DORMITORY WATCHMAN

In locked dorms, recent attacks on the watchman system in the dormitory have been proven strangely misdirected as the result of an investigation by The Tech. It had been charged that there was no adequate protection of property in the dormitories, and it is evident to us that there is no way in which this protection can be afforded with present existing conditions.

The rooms are provided with locks, which should discourage thieves from outside although there is no positive way to insure that the doors cannot be opened with enough effort. A watchman, on duty from ten at night till six in the morning, makes three rounds of the floors, and through each of the three under-graduate groups, subsequently forcing him to climb a minimum of two flights of stairs on each trip. His main duty is to look for fires and other damage to the buildings, rather than to watch for prowlers, but there is reason to believe that his very presence deters some thieves.

There are certainly no neglects such as we were asked to believe existed, but nevertheless, we would like to suggest two improvements. The first and most important is addressed to the students as a plea that they either lock their doors or take their homes with a smile. The second is that the night-watchman have his schedule changed to include, not necessarily more, but later rounds of the dormitories.

STUDENTS IN POLITICS

Liberals or radicals?

Mayor Fiocello H. LaGuardia, opening an annual convention of the American Student Union in New York City, Christmas week, according to releases, urged students to enter politics and warned that there is a difference between "making a noise and being a liberal." The Mayor told the delegates that "the choice between being an intellectual and leadership and ordinary everyday half-baking, some people get confused between being liberal and just being ill-mannered. The latter is not difficult at all. I have been guilty of myself when I was young." The Mayor added that students today have much more justification in being concerned with what is going to happen to the United States and the world "than we had when we were students a generation ago."

This sounds to us like good advice that should not be taken lightly. It has been this sort of "hall-rising" line that has given many student groups poor names in the eyes of the public. Many people begin to revolt when they hear the word liberal, and with accompanying incidents which they look upon as "ill-mannered," they can hardly be blamed for calling entire movements disgusting and radical.

FIELD DAY DAMAGE

PARD FOR

A tribute to the spirit of the lower classes is the announcement by the Institute Committee that the damage for the Field Day vandalism has already been paid for by an unnamed group. With only the general good of their classes at stake, these men have made a personal sacrifice. They showed an interest in seeing that their classmates and themselves have as good an opportunity for class activity as students of any other year. In a school where outside activities can command an intelligent and interested attention, this move shows that some group, at least, takes a serious attitude toward its organized recreation.

The incident which caused the curtailment of the use of class funds arose from a forced recreation—one that had neither planning nor foresight. In a spirit of fun, the fun was carried to excess. The incident, even as play, was not to the credit of Institute men. When the authorities decided that the putsch was due, the group and quiet payment deserves the commendation of the student body.

SCIENCE IN BRIEF

By Arthur M. York, '26

New Life-Saving Drug

It was just a decade or a yest of improve-ments in the glass-making process to make glass a cloister and more desirable transparent substance, we are always reminded of the presence of a window pane or of a whitened because of the fume produced by the various bodies which have been used for centuries. It was charact-eristic of the glass that it would not transmit the heat and light of the sun, which is incident to the fact that it will take less heat and light. The treat ment, which was announced late last week by the laboratories of the General Electric Company and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, consists of coating the glass with silver, a thin film, and that silver will deflect heat from the sun or aluminum foil. (3)

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Making State Invisible

For the better electric insulation this has been recognized as one of the better electrical insulation materials, but because it has been well known that it could be used not only in the manufacture of a transparent substance which has its great limitations in fabric. The discovery of ways to produce and make glass in sheets and in quantities and of ways to spin these sheets into thin threads suitable for weaving into electrical machine insulation can be secured with a material which has been found to be better for textile work and for electrical work, especially in high temperatures than either cotton or asbestos. (3)

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