THE TECH STUDENT'S OPINIONS

The astounding news of the week in the opinion of some Technology students is contained in the results of the T.E.M. survey on the Tech Student. Thus it is noted that in the Class of 1946, those lucky men having cumulative ratings between 4.00 and 4.50 not only spend 11 hours of every week walking from and to M.I.T., but they also spend 17 hours a week riding in automobiles with the same purpose in mind. This makings of a serious challenge to the faculty and students in both Chemistry and Business Associates.

In a more serious vein we note that, of the various courses at the Institute, two, namely Course V and Course XVI, are not considered by the students of these courses to be the best offered in the country in the particular field. Since loyalty to one's own group generally creates a less critical attitude towards one's own work, the results of this survey constitute a very serious challenge to the faculty and students in both Chemistry and Aeronautical Engineering.

What the exact nature of the difficulty is we are not prepared to say; however we feel that here is something which merits not only immediate action, but a great deal of intelligent thought. The faculties of several other colleges have greeted these words with gloom and excitement. They have also shown their ability and willingness to act on the advice received. It is hoped that some such action will soon enable the students of these last two Technology courses to feel justly proud of the organization of which they are an important part.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES


President Conant of Harvard said last week in his New York Times column, "Equality of educational opportunity is still far from an accomplished fact." Some quarters would have greeted these words with gloom and excitement. They would say that America denies to the great majority of her people access to education.

But Dr. Conant spoke particularly of college education. He said that out of 1,200,000 young men who each year attain college-freshman age less than 250,000 enter college. It is only one-third of the 600,000 young men who every year graduate from high school. But think of what it would have meant a quarter of a century ago in this country if 20 per cent of all the men and women who now enter college had not been handicapped by the fact that many of her own great scientists were now living in voluntary exile.

In regard to our own war in the Pacific, Professor Wiener warned that the Japanese rank high in the scale of scientific ability. "We should not, therefore, make the mistake of assuming that we will not discover new engineering tricks as soon as or sooner than we do," he said.

As regards the future world, the professor expressed the belief that it would be dominated by the three great centers—the United States, China, and Russia. He opined that in the future the world would have to exist as large, self-sufficient, semi-autonomous units, until finally it took for itself the role of the central government.

Professor Wiener had much to say in praise of China. The Chinese, he said, "have the same theory of individual opportunity that we pride ourselves on. They are not handicapped by the caste system, and Young China has been able to transplant the outstanding traditions of its past. The hero of many a Chinese play is a boy who rises from the gutter to pass a civil service examination and become a mandarin.

As to his own work, Professor Wiener had nothing to say. However, he expressed complete willingness to talk about anything under the sun except mathematics.