

# THE TECH

VOL. XXXI. NO. 115

BOSTON, MASS., TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1912

PRICE TWO CENTS

## SPRING CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON COMMENCES

Many Freshmen in Evidence On the First Day of Practice.

The Spring cross-country season started yesterday afternoon with a rather easy run of about three miles over what is known to the runners as the "Riding School Course." About thirty men reported to the coach, the greater part being Freshmen.

The two chief events of the coming season are the Sophomore-Freshman race and the Intercourse race. The first corresponds somewhat to the struggle in the fall on Field Day, and the unsuccessful class of the fall always looks forward to the Spring event as a chance to retrieve themselves. The second is a meet between the different courses of the Institute.

The Freshmen, especially, wish to have a large number of candidates that they may overcome, if possible, the advantage which the Sophomores derive from the quality and experience of their men. The lower class should not overlook the importance of this event as their prestige is decided for the Spring by the outcome of this race.

As soon as the weather becomes a little more suitable the practice will be supplemented by the Hare and Hound runs through the suburbs. These runs, while not compulsory, furnish good practice and get a little of the dust of the city out of one's lungs.

Men who think that they would like to enjoy this excellent exercise should remember that previous experience is not necessary.

## COURSE IV. MEETING.

Architects to Be Addressed by Mr. C. H. Blackall.

On Wednesday evening, March 6, the Architectural Society will hold a smoker in 42 Pierce. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. C. H. Blackall, a prominent architect of this city, who will address the society on "Architecture in Business." His speech will cover the economic side of architecture rather than the artistic, and the architects can get some very valuable information from him along these lines. He spoke recently on the same topic before the Economic Society of Harvard.

Mr. Blackall has had wide experience in his profession, and is well known in architectural circles. He has been employed chiefly in designing theatres, and his present enviable reputation is due to this work. The Colonial Theatre was erected by him. He will be one of the most interesting speakers of the year, and it is desired that all the members of the society attend this meeting.

## WRESTLING PICTURES.

The wrestling team will have their picture taken at Notman's on Park street this noon, at 1.15. The following men are to report with black tights: A. H. Means, H. W. Treat, Blaggett, Doble, Crowell, Smythe-Martin.

We want to get that track team on the training table early this spring and not leave any stones unturned in the effort to win the championships. Never have we had so much good track talent in the Institute.

## CONVOCATION COMMEMORATES BIRTH OF MRS. WILLIAM BARTON ROGERS

Excellent Portrait Received---Prof. Sedgewick Pays Homage to "Mother" of Institute With Greatest Respect.

The Convocation in Huntington Hall yesterday was a fitting and tender testimonial to the memory of Mrs. Emma Savage Rogers, the wife of William Barton Rogers, the founder and first President of the Institute. The hall held a genuine Technology audience which was responsive to the sentiment and of a sympathy awakened by but few occasions. The Convocation was a presentation and formal acceptance of Ipson's admirable portrait of Mrs. Rogers.

President Maclaurin opened the exercises with a few introductory remarks. Not Boston alone, said he in part, but the world now recognizes the type of education that President Rogers fostered. The Institute is a lasting memorial to him. It is quite similar with the part taken by Mrs. Rogers in this great development. Those who know, know that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology would not have been possible but for her. Indeed, "Technology was Mrs. Rogers' only child." She gave to the Institute all of her that was possible, in life, and left to it all that she could leave, in death.

To many of the undergraduates, continued the President, she is but a name and so, on the anniversary of her birth, it is altogether fitting that her life and work be reviewed by one of her warmest and ablest personal friends. This served to introduce the speaker of the Convocation, Professor William T. Sedgewick.

"Thirty years ago," said Professor Sedgewick, "in this historic hall and on this platform the distinguished founder and first president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor William Barton Rogers, in the course of an address to the graduating class on Commencement Day, sank to the floor and died. 'All his life,' said General Walker, 'he had borne himself faithfully and heroically, and he died as a good knight would surely have wished, in his harness, at his post, and in the very part and act of public duty.'

"This event marked the end of the first epoch in the life of the Institute, but for one woman in the hall it marked also the end of a long and happy partnership in life and in service for the Institute and for the advancement of science. A year ago another milestone was marked for the Institute with the passing of that same woman and the removal from our midst of the last of those who from the very start had conceived the idea of a great polytechnic institute, followed it with devotion, cultivated it with inspiration, watched over it in days of darkness and rejoiced in the hours of triumph.

