leading part, in the development of this branch of technical engineering, both in the teaching of its class rooms and in the practical application and work with which that teaching has been illustrated, as well as in the excellence of the work its graduates have done and are doing in this field of engineering. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been early in its recognition of the vital and economic significance of this branch of technical study and practice, and has established an engineering option as a graduating course designed to qualify those who take it for service in a field heretofore largely relegated to and worked by tradesmen, but now recognized as the appropriate ground for technical service of the highest utility.

S. H. Woodbridge.

We take pleasure in printing herewith a letter from the Advisory Council on Athletics to the Corporation.

Boston, Mass., January 3rd, 1900.
Corporation Institute of Technology,

Gentlemen:—The Advisory Council on Athletics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, feel now that from an experience of three years, they can safely recommend to the attention of the Corporation the matter of the support of athletics in a financial way.

In the colleges from which there are a large number of alumni, whose time of graduation extends over many decades, athletics in general are supported by the proceeds of one or two branches. For instance, at Harvard and Yale, such branches as track athletics and rowing, which are not self-supporting, are really paid for by the proceeds of football and baseball games.

Now at the smaller colleges there has been a tendency to support athletics by direct contributions from the college fund. This is the case at Tufts today, and the matter, we understand, is being considered at Dartmouth.

Athletics at the Institute during the past two or three years (as conducted by the students) have been run on the most economical methods, and it has been impossible in any way to lessen the expenses, and the Advisory Council have kept a very close supervision upon same.

The Advisory Council have felt that there were only practically two branches of athletics which could be carried on at the Institute successfully and without detriment to the studies of the undergraduates, and these are track athletics and football. The season for football is only of six to eight weeks' duration in the fall, whereas track athletics can be carried on throughout the winter in the Gymnasium, and in the spring on the field, but owing to the early closing of the Institute's year, as compared with other colleges, baseball and rowing cannot be satisfactorily followed.

Football has for the past two or three years averaged a deficit of about $100 to $150, and track athletics have shown a deficit of about $250. The reason for such difference is that there are more receipts from football games than from track athletics.

Now up to 1899 the Walker Club gave a part of the proceeds of their play to the football team and partly to track athletics, and thus these deficits were practically made up.

In 1899, however, they ceased their contribution and gave $600 to the Walker Memorial Gymnasium. This led the Athletic Associations to give a minstrel show, the receipts of which practically made up their deficit, and this was repeated in the form of a light opera in 1900 for the benefit of both associations, and the profits were sufficient to pay all debts and leave a small balance in the hands of the Graduate Treasurer.

The tendency, however, in all colleges being to recognize athletics, not only morally but financially, it seems to the Advisory Council as though the Massachusetts Institute of Technology should be among the foremost in taking a step in this direction, as there has been but very little recognition given athletics here in the past.

We do not feel it necessary at this time to rehearse the various arguments in favor of the necessity of physical exercise in connection with severe mental work.

The recognition given to the Walker Memorial Gymnasium shows a strong feeling among the alumni in this direction, and we feel that their recommendation is such as carries the utmost weight. We, therefore, would bring before the Corporation the question of making either an annual appropriation (said money to be placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Advisory Council) for the support and maintenance