Alumni Reception.

The first of the festivities attending the graduation of the Class of 1902, the reception given by the Alumni Association, was held on Friday evening, June 6, at the Brunswick Hotel. The attendance, which was about three hundred, was largely made up of 1902 graduates, though there was a good showing of alumni. Among the alumni were numbered about twenty women graduates of the Institute. After a well-served spread, and those present were seated, the presiding officer of the evening, Mr. Hill, who is president of the Boston Association of M. I. T. Alumni, and who acted in the absence of President Main, opened the speeches. His address of welcome to the graduating class was followed by his introducing President Pritchett. In the course of his remarks Dr. Pritchett referred to the new changes in the administrative officers by the election of a dean, a recorder and registrar, by which system the executive work could be much better accomplished. Passing to the technical work of the school he explained the changes in the courses in electrical engineering and naval architecture. Finally he paid a tribute of respect to Professors Runkle and Niles, who, upon the occasion of their taking leave of active work at the Institute, have had conferred upon them by the corporation the distinction of Professor Emeritus.

The second speaker of the evening was Mr. A. Lawrence Lowell of the corporation. The social life, or the lack of it, at the Institute, formed the central feature of his remarks. He found among engineers a lack of solidarity such as there is between those of the medical and law professions. He, however, believed that it was possible in the future to realize a better ideal of social life at the Institute without sacrificing that strenuousness which has made the Institute what it is.

Following Mr. Lowell was Professor Burton, who has been appointed to the office of dean. Professor Burton spoke of the general conception of the office of dean, and of the aid and advice which he might expect from the alumni. Mr. Hill, '77, representing the class which graduated twenty-five years before, spoke of the social life at the Institute in his time. The last speaker was President Currey of the Class of 1902, who briefly thanked the Alumni Association for its reception, and with that the evening closed.

THE GOOD THINGS LEFT BEHIND.

A BACCALAUREATE SERMON.

Delivered to the Graduating Class of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, June 8, 1902.

"The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, bring when thou comest, and the books, especially the parchments."—II Timothy. iv. 13.

PAUL'S great motto in life was: "I count not myself to have apprehended. Forgetting the things that are behind; looking forward to the things which are before." He believed that the prize of life was in the future. He was a forward-looking man, eager, inspired, indomitable. And for this characteristic of one of the greatest of men we can never be too thankful. It makes him always young. His life is just beginning; infinitely the better part of it is in advance of him, wherever you find him. It makes his world young. It is just beginning to roll out of darkness into light; it is wheeling forward in the still brightness of the morning. It qualifies him to be the pre-eminent leader of the young. In the dew of his own youth he is forever appealing to the great-hearted, royally endowed youth of the world. It makes all those who associate with Paul young. It is impossible for us to enter into the thoughts and the feelings and the eager anticipations and the great psychic movement of this man without forgetting about time, and feeling how divine life is, and how true it is that the supremely good part of it is still in advance.

Nevertheless, Paul found that it was occasionally necessary to look back. He found that even he had forgotten certain things that he should have remembered;—that he had left behind him certain extremely useful things. And therefore he looks back in the text, and tells his friend and disciple, Timothy, who was coming to join him, to bring with him the cloak that Paul left at Troas when he crossed over to Europe, and the books, and especially the parchments. It is exceedingly comforting to find an inspired apostle forgetting things which he should have remembered. If we cannot equal him in his inspiration we can equal him in his lapse of memory. It is easy to forget; it is so convenient to forget; it is so comfortable. The greatest thing in Kipling's "Recessional" is his words to a proud