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**RECOGNITION OF WORTH**

AS a compliment to the Institute and to the Department of Biology comes the announcement of the awarding of a Rhodes' Scholarship to Morris F. Shaffer '30, who is at present continuing his studies at the Institute. The scholarship makes it possible for Mr. Shaffer to study at Oxford as a representative of Massachusetts.

Besides having the distinction of being one of the four representatives from the New England States, Mr. Shaffer is the first graduate of Technology to be so honored. The award is made on the basis of breadth of interest and general knowledge as well as specialized interests and scholastic ability, and the winner is chosen after careful investigation of ability, personality, and the benefits accruing to society from broadening his educational opportunities.

Graduated last year from the course in Biology and Public Health, he came back this year for graduate work and to take the position of assistant in the instruction of bacteriology. He has gained respect and admiration in the Department, and has been an officer of the Sedgwick Biological Society. While supporting himself he has attended Technology with the aid of a scholarship, which makes his accomplishment a notable one. Technology is fortunate to gain the distinction of including a Rhodes Scholar among its graduates.

**FILLING WHITING'S SHOES**

THE retirement of Mr. Arthur Whiting from active participation in public concert work has been the occasion of great regret among the half-dozen colleges which used to form the "circuit" of his tours. There has been some fruitless discussion in Technology circles concerning the possibility of finding someone who could adequately fill the place of this accomplished musician and conductor in presenting an annual series of concerts.

But such men are exceedingly difficult to find; financial backing is limited and difficult to obtain; and the student response to concerts in the past has not been such as to offer much encouragement to musical devotees, or to show an adequate appreciation of the extensive benefits of good chamber music, in spite of the fact that the concerts were free and open to the public. It is said that Mr. Whiting's recitals drew their best audiences at Harvard. The attendance at Yale was "fair". At Technology an audience of 200 was considered exceptionally large, and the usual attendance was from 125 to 150.

One feature which undoubtedly militated against the success of the concerts was the fact that they were held at 8:15 in the evening, a time when they were in competition with all kinds of evening entertainment. Sunday afternoon would have been more desirable, but circumstances rendered appearances at this time difficult. At any rate, the lack of success in obtaining appreciative audiences among college men probably hastened the retirement of Mr. Whiting.

It is unfortunate that Technology has no organization which offers anything similar to the entertainment given by the Whiting concerts. The Combined Musical Clubs make only three appearances in a year, and two of these are formal and relatively expensive affairs. It has been suggested that there may be an opportunity for a small orchestra to present, possibly at monthly intervals, informal two-hour programs of semi-classical music, to be followed by dancing. But the difficulty of training and perpetuating such an organization would be great, even though the audiences might be large enough to pay expenses and encourage continuation.

**THE OPEN FORUM**

To the Editor of THE TECH:  
 It was a surprise to see in the THE TECH issue of December 15 a Book and Literary Supplement. I had been gathering some comment on the material for this publication, particularly from the point of view of the foreign student.

A point that strikes the attention is the undue importance given to football, games, and sports, and the disproportionate space allotted to these activities as if they were the main interest in life. It seems to be a distorted sense of values when we ask ourselves whether there are other pursuits of value to occupy our leisure time and contribute to our happiness. To the foreigner this seems a kind of craze which is widespread and general in America. Yet the foreigner who stays long enough is bound to meet many Americans who have a wide variety of leisure interests and pursuits other than football, even among college students.

To hurl such a comment would seem a rude coup on the part of a foreign student, especially when the comment is unsolicited, tersely and concisely expressed. It would take me too far afield to discuss this point fully, unless its discussion appeals to the readers of THE TECH.

The appearance of the Literary Supplement gives a balancing effect. I am sure that there are quite a number of students who have still other lines of interest. Whether this will be kept up depends not altogether on the response of the readers, but to a large measure on the ability of those who contribute to it.

It is true that a publication has to cater to the demands of the readers, to some extent. But the ability of the editors may awaken and develop dormant interests in the readers. In fail-

ing to do this the publication would degenerate to a wholly catering proposition.

