

THE TECH

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TECHNIQUE 1909.

One of the best things that a man gets out of student affairs is experience in bucking difficulties and the best thing about working against odds is that it teaches men to work hard and not to hunt for excuses.

Technique 1909 started out this fall under as big a handicap as any other board in the history of Technique and yet nowhere in the book is there any mention of these hardships. Nor in the last few months has anyone on the board spoken as though this Technique was bound to be the best ever published. Undoubtedly this spirit is what has made this book as successful as it is.

In the past conditions have usually been different. Technique 1906 had a board of very clever men. Seemingly they worked together well and every one, including the board, expected to see about the best Technique in the world. Technique 1906 was not at all a good book.

Technique 1907 started with great hopes and when the book came out most of the editors believed in their inner consciences that Technique 1907 was the acme of book making. Most other people thought it rather ordinary.

The 1908 board had high ideals of excellence and originality. These men believed in working out every detail in their Technique for themselves, doing nothing that had been done before unless that was clearly the best possible way of doing. About a month and a half before this book came out they sincerely believed that all future Techniques could do no better than model after Technique 1908, which same equalled perfection. When the book came out it had two or three very apparent and glaring faults. Among other things the cover was poor, the paper was poor and some of the typography was at fault.

All three of these Technique boards were composed of efficient men and suffered from no great losses in changes.

Last fall, Technique 1909 had no editor-in-chief, no business manager, no art editors at all, and had lost an associate editor and two assistant business managers. The whole board had to be made over. As a consequence practically no work had been done on the book until after the first of December; the board had to do ten months' work in four months. The brunt of this work had to be carried by five or six members of the board and the interesting part of it all is that they carried it through successfully.

The biggest faults in Technique 1909 are the lack of unity and finish and the unevenness in quality, but when you consider the strain everyone was under and the handicap of low funds due to a scarcity in willing advertisers this winter, these faults are natural. On the whole the book ranks with the best.

Noteworthy as is the success of the 1909 board it is even more worthy of note that nowhere in the book do they ask to be let off easy on account of circumstances. Also they have appeared less confident of getting out a perfect Technique than have previous boards. Without talking they have been playing a bad hand as best they could; hoping for the best and working very hard. And this why The Tech, notwithstanding certain criticisms in other columns, is especially glad to congratulate the board of editors of Technique 1909 on an excellent book, and hopes sincerely that the 1910 board can, under more fortunate circumstances, produce as fine a Technique.

FROM COVER TO COVER.

(Continued from page 1.)

in method of paging, makeup, and general arrangement, passing from high excellence to the poorest sort of book-making. Page after page is carefully laid out, with one interspersed so poorly arranged that it spoils the general good effect. In greater part the typography is of the quality usually associated with the name "University Press," but there are places where the alignment is extremely poor, and the type used is not either in taste or good form.

That the book contains some 80 odd pages more than last year's Technique is hard to believe for the volume is much thinner, due to the thinness of the paper. The paper itself is of a high finish that brings out in a beautiful manner the half tone cuts, engravings and color cuts, a great improvement over that used last year.

Many new features are to be seen in the book, many original, others that are clever adaptations. The value of the volume as a reference book is greatly enhanced by the return to the register of the professors with vignette cuts and information in regard to each one, with the various faculty members arranged in alphabetical order. This feature was omitted to an extent in Technique 1908.

Individual cuts of athletes along the borders of the summaries is the striking feature of the athletic department, together with a greater use of athletic scenes. The show is given much more space than is usual, a commendable feature, with cuts of the cast and chorus of "William, Willie and Bill." This last is of much more interest than the frame of pictures as used in previous Techniques. "Letters from the Alumni," telling about the various alumni organizations, is a distinctly new feature, although its place in Technique is greatly to be questioned.

There is one long article on "A General Meeting Place" which reviews the development of social life at the Institute, with the recent agitation in regard to the new Union. This is of (Continued on page 3.)

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