

THE TECH

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IN REVIEW.

The action of the Institute Committee in increasing its membership and bringing into the body a large number of men interested in various enterprises and widening the representation on that body comes as a culmination of a great development in student government and activities during the present school year. A marked advance in all lines of student interests has been manifested, but the degree or quantity is hard to appreciate without a thorough review.

The first great advance was made in the management of athletics by the student association. The old athletic association, made up in membership of every student at the Institute failed to take either the responsibility or proper action on vital matters in student control of athletics. This inaction or inadequacy very naturally threw the responsibility upon the advisory council. For a long time it had been evident that some change in the organization had become necessary. Interest in the athletic meetings had dwindled to such an extent and attendance had so decreased that the transaction of business was almost a farce. A small crowd of fellows coming to any meeting could secure the passage of any motion or the election of any man they pleased. Some radical action was imperative if the standing of athletics at the Institute was not to be seriously impaired.

The change to a small body made up of class representatives and athletic captains and managers was suggested and carried through with little or no difficulty, and this body, although not working up to its full efficiency has proved a most powerful stimulus to athletics both in their conduct and spirit. The bringing in of a spirit of fair competition for the managerial positions was perhaps the first and most remarkable result. This spirit has extended to other sports and will undoubtedly bear the good fruit of efficient and capable managers.

The athletic association in its short period of new existence, has taken much detail work from the advisory council, has taken up many questions of status of minor sports at the Institute, has amalgamated the cross country and track managership, not to speak of many smaller problems solved; a truly good record for a new body.

In athletic sports, especially in track, there has been evident recently a better spirit and more interest than in the past. Much of this has been due to the new coach, but a great part can be credited to the feeling on the part of the fellows that they, not a body far removed, had the real power in athletics.

The next big move in the right direction was taken by the Show, when the general manager brought before the students the idea of an advisory committee which should audit the books, pass on appointments and carry along a definite policy of management. This met

with hearty favor, and after institution aided the show management in many ways. The Show also brought forward the idea of having a week's vacation in the second term to further accommodate the Junior Week festivities, and to give relief from work. A petition signed by a large number of students was sent to the Faculty, and some action in this direction ought and undoubtedly will be taken by that body.

The greatest stir of the year, the one that has increased interest in all student activities was that for a new Union. The agitation for the use of the Copley Hall building for the students, not only increased the interest of the undergraduates in their own welfare, but brought strongly to the minds of members of the Corporation, Faculty and Alumni the poor conditions and evils that existed in the social side of Institute life. It is a great pleasure to note, in looking over the campaign for the new Union, that all activities took part in the movement, that a large number of students interested themselves in the outcome, and no doubt this interest of the many brought the desired result. That there is to be a Union next year is undoubtedly from the recent action of the Corporation together with the three very feasible plans spoken of in another column, that are now before that body.

The feeling that fellows at the Institute should hold not more than one responsible student office has led to an agitation which has brought about a new Institute Committee.

Probably the old body, traditionally somnolent, never before took such an important action, one so full of promise in the way of development, co-ordination of effort and co-operation in student enterprises as when it made the recent change. If this body does not, of its own volition, solve the many student problems, and care for the many student interests, then the Institute scheme of student government is wrong and a failure. With this body of men, representing varied interests and ideas, with the great increase of seniors on the board, with the sub-division of work and the placing of the responsibilities for definite things on the shoulders of small committees, this new body will no doubt accomplish more in its first year than the old board did in its entire history.

On the educational side the Institute has gone forward with great strides. The installation of a new and brilliant departure in the method of teaching mathematics, the investigation into the whole system of instruction especially in the second and third years, the looking forward to a sweeping reorganization of departments and courses, the founding of a new chemical research laboratory, the like of which there is not and which promises great returns, are a few of the results. One of the great steps toward better methods of organization is shown by the joint meeting of members of the Faculty and Corporation to talk over changes in curriculum and departments, a thing brought about recently for the first time in the history of the institution. The interest of the Faculty in student welfare was shown by the attempt to persuade men physically deficient to take exercise. It is not unlikely that the Faculty will take some action, before the beginning of next year toward making athletic exercise a regular subject of the curriculum at least for the first year men.

