

# THE TECH

VOL. XXXII. NO. 102

BOSTON, MASS., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1913

PRICE TWO CENTS

## SPECIAL MEETING OF INSTITUTE COMMITTEE

Will be Held at 4.15 Today in 8 Engineering C— Important.

A special meeting of the Institute Committee will be held this afternoon, at 4.15, in 8 Engineering C. This meeting has been called to consider the New York trip of Tech Show, which is one of the most important subjects before the student body at the present time. Every member of the committee should make a special effort to attend this meeting.

Besides the consideration of the Show's New York trip four reports will also be brought up for discussion. These will be the reports of the Finance Committee, the committee on the new Constitution and By-Laws, THE TECH Advisory Council and the Treasurer of the Institute Committee. The committee which has had the proposed constitution and by-laws under consideration is sure to have a very important report to submit as this subject is one closely affecting the lives of all future undergraduates.

The new constitution, which, if adopted by the student body, will govern the actions of the Institute Committee, was published some time ago in these columns for the purpose of inviting suggestions and criticism from the Institute men. Comparative few have taken advantage of this opportunity up to the present, but the members of the committee hope that students have taken enough interest in the matter to make further inquiries concerning the exact meaning of the new constitution. It will soon be put up to the undergraduates for ratification or rejection, so the case may be.

As all these important matters are to be discussed at the meeting today the officers request that every member of the committee be present.

## FUTURE AEROPLANES.

### A. Merrill Says Tandem Planes Will Be Future Type.

Prof. A. A. Merrill, now giving a course of lectures in aeronautics at the Institute, is of the opinion that the aeroplanes of the future will be built along entirely new lines. Flying machines, says Prof. Merrill, will eventually have tandem planes arranged in such a way that fore and aft stability will be automatic and out of the control of the operator. In the ordinary curved surface of the machines of today, the center of pressure at ordinary flying angles is back (Continued on Page 2.)

## ART MUSEUM LECTURES.

A series of free popular lectures which, no doubt, will prove interesting and instructive to many, is being held every Sunday afternoon at the Museum of Fine Arts. On March 9, 3 P. M., Mr. Dudley L. Pickman will speak on the Special Exhibition Pottery and Porcelain in the Forecourt Room. This lecture is conducted by the department of Western Art. At 3.45, in the Renaissance Court, Mr. Francis Stewart Kershaw, of the department of Chinese and Japanese Art, will speak on the Special Exhibition of Japanese Ceramics.

## MYSTERIOUS RUMOR CAPTURED AT LAST

Discloses Secrets of Great Importance to Tech Students.

At last is the mystery solved and the secret discovered. Prof. Munsterburg sat up all last night and all day yesterday figuring on a method of nullifying the effects of the opiate vapors emanating from the ghostly visitor. He was unable to figure out any way to neutralize the effects of the vapors because he was not exactly sure of their composition, but he did succeed in inventing a method for capturing the spectre which worked to perfection. Briefly, the method was this: a few men were left in the upper TECH office to serve as decoys and also to indicate by their somnolence when the Rumor arrived. The rest of the men repaired to the roof, carrying with them the end of a rope, one end of which was tied in a slipknot and placed around the opening between the upper and lower offices. About 12 o'clock the men in the upper office began to wink sleepily, and a few minutes later were doing a grand overture from Wagner in fine style. Their snores warned the men on the roof to be ready. Lots were cast to see who would go down first and see if any portion of the ghost was within reach of the noose. The lot fell to the noble editor-in-chief, who gallantly descended and began to dream that he saw—as he later described—a head protruding above the floor line in the upper office. Before he was entirely overcome by the opiate he was able to shout "Pull!" The rope was given a jerk the ghost screamed—and all was over but the shouting!

The Rumor was prevailed upon to give up its secret as the price of freedom. This secret was so far-reaching and of such great importance to Tech men that THE TECH has thought it best to print a special edition giving the disclosures of the Rumor in detail. This edition will be out tomorrow morning and will contain some of the newest news which THE TECH has ever had the good fortune to be able to print. Because of the great expense entailed in getting out this edition it will be necessary to charge five cents for each copy. This special edition, however, will be delivered on the routes, as usual, and all men having subscription books will be allowed to use their tickets in purchasing tomorrow's paper.

