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Although communications may be unsigned, if so requested, the name of the writer must, in every case, be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief. THE TECH reserves the right, however, to reject unsigned communications.

In Charge of This Issue

- P. R. Goldings, W. W. Dullely

Friday, December 22, 1922

PSYCHOLOGY

ON glancing over the new list of general studies offered during the second term, one senses the undercurrent of a liberal arts' influence at last making itself prominent, and distinct from the purely scientific courses which have, so often in the past, been included as general studies.

We note with satisfaction and interest that psychology has been added to the curriculum. In view of the fact that engineers, after leaving the Institute, will have to deal with men and analyze human emotions in a way that they have, perhaps, never before attempted; that they will have to judge, think, and act in a world of business and ideas; it is only natural that they should learn something concerning the laws of human thought in order to rightly interpret their impressions.

Industries are beginning to realize that the mind is governed by fixed laws, and the study of these laws is today playing a big role in determining, among other things, the suitability of men for certain positions. From this point of view a short course in

psychology should be highly beneficial and practical to many men.

The Institute has taken a step forward in the right direction. Time spent in studying psychology will never be regretted by any graduate of Technology.

THE CHALLENGE

IT is a relief to many to find the newspapers featuring less and less in their headlines the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. There has been a relaxation in the attitude of the public in its interest and apprehension of the Klan.

If we had nothing to guide us in our decision, it would be too early to predict that this nation-wide movement, like other disorders of our readjustment period, would soon sink into oblivion. We have, however, something on which to base our opinion. Both before and after the Civil War, we had similar organizations of "One Hundred Percenters." Many members of these societies had the interests of their country at heart, while others were nothing more than dissatisfied politicians who had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

This Ku Klux Klan movement is only a phase of intense nationalism which follows in the wake of every war and which today is evident in every country on the face of the globe. It cannot endure; it is founded on wrong principles. Any society which thrives on the fostering of race, color, and creed hatreds, no matter what its avowed motives may be, must meet a fate as unworthy as the very basis of its existence.

Five years hence, nearly every one now connected with the Klan will have disowned it. When asked about it, these same individuals, who now shout and cry its purpose, will blush at their connection with it. To those thinking men and women who form the greater part of our nation, there is this challenge, "If you can keep your head while all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you..." As they answer so shall they become or not become engulfed in this false doctrine, whose followers deny, in their very acts, the first principle of Americanism,—"Live and let live!"

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

"PASSING THE BUCK"

(From McGill Daily) "Passing the buck" is as old as history. Adam originated the idea when he placed the blame for his misdemeanor upon shoulders other than his own. Today the practice is prevalent in business where it is employed to facilitate the handling of matters not of sufficient importance to warrant personal attention by the executive heads. In this connection "passing the buck" is undoubtedly used to advantage. The men at the top realize that their time is more profitably spent when they are caring for what is incapable of management by those below them; they also take into consideration the fact that many items of routine are attended to in better fashion by a subordinate accustomed by experience to a mastery of the details.

At college the element of "passing the buck" is, possibly, even more evident than in the outside world, while its working presents a decided contrast to that mentioned above. In business it is systematized efficiency; in university it is, frequently, lethargy—an apathy to things in general, marked by a willingness to permit another to bear the load that is not rightfully his. Proof of this statement is to be found in the comparatively limited number of undergraduates who devote themselves to an active support of a particular activity; by the readiness with which the average man about college consents to the notion that students' affairs can be best controlled by someone who has merited confidence by his performance on some previous occasion but who, prob-

NOTICES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The Night Editor in charge of the next issue will be P. R. Goldings '25, telephone Roxbury 1465-M. All matters concerning the issue are to be referred to him. The next issue of THE TECH will appear Wednesday, December 27.

ably, has ample to occupy his spare moments without additional burdens. This tendency is relevant to athletics as to the holding of executive positions. In the executive itself the fault very often is that the principle of "passing the buck" is not competently put into force; a few undertake all responsibility, when if they would induce, as Admiral Sims so well emphasized the other day, others to share in the work and so to comprehend their responsibilities, they would render its execution less troublesome and more efficient.

A stricter reliance upon this rule of business conduct would aid those in student offices; while a lessened inclination on the part of the student body as a whole to allow their affairs to centre in the hands of a few would result equally beneficially.

