

THE TECH

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Wednesday, December 9, 1908.

The Tech takes pleasure in announcing the appointment of Joseph Ignatius Murray 1912, to the news staff, and of Sidney Carlisle Neff 1912, to the business staff.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Editor of The Tech:—

The Institute is now undergoing a great transition. Whether she will emerge from it a rich and powerful university of engineering, or whether she will fall in the struggle with adverse conditions is as yet uncertain. The outcome depends entirely on the loyalty of the students, past, present and future, and upon her reputation for turning out men who do everything they attempt better than anyone else can do it.

Under these conditions no more important step could have been taken by the students of the Institute than that of entering major intercollegiate sports. A really fine baseball team could not help but strengthen the position of the Institute. It would show to begin with that the men of the Institute were proud of representing the Institute, a fact which the public (not without cause) is beginning to doubt. It would show that an engineer graduated from here would at least be likely to have a physique which would command the respect of his men, a consideration which is injuring the Institute not a little at present. It would give men a chance of representing their college without having to submit to the one-sided development demanded by the track. Above all, it would show the prep. school boys that the Institute men have some "spirit." It is this quality in a college more than anything else which attracts the best men to it.

The team might do even more. It might be able to aid the Institute as did the Carlisle football team some years ago, when it built the University a new lecture hall and gymnasium from the proceeds of its games. It would certainly have an influence in keeping the Institute in touch with the alumni through bringing the latter back to the games. A really good team would be invaluable.

If a good team will help the Institute it hardly needs to be said that a poor one will injure it. A half-coached, ill-equipped and unsupported team, well-whipped for one season, will disgust more alumni, cast more discredit on the ability of the students and generally injure the Institute more than any other one thing which could be devised. Everyone will agree, I think, that rather than this we should have better left things as they were.

What have we, however, done? All

men interested in varsity baseball are asked to sign slips. An enormous number did so. A meeting was then called. An attendance of about four hundred was expected and it was supposed that those opposed would be on hand to argue against the organization of a team. As a matter of fact, there were only about thirty men there. Of these one was opposed to the measures taken, but he said not a word. The men who had signed the lists, the members of the athletic association, the members of other teams and even many of our best ball players were conspicuous by their absence. Under these conditions it is not surprising that a team was organized by a body composed half of enthusiastic baseballists, and half of freshmen who did not know any reason for not organizing it.

Those men who were not at that meeting have two courses now open to them. They can express their desire to have that team abolished by writing to The Tech or the Athletic Association, if they do not write they must stand ready with every bit of their share of time, energy, and money to make that team the finest in the country.

I imagine some will do neither. If a very large number do not take the necessary interest to express their opinion, it seems to me that something is radically wrong with the education given by the Institute.

Will the man who cannot delay his lunch five minutes to vote on a question which may involve the honor of his Alma Mater, turn over his hand to save an employer's property? Will he ever contribute as an alumnus to the support of his Alma Mater? Should we, then, continue to graduate such men?

John Hamilton Ruckman 1909.

To the Editor of The Tech:—

A few years ago an effort was made to introduce the misspelling "thru" for the word through. This was supposed to be pretty well laughed out of existence, but of late has reappeared among the students of the Institute. Just how this corpse of a defunct folly came to be resurrected, it is not easy to see; but some trouble will be saved by students handing in written work to the English department if the writers will bear in mind that this freak of false orthography has never been recognized here.

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