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THE TECH

In writing advertisers kindly mention THE TECH.
ITH the middle of January the undergraduate of the Institute approaches the end of the term’s work. Already the hours of study begin to lengthen in anticipation of the time when the examinations will be a certainty, and not merely a source of continual worry and anxiety. Nevertheless, along with the gloomy thoughts produced by the appearance of the “exam.” schedule comes the pleasanter question as to the time of departure for home, and what is the earliest possible train to take. The Senior begins to think of his thesis work, and the Junior and Sophomore have already hunted in the catalogue for their next term’s subjects; but to the Freshman is presented by far the most vital and important question, that of the choice of a course. With the importance of this question in mind, it has given us great pleasure to be able to secure an article by Professor Talbot on the “Choice of a Course.” It may be found on another page, and is well worth reading.

WICE at student mass meetings before Christmas President Pritchett mentioned a matter of great interest to all Technology men, and made a happy suggestion, which was at the time most enthusiastically received. That the suggestion has been by no means fully followed out is due, we are sure, to the very human faults of procrastination and forgetfulness, and certainly not to any intentional neglect of our president’s wishes.

The Booker Washington Fund amounts at the present time to about $25,—less than half of what is needed, and of what it was thought could be easily raised by small individual contributions. Individual contributions have been quite large, so that certainly not more than two hundred students have so far helped, and it is doubtful if more than a hundred have done so. The natural query is: Where are the thousand or more other students? We hope that their attention will be called to the matter by this statement of facts, and that the result will be immediate and generous visits to the little tin box still on the president’s office door.
OW that the majority of the cadet officers have been appointed, and the organization of the regiment is nearly completed, the more interesting part of the drill course is to come. With an approximate knowledge of the manual and simpler foot movements, those parts of the drill which are of more practical value will be taken up, and an effort will be made to introduce some new features into the drill which will add more interest to it. As long as Tech has the drill, she might as well make the best of it, and the only way to turn out a successful organization is to infuse more individual spirit into the ranks. Regimental ceremonies and extended order do this to some extent, but what this organization lacks, and other organizations profit by in possessing, is some suitable form of competitive drill to arouse an active interest in the work. Although we cannot advise a return to the plan tried by the Class of 1902, of inviting representatives from "prep" schools to an exhibition drill, still the men themselves wish for some sort of competition between the companies, and it is to be hoped that a suitable arrangement for an event of this kind will be made.

The Choice of a Course.

An inspection of the list of occupations of Institute graduates, as given in the catalogue, indicates that a large proportion of these graduates are devoting themselves to lines of work which are directly connected with the courses which they pursued as students, and that, for them, the choice of a course was also the choice of a field for their life-work. This will probably continue to be true of future students as long as the Institute is successful in affording a training which is adequate to enable her graduates to step at once into professional activity. Since, then, the ultimate decision as to which of the thirteen courses of study a student will enter upon may involve the success and prosperity of many more than the three and a half years which intervene between his decision and the completion of the course, it is proper that it should be made with care, and after a thoughtful examination of all available information bearing upon it.

For some the choice of a course is easily determined, as a result of natural interest in special lines of work, and a consciousness of aptitude for such work sometimes combined with the knowledge that an opportunity for the application of the training obtained will be at hand after the completion of the course. For such fortunate students little assistance is needed to enable them to choose wisely.

The decision of another class of students is determined by the knowledge that their services will be needed in certain definite lines after graduation, and although they may not feel that they possess special aptitude for the work, they have a praiseworthy purpose to attain success through perseverance. In such a case the student should take care to carefully examine the course which he desires to enter,—best in consultation with the member of the Faculty in charge of the course,—to determine, as far as may be, how far his efforts are likely to be rewarded.

