THE TECH

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COLUMBUS OHIO SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT

John H. Gregory 1895 Engineer In Charge Gives Talk Before C. E. Society

The Civil Engineering Society held an interesting meeting yesterday afternoon in Room 6 Lowell. Mr. John H. Gregory, a graduate of the Institute in the class of 1895, Course I. and a very high authority in sanitary engineering, was the speaker, and took as his subject the Sewage Disposal of the City of Columbus, Ohio, this being the lecture he gave last evening before the Boston Society of Civil Engineers. Mr. Gregory was in charge of the entire design and construction of both the water supply system and sewage disposal plant, which latter is by far the largest and most elaborate system in the United States.

Columbus is a city of about 200,000 inhabitants and is situated at the intersecton of two streams which have very small flow in summer droughts, but rise to large proportions in time of spring freshets. Prior to the installation of these new improvements the conditions were very poor. The water supply was from ground water sources, but in the summer, water was pumped directly from the river, taking at some seasons the whole yield of the river. Then the sewage was pumped into the river just below the town where it stood for long periods of time in stagnant pools causing a grave nuisance. Frequent typhoid fever epidemics occurred, the most notable beng in January and February, 1904.

Beginning in 1898 commissions were appointed at different times to investithe matter and suggest improvements but all the suggestions were rejected.

In November, 1903, the final commission was appointed which for a year made very thorough investigations on a practical scale and finally designed the system which has been adopted and which consists of septic tank treatment followed by sprinkling filters and settling basins.

Two pumping stations were built to elevate the sewage to the proper height to be used on the filters. In the larger one of these, located near the filters, there are five centrifugal pumps which lift the sewage against a head of twenty-five feet. As the separate system of carriage is used, only the sanitary sewage is pumped to the beds, the rain water run-off being discharged directly into the river.

From the pumping station the sewage goes directly to the septic tanks which are six in number. Only three of these are generally in use at one time. The flow is regulated by sluice gates in a large conduit placed inside the north wall of the tanks. Four of these gates open into each of the four primary tanks. From the primary tanks, the sewage passes into the secondary, two in number, through a collecting and distributing wall separating them. Then from the secondary tanks they flow over a baffle wall and below a scum board to the filters.

The septic tanks are all constructed of concrete, are twelve feet deep and of such capacity that any particle of the 8,000,000 gallons which are discharged daily, will take eight and one-half hours to pass through, thus giving ample time for the deposition of a large quantity of sludge. Very little scum accumulates on the surface of the liquid, and this is all held back by the scum boards which are constructed of wood and rise and fall automatically with the height of the water.

HARD JOLT GIVEN MOVEMENT FOR HONOR SYSTEM AT TECHNOLOGY

Resolution Disapproving Adoption Of System By Overwhelming Majority

A severe jolt was handed to the advocates of the honor system at the Institute yesterday when by practically a unanimous vote the 450 students present at the mass meeting in Huntington Hall passed a resolution voicing their disapproval of the introduction of the system here.

As typical of many recent Tech affairs the meeting started thirteen minutes late. R. F. Goodwin, Jr., 1910, president of the senior class, presided. Ralph J. Haley 1910, a graduate of Princeton University, now pursuing advance courses at the Institute started the ball rolling.

Mr. Haley began by tracing the career of the system at Princeton, where it has been in vogue since 1894. So successful has the system been at this institution that but two cases have been brought to light in the entire sixteen years of existence of the system.

At Princeton each entering student is made to feel at his first examination that he is a compliment of the large system, and the system becomes virtually a part of the college itself. Through the governing board the freshman is made thoroughly acquainted with the system so that when the first freshman examinations take place, the student has become thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the system and is ready to work entirely on his honor.

Membership on this governing board is composed of the presidents of the senior, junior and sophomore classes, and two additional members of the senior class elected by the first three named. The duties of this board are two fold, viz: to try cases of suspected cheating, and to familiarize all new students with the workings of the system.

Under the system as exercised at Princeton a pledge must be signed by each student at the end of each examination, signifying that he has neither given nor received aid during the progress of the examination. By this document the man pledges his word of honor that he has not cheated in any way, thus reducing the presence of cheating to a minimum.

Upon entering the university the average student becomes afraid of the consequences of dishonest behavior in examination rooms, as portrayed to him by members of the governing board and other upper classmen. This feeling of fear, however, gives way to one of pride when the man attains his upper years, and from then on the man feels it his duty to impress other new men with the principles and working of the system.

In closing Mr. Haley suggested that as an introduction to the general adoption of the system at the Institute, it might be tried in the two upper classes, this experiment to be followed by its general adoption if the experiment proved successful. This speech was received with considerable applause.

