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DEAN BURTON IN FAVOR OF HONORARY SOCIETY

Establishment Of Sigma Xi Un- successfully Attempted Three Years Ago

Three years ago an agitation of a few students and some of the faculty very nearly resulted in a chapter of Sigma Xi being established at the Institute. However, the matter has since been dropped on account of the lack of interest of the upper classmen. Nevertheless, some of the faculty expressed their desire to have such a society and their opinion that this apparent lack of interest is the result of an insufficient knowledge of what Sigma Xi really stands for, and what it actually promotes. If our upper classmen once earnestly investigate the great advantages to be obtained by having a chapter here at the Institute, their lack of interest will be converted into an ardent desire. As men who must in the future associate with graduates of other colleges we should have the social and intellectual advantages that such a society would promote. This is the opinion of several members of the faculty, and in particular Dean Burton in his last report to the President expressed himself as follows:

The organizations in connection with the different courses of instruction encourage an interest in professional work, but it seems desirable that there should be some general society of upper-classmen which has for its basis, excellence in scholarship. At almost all of the larger universities and technical schools there are such honorary societies based on scholarly attainments, and their effect is very encouraging to the earnest student.

In every classical college and in many of the scientific universities there are chapters of the honorary Greek letter societies. The vast majority of these organizations are academic rather than scientific. One organization that stands out as being distinctly scientific is the Sigma Xi. This society was founded in 1880 at Cornell. The object of Sigma Xi is to encourage original investigations in science, both pure and applied, by meeting for the discussion of scientific subjects; by the publication of such scientific matters as may be deemed desirable; by establishing fraternal relations among investigators in the scientific centres; and by granting the privilege of membership to such students as have, during their college course, given special promise of future achievement.

Article II, Sec. 1 of the constitution of Sigma Xi states that:—"Chapters may be established at any institution offering courses of study in those subjects which it is the object of this society to promote, provided that these courses are substantially equivalent to the usual four year college course."

Article III, Sec. 4 states:
The following, and no others, are eligible to active membership in a chapter at any institution.

(1) Any professor or instructor of the institution who has shown noteworthy achievement as an original investigator in some branch of science, pure or applied.

(2) Any resident graduate who has by actual work exhibited an aptitude for scientific investigation.

(3) Any undergraduate in the fourth year class, or else in the class substantially equivalent thereto, who has given promise of marked ability in those lines of work which it is the object of this society to promote."

(Continued on page 2.)

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES MEET IN BOSTON

Sixty-First Annual Meeting To Be Held Here Next Week

At the invitation of Technology and Harvard, the American Society for the advancement of science together with its affiliated societies in mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, economics, anthropology and education—27 in all, will hold its meetings in Boston from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1 inclusive. These meetings, of which this is the sixty-first, are held at least once a year in various cities. The last meeting at Boston was in 1898.

The arrangements for the Boston meeting is under the direction of a committee of six members. Dr. Tyler of the mathematics department is president, and Mr. G. W. Swett of the mechanical engineering department, is secretary of this committee. The opening session is in Huntington Hall, at ten o'clock, Monday morning, Dec. 27. At this meeting the visitors will be greeted by President Maclaurin and Dean W. C. Sabine of Harvard, and then the retiring president of the society will deliver an address. The society will make the Union its headquarters during this convocation and most of the meetings will be held in the various buildings of the Institute. The group of societies interested in biology, medicine, and allied sciences will have their headquarters at the Harvard Medical School.

A very interesting program has been announced: special attention should be called to a popular address, free to the citizens of Boston, on the Hookworm Disease which is now so prevalent in the southern part of our country, by Dr. C. W. Stiles of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. The engineering section intend to make aeronautical engineering an especial feature of its meeting.

Many valuable papers will be read by men of the highest scientific standing. That of Prof. Walker before the American Chemical Society on the "Effect of Paint and Varnish Films on the Corrosion of Iron," will prove most instructive. The experimental work has been carried on in the laboratories of the Institute by Mr. M. T. Jones, Jr., an assistant in the research laboratory, under the direction of Prof. Walker.

The program for the entire meeting will be issued on Dec. 27, but the following events have been announced in advance:

On Monday—Address of welcome in Huntington Hall. Announcements. Organization of the several sections. Addresses to separate societies by vice-presidents.

On Tuesday and Wednesday—Addresses to the different sections by their respective vice-presidents.

The president of the society is Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford, Jr., University and the other officers are men whose names are by-words in their respective professions, including many from the Institute faculty. The object of these meetings is to bring men of science into closer touch with each other and with the latest developments in their own and allied professions.

COURSE III ISSUE.

