

# THE TECH

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## PROF. SWAIN'S READING.

Humor and Philosophy Illustrated by Selections from Mark Twain.

Last Monday Professor Swain opened his informal lecture with a discussion of the educated man and literature. The man of broad training and general ideas he said, should be familiar with all departments of literature. Each of the various kinds of literature has its special use aside from our appreciation of literary art. Thus, History teaches us how to deal with present day problems in the light of the experience of the past. Travel enables the man to direct his affairs with the assistance obtained by a knowledge of other methods and practices. Poetry is a constant inspiration and delight.

Philosophy, perhaps, more than any other form of literature is a continual aid to us in our daily lives. By Philosophy is meant, not metaphysics, but the philosophy of ordinary life. Closely allied to it is a sense and appreciation of Humor. Thus Philosophy and Humor go often hand in hand.

A notable example of a humorist who is also a philosopher is Mark Twain, the greatest humorist that America has ever had. It is a delight to read his stories over again year after year. Professor Swain then read Mark Twain's "The Awful German Language," to the great enjoyment of every one present. Roars of laughter greeted the author's continual sallies on the intricacies of the German declensions. All agreed with Mark Twain's serious assertion that it was easier even for a Heidelberg student to decline two drinks than one German adjective. The author's suggestions for the reform of this complicated language also received their share of laughter. Not all will admit, however, that "German should be incarcerated among the dead languages because only the dead have time to learn it." Mark Twain himself assures us that he spent nine full weeks mastering its technicalities. Professor Swain was warmly applauded for his happy choice of this subject for his reading, and for the delightful way in which he delivered the story to his hearers. The next reading will occur, as usual, Monday at 4.15 in 6 Lowell. The subject has not yet been announced.

## TECH VS. DARTMOUTH.

The Basketball team opens its season tomorrow night when it meets Dartmouth at Hanover. Dartmouth has a strong, heavy team this year, a better team, some think, than last year. But Tech's team has showed up well in practice, and although the absence of Wentworth, who is laid up with an injured foot, will be severely felt, the team is expected to make a good showing against Dartmouth. Tech will line up as follows: Forwards, Kinnear (Capt.) and Cahill; center, Pierce; guards, Bitler and Nichols or Foster.

The second team will also open its season tomorrow evening in a game against the Boston College Freshmen at the Boston College Gymnasium.

## CHOICE OF COURSE.

First of Talks to Freshmen Given on Wednesday Afternoon.

On Wednesday afternoon in 6 Lowell, Dean Burton, Dr. Tyler, and Dr. Noyes addressed about two hundred first year students on "Choice of Course."

Dean Burton spoke first of the partial choice which is to be made at the end of the first term and said that, in order to help out the students in this choice, the heads of courses had arranged for special conference hours in which first year students may consult them in regard to the respective courses. The list of these conference hours appears in another column.

Dr. Tyler, in speaking of the importance of the choice, said that two of the highest elements of education were judgment and responsibility, and that the choice of course was left to the student for the purpose of developing these elements. While some of the students may have made the choice before entering the Institute, the choice, to be permanent, ought not to be made without a full knowledge of the nature of the courses. In choosing a course the student should be deliberate and open-minded. He should not be guided by preconceptions, but should rather gain all the additional light on the subject possible.

Dr. Tyler said that the popular idea that certain courses offer better financial opportunities is wrong; that there is abundant opportunity for work at the end of any course. The Faculty have restricted the student's choice in but one respect; they have deemed it unwise for the student who is weak in Drawing, in Mathematics, or in Chemistry, to follow courses which depend for their foundation upon these subjects.

Professor Noyes then spoke to the men of the importance of the general studies of the Institute. He said that the object of a college education was to train the students to become, not mere artisans, but able, all-round professional men. The student's career as an engineer will be a failure if he masters merely the "technique" of education. Professor Noyes then spoke of the importance of learning to write and speak well and of the advantage of social intercourse with one's fellow students.

## SOPHOMORE AUCTION.

At a meeting of the Sophomore class Thursday, the flags used to decorate the Tremont Theatre on Tech Night were sold at auction. W. J. Kelly officiated as auctioneer. Seven flags were sold, rivalry being sharp and bidding brisk. The highest price brought by a banner was \$5.25, and the lowest \$2.50. In all \$24 was added to the class treasury.

The record of fatalities on the football field this season shows a total of fourteen deaths and 154 injured compared with twenty-four deaths and 200 injured last year. No improvement is indicated in comparison with the two previous years, 1904 and 1903, during each of which there were fourteen deaths.

## THE NEW CATALOGUE.

Interesting Facts and Statistics about Technology Appear in Latest Bulletin.

If anyone doubts the statement that the Institute educates men from all over the world he should glance through the list of students in the new catalogue. He will find that there are Tech men from as far North as Denmark, Scotland, and Canada, and from as far South as Australia, Cape Colony, and South America. We are represented in the far East by a number of Chinese and Japanese students, and in the West by men from Hawaii, Mexico, and Chili.

