



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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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.

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1917

#### UNIVERSAL TRAINING

**T**HE military history of the United States shows conclusively that the military policy of this country has not been altered or benefitted in the least by any of our great wars. We are no better prepared to carry on a modern war than we were prepared to carry on the Mexican affair of 1840. The strange part of it is that the cause of our inefficiency is just as evident today as it was then—the lack of trained officers and men.

We have seen that the great faults in our present military system are first, that it does not provide the necessary men for either regular or citizen soldier services; second, that it does not provide the class of men who can give the time for training which is necessary for proper results in a citizen soldiery; third, that it does not permit the practice in handling large bodies of troops in the field which is necessary that our officers may have experience and our methods receive a test; fourth, that it takes the men from civil life who are needed therein in time of national emergency and fails to compel the service of those who have no responsibilities and who should serve; and fifth, that it throws the burden of the defense of the nation upon a few men instead of dividing it according to prearranged and equitable plans in keeping with the principles of democracy.

There are many other faults in our system, but of lesser importance. The above are basic faults, and as such they should require an extreme remedy. Needless to state, that remedy is universal service. If we had universal service there would be no question as to the number of men ready at a moment's notice to defend their country. We would have available two million unmarried men 18 and 19 years of age, and nearly four million unmarried men between the ages of 20 and 24 years, from which to select. It would be possible to give those selected a year's continuous training at a time when their responsibilities were at the lowest point.

Having such a number of men in training for a whole year would enable us to concentrate and manoeuvre troops in a manner which would give our officers experience and enable us to test and perfect our system of administration and supply. It would make it possible to have trained and fully organized reserves, who could assemble at a moment's notice at the rendezvous where their equipment waited them. In fact it would divide the burden of our defense equitably and democratically, instead of making it depend upon the charitable or mercenary inclinations of individuals.

With universal service it will be possible to have adequate national defense; without it, it will not. If a man favors the proper defense of this nation, he must, to be consistent, favor universal service; only if he is willing to have the country incapable of defending itself properly can he oppose such a measure.

The present appalling lack of trained men and officers is daily more apparent as preparations are being rushed for what may come from the special session of Congress called for April 2. The Navy is calling for thirteen thousand men to fill the vacancies, and it is admitted in Army headquarters that six thousand officers will be chosen from among the privates who saw service at the Mexican Border. If the country already had a military system which approached that of Switzerland, the Army and Navy officials would not be confronted with the dilemma that they are now called upon to solve. At the beginning of the present war the useless slaughter of young and untrained English troops sickened the people of America. We have had examples enough, both from our own experience and that of others, to realize that compulsory training is the only means to the end of true preparedness. If the government will not make the younger generation put in a certain amount of training, the men of this class should take matters into their own hands to the extent of volunteering for such branches of service as Plattsburg, the Aviation Reserve, the Naval Reserve, and the like. In this manner an approach can be made to that state of compulsory training that should be in vogue now.



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Now that track work has replaced the older form of required gymnasium work at Tufts, a great deal of interest is being displayed in the sport there. The Tufts Weekly says: "The men have welcomed the novel way in which track work has replaced the old bugbear, 4 o'clock gym classes, and are fast developing a love for the sport for sport's sake." By following this scheme the Institute might coax out those undergraduates who are track men but "who haven't time to come out."

In Tyler '18 Tufts has a hurdler of no mean ability to replace the gap left by the graduation of "Ted" Lee last year. Tyler smashed all the low and high hurdle records at Tufts last year and has to be but three-fifths of a second faster to be able to equal the world's record.

For the benefit of the followers of the various colleges at the State Meet at Orono during the Junior Week at the University of Maine, the Maine Track Club has arranged to serve a dinner to the guests in the gymnasium.

As usual Boston won the interstate Y. M. C. A. track and field championship from the teams representing cities in Massachusetts, last Saturday evening. Two records were broken, Harrigan, of Boston, winning the 600-yard handicap from scratch in 1 minute 21 seconds, and Wilkie, of Providence, putting the shot 49 feet 6 1-2 inches.

Dartmouth has an acquisition in the half mile. He is Gorton '20, who won the 880-yard indoor run at the Hanover interclass meet in 1 minute and 56 seconds. Gorton was interscholastic 880 champion before going to Dartmouth.

The first step toward the long desired athletic field at Brown University was taken recently, when fifteen acres of land were purchased along Cole Avenue, and it is expected that the new grounds will be ready for use shortly. The building of the field will mean that enough people can be accommodated to warrant the college's playing the teams of any of the big colleges in the country. In view of the advertisement that the field will be for Providence, the city board of trade is backing the college authorities.

Because of illness J. H. Penaligan, of Winchester, captain of the Tufts track team, will be unable to complete his college course. Penaligan's specialty is the 100 and 220-yard dashes, he having placed with great regularity in dual meets the past three years. His loss will be a hard knock for the Tufts team.

News comes from Pennsylvania that Swarthmore will have a cinder track of her own this year. Several hundred students have volunteered to build a cinder track, baseball field, and accommodations for field events. The work is well under way, the students themselves patriotically wielding the pick and shovel.

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