

# THE TECH

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Friday, November 20, 1908.

## HEALTH BOARD'S WORK

Those who attended the dinner of the Biological Society at the Petit Cafe, Trinity Place, Wednesday evening enjoyed an address by Burt Richards, head of the bacteriological laboratory of the Boston board of health. Mr. Richards has just resigned his position for a more lucrative one as director of the laboratories of the state board of health of Ohio, so that there will be little opportunity of hearing him in the future.

Mr. Richards spoke particularly of the work done in the Boston board of health laboratory, of the opportunities for Tech men in the city health work and of the general requisites for success. He said that three different branches of work were being conducted by the Boston board of health, the diagnosis of human and animal diseases, the study of special problems and pure research. For the diagnosis of human diseases, particularly diphtheria, the board has organized a system of distributing stations, usually drug stores, where a doctor may obtain the materials necessary for making a diagnosis, and is trying by means of research work to enlarge our knowledge of various infections, diseases, and their causes. For instance, investigations on the morphology of the diphtheria bacilli have been made, and numerous other studies which, though not directly practical, serve to keep the work of the board from falling into the rut of established custom.

As to the requirements for success in scientific and engineering work, Mr. Richards said that he believed executive ability, personal honesty, tact, and judgment in the use of time to be essential. Besides these qualities he also mentioned enthusiasm, particularly in laboratory work, as highly desirable and valuable to the biologist and sanitary engineer.

At the close of Mr. Richards' address Professors Sedgwick and Prescott read letters from McNutt and Wells, former members of the biological society, who are now engaged in health work, and then all present adjourned to the basement to enjoy an hour's sport on the bowling alleys.

Tomorrow afternoon, at 3 o'clock, 25 members of the chess club will meet A. S. Sussman, the New England chess champion in simultaneous play.

## FACULTY NOTICES

The attention of students is called to the first conference of the governors of the New England states, to be held at Tremont Theatre, November 23 and 24. This conference is for consideration of the various aspects of the conservation of resources, and the foremost authorities in the country are to speak. Governor Guild has sent a special invitation to the students and instructing staff of the Institute, and it is hoped that many will find opportunity to attend at least one of the sessions. There is no charge for admission.

## 1912 DISTANCE RUN

Will be Held Over Tech Course Tomorrow Afternoon

Freshman cross-country enthusiasts are getting into shape to give the sophomores a good rub in the annual dual class race. A good number turned out for the hare and hound run last Saturday. It is being generally realized that the best way to keep in shape for distance running is by attending the hare and hound runs. The run this week is a direct preparation for the handicap cross-country race to be held Nov. 23, and will be over the course on which the race is to be run. This will be an easy jog and all the men will run in one squad, so as to study the course and to lay trail on it. F. H. Hunter 1902, who laid out the course, will run with the men. Train leaves Back Bay station at 2:22 P. M. Round trip fare is 25 cents. B. Huber 1910, will have charge of the run.

Coach Kanaly wants to have at least as good, and if possible a better cross-country team next year than this year's team has proven to be. This will only be possible if a large number of men come out for the work now. The handicap race is especially for the new men, and they will receive sufficiently large handicaps to make it almost certain that a new man will pull first prize. The limit is time enough to insure about a mile start on the scratch man. Three prizes are given and the four men making the best times get their "cTe". Every one who has been out on the hare and hound runs will be in shape for this race and should not miss this chance of getting an Institute medal or his cross-country insignia.

## FIRE LAWS DISCUSSED

Graduate Addresses Architects On Construction

Last evening the Architectural Society was addressed by Mr. Everett 1877, of the Boston Building Commission on building law. Mr. Everett regards building laws as necessary to prevent encroachment on neighbor's rights and to ensure safety of the occupants of buildings. He brought out several interesting points in regard to theatre construction. The stage of the average theatre will act as a large fire-place if it is not separated from the auditorium by a fire wall. An asbestos fire curtain will last only five or six minutes in an ordinary fire, but the average theatre can be emptied in three minutes, barring panic. The only danger point is the upper gallery, for the upper part of the auditorium soon becomes filled with smoke. The speaker said the new Boston theatre was an example of good construction in that it not only complied with the letter of the law, but with the spirit also. A further point is that in a tenement house fire the common way of escape up-stairs and onto the roof is the most disastrous scheme that could be tried, because the most dense smoke collects at the top of the stairway and, soon after opening the shutter at the top, the stairway becomes a blast furnace.

At the close of the talk Mr. Everett answered questions of general interest, stating that the leaning tower of the Old South Church, had found its bearings and is now safe. Mention was made of the house at 50 Batavia street, which is slowly sinking into the ground. The speaker refused to go into detail with regard to structure, because of a certain fear of Prof. Swain.

At the close of the discussion Sherman 1909, and Bachelder 1909, entertained the society with music, after which refreshments in the form of a Dutch supper were served.

*Prof. F. Rubin*

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