

perience before coming to the Institute is utterly unfounded. The Track Team has a competent coach who can develop such material, and it should be generally recognized that this sort of work is just as much his function as the perfection of already well trained men.

#### The Deutscher Verein.

An enthusiastic dinner of the Deutscher Verein was held at the Union last Thursday. Following the admirable motto of the Society, "Hier spricht man nur Deutsch," only German was used in conversation. If this motto, as planned, is consistently upheld, it will be an innovation. The similar organization at Harvard does not attempt to make exclusive use of German, except in their plays, and the same is true in other places.

Of the forty members, about twenty-two were present. Mr. Blachstein addressed the Society on the subject of its purpose and the maintenance of interest in it. The free use of English in conversation, stories, and addresses, was the reason that the old Deutscher Verein did not have a greater success and longer life. The large attendance at the various conversation classes in French and German indicates that many men realize the practical value of an ability to speak these languages, and the Deutscher Verein is simply another evidence. From its well supported beginning the Club should prove an important factor both as a social and practical organization.

#### Technique 1905 Notice.

Contributors to the Art Department who desire their original drawings returned will confer a favor by making application in writing to the editor-in-chief. It will be impossible to return some of the drawings and none will be returned before April 29, yet an early compliance with this request will insure consideration. Give name, with number and nature of drawings desired.

#### Civil Engineering Society.

The meeting of the Civil Engineering Society held last Monday afternoon was well attended and a large number of Course II. men availed themselves of the invitation to attend and listen to Mr. Frank B. Gilbreth's talk on "A Contractor's View of the Baltimore Fire." Prior to the lecture the president of the Society spoke about the annual dinner to be held Thursday evening, and stated that it was to be informal. A communication from a Congressional Committee was read, urging the Society to have a debate on the question, "Resolved, that the Government should aid the State Governments in the improvement of roads." It was voted that arrangements be made for a debate, also that a challenge be sent to the Walker Club; and then the Society proceeded to the special business of the day.

Mr. Gilbreth's talk was exceedingly interesting and was enlivened throughout by accounts of amusing and surprising incidents connected with the fire. A large number of lantern slides were shown, which brought out clearly the effects of the fire on the so-called fireproof buildings. The speaker made it plain that concrete was far superior to terra-cotta and stone work, every slide showing the fearful havoc wrought by the conflagration. The lessons taught the contractors in the matter of fireproofing, the ways in which various structures stood the heat, and the value of wire glass was dwelt on. One slide of peculiar interest showed a bank building, the upper, non-fireproof stories of which were completely destroyed, while the lower ones, of most modern fireproof construction, were uninjured. The curious facts of a frame house at the start and a lumber yard at the finish of the fire, both unharmed, owing to the change in the direction of the wind, were also brought out. Mr. Gilbreth had his subject well in hand, and his audience certainly learned a good deal in a very pleasant manner.