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TECHNOLOGICAL DOLDRUMS

MEN who come to Technology from other colleges are impressed by several things which ordinarily escape the perception of students who matriculate directly from high school. The most patent of these is the absence of anything that can be compared to a unified spirit on the part of the student body. This is almost unavoidable in a school having the characteristics of Technology; a stiff and thorough course of study, and lack of emphasis on intercollegiate sport. But it is unfortunate and regrettable in that it removes from Technology one of the most pleasant and memorable elements of college life.

At Technology there is an usually large percentage of the student body who take no interest whatever in extra-curricular activity. They are the "brown-baggers". As a result, the administration is in the unique position of having to encourage, rather than curb, sports and social activity. In addition, there is another large number who take part in sports but are never seen at a dance, a concert, or a play, an Aldred lecture or a Liberal Club meeting.

It is unfortunate that an engineering curriculum should breed a mathematical dullness into our way of living. There are no large meetings at which the President of the Institute, prominent professors, or alumni speak to the entire undergraduate body. There are no great rallies, when the entire power of the student aggregation is mobilized in support of a team or a cause; when cheers resound from a thousand voices, and the Stein Song, and other songs as well, are sung, not once, but many times; when the crowd finds entertainment within its own ranks, and talent raised for purposes of making fun, rather than money. The student body is never brought together more than once a year, as a unit, for any purpose whatever, be it song, or prayer, or entertainment, or to hear a famous speaker.

The failure of the Song Book to achieve more than the irreducible minimum of popularity has been noted, and the obvious reason has been stated: that Technology men do not sing the songs, therefore do not know them, and therefore see no reason for owning them. The suggestion has also been made that we might gather together in Walker once in a while to sing and make merry in true collegiate style.

Indeed, the fraternities are responsible for the greater part of our social functions; their membership forms the principal part of the crowd at almost every dance that is held. For them, perhaps, the social life at M. I. T. is "overcrowded"; but what of the other three-fourths of the student body? Is there no kind of social life that is capable of making a more general appeal?

A recent editorial on the subject of Mr. Whiting's retirement has provoked an acrimonious discussion on a subject that is really only a side issue; namely the type of music which appeals most to Technology men, and the extent to which a musical organization should include classical works in its programs. This is merely a single aspect of a much larger question: is there any way in which a majority of Technology men can get together, at relatively frequent intervals, to sing and be good fellows? Can Technology become in more ways like a "college," even though it must remain an "institute"?

Or is it ingrained in the nature of the average student engineer that he lacks gregariousness, and can never be induced to get together with his fellows for any purpose other than to discuss circuits and reactions, formulae and log tables? We hesitate to answer in the affirmative.

Figures Show Interesting Facts Regarding Institute Maintenance

Necessary To Keep Clean 20 Million Cubic Feet Of Space

Keeping clean the twenty million cubic feet of space in the Institute buildings and making such minor repairs to them as are needed is a business requiring the expenditure of over \$425,000 a year, the employing of more than twenty different classes of workmen, and the operation of many activities.

Forty-five janitors and sixteen night cleaners work every day so that the 1,200,000 square feet of floor surface in the rooms will be clean when the students come to classes in the mornings.

Included in the list of vocations needed to keep the buildings in good running order are glaziers, masons, painters, electricians, laundrymen, mailmen, shippers, window washers, and even a locksmith. Heating and ventilating, pipe work, messenger service, and power plant operation all form part of the service rendered by the staff which assures the Institute of a clean, comfortable, and convenient place in which to work.

Supplying chalk in the classrooms, furnishing soap and towels in the wash rooms, replacing broken windows, fixing damaged electric fixtures, painting the walls, attending to the collection and distribution of mail, washing windows, dusting rooms, mopping floors, erasing boards: all these duties fall to the lot of the group under the Superintendent of Buildings and Power.

An idea of the size of the activities of this department can be obtained by considering that it maintains a stock of more than 1800 items with an inventory value of about \$16,000, and that this stock is turned over between two and three times a year.

In keeping the buildings of Technology clean and neat the 45 janitors and the 16 night cleaners use 60 gallons of floor soap a week, over 3000 gallons per year. More than 600 gallons of hand soap is used per year in the wash rooms, and to dry the many hands that use this great quantity of soap requires two solid freight car loads of paper towels a year.

Many Things In Stock
Other things used in maintaining the buildings are bought in quantities just as large so that the maximum discount may be obtained. Cake soap is bought in hundred case lots and stacked on shelves to dry. Two different kinds of white chalk are purchased for use in the classrooms, and colored chalk is kept on hand.

Brushes, brooms, mops, scouring

powders, soap, rags, drop clothes for the painters, window cord, matches, insect powder, mousetraps, and buckets are all in the small stock room in the basement of the Infirmary.

In the larger store house are kept pipe of all sizes, fittings of all kinds, wire, lumber, metal in sheets and bars, glass, putty, nails, tools, and many other of the heavier items. In fact, one can get from the store rooms of the Institute almost everything from a two inch pipe to a piece of chalk.

In addition to maintaining these storerooms from which Institute departments are now securing a large portion of their routine requirements, the department operates the power plant which furnishes light, heat, and ventilation to the buildings, and power in the form of steam and electricity to the different laboratories.

