

THE TECH.

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It does not seem that scholastic ability at the Institute is appreciated. The leaders in athletics and student activities are known by reputation to practically all the students. This is entirely as it should be; but what about the men who are putting in their best efforts on their Institute work, and above all, what about the men who are participating in activities and, at the same time, are doing good work at the Institute? Ought not these men to get credit for their work in one field as much as in another?

At present, if an undergraduate wishes to get a reputation as a capable, efficient man and show what there is in him, he is practically compelled to go out for some activity. His work there, if it is efficient, brings him esteem and there is a very strong temptation for him to neglect his studies. Some men fall to this temptation feeling that excellent work on these studies is, in a way, wasted, and pay only sufficient attention to them in order to scrape through. On the other hand, quite a number of men have foresight enough to do, or to attempt to do, full justice to both their Institute and outside work.

All graduates are on the same dead level, for all their later employers know; all have done exactly the same grade of work at the Institute.

Perhaps the best way to remedy this state of affairs would be to publish a rank list at the end of each term, with the men in each year in each course ranked in order of scholarship. At present this is done with the members of the graduating class in a few of the courses, but this ranking is "sub rosa," and it spreads only by indefinite rumors. These lists would give both credit and discredit to whom they are due, and, it seems entirely probable that the result would be more earnest work by all, especially by those men who have started in brilliantly in their freshmen year, but who have soon slowed down with the feeling of "what's the use."

In publishing such a list, the Institute would not be doing something unprecedented. Such a ranking system prevails at both the Naval and Military Academies, which are famous for their efficient training, and in many other schools and colleges as well.

As a substitute, perhaps not quite so effective, it seems that it would be possible to publish the list of men who have done creditable work in each subject, as is done at present at Harvard, for example; and to establish an hon-

orary society corresponding to the Phi Beta Kappa at the academic colleges. This last system is that which prevails in the majority of colleges and universities in the country, and it is a source of wonder to many undergraduates why it has not been adopted here before.

That Spanish should not be a third year option is to many a hardship. Fifty-eight former students are now residents in Spanish speaking countries, almost as many more are in parts of this country where Spanish speaking labor is common.

Many men in the Institute are watching the phenomenal growth of engineering in the South and Central America, and they would like a knowledge of the language to help them in their expected work there.

The ruling of the faculty permits Spanish only as an extra study. There are few men who wish to spend time on extra subjects. Most men with full regular schedules cannot conveniently do this work in addition to the prescribed work, and fewer still wish to continue their school hours until five.

That the decision against Spanish is more than an inconvenience to the men, will be plainly evident from the diminution of numbers in the courses since the time when it was given as an option. In another column we print this data and a summary of the reasons for which Spanish was turned down by the faculty.

It seems a great pity that when other colleges and universities are encouraging the study of Spanish, we should discourage it.

SHOW DINNER

(Continued from page 1.)

activities which it considered suitable. Mr. Emerson also suggests the appointment of an alumnus treasurer for the Show, in order to relieve the business management of some of the work, and to give a continuity to the management that is lacking at present. In closing he urged all the new men to come out for the Show, in order to meet each other and get together in a social way.

I. W. Wilson 1911, business manager of this year's Show, the next speaker, gave a very interesting outline of the work of his department. This work consists in getting ads for the program, in making contracts for the advertising and printing, and in handling the tickets. In all this work exact track is kept of all expenditures and receipts, so that the financial condition of the show can be ascertained at any time. The work of the business department, in meeting business men in a business way, is both enjoyable and of future benefit, and Manager Wilson said that although several very promising men had answered the recent call for candidates in this department, there was still a chance for others, and he desired all lower classmen who have and ability, to come out. In closing, Wilson said that every man in the Institute should do enough for the Show in order to feel that he, individually has helped it.

Kenneth Greenleaf 1911, the stage manager, said that everybody ought to come out when the call for the principals and chorus is made in February. Even if the men think they have no chance, they should come out and let Coach Francis size them up. The stage department has to do with the production of the show, the conduct of the men on the floor and all that pertains to the performance.

H. C. Davis 1911, publicity manager, said that the work of his department consisted in getting the Show before the public. This is done by publishing articles about the progress of the Show from time to time in The Tech, the Boston dailies and the papers of other colleges. There is only one vacancy in

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