But it is the student who has no strong desire for training in any particular profession, or conscious aptitude for any special line of study, who should exercise the greatest care and be most willing to seek advice before determining which professional course to enter. It should be remembered by such students that each of the courses required for graduation in the various departments involves much beside those studies which are usually regarded as "professional," because they have an obviously direct bearing upon later professional practice, and that it is not sufficient merely to make a success of such
work, but of other equally essential subjects as well; for example: for students of chemistry a knowledge of physics, German, French, and a certain amount of mathematics is indispensable; while the student of mining engineering must have at his command chemistry, physics, modern languages, and often must have some insight into mechanical or civil engineering. In other words, not alone those subjects in a course—for example, chemistry, which bear its name—are to be considered, but the course as a whole should be carefully looked over to determine one's own fitness to enter upon it.

That having been done, the student should avail himself of the invitation extended by the heads of all departments to confer with them, either during their office hours, or at other times specifically named by them, and which have been or will be duly announced. A frank statement of the reasons, on the part of the student, which have led to the tentative selection of a course, will generally furnish the best foundation for advice and guidance. It is probable that something will be gained by every student, however positive his decision, by such conference with the representative of the department which he proposes to enter.

A circular on the "Choice of Courses," containing important statements regarding requirements for entrance to the various courses, the degree to which personal tastes or prospect of pecuniary return should influence the election, and the inter-relations of the different professional courses, is obtainable at the secretary's office, and this pamphlet should be read without fail by all first-year students.

It should be particularly noted that the decision made at this time is not irrevocable, since it is generally possible to change to another course if the experience of the second term, or other considerations, appear to make such a step desirable.

In addition, special circulars relating to a number of the courses are to be had on application, and should be consulted.

The best idea of the lines of work entered by graduates from the various courses can be obtained by an examination of the list published in each catalogue. These occupations are summarized in some of the special circulars.

It may be said in conclusion that there is no one of the thirteen courses outlined in the catalogue which does not offer the opportunity for earnest, thoughtful, fruitful labor; there is no course which does not demand it for its successful completion; and there is no course in which, if creditably completed, the student may not reasonably expect to find a satisfactory field for the application of his acquired training.

H. P. Talbot.

Meeting of Institute Committee.

At the Institute Committee meeting last Monday, a complete set of by-laws for the year was adopted. A committee was appointed to recommend to the Lunch-room Committee of the Faculty that no chairs be turned up in the lunch-room after one o'clock, and a committee was appointed, which drew up the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Institute Committee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology observes with deep regret the misinterpretation of a speech made by our president, in which he urged more attention to the social side of our college life;

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the official representatives of the undergraduate body, express the strongest appreciation of our president's endeavor to introduce a greater spirit of fellowship into the student life of our college.

H. P. Talbot.

Calendar.

Friday, Jan. 17. — Regular meeting of the Forum of Technology, 1905, will be held in Room II, Rogers, at 3 P.M.

Tuesday, Jan. 21. — Semi-Annual Examinations begin.

Tuesday, Feb. 11. — Second term begins.
Only devoted Theatregoers know how painful it is to recover from a good play. After "Mrs. Dane's Defense," the best play of the fall season, I recovered with reasonable promptness, and in two or three weeks could enjoy the ordinary theatre diet. But Miss Crosman’s "As You Like It" was great drama greatly acted, supremely and splendidly the best play of the year; and I saw it so many times, from the balcony, standing, from the front row—Oh, my poor purse, how often did I go!—that I am afraid I shall have a critical stomach, very queasy for any diet we are likely to enjoy until Sir Henry Irving comes. Of course, I know that as soon as I recover my bearings I may again find pleasing melody or a good laugh even in "Liberty Belles" or at Keith's and such vaudevilles, but it is slow work regaining your balance, if you dorp, like Cyrano, from the moon.

Miss Crosman’s "Mistress Nell," an old friend here in Boston, is a play in itself by no means flavorless. It is lively and spirited, though occasionally extravagant and utterly improbable, and it has a touch of the robustness, frolic and fire of Restoration comedy. Furthermore, the play has many really witty passages, some of which, so swift in the action of the piece, you may quite overlook, unless you keep your wits wide-awake. For the roguish, ingenious Nell, and the rollicking masquerade of Adair, Miss Crosman is of course entirely adequate; yet the part most striking to me was Mr. Woodruff's Charles II, who throughout the play most entertainingly "never says a foolish thing and never does a wise one." From her Rosalind it was plain to be seen that Miss Crosman could handle any such comedy rôle as Nell Gwyn; but I did not foresee in Mr. Woodruff's Orlando so graceful and easy a creation as his Charles II.

