

# THE TECH

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NO. 15

## THE TECH

Published every Thursday, during the college year, by students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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**Editor in Chief,** Saturday, 12-1 P.M.  
**Business Manager,** Saturday, 12-1 P.M.

*For the benefit of students THE TECH will be pleased to answer all questions and obtain all possible information pertaining to any department of the College.*

*Contributions are requested from all undergraduates, alumni, and officers of instruction. No anonymous manuscript can be accepted.*

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THE appearance of this, the last number of THE TECH for the term, and the beginning of the semi-annual examinations next Tuesday, marks the close of what is usually considered the longest and dullest half of the Technology year. The second term will contain many events of interest and importance in all of the various spheres which go to make up the life of the Institute. From a social point of view, there will be the Class dinners and the festivities of Junior Week. In

the line of work, the time will be of greater interest to all, from the Freshman just beginning the elements of his professional work to the Senior nearing the completion of his college work. In athletics the approach of spring will, doubtless, be marked by increased activity and interest, and to close the year will be the usual exercises of Class Day and graduation.

In chronicling these and the many other incidental events, it will be the aim of the editors to maintain the standard of the paper, and to make it of interest and value to every Technology man.

And now, with the close of the regular exercises at hand, the Editors of THE TECH alone, of all students, may look forward to the examination period with a feeling of relief, as well as a share of the anxiety of the ordinary mortal. For to them it means a respite from their journalistic labors till the opening of the second term; so with the present number THE TECH bids its readers a brief "Adieu."

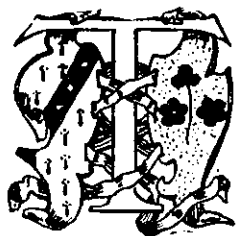


THE preparations for the French Play have dragged along in a heartless manner, the work done on the Play gradually decreasing, until it seems as though we shall be forced to look elsewhere than to L'Avenir for a theatrical performance next Junior Week.

Work on *Les Plaideurs* was begun last spring with great enthusiasm, both on the part of the students and of the gentlemen hired to coach the actors. Little work was done at the beginning of the term, and it is claimed by some members of the society that

the whole affair would not have dropped had it not been for the sudden and unaccountable lack of interest shown by the coach.

In another column we publish a letter from the manager of the French Play, in which he states his reasons for considering that L'Avenir should not give a theatrical performance this year. This being the case, it is high time that the French Society take some formal action in the matter. It will be remembered that, according to the agreement made last spring between the Walker Club and L'Avenir, the former cannot undertake the production of a play during the coming Junior Week, while L'Avenir nominally intends to do so. Hence, L'Avenir is guilty not only of letting *Les Plaidours* slide, but also of keeping the Walker Club from itself preparing a play. As the interest in the French Society is now so slight that its President is unable to call a meeting to take action on the matter in hand, we would not blame the Walker Club if it now began preparations for a play, especially after the letter from the Manager of the French Play, to which we have already referred as appearing in this issue. When an organization has gone to the dogs as rapidly and as evidently as L'Avenir has since last year's officers resigned, and has become so far a nonentity that its President cannot even get a quorum together to act on a matter of importance, not only to itself, but also to the Institute generally, and to another society, it does not seem to us that agreements with it have much value. L'Avenir deserves the strictest censure for its action in regard to *Les Plaidours*, and its conduct is far from reflecting credit upon the present officers of the society.



THE record of last season shows that Technology is able to turn out a winning football team. As a result of this, the football management is endeavoring to arrange, for the coming season, one or more games with stronger colleges

than we have met since the season of 1893, and a few games with the larger colleges rather than with schools smaller and less prominent than Technology now seem a possibility. Even though the attempt to raise our football standard does not meet with immediate success, the ultimate benefit of such a change is obvious. In track athletics our record made against Amherst and at Worcester is equally creditable.

An aggressive policy on the part of the managers of the teams representing us in all branches of athletics should receive the enthusiastic and hearty support of that portion of our undergraduate body which is interested in seeing Technology take the place in athletics that belongs to a college of her size.

THE TECH approves thoroughly the attempt of the manager of next year's Football team to arrange a game with West Point. The relay race between Cornell or Columbia and Tech. on February 18th at the B. A. A. meet is a move in the right direction, and a league with Brown and Amherst is the only thing wanting to give Technology, for the next few months, competitors against whom it will be worth while to put forward our utmost effort to win.



