

Course VI and Its Alumni

By Prof. D. C. Jackson

(Continued from Issue of February 2)

By 1888 the number receiving degrees at graduation day was seventeen. Among those graduating were Chas. A. Stone and Edwin S. Webster, who soon after founded the partnership of Stone and Webster, which has become of international influence and importance in engineering, contracting and the operation of public utility enterprises. Mr. Stone has said that the establishment of their partnership was talked over and perhaps planned during their senior year. Among the other members of this class were Russell Robb who later became a partner of Stone and Webster, Wm. H. Blood, Jr., who also later became an important associate of Stone and Webster, Louis A. Ferguson, now vice-president of the Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago, and a past-president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, A. W. Jones, now Manager of the International General Electric Company, and H. W. Blake, now Editor of the Electric Railway Journal.

The next two classes were each about like 1888 in numbers, and from them came men like Hollis French, whose firm is the consultant on illumination, heating and ventilating in most important work of that nature around Boston, Francis R. Hart, Vice President of one of the great banks of the land and former Treasurer of Technology, Henry M. Hobart of the General Electric Company and author of several important treatises on electrical engineering subjects, Professor F. A. Laws of our own department, W. H. Merrill, President of the National Underwriter's Laboratories, Calvin W. Rice, Secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, L. C. Wason, one of the founders of the Aberthaw Company which does a large contracting business, and so on.

Such an enumeration could be continued class by class to the class of 1922, but space does not permit, and no one writer has a sufficiently comprehensive acquaintance to do justice to all of the nearly 1500 individuals who have received bachelor's, master's or doctor's degrees from electrical engineering work at Technology, and of the probably 1500 additional men who have been registered for one or more year's study of electrical engineering

at the Institute without taking a degree. It will be possible, in the space available to refer to occupations in general and to only a few of the individual men.

Graduates in Many Professions

Graduates of the electrical engineering course have gone into business and the professions quite broadly. As should be expected, the great majority are in consulting engineering practice, contracting, public utility operation, manufacturing electrical machinery and electrical devices, research, and invention relating to electrical affairs, but these branches do not begin to exhaust the list.

Amongst the electrical engineering alumni are distinguished lawyers in patent practice, and in general practice, teachers, artists, editors, bankers, merchants, doctors, farmers, brokers, examiners in the patent office, mining engineers, mechanical engineers, signal engineers, railroad men, sales managers, engineer salesmen, manufacturers of numerous products like shoes, boxes, soap, plate glass, drugs and steel, officers in executive and administrative affairs generally, and even authors of popular light literature.

Among the larger manufacturers of electric power machinery in this country, the General Electric Company has the greatest number of our graduates. President Gerard Swope graduated in 1895, became a cub engineer of the Western Electric Company at Chicago and went through all the paces to General Sales Manager and Vice President of the Western Electric Company, President of the International General Electric Company and finally President of the General Electric Company. Vice President A. G. Davis is of the class of '93; Dr. W. D. Coolidge, who made the capital discovery of means to render the intractable metal tungsten capable of being drawn into wire and thereby made the highly efficient Mazda lamp a possibility, is of the class of '96. Dr. Coolidge also invented the powerful X-ray tube which goes by his name. The list of members of the Technology Club of Eastern New York, (Schenectady) reads like a partial roster of important employees in the General Electric Company's works.

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this year. With the faculty's and student's attention called to the need of some dignity as it has been, a change to caps and gowns seems hardly necessary. We can be dignified without them.

A speaker at the meeting stated that an excuse for changing traditions was that times and conditions in Technology are changing. Most of us have heard some of the Professors sadly lamenting this fact. In fact, one Professor in charge of an engineering course devotes quite a time to a lengthy talk on these changes, in which he states some students use their heads for ornaments and pass in other's work. This, he claims, is deviating from traditions. Are we deviating in this manner by ornamenting ourselves for graduation instead of making ourselves examples of Technology Men?