As to the future educational problems to be met, the students have little idea, all Institute undergraduates who are to be here next year should look forward to the problems in student government to be met. Among the greater responsibilities that will fall upon the new Institute Committee will be the proper conduct of the new Union, wherever it may be, with the seeing to it that all are satisfied with the food and with the arrangements. Then there will be the Komers, a feature which should be revived in Institute life, which will undoubtedly be a success in an adequate Union. Upon the Show management and advisory committee and the athletic association will fall the responsibility of fostering further the spirit of fair competition and fair opportunity. In the problem of a proper ruling on the number of offices any one student should hold, all activities will take part.

The entirely new problem needed to be taken up and met will be the co-ordination of the advertising interests at the Institute, the taking from a small body like the Prom committee or the Technique board the entire responsibility of so great a money risk and distributing it over the whole Junior class, the question whether it would

not be advisable to make the Prom more of a class affair with better arrangements such as boxes at the dance, the bringing together of all the activities under such a scheme as suggested by I. W. Litchfield 1885 for a business training, this training to be a part of the curriculum, and numerous others. The proper spirit to solve these problems has grown up this year; the development and spirit should be even greater in the next.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of The Tech.

Dear Sir:—The approach of graduation means for many of us the anxious period of hunting a job. It may not be amiss, therefore, for a newcomer to another university to call attention to what seems to him a big opportunity for some several enterprising graduates at the very door of the Institute.

At the present time every student in the institution, already under the heavy expense of living in a large city for four unproductive years, has practically no choice as to where he shall buy his tools, books, and stationery. The monopoly of such articles is held by one store. Here several prices are extracted from the student's pockets for whatever he wants, provided what he wants is in stock, which is often not the case when the article in question is in regular demand and which is never the case when it is a trifle out of the ordinary line. In other words there is no disposition to risk any more than the lowest minimum of stock for the convenience of patrons. Anything outside this minimum must be ordered, provisional on a generous deposit by the purchaser; the order is not infrequently several days overdue; when it does arrive, only a long and frantic search by the garrulous gentleman in authority succeeds in revealing the abiding place of the scrap of paper on which the memorandum was made and without which the goods cannot be delivered.

Again, the patient student inquires for a book and is told that it is not in stock. After a sufficient number of repetitions of his knowledge to the contrary, the question is passed from uninterested clerk to ditto for several relays till it reaches the Chief, who, after reference to several files and with the assistance of some of the corps, finally exhumes the desired article.

Such incidents have been part of the personal experience of the writer, and probably the like has happened to every victim in the Institute who has been compelled to wade through piles of Easter cards, comic postals, pen-wipers, etc., in his efforts to secure an eraser or a pad of paper, who has been confronted by the exasperating ignorance of the nature of what he calls for (say a T-square), ignorance of whether or no it is in stock, ignorance of what part of the store it may be in, and ignorance of what it costs. At each stage, inquiry must be made of one or more of the listless, inefficient, gossiping clerks, till perchance, by good fortune, the thing is run to the ground.

Contrast this shilly-shallying, outrageous state of affairs, for which we pay double the normal, metropolitan prices, with a real "co-op" run by students who know the needs of students, where prices are reasonable, services prompt, courteous, and efficient, and methods business-like, and answer if there is not urgent need and assured success for a students' "Co-op."

Will others kindly give their opinions pro and con thru the medium of The Tech.

EUGENE C. HOWE.

FACULTY NOTICE.

COURSE III, OPTION I.—Finished reports and note books in Geological Surveying should be left with the Librarian, 14 Pierce, on or before Monday, June 1. No extensions of time will be granted. T. A. Jagger.

SENIORS.—Programs for Senior Week can be obtained at the Cage now, or in the fourth year drawing rooms.

NOTICES.

Subscriptions to the Western Electrician at \$2.50, may be obtained from the Business Manager, The Tech.

SENIORS.—Theses are due on Tuesday, May 26, to be handed in to Prof. Merrill, Secretary of the Faculty.

THE TECH.—Meeting of Board of Editors at Technology Club Monday, May 25, 1 P. M.

The Technology Review

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

AND

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The Review aims to develop closer relations among Institute men and to stimulate their interest in the work of the College. It is in no sense an engineering magazine, but deals broadly with the problems of Technological Education and the responsibilities of the professional man.

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