ON February 18th the Boston Athletic Association holds its annual Indoor Meet in Mechanics Hall. This Meet is, undoubtedly, the best of its kind held in this country, and is always an event of great importance in amateur athletic circles. The events are open to all amateurs except in those events which are invitation races. Technology will be represented by one of the best relay teams it has ever had, but it should not be satisfied with this only entry. All the events, except the invitation

and relay races, are handicap, so that every new man is given a good chance to win a place. In fact, if he has fair ability, the more of a novice a man is the better is his chance for winning, for the handicapper, not knowing him, is very likely to give him a much greater lead than he really ought to have. We earnestly advise every man trying for the Track team to enter in this Meet. It will be no disgrace to lose, and a great honor to win.

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#### The Tech Extra.

THE Editors of THE TECH regret that it was impossible to print the semiannual examination schedule in last week's paper. Extensive changes had to be made in the original schedule, and these were not completed until Friday afternoon, when, by courtesy of Dr. Tyler, it was at once given to THE TECH. Rather than delay the publication of the revised schedule until to-day, an extra edition of THE TECH was issued at 8.30 A. M. Saturday. The Extra will not be mailed to subscribers, but will be sent to any address on receipt of five cents.

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#### Die Gesellschaft.

ON Thursday afternoon, Dec. 29, 1898, the members of Die Gesellschaft were given a book talk at the Boston Public Library by Professor Frank Vogel.

The members met in the upper library, where the most valuable original books and facsimiles are kept, and were given a concise, spicy history in German of old Germanic writings and earlier book making.

Time prevented more than short glimpses of the many beautiful folios, but sufficient, however, to guide the members in their study of this subject, for which Professor Vogel has promised further talks.

The study of book-making forms an important part in the work of the society for this year, since it is so intimately associated with

a study of the Literature, from the purple parchment pages of the "Codex Argenteus," with their letters of gold and silver, through the collection of beautifully illustrated "Minnesänger Lieder," by Walther von der Vogelweide (bought at great cost for his country by old Emperor William) down to the 42-line Bible of Gutenberg, one has a magnificent evidence of the trials and successes of the great forerunners of a powerful German literature.

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#### Innovations in Freshman Drill.

It is proposed to hold public drills every two months, the first coming about the last of February. These drills will be of a competitive nature between the different companies, and, although there will be no individual work, each company will present some special feature. Captain Boardman further proposes to devote the latter part of the weekly drill period to military athletics and calisthenics. As a means of perfecting obstacle work and distance running relay work will be taken up thoroughly, and this not so much for the benefit of those who are practiced in running as for those who are not. Representative relay teams will be formed from the different companies, and, further than this, representative relay teams consisting of four men will be chosen from corresponding squads in the companies. The military athletics to be taken up will include hurdling, jumping, obstacle work, long-distance running, wall scaling, and vaulting. An effort will be made to form a Sophomore company after the semiannual examinations, to drill against the Freshman battalion. The military athletics will be supervised by Captain Boardman, and the condition of the battalion will be efficient enough in February to warrant a public drill.

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C. W. Corbett, '99, has been elected to the Board of Editors of THE TECH.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

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

TO THE EDITORS OF THE TECH:—

As there has been considerable comment of late regarding the proposed French Play to be given by L'Avenir, and as there have been several gratuitous reports circulated in regard to this matter, I deem it advisable, in justice to the Society and to the management of the play, to make clear several points.