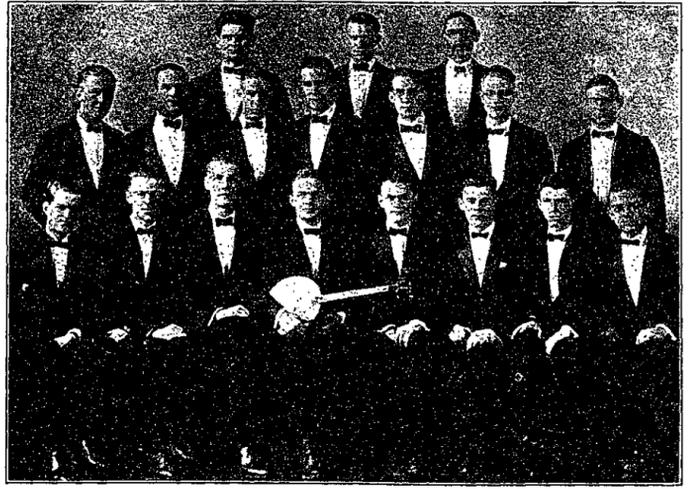
M. I. T. was founded and developed on different lines than any other institution, in the face of criticism and ridicule. Now that it has won international fame, must we discount this achievement by now patterning other schools?

Professor Moore, of the Chemistry Department, who graduated from Oxford, and is entitled to wear numerous decorations, appeared at an intercollegiate convention in business suit, when the representatives of other schools wore the decorations to which they were entitled. He lost no importance by appearing modest. Should the members of a graduating class wear caps and gowns, little deserving them in comparison to Prof. Moore, when he attends delegations in business clothes when other delegates are gorgeously decorated in caps, gowns, and ribbons?

A remark was made at the class meeting that caps and gowns must come, why not have 1923 introduce them? Must they come? And if not, then if 1923 wears them, what will be the outcome? If 1923 wears them, and all succeeding classes for a long time do not wear them, what position will the class of 1923 have? Will I, a member, have to say, "Yes, I am a member of the class of 1923, but I voted against caps and gowns." Will I be ashamed of my class? And if we are first in wearing caps and gowns, is it such an honor?

Most of us came here to learn, knowing that M. I. T. was not a place of show, and caring little for show and more for accomplishments. Our older graduates have succeeded without caps and gowns, and are proud of their class and Alma Mater. Will we be proud of our class, if 1924 and succeeding classes do not wear gowns when we introduce them?

The Banjo Club, Playing Friday



It would be reasonable to suppose that students, wishing show and grandeur, would have picked some other institution than M. I. T. Have we, in our class, enough such students who made a mistake in their choice, and who wish now to destroy Technology traditions and risk the reputation of their class to carry the vote? Is it not better to risk mediocrity than to risk ridicule?

In conclusion, will you and I, as members of the class of 1923, be ashamed of our class in after years, by merely casting a hasty vote for caps and gowns, because the faculty, who have long been entitled to caps and gowns, intend to wear them for the first time as a body at the inauguration of our President?

(Signed)

J. A. WINEMAN '23 II.

STOCK COMPANY SCORES AGAIN AT ST. JAMES

The Boston Stock company production of "Grumpy" took its St. James audience by storm Monday night. Mark Kent in the title role kept the house in one continuous laugh, ably supported by the fine work of Adelyn Bushnell and Walter Gilbert.

Thrills, romance, and comedy are combined with just that touch of realism that makes the play easy and enjoyable to hear and see. A mid-

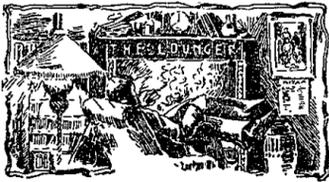
night attack, the theft of a world famous diamond, and the solving of the mystery by "Grumpy," the old criminal lawyer, make a fine display of dramatic art, while the romantic element and comedy included produce a play of almost universal appeal. Altogether, "Grumpy" has well merited the 500 requests that were made for its appearance.

"NAUGHTY DIANA" OPENS AT SHUBERT THEATRE

Monday night saw the opening of "Naughty Diana" at the Shubert Theatre. This piece is taken from a French play and this fact gives it a very spicy plot. The music is not very striking but is good enough to make it enjoyable.

