Civil Engineering Society.

On Monday afternoon the Civil Engineering Society enjoyed an interesting account of the Eclipse Expedition to Sumatra, by Mr. G. L. Hosmer. The party, consisting of Prof. Burton, Mr. Hosmer, Mr. Matthes and Mr. Smith, sailed from New York in February; at Genoa they changed to a Dutch steamer, which took them to Sumatra, by way of Singapore. On their arrival at Padang, the port of the island, they found a United States gunboat carrying the party of observers from the Naval Observatory, and which, by starting west, had beaten our party by three or four days. This enabled the government party to occupy the point of observation which Prof. Burton had had in mind; but after a slight delay a favorable situation was obtained, and the work of preparation began. The consular agent of the United States and the manager of the railroad were especially courteous to the party, so that they had every opportunity to carry out their plans in the best manner. Two months were occupied in getting the buildings erected, and setting up the instruments. In addition to the cameras and telescopes for observing the eclipse, the party was provided with magnetometers and pendulums for determining the force of gravity, so that they were certain of making some valuable observations even if the eclipse should not be visible. On the day of the eclipse the sky was obscured by light clouds, and it was feared that the photographs would not show anything at all; but when they were developed, the long exposure plates proved to be very good. Prof. Burton obtained observations of the times of contact.

On May 28th the party sailed for Batavia, from there to Singapore, where Prof. Burton and Mr. Smith made a series of pendulum observations in the exact spot occupied by Dr. Pritchett while he was making observations of the same kind, nearly twenty years ago.

The party returned by way of Japan and San Francisco, thus sailing completely around the world.

Mr. Hosmer showed a large number of excellent lantern slides, showing views of the island and the eclipse.

Cross Country Race.

A team made up of candidates for the cross country team held a race Saturday, November 16th, defeating Medford High School 34 points to 71.

While the race, viewed as a race, was not especially interesting, owing to its one-sidedness, it was valuable as showing what sort of a cross country team the Institute could put out.

The first man in was F. B. Riley, '05, followed closely by Walsh of Medford, these two having fought out every inch of the last two miles with each other. Then followed the rest of the Institute team, of whom every man finished before another Medford man came in sight.

The time was remarkable for the course, which was 6½ miles on streets, across fields, and through woods. Riley's time was 34 minutes 35 seconds, with Walsh 10 seconds behind, while the time of the last man of the team was but little over 37 minutes—a most commendable showing.

Too much praise cannot be given to the men, especially to Riley, Frazer, and to Jenkins. The last, though so exhausted that he repeatedly fell down from sheer weakness, pulled himself together each time and finished well, even sprinting at the end.

The outlook for the future is most encouraging. With the showing of the team Saturday, which lacked the services of Worcester and Peaslee, two of the best men, we can get out a team not merely of scholastic but rather