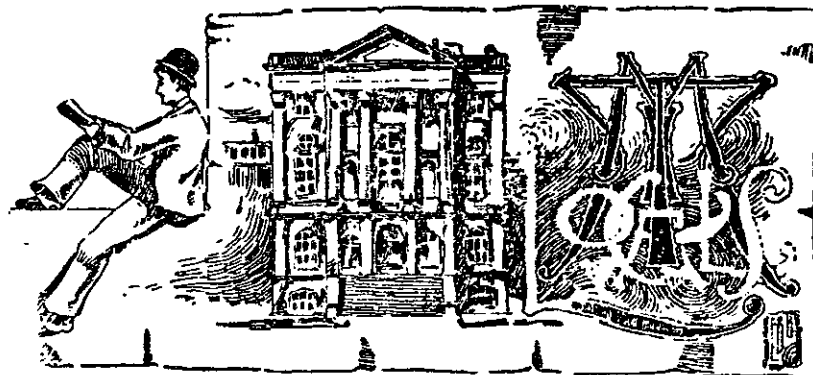
There had been an attempt to assign parts before the close of the last term, in order to give the men a chance to perfect themselves on their lines during the summer vacation; but this plan did not entirely succeed, as was shown by the difficulty in getting the men together at the beginning of this term. Every possible effort was made to get enough students to fill the parts properly, but at no time did more than the number required for the play present themselves, and of these not all were suitable.

The play selected was particularly exacting in the way of demands on actors. There were no minor parts; every one of the eight required a man to be well fitted to take it. The management knew of men who could fill the parts if they would, but those men couldn't spare the time, and not all of those who wished for parts were capable of filling them. It seems incredible that out of the available students at the Institute it was impossible to find eight suitable ones. Yet such was the case. No stone was left unturned to obtain material, but the search was fruitless.

It has been definitely decided by the management of the play to abandon the project, although the Society has not yet acted in the matter. When L'Avenir votes upon it, it will doubtless confirm the judgment of the management, and will thus leave the way clear for the Walker Club to present a play during Junior Week, if they so desire, according to the mutual agreement entered into by the two societies.

There may be other reasons why the French Play has been given up. Of these I shall not speak, but I lay particular stress on the facts as I have stated them, believing that they furnish some indication of the gradual loss of interest in French at the Institute.

Yours very truly,  
G. L. SMITH.



Members of the Class of 1902 should hand in choice of course cards as soon as possible.

A meeting of the Minstrel Show will take place January 12th at 7.30 P. M. in 33, Rogers. All those who wish to try for the show will be present.

At the meeting of the Class of 1902 on January 5th, Mr. H. B. Pond was elected temporary Captain, and Mr. F. Mullaly Manager of the Freshman Baseball nine.

After drill on January 4th, about fourteen members of the Freshman Class practiced starts, and ran a few laps at the armory, as preparatory work toward forming a battalion track team.

A week ago last Tuesday B. P. Hazeltine, Jr., '99, received the sad news of the death of his father, and left immediately for his home in Belfast, Me. Mr. Hazeltine has the sincere sympathy of THE TECH in his bereavement.

At the annual meeting of the American Education Association, held in New Haven, Dec. 29, 1898, Professor Ripley was elected one of the three vice presidents of the Association for the coming year. The Institute is to be congratulated.

The first problem given the Junior Architects is finished, and is a design for "The Entrance to a Pantheon," as seen under the peristyle. First mention was awarded the following: E. A. Truteberg, L. N. Gowell, F. V. Merrick, J. V. Beekman, and L. M. Lawrence.

Nine members of the Technology Bowling Club were present at its first meet, held Satur-

day evening in the Allen Gymnasium. C. E. Sherman, 1900, made the largest score and the highest average, bowling 229 and averaging 198 for four strings. O. H. Perry, Jr., '01, stood second, with an average of 177.

After the lecture in Military Science on January 7th, Captain Boardman put the motion, which had been made at the previous class meeting on January 5th, that the class shall give public drills every two months. The motion was carried unanimously, and a committee will be chosen at the next class meeting to confer with Captain Boardman in regard to the details of the drill.

Last Saturday afternoon a portion of the class in Railroad Signals visited the new Southern Terminal Station under the guidance of Mr. Blodgett. A thorough inspection was made of the entire building, including offices, power plant, signal tower, etc. Every courtesy was shown the party, and the operation of the signalling apparatus and other devices was carefully explained.

Mr. George W. Fuller, '90, has recently published a report on the investigation into the purification of the Ohio River water at Louisville, Kentucky. Besides containing an exhaustive tabulated report, with full explanations of the different processes used for the determination of the quantities and the ways of getting rid of the impurities in the Ohio River water, this valuable volume contains the largest, most complete, and comprehensive treatise on mechanical filters ever published. Mr. Fuller was assisted in this work by R. E. Backenhus, '96, C. L. Parmelee, '95, and D. B. Weston, '95.

