.

NINETY-FOUR’S first class dinner was held at Young’s, Friday, January 2d. There were only fifty-seven members present, but the dinner was a decided success.

Ample justice was done to a very fine spread, and much pleasure was afforded in admiring ’93’s class colors, with which the menus were artistically decorated.

After a few preliminary remarks, President Rogers introduced Mr. R. K. Sheppard as toastmaster for the evening. Mr. Sheppard presented a bright list of toasts, which were responded to as follows: The Institute, by Mr. H. P. Hastings; the Instructors, by Mr. W. C. Pert; Athletics, by Mr. J. C. Kimberly; the Ladies, by Mr. T. C. Green. Impromptu speeches were also made by Vice-President Clarke and Mr. M. L. Johnston.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:—

The question has been asked repeatedly, “Where is the Institute Song ‘Technique’ was going to publish?” It did not appear in the book for a very obvious reason,—it had not been written. Among the contributions received in response to the “Technique” offer, the committee (whose members represented the Faculty, the Alumni, and the students) found none worthy to be accepted as a representative Institute Song. There are several, however, that deserve a place in an Institute Song Book, when one is published. In each both words and music were produced by our own students. When a committee, self-constituted or appointed by a class, or by the students as a whole, can show proof that they are likely to succeed in compiling such a work, “Technique” will cheerfully turn over to them the contributions received.

There are others among us who are fully as able to produce a song as are the men whose work “Technique” now holds, and several of them have expressed their willingness to write for a song book if there was a reasonable chance that one would be published.

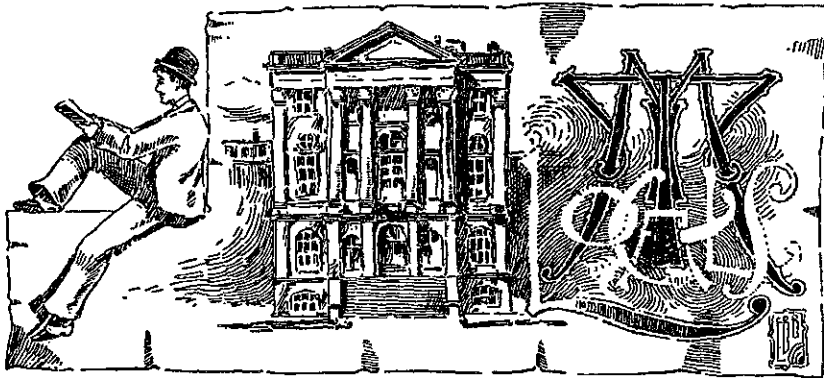
It would give an impetus to our musical organizations, and would add greatly to college spirit at the Institute, if some energetic and public-spirited man should take hold of this idea and carry it through to success.

THE EDITORS OF ’92 “TECHNIQUE.”

The new catalogue of Union shows four additional courses of study, and increase of several names on the list of teachers in the College and in the University.

There is a movement on foot to hold an intercollegiate regatta on Lake George next summer, to which all colleges except Yale and Harvard shall be admitted.

The world’s record for putting up heavy weight dumbbells was broken at Montreal last month by Louis Cyr, who put up 109 pounds with one hand from the shoulder 27 times.



The president's report has been issued.
There are 48 graduates at Tech. this year.
The average age of the Freshmen is 229 months.

McLaren, '94, is suffering with a broken wrist.

The Banjo Club will do no practicing until after the "semies."

Nine hundred copies of "Technique" were disposed of at the first sale.

Counterfeit tickets were plentiful at the drill, but were not accepted.

Many of the students seem dissatisfied with the order of examinations.

The Senior Electricals have finished their *one* week's course on dynamo testing.

Ninety-three, are you ready for that little formality known as the Physics Exams.?

It took five hours to count the ballots on the election of '93's "Technique" electoral committee.

Mr. B-rtl-t (to Senior Electricals): "Gentlemen, the desired solution can be found on the sideboard."

Some enterprising '93 men got up printed ballots for their "Technique" election, but few were used.

The '92 Mechanicals who recite to Mr. Vogel, on Christmas presented him with an umbrella.

It is stated that a certain member of the Faculty has never made up his condition in physics.

