

THE TECH

VOL. XXXII. NO. 22

BOSTON, MASS., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1912

PRICE TWO CENTS

ALL TECH HANDICAPS AT FIELD TOMORROW

Will Be Test of Varsity Against Field—Close Races Are Expected.

Tomorrow afternoon, at 2.45, the first annual Fall handicap meet will be run off at the Field. All Technology athletes are eligible in each event. This condition will bring out the Varsity against the new men. With the exception of a few sprints at the Field, the two squads have not been matched against each other, and the outlook from a comparison of times points to a close and exciting meet. The Varsity members themselves will furnish wonderful racing in several events, particularly the 100, 220 and quarter-mile. In the two former sprints Wilson and Wilkins will undoubtedly fight it out between them, and probably in the struggle pass the large handicap men. In the 440, Guething and Bylund will probably repeat the race that they gave last year and erase the handicaps. McLeod, in the discus throw and shot-put, seems to lead the field, and he will undoubtedly nose out several of the new men. The pole vault list is rather meagre, but Laurison, the Freshman, and Mangon are capable of topping higher than those with handicaps.

The number of entries to the meet is not finished as yet, but the following list contains the names of those who have entered up to date:

In the 100-yard event—L. McGluck, '16; A. Crankshaw, '14; D. S. Comiskey, '16; T. K. Hine, '16; C. S. Reed, '16; N. D. McLeod, '14.

In the 220—A. Crankshaw, '14; D. S. Comiskey, '16; C. S. Reed, '16; H. B. Smith, '15; H. P. Gray, '16; D. B. Baker, '15.

In the 440—H. P. Gray, '16; D. B. Eaker, '15.

In the 880—C. T. Guething, '16; M. E. Hill, '15; A. F. Nye, '14; H. P. Gray, '16; E. T. Marceau, '13; E. B. Germain, '13; R. F. Pollard, '15.

In the mile—C. T. Guething, '16; H. S. Benson, '12; N. E. Hill, '15; A. F. Nye, '14; E. M. Loveland, '15; C. S. Lee, '14; R. F. Pollard, '15; E. W. Lovell, '15; A. S. Hollway, '16.

In the 2-mile—C. H. Wilkins, '14; T. H. Achard, '13; E. M. Loveland, '15; H. S. Benson, '12; G. C. Shedd, '14; A. S. Hollway, '16; E. W. Lovell, '15; C. S. Lee, '14; R. F. Pollard, '15.

In the shot-put event—W. Africa, '15; N. D. McLeod, '14.

In the discus—J. H. MacKinnon, '14; W. Africa, '15; E. Alt, '15; N. D. McLeod, '14.

In the hammer throw—W. Africa, '15; N. D. McLeod, '14.

In the high jump—L. S. Hall, '14; J. H. MacKinnon, '14; W. C. Eberhart, '14; W. Africa, '15; E. Alt, '15.

In the broad jump—J. H. MacKinnon, '14; E. Alt, '15; N. D. McLeod, '14.

"CONCERNING M. I. T."

Upper Classmen May Obtain Copies at the "Cage."

The distribution of the book "Concerning M. I. T." began yesterday, but not many were given out, owing to the fact that the majority of men did not know where to obtain them. All upper classmen who desire copies may get them by signing at the "Cage." Copies for all Freshmen will be distributed in the free-hand drawing room in Rogers.

BIG KOMMERS DINNER SHOW'S FIRST EVENT

Former Show Members in Costume At Dinner of Tech Show in Union, November 23.

The Kommers Dinner of Tech Show, 1913, will be held in the Union on Saturday evening, November 23. Notice is given this early by the Show management so that all men interested in the workings of the Show, and especially the Freshmen, will keep this date open.

On the night of the 23rd there will be, so far as is now known, no other attractions in the Institute.

As has been the custom for several year past, this dinner will be one of the biggest Institute undergraduate affairs of the fall. There is expected at least two hundred and fifty to be present to enjoy the affair. There will be several of the professors to give their ideas of Show work, and also members of various other student activities to talk on general student work.

The main purpose of this dinner is to explain the workings of the Show. To this end, General Manager Weeks will be the toastmaster, and will speak of the general arrangements



necessary for the performances next April. Walter Keith, '14, will present the business end of the Show, Charles P. Fisk, '14, the stage department, and G. E. Whitwell, '14, the publicity work. It is hoped that last year's coach, Eugene Sanger, will be present to give a general idea of the professional staging effects.

