

The Tech

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IN CHARGE THIS ISSUE

G. I. Carper A. C. Hampton

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1921

SPRING FEVER

NOW that the warm days are drawing near and the air is becoming soft we find ourselves attacked by an insidious disease. It is a baffling complaint, this Spring Fever, and its effects, at once subtle and potent, are most damaging. The symptoms are really humorous. We note a loosening of the knees which drops us into convenient chairs and then makes the legs unwilling to bear again the burden of the body. The frame becomes tremendously heavy and all movement demands great effort. The mind is vagrant and drowsy. The stone steps of the Institute become soft and the columns lend themselves admirably as pillows for the back. The bell that summons to classes sounds faint and hesitating, without that commanding note which marked it through two terms. The fresh air and the sunshine make the classroom unendurable and the blue haze of cigarette smoke induces a dreamy mood of happy indolence. Mentally we suffer sadly from this disorder for we reason away our tasks and duties with fatuous casuistry. And we delude ourselves with the thought that "The year's at the spring" and "God's in his heaven" and that since Pippa passed under these circumstances we shall too.

But to yield to Spring Fever is to die the academic death. For once we are become Lotophagi we are doomed to an epitaph of "F"'s in June. Resistance to the contagion of the season is an iron drill in self-control. When the knees flex in front of an easy chair they must be stiffened with a stoic will. When the broad steps of the Institute seem like a voluptuous divan in the warm sunshine and the very pillars beckon to "all ye who travail and are heavy laden" they must be shunned as a siren's song. Pacifism in the battle against this gentle indolence is fatal. We cannot point the perils of Spring Fever more strongly than Mazzini, saying, "Labor is the divine law of existence, repose is desertion and suicide."

A DIVERGENCE OF STANDARDS AT THE INSTITUTE

THE Mathematics Department and the Course in Structures have adopted the plan, which was instituted by the Department of English and History last term, of segregating those students who received credits in their work, in order that they may be put into a class where the subject is taken up from a broader and more advanced point of view. The idea is one which deserves the commendation of both the Faculty and the student body.

It is certainly inefficient to give instruction in such a manner that half of the class falls asleep because the course is not intensive enough, while the other half despairingly gives up the attempt to follow the instructor. Much better results can be obtained by giving different instruction to each group. Especially is this true of Technology, where there are as many entrants from other colleges as there are from the preparatory and high schools. If the standard here is to be kept down to a level to suit the men who enter as regular freshmen from preparatory schools, the others will find the work too easy to make worth while their transfer from other places of collegiate grade, and there will be a diminution in the numbers of such men. On the other hand, the standard can not be raised to a very great extent if men with only a high school training are admitted to the classes. There is no happy medium that can be struck, and the only possible solution of the problem, outside of making the Institute a graduate school, is to maintain a different standard for each of these groups. It is hoped that there will soon be other courses to follow the excellent idea that originated in the Department of English and History.

T. C. A. OFFERS POSITIONS TO ASSIST IN BOYS' WORK

Two opportunities are now open for undergraduates who are interested in boys' work, according to latest reports from the T. C. A. at the Cambridge Neighborhood House,

gymnasium duty can be taken up every Monday between 3:15 and 5 o'clock, and a similar position can be filled at the Margaret Fuller Settlement House in Cambridge, Thursdays from 8 to 10 o'clock evenings. Another opportunity is offered for work at the Frances Willard House in Boston.

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor of THE TECH:
In the article under the caption "Within the Law," which appeared in "THE TECH" of March 8, it is stated that "Plans for decoration and music and also complete for the affair in Walker Memorial on 'St. Patrick's Night.'"
Considering the fact that THE TECH claims to be the "official organ of Technology" and our Massachusetts Institute of Technology stands for American ideals which are non-partisan, would it not be better to recognize March 17 by its broader and truer name, "Evacuation Day?" I for one feel so.
Very truly yours,
MABEL WARREN SAWYER, '94