Then, after the performance of "Mistress Nell" I went home, curled up in my chair under my lamp, took down my little Temple text and read "As You Like It"; and there's your folly of going to one play when you are wishing every minute you were at another! I suspect that a large part of my enjoyment of "Mistress Nell" was because Nell's voice—and what a voice it is!—was the voice of Rosalind.

Our plays have grouped themselves rather curiously this winter. We have had the country invading the city in a string of "Sky Farms" and "Fly Farms" and "Way Down East" and "David Harum"; we have had the past invading the present in a series of romantic melodramas, "The Cardinal" and the two novel-plays, "Knighthood" and the "Forest Lovers"; we had an occasional modern play, such as "Mrs. Dane" and the "Way of the World." Now we are going to get a line of comparison between Mr. Faversham's "Royal Rival" and Mr. Hackett's "Don Caesar" in his new rôle of lover.

The Theatregoer was much pleased to have his remarks on Mr. Malone's Jaques disputed; not because he wants to justify his comment, for every critic has taken the melancholy fellow in a different way, and Madame George Sand, in her adaptation, "Comme Il Vous Plaira," so fell in love with him that she lets him dominate her whole play, and in the end marries him to Celia! If the Theatregoer were dogmatizing he might take to justification; but he is not dogmatizing and does not mean to. He means simply to chat with you, and begs you to remember that he will be pleased to receive any communication, however trifling,—either of suggestion, or remonstrance, or question,—addressed to him at the TECH office. He will not pretend to Ruth Ashmorean Omniscience, but will endeavor to answer, and that with pleasure, any questions of dramatic criticism or stage gossip his readers may have the interest or the curiosity to put to him.

Communications.

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

One of the most unfortunate features of the discussion of the "Kommer" question at Tech is the spirit shown by the newspapers. It would seem, to a stranger, that some of the news journals in this section of the country have a decided yearning after the "yellow." Now with the word "beer" connected with student gatherings, they have found a delightful morsel, so the public at large is compelled to read misleading articles, and by reading them, to be misled. The question to be asked is this: Is it not possible for outside newspapers to cease to discuss the problems of Tech student life, and is it not possible for a few narrow-minded people to curb their ambitions to say something, even if it is nothing, until they can...
become thoroughly acquainted with the real conditions at the Institute? When the people are rightly informed they must unite with the student body in realizing that conditions at Tech are being improved all the time, thanks to the efforts of one man—Dr. Henry Smith Pritchett.

FLOYD T. TAYLOR.

A Restaurant Episode.

Scene—Interior of restaurant near the Institute.

Tommie, Spud and Monk, three students, sitting at one of the tables near the entrance. Gentleman, aged perhaps forty-five, hair slightly streaked with gray, brown Vandyke beard, dressed in black cutaway coat, light trousers, enters, and takes the remaining seat at the table. Waitress approaches.

SPUD—Say, you fellows, here comes Agnes. Be quick and find out what you are going to die of this time.

MONK (reading menu)—Consommé and chicken soup. I'll take the soup. Possibly the chicken may have walked through it, at least. (To waitress—"Agnes.") I don't want any fish, though.

SPUD—I want fish, and you might bring me his, too.

TOMMIE—Consommé for me. It's the same as the soup, you know, only there's more pepper in it.

(Gentleman orders consommé.)

MONK (to waitress)—No hurry, of course.

SPUD (indicating particularly large spot on the cloth, which is also profusely decorated with many others)—Do you see that? A rather pretty fairy upset her coffee there, three weeks ago, and that's the result. It's a sweet reminder of her face. I hope they don't change the tablecloth yet awhile.

TOMMIE (absently)—Once a month, I believe.

(Gentleman notices the tablecloth. Evidently not pleased at the sight.)

MONK—I'd rather have no cloth at all, the way they have it at Dennett's, in New York. (Waitress enters with tray, and begins placing dishes on the table.) What, so soon! And you brought me the fish, after all. Well, take it back, if you love me. The egg in that sauce looks a bit feverish for me.