As has been the custom in the past, the main attraction will be the members of former years, who will appear in costume. After the dinner these men will give extracts from their last year's parts, and the affair will end in the rooms upstairs with Institute and Show songs.

SOPHOMORE BALLOTS.

On account of a decision of the 1915 Election Committee, Sophomore ballots will not be due at the "Cage" until Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, instead of tomorrow, as previously announced.

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT T. C. A. TALK IN UNION

Dr. George A. Crawford Proves To Be One of the Best Speakers of Year.

In the Union today, at 1.30, the largest crowd of men that have attended a talk held by the T. C. A. this year were present to listen to Dr. George A. Crawford, who spoke on "The Unanswerable Argument."

He commenced by telling that he was a retired navy chaplain at the time when all navy vessels were wooden, when sails were used for the greater part of the power and a "coffee mill" engine was used to propel the ships into harbors when the wind was low. The class of men that sailed before the mast in those days was of the worst, composed of hardened criminals, refugees from justice, and drunkards of the lowest type.

On one cruise of three years duration he made many friends both among officers and men, and at the expiration of the enlistments of most of the men a new crew, recruited in New York, was shipped. On the previous cruise he had established a form of church aboard ship, and most of the men on board were in sympathy with his movement. But the case was different with the new crew. The officers scoffed at him and the men paid no attention to his activities.

Instead of giving them reasons for his work, and telling them to be good, the chaplain worked conscientiously, resolved to answer them by the accomplishments he could effect. His work was difficult, on account of the obstacles that confronted him, but by dint of steady labor and perseverance, he succeeded in turning the points of view of most of the men and reformed a number of habitual drunkards.

The point that Dr. Crawford aimed to make was, that the only way to answer the so-called "unanswerable argument" was by showing that the belief in a spiritual being had served to make one do work that resulted in the betterment of one's own morals and also those of others.

The talk was replete with interesting incidents, and his impersonations of drunkards and other characters of the sea, together with his bountiful vocabulary of sea terms, served to keep the large crowd interested.

Before the talk it was announced that a splendid opportunity was available to Tech men to assist in a line of work that the T. C. A. is trying to carry out. It consists in the delivering of talks to boys' clubs all over the city. The subjects are optional, depending upon the interests to the student. For further particulars, Secretary Talbot of the T. C. A. is to be consulted.

ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL

Twenty-three men reported with their instruments yesterday afternoon for the Show Orchestra rehearsal in the Union. The organization still needs more cellos and violins as well as some brasses, other than cornets. The leader of the Orchestra says that if any man would like to learn to play the typani he would like to see him, because this instrument is needed. The next rehearsal will take place next Tuesday afternoon, at 4.15 sharp.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY HEARS PROF. PRESCOTT

Interesting Illustrated Talk By Authority on Diseases of Banana.

Yesterday the Biological Society met for the first time this year with a large attendance, both of students and members of the instructing staff. Because of a delay in some of Sir William Ramsay's apparatus, Prof. Sedgwick, who assisted him, was pressed for time, so a business meeting was dispensed with. In speaking, Prof. Sedgwick touched upon the splendid outlook for the future of Tech men in public health and sanitation.

After Prof. Sedgwick's talk the president of the society called on Prof. Prescott, the speaker of the evening. Prof. Prescott protested that the newspapers had over-estimated his discoveries, but, from his exceptionally interesting talk, all credit is due him. With the aid of many interesting stereopticon slides he pictured a trip by steamer through the Panama Canal to Panama. He showed scenes of the interior along an old road built by the Aztecs about the fifteenth century. Then there were scenes in Costa Rica, for it was here that Prof. Prescott began to investigate the cause of banana disease which was devastating that part of the country. A laboratory, abandoned by some Frenchman of the Pasteur Institute who had been there for the same purpose, was placed at his disposal. Contrary to the beliefs of the French scientist, who felt that the disease was due to the bites of a gopher-like animal which lived on the succulent roots of the banana palm, Prof. Prescott showed that the disease was due to a bacterium.

The importance of this discovery cannot be over-estimated when the magnitude of the banana industry is taken into consideration. The plantations cover thousands of square miles; and even now the annual loss due to this dread disease reaches a total of a quarter of a million dollars.

Announcement of future lectures was made by President Tolman, and included among other prominent engineers, Dr. Alexander Forbes, Dr. Milton J. Rosenau and Dr. Cleveland Floyd.

