

THE TECH

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Monday, November 30, 1908.

In order to decrease the amount of individual work and increase the opportunities for a greater number enjoying the work on The Tech, the news organization has been divided into three working units—one for each issue of the week. Under the new system the men on the staffs and the candidates will be required to work on but two days each week, and thus the amount of work is practically reduced to one-third what it is now. Each issue will be in charge of an associate editor, who is responsible for the complete assignment and editing of his particular issue, and he will be assisted by one or two news staff men and one-third the number of candidates.

At the same time that this scheme makes it possible to extend the advantages of experience and pleasure on the paper, it will be successful in preventing exaggerated individual work only if enough candidates are secured to do properly the necessary work. It is therefore hoped that a large number of men from all classes will recognize the advantage of the new plan and will enter at once the competition for positions on the staff. The managing editor will be glad to meet any men to whom the above appeals at the office in the Union.

The only editorial comment of our esteemed contemporary, the Somerville Journal, on the splendid appointment of Dr. Maclaurin reads:—

"Now that Tech has a Scotchman for a president, the Tech boys ought to get up a company of bagpipers."
Fifeful! is it not?

"Professor Maclaurin is a comparatively young man. His attainments are more than excellent; they are extraordinary, and few men of his years have won more flattering recognition from sources that bear the stamp of authority.

"Of course, mere scholarship, even of the highest order, is not enough to meet all the requirements of this new responsibility. His executive ability and his adaptability can be proved only by actual service. But Scotch scholars are thorough; their standards are high and shrewdness and personal tact are among their national characteristics. When Princeton called Dr. McCosh to the presidency, he was a man well along in years, but a famous metaphysician, and he filled the place with distinction. The Institute does not need metaphysicians, and the new president has not turned his researches in that direction. He has made great advances in modern science; he is learned in the principles of law and is undoubtedly an enthusiast with respect to the various lines of research with which he has been so conspicuously identified. The Institute authorities, the alumni and the public have a well-grounded hope that under his administration a new era of prosperous service will open up for this famous school."—Boston Transcript.

TECH MAN WRITES

George C. Whipple 1889, has just published a new book on typhoid fever which is regarded as a great addition to medical science. The book, entitled, "Typhoid Fever; Its Causation, Transmission, and Prevention," has an introduction by Prof. W. T. Sedgwick, who has recommended the work to his students in the biological course here at the Institute.

The current "Science" speaks of the new book as follows:—

"The publication of a work by a layman on a subject usually regarded as medical is something of an innovation, and a welcome one. It is curious that the preventable diseases, which from the prophylactic standpoint present so many aspects of a technical, but not a purely medical, character, have not been discussed more frequently by sanitarians in works, like this of Mr. Whipple, which are in a form which commends them to the general reading public. The medical profession has often been accused, and justly so, of being too secretive regarding medical affairs. There is an undoubted and salutary reaction within the profession against this policy of secretiveness, and books like Mr. Whipple's will help along this reaction.

"Mr. Whipple's work does not go into details regarding the purely clinical aspects of typhoid fever, but merely sketches this side of the disease, and relates for the most part, as the subtitle indicates, to the causation, transmission and prevention of the disease. These subjects are covered in a series of chapters dealing with the life history of the typhoid bacillus within and without the body, the lines of defense against its entrance, statistics dealing with the distribution and epidemiology of the disease, its relation to water supplies, and a brief chapter on the financial loss caused by its prevalence. Useful appendices deal with the use of disinfectants, the role of house flies in the spread of the disease, death rates, water analysis, the viability of the germ, and the literature of the subject.

"The work differs from most of those available to the public in the simplicity of its language, which can be understood by any intelligent layman. It differs from most medical treatises on typhoid fever in the emphasis placed on the transmission and prevention of the disease, and in wealth of statistical detail available to support the various statements. We could have wished that there was more in the book concerning what has actually been accomplished in the prevention of the disease when due to contact rather than water or food transmission. Koch's work at Trier, which shows what can be done to stamp out the disease under certain circumstances, might have been quoted. Though Mr. Whipple's profession naturally impresses upon him most forcibly the dangers of water and food transmission, he recognizes the importance of contact, but does not, we believe, emphasize it so forcibly as is desirable. In the main the work is an admirable one, and worthy of the highest commendation. Professor Sedgwick's introduction is an interesting historical summary of the development of our knowledge of the disease."

MACLAURIN LECTURES

President Maclaurin is to give the Jesup lectures of Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History at the museum, in New York, Wednesday evenings, beginning this week. The general subject will be "Light."

Prof. F. Rubin

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