The Class of '84 had a reunion, and dined at Young's, Saturday, December 27th. Fifteen members of the class were present, and H. D. Bennett presided.

Which of the '92 "Technique" editors has received the freedom of the Margaret Cheney Reading Room?

The '92 Civils gave Prof. C. Frank Allen a gold-headed black ebony cane for a Christmas present.

The discontinuance of the "Technology Quarterly" is under advisement by those having it in charge.

A few Tech. men have been skating on Jamaica Pond, but the Public Garden is good enough for the Freshmen.

Each man in an engineering course is supposed to attend 260 mathematical exercises in the first three years at Tech.

In No. 14 N. B.: Prof. F.—"I think I shall omit giving the last lecture." (Uproar from the attending multitude.)

At a recent "quis" in Freshman drawing, 55 per cent of the class failed. This promises an unusual number of "physical breakdowns."

The Senior Electricals were "personally conducted" to Watertown, Saturday, January 3d, where the Emory testing machine was exhibited.

The *Electrical World* of January 3d contains a portrait and life sketch of Professor Cross. The extent of the Professor's original scientific research is little appreciated by many of the students. Every one would do well to procure a copy.

The Tech. Glee Club has again become an existing reality. Last year, owing to a lack of voices of various kinds, the attempt to start the club failed. This year, though there is not the pick of talent wished for, all seems to be on a firm foundation.

There was a meeting of the '93 "Technique" Electoral Committee, on Wednesday, January 7th. Mr. Taintor was elected chairman, and Mr. Dixon secretary, and an organization of the committee effected. The discussions during future meetings will be secret.

The Sophomores held the election of their "Technique" committee, Friday, January 2d,

in Rogers corridor. Great interest was manifested, 203 ballots being cast. The following men were elected: Badger, Barbour, Barrows, Beattie, Boyd, Bemis, Biscoe, Blake, Davis, Dixon, Dillon, Fay, Forbes, Fowle, Gorham, Noblit, Norton, Meserve, Morse, Perkins, Rice, Richardson, Stose, Taintor, Thomas.

Prof. Cr-ss: "You have all noticed this phenomena when looking at a glass of soda water, or a foaming glass of beer—"

(Loud applause from class.)

Prof. Cr-ss: "I'm sorry to see that the class does not appreciate the first example as well as the second."

A '93 Chemical having found "an invisible amount of Ag." in his analysis, received the red-ink query, "Did you see it or smell it?"

The lunch room has been so successful during the past term, that the management intends to utilize the extra counter which has heretofore remained unused. A small black-board has been arranged on which the daily bill of fare is posted. All these improvements will very much increase the efficiency of the service.

On Wednesday, December 31st, the Sophomores saw the old year out by holding a meeting for the consideration of a "Technique" Electoral Committee. After some debate the number of nominations was limited to seventy-five, and the committee to twenty-five. These twenty-five were elected two days following by ballot, the polls being open the greater part of the day, and a check-list being used.

Keep up the good work for a few days longer.

A short time ago a meeting of last year's Senior Dinner Committee was called to consider the disposition of a slight surplus, amounting to about seventeen dollars. It was decided that, if necessary, this money should go toward the Senior dinner this year. If not needed for that purpose, it will go into the treasury of the Football Association. The committee advise that the next committee be

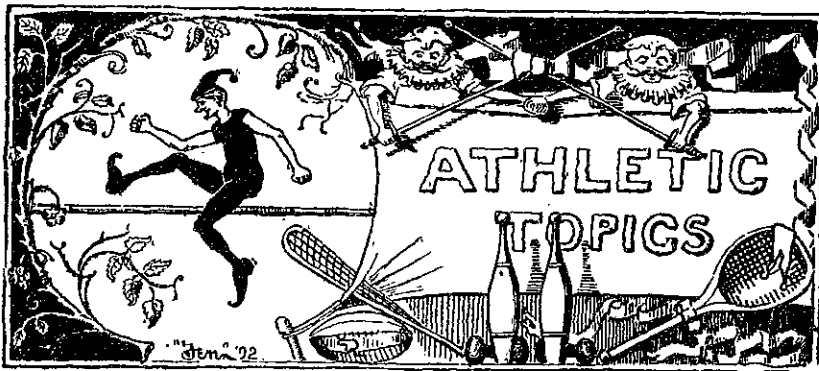
appointed and get to work as early as possible next term.

