

# The Tech

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1917.

## NOT CORRECT

IN the Wednesday issue of The Tech, an article was published concerning a talk given by Huger Elliot, director of the department of design of the Museum of Fine Arts. The speaker was quoted as criticising the new Technology buildings. The information about this talk was taken from a reliable Boston paper in which the following verbatim statement was credited to Mr. Elliot: "It is inexcusable that Technology, which stands for the structural truth throughout the country, should have false columns on its new buildings." In some of the Boston dailies, this statement was reiterated.

From authoritative sources, we find that this statement is incorrect and was based by Mr. Elliot on rumor which was evidently never verified. Each of the columns weighs thirty tons and performs its supporting work in the colonnade as it was designed to do. It is deplorable that any man of repute should make such a statement, reflecting as it does upon this Institute of Technology, thus giving rise to an assumption which prejudiced or unthinking people may take for truth. The statement is gravely at fault.

## WANTED! 100 OARSMEN

BUT six weeks remain before the crews will be out on the river and only a few weeks after that the first races of the season will come. So far almost 90 men have signed up for the crew, but only a few of them consider the winter practice important enough to attend. Through the courtesy of the Harvard Athletic Association the oarsmen will be allowed to use the machines at the Newell boathouse on Saturday afternoon, giving opportunity for valuable practice.

The interest of the graduates has been aroused, but before they can be induced to follow the sport more closely, they must be assured that crew is an All-Technology sport—one which attracts the interest of a large number of men. The Technology Rowing Association wants 100 men this spring, and the management has planned to take care of this number. This in itself indicates that the sport is inclusive, and not exclusive.

The schedule is attractive and not elaborate. Every man who wants to row will be given a chance to try for the first crew, but wherever he fits in, he will have several races with men of his own strength and calibre. There are men at the Institute who would make good oarsmen. Let those who intend to make the crew begin the training now, instead of waiting for the open water when the season will be too far advanced.

## A CURIO

THE Collegiate Anti-Militarism League, which has its headquarters at Columbia, has just published the second issue of its official organ. The pamphlet is attractive in that the clever word-title "War?", written across the salmon cover, provokes, and at the same time dares, one to turn the pages. But that is all. The tone of the paper is foolish. What leads students who call themselves Americans to contribute to such evidence of supreme contempt for world conditions is something to ask of the stone image at Delphi. It is very noble to abhor militarism, but when it comes to the question of protesting that students should not enlist to be trained for the aid of their country, it is time to call for a laugh.

"War?" is a curiosity. It is "exhibit A" against a group of college men whose minds have wandered. We invite any who are interested in the work of this harmless and declining group to inspect the copy, which is to be seen in the office of The Tech.



Rarely do The Lounger's valetudinarian excursions among the office exchanges of his favorite paper bring to light so sparkling an expression of the spirit of the nation's youth as "War?", a confessedly antimilitarist publication whose terra-cotta cover recently attracted his curiosity as to the contents. The coterie which gives quarterly birth to this promising offspring comprises a minority, of, say, one, from many large institutions of instruction, and more small ones. The prevailing note sounded in the pages of "War?" in effect is that the spread of military training throughout the country, especially among college trained men, is to be taken as a great militaristic menace to the country and to the world at large. It is claimed in these breezy pages that Plattsburg, for example, is tending to give America "a policy of far-reaching military preparedness" while at the same time the claim is made that the Plattsburg exercises are mere baby-play, useless to make soldiers from untrained men. The subtlety of the editorial mind which can reconcile the two contentions was not lost upon The Lounger. The Lounger wishes he could give in full that gem among military articles, "Preparedness Camps," but must content himself with a few selected quotations:

"It is the same in our so-called 'military training' camps. . . . It is all bark and no bite."

"There are not any technics or tactics of war any longer. Napoleon at Verdun today would look like an operatic tenor heading a chorus on a stage. Today, warfare is (sic) science."

The scintillations of this young and uncaught military genius could be multiplied, but after these they would not startle. With unapproached openmindedness, resembling that of a blown egg, he ignores the fact that repeated German victories in the field for three years, against often overwhelming numbers, was anticipated by a system of annual war manoeuvres carried out under rigid rules, of which system the Plattsburg and like manoeuvres are as close a prototype as can be attained with small numbers of untrained men. Further is to be admired that noble attitude which sees in the swollen armaments of alien nations no danger: but in the efforts of his own country to emerge from a state of abject helplessness in case of war, discerns a great peril to the entire world.

Among the most interesting of the magazine's contents are several paragraphs "reporting" the progress of military training in the colleges, and especially attempting to estimate the chances of organized opposition to training among the students. The report on the Institute, written evidently by a veteran observer of fifteen weeks' standing, is worth retailing.

"The freshmen are generally for preparedness. A course in military instruction of two hours' drill and one hour military science lecture a week is required of all first year students by the State. Technology, I believe, receives certain benefits from Massachusetts in so doing. At the lecture Major Cole, the gentleman in charge of the course, spends the majority of the time discussing the 'good and necessity of preparedness.'

"The students who might have doubt on the question are usually swayed toward Major Cole's way of thinking, as they hear but one side of the case. There is, however, ample room for a change of mind among the freshman class, as many of them, I believe, have been too busy to think deeply about the matter." In truth, the rallying cry of the citizen who will give his life, if necessary, for personal immunity, is a noble thing to hear and to heed. At this piping time of incipient war it is a pleasure beyond description to view such sterling moral courage, only exceeded, in The Lounger's opinion, by that of a man who will honestly confess himself a coward. The Lounger refers, of course, to the conscientious objector, to which class the editors of "War?" undoubtedly belong (at least to judge from the orange cover and even more auferous contents). The Lounger is a conscientious objector; but were he, standing on the roof of a tall building and holding a loaded brick, to view the passage below of the editor and misspeller in charge of "War?"—were such his case, his arm would move of its own volition, and conscience with him would sleep.

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