At the end of his second year at Tech the average student feels in an indefinite kind of a way that he has passed another milestone in his education. The Faculty, however, have immediately preceding examination. The average student enters upon the last stage of academic life.

The four years of training at the Institute divide themselves very naturally into two epochs, the characteristics of which are more or less different in kind and degree although preparatory to each other and to some extent mean links together. In the first and fourth years the student begins seriously to attack his professional work and experiences a greater sense of freedom from restraint than is the case during the two preceding years. One of the principal, or at any rate most obvious differences is the discontinuance of the intermediate examinations. By many this is hailed with delight, especially toward the beginning of the term, but as the semi-annual examinations approach there is an unavoidable exercise of feeling, and the student is sometimes even heard to complain that the lack of any spur to hold him up to his work during the term has thrown an unduly heavy burden upon his shoulders in the time immediately preceding examinations. The Faculty, however, have definite reasons for this change of policy. As the student advances during their junior and senior years, and the statement of a few of these reasons may not be out of place.

The average student on reaching his junior year is about 18 years of age, and it is unnatural to assume that he is fitted to practice self-reliance and has learned to stand up on his own feet by the time he has reached man's estate. In this connection it is interesting to contrast the English and German viewpoints. The English secondary school exerts moderate restraint over the actions of the scholars which lessen gradually as they rise to the upper classes. In this way when the young man enters college he is not violently thrown upon his own resources, but enjoys gradually as it were the rights of manhood. Even in the college, however, the dean keeps a watchful eye on him and coaches are not lacking at any period of his career to aid the tardy student. The German "gymnasium" on the contrary treats the boys as little better than overgrown children and the consequence is, that when the young man enters college where nobody cares, within limits, how he conducts or often misconducts himself, he usually sows a plentiful crop of wild oats. Tech stands between these two ideas and insists that the young man show every five weeks that he is not wasting his time.

In the junior and senior years the Faculty assumes that the men realize their opportunities and will not squander them. This indeed is more than an assumption, for a professor recently stated that there seems to exist a peculiar physiological change in the characteristics of a man about the age at which most students pass from their sophomore to their junior year. This change is very noticeable to the instructing staff. The men become steadier, more willing to accept responsibility, and broader in their views toward instruction in general. It is therefore very unlikely that the Faculty will ever continue the intermediate examination beyond the sophomore year, since such a step would mean the withdrawal of one of the greatest incentives to the cultivation of self-reliance and self-control which exists at the Institute.

Reading Notices

Mr. William Jennings Bryan will speak at Tremont Temple, Thursday evening, March 14, on "The Value of an Ideal." He comes at the invitation of the American Social Science Association, a strictly non-political organization, and will not speak anywhere else in New England. Through the kindness of the committee a limited number of seats is offered to the students of the Institute in a block. The demand is such that it will be practicable to secure seats for only a limited number of students. The committee will accept responsibility, and will make every showing that who wish to attend the lecture should make their arrangements early.

College Men in Demand

Many of the Boston firms have been pressing their claims for 1907 men who will be in the market for positions in summer or fall. Last year we had our full quota of college men who left after filling all the requirements and in each case the firm was unable to secure the man. This year will ever be the same as before, and it is important that college men long before we have filled all the requirements make their arrangements to have a show on time. Those interested may apply for college and technical students who will be in the market and who are willing to accept reasonable salaries of $300-$600. Write to Mr. William Jennings Bryan, the American Social Science Association office, 26 Boylston Street, Boston.

Hats

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