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IN CHARGE THIS ISSUE

E. S. Burdell '20, Night Editor J. O. Bower '22, Assistant

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1919

THE WEAKNESS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Quite a storm of criticism is being directed at the methods and practice of instruction of our high schools and preparatory schools, together with their teachers. Much of it is justified. Principal of the indictments is that they do not teach their pupils to think. Many pupils when they come into engineering institutions find themselves at sea, unable to cope with the subjects they encounter. The majority of applicants arriving in this unprepared, half trained way force the entrance requirements of the college down, and consequently lower the standard of the curriculum all the way through, unless the students are carefully chosen, and either taught to think for themselves during their Freshman year or dropped from the rolls at the end of it.

The second point of criticism, although not so important, is also worthy of note. It is that the schools are not including enough science courses in their prescribed list, and that those that are given are such half-hearted affairs that the students find little preparation for college work in them. Besides this they are so little applied to everyday life, made so abstract, that the student little realizes that he is studying natural phenomena of the world in which he eats and sleeps and has his being.

Undoubtedly, if the High school is to fill its place in the modern school system, it must, above all, teach its pupils to think, teach them how to study and reason for themselves. And by all means let those who intend going to scientific schools have an adequate grasp of the fundamentals of the natural sciences they are about to take up.

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Technology's newest course, Applied Psychology, the third year general study ought to prove very beneficial to all students at the Institute. Primarily it is the science of mental phenomena. Today it is gaining more importance in the business world. Some people still retain the erroneous idea that psychology pertains to hypnotism, mental telepathy and the like.

Psychology has a very direct application in all walks of life, for example, law, medicine, education and especially

in business. As engineers we will find it of value to us when dealing with the human element, labor, with whom we shall continually be in contact. At the present time many large corporations are using psychological tests on all employees entering their service to determine whether or not the entering employees are of high enough caliber mentally. Salesmanship also depends in a large measure on psychology.

In the past it has been generally true that technical schools have failed to realize the importance of psychology as an academic subject, and it is to be hoped that this innovation on the part of Technology will prove successful. Psychology will fill the Institute's long-wanted need of a course in general science that can well broaden the minds of the students as well as have a practical application.

CONDITION EXAMS

There has been a rumor current around Technology during the past week concerning an impending change in the condition exams, that have been a regular feature of each examination period. This was verified yesterday by a statement from Professor Merrill to the effect that hereafter the condition examinations, that have been thus far held in June, will be done away with, and that a chance will be given to make up a deficient standing in a subject just before the beginning of each term, in March and in September. This step has been taken with the idea in mind of bettering the average of the marks received in these condition exams, it is sincerely hoped that such will be its effect.

VOODOO SOON TO APPEAR

The second issue of the Voodoo will be on sale at the beginning of the coming week. In order that there shall be no scarcity of this popular magazine, the number of copies printed has been increased to two thousand. The issue without doubt is superior to its predecessor since the experience derived from the first attempt has aided the editors in their present work. Copies will be on sale at the Co-operative Society store, the Walker Memorial, and in the lobbies of the Institute buildings.

Alumni Notes

The following letter was received from Capt. William R. Kales, U. S. A., 4th Air Park, 3rd Army, Coblenz, Germany: The Tech M. I. T. Cambridge, Mass. Gentlemen:

I notice in your issue of January 11th that I am classed with '91. My class was 1892. I never was in any other, and never had anything to do with the class of 1891 except to help lick them at football and tug-of-war and a few other things. Once before I was classed in some way with '91. Will you please look up the records and see how this comes about, correcting them so that it shall not recur in the future. In all other respects I have enjoyed THE TECH very much. (Signed) Wm. R. Kales.

P.S. Harry Nye Williams '92 made a splendid record over here in the transportation service. He organized the rail service in the occupied German territory and was president of the Inter-Allied Railway Commission. His work here at Coblenz was wonderful. About a month ago he left, headed for America. I cannot speak too highly of the work of George Gibbs in THE TECH BUREAU in Paris. We were certainly in luck getting such a man for the job. He is the first person I ever met who graduated from Tech, but I hope the dear old school will soon add a divinity course, if it can thereby produce more like him.

Please get the address of Murray Warner '92, and send it to me, if that is not asking too much of you.

Wm. R. K.

March 8-19.

WIRELESS SOCIETY TO HOLD MEETING FRIDAY

Lieut. Murray Will Speak of Proposed Radio Station Here.

