The President's Report.

President Walker's annual report to the Corporation of the Institute was presented at the last meeting of the Corporation, and will soon be ready for publication. The following abstract was obtained by The Tech, through the kindness of President Walker and Dr. Tyler.

The year has been, in general, one of prosperity. While the needs of the school have, perhaps, been felt more than ever before, this has been largely due to the development of courses, the increase of machinery and apparatus, and the ever-increasing specialization of the work of the higher years. It has not been loss, but gain which has caused the degree of inconvenience and discomfort which has been experienced. This is the kind of hardship which it is easiest to put up with.

In the spring of the present year it was hoped that, even with the limited means at the disposal of the Corporation, a new building might be erected which would afford relief to several overburdened departments, and provide for the growth of the school for some years to come. Plans for a building one hundred and fifty feet in length by fifty-eight in width, extending from the present Architectural Building toward the Boston and Providence Railroad, were prepared by Professors Chandler and Homer, with the assistance of other instructors in Architecture, in a manner which would allow the work to be immediately proceeded with. Unfortunately the Executive Committee received legal advice that it was doubtful if a certain amount of money, which was to come to the Institute by bequest, would be available for such a use. An attempt was then made to secure the funds by subscription; but the general condition of business was such as to give no encouragement. It was, therefore, found impossible to carry the plan into execution for the present year.

The new building, when erected, will benefit especially the departments of Chemistry, Architecture, Biology, Mechanical Engineering, and Naval Architecture. In the basement, in addition to heating and ventilating apparatus, there was to be a large and well-equipped lecture room for General Chemistry,—large enough to allow the whole class to be assembled at once. The first floor was to contain the department of Biology.

The plans for the Biological Laboratory, as worked out by Professor Sedgwick and Professor Chandler, were exceedingly ingenious and effective. Portions of the second and third floors nearest the Architectural Building were to be connected with its present rooms, and devoted to the enlargement of the accommodations of the Architectural department. This would result in bringing the Drawing rooms upon two floors, instead of leaving them distributed over the whole building as at present; and no Drawing room would be separated from the Library by more than one flight of stairs. The third floor of the present Architectural Building would be devoted entirely to the Library. This latter arrangement would not only provide for future increase of books and photographs in this already magnificent library, but would permit a freedom in their use which is at present impossible. In addition to the provision thus made for ample Drawing rooms and for a largely increased use of the Library, a feature of great importance was to be added. This was a room of the whole depth of the building, and forty feet in length, to be assigned for the museum of Architectural appliances, models, and designs. In order to get the proper effect in placing plaster casts of columns, friezes, and full size ornaments, this room was to rise through the next floor to the roof, the floor of the fourth story being left out through the whole width for a length of twenty-eight feet. In this way it would be possible to give the proper effect to the superb casts now coming into the possession of the Institute through the expenditure of the Arthur Rotch Fund. The rest of the fourth story of the new building was to be devoted to the laboratory of General Chemistry.

It would not be possible to give an adequate idea of the advantages which would result to the school from this source, without speaking of the uses it was proposed to make of the space that would have been vacated in the existing buildings. The Architectural Department being concentrated upon two floors, the present basement and the fourth floor of the Architectural Building would be vacated. In the basement it was proposed to afford opportunities for the expansion of Professor Lanza's superb laboratory of Applied Mechanics, while the fourth floor would be reserved for the Department of Naval Architecture, or possibly for part of the Civil Engineering Department also.

In the Walker Building the large laboratory on the Newbury Street side of the upper story, now used for General Chemistry, would afford much desired space for the expansion of the Physical and Chemical departments.

In the Rogers Building the removal of the Biological department would leave vacant a room in the rear of the first floor, ninety feet across and thirty in