Some Reminiscences of President Rogers.

The first time that I met Professor Rogers was in 1867, when I came to Boston from the town which was my home to find whether I could enter the second year of the newly-established "School of Technology," and if it would give me the opportunity, which I wished to find elsewhere in the country, to pursue the study of Physics as a specialty. I made my way to the temporary quarters then occupied by the Institute on Summer Street, and there introduced myself to the first person whom I met, who chanced to be Professor Runkle. There were no office clerks in those days of small things. I told Professor Runkle what I had studied in Mathematics, and he patted me on the shoulder and said, "I guess you will do." When I entered my name at the entrance examination in that subject, I did not get off so easily, however, for Mechanics, then a first year subject, and Chemistry. On learning my wishes as to the study of Physics, Dr. Runkle said he would introduce me to Professor Rogers, who was in an adjoining room, and at the moment when we entered was in the act of asking a student to go to his house on Temple Place for a certain piece of apparatus. Temple Place had ceased to be a residential street. I was both surprised and pleased at thebenignant manner in which he dealt with me, with his readiness to speak with me at some length, and still more with the interest which he showed in my plans for study, and the encouragement which he gave me. I saw less of him as a student than later when an instructor, as he was prevented by illness from giving the lectures which he had been asked to attend. It was the greatest regret of my student life that I was for that reason unable to hear his unequalled course on Geology.

President Rogers was a man of the utmost dignity of character and demeanor, and moreover of great cheerfulness. Through all the darkest days in the history of the Institute this cheerfulness never forsook him, and he showed the most magnificent courage when younger men were discouraged and the work lay heavy. He had a kindly, consistent, unassuming manner, which was always a source of interest and delight.

The Tech

Published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the college year (from September to June), by students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Application pending for entry in the Boston Post-office as second-class mail matter.

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Office: 26 Rogers Building, 491 Boylston Street

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Managing Editor 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Rogers, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Contributions are accepted from all under-graduates. Articles should be written in English. Those who wish to send manuscript must state the name under which the article or article should be identified by the editor.

Subscription is $1 per year in advance.

Single Copies 3 Cents.