The plot is the result of a "compulsion" that seizes the young husband at eight each night. He is forced to go out into the city's most immoral places to search for country girls that have had their dreams shattered and if they meet with his approval he adopts them as his daughters. At the opening of the play he has twelve and "Naughty Diana" is the thirteenth.

The beginning of the play is rather slow but we would attribute this to the fact of its translation for the rest is of much better quality.



After wading through the barrage of communications, laden with vindictive epithet, that have graced adjacent columns in recent issues of THE TECH, we become more and more convinced that the salvation of Technology undergraduate life lies with VooDoo. This may seem entirely irrelevant to the matter in hand, but a moments thought will convince that the humorous publication is a lifesaver.

In all the fighting over caps and gowns, the proponents of the idea vilify the reactionaries as "Brown Baggers" while they in turn are anathematized as individuals who wish only to "stick their noses in the air," as, gowned in haughty dignity, they join in academic procession.

The dormitory men are at outs with their executive committee, with the Dean and seemingly everyone else. They fall in behind office-seeking individuals who howl, "Everything is rotten!" They feel that the tactics of the Dean's office are those of meddling fools and the Dean's office considers the men in the dormitories arrogant and irresponsible brawlers.

In publications, athletic organizations, societies, clubs,—all is strife for positions and places which are honorary without honor,—which call for responsibility that fails to develop,—and for administration which is seldom realized.

If a press report about happenings at the Institute contains seeming inaccuracies, the fuss made about it would lead one to believe that the reputation of Technology was of such fragile and delicate texture, as to be fatally damaged by any reference to Technology other than a reverdy of the beauties of the setting sun shining gloriously behind the dome.

Now here's where VooDoo comes in. It refuses to allow the undergraduate to take himself too seriously. That ultra-serious feeling among undergraduates, that their actions are "wagging the world by the tail" is going to be dangerous if allowed to extend. So let's all of us, and especially Seniors, lift our eyes from the mire of politics and rivalry, take a look at ourselves and the rest, have a good laugh, shake hands, join arms and press ahead, to insure the happiness of the future Technology.

Communications

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of the impression the outside world has of Technology, that he was offered the presidency of some firm in preference to graduates from other colleges. If this is not the case, he had better drive some of this idle fancy from his head. Technology is still individual, but it cannot remain broad-minded with a narrow student body. Nothing develops in an atmosphere of stagnation.

The ring proposition failed only after a hard fight, but perseverance will conquer. A ring is something which could be worn out in the world, carrying with it a strong feeling for Technology. May Technology continue to grow, not so much in numbers, but in any way for its good. I believe this is the opinion of most of the Class of 1922 as represented by the Senior Week Committee.

(Signed) HUGH M. SHIRLEY '22.

To the Editor of The Tech:

There appears to be quite a little friction in the Senior Class. There have been accusations of "mud slinging" and "Railroading." We have been taught that we cannot rid ourselves of friction, and also that friction is a waste. So why not be sensible, expect friction and make the best of it.

First, our class officers are conscientious, hard workers. They are doing what they think best, and deserve applause rather than criticism. Why not give them some, instead of accusing them of "Railroading."

However, on the other hand, it is but natural for the class as a whole to resent having a question practically decided by a small group or committee before presenting the question to the class as a whole for a vote.

Therefore it is but natural to expect some criticism. Why not take it like men, rather than accuse the opposition of "mud slinging."

We all have our faults. Let us hide them as much as possible, control ourselves and use our heads, casting a vote Thursday in the way we deem best and say no more about it.

There seems to be some slight misunderstanding as to the vote taken at the meeting. The question on the floor at the time the resolution was made was, How are we going to get the opinion of the entire class? President Shaw suggested that a resolution in favor of caps and gowns be made, and when passed by the group there would be decided by a ballot vote reaching the entire class. Any fair man, understanding the resolution as just stated, would surely vote in favor of it. Quite a few, even though opposed, did so in order to reach the entire class.

Some of us are afraid our graduation will not be pretentious enough

THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cambridge, Mass.

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