An important meeting of the Wireless Society will be held Friday at 5.00 o'clock in room 10-275. Lieut. Murray, former vice-president of the society, who is here doing some research work in radio engineering, will explain positions which he has open for men who wish to teach radio in camps for boys next summer. He will also talk of the proposed radio station which is to be located in the room at the base of the large chimney of the power plant. There will be an election of officers. It has been suggested that the name of the society be changed from the M. I. T. Wireless Society to the Technology Radio Society; some action will probably be taken on this at the meeting Friday. Prof. Pierce of Harvard will give a lecture on wireless telegraphy in Kruff Laboratory at Harvard next Wednesday; the exact time of the lecture will be announced at the meeting on Friday and by posters. Members of the Wireless Society and members of the Electrical Engineering Society are invited to attend this lecture.

During the vacation a number of the Wireless Society went down to the Custom House and took the examination for a commercial first grade radio operator's license. The holder of this license may obtain a position on any ship afloat and several men expect to spend part of their vacation as wireless operators.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS AT TECH INCREASING

Students at Technology from other countries number more than ever before this year, there being about 150 in this group. There are notable increases in students from Russia, Norway and Spain, the numbers being 10, 11 and 5 respectively. England Denmark Greece and Turkey are the other countries of Europe represented at the institute.

In South America, Chile has been a country sending very few students here. A prime reason for this has been the existence of the government universities with free tuition. The advantages of education in the United States have been discovered through the investigations of a number of representatives, and there are now at the institute seven men from this southern republic.

Columbia equals its best previous record with four, while five other countries maintain their number of last year. Mexico has five men, and three Central-American countries have smaller numbers. Canada has not diminished the number of students notwithstanding the war. The Orient, represented by China and Japan, has some 50 men in the school, a number sufficient large so that there is a Chinese Club in addition to the larger, all-embracing Cosmopolitan Club, with its 25 nationalities.

Alumni personals, news of class and alumni associations, and other alumni activities will be gratefully received. The prompt arrival of such information will facilitate the work of the Associate Editor in making the department as timely and complete as possible.

INSTITUTE MEN TO FLY AT ATLANTIC CITY

Technology aviators, some twelve in number, met last Thursday afternoon at five o'clock and formed the nucleus of a new organization, which, although as yet not formally named, will aim to arouse interest at the Institute along the lines of practical ground aviation and flying. A committee has been appointed which will decide whether the constitution of the former aero organization is adequate to fill the needs of the new society.

There are about sixty aviators at Technology taking regular courses, all of whom are experienced flyers or observers. These men have seen service in either the army or navy, or marine flying corps, and in order to furnish them with opportunities to continue their study of practical aviation, the new aero society is to be organized. As the organization of this society progresses, there will without doubt, be openings for Institute men, who, although not already flyers, have a desire to learn more about the art. At present, men who have been in the air service will have the first chance at membership.

THE TECH has already printed several accounts of the impending Aeronautical Convention which is to be held at Atlantic City throughout the months of May, June and July. It is the opinion of many of our flyers that Technology should be properly represented in the Intercollegiate races which will be a regular feature of this event. An important phase of last Thursday's meeting was the discussion as to the immediate possibilities regarding the entrance of several Tech flyers in this competition. Doubtless there will be several machines to pick from, for communications are now being exchanged with a number of commercial companies. Both Yale and Harvard are entering machines and pilots.

In order to reach as many as possible of the sixty odd pilots, observers and balloonists, now at the Institute, an elaborate banquet is being planned to which these men will be invited. This event will take place next Friday evening, April 11, in one of the hotels in Boston, the exact place to be announced later. At that time questions concerning the Atlantic City project will be discussed and pilots designated to fly the Technology plane.

Men desiring any further information as to the banquet, or to any phase of aeronautics at Technology should communicate with Paul D. Sheeline, who has an office in Building One, in conjunction with Major Humphrey's.

E. E.'S WILL VISIT HARVARD HIGH TENSION LABORATORY

On April 10, the Electrical Society will hold a unique meeting. On the evening of that date, members of the society will meet at the Cruft High Tension Laboratory at Harvard to hear Professor G. W. Pierce, and to see his interesting experiments and lantern slides. The meeting will be called at 7.45 promptly.

Professor Pierce is a recognized authority on radio subjects and his lecture will be entitled "Modern Developments and Applications of Radio Telegraphy." This event will be of considerable interest to all Institute Electrical Engineers, for doubtless, much will be said concerning the phenomena present in modern high tension transmission lines, since this is a subject closely allied to that of radio telegraphy.

