

SOCIETIES FINISH NOTABLE SEASON

Classes, Activities, Clubs
and Professionals
All Busy

BIG ADVANCES MADE

**Union Opened, Point System Made
Night Before Abolished,
All in One Year**

The season of 1908-09 has been a notable one for the societies of the Institute in many ways, particularly because of the opening and use of the new Union, the efficient organization proposed and put into effect by the Institute Committee, and the growth and development of the professional societies.

The point system for the limitation of office and position-holding was adopted by the Institute Committee early in the fall as a result of agitation for some such measure last year. Values of from 1 to 10 points were assigned to each position, and it was announced that no man should hold positions totalling more than 10 points. When the system was tried certain modifications were found necessary, the most important of which practically exempted athletics from the rulings by stating that men holding 10 points or less in societies might engage in an athletic sport regardless of what total it brought them; also the value of certain offices was changed where the general opinion seemed to be that they needed it.

Of course such a system would be useless unless backed by the classes and organizations covered by it, but the

Institute Committee had little difficulty in convincing a majority of the students that it would work successfully. Opposition was strongest in the classes of 1910 and 1911, yet it now appears after a thorough try-out, that the results in those classes have been satisfactory, as indeed they have been all along the line. The system protects the student body from one-man domination, and the individuals from overwork. It also distributes offices, honoring and developing more men.

The classes have followed the usual routine fairly closely, but certain deviations from it are interesting. 1911 voted early last fall to abolish the "night before" rough-house at the Field, and 1912 finally agreed that no class flags should be flown on Field Day. The flag rushes of previous seasons had attracted so many stone-throwing hoodlums to the scene that the occasions had become dangerous to the contestants, and while it seemed too bad to give up a chance to show class spirit, the move was a wise one, and deserved the commendation it received. Both freshman and sophomore dinners were notable for the absence of the chairmen, each of the classes being apparently stronger on offense than defense.

The senior class departed from custom by holding its New Year's Eve celebration in the Union instead of attending some theatre in a body. Most of the men liked the change. It also voted to back its Portfolio Committee financially, a move which gave the committee sufficient confidence to bring out an admirable book without needing the guaranteed support.

So much has already been said of the Union that it seems unnecessary to describe it here. The dining room under student government has not been a marked success, but the experience gained this year will probably of value later on.

The use of the living room of the Union has been most gratifying. Nearly every noon it has been crowded, and a good number of men have been pres-

ent nearly all the time has been open. The Friday evening "Union Night" entertainments, either by a special committee, have been well attended and enjoyed. Among these may be mentioned the opening of the Cherokees reservation, and western cyclones, by K. Humphrey 1898, and "Banand" (Jamaica) by G. E. B. Putnam; a concert by the Musical Clubs; a demonstration of jiu-jitsu by Prof. O'Brien; "A Month in the Cannibal Islands," by Dr. Denison; Hook Night; talk on railway accidents and efficiency by James O'Fagan; on diseases and sanitary engineering, by Prof. Sedgwick; on old age pensions, by L. D. Brant; on the cruise around the world, Lieut. W. B. Tardy, U. S. N.; on democracy, by Rabbi Fleischer; on bank and banking methods, by President of the Shawmut National Bank; and on the young man in politics, by Dist. Atty. Hill. The last entertainment was the "open house" for the collegiate meet two weeks ago.

The "activities" appear to have passed through a successful season. The Show, "That Pill Grimmy" by Sidney A. Malcom 1909, was well received at every one of its five performances, and was considered notable in both book and lyrics. Technique 1910 was a good crowd at the time of the show, and, barring its resemblance to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, it is first-rate book, and well abreast of standards set in previous years. The Prom delighted its guests, and the Meal Clubs earned their laurels repeatedly and got them, as those who attended the winter and spring concerts can testify.

The Tech has worked out efficient organization of its news, circulation and business staffs, and at last is ready to make the change to a day, which has been under consideration for at least two years.

The professional societies show a marked increase in their membership this year. As stated in Technique, the Architectural Society had 6 members, as against 53 last year; the Civil Engineering Society 176, last year 109; the Electrical Engineering Society 145, last year 121; the Mechanical Engineering Society 124, last year 83; the Mining Engineering Society 72; last year 42; the Naval Architectural Society 29, last

year 25; the Chemical Society 72, last year 54; and the Biological Society 34, last year 25. The showing of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Societies is peculiarly notable, as only juniors and seniors are admitted to them, whereas in most of the others sophomores may also belong. The societies have enjoyed many interesting talks on various phases of their professions. During the year the Civils have heard R. S. Weston 1874 speak on ground water; Prof. C. B. Breed 1897 on expert testimony; F. N. Fay 1893 on the Boylston Street bridge; L. Metcalf 1892 on the question of contract vs. day labor; J. S. Droegge of the New Haven system on transportation problems of New England, and F. S. Green on water-proofing. The Electricals have heard Prof. M. de K. Thompson 1898, on electro chemistry; L. A. Ferguson on the value of training; Frank J. Sprague on electric railways, and other noted electrical engineers. The Mechanicals have had several profitable meetings, and are about to affiliate with the A. S. M. E., the national society. It is worth remarking that the Civils and Electricals held their annual banquets and farewells to departing professors the same night, in the same building.

The locality and school clubs have done fairly well this season, and the Catholic Club has flourished. The Chess Club has increased its membership from 14 to 34 in one year, and is attracting considerable attention by its frequent meetings and contests. The Republican Club, organized under the auspices of the Republican National College League, turned out 500 men for the torchlight parade last October, led by a well-known Democrat and a suspected Socialist. One society has passed quietly away—the Civic Club is no more.

Limited space forbids the proper treatment of the Technology and Walker Clubs, the Review and the Quarterly, the Architectural Record, Cleofan, and many other organizations which are steadily at work for the good of the Institute and its students. The past year has seen growth all along the line, organization and development in many ways, and a general healthy activity, which with a good record of past performances, indicates even better things in future.



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