

# The Tech

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### IN CHARGE THIS ISSUE

- John M. Keck ..... Arthur C. Hampton

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1921

### A SENSE OF HUMOR

**B**LESSED are the mirthful for theirs is the joy of heaven. This hitherto unpublished beatitude is born of a truth that is known to all who laugh. For truly there is something in laughter which so soothes the soul. No matter how stressed the mind may be nor how wrought the spirit, a tiny flash of humor will ease the tension and calm the pain like a miracle. Sorrow has no anodyne like mirth. Hence the man with a keen sense of the ridiculous is armed against suffering with a buckler that is impenetrable. When anguish or anger or anxiety prey upon his happiness he can rout these harpies if he will set his mind to seize on some element of humor in the trying situation. Life is a series of events of mixed qualities. In every happening there is some mirth-provoking touch; every tragedy has its funny side. And the man who uses his sense of humor to search out the laughable phase innate in human life sustains his courage and his hope with "heart-easing mirth."

Not only as a refuge from our griefs should we seek laughter but as one of the keenest pleasures we may know while this muddy vesture of decay doth grossly close us round. It is an expression of a joy that breaks through language and escapes; it is the quint-essence of delight. And few realize that our ability to laugh is largely the measure of our earthly happiness.

There is nothing more necessary to the long-suffering Tech man than a sense of the ridiculous, both to lighten his heavy burdens of worry and toil and to gladden his heart. It is so easy for him to be beaten down by oppressive tasks and to become dominated by a passive resignation to care. It is easy for him to fall into the habit of viewing himself as a Prometheus bound from September till June and to set his lips in the despairing cry, "Ah Woe! Alas! Pain, pain, ever forever!" And once betrayed into that attitude there is little joy left in life at the Institute. On the other hand it is easy to find much humor even in the daily round of work at Tech. For instance, when one is spending five hours on a laboratory report for which the catalogue allows one hour, instead of cursing, like Marlow's Faustus, the Mephistophilis who sells learning at such a price, try to picture just what sort of human slide-rule and engineer's manual combined would be able to do the work in the time allotted or ask oneself whether the profession is just trying to make the students think that he could do the report in one hour—in short, seek some funny angle from which to view your difficulties and enjoy that element of humor.

The man who is by nature endowed with an active appreciation of all that is comic has been abundantly blessed. To him we can only say, cleave to this faculty and enjoy it to the utmost. To the man who seldom laughs we offer the advice to foster and stimulate by exercise his power of perceiving the funny side of life. The Tech man can receive no counsel more helpful and pertinent than seek mirth, cherish laughter, and cultivate your sense of humor.

### FIAT LUX

**T**O all of us who have remained at the Institute after darkness falls, and who later leave through building 3, the need of a street light at the end of the driveway at Massachusetts Avenue is quite apparent. To those of us who have parked our automobiles in the space near the entrance, the need is still more apparent. There is quite a grade up the driveway, and one's headlights can not pick up possible obstructions in the way, such as loose lumber from the Pratt School, or indeed even the edge of the board walk.

Not infrequently the Institute Buildings are the scene of some social function or meeting which is better held there than in Walker. A number of those who attend these occasions are unfamiliar with the topography of the Institute grounds and need special aid in finding their way about. A fairly strong light at the driveway entrance would help considerably.

Quite a few autoists going up Massachusetts Avenue towards Central Square pass by the entrance at high speed, not knowing that there is in fact a dangerous intersection there. Danger of a

### COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor of THE TECH:  
The courtesy of THE TECH is requested to supplement the May Voo Doo editorial concerning "The little band of intrepid warriors which fights for Ireland's freedom from the vantage point of plush-covered, second balcony chairs."

These are the facts:  
(1) Father Duffy, Irish Chaplain of the famous 69th Regiment of New York, secured a hearing free from heckling for Sir Philip Gibbs.

(2) Many "noble little bands" of men aided war ridden Belgium and famine stricken Central Europe, but were not ridiculed. To ridicule an expression of sympathy for a country scourged by civil war indicates shallow thought or lack of charity.

(3) Carson said, "The Irish question is none of America's damn business." But why does England flood the United States with propagandists of the Sir Philip Gibbs type who try to explain in their "recent lecture tours" the Irish situation?

"Science is seeking after truth." Some engineers desire to be entertained, other-informed; but no engineer wants to be misinformed.

The editorial has been grotesquely entertaining but pitifully misinforming.

For THE TECH'S kindness in printing this communication, thank you.

JOHN W. SULLIVAN.

