The dress rehearsal of the Tech Show, "Applied Mechanics," was held at the Hollis Street Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, April 22. This is the fourth performance to be given under the general name of "Tech Show," and, without any question, the best. The TECH in previous years has seen much to criticize in these performances, not alone in the acting of the principals, or in the singing of the choruses, but in the selection of the play and in the libretto itself. This year there can hardly be any such criticism. The managers have produced a play which is well fitted to the acting abilities of the cast, largely musical, and containing enough local hits to characterize it beyond doubt as a Tech play. More than this the piece, while of course without "plot" as such, yet is coherent enough in its outlines to form an efficient frame for specialty work, thus doing away with the impression of a vaudeville performance. So much for criticism of the play itself.

The piece is in two acts, the libretto being by Mrs. Janet Edmonston-Walker, and the lyrics by Mr. Arthur Macy. The setting of the play is in a German village. The plot centers about the adventures of eight Technology students in Germany; the first act presenting them at the village during the Harvest Festival, the second in the interior of the Master Mechanic's shop.

Of course dancing was made a special feature, and with the singing, predominantly so, of the performance. Without exception the singing was excellent; a little hesitation on the part of some being easily excused at a dress rehearsal. The dances, ever since Tech Shows were instituted, have represented better average work than any other part of the performances. This year there are seven special dances, though no individual dancing, with the grand ballet. Comparisons are rarely in place; all the dances were well executed, though small mistakes were made; but if this much is proper to say, certainly the Spanish Dance was not the worst.

The acting, however, did not share the success of the music or the dances, but it was creditable; it averaged well; and no one in the audience, it is probably safe to say, felt an inward embarrassment when any of the cast was in action. This, in itself, if true, is certainly praise. In the report of the show in next week's TECH, detailed account of the work of the principals will be given.

As for the local hits, these were admirably arranged; the topical songs on the professors at the Institute being well received, especially so the grinds on Mr. Burrison and Mr. Blachstein. The burlesque work on the subject of Applied Mechanics, and the clever mechanical dolls or automatons were much appreciated. So much for the pleasing aspects of the performance.

In the way of criticism there is nothing new to be said, nothing but what the managers and the principals themselves appreciate. There was a hesitation in the attack in the chorus work, there were several minor slips in the dances; some of the principals need to be waked up more. Especially in connection with this, the Grand Duke Henry needs to put more life into his part; his role is capable of far better expression than he gave it. There was an unfortunate wait between the acts, but in saying this, as in making all the points criticised, it is necessary to remember that this was a rehearsal, and that those rougher points will be smoothed out at the final performance.