

enter this line of professional work, as well as those who are actively engaged in it. They are given by men well fitted to talk upon the subject which they are treating, and of sufficient variety to touch all the important varieties of work which Courses I. and XI. men are liable to deal with. The greater number of the lectures are illustrated so as to give the hearers a clearer conception of the subject.

Several Smokers and an annual dinner are given every year, at which some eminent engineer or professional man gives an interesting talk, and then in the brief social time left the students have the opportunity to become acquainted with each other and the instructors of the course.

This year the Society is stronger than heretofore, and has been exceptionally fortunate in securing a choice lot of speakers.

On Oct. 19 Professor Swain, head of the Department of Civil Engineering, gave a very interesting and instructive talk on "The Opportunities of the Civil Engineer." In this he reviewed the entire engineering field, and showed the wonderful advance which this science has led to.

Mr. L. P. Wason (Tech '91), addressed the Society Nov. 9 on "The Harvard Stadium." He described the construction of the stadium from the beginning to the end, and showed the progress of construction, and the various difficulties met with, by numerous photographs taken at regular intervals during construction.

On Nov. 23 Mr. P. H. Dudley spoke to the Society. Mr. Dudley is a man of wide repute, and is an expert of experts in his line of engineering. He briefly told the history of railroading as pertaining to his line of work, and of the introduction of track test by the earlier methods, which were followed by his improved and valuable mechanisms. The lecture was well illustrated, thus enabling the lecturer to show his mechanisms and their operation in greater detail.

Thursday evening, Dec. 17, Dean Burton will be the speaker at the Smoker which is to be held at the Tech Union. The subject of the talk being "The Summer School of 1903," it will be illustrated, and promises to be an exceptionally interesting lecture. Members will undoubtedly realize the value of the work, and the great advantage which one can gain in summer school.

Among the speakers of the near future are, Mr. R. A. Shaler, "The East Boston Tunnel;" Mr. F. H. Snow, "Sanitary Engineer," and Professor Winslow of the Institute. The Society invites all who are interested in the lectures given, to attend.

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Mechanical Engineering Society.

The Mechanical Engineering Society is an organization of students in the Mechanical and Chemical Engineering Courses. Its active membership is undergraduate, although there is a considerable list of honorary graduate members. At the end of the school year of 1902-1903 it numbered one hundred and eight student members. Its present list includes one hundred and twenty-seven student members and a considerably increased number of graduate members.

The past history of the Society is one of many cycles of rapid development and as rapid dissolution, due to the varying interest taken in it by the students of the courses. These ups and downs have made it impossible for a definite and continued growth to take place, so that there are no traditions which have been handed down to guide the efforts and insure the usefulness of the organization. What the true function of the Society is and what its sphere of usefulness may be has not been entirely determined, particularly because of this lack of consistent development. Two things, however, seem to be possible to the Society, and they are, the monthly meetings, and the arrangement of trips to industrial plants.

The Society holds a meeting about once a month, at which a discourse is given, in most instances by a successful practicing engineer. The members have not only the opportunity of listening to, but of meeting him personally. The student is able to benefit by the advice of such proved men, and is able to put to them questions which mean much and are never answered in the class room. The student is also enabled at the meetings to meet his professors and instructors on a footing much less formal than is that of the daily contact in the work of the various courses. It is very desirable that this should be the case, and that the future may find the spirit growing. The period of sociability following the talk is very pleasantly spent. A little some-