To the Editor of THE TECH:  
As many of your students are doubtless planning at this time to continue their studies abroad during the summer and next year, I shall be glad if you will call their attention to the facilities offered by the American University Union in Europe for their advantage at the London office of the Union, 50 Russell Square and at the Paris office, 1 Rue de Fleurus.

The Union pamphlet, Peace series No. 2, which I am sending you under separate cover, gives further details as to the work of the Union, and I shall be glad to send a copy to any student interested, who may send me his address.

J. W. CUNLIFFE, Secretary.

### CALIFORNIA CLUB MAKES KNOWN ELECTION RESULTS

At the California Club banquet held at Hotel Lenox a short time ago the results of the recent election of officers of the Club were announced. The winning candidates are as follows: President, Donald McCreery '21; Vice-President, S. G. Walton '23; Secretary, J. T. Nichols '22; Treasurer, B. G. Hinds '22; Executive Committee, H. C. Benedict '24; A. J. Kemp '24.

Discussion as to the possibility of a tea-dance was taken up, and the date for the event fixed for Saturday, May 21 in the main hall of Walker. The tea-dance, limited to 75 couples, is to be given for the benefit of the M. I. T. A. A. and tickets will be \$1.50, obtainable from any member.

### GRADE BUILDING GROUNDS

Since most of the outside work on the new Pratt Memorial Building on Massachusetts Avenue has been finished, the work of grading the space between it and building 3 has been going on for the past few days. The work is being done by a steam shovel and has progressed rapidly. When finished it is expected that the ground will be seeded down to improve its appearance.

### NOTICES

For Undergraduates

All those desiring copies of Technique 1922 can obtain them at the Technique Office any day this week at 5 o'clock. The same applies to men who have lost their paid-in-full signups.

I. C. A. A. A. track meet tickets for the championship meet at the Harvard Stadium, May 27-28, may sign up for them in the M. I. T. A. A. office. The price is 50 cents apiece.

serious accident is made all the more imminent by the so-called "safety-zone" on the car tracks, which forces vehicles in nearer the curbing. It is true there is a strong light on the opposite side of the street, but this is more a hindrance than an advantage as far as concerns our point, as it tends to blind autoists coming up the grade out to Massachusetts Avenue.

A pole could easily be set up just inside the driveway entrance on the Institute grounds, a suitable lamp and reflector installed, a conduit run to building 3 or the Pratt School, and the device connected in on the general flood lighting night circuit.

The cost would be small, and rendered insignificant when compared with the advantages of convenience to visitors, insurance against accidents, and the fact that such a light would mark a definite location of the night entrance to the buildings, to messengers and others whose business brings them to the Institute after dark.

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### C. E. SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL BANQUET IN WALKER FRIDAY

The final meeting of the Civil Engineering Society will be in the form of a banquet to be held in north hall, Walker at 6 o'clock, next Friday. Tickets are \$1.25 per plate and can be obtained from the society officers, from class representatives, and at the table in the lobby of building 1.

Leonard Metcalf '92 of the Alumni council, Dean Burton, Professor Spofford, and Professor Porter will be the speakers and a quartet, orchestra, and special music will furnish the entertainment.

### M. E. SOCIETY COMPLETES YEAR

The last trip this year of the M. E. Society will be taken sometime next week when they will visit the Boston and Maine shops and yards. The day has not as yet been definitely decided but Professor Fuller will be in charge of the trip. The Society has definitely decided that no more smokers will be held.

### COSMOPOLITAN CLUB WILL GIVE DANCE NEXT FRIDAY

Walker Memorial will be the scene of the much-heralded Cosmopolitan Club dance next Friday evening. Neither the orchestra nor the list of patrons has yet been announced. The decorations will not be extensive. They will consist mainly of laurel garlands and flowers. There will be a representative of the club in the main lobby every day from 12 to 1 o'clock selling tickets. They will sell for \$2.50 for non-members, \$2 for members and \$1.25 for stags. Preceding the dance several short plays will be presented by the Chinese students, aided by the Chinese students from Wellesley, New England Conservatory of Music, and Emerson.

### CATHOLIC CLUB DANCES IN WALKER ON SATURDAY

The sound of Bert Lowe's well-known orchestra, led by Bert himself on next Saturday will mark the beginning of the Catholic Club's annual informal dance in Walker. The patronesses are Mrs. M. O'Connor, Mrs. M. Cummins, Mrs. Henry Cunningham, Mrs. J. Scully, and Mrs. Ellen King. All those wanting tickets, can get them while they last, either at the Co-operative Society or in Walker.

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