The special course III issue of The Tech which will come out on January 8, will contain a picture of the seniors, juniors and sophomores in Course III. This picture will be taken on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 1:10:01 sharp, on Rogers' steps.

MR. ROBERT A. SHAILER TO TALK ON TUNNEL

Meeting Of Mechanical Engi- neering Society To Be Held Wednesday

The Mechanical Engineering Society will hold a meeting at the Union, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1909, at 8 P. M. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Robert A. Shailer 1873, who will give an informal talk on "Tunnels and Tunnel Construction." The talk will be illustrated with lantern slides and will be open to all students of the Institute who are interested in the subject.

Mr. Shailer was a member of one of the first few classes that graduated from the Institute and received most of his instruction in the Rogers Building, which at that time was the only building that the Institute could boast of.

Mr. Shailer is ranked as one of the greatest authorities on tunnel construction in the country. Many important tunnels are credited to his design. The most noteworthy of these are perhaps the East Boston Tunnel, the Scollay Square and Haymarket Square sections of the Boston Subway and the Belmont Tunnels in New York. This latter was a great piece of engineering work and for the satisfactory completion of it within three years, Mr. Shailer was offered a bonus of \$100,000. The tunnels were constructed well within the allotted time.

At present Mr. Shailer is consulting engineer for the Cambridge subway and for the great water aqueduct from the Catskills to New York city.

All course I men were invited to attend.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Advanced Course Described In Electrical World Of Dec. 16

The following is an extract from the Electrical World of Dec. 16, 1909:

"During the past year, the regulations for the degree of Doctor of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have been made more definite and have been placed in the hands of the board which also administers the regulations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The requirements for the degrees of Doctor of Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy have now been made substantially the same so far as the period of study and the candidate's attainments are concerned. The executive committee has voted to maintain two Austin research fellowships carrying a grant of \$500 each and the remission of tuition fees, which are now to be open equally to candidates for the degree of Doctor of Engineering or Doctor of Philosophy. In addition to these other graduate scholarships and fellowships are maintained, numbering 15 this year.

During the present year, 17 candidates for advanced degrees have been awarded fellowships or graduate scholarships. Two of these were for the encouragement of advanced study in Germany by graduates of the Institute, and the remainder for the encouragement of advanced study at the Institute.

The number of candidates for the Doctor's degree in Engineering and Philosophy have this year increased largely over the number of candidates

(Continued on page 2.)

INDOOR TRACK WORK PROGRESSING SLOWLY

Freshmen Come Out Strongest For Basket-Ball Practice And Track

Coach Frank Kanaly was emphatic in his statement that it is absolutely necessary for more men to come out for Indoor work if Tech hopes to win the Spring N. E. I. A. A. meet.

The freshman crowd was as usual the largest at the preliminary practice of the Indoor track team held at the Gym last Thursday; in fact the number of men from the other classes was woefully small in comparison.

The annual inter-class meet comes on January 14.

H. C. Albee, the manager of the sophomore basket-ball team expressed himself as dissatisfied with the way in which the Sophomores have been coming out for practice. The freshmen have excellent material and lots of it, and according to all accounts the sophomores will have to work hard and conscientiously if they hope to win the class basketball game.

Regular practice of all the teams was held on Friday. The freshmen showed good form, H. F. Johnston 1913, doing some particularly good work. During the vacation all practice will drop as most of the men are leaving Boston.

GREAT COMPETITION

The greatest competition that the Institute has ever seen is about to be perpetrated on the unsuspecting public of this community. Get into it! Mount your Pegasus and rise to unthought heights of poetical expression. Even though the lyric competition for the Show has absorbed the best energies of our poets, yet we hope to receive some brilliant verses, because of the desirability of the prize.

Below we give a beautiful jewel of lyric poetry, and we offer to the man who produces the best simulation or amplification thereof a handsome prize; but more of this prize anon. Here is the poem:

One out of three buys The Tech,
The other two both stretch their neck,
To get news when there's any,
Without paying their penny,
And The Tech they declare is a wreck.

The presentation ceremony will take place next Friday night at the Union. The ceremony will begin with a triumphal march of the whole Tech staff around the large room. During this procession the spectators will sing:

'Tis morn and the shadows of the night
pass away,
While the alarm-clock rings at the
break of day.

Following the triumphal march, the successful author will be presented with the prize—a plush-lined box of jelly-beans.

Send your doggerel now!

CALENDAR.

Monday, Dec. 20.

4:15 P. M.—Special Gym Team Practice—Gym.

4:15 P. M.—Basketball Practice—Gym.

3:30 P. M.—Hockey Practice.

Tuesday, Dec. 21.

4:00 P. M.—Senior Portfolio Ballots due at Cage.

8:00 P. M.—Gym Meet at Gym.