POLICE BOARD HEARING.

Counsel and Police Disagree as to Purpose of Inquiry.

The sessions of the Tech Hearing on Thursday and Friday of last week proved to be the most interesting thus far, because most of the witnesses were actual participants in the affair at Rogers steps. During the cross-examination of P. O. Adams, '07, the question was brought up whether the Institute authorities could have prevented trouble by the exercise of a little care in telling the students to keep off the steps.

A. P. Mathieson, '06, was the first witness Thursday. He was, perhaps, the most severely injured of the Tech students who were clubbed, and only this last week has come out of the hospital. Mathieson said that he was clubbed by a policeman when he was doing his best to get out of the way.

V. G. Gaubert, '05, W. Lewis, '06, and G. A. Griffin, '07, all gave some very important evidence. G. W. Sawyer, assistant janitor of the Rogers Building, said that the ash barrels were out, and may have contained some "clinkers," but he saw none thrown at the police. F. O. Adams, '07, stated that he was of the opinion that most of the officers got to the top of the steps by running up with the students, trying to keep in front of them.

The important fact was brought out by the witnesses that the Tech marshals were unaware of any order having been given to the police to keep them off the steps of the Rogers Building. Chief Marshal Lombard, '05, testified that he spoke to the lieutenant in charge of the police, to learn just what the orders were in that respect, but could get no satisfactory reply to his questions. In order to avoid any possibility of trouble, Lombard endeavored to keep the paraders in motion and to lead them on past the Rogers Building, but his orders were of no avail. Marshal C. L. Rodgers, '05, described the parade, during which he saw not the slightest feeling of animosity between the police and students until the final fracas on Rogers steps. Rodgers felt certain that the students would have kept off the steps if they had only known of such a wish before they reached them.

A. McAmber, '07, testified that he was hit on the side from behind and was clubbed twice while lying dazed on his hands and knees. P. S. McGregor, '07, said that there was no preconcerted signal to climb the steps. Many other statements by students and others, tended to show the aggressiveness on the part of the police.

At Saturday's hearing something of a sensation was created, when J. Daniels, '06, and W. F. Dolke, '08, both identified Sergeant Fitzgerald as the officer who clubbed them. Thus far Sergeant Fitzgerald is the first officer to be identified by any of the students. Counsel Hill presented a series of twenty photographs of the injured Technology students, which he wished to enter as evidence. M. B. Hall, '08, testified to having seen a policeman brandish a revolver in front of the Brunswick. G. Marshall, '06, and R. H. Lord, '05, both testified, the latter stating that there was no concerted attempt to push the float at the officers. W. F. Dolke, '08; G. W. Treat, '08; E. W. Collins, '05; H. Coon, '06; and Dr. F. W. White, all gave some very important testimony.

Counsel Hill for the Institute was unable to finish his case at Saturday's session, but expects to have all his evidence in today.

Statement by Tech Counsel.

"The position taken by the Board seems to show an unfortunate misconception of the duties of the police commission. It is not a judicial body, and if it can be said to be sitting in a judicial capacity it is only in regard to the conduct of its own subordinates. It is an administrative body, whose function is the management of the police of the city; and it is holding this investigation for its own guidance, namely, to ascertain whether its own subordinates have been at fault or not; and, if they have been at fault, to take such action as will prevent similar conduct in the future. It is not a part of the province of the Commission to fix the blame for the affair, but merely to determine whether the police were to blame; and the conduct of anyone else is important only so far as it tends to show whether the police were at fault or not. If, for example, it should appear that the police were guilty of excessive brutality, but that they had been under provocation from other people,—and the evidence so far presented does not seem to make this probable,—it would then be the duty of the Commission to take such measures of discipline in regard to the police as would prevent brutality in the future. It would not be within their power to punish other people; nor would it be a part of their duty to express an opinion upon their conduct. It is misconceptions of this kind that give rise to the public sense of insecurity about the control of the police."

Professor Prescott Honored.

Prof. Samuel C. Prescott, B.S., assistant professor of industrial biology in the Institute, has been appointed to the collaborators of the leading bacteriological Journal of Germany. Professor Prescott has been recognized as an 'authority in this branch of science, and his appointment to work in conjunction with the corps of eminent specialists of Germany, Denmark, Austria, Russia, England, Holland and Switzerland, is regarded as a great compliment, not only to Professor Prescott, but to American Scientists as a body.

Mining Engineering Society.

A meeting of the Mining Engineering Society will be held at Tech Union to-night at 7.45 p.m., Dr. T. A. Jagger will give a talk on "Geology and Mining." All Interested are invited to be present.

Attention is called to the fact that all men in Course III. of the three upper classes are eligible to membership. All such men wishing to join the Society should leave their names at the Cage for the Secretary or the President of the Mining Engineering Society.

R. H. Allen, President.

The William Barton Rogers number of The Technology Review is on sale at the News Bureau.