intelligent student follows appreciatively the thought and discriminations of able writers without gaining in power himself to discriminate and to estimate. The man who has read much, and, reading, has thought much, is sure in the end to find that the time given to this work has been admirably employed to the actual betterment of his technical education.

The discrimination of values is important, too, in distinguishing between the essential and the accidental. In each thing some characteristics are essential because without them that thing could not be what it is; while some peculiarities have nothing to do with its real worth and character. It is essential that a hero be brave, but that he shall also be winning in his manners is an accident. It is essential that an ore yield a certain per cent of metal, but that it is also attractive in form and iridescence is not so. When an instrument is needed for a given purpose it is of the highest importance that the worker be able to estimate how far it is fitted for the effect it is meant to produce, and that he be not blinded by its ingenuity or any other quality which under the circumstances is purely accidental. As soon, too, as a graduate comes to a position where he is called upon to command subordinates he is forced to judge men. Here the power of recognizing essential qualifications from the accidental becomes at once most difficult and most tremendously important. Literature is largely made up of the study of human character, and it gives to the student the knowledge of life and of men as it is nowhere else to be gained save from long experience. An experienced man with a lifelong training will be likely to be a better judge of men than can be produced by any amount of literary training, but the student who goes out into the world to make his way does not wish to wait until he is old to be able to know character. What he gets early in life he must take largely from literature, and if he does not obtain knowledge in this vicarious way he is likely to be forced to blunder on without it at a period of his career when every blunder tells most cruelly. The lessons which he would learn but late from life he may learn early from literature.

The social life of a technical man is by the very nature of the case apt to be somewhat limited. His intercourse with his fellows is for years sure to be largely controlled by the necessities of his profession, and yet a man without responsiveness to human interests sinks soon into a mere machine. I am already so much outrunning the space which I meant to occupy that I cannot dwell upon this, nor can I touch upon the deeper question of the part which literary culture may play in the fostering of that imagination upon which depends all inventive skill. Here it is only possible to note that one of the vital aims in any education worthy of the name is to prepare a man for the give and take of life, to fit him to play his part among men not simply as a clever professional, but as a human being. The measure of a man's effectiveness is his power of meeting the needs of the world, and to respond to the call of the occasions of life needs the cultivation of all the powers of the mind. Social life is not merely the lighter sort of human intercourse to which the name is often given, but all that goes to make up a man's non-professional relations with his fellows. As President Pritchett admirably put it in his inaugural address:

May I hope that in your preparation you may bear in mind as your ideal of an engineer not only one who works in steel and brick and timber, but one who by the quality of his manliness works also in the hearts of men; one who is great enough to appreciate his duty to his profession, but likewise, and in a larger and deeper sense, to his duty to a common country and a common civilization. It is not the aim of the Institute to graduate men who, however well equipped they may be in their special branches, are crippled for the race of life in other directions; nor can it be that any student would himself be willing to start on his career in such a condition.

That the study of literature will make men gifted with all good gifts and graces is not claimed; but those clear-sighted men who with careful thought and excellent judgment of life laid out the course of study at the Institute have evidently taken the position that such study is the best means at their disposal to do for the general cultivation of the mind of the student what may be done in the limited amount of time that can be spared from strictly professional work.

Arlo Bates.

Calendar.

Sunday, March 3rd.—Regular Student Y. M. C. A. Meeting at the Student House, 566 Mass. Ave., 4 p.m.

Monday, March 4th.—Tech Board Meeting, Tech Office, 1 p.m.