the more things change...

The problem of whether to allow cars in the courtyard still remains, but the landscaping plans are finished.

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From The Tech, April 9, 1984:

The work done at the Institute is not obvious. For a student pursuing his studies faithfully, the mental strain approaches, perhaps exceeds the physical limit. To reduce the standard of excellence is a remedy which will find no favor among the students.

It is an easy solution of the difficulty to say that the course should be extended, but we must consider that this will necessarily increase, almost proportionately, the expense to be incurred. In the student.

Concerning the area of the Institute, the annual budget is the element in splitting the rigid calculation, and an increase of twenty-five percent in the salary would cause the elimination of the scheme of education by the class of persons among whom we always found the best students in the Institute.

Ten years ago — and the conditions have changed little since — a boy of fifteen who had faithfully pursued his studies in the public schools and who had only rarely attended the high school course was first — we will not say for the Institute — but to pass its entrance examinations. And when he had spent three years Latin and Greek.

Now another generation would have been trained by the narrow and mistaken method of preparation schools the writer does not venture to estimate, but he will assert — and in the opinion is sustained by every graduate with whom he has conversed — that no boy at the age of fifteen or sixteen is found physically or intellectually for that philosophical, mathematical, and scientific knowledge that is known as the Institute of Technology.

The study of the Institute should begin where our free public schools begin. It is true, give as a rule only a very partial knowledge of the subjects they pretend to teach, but every student knows that the most elementary knowledge of a subject taken up at the Institute in the saving conditions which it sometimes determines his success. For this reason the writer would advocate an examination on German, French, geometry, physics, astronomy, physiology, botany, zoology, zoology, geography, chemistry, and physical geography.

Professors in these seats might make up for ignorance in the remainder, as the excess knowledge possessed would allow one some raise on which would be devoted to those in which a deficiency existed.

It is almost a safe assertion to make that of those graduates from the Institute with a clear-cut record, none have ever gone to the school possessing the knowledge embodied in the above specifications, and this knowledge was an important factor in their success. If this is true, the admittance examinations to the Institute may be styled to a system of false pretense, entering to the school numbers of persons who cannot succeed unless by neglecting all rules of physical and mental hygiene.

In addition to these qualifications, a better knowledge of French might be required, and an acquaintance with Latin or Greek, while not perhaps to be insisted upon, might be placed to the advantage of the applicant.

With these requirements, and the minimum age placed at nineteen, it is to be hoped that an high a grade would be reached and less for the waisp; Primary-school education at the Institute would cease and the "infant" would be no more.

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