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 nature of literature. The man of broad training and general ideas he said, should pick from the wealth of literature. Each of the various kinds of literature has its importance and is spoken of with the same 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 hasten 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 the beauty of Language and Humor often go hand in hand.

According to Dr. Tyler, 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 everyone present. Professors of Greek and Latin, who are the authors of the philosophy, often go hand in hand.

Dean Burton spoke first of the partial choice which is to be made at the end of the first year. The purpose of developing these elements. While some of the students may have made the decision 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 must be able to make a wise choice. The Faculty have restricted the student’s choice in the beginning, but they are ready to consult the professor in charge of the course.

Professor Noyes then spoke of the importance of the choice. He said that two of the highest elements of education were judgment and responsibility, and that the choice of courses was to be made in the interest of developing these elements. While some of the students may have made the decision before entering the Institute, the choice, to be permanent, ought not to be made without a full knowledge of the nature of the courses.

Dr. Tyler, in speaking of the idea that certain courses offer better financial opportunities, expressed the hope that there is abundant opportunity for all students. The Faculty have restricted the student’s choice in the beginning, but they are ready to consult the professor in charge of the course.

Faculty Notices.


The Basketball team opens its season tomorrow evening in a game against the Boston College freshmen at the Boston College Gymnasium.

Tech vs. Dartmouth.

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Choice of Course.


The New Catalogue.

If anyone doubts the statement that the Institute educates men for the world, he may see the evidence through the catalogue of students in the new catalogue. He will find that there are Tech men in 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 Chile.

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 106 five-year men more than are now on hand. The number of special students show a distinct improvement. Prof. Jackson’s resignation from the presidency 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 decreased 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 was given rise to the division of the duties of that office between two officers, the Secretary of the Faculty, a position which Prof. Dana P. Bartlett occupies, and the Secretary of the Faculty, to which Prof. Henry L. Millard 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. Denison and O. C. Shand to the staff of Course VI. is another important change. Prof. Jackson is in charge of the courses of that body. Prof. Shand has taken the lead in the course of Engineering, and Prof. Fuffer has been added to the class treasury.

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. Web. Packard, 37; President, H. Webb, 37. The list of these conference hours appears in another column.

SOPHOMORE AUCITION.

At a meeting of the Sophomore class Thursday, the flags used to decorate the Tremont Theatre on Tech Night were sold. Prof. Swain officiated as auctioneer. Seven flags were sold, including being sharp and reddish. The highest price brought by a banner was $25.25, and the lowest $1.50. All $30 was added to the class treasury.

The record of fatalities on the football field this season shows a total of fourteen deaths and thirteen injuries. Of the fourteen deaths and two injured last year. No improvement is indicated in comparison with the two previous years, 1902 and 1903, during which each of which there were fourteen deaths.

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