## RELAY TEAM PICTURES.

All men who ran in the relay races at the B. A. A. games or at Providence are to report at Notman's Studio on Monday, March 10, at 2 P. M., for relay team pictures. New track suits will be supplied at the studio, but all the men must bring running shoes. Those who are to report are:

W. E. Adams,	E. B. Germain,
T. J. Barry,	T. H. Guething,
H. S. Benson,	C. T. Guething,
J. W. Bolton,	C. S. Reed,
A. B. Curtis,	R. S. Munch.

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## SPECIAL CONVOCATION NEXT THURSDAY NOON

President Maclaurin Will Call Men to Hear Stanton H. King Speak.

So many favorable reports have come from all sides as to the exceptional excellence of the T. C. A. speaker for this week, Mr. Stanton H. King, that President Maclaurin has suggested that the meeting be held in Huntington Hall, as the large number of men who will undoubtedly attend could not be conveniently accommodated at the Union. This action has resulted in the calling of a special convocation to hear Mr. King. As it seems inadvisable to change the hour, the talk will begin promptly at 1.30, the time of the regular Thursday T. C. A. meetings. Although this will probably deprive many men of the greater part of their lunch hour, the officers of the Association feel that Mr. King's talk will be well worth the sacrifice of time.

The qualifications of the speaker have been brought before the student body on previous occasions, but it is quite impossible to say too much in favor of him. It will be remembered that Mr. King is the Superintendent of the Sailors' Haven in Charlestown, and by virtue of his position he is brought into contact with men from all parts of the world. His experiences are as varied as they are amusing, and his talk, entitled "Seamen Ashore," will doubtless contain many of his best anecdotes.

Mr. King has spoken on previous occasions before lodge meetings and churches, his hearers never failing to speak of him in high terms of commendation. As Superintendent of the Haven he is well known through his efforts to provide a place for wholesome recreation and of good, congenial atmosphere for seamen when they are ashore. The conditions in which some of these men work are very severe. Firemen and stokers, especially, are compelled to work in the hold of a vessel at excessive temperatures. The great contrast that the Haven offers as compared to these arduous duties is, in a measure, responsible for its popularity with the seamen.

## TECHNIQUE BALLOTS.

1915 Electoral Ballots Due at Cage at 4 P. M.

Ballots for the 1915 Technique Electoral Committee are due today at 4 o'clock. They should be addressed to T. J. Barry, chairman of the Nomination Committee, and left at the Cage. Under a ruling of the committee at least twenty-five names must be checked or the ballot will be thrown out. If more than the required number of names are checked only the first twenty-five will be counted. Furthermore, each voter must sign his ballot with his own name and must have paid his dues for his Freshman and Sophomore years. If the dues are unpaid as yet they may be enclosed with the ballot.

The Technique Electoral Committee will choose the Board of Editors for next year's annual, and for this reason it is expected that all 1915 men will be sufficiently interested in this election to get the ballots in on time and in proper order.

## FIRST CUT MADE IN TECH SHOW CHORUS

Many Men Fail to Satisfy High Standards of This Year's Production.

Yesterday afternoon, at 4.30, there was a chorus rehearsal. Although neither Coach Sanger nor Mr. McConathy were present, the trial was a successful one. Stage Manager Fiske and E. Menderson, one of the authors, were present, and they decided what men will be kept. The following is a list of those retained:

Society Girls: Norris, Loveland, Achard, Lee, Stafford, Fulton, Hilton, Foote.

Pony Ballet: Sanburg, Higgins, Chadwick, Schabacher, Karns, Polly, Putnam, Harris, Bidwell.

Policemen: Stetson, Leeb, Parsons, Besly, Kingsbury, Harvey, Huber, Camp, Currier.

Students and Waiters: Moulton, Crosby, Morrison, Lieber, Conner, Wesson, Foster, Hohl, Wells, Guerny, Thrasher, Harrington, Jewett.

This list is, in a sense, only tentative, and those men who came out and whose names do not appear above, may be called on again. At present, however, they will not be needed.

