

# THE TECH

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In charge of this issue: B. E. Hutchinson, 1909

Monday, February 25, 1907.

At the end of his second year at Tech the average student feels in an indefinite kind of a way that he has passed another milestone in his educational career and is entering upon the last stage of academic life. The four years of training at the Institute divide themselves very naturally into two epochs, the characteristics of which are more or less different in kind and degree although similarities of end and means link them together. In the third and fourth years the student begins seriously to attack his professional work and experiences a greater sense of freedom from restraint than is the case during the two preceding years. One of the principal, or at any rate most obvious differences is the discontinuance of the intermediate examinations. By many this is hailed with delight, especially toward the beginning of the term, but as the semi-annual examinations approach there is apt to be a revulsion of feeling, and the student is sometimes even heard to complain that the lack of any spur to hold him up to his work during the term has thrown an unduly heavy burden upon his shoulders in the time immediately preceding examinations. The Faculty, however, have definite reasons for this change of policy toward the students during their junior and senior years, and the statement of a few of these reasons may not be out of place.

The average student on reaching his junior year is about 21 years of age, and it is not unnatural to assume that he is fitted to practice self-reliance and has learned to stand up on his own feet by the time he has reached man's estate. In this connection it is interesting to contrast the English and German viewpoints. The English preparatory school exercises moderate restraint over the actions of the scholars which lessens gradually as they rise to the upper classes. In this way when the young man enters college he is not violently thrown upon his own resources, but enjoys gradually as it were the rights of manhood. Even in the college, however, the dons keep a watchful eye on him and coaches are not lacking at any period of his career to aid the tardy student. The German "gymnasium" on the contrary treats the boys as little better than overgrown children and the consequence is, that when the young man enters college where nobody cares, within limits, how he conducts or often misconducts

himself, he usually sows a plentiful crop of wild oats. Tech stands between these two ideas and insists during the first two years at college that the student shall show every five weeks that he is not wasting his time.

In the junior and senior years the Faculty assumes that the men realize their opportunities and will not squander them. This indeed is more than an assumption, for a professor recently stated that there seems to exist a peculiar psychological change in the characteristics of a man about the age at which most students pass from their sophomore to their junior year. This change is very noticeable to the instructing staff. The men become steadier, more willing to accept responsibility, and broader in their views toward instruction in general. It is therefore very unlikely that the Faculty will ever continue the intermediate examination beyond the sophomore year, since such a step would mean the withdrawal of one of the greatest incentives to the cultivation of self-reliance and self-control which exists at the Institute.

## READING NOTICES.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan will speak at Tremont Temple Thursday evening, March 14, on "The value of an Ideal." He comes at the invitation of a strictly non-political organization, and will not speak anywhere else in New England. Through the kindness of the committee a limited number of seats will be offered to the students of the Institute in a block. The demand is such that it will be practically impossible to secure seats this offer, and it is hoped that the Institute will make a good showing. All who want tickets (price 50c.) leave note at Cage before 2 P.M. Feb. 26, for J. F. Johnston, '07.

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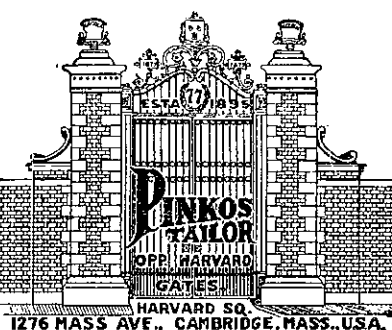
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