The seventeenth regular meeting of the Electric Club was held at Young's, Friday, January 2d, Professor Cross and Messrs. Puffer and Clifford being present as guests. After dinner Professor Cross gave some amusing reminiscences in an interesting review of the growth of the Physics course at the Institute. Mr. Clifford, in the course of some remarks on European technical schools, made the statement that our physical laboratories accommodated a larger number of students than those of any other institution.

The semi-annual exhibition drill of the M. I. T. Corps of Cadets, was held at Winslow's rink Saturday afternoon, January 10th. The drilling was good, and in some respects better than that of '93, last year, a decided improvement being made by shortening the programme. At the conclusion dress parade was formed, and the officers received their commissions, after which dancing was begun and kept up until six. An interesting feature to the underclassmen was the spasmodic and inefficient attempts of '93 to introduce attractions not on the programme, but which were quickly suppressed by a number of watchful '94 men, who were not drilling.

The catalogues of the various libraries at the Institute will probably be finished during the coming summer. Many of the undergraduates do not appreciate how much more liberal the library management is at Tech. than at most other colleges. Here, except in the library of Course IX., there is no limit whatever as to the number of books that one man can take out at a time, and the length of time he may keep them. So far as is known this privilege has seldom or never been abused, and no book has ever been permanently kept by one of the students, although to do so would be very easy.

Efforts are being made to persuade the Boston Board of Aldermen that amateur sparring is different from professional prize-fighting.



ONE of the most interesting athletic events of the season will occur on Saturday night, February 14th, when the Boston Athletic Association and the First Regiment Athletic Association will give a handicap meeting. The meeting will be held in the South Armory, on Irvington St., and to judge from the following list of events will be an interesting one. Seventy-five yard dash, 300 yard run, 600-yard run, 1,000-yard run, 1-mile run, 200-yard hurdle race (3 ft. 6 in.), mile walk, mile regimental race (four men to a team, each man to run 440 yards), 440-yard scratch race for novices, running high jump, pole vault, putting 16-pound shot, standing 3 broad jumps, tug-of-war (650 pound limit, two substitutes). The entries are to close with Mr. Cornish, of the B. A. A., February 4th.

The regimental race is very similar to the bean-pot races, which form the most interesting part of Exeter's out-door meetings, and if the teams are evenly matched, makes a very pretty event.

Among the probable entries from Tech. are G. K. Dearborn, '93, F. W. Lord, '93, F. S. Viele, '91, T. Spencer, '91, L. C. Wason, '91, and W. Leeming, '91.

The B. A. A. has decided to give no more cross-country runs until February. A run will be given on Washington's birthday.

On January 26th, at 8 o'clock, the same association will give an open sparring meeting in Music Hall. The weights will be as follows:—

Bantam, 105 lbs. and under; feather, 115 lbs. and under; special, 125 lbs. and under; light, 135 lbs. and under; welter, 145 lbs.

and under; middle, 158 lbs. and under; and heavy, any weight. As it is to be a private exhibition, those outside the club wishing to attend must obtain invitations from members of the club. The difficulty in obtaining these invitations is slight.

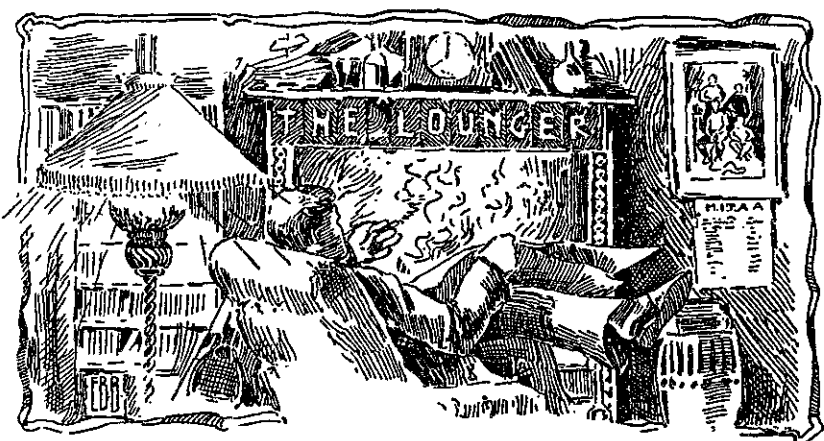
The reports of the officers of the Amateur Athletic Association present some very interesting facts. Three years ago, when the Association was organized, there were present representatives from thirteen clubs; at the third annual convention, held in October last, ninety-three clubs were represented. During the last year the receipts were \$9,190.86, expenditures \$7,364.27, leaving a balance of \$1,826.59.

