THETECH

COMMUNICATION.

We invite communications from all men in the Institute, on important subjects. We take no responsibility for their contents and do not guarantee that any may come in, whether they are signed or not.

To the Editor of THE TECH:

In view of the discussion concerning the establishment of Sigma Xi I should like to say a few words in favor of it. There are a good many of us fellows who reside within twenty-five to forty miles of Boston, who lose anywhere from two to four hours a day in riding to and from the Institute. This loss of time leaves little or no opportunities for us to take up collegiate activities, and the result is that we are considered as "grinds," or that we are held as a necessary evil of institute life, and something to be considered only when our votes are desired, class elections or the like. As no time is left for athletics, which is one of the qualifications for a frat, and as most of us lack a rating in Dunns and Bradstreet's, which is the other qualification, about the only evidence of our connection with the Institute, at the end of our four years, is our diploma.

Now we fellows at heart just as much Tech men and have just as much loyalty to the M.I.T., as the men who live in the immediate neighborhood of the Institute. It seems that we might have some reward for our eagerness to work, just as resident students are rewarded for athletic prowess and society.

As near as I can find out the chief arguments of this society and they who already belong to some frat, and it may be just possible that they do not wish to have their respective societies opposed in any way. As for the Alsonian, I think that they should have the chance to vote on this subject, but the time is rather short for many of them to do so, and as such a step might be advisable. The spirit should be to have this society, membership in which is to the scientific student what Phi Beta Kappa is to the same dignity as Phi Beta Kappa, where little key confers its lucky possessor a certain distinction, irrespective of his Alma Mater. Let us, then, maintain this fraternity here and strive to have membership in it stand for ability rather than for social and financial power. At present we have much fraternity and it should be a step toward a better Technology, rather than becoming a cause of the decrease of the social time between the students.

R. E. L.

To the Editor of THE TECH:

There seems to be quite an undercurrent of feeling against the establishment of Sigma Xi at M. I. T. Whether this is based on petty motives, or through ignorance of its workings, it is hard to tell. The writer takes the positive side of the question, from his knowledge of its workings at one of the large Western Universities where Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Delta, Phi Delta Chi and quite a few other societies of national importance were in a flourishing condition.

Membership to Sigma Xi is popularly understood to represent efficiency in research work. An engineer isn't engaged actively in research work unless research be defined. Whenever an engineer was elected to this Western Chapter of Sigma Xi it meant that the man was given his work showed prospects or being a credit to his university. Elections must be made by some committee whose personnel is not constantly changing, and so it naturally falls to a committee elected already members of Sigma Xi.

A distinction was made between a good student and a grind, and election usually disclosed the fact that the membership also excluded the very active members of the student body, for whom other societies were provided.

(Continued to Page 4.)

Macular Parker Company

CORRECT CLOTHES FOR STUDENTS made in our workshops on the premises and ready for immediate use. SUFF's from $28.

FINE FURNISHING GOODS

400 WASHINGTON STREET

STONE & WEBSTER

Management Association

STONE & WEBSTER

Engineering Corporation

CONSTRUCTING ENGINEERS

Burke & Co., Inc. :: Tailors

83 School St., Boston

1246 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

57 Main Street, Andover, Mass.

COES & STODDER

Desirable Shoes for Students

10 TO 14 SCHOOL ST.

DECEMBER 18, 1911