SPUD—Speaking of fevers reminds me. I heard of a fellow—a great, big, husky brute, he was, too—who fed his face here for four years, and then had typhoid fever for five months.

TOMMIE—Don't blame him at all.

MONK—Don't worry, old man. We're only Freshies. Plenty of time for that. There are three years, after this one, that are coming to us.

TOMMIE (finishing his fish)—It's up to us for the next line-up. Are you going to have a lunch or a dinner? Seeing that we are to indulge in that blasted drill for the next two hours, I think I need a dinner.

MONK—There's no difference in either as far as I can see, except in the size of the stone-ware they are served in. However, I want the lunch. The sausages are vile. I don't want to know what their ancestors were. Roast beef, _au jus_, has no charms for me, either. (To waitress.) Lamb with peas.

SPUD (also to waitress)—Now I want the fritters and all these other ingredients (pointing them out on the menu), but no corned beef and cabbage. Do you understand? (Waitress grins.)

TOMMIE—Oh, I forgot! Don't bring me any cabbage, either. As they say it in Boston, that cabbage should proceed to the extreme rear and be seated.

(Gentleman orders full course.)

SPUD—I understand that President Pritchett (gentleman looks up) is going around to all the different hash-foundries about here, to see for himself what sort of stuff the fellows are getting. I think he is doing a good deal for the fellows, don't you?

MONK—Well, I don't think they would appreciate it if he ate all their meals for them, though possibly they might at this ranch. I think—

SPUD—Oh, shut up, you ham, you know what I meant.

TOMMIE—Sure! Cut it off, both of you.

(Waitress enters.)

SPUD—Say, I'll make a proposition to you: the fellow who gets the most peas pony's up for this sumptuous banquet. (Counts peas.) Gee, I've got seven (triumphantly).

MONK—that goes me one better.

TOMMIE—and me five better. It's up to you, all right.

(Gentleman absent-mindedly begins counting the peas on his own plate. Recollects where he is, and stops abruptly.)

SPUD (examining one of his "bird" dishes)—What's this?

TOMMIE (who has sampled the similar contents of his dish)—Those are your fritters. Take mine, too.

SPUD (takes a bite, and then reaches for his glass of water hastily.)—Glory be! Those must be octogenarians!

TOMMIE—I thought I recognized their balmy fragrance. Remembered it from last week. (Begins to carefully extract from his plate a fine hair.)

MONK (watching him)—That's too long for that
bob-tailed Angora cat's they keep here. You know, I never see an event of that kind happening without thinking of those soul-stirring lines:

Down in the kitchen, a maiden fair,
Out of the hash, was picking her hair!

SPUD (to Tommie) — You'd better give that hair to Hamlet; you know whom I mean,—the long guy over there with the boy's dress-suit on, who always leads you to the table you don't want, and then gives the morning paper to the other man. We call him Hamlet because he looks so melancholy.

MONK — Why don't you call him Omlette?

(Chorus of groans from the others.)

TOMMIE — Say, if I could put my lunch-hooks on that bread-plate, I'd trun it at you hard.

SPUD — In that case, Monk, you should call him "Eggs, Sunny-side up!" That's the technical name for omelette.

MONK — I thought that omelette was "Adam and Eve on a raft."

SPUD — No! That's poached eggs on toast, and "Wreck Adam and Eve" means "no toast."

TOMMIE (murmuring disgustedly) — Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain unto it."

(Meanwhile, all have finished the second course, the waitress has removed the dishes and remains standing there.)

SPUD (turning to her) — Oh, I beg your pardon. If you will kindly convey thither such portions of—

MONK — Do keep still! Even Boston doesn't go to that limit. (To waitress.) Bring him all you have; that's what he means. And, if there's anything left over, bring it to me.

TOMMIE (ordering from menu.) — Everything excepting apple pie. Coffee with no milk, too, please.

MONK — Same here.

SPUD — Bring me either coffee or tea, but don't tell me what it is, and see if I can guess.

(Waitress returns presently.)