BEYOND HUMAN ENDURANCE

(From the Daily Iowa) All endurance records appear to have been shattered by the Michigan student of recent newspaper fame. Not content with carrying sixteen hours of university work, he attempted the stupendous task of putting himself through school by working twelve hours every night. He wants an education and he is willing to sacrifice his health for it.

A will as strong as this would rule the world but for one thing, the frailty of the human body. Muscles and nerves cannot stand as unrelenting a pace as this without giving away.

There are many other students who are attempting the same thing, thinking they are exceptional in their strength and endurance. To be sure many of them are not motivated by the same desire, but the fact remains that they spend anywhere from 15 to 20 of their waking hours at work. Frequently this mania for work finds expression in campus activities. When this is the case the activity ceases to be an integral part of their education and becomes a positive menace to their well being.

The human body is not the unbreakable tool that many people would make it. It demands consideration, and if that consideration is steadfastly refused, it will cease to function properly. When that time comes, life becomes a task.

EAST IS WEST

(From the Daily Californian) "Westerners go to college for the fun of it. Eastern people go to college for culture, and those from the middle section of our country go in order that they may say they have been there." This is the latest professorial version of "Why Students Go to College."

If this is true, it would seem that university life on the Pacific coast is one extended party. The Eastern universities are overflowing with sorrowful scholarly long-hairs. The Middle West is evidently blank-minded.

But happily East is West and West is East, and both are Middle West. Students come to college for a well-proportioned development. Peculiarly enough the development of a college student includes culture, pleasure, and a degree. The locality of a university does not change the fundamental principles of college life, even though they may be camouflaged by sectional provincialism.



Santa Claus is coming again, and the Lounger is pondering over the kind of presents he has in store this year for him and the Institute. Be it F or double F, or a five dollar fine for "failing to comply with any or all parts of" the new registration system, the Lounger is intent upon enjoying his vacation, and he issues formal defiance to all opposing influence. Tabular views may come and go, but Christmas only comes once a year.

Just one more step in the evolution of our registration system. The Main Lobby looked like a country fair, a charity bazaar, and a circus side show last week. Only the men behind the tables did not employ methods of sufficient characteristic tact. Not even one used a megaphone to attract the men of his course thither. The only thing which the Lounger noticed as lacking was the smell of pop corn and the roar of lions. But the roaring has begun with the final exams.

It took the world a few hundred million years to reach its present state. So cheer up, the worst is yet to come. As evolution goes on, think of what the men of the year 299,777 A. D. will be paying for the privilege of registering—for by that time it will have been agreed that the only efficient way of ensuring that everyone register on time, is to make them pay beforehand. The Lounger is glad he is passing with the existing generation.

After thirty some years of deliberation, it has finally been decided to hold no classes on the day after New Year's. But the Lounger knew there would be a "hitch" some place. If you don't come back anyway it will cost you the proverbial and tritely prevalent phrase of five dollars. Now who would come back just to make a New Year's visit on his Registration Officer so as to be informed whether or not he has been selected to continue the Dance of Slide Rules? It looks like a deliberate scheme to make money, for the Lounger feels certain that the only effect will be to give everybody another day of vacation, and that they will stay home one day longer. Hold your ground, boys, and soon we may be able to effect a bargain whereby we can return a week later than usual for the trifling sum of fifty dollars or thereabouts!

Wonder what has happened to the little white cards that used to be filled out during each examination? Is this another "modus extinto," or have the professors committed the looks of our handwritings to their memories?

"HYPOCRITES" AT THE ST. JAMES THEATRE

In the revival of the "Hypocrites" one is sure to find a play of sound dramatic principles. This fact, together with the magnificent acting of the Boston Stock Company, which is endowed with a capable and artistic group of actors, tended to make Mr. Jones' play a live and realistic human drama.

There are no literary embellishments, no preaching, no problems, just a straightforward drama embodying human nature. The story deals with an aristocratic English family which attempts to prevent the marriage of their son to a girl he has wronged. The Reverend Linnell learns of the family's efforts to marry their son off to a rich girl. True to his doctrine of truth, Linnell forces a confession from them in a spectacular third act climax which brought the audience to cheers.

Linnell, as played by Mr. Gilbert, is a triumph for him. The production was beautifully staged and is another indication of the good work of the Boston Stock Company.

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