The next rehearsal of the chorus will be on Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Mr. McConathy will be present and the men will start on the Show songs.

The cast will meet today at 4.30 to go over the second act, and rehearsals will continue every afternoon this week.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The regular March meeting of the Finance Committee will be held Thursday, March 6, at 6.30, in the Union. All members should plan to be present, but those who cannot come are requested to notify C. W. Brett, '13. Report blanks for the treasurers of the societies may be obtained at the Union, and are to be filled out before the meeting.

## SOPHOMORES ELIGIBLE.

Sophomores taking either Course II or X are now eligible to membership in the Mechanical Engineering Society. By becoming members they also become student members of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. It is urged that as many Sophomores as possible take advantage of this opportunity to become members of the A. S. M. E., because of the help that it will give them when they graduate from the Institute. Application for membership should be made to any of the officers of the society, preferably to L. L. Custer, Secretary.

## CALENDAR.

Wednesday, March 5, 1913.

4.00—Track Meet, 1916 vs. Medford High—Tech Gym.

4.15—Boat Club Meeting—Union.

4.15—1915 Technique Electoral Ballots Due.

4.15—Important Special Meeting of Institute Committee—8 Eng. C.

4.30—Second Act Rehearsal, Cast—Union.

Thursday, March 6, 1913.

5.00—Chorus Starts Work—Union.

5.00—Glee Club—Union.

# THE TECH

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1913

## THE UNDERGRADUATE CONSTITUTION.

The surprising lack of criticism of the constitution of the proposed "M. I. T. Undergraduate Association," which was set forth some three months ago, indicates either an unusually fine draft by the framers of this document or an exceptional lack of interest on the part of the undergraduates themselves. We incline to the belief that a combination of both causes is responsible, for although the constitution is unquestionably a good one, it is inconceivable that a body of fifteen hundred intelligent and wide-awake men cannot find room for possible improvements. We should like to offer the following statements for consideration:

Firstly. Why should the president of the Senior class be the president of the Institute Committee? The other officers of the committee are to be chosen by the committee itself, supposedly picking the best men available, but they plan to leave this most important of offices purely in the hands of the Senior class. Why not place the office on the same basis as the others, making it absolutely elective?

Secondly. We believe in the fullest possible publicity of all matters coming before the Institute Committee for consideration, and to this end would like to see a publicity clause inserted in the constitution.

Thirdly. We most assuredly believe in the representation of the professional societies on the committee. The point has been raised that their representation should be withdrawn for the reason that they are subordinate in importance to the other activities represented, and on that account should not receive as much power. We consider these societies a very active and important part of our undergraduate life, affording a very effective means toward advancing the progress of embryo engineers, and as such they should receive due recognition by the Institute Committee.

We all should realize that it is distinctly our duty and privilege to suggest and complain now.

## BOAT CLUB MEETING.

There is to be a meeting of the Boat Club in the Union at 4.15 this afternoon. Temporary President C. E. Gere will preside. A permanent constitution as drawn up to meet the present requirements of the club will be presented for consideration, after the acceptance or rejection of which the business of electing officers will be taken up.

Those interested in the welfare of the Boat Club are anxious that there be a large number present.

## THE BLACK DIAMOND—ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

### Dr. F. R. Millman to Talk On the Mining of Anthracite Coal.

On Friday afternoon, at 4 P. M., in the Union, Dr. F. R. Millman will give an illustrated lecture, "The Black Diamond." Although the lecture is under the auspices of the Mining Engineering Society, men of all courses are invited, and as the meeting is of unusual interest to nearly every scientific man a large attendance is expected. Dr. Millman is spending a few days in Boston lecturing to the public schools and has consented to devote one afternoon to the Institute.

The talk deals with the mining of anthracite coal and is of unusual interest because of the speaker's exceptional familiarity with the subject. Dr. Millman began his career as a miner boy and has been associated with mining towns all his life. Much of his time has been devoted to bettering the conditions of such localities. The set of pictures which illustrate his lectures is very complete, showing the latest and most efficient methods used in the mining of coal. Other interesting features which he describes in detail are the life saving equipments which now play a very essential part in mining outfits.