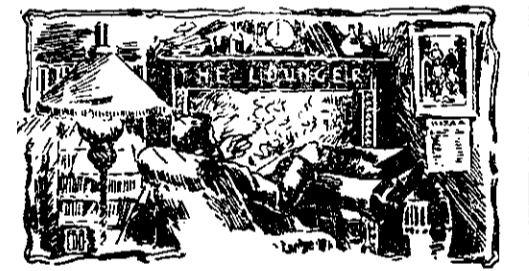
Alumni Notes

OPPOSES OPIUM TRAFFIC

Clancy M. Lewis '99 president of the China Club of Seattle, Washington, is helping the business men of that city in the fight against the traffic of opium with China. Attorneys in Seattle and in Washington D. C. are searching for loopholes, by which the United States may legitimately refuse to accept shipments in transit from England containing opium derivatives. In discussing the situation Mr. Lewis states great quantities of moonshine and cocaine are sent to the western ports and are then shipped to China on Japanese vessels. This trade threatens 400,000,000 people in China and 4,000,000 in the United States.

DISCUSSES CRACK PLAYERS

Edward V. Shepard '89 is still living the life of an undergraduate. In a new book entitled "Correct Auction" he has started discussing crack players and exposes the fallacies of many of the present customs. It is said that a little study of this new product will give the average player a better insight to the fascinating game. Mr. Shepard is also interested in re-stocking inland waters with bass and when he is not playing auction he retires to a small farm and spends the balance of the time going after the bass.



The Lounger at last agrees with THE TECH. The official organ said that this year's Junior Week would be the best ever and it certainly was. Best of all, he thinks, was the idea of having the prom proper follow Tech Show. It made the thing one grand and glorious evening and was a happy conception.

Formosa was rudely leaning over the Lounger's shoulder as he ground the above off the old Oliver and he remarked in confirmation that of all the proms he'd ever been to from Radcliffe to the University of Saskatoon this one at the Institute beat them all and won the tortoise shell rubber boots. Formosa has been to some proms too. Once he prom-naded at Charlestown State College, having been given an invitation to a thirty-day house party by a kind old judge.

Formosa then produced a letter which he had picked up in Machine Tool Lab this morning. It read like this, postmarked Northampton, Sunday night:—

Dear Jim: The train was a little bit late getting in here but I didn't mind the ride at all because I sat beside a very nice man who used to know you when he went to Tech. He said you and he had worked on THE TECH together and been great friends. I was a little bit afraid to talk to a strange man at first, but he was so interesting. Say, Jim, will you look in that bedroom I used at the house and see if I left my hand-bag anywhere around. I was sure I picked up everything but I can't find my bag.

I'm going to practice that new dance you showed me so that by next year I will be able to do it very well. Will you please tell me how you count for it. I forget whether "turn" comes before or after the third count.

That tall fraternity brother of yours was very funny. He told me I was very light on his feet and then asked me if I had forgotten to take my rubbers off. All this while he was dancing with me. Why do you suppose he said such funny things? Maybe he'd been drinking some of that queer-tasting stuff you said the chemical engineers made for you. By the way, Jim, why did you call Bill a "snake" when he cut in on you the second time. He was a very good dancer and seemed like an awfully fine fellow. He said he drew all the pictures in Voo Doo and he might draw some for Life if he got time. He must be very clever. I just adored his green eyes. Maybe it was because of the color of his eyes you called him that. Give all my love to the boys and keep the rest for yourself.

MINNIE.

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COES AND STODDER

10 To 14 - SCHOOL STREET

NOTICES for Undergraduates

Senior Class Day Committee meets this afternoon, Faculty Room, Walker, 5 o'clock.

All members of the Hockey team are requested to meet in 10-276 Monday at 12 o'clock.

Meeting 5 o'clock Friday, in T. C. A. office of all men interested in undergraduate employment. Ways and means of obtaining part-time work discussed, as well as summer work.

The Readings given by Mr. Copithorne in the Walker Memorial Library will be resumed Thursday, Mar. 31 at 6.45 o'clock. The subject will be announced in THE TECH Tuesday.

The Walker Memorial Committee announces a competition for membership on the committee. The competition is open to freshmen and Sophomores. Those interested will meet in the library, Walker Memorial, today at 5 o'clock.

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