The Cosmopolitan Club ought to start a bowling team and challenge the Faculty. F. T. Yeh has won the dollar prize twice for high score in candles at the Trinity Court alleys, and M. C. MacKenzie, instructor in Mechanical Drawing, won it yesterday.

WEATHER.

Forecast for Boston and vicinity: Fair and colder today; brisk to high westerly winds.

CALENDAR.

Friday, October 25, 1912.
1.39—M. E. Trip to Watertown—Trinity Place.
4.30—Rife Practice—Armory, Columbus avenue.
7.30—E. E. Society—Union.
Saturday, October 26, 1912.
3.00—1915 Football vs. Rindge Technical.
Fall Handicap Meet—Field.
Distribution of "Concerning M. I. T."

THE TECH

Entered as second-class matter, Sept. 15, 1911, at the postoffice at Boston, Mass., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1912

OPTIMISM VS. PESSIMISM.

Have you noticed on your daily walks down Boylston street, that just before you come to Park Square, an up-to-date druggist establishment greets your eyes?

That druggist's store is up to date in many ways, and has in the past introduced several novelties to the Boston people, but at last it has reached the summit of its consummated efforts and has solved a problem of psychology, philosophy and metaphysics.

Gloriously oblivious to the fact it goes on its way each day and produces an effect which is guaranteed finally to change the average Bostonian's views on life; and this is the method on which the general upset is based:

An individual stands, sits or reclines in the window, according as his physical development requires stimulus or rest. In his hand he holds a packet with the strange word "Komicalkuss" inscribed thereon, and he advises all who would partake of Hallowe'en happiness to buy a packet and do the "open sesame" act with it.

Now, undoubtedly, worlds of interest await the opening of that mystic package. We would all like to see the contents.

Notice first the group that forms; all buy excepting one man on the outskirts of the crowd, who starts forward to invest, and then involuntarily, and almost resignedly drops his hand back into his pocket, and with it the coin of currency.

Gaze long and earnestly, for thou art beholding a MAN.

Now let us take a journey to the land of brain opening devices, where men's thoughts are exhibited and their ideas stand out as clearly as a black spot on a white sheet.

What do we see? Firstly, the thought crosses our line of vision: "I shall buy and unravel the mysteries of the marvelous bundle and explore the paths that lead to happiness."

Then Mr. Hesitation thought steps in: "I shall not go, for there is no sense in pursuing happiness which is more fleeting than light, and more evasive than dancing moonbeams."

At last the MAN comes uppermost, with a man's thoughts and instantly comes out: "I need no mechanical devices to bring me happiness, for is not this world one vast succession of joys, and GOD is good?"

Mr. Man's last conclusion reveals that innate return to nature, which everyone of us undergoes, and which exemplifies this artificial age requiring mechanical methods for aiding existence.

Are not we Technology men, on the whole, too discontented? Do we not grumble incessantly about this and

K2S SOCIETY SMOKER— PROF. NOYES SPEAKS

Discusses Commercial Synthesis of Ammonia by Means of Catalysers.

The K2S Society held its first smoker Wednesday night. Professor A. A. Noyes began the meeting with a talk on "The Synthetic Production of Ammonia." He told of the preliminary investigation of the conditions governing the equilibrium between hydrogen and nitrogen when they react to produce ammonia. This investigation proved that the higher the pressure and the more moderate the temperature the greater the amount of ammonia formed. The velocity at which the reaction takes place is greatly influenced by the presence of substances which act as catalysers, and the investigators then turned their attention to finding the best of these. It was found that every good catalyser was influenced by the presence of impurities which completely prevented it from acting, that is, these impurities "poisoned" it.

Professor Noyes then outlined the way in which these discoveries were utilized. The retaining of nitrogen and hydrogen under pressure at high temperatures proved difficult, owing to the porosity of iron, which formed the container. The discoverers plan to liquify air, fractionally distill off the oxygen, and completely purify the residual nitrogen. The hydrogen can be obtained either as a by-product in the electrolytic production of chlorine or from water gas, which is essentially a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide. If the water gas is used it will probably be necessary to liquify the carbon monoxide and take great care to remove all other impurities, especially those containing sulphur.

LIBRARY LECTURES.

Six Weekly Talks on "The Opera," to Begin Sunday.

