

## INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES ROUND OUT TRAINING

### Give Many Good Points In Relations Of Men To Men

By DUDLEY CLAPP

Student activities play an extremely important part in the undergraduate life at Technology, more so perhaps than in any similar institution, due to the fact that there are no dormitories. Situated as Tech is, the societies, teams, and other organizations are the only means students have for congregating and enjoying the "college life" which is considered such an essential feature of higher education.

Mr. Whitney, factory manager for the Weisbach Co., in a recent talk on factory management, commended college men particularly because, as he said, "if you tell a college man he's a chump he'll believe you," while other men do not take kindly to correction and have to be handled with gloves. While this may be in a degree the result of greater knowledge and a wider view, it is also quite largely the result of the training outside of the class room. A college student is often corrected and has occasion in his upper class experience to correct others, so that he realizes that the best men are open to criticism and are benefited by it.

Thus, one of the most striking advantages gained by the college man is obtained outside of his curriculum. At the Institute, the activities supply this feature of college training. They are, moreover, on a particularly democratic basis here, and there is little "wire-pulling" in getting offices. They have developed sanely with the idea of the greatest good for the greatest number, and, with the point system in working order, there is little necessity for anyone to be overburdened with outside work to the exclusion of studies.

A comparison of the activities on a basis of merit would be as odious as futile. The one which first suggests itself as an opening for anyone who care to go out is The Tech. With its many departments, there is room for a large number of men, and there is good experience to be obtained in each department. The practical training in the use of English is, perhaps, the most obvious advantage, and the training in management, particularly for those "high up" is also apparent. Not the least benefit to be derived from the paper is the opportunity to keep in touch with everything at the Institute. There is a good deal of satisfaction in knowing everything that has happened and is going to happen.

A former member of "The Tech" can look back upon his experiences in the "good old" days when the editor-in-chief and the managing editor practically wrote the paper themselves and then went down to the printers and worked until the "wee sma' hours" three times a week. It is also a matter of pride to recall the special issue on Dr. MacLaurin's election when two of the editors set up the "heads" themselves, borrowed a cut from the Boston Post at 3.00 A. M., after that paper had gone to press, and then stayed until seven o'clock when the force came on to print the paper. Those days of late hours, strange experience and flunks are largely passed, and the present management has systematized the work and divided it among the departments so that no one can now, with any reason, whisper The Tech in Registrar Humphreys' ear.

The largest activity at the Institute is the Show. Undergraduate in all its departments, it interests in many different lines. Bookwriters, lyric writers, composers, artists, singers, actors, dances, all are welcomed, while the management offers experience in the line of newspaper work, advertising, business, stage, and executive management. The object is "to promote good fellowship and student relations at the Institute and to bring together on a democratic basis men of all classes. The hundred odd men connected with the production get together and learn to know each other, forming some of the pleasantest associations in their course. The second object is to help athletics.

Technique combines much of the practice in writing and getting information of "The Tech" with the business training and experience. It is perhaps the most lasting testimonial to the undergraduate life at Technology and gives outsiders an insight into the activities here. The musical clubs, with their sixty odd members have been more important this year than ever before on account of the western trip which did much to advertise Technology.

The Institute Committee is a body whose nominal powers it is easy to state, and whose actual powers are more difficult to enumerate. A few years ago there appeared annually in The Tech the notice of an important meeting of the Institute Committee to have the picture taken. Largely through the effort of one Henry William Hoole, editor-in-chief of "The Tech" in 1907-08, this body was aroused from its lethargy. This year it has been more active than ever before, the monthly meetings having been changed to fortnightly and carried through in a business-like manner. All matters of importance have first been sifted down by the executive committee, and then presented to the main body. The point system has occupied considerable time as well as the question of Institute mail, bulletin boards, and other routine work, but numerous other questions of more or less importance have come up from time to time and been discussed.

A movement was started early in the year to centralize the activities, the particular aim being to look after the financial end and to see that the credit of Technology was upheld. It has so frequently been found by students approaching a firm for advertising or for some contract that the firm had been badly treated by some other Technology organization and had formed an opinion of Tech from this. The movement finally culminated in a meeting of the business and executive heads of the leading activities and the election of an alumni advisory council to look over reports which must be submitted monthly by each organization.

Other activities at the Institute include athletics, which have been taken up in another article, the professional societies, the wireless and aero clubs, the various state and school clubs beside the secret societies. It is a singular fact which is noted by all who follow The Tech, Technique, the Show, the musical clubs, etc., that there is a certain crowd of students, technically known as the "live ones," who take an interest in all of these, and there is a certain crowd who take no interest in anything. Those who do take an interest in undergraduate affairs cherish the fond belief that they are doing a good deal for the Institute as well as themselves in forwarding the activities.

DUDLEY CLAPP.

## SANITARY RESEARCH

By C. F. A. WINSLOW

The Sanitary Research Laboratory and Sewage Experiment Station was founded in 1902 by an anonymous donor for the purpose of making experiments on sewage purification and other sanitary problems and of disseminating a general knowledge of the results of sanitary research. The work was carried on for six years at an experiment station on Albany Street, and for the last twelve months a new and larger plant has been in operation at Old Harbor Point in Dorchester. Five volumes of Contributions have been published and distributed.

The central problem of the station has been the purification of the sewage of the South Metropolitan District of Boston which must ultimately be called for in view of the unsatisfactory working of the present Moon Island outfall. A general plan of treatment by means of trickling filters with subsequent sedimentation and disinfection of the effluent was worked out and published in 1907.

In the course of these, and later experiments, light has been thrown on many points of general interest in regard to the chemical and bacteriological examination of sewage and in regard to the engineering details of sewage purification. The system of Gravity Distribution for applying sewage to trickling filters, devised at the Albany Street station has been adopted by many plants, the largest being at Mt. Vernon, N. Y., now just completed.

The most important single contribution of the laboratory to current practice is undoubtedly the demonstration by Prof. Phelps of the efficiency and economy of sewage disinfection by the use of bleaching powder. The adoption of this method enabled the engineers in charge of sewage disposal at Baltimore to reduce their preliminary estimates by a million dollars, and the procedure promises to come into general use wherever local conditions call for an effluent of high bacterial purity.

Aside from studies of sewage disposal proper, the members of the staff of the research laboratory have conducted investigations in regard to the utilization of polluting industrial wastes like those from strawboard and sulphite mills and in regard to the disinfectant action of acids and of copper salts. The last volume of contributions contains a somewhat exhaustive study of the possible spread of bacteria in sewer air carried out in co-operation with the National Association of Master Plumbers.

Still more recently the scope of the laboratory has been further broadened to include an investigation of sanitary conditions in the granite cutting industry, which it is hoped may lead ultimately to a comprehensive study of the important problems of industrial hygiene.

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