



Published semi-weekly throughout the school year, and weekly during the summer vacation by the students of the MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 19, 1918

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Subscription \$1.75 for the college year in advance. Single copies three cents. Business office, 310 Walker Memorial, Charles River Road, Cambridge, Mass.; business phone, Cambridge 7415. News room, 3 Walker Memorial; news phone, Cambridge 7415; after 6 p. m. Monday and Thursday, Main 4734, 4735, 4736.

All material for publication must be in hands of the night editor by noon of the day previous to issue.

The Editor is always responsible for the opinions expressed in the editorial columns, and the Managing Editor for the matter which appears in the news columns.

Although communications may be published unsigned if so requested, the name of the writer must in every case be submitted to the editor. THE TECH assumes no responsibility, however, for the facts as stated nor for opinions expressed.

IN CHARGE THIS ISSUE

William K. Taft '22 Roger O. Ingalls '22

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1920

AN ENTERPRISING ACTIVITY

TOO much credit cannot be given those men whose ability and conscientious efforts have insured a bright future for Technology's Gym Team. Under the Spartan policy of the Institute towards a new activity of any sort, the early days of any newly instituted project are likely to present many serious obstacles, especially in the matter of financing.

A large part of the success of the Gym Team is due entirely to the untiring efforts and business like methods of Captain W. S. Humphrey '22, who is largely responsible for the team's organization.

AN UNNECESSARY NUISANCE

A GREAT source of inconvenience, to students and visitors alike is the flock of pigeons whose nests are built above the columns in front of the lobby and at the inner wings of the building. Their presence not only arouses disgust, but also requires considerable labor and expense in cleaning the steps and the windows of rooms 2-190 and 1-190. All this would be saved by a small and final expenditure to destroy the nests and put spike-covered plates in their places.

The Bulletin Board Committee is to be congratulated upon the outward signs of existence which it has recently displayed. There are many improvements possible in the matter of bulletin boards, a fact which the present committee has suddenly seemed to realize.

Owing to the unprecedented expansion of its business THE TECH has felt it necessary to increase the size of the Managing Board by the addition of two new offices; those of Editor of the TECH ENGINEERING NEWS and Chairman of the Editorial Board. The paper takes pleasure in announcing the election of H. C. Pratt '21 to the former and J. Rockefeller '20, to the latter office.

BEGINS NEW POLICY.

(Continued from page 1)

fore, students brought in any articles that they might wish to dispose of. This practically resulted in a cluttering up of the office with articles for which there was no demand. Many books were left to be sold that had been out of use at the Institute for some few years. Recently, however, these articles have been returned to

their original owners or disposed of by the T. C. A.

New Program More Practical.

When the news system is inaugurated, there will be on sale only those books for which there is a constant demand. Lists are to be obtained from the heads of the various departments, which will show what books are needed for the coming term. Any men who wish to dispose of books should bring them to the office, so that the demand may be supplied.

BEECHE TALKS TO MINERS ON CHILEAN NITRATE DEPOSITS

Gives Interesting Sidelights on Great Salt Fields

Eighteen men were present at a smoker of the Mining Engineering Society held last Tuesday in room S-310. George A. Beeche was the speaker.

Beeche was introduced by A. A. Brown '20, president of the society. He commenced his talk on "The Nitrate Beds of Chile," by saying that the nitrate industry is the most important in Chile because of the fact that the Chilean beds are the chief source of the world's nitrate. There are twenty-five beds in the northern part of the country where rain falls on an average of once in ten years.

These fields were discovered by travelers about 1810 according to Mr. Beeche, and the first extensive production of saltpetre was in 1830 when 8000 tons were mined. In 1913 the production was 2,700,000 tons. Curiously enough the amount fell in 1914 but in 1915 it rose again and in the years 1918 and 1919 the production was 3,000,000 tons. Chile receives an enormous revenue from the industry, eleven dollars per ton being secured. Beeche showed a cross-section of the country from the coast to the Andes, and showed the places where the outcroppings of nitrate occur. The speaker then gave a diagram of a cross-section of a deposit of nitrate and gave a typical analysis.

There are several theories concerning the formation of the beds, the first being the "seaweed theory" which states that the beds were made after a prehistoric sea had evaporated. This accounts for the great amount of iodine which is found in the salt. Other people maintain that the nitrate was formed synthetically from the air, while still others think that bacteria are responsible. Beeche showed the method of extracting the nitrate, illustrating his explanation with slides.

The nitrate, together with impurities is blasted out; men pick over the crude saltpetre by hand. It is then sent to the refinery and shipped away. The men who work in the fields are subject to a constant temperature of about 95 degrees, but they receive four to five dollars a day which is good pay in Chile. The speaker said that occasionally the men when paid off went to town and started what practically amounted to a revolution.

It is a curious fact that the gunpowder utilized in the blasting is made on the field from the saltpetre. Iodine is an important by-product of the industry. The nitrate is divided into two classes, the 95% and 96% pure. The former is used for fertilizing and the latter in industrial processes.

COPLEY SOCIETY IS TO HOLD ART EXHIBITION

The Copley Society has just announced definitely that its long rumored exhibition of works by Boston artists is to be held at the Museum of Fine Arts from March 9-29, 1920. The exhibition is to consist of oil paintings, watercolors and small sculptures by artists resident in Greater Boston, preferably works that have not been shown publicly before in this city. All works must be entered on regular entry cards, and the cards sent to the secretary of the Copley Society, 491 Boylston street, on or before Feb. 10.