Furnishing water service to the laboratories and all the washrooms, gas to all the laboratories, and fire protection to the entire group of buildings is another function of the Buildings and Power Department.

An indication of the thoroughness with which the department does its work is the fact that it is now makes all the hand soap and all the liquid floor soap used in the Institute. Some years ago the Institute was troubled with a slight disintegration of the terrazzo floors caused by the alkalis in the floor soap then used. After several trials a satisfactory neutral soap was found, but the price asked was exorbitant. Investigation proved that it was feasible to build a miniature soap works at the Institute to furnish what was required.

Operate Soap Factory

Accordingly, Technology entered the soap-making field. During the first year of operation of the factory, soap was billed to the Institute at three-quarters of the retail price; the amount above the actual cost of manufacture being used to pay for the plant. Since that time all the floor soap used in the buildings has been made by the Department.

In addition to the floor soap, the Institute's small edition of a soap works makes all the hand soap used.

Loyalty of the employees engaged in these many tasks which keep the Institute in running order is said to be one of the greatest factors in the success which the Department has had. Everyone is working to have the buildings always in the best condition, and it is no secret that the co-operation displayed by the different crews makes it possible to maintain the Technology in its neat, clean condition.

Strange Assortment of Materials Used In Supplying Smokers' Needs

Carved Meerschaum Pipes and Amber Necklaces Part Of Shop's Stock

In Spain it is used as a building stone, and in Algeria as a soap for bathing purposes, but in America, it is known only as a material for pipes. Occupying one show case in the shop of David P. Ehrlich, on Court street, are a number of pipes the bowls of which are skillfully and ornately carved to represent objects all the way from skulls to rams' heads and which are made of magnesium silicate, or meerschaum. If so ordered, the artist can carve one's portrait on the pipe, copying it from a photograph or picture.

Ranging from old, hand cut, and often valuable antiques, to modern pieces, the firm has what is perhaps the largest collection of amber of any retail store in the country. Bracelets, necklaces, pendants, perfume bottles, and practically anything that can be carved from amber, are exhibited here in the many shades of color that this fossilized resin can assume.

One beautiful example on exhibit there is an ancient Russian seal mounted on a large unfinished piece of amber which forms the handle. Old amber, as it has a tendency to grow darker with age, has, in general, a deeper tint than modern material. Pipe stems are not cut from solid amber but are made from the chippings of rock amber melted and pressed.

Making pipes to order for women is one of the duties of the workmen employed by the store. Almost all of the pipes sold by the shop are made in its own workshop, where much repairing is also done. Sometimes an entire set of pipes are made for a man, one for every day in the week. At present, five men are employed at this work, but there have been times when there were thirty skilled workmen on the premises. Most of the skilled carving is done by Mr. Fischer, who has been with the store for forty years.

In addition to carrying all domestic and imported brands of tobacco, the shop will compound special tobaccos according to the formula of a client. The firm has its own brand that is in demand by customers all over the Uni-

ted States, as well as in foreign countries. Although most of the tobacco handled is of domestic origin, some is imported from abroad, especially from Syria. The kind known as English tobacco is really grown in America and shipped over to England to be cured and treated.

For those with oriental tastes in smoking, the store has a large variety of hookas, the water pipe used in the East. Although Turkey and Syria furnish a small part of the demand, the principal source is Bohemia. They are generally constructed of glass or porcelain, carved and painted by hand. Briar, however, the principal material of which pipes are made, comes from Algiers, where there are forests of briar bushes. It is found in the roots of the bushes as a dark brown, irregular mass, ranging in size from that of a man's fist to his head.

"Flaming youth," ready to sweep away all the old safeguards of traditional morality, is apparently only a false alarm, at least on the campuses of the Middle West. Ninety-eight freshmen at Ripon College, Wisconsin, with the pristine ideas of high school upon them were recently asked to indicate their relative beliefs in twenty-five articles of social faith, ranging from democracy to divorce. Almost to a student they placed home, marriage and the church first as the most necessary social institutions, while socialism, companionate marriage and equal distribution of wealth were emphatically condemned.

Outstanding! Among College Dining Halls in the Great Variety of Service Rendered. THE TECHNOLOGY DINING HALLS Walker Memorial

Great Bequest May Come To Institute In Distant Future

Large Sum of Money Is Left Alumnus, But Technology Forced to Wait

In the year 2006 A.D. Technology will have possibilities of receiving a large sum of money left in a will of the present year by Harvey G. Woodward '88, iron manufacturer. During the seventy-five year interval, the bulk of his estate, about \$7,500,000, is to be used as a foundation to establish a chain of boys' boarding schools in the South.

The number of such schools is not limited, but they must be at least 50 miles apart and not be in the vicinity of any city of 15,000 inhabitants or more.

Among the strange restrictions he has set upon his gift are these: there shall be no interscholastic athletics, no fraternities or other forms of grouping of students; foreign languages shall not be taught, examinations will be obsolete, and text-books will be as few as possible. Eligibility for enrolment will be confined to Caucasians.

Since this plan is only an experiment, a provision is made in the will that if after seventy-five years it is a failure, half the fund will go to Technology and the rest will furnish a loan fund for students in schools that are not partly maintained by religious denominations.

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