"We have met today to honor her who we may well call the mother of the Institute, precisely as we may call her beloved husband its father.

"President, then Professor Rogers, was born in Pennsylvania but reared

in Virginia. He spent much of his early and middle life in the famous University of Virginia. While primarily a physicist, he was also skilled in geology. While on a visit to the White Mountains in 1845, he made the acquaintance of James Savage of Boston. Emma, Mr. Savage's oldest daughter, accompanied Professor Rogers to Virginia as his bride.

"Mr. Savage was an able and successful lawyer, being best known as the author of his Genealogical Dictionary, a monument to his accurate and painstaking research. Her mother was Elizabeth Stillman Lincoln, a native of Maine. Emma Savage received a very broadening education. She was vivacious and gay and witty, so that it was no wonder that the young Professor capitulated on making her acquaintance.

After her marriage Mrs. Rogers spent several interesting and happy years with her husband at the University of Virginia. The Civil War was now brewing, but in spite of the Northern sympathies of Professor Rogers and his wife they remained for several years in the Southern State, during which time the Professor was the virtual President of the University. They were glad, however, to seize the first opportunity to remove to Boston, in 1853.

At about this time scientific training was in its infancy. There were several technical schools established, but the work offered was but preparatory and of no material or definite value. The public was now interested and during the years of 1853 to 1859, President and Mrs. Rogers thought of little else. Mrs. Rogers' position in Boston among the best people gave her husband the opportunity to meet and interest the persons who could aid him in affecting the establishment of a scientific school. Indeed, as early as 1846 Professor Rogers had noted the rare field and opportunity that Boston offered for the establishment of a polytechnic school. The Lowell Institute appealed to him. He, with Mrs. Rogers, for they formed a unit in thought and sentiment in all things, took part in scientific matters and was with Darwin in the discussions of the evolution of species opposed to Louis Agassiz of Harvard.

"In 1861 a charter was granted for this Technology. The Civil War delayed its opening until 1865. It was to be composed of a Museum of Arts, a Society of Arts, and a School of Industrial Science. It is the realization of the School of Science that is the Institute we now know. Then followed years of anxiety and years of difficulties, financial and otherwise, to say nothing of the adverse criticism that a pioneer necessarily encounters. Withal, Professor Rogers was in ill health. Mrs. Rogers, however, was a firm rock of defense, an anchor of hope and a constant encouragement to her husband.

(Continued on Page 3.)

## CIVIL SOCIETY GOES TO HARVARD

Professor Swain Lectures On the Quebec Bridge and Its Failure.

Last evening the Civils were guests of the Harvard Engineering Society and listened to an extremely interesting lecture on "The Quebec Bridge and Its Fall; The Greatest Engineering Catastrophe in Modern Times." This lecture has been given several times previously, but men in this vicinity have not had occasion to hear it before.

By way of introduction, Prof. Swain described various types of bridges and their methods of construction as related to the Quebec bridge.

This structure was to be built at a point where the river is about 2000 feet wide, and 200 feet deep. The type selected was a cantilever bridge with one suspended span. Work was commenced on the south side and carried on without the use of under-scaffolding. On August 29, 1907, when the south half was nearly completed, the bridge fell and made wreckage of 17,000 tons of steel.

Professor Swain said that the failure was due to inadequate lattice work in the compression supports rather than to faulty material or construction, and that if certain tests had been made before instead of after the disaster, the failure could have been predicted and avoided.

## BENBOW FIRST MARSHAL.

1912 Class Day Officers Chosen at Committee Meeting.

Yesterday the Senior Class Day Committee met for organization and election of officers. David F. Benbow was chosen first marshal, R. Cramer second marshal, and A. M. Eicher third marshal. At the same time H. A. Babcock was made treasurer, and E. H. Shell elected secretary of the committee.

Benbow, who received the largest number of votes in the class election, is at present one of the Senior Portfolio Committee, Business Manager of "Concerning M. I. T." and a member of Osiris. Both the other marshals are on the Portfolio board, and Cramer is the chairman.

## CALENDAR.

In Charge of S. H. Taylor, 1914.

Tuesday, March 5.

4.15—Mandolin Club Rehearsal—Union.

E. E. Society Meeting—6 Lowell.

Wednesday, March 6.