Every work entered will be submitted to a jury consisting of members of the exhibition committee of the Copley Society. This committee will also serve as hanging committee. The committee reserves the right specially to invite works which it desires to have.

All works found not available for exhibition must be sent for by the artist or owner upon receiving notification of the committee's action. Exhibition Committee of the Copley Society.

Holker Abbott, Thomas Allen, Mrs. I. Tucker Burr, Frederick W. Coburn, J. Templeman Coolidge, Desmond Fitzgerald, Thomas G. Frothingham, A. W. Longfellow, '78, Frank Gair Macomber, Mrs. Everett Morss, Miss Helen G. Moseley, Mrs. William L. Parker, J. Endicott Peabody, Mrs. Calvin G. Page, Mrs. J. Montgomery Sears, Miss Martha Silsbee, Henry D. Sleeper, Joseph Lindon Smith, C. Howard Walker '99, Edward R. Warren '81.

GRAPPLERS START WORK FOR BRUINS AND BROOKLYN POLY

Meets scheduled with Brown University and Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute are to give the wrestling team a double-header trip the 13 and 14 of the present month, and incidentally offer an incentive for some intensive training.

The team came through its encounter with the Cambridge Y. M. C. A. Saturday evening in perfect condition. The feeling is prevalent among the men that two weeks of work without any intervening meets should make them ready to handle the best that Brooklyn and Providence strong men have to offer.

ACADEMIA SOCIETY MEETS

Academia, the freshman philosophical society, renewed its activities for the term at a meeting in room 2-137 last Friday. The meeting opened at 4:00 o'clock and was adjourned at 6:00. Extensive plans for this term were proposed and agreed upon.

Nominations for new officers were made and resulted in the re-naming, unanimously, of the present officers, G. N. Reed, president; H. P. Kurzman, vice-president, D. E. Lovell, secretary-treasurer and they will be re-elected in the near future.

The consensus of opinion was that several men have not been showing the interest they should and the membership committee has been given power to expel all members, who are not attending meetings and showing a lack of interest in the affairs of the society. It was decided to open the membership, which was limited last term to men in sections one and six, to all freshmen.

Academia will request Professor Croissant to talk at the next meeting on the subject, "The Underlying Causes of Political Corruption." Meetings are held on alternate Fridays in building 2.

CLUB DRAFTS CONSTITUTION

Work on a constitution for the Canadian Club was started at a meeting in the library of Walker Memorial. Clauses regulating dues and social activities of the Club were drafted, and an outline for the remainder of the document. A committee was appointed to consider and report upon the constitution of the Canadian Club of Boston.

PROF. WHIPPLE AND HENRY PINKERTON GO TO EUROPE

Henry Pinkerton '20, of Course VII, sailed last Saturday for Boulogne en route to Poland. He has been appointed bacteriological assistant to the Research Commission for the Laboratory Study of Typhus, under the auspices of the League of Red Cross Societies and the immediate direction of Dr. S. B. Wolbach of the Harvard Medical School. Mr. Pinkerton expects to return to the Institute in the autumn.

Professor Whipple '89, is sailing on the same boat to take up his duties as Director of the Division of Sanitation of the League of Red Cross Societies, with headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.

WALKER DANCE DATE PUT OFF

The much-postponed Walker Dance has been put off indefinitely, due to the difficulties the committee has met in arranging a date for the affair. As so many dances are coming in the near future, the committee has deemed it advisable to take this action for the best interests of all concerned.

A. A. CHOOSE S NEW MANAGER FOR VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

Joseph Greenblatt '22 Picked to Pilot Racquet Wielders

Joseph Greenblatt '22, of Dorchester, was chosen manager of the Tennis Team at a meeting of the M. I. T. A. A. last week. Greenblatt's election followed the resignation of L. W. Trowbridge '21. He had been assistant to Trowbridge when the latter was manager. C. W. Hildreth '23 has been chosen freshman manager for this year. The varsity and freshman schedules are ready, but there may be changes later.

The New England Intercollegiate championship matches will be played this year from May 10-12 at Longwood. The management has already scheduled seven matches for this year and one is pending with Bowdoin. The schedule follows:

- May 5, Tufts at Tufts.
May 7, Dartmouth at Cambridge.
May 8, Bowdoin at Cambridge (pending).
May 14, Amherst at Amherst.
May 15, Williams at Williams.
May 19, Harvard at Harvard.
May 22, Springfield Country Club at Springfield.
May 29, Worcester Tech at Worcester.

The freshmen have also planned a big season which include the following dates: April 21, English High at home; April 24, Harvard frosh at Jarvis Field; May 1, open; May 5, Tufts '23 at home; May 8, Andover at Andover; May 10, Milton Academy at Milton; May 15, St. Marks at Southboro; May 22, Exeter at Exeter.

M. I. T. ORCHESTRA DANCE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

On account of the "flu" quarantine at Wellesley the M. I. T. Orchestra has been forced to postpone indefinitely its dance which was scheduled for Saturday, February 14, in the Wellesley town hall. Although the Dean at Wellesley wished to go through with the dance, the physician in charge states that it would be unsafe to hold it at the present time.

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