Commencing next Sunday, Oct 27, free public lectures will be held every Sunday afternoon at the Boston Public Library. The doors are thrown open at 3 o'clock, and the talks start promptly at 3.30 o'clock in the Lecture Hall, the entrance of which is on Boylston street. This week will be the first of a series of six lectures on "The Opera," by Olin Downes, the famous musical authority and critic.

Other interesting subjects to follow are: "Types of Modern Drama," "The Country of Sir Walter Scott," "Longfellow's Evangeline," "Charles Dickens as an Actor," "The Short Story," "The Making of Americans," "Robert Louis Stevenson" and "King Arthur." Complete lists of all the lectures and dates are posted on the bulletin boards in the corridors.

VISIT TO ARSENAL.

The Mechanical Engineering Society is to take a trip this afternoon to the Watertown Arsenal. The party will take the 1.39 train from the Trinity Place Station, getting off at Fanueil, and meeting at 2.15 in the main office on the grounds.

The tour of inspection will include the machine shop and the foundry.

that little inconvenience until our sorrows seem as mountains, and life's clouds a funeral black?

Have we not everything to be thankful for? A splendid school, an excellent faculty, abundant health, and finally youth, that priceless gift of countless gods.

Let us then be happy, living each minute for that minute, and remember those lines of Rudyard Kipling: "If you can chase the unforgiving minute for sixty seconds worth of distance run, your's is the earth and everything that's in it, and what is more, you'll be a MAN, my son."

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Guess I'll have to see "Good Old Burke the Tailor" pretty soon.

That big brother of mine told me to be sure to call on him at 18 School St., or to see Tom Hayes at 843 Washington St., as soon as I landed in Boston, and the bunch here tell me that was good dope.

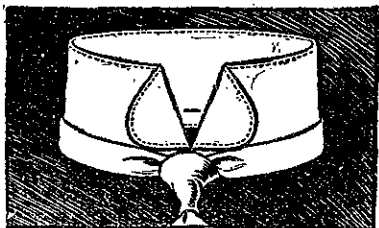
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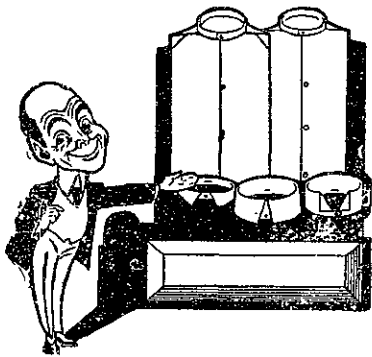
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**RAMSAY GIVES SECOND
LOWELL INST. LECTURE**

Last Night He Continued His
Talk on "Gases of the
Atmosphere."

At the second of the series of lectures on "The Discovery of the Gases of the Atmosphere," which was given in Huntington Hall last night, Sir William Ramsay took up the Revolution which Lavoisier made in chemical theory, and told of the discovery of argon by Cavendish. At the beginning of the lecture he showed some lantern slides that had been delayed by the Custom House. He also showed portraits of the men before Lavoisier's time who had been prominent in the investigation of the air. He recalled to his audience that Mayow had discovered by 1870 almost as much as was known to Lavoisier in 1770 about the air.

He described briefly Lavoisier's short life, and then outlined the profound changes that Lavoisier accomplished before he was guillotined. Lavoisier found that substance gained weight on burning, and on this fact, and on many exact experiments that he made, he based the modern oxidation theory, which was to take the place of the older phlogiston theory. It was not, however, until he heard of Cavendish's discovery of the constitution of water that he was able to overcome the last objections to his theory, and win to his side all the chemists of his time except Priestly and Cavendish. He explained combustion, calcination, reduction by hydrogen and carbon, and what was most important, the evolution of hydrogen in the solution of metals in acids. This he attributed to the decomposition of the water, the oxygen being set free.

The lecturer then described the life of Cavendish. He was an eccentric, solitary, uncommunicative man, who, for his own pleasure and information carefully performed a multitude of valuable experiments. He took no particular pains to let the world know of them, yet he was elected a member of the Royal Academy. All his writings are in the nomenclature of the phlogiston theory, although in middle life he had free choice between the tenets of the older theory and that propounded by Lavoisier.

He made quantitative experiments on the composition of the air, and his results are very closely those of the most recent investigators. Indeed, much of his work was carried out with an accuracy astonishing for his time. He was the first to discover that hydrogen burned to form water. He also found that nitrogen united with oxygen to form nitric oxide, and it was while investigating the nitrogen of the air that he found a tiny bubble which would not combine with oxygen. Today we know this to have been argon.

