

THE TECH

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Friday, February 21, 1908.

AN EVER PRESENT QUESTION.

A matter open to continual discussion among students, their publications, the alumni, the Faculty, and the governing bodies of nearly every college or university in the country is undergraduate activities or enterprises. The undergraduates and, in great part, the alumni are for a wider and more diversified field in student activity, the Faculty seldom, however, recognizes these student enterprises, while the governing bodies apparently do not attempt to foster these activities.
Various attempts of solution of this problem have been tried in different institutions, one of the most fatal to the enterprises and unsuccessful in every way has been Faculty supervision. At the Institute the question of handling these activities has been worked out most successfully by leaving the government entirely in the hands of the students. The difficulty has been that the Faculty has been forced to recognize that such enterprises exist, has in most part favored such activities, but continues to increase the scholarship demands. The result is that, for the students who recognize the great good they can get out of these activities, it means hardship, increased expense, increased length of course and even the loss of a degree.
It is not often that this subject is taken up by men outside of college life, or by regular newspapers. A discussion of this was given in the Wednesday evening Boston Transcript in an editorial headed "Academic versus Non-Academic Interests" which shows clearly in just what light an editor, controlled by a fair-minded, conservative policy, regards this vital college question.
This editorial follows:
"A proper balance of college activities is a question that is attracting the attention and perhaps to some extent arousing the apprehension of those connected with our institutions for higher education. At the recent dinner of the Williams alumni of Boston, Professor Clarke, representing the college faculty, devoted to that question the burden of his remarks, though it was more a presentation of the facts for the consideration of the alumni and friends of the institution than an attempt to settle it even from the college point of view. There were the inside and outside interests, he said. The first were those that were familiar to parents and the public. They were those that the college presented as the general measure of its responsibility and effort and aimed to make a re-orientation demand upon the time and strength of the student.
"But the outside interests were also numerous and increasing. These, for the most part, were legitimate and worthy in themselves. They were literary, dramatic, artistic, musical, journalistic, athletic and so forth. He would not undertake to say whether these drew unduly upon the prescribed functions of the college. He presented the situation as he saw it and left the answer to his hearers. In the annual report of Dean Pendleton of Wellesley College, to the president of that institution, just made public, she asks: "Can the academic work compete successfully with the various non-academic interests which claim the attention of the college student?" Here are two colleges asking the same question at about the same time. That there are well defined doubts on the part of those most concerned, is probable, else it would not have been asked.
"The purposes of a college are, or should be, broadly educational, and if those "non-academic interests" have a tendency, as doubtless most of them do, to broaden education and develop character they should not merely be permitted but generously encouraged. Every college is a little cosmos. Within its limitations it is to be regarded and treated much as we treat the great world outside. Upon whom do we

most confidently depend for the success of new social, economic or philanthropic movements? Not to the men of narrow lives and limited horizons, but to the busiest men we know, the men that seem to have all they can attend to already. Wherever enthusiasm is enlisted a great deal can be accomplished with both pleasure and profit outside routine or perfunctory duties. The voluntary activities are frequently a healthy balance for those that are purely prescriptive. Certainly the affections of men for their colleges have their roots quite as deep in the interests they have helped to create as in those that they are simply required to maintain."

GRADUATE SPIRIT.

A most encouraging interest in track athletics was shown when a past manager of the Tech track team walked into Major Briggs' office and after talking over the conditions which prevail at present he indicated his desire to assist in any way he could. As he left he gave Major Briggs a contribution to help on the "good cause." This spirit is not only most commendable but at the same time is very encouraging to those now in charge of athletics at the Institute.

SHOW MEN PICKED.

Provisional Selection of Entire Cast.

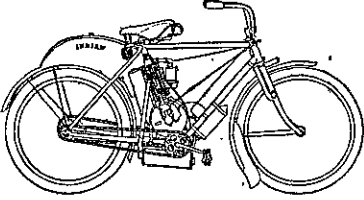
The provisional cast for the Show is Mrs. Sealytle, C. H. White 1909, Helen Sealytle, R. C. Jacobs 1910, Mrs. Starling, K. D. Fernstrom 1910, Marjorie Starling, A. L. Moses 1909, Stella Starling, A. F. Herold 1909, Marietta Baldini, C. P. Palmer, 1909, Alf Higgins, E. R. Jackson 1910, Prof. Starling, K. R. Kennison 1909, Fred Willmerdine, M. B. Hall 1910, Bob Willmerdine, C. Field 1910, Dick Nordling, W. M. Schofield 1910, Capt. Shakewell, A. S. Court 1909, Gilligan, P. D. White 1911, Pruitt, H. H. Catching 1911, Prof. Buggs, T. W. Saul 1910, Hadden, J. T. Finnie 1909, Pietro, S. Altamarino 1909.
The men provisionally picked for the chorus are: W. G. Harrington, 1910, C. R. Jones 1907, C. W. Hubbard 1909, H. F. Dolliver 1911, A. L. Fabens 1911, E. Q. Adams 1909, C. D. Dunlop 1910, H. J. Baker 1911, J. E. Cole 1910, E. R. Hall 1911, N. Ransohoff 1910, L. O. Mills 1910, G. M. Gadsby 1911, C. Edwards 1911, H. P. Wasserboehr 1910, K. W. Faunce 1911, A. B. Morrill 1909, C. F. Hobson 1911, D. R. Stevens 1911, E. L. Warren 1908.
H. S. Gott 1910, and E. Newhall 1910 are rehearsing with the principals but have not as yet been assigned to parts.

ELECTRICALS HEAR TALKS.

(Continued from page 1.)
very interesting talk given by Mr. Benjamin Bullard 1908.
Mr. E. A. Kilburn 1908 gave a graphic description of a breakdown in the electrical plant of a Connecticut town, and how the plant was finally put in running order.
"The Requirements of a Student Entering the Electrical Department of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark," was the subject of Mr. V. E. Bird 1908.

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