

THE TECH

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Monday, April 6, 1908.

LEARN FROM MISTAKES.

A common saying is that a man can learn more from his mistakes than from his successes and can also learn a great deal from the mistakes of other people. At the Institute a man has plenty of chance to learn from his own mistakes if he wants to. It is less easy to learn from the mistakes of others. In some cases men are encouraged to follow the work of their classmates.

In chemistry freshmen are given not all the same experiment so that a man can have the benefit of both his own experience and that of his neighbor who is working on something else.

In the architectural drawing rooms the atelier spirit is encouraged. Men from the second, third, and fourth years work together in the same drawing room. The younger fellows do simple work for the older ones and in return receive advice and help. Juniors say that they have received as much benefit from older students in this informal way as from any formal instruction. Under no close restrictions, the men work for the joy of working. After watching men toiling away in some of the engineering drawing rooms, stepping over to the architectural department, where men really seem to enjoy their work, is like visiting another country.

Of course moving about to see what some one else is doing takes time. A man who sticks closely to his own work can probably cover more square inches of drawing paper per day than the man who looks around. The latter on the other hand stands less chance of getting mental cramp and has the great advantage that he is able to learn from other people's mistakes.

THE PASSING.

The leaving of Mrs. King marks the passing of a distinct institution at Technology, and as much as all feel sorry to see her go, those who realize what the movement now going on really means, feel that it is the inevitable thing in the development of the Institute and its social life. With the passing away of so good a luncheon-room as managed by Mrs. King many doubtless have apprehensions, well shown in the communication below, as to the future eating place for the Institute students and instructors.

Those who fear as to the quality of food and lunch to be offered in the New Union, are to be assured by all who are to have anything to do with the management, that the quality of the food in the new lunch room will be as good as in the old eating place. The only difference will be the method of serving, and it is probable that the dairy lunch service will be given to those who wish it. A few dishes of high quality will be offered rather than a lot of

fancy-named dishes. Added to the better facilities for serving and cooking the food, will be a greater opportunity for intercourse among the teachers and students in the reading-room of the Gilley Memorial Library, and in the smoking room. While perhaps losing the simplicity of the old dairy lunch form, there will be an immense gain in many directions, and with the Institute authorities in charge of new lunch room, backed up by the Corporation, there is no need of fear as to the quality of food.

As to Mrs. King's resignation, all who knew her and of her service, cannot but feel sorry to see her go, but as has been said, the new turbine had to go in where the lunch room now is, and a respectable Union for the whole student body had to come.

COMMUNICATION.

The Editor of The Tech:

I should like to know if I am quite without sympathizers among the teachers or the students, in my surprise and disappointment at the announcement—as if it were a settled and inevitable thing—that the present lunch room is to be abolished and no provision made for a similar dairy lunch in the new quarters.

However efficient the Union Lunch may be or continue, in its kind, the other lunch-room is of different kind and is in no way superseded by the Union Lunch. As to neighboring dairy lunches, there is none and there is likely to be none where we should feel quite free to get or to be able to get as good food as we now can at the lunch-room, within the very moderate sum that most of us choose to expend for lunch. The abolition of the lunch-room appears to me a most unfortunate narrowing of our choice,—already enough limited,—of reasonably attractive and informal places wherein to obtain wholesome food at small cost. If any considerable number of teachers or students would, by this abolition, be driven to public restaurants, we should lose from our Tech life a pleasant and, in its quiet way, a very profitable intercourse among teachers, among students, and between both.

H. L. SEEVER.

Purdue University has initiated a movement for the federation of Catholic clubs in which Technology will probably join. The clubs of other colleges invited are those of Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and Boston University.

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