Every man at all interested in coal mining will find this meeting well worth while. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

## EXCUSED FROM DRILL.

### Company B Need Not Attend Drill This Wednesday.

As a result of the new system recently inaugurated by Major Cole, Company B will be excused from drill on Wednesday of this week. Under the new system a certain number of demerits are marked against each company for mistakes, absence, or incompleteness of uniform. The company which has the least number of demerits against it at the end of each month will be excused from one day of drill. Captain Chatfield's company was the winning one for the past month, and accordingly his company will be excused from drill Wednesday afternoon. The competition was very close, and the second company was only three points behind Company B.

## NEW AEROPLANES.

(Continued from Page 1.)

of the center of the plane, and there is a tendency for the rear of the plane to be pushed up and the front end down. As the angle decreases and the plane approaches a horizontal position, the wind strikes the front end of the plane and causes a pressure downward. This pressure is very apt to make the machine turn over. In any aeroplane or biplane, turning is prevented by the lifting of the rudder, which, although it straightens the machine, also slows it up. This loss of speed is often very sudden and is the cause of serious accidents.

Prof. Merrill says that longitudinal stability will be obtained by using two planes in tandem, one behind the other, and at a small angle with each other. In case a gust of wind or a "pocket" in the air is encountered, the tandem machine will neither dip or rise. Since the arrangement of the tandem plane does the balancing automatically, the aviator can devote his entire attention to steering.

Mr. R. D. Andrews of Boston is the inventor of this new arrangement of the planes.

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**INSTITUTE PROFESSOR  
STARTLES SCIENTISTS**

**Prof. Shimer Announces Belief  
That Cannibals Once Lived  
Here.**

Professor Hervey W. Shimer, who is an assistant professor of Paleontology at the Institute, has unearthed strange utensils and human remains which were in a shell mound at Ipswich, Mass. He has also found traces of a similar nature on Gardner's Island, which is off the coast of Connecticut. Pieces of broken bones were found at Ipswich which the professor believes were undoubtedly those of human beings sacrificed to satisfy a cannibalistic appetite.

Professor Shimer believes that the remains found at Ipswich indicate that man existed in Massachusetts 3,000 to 5,000, or even 10,000 years ago. There are traces today which show that they possibly existed here before the close of the glacial period, which was about 10,000 or 20,000 years ago. Professor Shimer thinks that we are on the verge of discoveries which will place man's existence much further back than has hitherto been thought.

This prehistoric man is believed to have been of the orang-outang type. This type of man is superior to the gorilla type, one of which was recently unearthed in England, on account of its greater brain capacity. Our prehistoric man plainly existed here during what is known as the Bronze Age in Europe and Central Asia. He dwelt in a hut built of wood and skins, with a fireplace of stone, and lived by hunting and fishing. Their utensils, which have been found, show that he was exceedingly primitive and that he lacked even the small amount of decorative ability which is evident in the early European peoples.

**NITROGEN FROM AIR.**

**Article by Prof. Noyes on Fixation of Nitrogen.**

In a recent issue of the Popular Science Monthly Prof. Arthur A. Noyes, director of the Research Laboratory of the Institute, outlined modern methods for converting the nitrogen of the air into fertilizers.

The increased population of the world, and the consequent increased demand for natural food products has gradually exhausted the natural supply of nitrogen in the soil. As to the annual increase of the world's population—about twelve million people—more than offsets the lands recovered by irrigation, and the natural method for returning nitrogen to the soil is too slow; there is a great necessity for devising artificial means for replenishing the supply. Leguminous plants, such as peas, beans and clover, have the power of returning nitrogen to the soil by means of nodules of bacteria which grow on the roots of these plants. A remarkable instance of the innoculating of the soil with these bacteria is shown in the reclaiming of the sterile lands of the Island of Krakatea, which was overwhelmed by a volcanic eruption in 1883. The island was soon covered by leguminous plants, and the ash is getting nitrogen from the air, so that the land will again support vegetation. This process requires several years, and is in consequence too slow a method.