The designs of a building for the exhibition of "Trophies of War," the first problem given the Senior Architects, are now on exhibition in the Pierce Building. The following received first mention: H. H. Hewitt, C. Werner, A. W. McCrea, H. S. Graves, S. C. Glover, H. W. Beder, and D. F. Hayden. The sec-

ond problem, upon which the men are now working, is a design for a Golf Clubhouse, to be one story high, having the general style of a Country Clubhouse, located in the suburbs of a large city. This will allow of a free, light, open treatment, thus giving a chance to depart from the beaten path of classic style.

The January meeting of the Electrical Engineering Society was held at 7.30 P. M. last Wednesday in Room 22, Walker. Dr. Louis Bell, the speaker of the evening, described in a most interesting manner the general methods employed in submarine mining, and the use of high explosives for harbor defense. He divided all his high explosives into the two general classes of nitroglycerine and nitrocellulose, and explained the action of each at considerable length. He then told of the work done in Boston Harbor during the war, the mining operations lasting from just before the declaration of war until after the destruction of Cervera's fleet at Santiago. A large number of lantern slides were shown of the mines, the mining fleet, the men at work laying the cables, and some especially interesting ones of exploding mines.

At a meeting of the Technology Bowling Club, Tuesday, January 10th, officers were elected for the ensuing year: P. G. L. Hilken, '01, President; H. M. McMasters, '00, Vice President; S. C. Sears, '00, Secretary; G. O. Schneller, '00, Treasurer; W. B. Flynn, '99, Manager. Mr. Hermann J. Boos was elected to honorary membership.

There will be a meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Society to-night at 7.30 in Room 22, Walker. Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch will give a talk on "Kites and their Use at Blue Hill." The talk will be illustrated by lantern slides and apparatus. Third-year men in Courses II., X., and XIII. are especially invited. The members of the Civil and Electrical Societies and others interested are also cordially invited.

The Hammer and Tongs held a dinner at the Savoy Hotel last Saturday evening.

The meeting of the Sophomore Class tomorrow at noon promises to be the most important of the college year, as definite action will be taken to provide the class with an executive committee.

The first rehearsal of the Minstrel Show will be held Thursday, January 12th, at 7.30 P. M., in 33 Rogers. It is intended to get an idea of what is to be done at this time, and then put off further work until after the examinations. All Institute men who are interested, are urged to attend this rehearsal.

The M. I. T. Yacht Club held a dinner at Young's Hotel last Saturday evening. Next year's cruise will probably be held about the first week in August. The yachts will rendezvous at Newport and then cruise up Long Island Sound, returning with the New York Yacht Club.

The five hundred and nineteenth regular meeting of the Society of Arts will be held at the Institute on Thursday, January 12th, at 8 P. M. Professor Sondericker will present a paper on "Repeated Stresses." A discussion will follow, in which Mr. James E. Howard, of the Watertown arsenal, will take part.

#### The Walker Club.

At a meeting of the Walker Club yesterday afternoon the Club decided to give a play in Junior Week. Mr. Draper and E. H. Davis were appointed a committee to select a play, and C. F. Gauss was elected business manager.

#### The Wellesley Concert.

LAST Saturday evening the musical clubs gave their annual Wellesley concert in the townhall. It was preceded by a tea given in Freeman cottage to ten of the men, by Miss Walker, '00, of the Wellesley Mandolin

Club, and her friends. During the concert the clubs were the recipients of flowers and much applause; and at its close the girls rose and gave three Wellesley cheers with "Tech." on the end,—a compliment which was returned with ringing promptness. Afterwards the fellows went up and serenaded the College buildings, and a shower of fudges, flowers, and a Wellesley flag, showed the girls' appreciation. Altogether it was very jolly, and showed a pleasanter side of life at Tech. than is usual the week before exams.

