The students and staff of the Institute were grieved to learn of the death of Professor R. H. Richards early this week. Professor Richards, who reached the age of 100 last August, was a member of the Class of 1868, the Institute’s first graduating class. From the time he entered the Institute when it opened its doors in 1865 until his death, Professor Richards was continuously associated with Technology, first as a student, then as a faculty member, and since 1914 as Professor Emeritus. A longtime head of the Metallurgy Department, he is revered and remembered by the many students who passed under his tutelage. In the death of Professor Richards the Institute has lost a staunch supporter and a close friend.

RESEARCH ABILITY VS. TEACHING ABILITY

For many years the question of whether the Institute should select instructors on the basis of their research or their teaching ability has arisen periodically. With the revitalization of the Student-Faculty Committee we feel that now is a good time to broach that subject again.

All too often some freshmen have failed to gain the proper groundwork in their fundamental courses because of poor teaching. In most cases the instructor who taught them was perfectly qualified in the field and his research work was excellent, yet he failed to impart the proper fundamentals to many in his class because he lacked one important essential—the ability to teach.

We feel that a concerted effort should and could be made to select instructors of good teaching ability for the fundamental freshman and Sophomore courses. This would give the students a strong foundation on which to base their later and more advanced courses.