The ground breaking for MIT’s million-dollar athletic center began shortly before vacation. To be called the DuPont Athletic Center, the new building will soon be seen rising beside the Armory. Final contracts were signed on January 16th with the George Fullelr Building Company, a Boston construction firm, and within a week after the signing, heavy construction equipment had begun moving into the area. The new building will be adjacent to the north side of the Armory, which is now also a part of the Tech athletic plant.

**BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE**

Today let us all apply the hot white light of sustained thinking to this problem which has beset the student body of many years—moving out of homesickness. Home, of course, to homesickness.

It is enough to read the heart, walking along a campus at night and listening to entire dormitories sobbing themselves to sleep. And in the morning when the poor, lone students rise from their tattooed slumber they whirl their blankets and shuffle off to class, their lips trembling, their eyelids gritty, it is enough to turn the bones to aspic.

No, you can’t be done with homesickness! Well sir, there simply was not enough room for 44 barrels and 162 homes. The centel will be a two-storly, 45,000-square-foot building in modern motif. It should be completed early in 1960.

The money comes as the result of a million-dollar bequest left to MIT by 21-year-old David Flett DuPont, who was killed in a auto accident in 1955. His will provided that the bequest be used for “improvement of athletic facilities.”

Balch says, “Teams in the Center will average fee and turn direct to the contests in the Armory.” He also pointed out the possibility of relocating the hockey rink beside the center, where there is ample room available.

**Low Rate Plans**

The new center is the biggest step in the long range athletic plan. The recently purchased armory soon will be improved with a first rate basketball floor, and the temporary floor removed from the area. The future status of the Walker Memorial gym is not yet certain, but it will probably be given over to exclusive intramural use.

**A million dollar bequest used As building proceeds**

**Attactive Exterior**

The structure has been designed by Anderson, Beckwith & Whittier. The exterior will be of granite and aluminum. The schematic design has been handled by the Handels and the Chapel. The interior of the center, will be “a building,” said MIT Athletic Director Balch, “the merging of an art and architecture.”

“Within a week after the signing, heavy construction equipment had been moved into the area. The new building will be adjacent to the north side of the Armory, which is now also a part of the Tech athletic plant.”

Balch, Whitelaw look Over Layout

Shown above is the layout for the new DuPont Athletic Center (A), and adjoining facilities. Athletic Director Balch points out the new structure to Director of Physical Education. The building is the “upright link” of athletic facilities, says Balch. It will be the ability of the Armory (B) and Cipriani Fieldhouse (D) as well as provide a new home for the MIT Athletic Association. In the foreground are Kresge (F) and the Chemical Laboratories (J) and the Olin Physical Laboratory (G).

As can be seen, the only problem that the new construction will create is that of the game and arena facilities. The plan also does not include a swimming pool. Balch also sees the future possibility of moving the hockey rink from its present location in the armory, and putting it beside the new athletic center.