#### The Mt. Holyoke Trip.

LAST Tuesday, at 2 P. M., the members of the Glee, Banjo, and Mandolin Clubs took the train for Holyoke, Mass., and, after dining and dressing at the hotel there, took an electric car to South Hadley, where they were entertained by the Sophomore Class of Mt. Holyoke College. The concert which our men gave in Mary Lyon Chapel, was exceedingly good, and well merited applause, which was bestowed liberally by the large audience. After the concert, the Class of 1901 gave a reception to the men, which lasted until half-past ten. The Clubs returned to Holyoke for the night, and a number remained over yesterday, putting in the time visiting the various manufacturing industries located in that portion of the Connecticut Valley, as well as Mt. Holyoke and Smith Colleges.

#### Technology Calendar.

*January 12.*—First rehearsal of the Minstrel Show at 7.30 P. M., in 33 Rogers. Meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Society at 7.30, in 22 Walker. Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch to speak on "Kites and their Use at Blue Hill Observatory."

*January 13.*—Meeting of the Sophomore Class in Huntington Hall at 1 P. M. Meeting Y. M. C. A., 4.10 P. M., in 11 Rogers.

*January 14.*—Annual lunch of the Editors of THE TECH at the "Old Elm," at 1 P. M. Mandaman Club Dinner, Young's Hotel, at 7.30 P. M.



'82. Probably few are aware that the original cover for THE TECH, which did service for so many years, was designed by Geo. F. Shipley, now a member of the firm of Shipley, Rutan & Coolidge.

'87. Mr. Fred Thompson, I., is a civil engineer in the United States Navy.

'93. Mr. Charles Wilson Taintor, VI., since returning from his trip around the world, is again connected with the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., at present having charge of their exchange at Manchester, N. H.

'97. Mr. C. W. Bradley, IX., recently with the firm of Morse & Whyte, at present has a position with the Magee Furnace Company of Boston.

'97. Mr. Geo. H. McCarthy, IX., is with the Magnolia Metal Company, of New York city.

'98. Mr. William Randolph Strickland, I., for three years business manager of THE TECH, is an assistant engineer in the United States navy. He is attached to the Bennington, at present stationed at Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, U. S. A.



New men who are trying for the Relay team are Fish, '02; Pond, '02; and Dorsey, '01.

All those men who exercise at the Gymnasium are debtors to Mr. Leary—Tech.'s head carpenter—for the five new corners for the running track. He not only superintended their construction, but designed them himself. That he has succeeded admirably is shown by the great favor the track has fallen into with the Track team.

The recent weather conditions have enforced a break in the practice of the Hockey team candidates. The men trying for the team are Howe, '00, Captain, Walworth, '99 and Kingman, '99, of last year's team, and a number of new men, including Shephard, '01, who has been elected manager; Field, '02; Knight; Smith, '02; Burgess, '99; and Trenholme, who played on the Magill University team.

We refer the manager of the Track team to the articles published in No. 2, page 21, of the current volume of THE TECH, relating to the wearing of emblems. We can see no reason why the privilege granted by the Advisory Council to the managers of the Track team and the Football team of wearing a T surrounded by a circle should be infringed upon. The breaking of this rule takes away from the honor of those men who have justly earned the right to wear a T, and also is unjust to those who have worked hard, but unsuccessfully, to gain it.

"THE GIRLS ARE FOND OF THESE."