The action of the Harvard Athletic Committee in refusing, by a vote of five to four, to appoint Mr. Bancroft coach of the 'Varsity and Freshman crews, was a great surprise to the majority of those interested in the matter.

It has been announced to the University Boat Club, that arrangements have been made for a second assistant to be appointed. The corporation has signified its willingness to engage any assistant nominated by the Athletic Committee.

Donoghue, amateur champion skater of America and Canada, won the international skating races at Amsterdam on January 7th. His time for the mile race was 3 m. 2-5 s.; in the five-mile race, 16 m. 1-5 s.

Harvard will probably have a bigger field of candidates for the Mott Haven team this year than ever before in her history. A meeting of the candidates was held yesterday, and every man in the college of any particular athletic ability was present. Most of last year's team will resume training, and, with the exception of Downes, this year's team will be fully as strong. Downes' absence will be in a great measure offset by the presence of F. F. Carr and E. B. Bloss on the team.



THAT qualitative analysis of our poor harassed brains, welcomed by few, yes, welcomed, we regret to say, dreaded by many, is about to begin, and the Lounger, before entering the lists with the others, wishes to extend his heartfelt sympathy to all. His own books have been dusted, and his study put in preparation generally for the occasion; he hopes you have all done likewise.

And, among other accessories of this trying period that the Lounger has come across, well-nigh forgotten in this resurrection of former companions of the days when he used to grind, he looks with moistening eye upon a gift that his best girl made him, long ago, after his arrival home at the end of his Freshman year, with that emaciated form, and hunted look about the eyes and mouth that we all know and recognize.

The object in question is a piece of soft cloth, of a material of whose classification among others of the species the Lounger is proudly ignorant, soothing to the touch, and capable of holding a considerable quantity of water without suffering in any way.

It has a length that compares favorably with three times 2π into the radius of the average Tech. man's head; in fact, the length was determined upon after a careful examination of the Lounger's own cranium,—an examination, by the way, that he was in no wise loth to undergo, it being conducted by this same considerate maiden.

And the Lounger, after that expressive, lingering glance, fondly takes the carefully rolled-up bundle from its resting-place, and gives it a preliminary soaking in bay rum, while Memory holds up before him her shadowy mirror, and shows him the softened reflection of many a long and dreary hour that this has helped him through.

Much has been done for us for the easing of our lot by fond mothers, loving sisters, and sweethearts

true, but the Lounger challenges any of them to show a product of their dainty fingers that will beat this little head-dress for solid comfort.

Silk, chamois-lined tobacco-pouches, fastidious pin-cushions, picture-frames, lamp-shades, sofa-cushions,—all must lay aside all claim to recognition before that unromantic bit of cloth.

William Dudley Foulke, a graduate of Columbia in the class of '69, has been elected to the Presidency of Swarthmore.

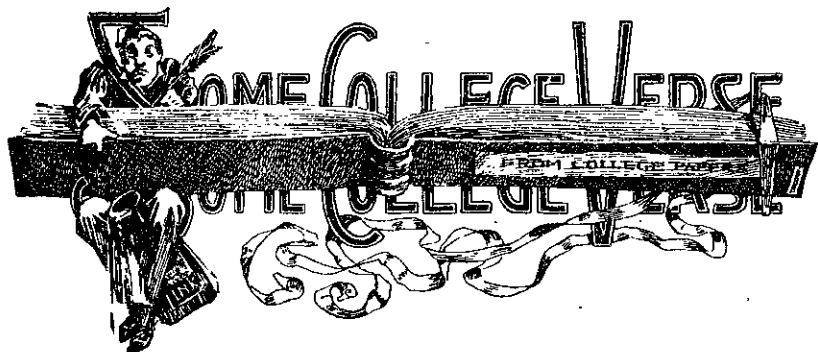
The University of Michigan is planning to send its baseball team East next season to play with the Eastern college nines.

