Editor's Note: In the last issue of The Tech we reprinted a student's view of the college hired. Following is the opinion of a Harvard professor whose ideas of two decades ago are enlightening even now.

Reprinted from November, 1958

Professor Preston Munter, a psychiatrist at Harvard and formerly of the MIT community, spoke at an Eighth Annual Seminar Sunday evening. Discussion strayed considerably from the original topic, "What is foremost in college men's minds?"

Professor Munter admitted that his major problem was defining his topic, since college men do not think about one specific thing. "Sure, they do," he said, "but everybody does!"

Looking Back

MIT versus Harvard 1958

Munter used comparisons of MIT and Harvard at every step in the discussion. Setting basic principles, he said that MIT is more homogeneous than Harvard. He asserted that MIT people were "tougher-minded" than Harvard people because of a heavier academic load. At Harvard, students carry a liberal arts curriculum; here they study both liberal arts and science.

According to Munter, MIT has a much friendlier atmosphere than Harvard, and more cooperation between faculty and students exists here.

Munter said that he thought MIT is a "tougb-pressured" school, that the pressure on students forces them to live from week to week or from quiz to quiz. Assuming that social pressures are important at Harvard, he said that the Ivy League concept was based on "snob appeal."

When asked his opinion on various grading systems here, Professor Munter objected to the class average system, and stated that any attempt to describe human beings in terms of numbers must fail. He would prefer simply a "satisfactory-unsatisfactory" method of grading.

The stereotyped Harvard man thinks the stereotyped MIT man is a bore, but is "little bit scared" of him. This fear is due to increasing world emphasis on science, and the fact that while MIT men have their work cut out for them at graduation, most Harvard students look to the future with uncertainty.

Referring to non-conformity, Munter said that Harvard men are more extremely nonconformists, but that MIT men are "maturely independent."

Returning to his original topic, Professor Munter said that MIT students do not think and talk exclusively about science, but that "H-H" and a great number of extracurricular activities take up their leisure time.

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