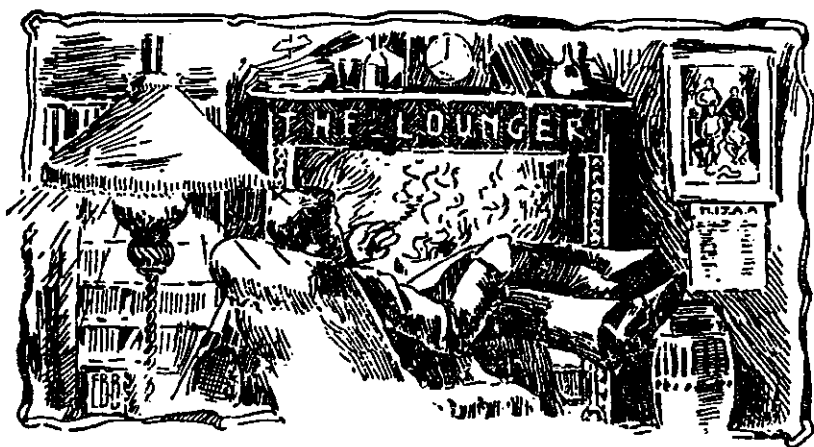


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THE Lounger has on several occasions ventured to hint at the probable fate of various unfortunate members of the canine tribe which, actuated by an enquiring turn of mind, have wandered too near the portals of the department devoted to investigations of bull frogs and bacteria, and it was consequently with feelings of deepest horror that he heard the following rumor,—the biologists are in search of human victims! At a recent meeting of the Biological Journal Club it seems an account was read of some investigations in a certain foreign country, in regard to the relation between mosquito bites and malaria. In the barbarous performance referred to, human victims were locked up in a room containing a number of the winged insects aforementioned, where they were left over night! (Can the Sophomore who has flunked “Descrip.” imagine any more delightful situation in which to wish the professor of that subject?) In the morning the victims were found to be unwell (how strange!), and thus a remarkable discovery was recorded. In consequence of the above the Lounger feels constrained to mention various groans and shrieks said to have been heard by architects working late in the afternoon, and also to warn all students to carefully avoid lingering in the neighborhood of the department in question.

Once more the Lounger notes the gathering of his friends the Yacht Club, to pledge around the festal board their allegiance to the bounding billow, and to emphasize their devotion to salt water by manfully boycotting the fresh variety of the same fluid. An interesting event of the evening was the action of a certain member who, having deeply pledged the aforesaid devotion in the manner described, mistook the piano for a slot machine, and wishing to be soothed by gentle strains of music, proceeded in the absence of a suitable coin, to drop his coat check into the interior of the instrument, whence however it was finally

procured by his admiring “shipmates.” But, alas! when the next musical number of the program was called for, the instrument refused to impart its customary sound. The treasurer of the gallant organization now holds a bill reading, “Repairs on piano . . . . .” It was decided that the Club, with its usual generous spirit, would allow the New York Yacht Club to participate in its cruise during the coming summer.

At this time of the year when everybody and everything is shrouded in an atmosphere savoring only of books, when the grind is working every spare moment in drawing-room or laboratory, in order to gain perhaps a day or so just before the exams.; when the sport realizing at last with consternation that a whole term’s work has piled up upon him, seeks out with celerity some gracious instructor who, in consideration of several “plunks” per hour, will endeavor to inject into his muddled brain sufficient knowledge to tide him over the coming crisis; when even he himself is looking forward with calm submission to the advent of the fatal blue book,—at such a time the Lounger hails with delight almost any diversion, and consequently he is particularly pleased at the prospect of the coming occasion, next Saturday, when he and his colleagues will proceed to celebrate the annual picture-taking and lunch-eating festivities. Even now the Lounger’s mind is wandering in the direction of delicious beefsteak and other more liquid refreshments, in the usual little room at the historic Elm where pen and pencil give way to knife and fork. Happy is the lot of THE TECH editor on this occasion!

The Lounger wishes to congratulate his friends the Juniors upon their successful passage through the recent ordeal on the steps of the Natural History Building. Each year the Junior Class finds itself in a similar predicament. An obstacle is found in the road which leads to fame and immortality. To overcome it united action (or rather united quiescence) is necessary. A day is set, the class assembles. A suave, smooth-voiced man appears with an instrument mounted upon a triangular support. He points it toward the class and then comes the trying moment. Will the operation be successful, or will there be a sound of breaking glass? With a wave of his hand the man cautions the crowd. Silence reigns supreme. He presses a bulb, and the Junior Class picture is taken.



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Week beginning January 16, 1899.

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*Tremont.*—Mrs. Fiske in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles."

*Boston Museum.*—Annie Russell in "Catherine."

*Boston.*—"By the Sad Sea Waves."

*Park.*—"A Dangerous Maid."

*Castle Square.*—"Darkest Russia."

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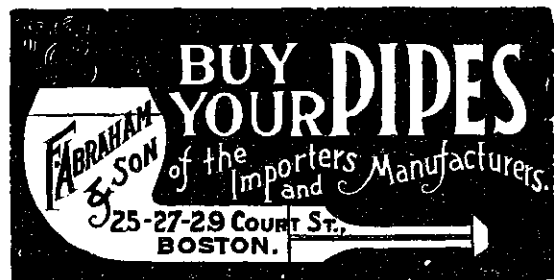
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