The next speaker in favor of the system was Mr. Brewster, an Amherst College man, now studying at Harvard Law School. As in the case of the first speaker, Mr. Brewster prefaced his remarks with a discussion of the application of the system at the institution which he represented. He stated that the system had been in vogue at the latter institution for but four years, its adoption being the result of a long campaign, similar to the one now being carried on at the Institute.

Under the system as in practice at Amherst, faculty surveillance is at an end after the exam is "set"; that is, after the papers are distributed and general questions answered. In the estimation of the speaker the only advantage of the pledge was inhibitory, exercising as it does a restraining influence on the student.

The governing board at Amherst is chosen from the two upper classes, with the president of the senior class as chairman. The duties of the board are practically coincident with those of the Princeton board, but at Amherst there is a rule that the informer must personally consult with the offended before reporting a case.

The question of the moral issue was next introduced by the speaker. As generally understood at Amherst the function of the student body is to support the faculty, and the object of the system is not for the students to "run" themselves alone, but to work in hearty co-operation with the faculty.

As the system works at Amherst, guilty upper class men are expelled, while similar offences perpetrated by lower class men result in suspension. In all the cases at Amherst, however, the guilty men have returned to college and by their subsequent honesty succeeded in living down their original disgrace.

The speaker next read a letter from the editor-in-chief of The Amherst Student, in which the writer emphasized the fact that the system is now considered a part of the institution itself.

W. C. West 1911, a member of the committee of investigation recently appointed by the Institute Committee, was the next speaker in favor of the adoption of the system. He traced the general development of the system, showing its origin in Southern institutions, and its subsequent adoption in several Northern institutions.

The speaker presented extracts from a letter written by a prominent professor at Stevens Institute of Technology, in which the writer commended

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

In as much as there has been expressed considerable dissatisfaction with the result of yesterday's honor system mass meeting on the part of those who favored the system, it is only fair that they receive a little attention. Therefore, while the matter is still uppermost in everybody's mind it is well to bring it to a satisfactory as well as conclusive head.

To do this, The Tech will publish every day this week an honor system ballot. Send in one signed, indicating yes or no and leave in one of The Tech boxes or Institute mail boxes before 4 P. M. Saturday.

If for any reason you can not get The Tech ballot use a piece of paper indicating in full the required information, viz.:—vote, name, course and year.

M. A. H. S. DINNER OFFICERS ELECTED

Successful Banquet Addressed By Head Masters Last Night

Last night in the small dining room of the Union, the Mechanics Arts High School Club held its annual dinner and election of officers. In addition to the regular members of the club, there were present twelve high school seniors, making a total of forty at th dinner.

The election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows: President, H. O. Maxwell 1912; vice-president, H. M. Rand 1913; secretary-treasurer, A. J. Pastene 1913; senior representative of executive committee, P. A. Cushman 1911.

The speakers of the evening were Dr. Charles W. Parmenter, Head Master of the Mechanics Arts High School, Prof. William B. Carpenter, the Junior Master, and our own Dean Burton.

C. E. BANQUET

Particularly Interesting Speakers On The Program

The annual banquet of the Civil Engineering Society will take place this evening at 6.30 at the American House on Hanover Street. A very attractive program has been provided for the evening. Among the speakers are Mr. Lucius Tuttle, President of the B. & M. R. R., Albert F. Bemis, President of the Alumni, Mr. Homer Albers, lecturer in Business Law, and Professor Spofford. The Tech orchestra will be on hand to furnish the musical part of the program.

Cambridge, May 5.—Halley's comet is being charged, among a multitude of other things, with responsibility for the prolonged rainy, cloudy and cold weather, but the officials at Harvard observatory say they cannot see how the comet could effect the weather on this planet in any way, as it is too far away.

The bad weather is not abnormal, according to the Harvard observers, and of no more moment than the extraordinary spell of good weather in March. Owing to the succession of cloudy nights, the observers at Harvard have been unable to get any photographs of the comet since the first ones taken.

CALENDAR.

Wednesday, May 4.

1.30—Mass Meeting, ... Hall.
4.15—C. E. Society, 6 Lowell.

Thursday, May 5.

6.30—C. E. Society Banquet—American House.
8.00—Chemical Society, 6. Lowell.

Friday, May 6.

3.00—1913 M. A. H. S. Baseball, Tech Field.
6.30 P. M.—New York State Club, dinner and election of officers, Lombardy Inn.

Saturday, May 7.

2.00 Tech-Wesleyan Meet, Middletown.
12.00—1912, Dean Baseball, Meet in Union.