THE TECH

Published daily, except Sunday, during the college year by students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.


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All communications should be addressed to the proper departments.

Subscriptions $2.00 per year in advance. Single copies 2 cents.

Subscriptions within the Boston Postal District and outside of the United States must be accompanied by postage at the rate of one cent a copy.

Printed by Crooke Printing Co.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1910

Among the alumni of the Institute, we are proud to say, are men who stand at the very head of their professions, men who have developed their ability to the very highest point of efficiency. There are now at the Institute men of the same calibre, future leaders in the lines of engineering and research. These benefactors recognize their work here at the Institute the best opportunity for fitting themselves for lives of service. Strange as it may seem, there are others who appear to consider the four years at the Institute an object in itself rather than preparation for future usefulness. To these students let us make a part of the Matriculation Address, delivered this Fall by Secretary Anson Phelps Stokes of Yale University, his advice applies as well to our own students as to those to whom it was directly addressed.

The greatest hindrance to making the best use of a University course is a false sense of proportion. I can put the thing in a nutshell by saying that if the members of the Freshman class were today given the choice between a Yale "Y" or the key of Phi Beta, Sigma, or Sigma Xi, the majority would be likely to choose the house, while five years hence they would probably vote overwhelmingly the other way. This merely means that looking back from the standpoint of greater maturity, the value of scholarship is seen in right proportion. The secret of my own career was a careful study ten years after graduation of our opinions regarding the emphasis in undergraduate life. It was pathetic to see the depth of the regret of most of the men that they had not sooner appreciated the advantage of hard intellectual work, as a basis for future service. I beg you this morning to view things in right perspective, realizing that a perverted sense of proportion is the cause of most college failures and tragedies.

"It makes a man willing to indulge in the sentimental pleasures of the moment—forgetting the regret of every decent man for sin committed.

"It makes a man willing to neglect his duty—forgetting that he is throwing away a chance to fit himself for life's work which can never be repeated.

"It makes a man willing to stoop to unworthy practices to secure temporary popularity—forgetting that the enduring respect of classmates for honest worth is more to be desired than all social honors put together.

"It makes a man prefer the social good-fellowship—often a mistake—a few men of similar tastes and upbringings to broad friendships based on character and ability.

"It makes a man content with the easy attitude of the persistent and the cynical—instead of seeing that these must be passing phases in the onrushing world of evolution which is not satisfied with anything short of the Christian's faith.

"Yes, a false sense of proportion is the bane of the undergraduate, and largely responsible for sin, and laziness, and lack of independence, and embarrassment, and the attitude of carping criticism whenever those appear, and they are to be abhorred. They are not keeping with the main tradition of Yale, which has stood for purity, work, independence, democracy and faith—training well balanced, 'four-square men.'"

"I cannot urge you too strongly to get right standards at the outset of your course."

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