The Society of Arts.

The Society of Arts held their bi-weekly meeting last Thursday evening with the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Natural History. The evening was devoted to an inspection of the new Pierce Building, with brief remarks by the several gentlemen prominent in the arrangement and construction.

The guests were informally received in the Margaret Cheney Room by Mrs. Wm. Barton Rogers, Mrs. Cecil H. Peabody, Mrs. Gaetano Lanza, and Mrs. Ellen T. Richards. After the reception President Crafts called the meeting to order in the Fourth-year Architectural Drawing room. After a few words of welcome he introduced Professor Homer, who had charge of the construction.

Professor Homer spoke of the general scheme, which he said had been used in the Architectural and Engineering Buildings. This is the mill construction which, from experience, has been found most suitable for school purposes, affording good light—a detail of very considerable importance in the drawing rooms. Professor Homer said that the great difference in the various floor schemes presented a complicated problem in gas lighting and plumbing. This had, however, been satisfactorily solved.

Prof. S. Homer Woodbridge followed with a description of the heating and ventilating apparatus.

Professor Puffer then spoke of the electric-lighting system. The problem in this department was a very complicated one, and the present system is the result of many experiments carried on in the other buildings. The lighting of the various departments has been, however, very satisfactorily accomplished.

Professor Lanza spoke of the increased floor space of the Mechanical Engineering Department, and of the distribution of the engines and machines.

Professor Sedgwick gave a brief review of the growth of the Institute and of the Society of Arts, recalling the fact that the date of the meeting was very nearly the thirty-sixth anniversary of the first meeting ever held by the Society. Professor Sedgwick also spoke of the excellence of the accommodations now afforded the departments in the new building.

The meeting then adjourned, and the three hundred guests made a tour of inspection of the building. Every department was lighted, and specimens of work shown with instructors in charge to explain things of interest. In the Mechanical Engineering Laboratories, under supervision of Professor Miller, tests were made on the Emery testing machine and on the beam-testing machine. After these tests the company assembled in the lunch room, where refreshments were served.

Among the many prominent persons present, beside a large number of the faculty, were seen Dr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers, Mr. Frederic P. Stearns, of the Metropolitan Water Board, and Mr. Peabody, the newly elected member of the Corporation. Mr. Charles Gilman Hyde, '96, and Mr. C.-E. A. Winslow, '98, ex-Editors in Chief of The Tech, were also present.

At a meeting of the Sherwood Club on December 22d, at Young's Hotel, the following men were initiated, H. O. Cummins, J. D. Evans, P. H. Parrock, and R. Plum.

The Senior Class has decided to watch the old year out and the new year in on the steps of the Rogers Building. The members will assemble earlier in the evening at the rooms at the Technology Club, where refreshments