

# The Tech

Established 1881

Entered as second-class matter, September 16, 1911, at the postoffice at Boston, Mass., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Published tri-weekly during the college year by students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Contributions for The Lounger and The Tack should be addressed specifically to them at the office of The Tech.

Subscriptions, \$1.50 a year in advance, if paid before November 1; \$2.00 a year after November 1. Single copies, 5 cents.

Subscriptions within the Boston Postal District or outside the United States must be accompanied by postage at the rate of one cent a copy. Issues mailed to all other points without extra charge.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1917

### THE "T" CONTROVERSY

THE college letter on the chest of any athlete should mean that the wearer has given his best efforts to give his chosen school fitting rank among the contestants in intercollegiate sports. To obtain the varsity letter the aspirants of any given team should present a creditable field record—a record that should be of a consistently high grade character. Opponents to any plan which proposes to put track above the other Institute sports must admit that track, and only track, has unvaryingly clung to a favorable position in the competition with the leaders in the world of college athletics. True enough, there are men who have year after year gone out for the less successful teams and some consideration is their due for faithfulness, but the varsity insignia should hardly be accorded unless the victory is won.

A line should be drawn between what may be called the "major" sports—those which keep up the standard from year to year, and the "minor" sports—those which get results of an undependable nature. At all events no such gratuitous granting of the "T" as now exists should be continued indefinitely. Athletics in general are going to receive considerable support as the establishment of the new conditions which will allow greater freedom to expansion in the athletic department, become more pronounced. The matter is one which will not be settled in one week or two weeks; it will take perhaps a year, or two years, to fix the relative importance of the different branches of sports at Technology. It is a good sign that suggestions have already begun to appear, but only after considerable more thought is spent towards the perfection of a suitable scheme, will a definite decision be reached.

### THE MCKAY MILLIONS

THE following extract from the annual report of President Lowell of Harvard is interesting in that it shows the stand of official Harvard in considering the Technology-Harvard agreement:

The magnificent new laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were completed at the close of the year; and we are anxious to obtain a decision on our bill asking for instructions of the court in regard to our authority to make the agreement with the Institute. The hearing has been unavoidably postponed by the illness of the counsel for the trustees under the will of Gordon McKay, but new counsels are now preparing for a hearing as rapidly as possible. Pending a decision it is improper to discuss the matter here, further than to say that a co-operation in instruction and research has been provisionally established in the new buildings of the Institute, that it is working smoothly, and has resulted in an improvement in the instruction previously given in each institution.

So far the relations under the provisional agreement have indeed been to the decided advantage of both Harvard and Technology and we have no reason to believe that the ideals and sentiments that are characteristic of each are submerged by having the mutual courses in force at the Institute. The contention for the money under the Gordon McKay will is once more being argued in the courts and since the expenditure of the fund in a manner to strengthen the agreement will carry out the donor's idea, we feel confident that the decision will be favorable to the interests of the Institute. Under the present plan the scientific work of Harvard is appropriately carried on at M. I. T. while the spirit of Mr. McKay's wish is fully recognized and respected.

The millennium has been reached at Williams—judging by the fact that the college debaters are obliged to attend a training table!

### COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of The Tech.  
 Dear Sir:—The undergraduate who labors under the impression that the athletes at Technology are selfish and self centered in regard to their own team, is due for a pleasant surprise when he understands the situation that has arisen within the last few days.

The track team was allowed sufficient funds in its Budget to take only two relay teams to the Intercollegiate Indoor Meet at Philadelphia. Three teams have been formed however, all of such calibre that they will undoubtedly bring great credit to the Institute by their performance. Therefore the members of the first two teams have agreed among themselves to pay certain expenses out of their own pockets which naturally would be paid by the track team management and to put the funds so saved towards sending the third team to the meet. This action was likewise taken last year.

The swimming team in its budget was allowed funds to take two competitors to its Intercollegiate Meet at Philadelphia. At the present time they have four competitors who will undoubtedly win places in the meet. These four men would also form a relay team—a team so good that it would probably win the event. Knowing this situation, the management of the Wrestling and Hockey Teams appeared before the Budget Committee and explained that they might be able to cut down some of their individual expenses and would gladly give such money towards the sending of the extra swimmers to Philadelphia. This offer was gladly accepted.

The above two incidents serve to emphasize the point first introduced—that the Technology athletes are not selfish and are whole hearted in their interest as regards the welfare of Institute athletics. The undergraduates can show their appreciation of such sacrifices by supporting the teams in every way possible, both as regards attendance at all home meets and also by individually congratulating the members of any teams who achieve success. The athletes are striving heroically to represent Technology in a worthy manner. It is the duty of every Technology undergraduate to show that he appreciates such efforts.

### NEVERTELL.

To the Editor of the Tech.  
 Dear Sir—"Nevertell" in his last communication advances new suggestions for the awarding of letters to Institute teams. While they are about the same as those which I roughly suggested in Monday's issue of The Tech, there is one difference which I believe ought rather to be emphasized, namely, that it is my idea to make each insignia representative of the sport in which it is won. To grant a uniform "T" to all "minor" sports causes two objections to be brought against this scheme; 1st, that it is indefinite, and leaves room for discussion on what constitutes a minor sport and, 2nd, that it does not give the incentive that a particular characteristic letter would. In pictures of "T" men in the Institute, there would be no way of distinguishing between men of various teams, and it does not give the insignia the benefit of student opinion which a highly successful team would give to its characteristic letter.

Each team and its insignia should stand on its own merits, and until it is realized that the value of the reward depends upon the effort put into winning it, athletics at the Institute will not be at their highest possible excellence. It is generally accepted at all colleges that a letter qualified by sub-letters such as "wT" is less of an honor than the plain "T," therefore the latter insignia should be within the reach of all teams with a certain amount of effort. But each team should have its characteristic "T."  
 RICHARD O. LOWENGARD.

### WM. LYMAN UNDERWOOD SECURE FOR "PACK AND PADDLE" TALK

Next Wednesday evening "The Pack and Paddle" will hold the first meeting of the second term, when William Lyman Underwood, famous naturalist and lecturer on life in the woods, will deliver a talk on "Hunting with the Canoe and Camera in New Brunswick." The speaker, who has just returned from a trip to the Canadian Province, will show many interesting slides. As Mr. Underwood is planning to go South next week, the officers of the society consider it fortunate that he could be got for the meeting Wednesday and hope that a large number will be present to hear him.

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