

# THE TECH

## DAILY

VOL. XXIX. NO. 71.

BOSTON, MASS., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1909

PRICE ONE CENT

### SHOULD STUDENTS GO INTO SOCIAL LIFE?

#### Opinions Of Faculty Given As To The Value Of Activities

"Should I go into activities?" This is a question which every man asks himself at some time of his course, and it is one which is likely to have a very great influence on his career. Many men would like to go into social activities but do not deem it advisable, others do not see the use of student activities, and some see nothing but the social life. To assist men who are now considering this question and to call it to the attention of others, The Tech has arranged for a series of interviews with members of the faculty and of the instructing staff in order to find out their opinions. The plan is to divide the interviews into four parts, according to the classes. In this number are published several interviews with men who are working with the Freshmen. An attempt has been made to get men from the different departments, but this rule has not been rigidly followed.

The general opinion of those interviewed seems to be, "it is advisable for students to go into activities, but —" A man should have interests outside of his work, and often the experience he gains from student activities is of value in later life. But it is almost certain that these are going to take time from his studies and each student must decide how much time he can afford to devote to outside work. In some cases too much time has been spent, and men have been forced to leave the Institute. On the other hand many men do not go out at all. In this as in all, it is wise to strike the medium. Some men can afford to devote more time than others, and each man must decide the proposition for himself.

Dean Burton expressed himself as being in favor of students' entering outside activities. He said, "I believe in students' entering college activities as far as they can do so without serious interference with their work. Athletics and various other student recreations are commendable. I think it is a great loss for a man not to take part in the social functions of the Institute. There is a tendency for students to be drawn into too many activities, the point system, however, has done much to remedy this state of affairs. It is a mark of character in a man to be able to do both things and maintain a proper balance.

It is undoubtedly true that social activities while in college, do benefit a man in his later life. Many men have been more successful because of their experience in college life and this perhaps is especially true in the case of managers.

It is desirable for a young man to participate in some form of athletics in order to keep in proper physical condition. If he omits this he is almost sure to drift into amusements which are harmful.

As regards the first-year men it is, to my mind desirable that they interest themselves in Field-Day and in inter-class contests. I do not believe in intercollegiate base-ball and foot-ball for Institute men as it requires more time than is consistent with Institute work. Track work is preferable.

There have been men at the Institute, who could succeed both in their studies and in social life.

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### LETTER FROM MR. J. BARRETT TO THE TECH

#### Disapproval Of The Faculty's Action In Dropping Spanish

Apropos of the action of the faculty in dropping Spanish as a general study, the following letter has been received from Mr. John Barrett, Director of the International Bureau of American Republics, who is particularly well qualified to speak on this subject. The Editor of The Tech:

Dear Sir: I have read with interest your letter of December 1, 1909, as well as the clippings from "The Tech," which you have kindly submitted to me with a request for an expression of opinion as to the importance of encouraging the study of Spanish in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

With due respect to the ruling of the Faculty as to the importance of the Spanish language in the course of studies of the Institute, I will say that the study of Spanish should be made compulsory, not only in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but in each and every college and university throughout the land, as well as in the high grade schools.

Here we have, within the bounds of our own hemisphere, eighteen independent countries of Spanish origin, with a population of 48,000,000, doing a foreign trade amounting to \$1,579,642,352, of which \$443,135,186 represent the share of the United States. Spanish is the mother tongue of these countries, their official as well as their common language, the only means of intercourse among themselves, and also with other people. There is, of course, in all of the Spanish American countries a number of persons able to speak one or more foreign languages, but these are found among the best educated classes, the highest social element, with whom the majority of those seeking employment for their capital or their energies, will have very little or nothing to do.

The Spanish speaking portion of America is the best field open today to American capital and enterprise. In the majority of those countries the soil is practically virgin, mining, but little developed, cattle breeding is in its infancy; there are railroads to be built, industries to be established, trade to be increased, and hundreds of opportunities for the man properly equipped with a knowledge of the language and a certain degree of proficiency in his calling of trade.

It is the knowledge of the language which has given the representatives of European houses in Latin America an advantage which hitherto escaped the American merchant or manufacturer; it is the familiarity with the Spanish tongue which will place the young American in a position to do in South America, Cuba, Porto Rico, the Dominican Republic, just as much as the European competitors, and even more, in view of his energy and more practical education.

