

The Tech

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Saturday, April 21, 1906.

"Brown University athletics, from the beginning of the next academic year, will be controlled by the students, subject to faculty approval, as a result of the adoption of rules prescribed by the faculty. A committee of students from the several classes will be appointed to formulate rules of organization, eligibility, and play."

The above clipping from one of our contemporary college newspapers—which records only one of a large number of instances where the control of college athletics has been placed in the hands of the students—brings before us forcibly a question which Technology men have been discussing more and more widely during the past year; that is, should not Technology undergraduates have a more complete control of Technology athletics?

At present athletics at the Institute are controlled entirely by a committee, known as the Athletic Advisory Council, which is composed of seven members, four of whom are alumni and three of whom are undergraduates. This committee has charge of all the funds of the Athletic Association, it passes upon all the schedules for all the varsity and class teams, it approves or disapproves of the cancellation of games or meets, and of the breaking off of athletic relations with other colleges—in short, its power is supreme. A manager of a team, even in a case of great necessity, where time is of utmost importance, can do nothing on his own initiative. A man may try it now and then but he quickly finds out what a row he has started.

Supervision of college athletics by men older than students, whether alumni or faculty, is an absolute necessity, as the experienced judgment of older men will many times check the natural impetuosity of students, who in their eagerness to best serve the college interests often forget to look at all sides of a question. But by supervision, we mean supervision, or—as Webster puts it—"The act of overseeing," the act of seeing that the students in charge do their work well and thoroughly without making any mistakes. The title "Athletic Advisory Council," would lead anyone to believe that this committee was chosen to advise the undergraduates on athletic matters, but the real condition seems to be anything but this. Instead of

advising athletic managers and captains about their work, the Advisory Council holds these men responsible to itself for all their actions. If the Advisory Council was originally formed to act as a supervising body on undergraduate athletics, then in assuming full control of all sports, the committee has taken upon itself the performance of a function that it is not supposed to have. On the other hand, if the committee was formed with the idea that it should take full control of athletics at the Institute, it was given a responsibility which should be vested only in a student committee.

Undergraduate athletics at any college more directly concern the students themselves than any one else. At the Institute where the undergraduates, through the Tech Show, furnish all the funds for the support of athletics, this fact is probably more true than any where else. Naturally the students should have control of athletics in everything that pertains to rules of organization, eligibility and play, to the formation of schedules, the cancellation of games, and the breaking off of relations with other colleges, always, of necessity, under the supervision of the alumni or the faculty. The main idea of such a plan is that the managers of teams, because elected to their positions by the students, are responsible directly to the students. They are to act under the advice of an alumni or faculty committee, which is to be an "Advisory Council," and not a "Committee in Full Control." Whatever the scheme by which this idea is worked out, there remains the one fundamental fact—the undergraduates should have a more complete control of athletics.

Summer Work.—A few more men wanted for good paying positions, especially men qualified to teach. See A. C. Nichols, '08, at Cage, 1.05-1.15.

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