Possibilities of the Tech Union.

BY PRESIDENT PRITCHETT.

The establishment of the Union early last December afforded the first opportunity offered to Tech students for a meeting place of their own, subject to their own wishes, and one from which the public was excluded. It was a gift from a few friends of the Institute who were interested in its social problems, and who believed that such a place would be used wisely and sensibly by the students. The half-year's experience already has abundantly justified these expectations, and the Union has become a distinct factor in the social life of the Institute. Some forty dinners and gatherings, not including the Saturday night dinners, have been held, at which members of the Faculty and students have come together on a common social plane.

It may be assumed that next year a much larger use will be made of the Union than heretofore, and of the various plans which have been brought forward there is one which seems both practical and desirable, and that is the changing of the Saturday night dinner into a somewhat informal debating club, to be called the Tech Forum. It has been proposed that at the beginning of the next school year an association be formed to take charge of these Saturday evening meetings, and that this association provide a chairman and announce the subjects of discussion; that they appoint, also, a secretary, to keep general track of the discussions, and that the subjects be announced some days in advance on the bulletin boards, and that at least one man on each side be named in advance to present the opposing views of the question. The question might be of any desired shade or quality: thus, it might concern itself with the daily problems of the Institute life, such as athletics, the honor system in examinations, the diminution of examinations, or our relations with neighboring institutions; on the other hand, the question might be one of national or international significance, such as the race question, the Irish question in England, the policy of expansion in the United States, the question of the tariff and of free trade, the question of reciprocity, and similar living questions of the day. After the discussion had been opened by the two formal debaters it would then be open for discussion by any student present, and it ought to be possible to secure in this way the opportunity for practice in speaking and in discussion of public questions of which intelligent men so keenly feel the need.