If I may be allowed to comment on the material of the Literary Supplement, I will discuss some points in the "Villa Pliniana," which may be of general interest.

To read between the lines, the ac-

(Continued on Page Four)

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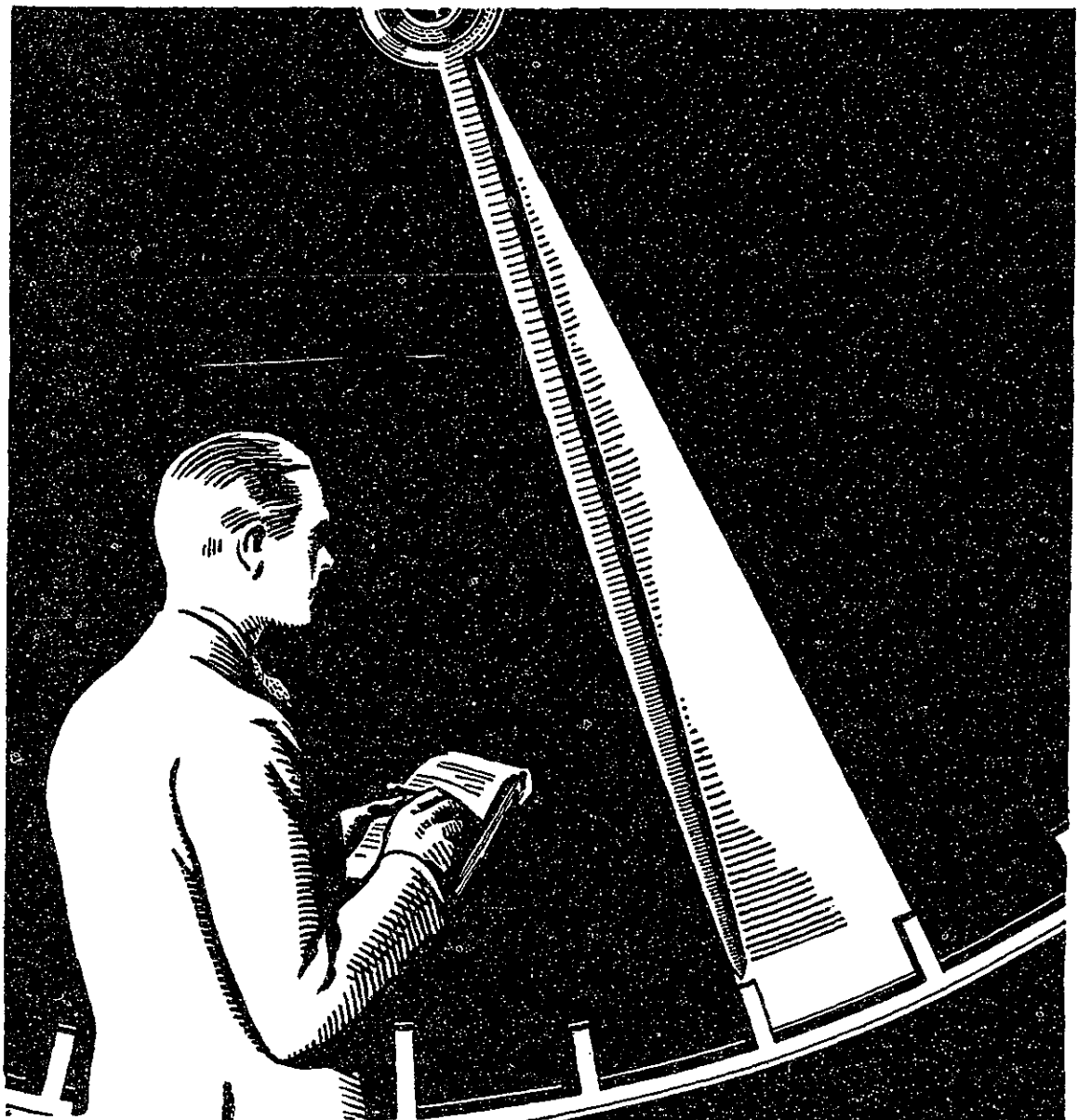
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