Annual Alumni Dinner.

The annual dinner of the M. I. T. Alumni Association was held last Saturday at the Exchange Club, and proved one of the pleasantest occasions in the history of the Association. Two hundred and thirty persons were present, and the younger graduates of '93, '94, '95, and '96 occupied a room upstairs, the main dining hall being filled by the older alumni and members of the Faculty and corps of instruction. The table was daintily furnished, the menu was excellent, and the music during the repast inspiriting; but the chief charm of the affair lay in the presence of the distinguished guests. Such exceptional speakers as Governor Wolcott, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, Capt. A. T. Mahan, U. S. N., President Mendenhall of the W. P. I., President Walker, Prof. Ira N. Hollis of the Lawrence Scientific School, and Mr. C. R. Richards of the Pratt Institute and M. I. T., '85, to say nothing of President Munroe of the Association, made the meeting an inspiring one. Still another distinguished guest was Mrs. William Barton Rogers, whose memoir of her husband came out by a coincidence on the very same day.

The Governor was compelled to leave early, and thus his remarks were lost by the younger graduates, who were still upstairs telling stories and finishing their coffee. His Honor brought to Technology the greetings of the Commonwealth in no formal or perfunctory manner. He said that Massachusetts has shown its recognition of the work that Technology is doing by its annual appropriations. He made the proposition, amid great applause, that the Institute may claim to be the greatest center of educational influence on this hemisphere, and supported it by naming a number of schools and academies within an eighth of a mile of the Rogers Building. In closing, he thanked those before him for what they had done and were going to do for the State.

After the men from upstairs had filed in and given a long cheer for President Walker, Mr. Munroe as presiding officer opened the regular exercises. He made one of the best speeches of the evening, brilliant and sincere. He spoke of the Technology of '82, just half way between the incredible success of '96 and the incredible poverty of '68, but added that in zeal, fervor, and inspiration the Institute of that day was not a jot behind the present. He said that our school of Applied Science has succeeded, not because of some fortunate accident, but mainly because from the very outset the Institute has never departed from those principles of honest work, devotion to truth, and thorough manliness laid down by its glorious founder, President Rogers. Mr. Munroe then read an extract from the Boston Herald of a recent date, in which it was patronizingly stated that “a diploma from the Institute would soon come to be as highly regarded as one from the classical colleges, and was of even higher value in securing a situation.” This remark was greeted with a shout of laughter, and President Munroe proceeded eloquently to urge the claim of the technically trained man to be considered liberally educated.

Dr. Hale next spoke on the relation of science to good citizenship. He said that the future of this country depended upon the spread of education, more particularly in the line of physical science. He expressed the indebtedness of the idealist to the scientific man, instancing the benefits to human happiness arising from the decentralization of cities by means of improved means of transportation and the transference of power.

Captain Mahan drew out the contrast between his own profession and that of the engineer. He said:—

“I welcome the opportunity to express our great indebtedness to the profession of which you are the representatives, for the advances made for us in late years. The result of the work in technology is a certainty, which is reliable, on which great dependence may be placed.

“In my profession it is not so. The determining factor with which we have to deal is