NOTES.

Technique 1909.

One of the best things that a man gets out of student affairs is experience in handling difficult and the least thing about working against odds is that it teaches men to work hard and not to be discouraged. Technique 1909 started out this fall under as big handicap as any other board in the history of Technique and yet nowhere for the least is there any mention of those hardships. Nor in the last five months has the board hesitated to do what they thought was the best to be done. Undoubtedly this spirit is what has made this book as successful as it is.

In the past conditions usually have been different. Technique 1906 had a board of very clever men. They worked together well and every one, including the board, expected to see the best Technique in the world. Technique 1908 was not at all a good board. Technique 1907 started with great hopes and when the book came out people were all satisfied in their own way. Some few of them thought that Technique 1907 was the finest of book making, while others thought it rather ordinary. The 1908 board had high ideals of excellence and originality. Some men believed in working out every detail in their Technique for themselves, doing nothing that had been done before unless it was the best possible way of doing. About a month and a half before the book came out they certainly believed that all future Techniques could do no better thanTechnique 1908, some equalled perfection. When the book came out it had two or three very apparent and glaring faults. Among other things the cover was poor, the paper was poor and some of the typography was at fault.

All of these Technique boards were composed of efficient men and suffered from no great lack of changes. Last fall, Technique 1909 had no editor-in-chief, no business manager, no art editors at all, and had lost an associate editor and two assistant business managers. The whole board had to be made over. As a consequence practically no work had been done on the book until after the first of December; the board had to do its whole work in four months. The brunt of this work had to be carried by two or three men, and the type of the board and the interesting part of it all is that they carried it through successfully.

The biggest faults in Technique 1909 are the lack of unity and finish and the unevenness in quality, but when you consider what every man was under and the handling of so many faults, it is surprising that the faults are so natural. On the whole the book looks like the best.