

PRESIDENT PRITCHETT'S WELCOME

THIS first coming together of the year is an occasion to which I find myself looking with increasing pleasure, since it brings together not only those who have newly come, but I am glad to see in increasing numbers each year the faces of students who have already had one or more years of life in the institution. It is this view of the familiar faces, perhaps, which makes me feel each year as if the student body is extending a welcome to me rather than receiving a greeting from me.

I think it would be hard to overestimate the value of these occasions which bring us all together. Sometimes I feel a little regret that the student body is growing so large that it can no longer get into Huntington Hall, but perhaps that can be remedied a little later by having a larger hall. In any case, these gatherings which we have from time to time through the year, help to give us more of a sense of solidarity, a more vivid realization of our own strength and our own unity, than perhaps any other occasions.

My pleasant duty to-day is rather to welcome the new comer than the older student, and I shall be more than pleased if anything I can say will help you to understand how hearty and cordial a welcome you have here, how thoroughly we desire that you shall find here that which you seek, and how ready the officers and the Faculty are to place at your disposal their time and their service.

I hope that you have already learned somewhat of this in the preliminary bulletins and announcements provided for students, and yet printed notices are so often overlooked that I venture to call attention particularly to the little pamphlet entitled, "General Information for New Students," and to the "Bulletin of Information," issued two days ago. You will find given there the hours when the officers of consultation may be conveniently found.

The Dean, who is the general consulting officer for students, has aimed to so arrange his hours as to suit the most varied wants of students. You will find in him not only an adviser but a friend. And I hope you will not overlook the announcement of the office hours of the Medical Adviser, Dr. White. He may be found in Room 13 of the Pierce Building, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, between 4 and 5, and may be consulted by any student, free of cost.

He is himself a Technology graduate, and knows by experience the trials and the difficulties of student life. The Bursar you will find on hand each day, and presenting his bills with such grace and goodwill that men have been known to pay their bills a second time, for the mere pleasure of meeting him.

I venture, as you are new comers, to call your attention to one single announcement in this little pamphlet ("General Information"), concerning the

conduct of students. We assume here that those who come to us come to take up their work man fashion, and that we may treat you as men. There are no fixed rules with which we ask your compliance. The injunction, "Be a gentleman," which is the rule in all the world, is all that we ask of men here. Now and then students have come to us who did not seem to understand that the obligations of a gentleman include absolute honesty in work, and this is one sin which we never forgive. No man can hope to be an engineer who will present as his own work that of another, and who will pass an examination by unfair means. Whenever we find such a one we ask him to leave.

As to the institution itself to which you have come, and of the life which you are to find there, I shall say only a word. You will learn it in your own way, and perhaps no word from me can help you in mastering its details. Life in the Institute means, first of all, as you have all heard, work—good, hard, honest work—and life in the world anywhere means work, if men are to be real factors in it. The capacity to work and the disposition to work are in a large measure the qualities which separate savage peoples from civilized peoples, and the work which you are to find here is no greater and no less in amount than that which you will be called to do in any avenue of life. I have tried it for three years and I like it well enough to hope that I may go through a fourth year without conditions, and look forward to a post-graduate course afterwards with feelings of unmixed pleasure.

But I should be sorry for you to gain the idea that life in the Institute of Technology stands for nothing else but work, if work is to be used in the narrow sense of application to the utilitarian objects of an education. The Institute is standing more and more each year, as all educational institutions must stand, if they do their real duty to society, not alone for scholarship, but for fellowship; and no man can hope to be an engineer in the greater sense who has not some actual contact, day by day and week by week, with his fellow-men. Whatever course of engineering you may take, whether you are to deal with electricity or chemistry or mechanics, you are to deal, first of all, all your life long, with men.

Various means exist in the Institute which look toward the cultivation of this social side, and yet which aim to preserve a due perspective in regard to more formal duties. The scientific societies which meet in the various courses serve as social groups, in which men meet each other. The Technology Club, which stands just opposite the Institute, on Newbury Street, includes a membership made up of the graduates and officers of the Institute, together with a certain number of students from the senior and junior classes. I hope as many of you