

## THE TECH

Published every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the college year by students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Entered as second-class matter October 6, 1904, at the post office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

All communications regarding advertisements should be addressed to the Business Manager. Regarding subscriptions address the Circulation Manager.

Subscription - - - \$1.50 per year in advance.  
Single Copies 3 Cents.

Subscriptions within the Boston Postal District and outside of United States must be accompanied by postage.

Printed by Old Colony Press, Boston.

Friday, March 6, 1908.

### PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

"But general studies aren't practical," is the objection of many juniors. They also ask why they should learn about things that they can never use in outside work.

It is hard for a man to tell just what he will use in after life. One thing, however, that is sure to come in handy is judgment. Judgment must be based on a broad point of view and is probably best developed by general knowledge. For this and other reasons general studies are of use whether they are strictly practical or not. In regard to the so-called practical in education the Engineering Record says:

"The word 'practical' has done far more damage to the cause of true engineering education than the word 'theoretical.' It has long been the fashion with some to use the latter term contemptuously as indicating mere book learning, whereas engineering theory simply means the ground-work of real knowledge, which is absolutely essential to the effective solution of the most difficult engineering problems and the only basis of rational design. Again, many engineering instructors think that if they call certain operations practical, they will somehow acquire value not otherwise possessed. Further than this, it is not uncommon to find practitioners discussing certain features of engineering education as not being sufficiently practical, meaning that the instruction ought to be devoted much more to the daily technique of the office or the routine details of work in construction. All this is wrong, and it is one of the most gratifying features of such discussions as those under consideration to find, as time goes on, that these crudenesses are largely disappearing.

"The most serious defect of engineering schools at present is their intense specialization. It would be far better if much more attention were given to instruction in the fundamental general principles underlying all engineering, precisely as do law and medical schools. Engineers should be well educated and thereby they would become more effective specialists. This is precisely in line with the expressions of some of those who joined in the discussion at the meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Indeed, some of the expressions made at that time went so far as to advocate a liberal course of study as a preparation for the technical course, as is now required at Harvard University, which again is a most encouraging indication for the broad subject of the educational training of engineers."

### COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of The Tech,

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Had Mr. Adams, treasurer of the 1908 Technique, been a little better informed in regard to the action taken at the meeting of the Chicago Club held Feb. 28, in all probability his communication would not have appeared. The true action of the club at this meeting was to postpone action on these bills until the next meeting, to be held in April, as it was impossible to meet these bills at the time.

H. LOCKETT,  
H. E. STUMP.

### CHORUS GOES ON FLOOR.

Stage Business Being Worked up For Show.

Dancing as well as singing is occupying the time of the Tech Show chorus now. They have the singing down pretty well and James Francis is at present engaged in working up the stage business of the various songs. It is rather difficult at first for the men to

walk or dance and sing at the same time, but they are fast learning. The opening chorus promises to be effective and some of the other songs are accompanied by dances which are sure to make a hit.

### ELECTRICALS HEAR INSPIRING TALK.

Dr. Steinmetz's talk last night at the Union on the relation of the electrical engineering student to the practice of his profession proved to be the best the electrical society has had this year. As in most things these days, he said, the large supply of graduates turned out yearly has made the number of jobs smaller than the number looking for jobs. Still, the broad, up to date, always learning man who is above the average is eagerly sought even if a new position has to be created for him.

The past hundred years of electrical development can be divided into three regimes. First, that under the inventor, who has become poor if he has not kept up with the times; then the designer, and now the operator, who must be acquainted with all fields of mechanical and chemical engineering, business operations and even law.

Special attention was called to the selection of positions. Jobs with large pay are sure to have some handicap, usually the impossibility of advancement after a certain point has been reached. The low paying jobs have the added recompense of learning by actual experience.

Social and economical conditions will look for betterment to the electrician in the near future, even more than at present.

Dr. Steinmetz then gave a short outline of how he was endeavoring to supplant mathematical equations dealing with hypothetical transmission lines of alternating current by those based on the velocity of the propagation of the wave as a unit which will give a bearing on the vital points of transition at the transformers and not just the line.

### Y. M. C. A. HEARS BOWERY MAN.

At the Y. M. C. A. meeting yesterday, the men heard David J. Ramey, a man who sixteen years ago was a convict in Sing Sing. He gave such a talk as he gives to men on the Bowery, and this added greatly to the interesting stories he told. His humor and quaintness of expression were something new. His topic was his own experience of how a Christian man put him on his feet and gave him a new start.

**PARKER**  
NON-GENUINE WITHOUT THE LOCKET ON THE BARREL  
**FOUNTAIN PEN**  
Sells because it Excels  
TECH SALES AGENT  
**GEORGE B. FORRISTALL**  
Care of the Cage

*New Goods*  
*in*  
*All Depts*  
*Atwell Co.*  
*24 Winter St.*  
*Jewelers*

### GLOVES

Ask for the best and see how quick they'll bring you

**FOWNES**

TELEPHONE OXFORD 953-2.

**NOW is the BEST TIME to have your LIGHT-WEIGHT CLOTHES MADE.**

**ARTHUR ONTHANK,  
TAILOR,**

**105 Summer Street, Boston.**

REFERENCES AMONG TECH MEN.

**HOTEL BRUNSWICK**  
BOSTON

EUROPEAN  
AND

AMERICAN  
PLANS

HERBERT H. BARNES, Proprietor

**THE GURNEY NATIONAL**

IS THE MODERN

**ELEVATOR**

For Passenger and Freight Service

EXCELS ALL OTHERS IN SAFETY, RELIABILITY AND ECONOMY

**W. S. TUBMAN, Agent**

20 CENTRAL STREET,

BOSTON, MASS.

**OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY**

53 State Street, BOSTON

Electric and Hydraulic Elevators

ESCALATORS (Moving Stairways)

**McMORROW**  
**College Shoes for College Men**

238 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

OPPOSITE YOUNG'S HOTEL

**G. A. PATTEN & CO.**  
Merchant Tailors

No. 43 TREMONT ST., Carney Bldg., BOSTON

The new shades for Spring are now in stock.

Now is the best time for an early selection.

Some nobby styles in fancy blue serges.

**STONE & WEBSTER**

147 MILK STREET, BOSTON

General Managers of

The Lowell Electric Light Corporation. The Seattle Electric Company. Puget Sound Electric Railway. Columbus Electric Company. Cape Breton Electric Company, Ltd. El Paso Electric Company. Jacksonville Electric Company. Ponce Electric Company. Paducah Traction and Light Company. Pensacola Electric Company. The Minneapolis General Electric Company. Edison Electric Illuminating Co. of Brockton. Houghton County Electric Light Company. Brockton and Plymouth Street Railway Company. The Houghton County Street Railway Company. Whatcom County Railway and Light Company. Savannah Electric Company. Dallas Electric Corporation. Northern Texas Electric Company. The Blue Hill Street Railway Company. Fort Hill Chemical Company. Tampa Electric Company. General Electro-Chemical Company. Houston Electric Company. Fall River Gas Works Company. Galveston Electric Company. The Key West Electric Company. Baton Rouge Electric Company. Puget Sound International Railway & Power Company.

**COES & STODDER**

FOR FOURTEEN YEARS

The Leading College Shoe House

14 SCHOOL STREET