ACCOMPISH 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 prominent 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 inductively 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 reason has been given the Department of Applied Chemistry.

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. Thane and the Lowell Institute, Society of Arts, and Professional Society lectures have given 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 was given the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

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 a degree may be taken up. Prof. Swain in his annual report earnestly advocated a permanent and compulsory summer school to be started in October. He added that 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 Bigelow 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 250-kilowatt steam turbine has been added to the mechanical engineering laboratories, a new astrograph has been the Department of Geology, and a spectroscopy has been given the Department of Mechanical 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 as 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 J. 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 and many other members of the Institute staff, all in various fields of science and engineering, have been winning various prizes and have made the Institute in all respects a powerful force.

Technology professors are actively engaged in research work, which, by reason of its intrinsic value, and the publicity given it by the Press Association, has gained the Institute much renown. Dr. Kalmus 1901, and Comstock 1902, have perfected a camera that converts speeding automobiles. Ultra-violet rays and their use for the prevention and cure of diseases have been taken up very successfully. Tests on full-scale reinforced concrete beams have been carried out. Prof. Winslow has perfected a method of filtering dust from the air in laboratory work. Valuable chemical 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 graphoid 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. This 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 gather to well-fill Huntington Hall. The convocation at which Dr. MacInnerny 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 Crichton 1880, 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.