

Tech House.

Tech House was opened the last week in September. Six men took up their residence in the House, and in answer to personal invitations and in reply to a circular sent to all Tech students, between eighty and ninety men volunteered to do work in connection with this social settlement. The location of the House is most happy for the work undertaken. It stands in the midst of an industrial and tenement house district, where educational and learning influences are few.

Several organizations for furthering social work were promptly absorbed by Tech House, so that it already has more than thirty clubs and classes projected, and a dozen others in process of forming. Plans for a scientific economic investigation are maturing, and the work will begin with the new year.

The people of the district are of a type that present many individual characteristics. They need to be seen close to be appreciated, and studied well to be understood. The only successful men's club in Boston is associated with Tech House, and the peculiarities as well as the fine qualities of these working men are all seen to good advantage in this Club.

The boys' work is, perhaps, of first importance. The boys' clubs connected with the House number nearly a score. Each club has from eight to twenty members. As a rule, each club was, or is a street "gang," unbroken and unmixed. The natural organization of the boys is always best in social work. The hardest thing for Tech men to learn in connection with these clubs is that a boy's intelligence and not his ignorance must be appealed to. If a boy understands checkers, or hockey (with a milk can stopper for a puck) better than music or stereotomy, it is but natural. Therefore, begin by playing checkers with him; play fair, show him what it means to play for the sake of the game and not for the sake of winning, merely. Encourage him at his hockey till you have won his confidence and friendship, and then, perchance, you will make of him a useful member of society some day — at least a good carpenter, or mason, or stone-cutter, if not a great bridge builder. No small boy can be put into a mathematical formula. He is a law unto himself. More often than not he must be tamed and civilized before he can be taught. He is not an invariable aspirant to the court and high places of the world. He is

plain, everyday human nature — in the rough. He needs moulding and fashioning. In the parish of Tech House there are few influences at work, so here it is that Tech men have their opportunity to do good work and at the same time see of what stuff they themselves are made.

It is not to "neighborhood" work alone that Tech House is devoted, for it already has its civic interests. Tech House was influential in securing a hearing before a committee of the Boston School Board. This hearing was in behalf of the movement making provision for the evening use of school-houses for educational and social purpose.

Thus in three months a most encouraging start has been made, and the progress thus indicated harbingers well for the future.

Conference at the Technology Club.

There was a conference of the Faculty with teachers from secondary schools at the Technology Club last Saturday for the purpose of making known certain changes which had been decided upon. Representatives were present from about fifty public and private schools around the city. The Institute was represented by President Pritchett, the heads of departments, and the Faculty committees on entrance requirements and on secondary schools.

There was an informal discussion of the question of a new requirement in physics and of the new rule allowing candidates to divide their examinations between June and September of the same year.

Saturday Nights.

Out of about seventy men at the Union last Saturday night, only twenty-four men, or about one-third, had bought their tickets in advance. It is only fair to those in charge to get a ticket beforehand, for it is in this way, and only in this way, that it is possible for them to figure on how much to provide in the way of supplies. There is no money to risk in buying extra supplies which will be wasted if enough men do not appear. If, then, there has ever been any fault to find, the fact that on this occasion only one-third of the guests were expected, shows the management to be blameless. An unused ticket can always be exchanged for another of the following week, so that there is no reason whatever for not buying a ticket in advance. Mr. Bullard is a very frequent visitor at the dinners now, and lends an added interest. The singing is practice of which all men should avail themselves as often as possible. We should know our Technology songs by heart, and Mr. Bullard has been and is striving to the end that we shall. If any man desires the experience of some good Tech spirit, the place to find it is at one of the Saturday night dinners. And let him be sure to get a ticket in advance.