

PURITAN PRESS

EDWARD W. DAVIS, '77 152 PURCHASE ST., BOSTON
 PRINTING LITHOGRAPHING ENGRAVING
 CATALOGS — CLASS REPORTS — COMMERCIAL WORK

ACCOMPLISH MUCH DURING PAST YEAR

Many Progressive Changes Point Toward Better Institute

Out of a year of important and interesting events the selection of a permanent president is by far the most pregnant with promise. The past administration, extremely popular with the students, has guided the Institute always onward and upward, and much is expected of the new.

The new site, not yet discovered, is at least definitely settled in the abstract. Dormitories in the very near future, is one of the new president's wishes. The future is bright.

The past year has produced many changes.

Like a bolt out of a clear sky came the announcement that Professors Swain and Clifford, heretofore apparently indestructibly connected with the Institute, were to leave and go, of all places in the world, thought the undergraduates, to Harvard. Prof. Clifford has given as his reason for leaving after 23 years of service, "Harvard's need of good red Tech blood." Prof. Swain's reasons are quoted at length in another column.

As always, there have been progressive changes in the departments. A research laboratory of Applied Chemistry that has already done effective work of commercial value, was started in October. The famous and respected

Albany Street Station of Sanitary Science moves this month to better quarters down the harbor where it will stand unique in the facilities for the continuation of its work. A half year course in Esperanto has been introduced. Gymnasium or track work in the freshman year is now compulsory. Non-resident Professor of Astronomy Percival Lowell gave a six-lecture course on Cosmic Physics to large audiences. A number of short elective lecture courses have been given during the year by way of supplementing some of the regular Institute work. These and the Lowell Institute, Society of Arts, and Professional Society lectures have given the men ample opportunity to gain much practical and detailed knowledge of processes and subjects with which they will have to do later. It is satisfactory to be able to state that large numbers of undergraduates have taken these opportunities.

Dr. Schumacher came from Germany to give a series of conversational talks to advanced German students, that were well attended. M. Bertin, an eminent Frenchman, gave four lectures on certain aspects of naval architecture. A new option on the subject of Steam

Regular five-year courses have instituted in many of the departments. Men may now take the first year as regular four-year students, the work of the remaining four years being divided over four, or additional work with a view to receiving two degrees may be taken up.

Prof. Swain in his annual report earnestly advocated a permanent and compulsory summer school to be started in 1910. He reasoned that all field work could be done much better in such a camp than in the city during the winter. It is probable that such a course will be adopted next year, and this year's summer school, to be held at Rangeley Lake, will be the last of the old style that so many of the Institute alumni have attended and enjoyed.

The various libraries and laboratories are being continually improved. In particular a 500-kilowatt steam turbine has been added to the mechanical engineering laboratories, a modern seismograph has been given the Department of Geology, and a scleroscope has been given the Department of Mechanic Arts.

The old Technology Quarterly has been discontinued and merged into the Technology Review, which has been greatly increased in size and improved in quality. In fact, throughout the year a campaign has been in progress to make the Institute better known among the alumni, the undergraduates, and the public at large. Never before has the Institute been advertised so much, or so well as this year. Some of the students have organized a Press Association, each man covering one or more newspapers, and every bit of Technology news is sent to all the Boston papers and to some of the larger nearby cities. The Tech, hampered by lack of space has endeavored to develop new fields, and next year as a daily, will do so with a larger certainty of success.

Lectures and speeches made by various professors and by Dr. Noyes, Dean Burton, and I. W. Litchfield 1885, throughout the country, and the organization of new alumni associations, have all tended to make the Institute better known and more appreciated.

L. A. Ferguson was this year elected President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers; W. S. Snow 1889, President of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. These are but few of the elections of Tech men, news of which has come to us during the year past.

The Prize of Rome was won this year by E. I. Williams 1908, and many other Institute graduates, particularly in architecture, have been winning various competitions.

Technology professors are actively engaged in research work, which, by reason of its intrinsic value, and the pub-

licity given it by the Press Association, has gained the Institute much renown. Drs. Kalmus 1904, and Comstock 1904, have perfected a camera that convicts speeding automobilists. Ultra-violet rays and their use for the prevention and cure of disease has been taken up very successfully. Tests on full-size reinforced concrete beams have been carried out. Prof. Winslow has perfected a method of filtering dust from the air in laboratory work. Valuable chemistry research work has been done. Prof. Jagger has taken a trip to Japan and Hawaii to investigate volcanoes and earthquakes.

One of the Institute professors, by means of a graphical plot, has arrived at the conclusion that the Institute gives more general studies than any other technical school.

Among the important publications of the year are the "Register of Former Students," the pamphlet on the Mechanical Engineering Department, and the book for freshmen, "Concerning Technology," now in preparation. The latter describes all the Institute courses, and the student activities, with much advice and miscellaneous information of interest to men coming to the Institute.

Convocations have been held at various times at which enough men usually gather to well-nigh fill Huntington Hall. The convocation at which Dr. MacLaurin met for the first time the student body was by far the best attended. Every seat was taken, the windows were full, and standing room in the back of the hall and in the aisles was utilized. President Wheeler of California, a most interesting, appealing, and magnetic speaker, had the second largest audience.

At the last convocation, held a few weeks ago, President Critchet 1909, presented to Dr. Noyes a loving cup, given by the student body as a slight token of their mighty appreciation of his work as Acting President.

GEO. H. ELLIS CO.

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