President Pritchett's Address to the Freshmen.

President Pritchett, in behalf of the Institute, tendered the Freshmen, Oct. 1, in Huntington Hall, a cordial welcome to their life at Tech. His address, though given to the entering class, is well worthy of the consideration of the whole student body. He spoke as follows:

It is a pleasure to greet so many new faces, and no less a pleasure to recognize many familiar ones. To each of you, whether you belong to the one class or to the other, the Institute of Technology extends through me a hearty welcome to its work and to its play, to its joys and its disappointments, to its struggles and to its friendships. You will find that life here means work: good, hard, earnest work, such as no healthy and energetic man ought to be afraid of. You will find, also, I hope, that the life here means wholesome play and good fellowship, and the growth of strong friendships. And in all this I wish you joy and success. I trust you will understand that this is only a preliminary meeting, and that I am to see your faces often as time goes on.

Those of you who begin your life in the Institute to-day find some new friends to greet you whom former classes have felt the lack of. For a long time, with the growing numbers of students which have come to us, it has been felt that additional executive officers were needed, and to-day you will find, beside those who have always been a part of the Institute, the Dean and the Medical Adviser, the Registrar and the Recorder.

The Dean, as you have probably already discovered, has long office hours, and he is here to advise you as to choice of studies, as to the best way to accomplish your end in coming here. The Medical Adviser is himself a graduate of Technology, and one who knows from his own experience the difficulties and the ills of student life. Each of these officers is here to do the best he can to help you as men to accomplish that for which you came here. And, while remembering the new officers, I hope you will not forget the old ones,—the Bursar, the Secretary and the President.

There is a deal of good advice which I am strongly tempted to give you. In truth, when one is so fortunate as to have five hundred Freshmen as an audience, the temptation to give advice is almost irresistible; and one easily loses sight of the fact that advice, though it be ever so good, is much easier to give than to follow. The great master of English literature indicated a universal human trait when he put into the mouth of Portia the words: "If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions; I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching." While this slowness to learn from the experience of others is almost universal, it is still true that this is just what the educated man is expected to do. One of the great advantages of education is the preparation which enables a man to learn from other people without having to wait to learn bit by bit from his own hard experience. A large part of your training here is to go toward the development of the faculty of using the experience of other men, the accumulated experience of the world. The man who can profit by the experience of others will outstrip the man who can learn only from his own mistakes. Education ought to give a man a great advantage in this direction.

Perhaps you will bear with me if I make one suggestion, drawn from my own observation of students in the Institute. I have seen weak boys enter the Freshman class, carry their work with ease and success, and develop strong bodies under it by intelligent exercise. I have seen students who were physically strong enter at the same time and deteriorate steadily in physical condition and ability to work, owing to the neglect of their bodies. You cannot do a man's full work in the world, either here or elsewhere, unless you can unite a vigorous body with an active mind. You can do this here, as you can in all positions in life, by intelligent planning. And you will find in the director of physical work a friend who will gladly show you how best to conserve health and strength, if you have but the patience to follow his instructions. There is no work, here or elsewhere, that calls for the sacrifice of health or strength. Lack of intelligence or lack of energy are the causes of poor physical condition in most cases, and the men who suffer thereby discover only too late that the world has little room and less consideration for weaklings.

There are great reasons, it seems to me, why you who are to be the engineers of this next generation should be strong men—strong in body and in mind and in character. For there is coming to you every day a larger and larger share in the leadership of the world. This country of ours will have serious problems to solve in your time, and it will need most of all intelligent leadership in its citizens. And it is to be remembered that leadership does not of necessity mean a general's sword or a seat in congress, although I do not think it entirely creditable to the engineer that there should be 291 lawyers and not a single engineer amongst the lawmakers of the country. Leadership is needed in all directions of national life, commercial, industrial, political and religious. The engineer is coming to have, year by year, a larger contact with the great underlying forces which move