An artificial method for preparing nitrogen fertilizers has been the treating of natural nitrates to form compounds which plant life can take up. The source of this natural supply has been saltpetre, found in Chili, Peru and Bolivia. This supply is limited and liable to exhaustion within thirty years.

With a vast supply of almost pure nitrogen about us in the air—the air being about four-fifths nitrogen—chemists have turned their attention to availing themselves of this supply. The method of treatment is to pass

**FRESHMEN VS. MEDFORD  
HIGH THIS AFTERNOON**

**First-Year Men Expect to Score  
Victory Over Fast School  
Team.**

This afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the Freshman track team will meet the Medford High School team in a dual meet at the Gym. This is the second meet of the season for the Freshman team, and, with the experience gained in the meet with Lowell High, they will probably do considerable better than before.

The Medford team is a very fast aggregation, and has done excellent work in all its previous meets. Nevertheless the records made will need to be very good if they are to win from the Freshman team.

In the dash, Adams, '16 is an exceedingly fast man, and will probably take first place. Petit, Hine and Loomis are also very good and may take one of the remaining places. Adams is the only Freshman of any ability at the hurdles, but he again seems to be the favorite for first place.

Captain Dean, Guething, Hastie, Graff, Benson and White are the best Freshmen at the 600-yard, 1000-yard and mile runs. Benson can be depended upon to win the latter event, with Guething and Dean very likely to capture first in at least one of the others. The remaining three men have good chances of picking up seconds and thirds.

The Freshmen are very weak in the field events, especially the shot-put. Wolk, Maier and Burkhart can heave the weight about 35 or 36 feet, but this is not sufficient to win, and it is possible that the 1916 men will not score in this event, as was the case at Lowell. In the high jump, Garita is capable of jumping 5 feet 6 inches when in form, but it is doubtful if he will be able to do so in the meet. Nevertheless, he is expected to take first place. None of the others can jump much over five feet, so it is probable that no more points will be scored by the Freshmen in this event.

The winner will be the Freshman team, in all probability, but any slight accident, such as a fall by one of the '16 runners, is likely to turn the tide of victory to defeat. The meet will begin promptly at 4 o'clock.

an electric spark through the nitrogen, thus forming soluble nitrates. An exactly similar process is performed by lightning passing through the air, but relatively smaller concentration. There is a plant situated at Notodden, Norway, which makes nitrates by this method at a reasonable price. Aside from the cost of installing, the only cost necessary is for electric power. By locating the plant near a water power site this one item of expense can be cut to a minimum. The product of this one plant is being used with success in Californian and Hawaiian fruit orchards, the growers finding it worth while to pay the big transportation charges.

The other method for the preparation of nitrogen compounds is by the partial distillation of liquid air. The nitrogen thus obtained is combined with hydrogen to form ammonia. The difficulties of this method of preparation have been overcome only by a careful study of catalytic agents, and the use of high pressure. The ammonia thus formed is treated to form salts which plants can take up.

Dr. Noyes says that there is little doubt that from these sources a large additional supply of nitrogen compounds will be available, and that their cost will be constantly lowered.

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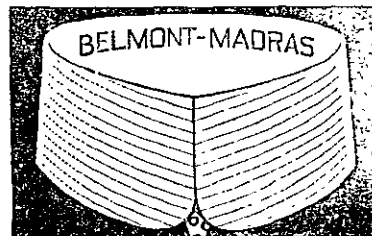
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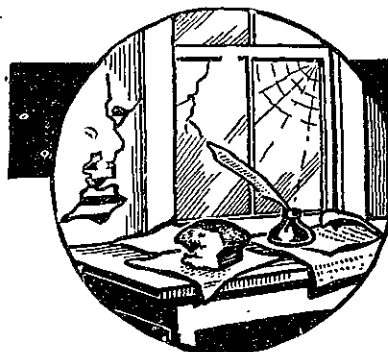
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**FACULTY NOTICE.**

The First-Year English Section for foreigners meets Tuesdays, at 4 o'clock, in 21 Rogers. Enrollment in this class cannot be allowed after February 25.

WILL the man who took the wrong raincoat in the Union Dining Room on Thursday, February 27, leave a note at the Cage for M. J. Sayward, 1914?

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