

THE TECH

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CORRECTION

In the report of the cross-country run at Princeton, in the issue of last Monday, J. F. McCarthy 1909, should have been credited with 32d place, instead of W. T. MacCreadie 1911; MacCreadie did not run on the team. The times of McCarthy and Capt. Ellis should have been 37m., 3s., and 37m., 4s.

Hereafter The Tech will be put on sale at the lunch room in the Union at 12:30 P. M., on the days of issue, instead of remaining on sale in Rogers until 2:00.

Before the point system has had a chance to work itself out to its hoped-for efficiency it may be of interest to consider some of the objections that have been raised to the plan. The Williams Record comments on the Institute system as follows:

"It is a common thing to hear a sermon against the evil of sitting back and allowing the other fellow to bear the responsibility of undergraduate leadership. Every once in a while some one bursts forth in an invective against the many who shift the burden upon a few energetic men. An interesting departure from this custom of the mere exhortation is the scheme of the Institute Committee at M. I. T., placing a strict limit on the amount of undergraduate activities in which a single student may engage.

Unquestionably the effect of this limiting regulation will be to relieve the public-spirited student from the necessity of overloading his time with undue responsibilities, simply because no one else will undertake them; also it will rid the undergraduates of the undesirable office-grabber; but whether or not this plan, though based on the assumption that every man will probably perform the duties attached to his office, will inspire the hitherto irresponsible, easy-going shirker to brace up and take his part in affairs is not quite so certain. Honors which come easily are not prized highly, this scheme will make it simple for the average man to obtain a position of some sort or other with comparatively little effort. Will a man who can slide into office put forth his very best in performing his duties after he is elected?

"The plan is manifestly an honest attempt to relieve the few bearers of undergraduate responsibility of excessive pressure, which must be very great in an institution where the curriculum is so exacting as it is at M. I. T. Its success will be most interesting to colleges where the program of study is not so intense, but nevertheless where a few graduate officers sit up nights to accomplish work for a crew of drifters."

COMMUNICATIONS

Why cannot Tech have a college orchestra? Other colleges have one and the fellows who play get a good deal of fun out of it. If some violinist would start the movement, I am sure it would be a success, as I have heard a number express their willingness to play. Out of a school the size of Technology a good orchestra could be formed. I would like to hear the opinion of others on this matter.

Harold L. Robinson 1911.

With the winter concert less than three weeks away, the question naturally comes to mind as to whether anything has been done toward creating a new Tech song, either by writing new words for the "Stein Song," or by composing new music and words supposedly fitter for the subject they treat of. A prize was offered last spring for the best verse or verses to fit the music of the Stein Song, and as no results worthy of award were submitted within the original time limit, the contest was extended to a later date, and finally allowed to run over to this fall. Since the opening of the Institute very little has been heard on the subject, and no official announcement has been made as to whether the competition has been abandoned or is still in progress.

The question of the fitness of the "Stein Song" was one which by its nature could never be definitely settled. Certain objections could always be raised to it in good faith by people of one turn of mind, and could be laughed down or declared inconsequential by those taking another point of view. Some call it a drinking song and others say it represents the best side of good fellowship and beyond mentioning the word stein in the chorus, has nothing to do with the demon drink any way. A third class declare that drink or no drink, it is far and away the best that ever has been or ever will be written, and that it is an ideal college song, one that Technology should be proud to be connected with.

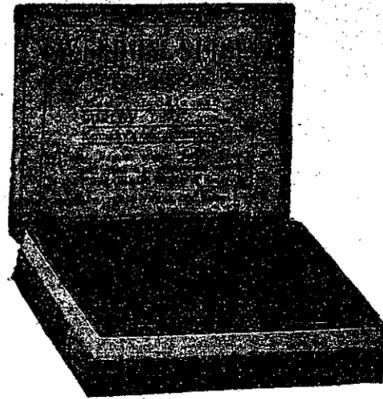
As for the other songs we have, many are good, some very good, but somehow there is none among them which can inspire the prosaic Technology student to jump to his feet and cheer or work for his Alma Mater. To sing of the fabulous deeds of an imaginary football team, which fights its way across the field to victory over Amherst, Brown, Dartmouth—who knows but Yale and Harvard as well?—only to be met at the side lines with the cold fact that it doesn't exist, and under present conditions is not likely to exist. Another warbles in tuneful rhythm of the joys of wearing out one's trousers on the long-suffering stones of Rogers steps—a place not so popular since the opening of the Union, and only to be celebrated because it was about the only spot where our predecessors could gather. Earlier lyrics treat of the value of practical training as opposed to classic studies, some respectfully and a few decidedly otherwise.

If the "Stein Song" does not fulfil the requirements of a true Tech song something should be written that does. If the competition is not over it would seem a good plan to make it known to the new men and refresh it in the minds of the old ones. If it has closed, let us hear the result. In either case there is hope for one good, inspiring song that will be recognized and sung on all occasions and by everyone as the real Tech song.

PHI KAPPA PSI—There will be a dinner for the members of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity at the Union on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 6 P. M. All Phi Psis at the Institute are requested to leave note at cage for H. MacCready, before Friday night.

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