

THE TECH

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Friday, November 13, 1908.

On Tuesday, October 27, the night of the sophomore dinner, a man not connected with the Institute was seized as he left a car at Copley Square, taken to the Union, robbed of a valuable pin, and then forced to perform in the living room for the benefit of his brave adversaries. The mistake in picking the wrong man is perhaps pardonable, and the spirit shown in taking one single man before a hundred sophomores and watching his antics might be partially explained upon the ground of the excitement of the moment, but the stealing of a piece of jewelry and the subsequent failure to return the same is not excusable on any grounds. The pin has been advertised in The Tech for two weeks without result. If the man who took the I. O. F. pin on the night of the sophomore dinner has any spark of decency he will leave the pin at the Cage for The Tech and need not disclose his identity. If the pin is not returned the only square thing for the sophomores implicated to do is to make good the loss.

Comparatively few undergraduates here realize the true importance of the Technology Club. In the October Review Seth K. Humphreys states a few of the advantages of the club and tells of some of the work that it has accomplished in the past.

Beside the privileges of a pleasant club house with lounging, dining, sleeping and billiard rooms, with smoke talks, social affairs and general good companionship, there is a deeper and broader idea in the foundation of such a club. It is to interest itself in Technology affairs and to promote the general welfare of the Institute.

That it has accomplished much along these lines cannot be questioned. In the house on Newbury street are held the meetings of the Walker Club, the Association of Class Secretaries, the Instructors' Club, the Technology Review and many other organizations. Here was the center of activity for the raising of the Walker Memorial fund and the Technology fund. The club is in close communication with all other Institute clubs throughout the country and is in short "a centre of activity for all who wish to maintain an appreciative, working interest in Institute affairs."

Undergraduates in the last term of their junior or in their senior years are eligible to membership, and the Club cordially invites all such men to be-

come members. In view of the importance of the club and its many privileges, it would seem as though all Tech men who have at heart the interest of the Institute and who enjoy all intercourse with their fellowmen should make it a point to gain admission to the club at their earliest opportunity.

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of The Tech:—

In the "extracts from a letter written by a member of the Corporation," sent to The Tech by "A. B.," and published in the last issue, certain statements appeared to which I feel it my duty as a loyal Technology student to take exception. "A. B." says that they explain themselves, but it seems to me that they go far beyond this towards explaining a number of other things which most people about the Institute cannot understand. I do not wish to be understood as accusing the writer of falsehood, but that any member of the Corporation which controls the destinies of Technology should fall into such an attitude as his words imply seems pitiful, if not shameful, to me.

Technology has in the world at large the reputation of being one of the best schools of its class in the world—many people say the best. The scope of its work is necessarily limited, but the students are given as large a general training as possible along with their professional studies, and I doubt strongly if among its graduates many men can be found who are subject to "a sad feeling of inferiority, lack of development and uncertainty of the worth of their attainments" sufficiently keen to inspire them with the thought that perhaps if they would reform their methods of thought and work hard toward such an end, they might in a lifetime come to enjoy just as dignified and as worthy a place in the world as the Harvard graduate. Technology men are noted for their seriousness and sincerity of purpose, and while they may not have had the same chance for what is called liberal culture as the men at the academic colleges, they cannot be fairly accused as a class of either narrow-mindedness or lack of development.

But that is not the main question, as I see it. The writer was a member of the Corporation, and he seemed ashamed of the work the Corporation was doing. Competition among the engineering schools of this country is sharp nowadays, and every fair means is being used to advance the standing of each of the many technical institutions.

I wish my readers could have heard the speech Bursar Rand made at the senior dinner the other evening. His main idea was loyalty to Technology, and he said in just so many words that the Institute can only hold its present rank by the steadfast and faithful support of every one of its alumni. All around us schools are being subsidized, some by rich men and others by the states which founded them. Technology is poor. It has few endowments, and only by means of charging the highest tuition of any American college can it educate its students. All around us money is being spent to buy buildings, equipment, and men. Other colleges surpass or equal us in their buildings and equipment now. Technology excels in its men alone, and to keep them as they are is a struggle.

It would seem as though with as worthy a cause as the Institution has, supporters should flock to its aid, and I honestly believe they would if they were approached rightly. But no man who is ashamed of his work can make other people believe in it, and if many members of our Technology Corporation feel as this one seems to feel, Technology will lose out in the long run, as surely as though it deserved to fail.

W. Duncan Green 1909.

ENGINEERS NEED

(Continued from page 1.)

"You are going out to the same jobs as other people are going out to. I want to talk to you about the work that is being done in the west, for that is the place where the best work is being done. The reason why Boston people are not better liked out there is that they are too reserved and the westerners like people who slop over a little, who are brimming over with enthusiasm. They have no use for the man that had seen the big elephant and the little elephants too."

"Some people think that how well they will succeed will depend on how well they know logarithms and mathematics. This is a great mistake, for although these things must be known and known thoroughly there are other things that are just as essential. When you go out from here, there will be some that will draw away from the others at once. Some few men will go far ahead and generally it will be much to the surprise of their classmates.

"In many ways an engineer is going to be a success in proportion to his ability to state things well. I suppose you do not like English composition and you think that the business of getting up on your feet and talking is beneath the dignity of an engineer. You, however, are not going into the business of steel rails alone; you are going into the business of human society.

"You will be engaged pretty soon. (laughter) You are the kind of people that they want out there, but you must be able to ask the question and you must not take no for an answer. They want people out there with character, people that they can tie to.

"I wonder how many of you have made up your minds to be third-rate all your life. Many of the grinds that do very well in their studies here will not get along at all later on, because they will not take risks. There is always more return from anything in which you take risks. If you do not care to take any risks you may be content to settle down to a salary of \$1200 a year and perhaps rise some day to the height of \$1500.

"You have got to keep your wits constantly at work. It is very necessary for people to use their heads, but it is very seldom that they do. Some people fool themselves into believing that the mechanical processes going in on their brain is original thought. The men who leave the Massachusetts Institute of Technology must take the risk of thinking.

"The old New England characteristic of gumption is dying out. If you do not know what gumption is you are no New Englander. With the passing away of the necessity of people being able to do a great many different things there is a danger involved.

"You are going out into the world, not as mechanical engineers, not as civil engineers, not as electrical engineers, but as wholes—whole personalities. The people believe in personalities. They do not believe that a surgical operation can be successful and have the patient die. That is metaphysics.

"The time is a time of great achievements. The United States lie between the east and the west, and busy endeavors are constantly crossing to and fro, engaged in a great period of construction. You owe it to yourself, you owe it to the Institute to go out and succeed. Young men, go out and be first-class men."

The enthusiasm after the convocation was remarkable. Deafening applause greeted the conclusion of Dr. Wheeler's talk and before the gathering broke up there was some good cheering. The students cheered Dr. Noyes as if to set the seal of their approval on his administration as the acting president of the Institute.

The convocation was the second of the year.


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