

## THE TECH

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In charge of this issue: L. H. KING, 1909

Wednesday, March 27, 1907.

Three of the five places in the preliminary competition for the Paris prize of the beaux arts architects are won by Tech men. In these days of big endowments and rapid expansion, the Massachusetts institute is beaten by rivals in registration, but its prestige is undiminished. It remains the strongest technical school in the country. — *Boston Record.*

At this time of the year when the 1909 Electoral Committee is busy selecting the Board to whose care will be entrusted the production of next year's *Technique*, it may not be out of place to point out a danger which should be carefully guarded against. We refer to the burdening of one man with a multiplicity of offices. This is a real danger, which is not as generally recognized at the Institute as it should be. The tendency seems to be to elect one man, or a group of men, to one office regardless of the particular fitness of the candidate to perform the duties which will fall upon his shoulders.

For the man who seeks the office merely because of the glory which he thinks will devolve upon him as its incumbent we have no words of condemnation strong enough. What of the other man, however, — the man who honestly wishes to work for his class or for the Institute, and in his desire to interest himself in student activities overlooks the fact that it is infinitely better to perform one service conscientiously and well, even if it be but a small one and little known, than to attempt to carry through to a mediocre finish four or five important and perhaps showy duties. That this fact is not entirely ignored by everyone has been proven by the actions of some men in the past year.

In any other college than the Institute such a warning would not be needed or, at any rate, would not be so applicable, but it seems to us that when a man is already plentifully provided with work by a generous Faculty, he should be the less apt to rush to meet additional labors without first carefully counting the cost. We pay \$250 a year to graduate in four years and to graduate as competent engineers, not as indifferent engineers with a smattering

of finance, literature and politics. There is, however, another aspect of the case, What effect does this localization of offices have upon the student body as a whole? There can be but little doubt that it is meretricious and tends to alienate the sympathies and co-operation of the large majority of men, who must feel that the class interests and activities are being monopolized by an insignificant number of their fellows. This should not be so; yet that such is partly the case is shown by the difficulty which the editors of each volume of *Technique* experience in getting contributions for all departments from the students.

Finally, be it understood that we are not urging the student to place his Institute work so paramountly above everything else that he must feel he is unable to spare time for anything not directly connected with it. On the contrary, we have repeatedly advocated the broader policy of adopting some form of outside activity, which will tend to prevent the Tech man from becoming a mere machine, extremely efficient it may be in one thing, but nevertheless in one thing only. What we do deprecate is the custom of choosing one man and loading him with offices to the exclusion of others, less well known it may be but often equally well fitted to accomplish the work.

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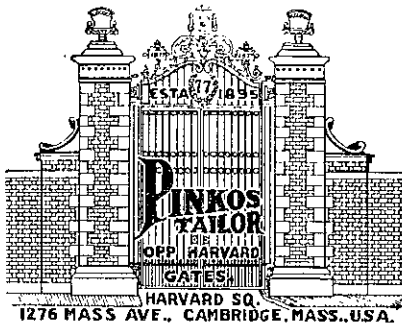
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