The list of students also shows that there are fewer men at the Institute this year than last, the result of the increased requirements and tuition. This drop in numbers from 1,466 to 1,397 results from the decreased size of the three upper classes, for '10 has sixty-five men more than '09. The relative numbers of special students show a distinct improvement in scholarship at the Institute, for only 40 per cent of the men are specials against 42 per cent last year.

The average number of men on the Committees of the Corporation has been increased by about one man; this is the only noticeable change in that body.

Dr. Tyler's resignation from the office of Secretary of the Faculty has given rise to the division of the duties of that office between two officers, the Secretary of the Institute, a position which Prof. Dana P. Bartlett occupies, and the Secretary of the Faculty, to which Prof. Allyn L. Merrill has been appointed. The rest of the officers remain the same as last year, but great changes will probably take place under the new President.

The addition of Profs. D. C. Jackson and G. C. Shaad to the staff of Course VI. is another important change. Prof. Jackson is now head of the course ex officio, but will take active charge next year. Prof. Shaad has taken Prof. Puffer's courses in Electrical Engineering, Prof. Puffer having accepted a position elsewhere.

## PROM COMMITTEE.

The Junior Prom Committee held its first meeting yesterday afternoon. The election of officers resulted as follows: Chairman, F. H. McGuigan; Secretary, H. R. Putnam, Jr.; Treasurer, H. Webb. Packard, '07, told the committee of the work of last year's Prom Committee, and offered to assist them in any way he could. It was decided to hold meetings two or three times a week until the work is fully under way.

The Society of American Bacteriologists, of which Prof. Samuel C. Prescott, of the Industrial Biological department, is secretary, will meet several other American Scientific Societies in a convocation to be held in New York City during the week of December 27.

Dean Burton spoke last evening before the New Bedford Technology Club. He will be in his office again this afternoon.

## CALENDAR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7.

2.00 P.M. Convocation in Huntington Hall to meet Dr. Van Dyke.  
4.00 P.M. Mandolin Club Rehearsal in 31 Rogers.  
4.15 P.M. Glee Club Rehearsal at the Tech Union.  
8.00 P.M. Henry E. Crampton will address the Technology Club.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8.

1.00 P.M. Institute Committee meets in Trophy Room.  
1.00 P.M. Tech Board Meeting in 30 Rogers.  
1.30 P.M. All men who intend to write lyrics or songs for Tech Show meet in 34 Rogers.  
4.00 P.M. Mandolin Club Rehearsal in 34 Rogers.  
4.00 P.M. Banjo Club Rehearsal in 33 Rogers.  
4.15 P.M. Prof. Swain's Reading in 6 Lowell.  
4.15 P.M. Glee Club Rehearsal at the Union.  
6.00 P.M. Regular Kommers at the Tech Union.

## FACULTY NOTICES.

**Dynamics of Machines.**—An examination will be held in Dynamics of Machines on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 15, at 2 o'clock, in 20 Eng. A.

**Fourth Year.**—A special examination will be held in Hydraulic Measurements on Saturday, Dec. 8, in 50 Eng. A, from 2 to 4 P.M.

**Copies of Professor Derr's New Book.**—Copies of Professor Derr's New book, "Photography for Students of Physics and Chemistry" may be obtained at MacLachlan's.

**First Year Students.**—Students who wish special information in regard to a particular course are requested to consult the professor in charge of that course at the time and place noted below:

I and XI, Prof. Swain, Wednesday, December 19, in 11 Eng. B, from 4 to 5 P.M.

II, Prof. Lanza, Wednesday, December 12, in 31 Eng. A, from 1 to 1.30 P.M.

III, Prof. Richards, Wednesday, December 12, in 4 Rogers, from 4 to 4.30 P.M.

IV, Prof. Chandler, Tuesday, December 11, in 42 P, from 4 to 5 P.M.

V and X, Prof. Talbot, Friday, December 7, in 6 L, at 1 P.M.

VI, Prof. Clifford, Tuesday, December 18, in 6 L, from 4 to 4.30 P.M.

VII, Prof. Sedgwick, Friday, December 14, in 28 P, at 4 P.M.

VIII<sub>1,2</sub>, Prof. Cross, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, in 11 W, at 12 M.

VIII<sub>3</sub>, Prof. Goodwin, Tuesday, December 11, in 2 W, at 1 P.M.

IX, Prof. Currier will make appointment by letter if desired.

XII, Prof. Jaggard, Wednesday, December 19, Eng. B, from 1 to 1.30 P.M.

XIII, Prof. Peabody, Tuesday, December 18, in 32 Eng. C, from 1 to 1.20 P.M.

## NOTICES.

**Institute Committee.**—There will be a meeting of the Institute Committee in the Trophy Room Monday at 1 P.M.

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