Sir William said that at the next lecture he would show the production of argon on a large scale. As the time was up he left the discussion of how Rayleigh and he rediscovered argon till next Monday.

EDITORIAL CONTEST.

The first set of editorials for the Pi Delta Epsilon Contest are due this afternoon at 5 o'clock, in the upper office of THE TECH, or the Cage, addressed to the Pi Delta Epsilon Contest Committee.

The subject for the editorial due today is "Field Day." It may be treated in any way that the contestants see fit.

Sophomore: The faculty has decided not to have final examinations any longer.

Excited Freshman: Why is that?

Fresh Sophomore: Because they are long enough.

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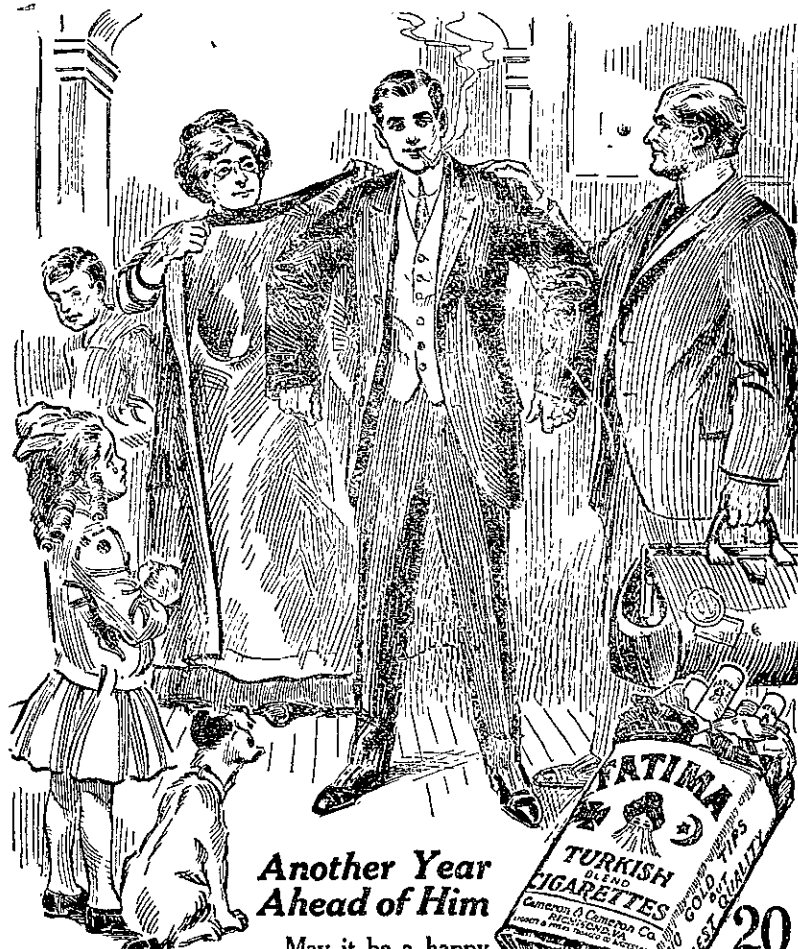
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NOTICE—Any student holding keys for Field lockers please return as soon as possible. (Signed) F. H. Briggs.

H. W. DEW, Jr., 308 Newbury St.—Arrangements can now be made for a party of students to obtain room and board at the above address.

J. L. CHAMPAGNE'S All-College Dancing Parties every Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Luncheon Gymnasium, 44 St. Botolph street, Boston. Refined patronage. (Tues-Fri)

GLEE CLUB TRIALS will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 4.30 to 5.30, in the Union.

LOST—On Boylston street, about 5.30 P. M., Oct. 22, a 10-inch Kand E slide rule and case. Reward if returned to F. G. Perry, 28A Lowell Bldg.

1913 Class ballots may be obtained at the Cage. They are due at 4 P. M., Wednesday, October 30.

1913 ELECTIVE COMMITTEE. (19-8t)

PRECISION OF MEASUREMENTS.

The lectures in Precision of Measurements for entering College Students will be held on Mondays and Fridays at 4 P. M., in Room 23, Walker Building, during the first five weeks. (8-1f) H. M. GOODWIN.

FREE TICKETS to the Museum of Fine Arts for the year 1912-13 will be issued to students upon application at the ticket office at the entrance to the Museum. (6-1f)

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