MONK (regarding small triangle of pie before him) — This is Wednesday. They manufacture all their pies on Sunday, and make 'em last through the whole week. Will you get me a steel knife or a steam-roller, if you have one?

SPUD — Say, your teeth can push themselves through that crust all right. That's only medium-weight. Come, hurry, it's nearly two o'clock!

(Silence for two minutes, then Monk raises his cup of coffee.)

MONK — "Here's to you, my jovial friend," and the pie, and the peas—and Agnes (bows gracefully). (Others drink in silence, then all three go out. Gentleman remains for a few minutes, his face in a brown study. Then he, too, arises, and goes out.)

L. Brown, until recently Gymnasium janitor, is no longer in the employ of the Institute. His place has been filled by F. H. Crans.

Captain Avery wants new candidates for the relay team, especially men from Freshman and Sophomore classes. The team takes a practice run daily from the Gymnasium at 4.50 P.M.

A regular meeting of Forum of Technology, 1905, will be held in Room 11, Rogers, on Friday, at 3 P.M.

Members of the Electrical Engineering Society who wish shingles should leave their name, course and class with B. W. Capen, Box 81, Cage.

The following appointments in the Freshman Regiment are announced: To be sergeant-major, E. A. Mead. To be sergeants: Co. A: R. B. Gregson, F. H. Langworthy, L. J. Killion; Co. E: R. P. Stebbins, E. L. Hill.

The Basket Ball Team began practice last week. The management has had much trouble in finding a suitable place to play in, and has finally been forced to resort to the Gymnasium. A number of games have been arranged for next term, and all who have ever played basket ball, or who want to try for the team, are requested to report on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 4 P.M.

The Hockey Team.

A meeting of the M. I. T. Hockey Association was held in Room 11, Rogers Building, last Wednesday. Mr. F. F. H. Smith,
'02, was elected captain and Mr. H. A. Stiles,'03, was elected manager. As Mr. Smith is at present in New York, Mr. Arthur Nickerson was chosen as temporary captain.

On Saturday the team had a game on the rink back of the shops, with the Andover Town Team. The result was a tie, the score being 2—2. The men playing on our team were:

Forwards,—Libbey, '03, Riley, '04, Magnitzky,'03, Falvey, '04, Rateman, '03.
Cover Point,—Nash, '02, Hastings, '05, Crowell, '05.
Point,—Simpson, '03.
Goal,—H. L. Dean, '05.

The schedule of games is at present:

Tuesday, Jan. 14, Somerville High. Home.
Thursday, Jan. 16, Newton High. Home.
Saturday, Jan. 18, Andover Academy. Andover.
Wednesday, Feb. 12, Dorchester A. A. Home.
Saturday, Feb. 22, Friday, Feb. 28, or Saturday, March 1, Brown. Providence.

The construction of the rinks back of the shops has been accompanied with considerable trouble and expense, and the management of the Association earnestly hope that all who have ever played hockey or polo will take advantage of this opportunity to come and play, even if only with the hope of making the scrub team.

M. I. T. Cross Country Team.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

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Total Receipts $186.05
Total Expenditures $175.89
Balance on hand $10.16

Jan. 8, 1902.

W. P. R. PEMBER,
Treasurer.

All communications with this department should be addressed to the Alumni Editor.


'93. R. H. Beattie, I., is an engineer and contractor at Fall River, Mass.

'93. L. N. Braman, II., is with the Westinghouse Church Kew & Co. of New York City.

'98. Milan V. Ayres, VI., is in the engineering department of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, N. Y.

'98. Joseph Bancroft, X., is assistant treasurer of the Joseph Bancroft & Sons Co. at Wilmington, Del.


'98. W. D. Blackmer, III., is a mining engineer at Colorado Springs, Col.

'98. Lawrence Addicks, II. and VI., is assistant to the superintendent of the Raritan Copper Works at Perth Amboy, N. Y.


'99. T. Wendell Bailey, IV., is architectural draughtsman with the American Bridge Company at East Berlin, Conn.

