President Pritchett to the Civil Engineering Society.

The Civil Engineering Society held its first meeting of the year on October 28th. President Pritchett spoke on the subject of "Some Extraordinary Variations of the Magnetic Needle observed in Alaska." He briefly outlined the phenomena connected with the magnetic needle, such as the dip, and secular and daily variation. This was followed by an explanation of plans under the charge of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and set in operation while he was still chief of that bureau. These plans include a careful survey of the entire territory of the United States with its possessions, for the purpose of collecting all possible data regarding magnetic phenomena and their effects on the magnetic needle. For the proper carrying out of these observations the United States is divided into about fifty thousand sections of comparatively small area. One observer is stationed at the approximate centre of each section. He is required to record needle observations every five minutes. Other observers are scattered throughout the section, but their observations are taken at irregular intervals of time. Observation stations are also situated at Washington, D.C., Texas, Alaska, Hawaii and Havana. From the data thus collected are prepared detail maps of all sections of the country, containing needle declinations at specified places. The survey as first projected was to take about eight years for completion. In nearly five years from the present time the maps will be ready for general use. President Pritchett called attention to especially remarkable phenomena which have been brought to light thus far. Perhaps the most interesting of these exists in the vicinity of Juneau City, Alaska. Navigators in that section find that the ship compass is useless as a means of guidance. A special observer, delegated for the purpose, disclosed the fact that there existed a local pole near Juneau City. In an area of about one half-mile about this point the magnetic needle dipped to an angle of 90° with the horizon. A short time previous a similar local pole had been discovered in Russia. The Survey also includes observations at sea, an instrument having been especially devised for this purpose. These will abolish the use of the poor approximations which were necessary when errors due to needle declination were referred to observations taken on land two or three thousand miles away.

About one hundred and fifty students were present at the talk. It is the purpose of the Society to hold special monthly meetings at which well-known Civil Engineers are to speak. Through the courtesy of the Technology Club these meetings will be held in the lecture room of the club. Instead of the one formal dinner of the Society which has previously been in vogue, there are to be two or three informal dinners scattered along through the winter.

Sophomore Football Team.

The prospects for a strong 1904 football team are bright. Most of the members of the class who were on the Varsity team last year are back and will play on their class team. These, with the members of last year's class team, should make a strong combination. At a recent class meeting a call was made for candidates for the team, and an assessment of fifty cents was levied to pay expenses. J. E. White, '04, has been elected captain.

St. Botolph Club.

Mr. D. Despradelle's design for a national monument to the glory of America, entitled, "The Beacon of Progress," will be exhibited in the gallery from Monday, October 28th, to Thursday, November 7th, both dates included, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.