In addition to the visit to Harvard, plans are being made to procure as a speaker at a regular smoker of the society, Mr. C. W. Forbes, who has had charge of all electrical welding operations in government shipyards. This talk will be illustrated by stereopticon slides. Elihu Thompson of Technology and the General Electric Company, is expected to speak at a meeting of the society in the near future.

Many men have not yet come for their Electrical Society pins. The treasurer requests that these men call for them at once. The society itself has had to pay for about thirty-five pins which are as yet unclaimed.

TECHNIQUE INFORMALS DUE NEXT WEEK

Saturday, April 12 will be the last day to turn in informals for Technique 1920. There are a great many men who have not as yet given in their pictures. The management wants informals of everyone in every class, from the biggest Junior to the smallest freshman, and urges all who come within these limits to turn in some snapshots—humorous or otherwise, but at least informal—before it is too late.

NOTICE

A free ticket to the Prom will be given to the person submitting the best Junior Prom poster. Posters are to be of regulation size and should be handed in at the Information Office by 12 o'clock Monday, April 14.

WAY TO COLLEGE HARDER

"The statement made by President Lowell of Harvard that college entrance requirements are possible for almost any high school graduate is untrue. Our colleges make entrance examinations so difficult that Eastern boys have nowhere near the same opportunity for college as the Western boys," said John C. Brodhead, assistant superintendent of schools, yesterday, in discussing vocational training at the conference of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union.

New Ideas in West

"Out West there is every encouragement for high school students to go farther on. There are State universities, and even a junior college has been adopted in many Western cities. By attending these classes a pupil without any expense does work which will admit him to any college for the last two years. Another new feature popular in Western training is a course which fits boys and girls in two years for expert drug clerks."

Mr. Brodhead said that at the national convention of Vocational Education in St. Louis held last month nearly all the delegates advocated commercial training for pupils beginning in the eighth grade and also the rounding out of courses so that if a pupil was obliged to leave school at the end of a half or a full term he would be fitted for some work; that is, his course would be complete for that term and not merely an unfinished one.

"The two-year industrial course for those who cannot go four years to high school has proved impractical," Mr. Brodhead said. "Few boys enter school with the idea of not finishing four years, so nearly all elect the four-year course. The continuation school has become a popular one, too, and gives pupils a chance to get some schooling while at the same time they are getting experience in business."

After Leaving College

"Those who expect to go the farthest in life must be satisfied to serve an apprenticeship when leaving college," Dr. Alice F. Blood said, in talking on "Opportunities for Apprenticeship and Observation Given to Simmons Students." Experience must be obtained upon leaving college, and it is only when a girl has actually served as a dietitian in a hospital that she realizes her task, and a girl who intends to assume management of a school lunch room must actually take the responsibility before she is capable.

"Besides giving her a broad, general education, vocational training opens up for her the doors of opportunity, for which her college is not responsible."

Dr. E. H. Eldredge, director of the School of Secretarial Studies, Simmons College, states that the cry which always comes from business men and business firms is "girls with experience." The fact that her speed is better, that her ideas are the newest and that she is really capable makes no difference. To place a girl well she must have experience. Dr. Eldredge said that the only explanation he could see was the desire on the part of the employer to have a girl who could adapt herself to office environment and routine without hesitation.

Early Business Training

"Business training cannot begin too soon," Dr. Eldredge said. "Letter writing can always be brought in with English courses, and I must confess that even college graduates could easily afford to take courses in spelling."

As some of the studies now recommended for business pupils Dr. Eldredge mentioned proof reading, adding machine, study of time-tables, billing and letter writing.

In discussing the "Value of Apprenticeship," Dean Sarah Louise Arnold of Simmons College said: "Vocational training is splendid. We try in our courses to fit a girl to adapt herself to routine work, but human existence is bound to bring about all kinds of changes unforeseen. Education is no longer regarded as being complete when the pupil leaves the classrooms. Apprenticeship is now necessary and summer schools are an easy form of continuation education. The apprenticeship of the old days has passed away, but the laws still exist and Simmons College cooperating with the Women's Industrial Union is prepared to thus fit the girls for their vocations."

Miss Irene Keegan gave a short talk on "Possibilities of Training Students in Our Lunch Departments."

SOPHOMORES SHOW POOR CLASS SPIRIT

The Sophomore Class meeting scheduled for one o'clock Friday noon was more of a farce than a meeting. Six men showed up, the majority of these being officers. There is no real excuse for this. A notice on the main bulletin board told of the meeting three days in advance. President Young called the meeting to talk over Field Day, and it was to be an important one. Another meeting will be held Monday, the first of next week, at one o'clock in room 1-270. "Everybody" be there and show some class spirit. (pt. vol. 1919)