

The Tech

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1917

A STIR IN ATHLETICS

THE agitation for the revision of the Advisory Council Constitution relative to the granting of insignia will not be settled until a decided expression of opinion is crystallized from the arguments of the pros and cons. As the situation now exists the six-inch varsity "T" may be awarded to members of the track, hockey, wrestling and tennis teams which present creditable records, the bestowal of the honor being arbitrary by the Council.

The swimming team has, within the past three years, made a record that is unimpeachable, and in accordance with the custom in parallel cases where such an attainment has been rewarded by granting the varsity "T," the same action should in all fairness be extended to include this comparatively new branch of Institute athletics. But, if a special form of letter comes into use in all sports up to the time any one sport graduates into a class which maintains a uniformly high standing, the emblem of all the less perfected teams should have the same form and degree of honor. The "T" would be a mark of honor whether or not enclosed in a circle as proposed by one communicant; it would not lose dignity by being so modified, and in our opinion the communicant taking this view has missed the essential point of the matter.

The issues involved are the settlement of what is a major, and what is a minor sport, and, if distinction is to be made, what type of letter shall be chosen. The numerous communications received on the subject indicate that it would be fitting for the Institute Committee to resolve the affair by calling for a vote through the issuance of printed ballots.

Two things that should not be slighted by the students who are keenly aware of their duties as students are the support of the annual year-book, *Technique*, and, in addition for the Seniors, the payment of class dues and selection of classmates to arrange for a Class Day without a regret.

In the field of transient flutterings of a student body aroused by unusual circumstances, it will be interesting to note the result of the recent petition of the Andoverians that military work may be compulsory drill for the remainder of the year.

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor of The Tech.

Dear Sir:

In the Friday issue of The Tech, under the heading of "Communication," is an unsigned letter, in which the writer intimates that Track, as the most consistent performer of all athletic activities, should be the only one to have the honor of a "T" bestowed upon its supporters. As each active will in all probability answer this communication, I shall devote myself entirely to the cause of the Swimming Team.

In her swimming team, Technology has a team which for two years has been absolutely unbeaten, and at that she has met some of the best teams the Eastern colleges afford. For these last two seasons the team has been

composed of practically the same men, some of whom have even supported the team for the full three years of its existence.

Next year's team will, unless unforeseen circumstances permit, lose none of the men who at present represent it. What other Institute team of recent years can boast of such a victorious record? What other team has had fourteen successive victories? I am afraid it would be hard work to find such a team among those which the Institute puts into the field.

Are not these men, who have brought nothing but glory to Technology, worthy of the honor of the "T"? To say that Travy, by its consistency, should be the only activity to obtain straight "T's" is selfish and ridiculous. A major sport should be that sport which can give prestige and honor to the Institute. The career of the Swimming Team is marked by no so-called fluctuations, and as things pair

it will not be marked by any fluctuations. We have material enough for a good team until the Class of 1920 is graduated.

Anyone thinking this over cannot fail to recognize the justice of it.

PAUL D. SCHEELINE.

To the Editor of The Tech.

Dear Sir:—I have noticed with interest and some amusement the rather startling communication in regard to insignia which appeared in the last issue of your paper.

The author of this article, who, by the way, does not give his name, very arbitrarily announces that the insignia given to the minor teams should be a four-inch "T" surrounded by a circle. If the gentleman intends making the emblem of the Institute ridiculous, I know of no better way in which he may succeed. What student at Technology would care to wear such a bullseye as he suggests? As an initiation costume, it would undoubtedly be original, but as a reward for faithful service to the college, it becomes ridiculous. If we are to have fanciful designs in insignia, I beg to suggest that the four-inch "T" with an integral sign beside it would be more appropriate.

If this were my only quarrel with the mysterious writer of the communication, I should not have taken the trouble to answer him, as I feel sure that the majority of the students in the Institute will see how ludicrous his suggested insignia would be. I take exception to his absolute neglect of the personal side of the question. Any man who goes out and consistently works for athletics at Technology, regardless of what branch it may be, certainly deserves some insignia which at least is not suggestive of a shooting gallery; and when a group of such men form a team and consistently defeat all opponents, they should be given some mark of distinction. The Advisory Council have, rightly I think, made provision for such cases in reserving the right to grant the six inch "T" to championship minor teams.

There is little enough interest in athletics at the Institute without reducing it still further by making ridicule the reward for faithful effort in a given sport. Let us continue to maintain the high standard of the "T"; let the restrictions on minor sports remain as they are; but above all, let us not wipe out all interest in other athletics by making track the only sport in which the six-inch "T" can be won.

LUCIUS T. HILL.

The Editor of The Tech.

Dear Sir:—Today's discussion in The Tech brings up for discussion a subject which is at present very hazy and indefinite. The award of insignia to the various Institute teams by the Advisory Council rarely arouses interest in the general student body, because the conditions of awarding such insignia are vague and not well known, and other than in special cases where there is agitation for special awards of "Ts," such awards are hardly discussed by the general student body. There is no doubt that much of the value of athletic insignia lies in the honor which such an award is thought to carry with it, and if the student body as a whole is not interested in the award of insignia, the value of such awards becomes very small, and the prospect of winning a qualified letter is not the inducement it should be.

It has been recommended that the so-called minor sports be awarded a "T" in a circumscribed circle, if their record is sufficiently good to warrant it. It may be argued against this that the circle is used merely to depreciate this insignia in comparison with the straight letter, and that it really does not represent anything; that the circle serves the same purpose as the present qualifying letters without identifying the letter as that won in any particular sport. I should like to make the suggestion instead that a straight "T" perhaps of smaller size or different shape than the present Varsity "T," and distinctive of each team, be awarded for especially good records in any sport, or better still, for victories over certain teams which are met annually, and are of equal strength with those of the Institute. Less successful teams would be awarded the old insignia for their respective sports.

Such an arrangement would leave the Track insignia as the highest to be gotten in Institute athletics, possibly with a provision that other teams may be brought to the same rank by continued excellence a sufficiently long period, as suggested by "Nevertell." I believe, however, that if each team were grant-

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