'98. Bertha Lennie Ballantyre, VII., is teacher of biology in the Springfield High School.
Though at this particular time of the year the general revelry which characterizes the life of an individual in pursuit of knowledge at the Institute, is hushed, and the varied clubs and associations have paled into an "innocuous desuetude," yet THE LOUNGER is able to say that this is not the case with THE TECH Board. For in the face of the hilarity which begins next Monday in the form of semi-annual examinations, the members of the Board sought the pleasures of dissipation in their annual lunch. Whether this hardihood in spending a Saturday afternoon in riotous living, instead of in the pages of "Applied" is one of the direct results of the Kommer system which is being inaugurated in our midst, and which public opinion is operating on at present with a critical can-opener, THE LOUNGER cannot presume to say. At any rate, it was worth much to see the stern and relentless features of the chief wielder of the pen and of the largest glue-pot and scissors in the office—the Editor-in-Chief—relax into a smile of peace as he forgot, temporarily at least, the fact that THE LOUNGER's copy was already two days overdue. Such thoughts are pleasant in this hazardous time of exams., when even the architects begin to worry. As for THE LOUNGER, as you see in the picture above, he has just lighted another cigar, and is thinking whether the "three-moment-equation" will be on the exam., or not.

THE LOUNGER is extremely gratified. One of his prodigies has demonstrated, in an article that has just been sent to THE LOUNGER, that he is an inventor of unbounded resources. Such sparkling genius should be encouraged; and THE LOUNGER casts upon it his kindly glance and prints the same below.

"Eureka! I have it," exclaimed Charley Freshman, "and my fortune's made. I will sell my idea, and become famous as the inventor of the only practical snow-plough."

So it was. Our friend Charles had heard so much about "Conservation of Energy," "Electrolytic Processes," and "Applied Mechanics," that his head was full of new inventions, and the simplest of these was the "Twentieth Century Snow-plough."

The plough was merely the application of certain fundamental elements of the foregoing subjects. It consisted of a car run by a newly designed hydrogen gas-engine which was placed in the exact center of the car. At the front of the car and overhanging it, was a large fender-like shield. In it, spreading the width of the railway gauge, were two massive electrodes, charged by an overhead trolley. Over the electrodes were two cylinders. One of these connected with the engine; the other with a series of cylinders occupying the spare space on the car. All this apparatus was covered by a housing, and gave the car the appearance of a miniature power-house.

Now for the working of this wonderful plough. The car having been started, the electricity is turned on. The electrodes, now thoroughly charged, decompose the snow into hydrogen and oxygen,—the speed of the decomposition depending on the speed of the car. The hydrogen passes over to the engine and furnishes the power to run the plough. The oxygen passes into the cylinders, which are sealed and then sold. The final result is a clear path for all cars, the only cost being that of the electricity to decompose the snow.

Charley woke up then, and continued studying the chapter on Electrolytic Processes.
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Colonial Theatre.—Mr. Crane enters upon his fifth week of his successful stay. His portrayal of Harum is a delight. The other parts of the village tough, the bank clerk and the widow are all brought out good and strong; and, in fact, all of the character bits are taken in a manner worthy of attention.

Tremont Theatre.—Henrietta Crosman in “Mistress Neil” is the attraction at this theatre this week. The play is staged with the quaint and picturesque scenery and accessories so much admired by all last year. Next week the management announces “The Explorers,” the latest musical oddity, as the next attraction.

Boston Museum.—In “Don Cesar’s Return” James K. Hackett presents what might be called a new treatment of “Don Cesar de Bazan.” This play differs a great deal from others of this character, and Hackett’s work is exceptionally good. The engagement is for two weeks only.

Columbia Theatre.—“My Antoinette” is said to be far superior to anything of its kind ever presented here. The characters are well taken, Charles E. Evans being the leading comedian, while opposite to him is Josephine Hall, whose fun-making ability is already known. The company has a chorus composed of fifty of the prettiest girls ever gotten together.

Castle Square Theatre.—The patrons are enjoying an unusually good production of Bronson Howard’s “Aristocracy” this week. Next attraction is “The Marble Heart,” by the regular company. This play is considered to be very strong, and should have good success.

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