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Official News Organ of the Undergraduates of M. I. T.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Walker Memorial, Cambridge, Mass. News and Editorial—Room 3, Walker, Telephone Univ. 7029; Business—Room 302, Walker, Telephone Univ. 7413; Printer's Telephone—HANCock 8387 - 88

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$2.50 PER YEAR. Published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the College Year except during College vacations. Entered as Second Class Matter at the Boston Post Office. Member Eastern Intercollegiate Newspaper Association

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SQUARE DEAL INSURANCE

MODERN industry sets standards for the performance of the employees, so that it can be determined how near to maximum efficiency the concerns are operating. And in some cases the workers are given the opportunity to insure a fair adjustment of the rates, by the establishment of a committee composed of employees together with representatives of the management.

Technology has a comparable system, where the Faculty is the management and the students are the employees. The rates are the catalogued hours for the courses given at the Institute, presumably totalling fifty hours per week.

The committee in this case is the Student-Faculty Curriculum Committee, of which little is heard, but which accomplishes much in the course of the year. In its meetings, complaints of the students are brought up for consideration, each faction presenting its own side of the question.

Complaints of this sort, when borne by the students in the name of education, or when aired with a grievance, cause a great deal of trouble in undergraduate ranks. On the other hand, when treated in a serious way, approaching the root of the situation in a tactful manner, courses causing dissatisfaction may respond to the treatment.

The Curriculum Committee grew out of a sweeping investigation made several years ago into the criticisms of the students. It works quietly but not secretly, and its activities are far more extensive than is realized by the average undergraduate.

Through this body, then, any student who feels there is injustice or ineffectiveness in some phase of his educational program may bring his complaint to the proper authorities. When the problem is of such serious nature that it is beyond the student committee, it is carried to the Committee on Revisions, where the authority of more exhaustive investigation inevitably brings results.

Charles W. Eliot, Long President of Harvard, Member of Institute Faculty

Wrote One of First Chemistry Texts While Teaching At Technology

A little known fact of particular interest to Technology students is that Charles W. Eliot, president of Harvard University for the forty years from 1869 to 1909, was at one time a professor of chemistry at the Institute and while here was co-author of one of the first text-books on elementary chemistry ever published.

While travelling in Europe after the severance of his connections with Harvard College in 1863, Doctor Eliot received an offer from William B. Rogers, first president of the newly founded Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to return to Boston and accept the position of professor of chemistry in the new school which was organized to put into practice the new principle that students should handle the chemicals and apparatus about which they are learning.

After refusing an offer of the presidency of the Merrimack Mills, Professor Eliot accepted the offer of President Rogers in August of 1865 and began his work at the Institute when he returned to America.

Regarded Institute as Pioneer Professor Eliot always regarded the

Institute as a pioneering enterprise, making the first move to apply an entirely new principle to education. The school was a new venture, dedicated to a method as well as an aim. It was the policy of President Rogers and his colleagues "to furnish such a general education founded upon the mathematical, physical, and natural sciences, English and modern languages, and mental and political science as shall form a fitting preparation for any of the departments of active life."

When the Institute moved into new buildings on Boylston Street, there was room for more students than were enrolled, and President Rogers suggested that Eliot and Storer, his associate, give a course for teachers of chemistry, both men and women. It was in the class, which was organized, after the suggestion that the first sheets from the elementary chemistry text-book was used. It is probable that the sheets were proofs from the book.

Book for Institute Classes

In the words of Professor Eliot the book, the first of its kind ever written, was written "primarily that we may teach Chemistry in this School as we think it ought to be taught, secondarily, in the hope the method of teaching the science in other schools and in colleges may be somewhat improved."

An amusing detail is told in regarding the order in which the names of the authors were to be placed on the title page of the book. Each man proposed that the other's name be placed first. A coin was tossed, and Storer announced that Eliot's name was to have preference. Eliot accused him of not having looked at the coin, but Storer "would not recognize the correctness of Eliot's observation."

Questions of method and policy in education had been occupying Eliot's mind for some time, and in February and March, 1869, he published two articles in the Atlantic Monthly magazine.

Immediately following the publication of these two articles, one about colleges and the other about preparatory schools, much discussion of the educational system of America was aroused. Soon after their publication, Professor Eliot left the Institute to accept the presidency of Harvard which was offered to him. He continued in this office until 1909, when he completed his fortieth year as head of the University.

BRITISH STUDENTS STOLID AND QUIET

Chesterton Says Reserve Seen On College Campuses

The characteristic reserve of the Englishman in contrast to the feeling of universal fellowship among all classes in America extends even to the educational institutions of the two countries, says Gilbert Chesterton in an interview given the Daily Orange of Syracuse University.

"The British student is apt to be rather stolid, quiet, and reflective in contrast to the enthusiastic characteristics of the American student," he says.

"It isn't customary to accost a passerby in England with a request for information casually as one commonly does in America—rather a formal attitude is expected as though one were apologizing for not having obtained an introduction at the gentleman's club."

Among other topics, Mr. Chesterton expressed his views on the questions of woman's place in modern civilization, the trend in modern literature, and the problems of India and Russia. Concerning the first of these, he definitely stated that woman is out of her element when she forsakes the home for the world of business and government.

WITH THE AMERICAN COLLEGE EDITORS

FOR THE SAKE OF SCIENCE

To prove his statement that a tarantula is not poisonous, Perry W. Fattig, curator of the Emory museum, exploded the myth for good and all last Monday by deliberately letting one of the huge creatures bite him on the finger.

The bite hurt about two or three times as much as a bee-sting, said Mr. Fattig. He left it no longer than an hour, and there was no swelling or other bad effects. It did not even itch, as a bee-sting does.

Mr. Fattig has long scoffed at the idea of tarantulas being poisonous, as well as scorpions, and other creatures which are popularly thought to carry sure death in their bite.

The creature which bit Mr. Fattig last Monday was a large one from Honduras. It was found in a bunch of bananas in a grocery store near the campus last week. It measures about five inches across when its hairy legs

are spread out, and the ugly black body is an inch and a half long.

The curator, smiling at the alarm shown by witnesses, teased the creature by pushing it with his fingers. The tarantula did not seem to be hungry, however, and it took Mr. Fattig about a half hour to make it angry enough to snap back.

Finally it bit him on the finger. Instead of dying Mr. Fattig entered into a discussion of poisonous and non-poisonous creatures. It was not the first time the curator had allowed so-called "poisonous" insects to bite him.

"Most of the beliefs about poisonous animals are myths," he said. "Tarantulas are not poisonous. Neither are scorpions. There is only one kind of poisonous spider in the United States, only one kind of poisonous lizard, and very few poisonous snakes."

A bystander remarked that he thought he remembered hearing about a death caused by a tarantula bite.

"Well," laughed Mr. Fattig, "he might have died, but the tarantula didn't cause it. For example, when this tarantula bit me, if I hadn't known it was not poison, I might have become frightened, and ill, and died."

—Emory Wheel.

COOKS AND BUTLERS FORM LITERARY CLUB

Clubs, associations, and organizations abound of the campus of the University of North Carolina, where several years ago census of student activities showed that more than a hundred separate groups were meeting regularly, but it remained for the literary cooks to get together and form the latest organization.

"Purely literary" was the statement of one member of the club, the C. W. J. Literary Society, when confronted with the statement that like many other clubs, the meetings of the group sometimes become scenes of ribaldry.

Cooks, waiters, butlers, janitors and all others serving the students are eligible for admission to the club, which holds regular meetings.

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