6.00—Catholic Club Meeting—Union.

7.05—Music Club Dance at Melrose—North Station.

7.45—Architectural Society—42 Pierce.

E. E. Society Trip to Fore River.

Thursday, March 7.

1.30—T. C. A. Meeting—Union.

5.00—Lowell Lecture—Napoleon.

Friday, March 8.

4.15—Mandolin Club Rehearsal—26 Rogers.

8.00—Architectural Eng. Society Meeting—42 Pierce.

Musical Clubs—Newton, Time later.

# THE TECH

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1912

### UNION SCANDAL.

The absolute nonchalance of the Faculty with regard to the thefts which have been occurring in the Union during the last few weeks has been the subject of much adverse criticism around the school. Last Saturday three hats were taken from the living room at the Union and the owners were accordingly put to much trouble and inconvenience. During the present week several overcoats have disappeared through these mysterious channels.

What can we undergrads do about it? Fight it we must! It is bringing discredit on ourselves individually, and on the school as a whole.

We apparently are not to receive the assistance of the Faculty in rooting out this evil; it remains with us then to eradicate this sore from our centre. What is the best way for us to go about it?

The only logical course seems to be for the undergraduate body to get together, elect a vigilance committee to find the thieves; and once found, let us teach them such a lesson that the name of the Institute will never again be besmirched by such actions.

### COURTESY.

The invitation of the Harvard Engineering Society to our men to attend the meeting last night at their rooms is an example which might readily be followed by several of our own societies. The inviting of men from other colleges not only helps to promote harmonic feeling between the respective schools, but it proves of benefit because we can in this way learn how things are managed at other places.

We would further suggest the inviting of more outsiders to our meetings, the expense would be very little more, and it would increase the interest in the school around the city.

It's too bad that we can't have a Gym team and a swimming team. The expenses needed to run these teams are practically nothing and they certainly will help a great many men.

The spring competition for the du Pont cup will open pretty soon, and it might be a good tip to warn some of the Freshmen to take a chance at it this spring, and then they will know what is expected of them. Next fall they will be all ready to start ahead and win it.

### BATTLESHIP BUILDERS TO BE VISITED AGAIN

Electricals Will Make Second Visit to Fore River Tomorrow.

The Electrical Engineering Society will take another trip to the plant of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company at Quincy Point tomorrow afternoon. The party will meet in Lowell corridor, near the library of the department, at 1.45 o'clock, and go from there to the South Station, where they take the 2.15 train to Quincy. This second trip was thought necessary because the number that can go at one time is limited to thirty. As only twelve signed up yesterday, this limit will probably not be reached, but those desiring to visit the shipyards tomorrow will greatly oblige the secretary by signing up as soon as possible.

The Fore River Shipbuilding Company is one of the largest concerns of its kind in this country, and is equipped with the most improved mechanical and electrical appliances for building modern warships and liners. A visit to their yards should prove very interesting to the members of the society who have not already gone.

### COMMUNICATION.

(We invite communications from all men in the Institute on important subjects. We take no responsibility for their sentiments and do not agree to print any that may come in, whether they are signed or not.)

To the Editor of THE TECH:

Dear Sir:—  
Far be it from one so humble as I to write such illustrious communications as those signed by "A. K. Icker." For these I have received undeserved credit. Kindly publish this when space affords and oblige,  
Very truly yours,  
A. McEicher.

To the Editor of THE TECH:

I think, to date, no less than ten overcoats belonging to students have been stolen from supposedly safe places. Of these ten, I have not heard of one which has ever been found. Two places seem to be particularly subject to the depredations of the thief or thieves—the corridor of the Biological department and the living room of the Union. Professor Sedgwick has posted a notice on the hooks warning the students that thieves are about and that it is not safe to leave coats or other valuable articles hanging there. The hooks in question are fastened to long strips, each strip being held by six screws. There are four such strips, and in addition two shorter ones held by four screws each. Therefore, by removing thirty-two screws the entire 68 hooks could be removed at one swoop and put up inside a class room or some safer place where they would be under more constant scrutiny of the owners or responsible persons. Would this not remove temptation from the thief and at the same time remove the temptation of hanging coats in a dangerous locality? At present I fail to see that the hooks are fulfilling any useful purpose. It also seems a little strange that an institution so advanced in many reforms of research should sit quietly by and allow an unknown to ply his nefarious operations uninvestigated. The impression created on outsiders will be decidedly detrimental to the best interests of the Institute. I hope that this will prove a sufficient "catalyzer" to start a red-hot, rapid and violent reaction in which the authorities can apply the forces at their command to the accumulated evidence, produce the "unknown," and prevent its unfavorable and objectionable operations in future.  
Malcolm Lewis, '13.

