Civil Engineering Society Dinner.

The sixth annual dinner of the Civil Engineering Society, given at the Hotel Lenox last Tuesday evening, was a pronounced success. Fifty-two men all told were present, and sat down to a well served dinner of ten courses, after which they were entertained by remarks from engineers in the highest ranks of their professions. President Baker introduced the toastmaster, Mr. Paul Hanson, '03, who, after assuring the professor and other guests present of the students' appreciation of the interest shown by them, and of opportunities to meet and hear them personally, introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Carson. Mr. Carson, as chief engineer of the Boston Transit Company, Boston subway, and East Boston tunnel, and of the highest reputation in his profession, was well qualified to speak to student engineers. His subject, “Honesty (or rather Dishonesty) in City, State and National Government” touched upon a subject vital to all Americans, and, in its method of correction, most closely to engineers. He cited the shameful exposures of corruption in American cities, most notably St. Louis and Minneapolis, and quoted a former mayor of Boston as saying, “If you want honest government, give positions of trust to civil engineers.” This statement he explained by showing that the work of a successful engineer, requiring painstaking perseverance, earnestness and accuracy, and founded on the “eternal truths of science and mathematics,” necessitated and developed honesty and integrity. He concluded his remarks by saying that students who will afterwards become city engineers, heads of corporations and commissions, must value honesty as an absolute essential to success.

In evidence of the fact that no resentment was felt among Course I. students at being called “parrots,” “pussies,” “kindergarten subjects” and by other such expressive terms, the toastmaster then introduced the head of the course, Professor Swain, who took “Success” as his subject. This term he expressed, not as wealth or reputation, which alone were hollow, but as making the best of one’s self and opportunities in character and ability. “Honesty, perseverance and painstaking,” he said, were bound to bring success in the end. Mistakes come to everyone, and the sooner made and corrected, the better. The man who is waiting to “go out of Tech to begin work in earnest” is delaying at the critical time. He concluded by saying that the demand for civil engineers, and their future, was never greater than at present, and that it was for the man to make his character of an equal standing with his professional hopes.

Professor Hollis, the head of the Lawrence Scientific School and president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers, was next introduced. His subject, “The Fate of the Harvard-Yale Games,” he left for post mortem evidence, and took for a theme the advice given him on graduating from the Naval Academy — “Keep your stomach in good condition; live to make use of other men’s brains,” to which he gave another version — “Keep your dinner down and your courage up.” He emphasized the need of health to success and pointed out the civil engineer’s good fortune in the opportunities of outdoor work in his younger life. He also touched on the advantages of close intercourse, especially with other scientific men, and expressed himself personally as “revering and respecting the classical and literary scholar; feeling at home with the engineer.”

Other interesting and much appreciated remarks were made by Professor Clifford, Mr. Gilbreth, Mr. McKibbon, and Professor Porter, and a telegram from Mr. J. R. Freeman was read, expressing regrets at inability to be present. The dinner broke up at half past ten, with the feeling of an evening enjoyably and profitably spent.