Spanish is now a necessity, which will become more pressing as the time goes by and our commercial and social relations with Latin America grow more extended. The merchant and the manufacturer will need thoroughly to understand the wants of his customers and cater to them accordingly; the mechanical engineer, the civil engineer, the electrical engineer, will need it to facilitate and expedite his work by his abil-

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### TALK ON COURSE VI BY PROF. JACKSON

#### Freshmen Considering Choice Of Course Here About Elec. Engin.

The meeting held yesterday in room 6 Lowell, in which Prof. Jackson addressed a large number of men, proved to be very interesting. The subject of his talk was the desirability of men entering the field of electrical engineering is less desirable than the man who ably take advantage of the good points of Course VI is exceptionally large this year.

Prof. Jackson spoke in his usually interesting way. He urged the men to think seriously of the course that they would follow but still not to take it too seriously. In choosing a course, he said, in the main, follow your own taste, if you feel that a certain course presents a list of subjects that will prove interesting to you, then follow that particular course. In addition to that, consider, to a certain extent, the professors that you will have to sit under. Choose that course which you think has the professors who are interesting to you. Try to keep the dollars and cents idea in the background, to the greatest extent possible. Nothing is less desirable than the man who only works for what pecuniary advancement he may get out of it.

Then turning to the particulars of Course VI he said that in his opinion electrical engineering offered one of the widest fields of scientific research, that could be found at the present day. The men who graduate turn to one of three things after they leave their training school. In the first case, they enter the field of teaching, if that branch is taken up the men work, in most cases from purely altruistic standpoint, the idea of personal remuneration must be kept constantly in the background. Then they may also take up the branch of personal research or invention. There is a wide field here for all who have the qualities of courage, fidelity and loyalty to their work. The third field open to graduates is that which is by far the widest, work in general engineering companies. This sort of employment commands wages which vary greatly in amount. The best men are of course those best prepared by their early education. However, said Prof. Jackson in closing. In this work, as in all other, the best man gets the best position and the best man is the man who is honest with himself.

### INTERCOLLEGIATE NEWS

A Department of Scandinavian Languages has been established at Northwestern University.

"It seems peculiar that the demand for reform in the game does not come this year from the enemies of football, but from its friends. The action of President Lowell of Harvard in calling a conference with Yale is only an instance of this. The friends of football are the aggressive agitators for reform, and their action would seem to indicate that they fear for the very existence of the game and are rallying to its defence. There certainly can be no doubt to the layman's mind that the strongest defence that the friends of the game can give it is a promise of radical revision." —The Dartmouth.

### TO HOLD FIRST MEET OF SEASON TONIGHT

#### Feature Of Gym. Team Affair To Be Boxing And Flying Ring Events

Next Tuesday the Gym Team will hold their first meet of the season. It is to be a novice meet and any one in the Institute is eligible to enter. Coach Whiting promises that a number of new stunts will be tried, the most important being, the acts on the flying rings, tricks which have never before been given by a Tech team.

The boxing is to be far above the average, the blindfold boxing event adding humor to the more serious events of the evening.

Mr. Arthur Mather, heavy weight ex-champion wrestler of New England, will act as referee of the boxing and wrestling matches.

Among the other features will be the work of Zenas Crocker 1913, on the horse. There will also be stunts on the horizontal bars, club swinging, hand stand racing and tumbling.

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

#### His Note To The 1913 Committee Gives Reason For Not Coming

Owing to the fact that a misunderstanding has resulted from the statement published in last Friday's Tech in regard to the freshman dinner, The Tech thinks it best to publish the following letter sent to the dinner committee:—

Dear Sir: I greatly regret that an engagement of long standing will make it impossible for me to attend the class dinner on the evening of Thursday next.

I gather from your invitation that the dinner is not to be held at the Technology Union. This is naturally a matter of considerable surprise to me, but I suppose there is some good reason for the Class of 1913 not doing what they can to assist the management of the Union at a very critical age in the history of that branch of our activities. The whole purpose of the Union is to serve as a social center for members of the Institute; and if it fails in that purpose, it will most certainly be discontinued.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) Richard C. Maclaurin.  
December 10, 1909.

The Yale University Dramatic Association will take a trip this year, presenting "London Assurance" in the following cities: Washington, Baltimore, Orange, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford, Meriden, New York, and Poughkeepsie. For the first time in ten years the Association is to have scenery and costumes made especially for their play.

### CALENDAR.

Tuesday, December 21.  
4:00 P. M.—Track Practice at Gym.  
Senior Portfolio Ballots due at Cage.  
8:00 P. M.—Gym Team Meet at Gym.  
Wednesday, December 22.  
7:30 P. M.—M. E. Society Meeting in Union.  
8:15 P. M.—M. I. T. Catholic Club Meeting