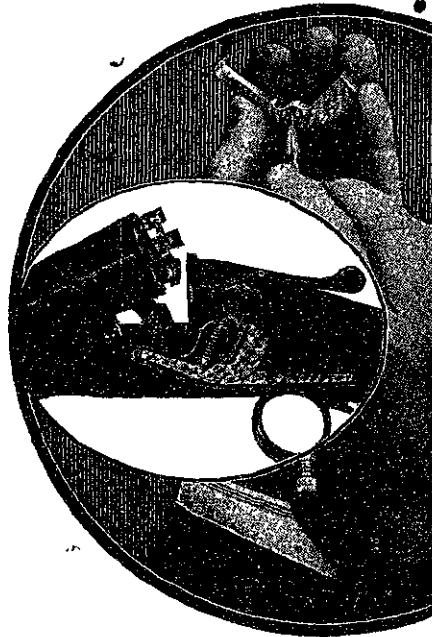
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**FIRST CREW PRACTICE AT GYM YESTERDAY**

With Five of Last Year's Men Out Prospects for Season Are Bright.

Twenty men reported for the first crew practice at the Gym yesterday afternoon and were given a workout on the rowing machines. Five members of last year's crew are back and prospects look much brighter than last year, when the crew lost to the Navy by only one length. Captain Gere is expected out again and his presence will greatly strengthen the boat.

The B. A. A. boathouse has been secured, and Manager Gere expects to secure a shell in a few days. Practice will be held in the Gym until the shell arrives and the weather gets warmer. Coach O'Leary, who coached the crew last year, will probably be secured again this year.

J. E. Whittlesey, '12, E. C. Gere, '12, E. Upham, '13, H. A. Sweet, '13, and E. B. Wettingel, '12, of last year's crew, are out. Several of the new men have had experience on college and high school boats, but the most of them are rather light.

The other men out are: J. S. Howkins, '15; D. Perin, '15; H. L. Marion, '15; W. V. Murthy, '14; S. L. Willis, '15; A. L. Todd, '14; H. S. Busby, '14; F. S. Gore, '13; M. Sabin, '15; T. J. Duffield, '14; E. Wieber, '15, and T. J. Cleverly, '14.

**CONVOCATION**

(Continued from Page 1.)

"Then at last, when in 1870, President Rogers fell ill, Mrs. Rogers became his devoted companion and nurse, caring for him tenderly when his life at times seemed to hang but by a thread. Then it was that the Institute became sorely troubled. Many of the best professors were forced to go elsewhere and it soon became apparent that if the Institute were to survive its President must take the helm again. Feeble as he was, he assumed again the work of the executive. From 1878 until his death in 1882 he stood manfully at his post until he was able to pass on the presidency to his chosen successor, General Francis A. Walker. The strain of these years and the shock of his death was too much for Mrs. Rogers, and she retired from active interests for several years.

"Later she began to take up again the work of her life, the chief of which was her beloved Institute, and those who first began to know her found her a charming, gracious, cultivated woman of the world, fond of music, fond of art, devoted to charity, but full of humor, anecdote and wit; a generous hostess, scientific to the utmost and so devoted to the Institute that it always had the first place in her thoughts.

"Whether at her home in Newport or in Marlborough street, no Institute men, instructor or student, but found her door wide open. Those of us who have wandered with her about the lawn at Newport and admired her devotion to her beautiful garden, will never forget her noble figure in that delightful setting. Those who have sat at her table or about her fireside in Boston, those who have witnessed her enjoyment of concert or opera, have observed her interest in the Old World and its treasures, will never need to be told what a wonderful woman she was.

"And now on this anniversary of her birthday the Institute receives with gratitude and affection from her own hand this speechless but eloquent representation of her face, which will be placed tenderly and lovingly on the wall of the Rogers Building, there to remain till we migrate to the new home of the Institute beside the Charles."

Every man in the Institute wants to see Seligman don his track suit again and bring some Intercollegiate points home to Tech.

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