OPEN FORUM

January 11, 1937

THE TECH

Editor, The Tech:

Among the various developments which beset the freshman entering Tech is the question of why he should be required to study military science. He may wonder why a course in military science, which can certainly by him to no good, should be thrust upon him at a moment when little the pressure of ambitions are most

sensitive to morose stimuli. Any illusion may have to do with the effect that the Military Science course will give him a greater understanding of many important problems, is soon dispelled. The boredom which the freshman this year, and I think it is safe to assume for several years past, has experienced in the Military Science is a clear expression of the unpopularity of the course. It seems extremely plausible that this course should be put on voluntary basis at Tech, not only for the benefit of the course itself, but to the greater profit of the student as a whole.

THOMAS GOLDFRANK, Jr.

Editor's Note—To allow up any false conceptions of the origin of the above letter, we say that we did not say that, to the best of our knowledge, it was written entirely without the knowledge of the author recently taken in The Tech. Its appearance at the same time as the The Tech which was written by the Faculty and announced herewith in The Tech, is a glaring example in this letter does not coincide with that of The Tech which is printed in column one of this page.

CAPACITY CROWD

WALKER EXTENSION NEEDED

Many more people than those present on occasion well-surpassed the capacity crowd which was present at the Catholic Club dance in Walker last Friday. Those who can remember back more than a half dozen years tell us that they can no longer remember a time when the dance floor was more than crowded enough to give those attending a chance to get away from the check room was not sufficient to take care of all the business. This is one of the many indications of appreciation of Walker as a social and recreational center or it may be just another sign of the increasing depreciation. If the former is the case, it is apparent that the present facilities are not sufficient and that an extension to the building would be welcomed. Aside from the undesirable features of the Main Hall, such as proximity of the kitchen and the necessity of using the hall as “room of all functions,” were eliminated, Walker would undoubtedly be more valuable to many of the formal dances which now prefer to go outside.

ROTC

considerable change of policy is reg to ROTC. It is generally felt be useful sources that exhaustive examination of what would be accomplished is insufficient to be decided. Accordingly, the change of policy is considered. Furthermore, it is felt that the substitute courses of the evening will not be the same. It is definitely 20% that stringent examinations in all of the substitute courses will be made, even so that a committee of specialists in the fields in which the substitute courses are held, and by the checkroom was not sufficient to take care of all the business.

Prof. Davis is conducting a special course in military science for boys students, with the proper method of approaching the right answer to the wrong problem. One of the proofs of this approach is the new examination given in the substitute courses. The examination consists of a series of questions in the form of an essay and a pair of cuffs. P. S.—the answer was accepted.

Winter Sports

Rather than let the Wellesley girls have what one of the Boston papers at the beginning of the Tritt correspondence called the last laugh, the two dorm boys decided that a snow train was better than no snow train and so snow train with skiing was better than to snow train without skiing. So they got out their skis and dressed for the occasion and went skid back and forth across the campus” which has just enough snow on it to make the grass slippery enough to sit on.

Petition

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ing for at least one of the following: (1) We consider military training to be opposed to the principle of freedom of conscience or science. (2) We feel that the elimination of the compulsory feature of the Training would improve the spirit and quality thereof. (3) We have religious scruples against being engaged in military training. (4) We believe that the time spent in drill could be spent much better advantage. (5) That compulsory Military Training does not make for a higher standard of manhood. (6) That there is no need for the use of the Training to implement a compulsory part of its program, since the Federal government does not so require. (7) We consider compulsory military training to be opposed to the principle of freedom of conscience and democratic democracy was founded.

Any student or group of students who wish to gain the official degree must write the petition and have it signed by those who do desirous only of getting out of the course completely.

Of course, during the long controversy on compulsory training here and at other American universities, the main issue has been kept in the main discussions, but must not be forgotten that military training has definite value in the training of men outside of its vital as preparation for such participation. As physical education and sports increase the fitness of the body, so these, lend heartiness, alertness, and the concepts of the importance of thrift, and the responsibility of course, incidentally have been involved in military training requirements precluded the acquisition of these real benefits of the training and have been centered around “fascist tendencies” and other pernicious rights.

The present action of the Faculty is commendable in that it removes the unconditional composition artifices for the respect of certain samples of the students. At the same time this new basis of the military science requirements at Tech, although much may be yet desired in respect to the teaching methods of the courses, will encourage a more serious interest toward the purpose of Military Science in the curriculum.

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