The Walker Memorial Gymnasium.

It would be but a waste of words to expatiate here upon the desirability of a new gymnasium for the Institute, since all the readers of The Tech are familiar with the inadequacy of the present one. It does seem advisable, however, to call attention to the fact that the failure of the existing gymnasium to provide suitable quarters for the 1,250 students of Technology is not its only bad feature, and that there is another potent reason which makes, at the present time, the subject of a new gymnasium a most pressing one.

The Exeter Street building is situated upon leased land, which, because of its eligibility, will doubtless be soon sold for building purposes. Already the entering wedge has been inserted through the sale of a lot from the same tract, the piece at the corner of Exeter and Boylston Streets, which is now covered by a large apartment hotel. The early sale of other lots for similar purposes is practically certain, and it is possible that this may be hastened by the change in management of the land, due to the lease of the Boston and Albany Railroad to the New York Central system. Even if this change should have no effect upon such sales, it surely adds another element of uncertainty to our tenure of the present building. It would therefore appear that something definite must soon be done towards a new gymnasium, to prevent the Institute from being deprived of its present one, inadequate as it may be, and it is the object of this article to show what has already been accomplished towards this end, as well as to give an outline of some of the leading features which it is hoped may be incorporated in the new building.

It was at the annual meeting of the Alumni Association on December 30th, 1898, that the scheme of building a memorial gymnasium in honor of President Walker was first put into concrete shape through the passing of the following resolution:

"That the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association appoint a Walker Memorial Committee of nine members, which shall undertake by a subscription, the collection of a Walker Memorial Gymnasium Fund, to be applied by future agreement with the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology towards the cost of erecting and equipping a gymnasium, as soon as may, in the judgment of the Corporation, be practicable."

The time required by the committee to prepare a well defined plan for the thorough canvass of all the graduates and former students of the Institute was necessarily long, and in consequence it was not till May, 1899, that a general canvass could be begun, and as the summer was then so near at hand, vigorous prosecution of the work was, in the case of many of the classes, delayed till autumn. By the date of the next annual meeting of the Alumni Association,