Professors who have served at Columbia College for fifteen years or more, and who are over sixty-five years of age, will be pensioned on half pay.

The Yale University library has received a valuable addition in a gift from Franklyn B. Dexter, Secretary of the Yale Corporation, of his collection of books and manuscripts relating to early New England history. This is the most valuable collection of its kind in existence.

Mr. W. H. Pickering, of the Harvard Observatory, will leave to-day in charge of an astronomical expedition to Peru, to join the expedition sent out a year and a half ago by Professor Pickering. The party will go by way of Panama, and expect to arrive at Arequipa by the last of January. The purpose of the expedition is to make an extensive study of the southern stars.

A case of discipline in the Freshman class has been the chief topic of interest at Rochester University this term. After returning from a supper which they had held at Geneseo, they marched into chapel in a body, after the services had begun, carrying the toastmaster at the head, and giving their class yells repeatedly. President Hill suspended the toastmaster for ninety days, suspended several others of the leaders from recitations, and prohibited all who had engaged in the disorder from further attendance at chapel during the term.



I.

A letter for me,
 From the girl that I love!
 Just penned by her hand
 And caressed by her glove,
 A jewel—a gem—ah!
 A letter from Emma.

II.

A letter for me,
 O, what joy, what surprise!
 Just kissed by her lips—
 At least blest by her eyes.
 'Tis opened—ahem, ah!
 A letter from Emma.

III.

A letter for me
 From my sweet little bird;
 Eight pages, by Jove!
 And I can't read a word,
 A precious dilemma,
 This letter from Emma!

PERSIFLAGE.

"I am no coward," said the Earth.
 "And yet you have two constant fears,"
 Remarked the Sun facetiously.
 "And what are they?" "The hemispheres."
 "And yet one other," quoth the Moon,
 Who high in heaven shone clear and pale.
 "And that?" "It is the atmosphere."
 And then the Comet wagged his tail.

—*The Brunonian.*

PROGRESS.

In olden times ye courtly squire,
 By etiquette's command,
 All humbly knelt with heart afire,
 And kissed his lady's hand.
 Times change. We kneel and kiss no more
 The blushing finger tips.
 The modern lover bends him o'er
 To kiss his sweetheart's lips.
 Amazing paradox! some witch
 Is working, north and south:
 For though our country's grown so rich,
 We've lived from hand to mouth.

—*Brown Mag.*

A GOOD REASON.

You want to know why I'm jolly,
 And full of glee and mirth?
 Why, I'm in love with the prettiest girl
 That ever trod the earth.

Then why am I sometimes doleful,
 The picture of misery?
 Why, man, the reason's plain enough—
 She's not in love with me.

—*Virginia Univ. Mag.*

HER BLOTTER.

Her blotter white
 And neatly tied
 With ribbons pink
 And very wide,
 And on the criss-crossed under side
 I see quite clearly
 "From yours sincerely."

A closer look
 And then I see
 Bits of a note
 She wrote to me.
 And signed with great propriety—
 And friendship really—
 "Yours most sincerely."

COUNTER-EVIDENCE.

I always shall remember
 How her dainty little hand
 Pressed my own with gentler feeling
 Than I dared to understand.
 How that gracious, tender pressure
 Sent a thrill through all my frame,
 Till I found myself submitting
 To a power I could not name.

But think her not coquettish,
 Or bold in making love;
 For she stood behind the counter,
 And was fitting on a glove.

—*Williams Weekly.*

ADVICE.

All the winds that sport around me,
 Dancing, dancing merrily,
 Murmur, murmur, softly murmur,
 "Mortal, come and be as we."
 The broad trees that sway above me,
 Nodding, nodding knowingly,
 Wisely whisper, softly whisper,
 "Mortal, come and be as we."
 The tall grasses bend beneath me,
 Laughing, saying playfully,
 "Mortal, mortal, foolish mortal,
 Leave thy task and be as we."

—*Yale Lit.*