# THE TECH

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## ALUMNI BODY HOLDS ELECTIONS

### Edwin T. Webster is Elected President, Frank E. Shepard Vice-President

### CONSTITUTION REVISDD

### Committee Chosen to Look After Management of Technology Reunion

Balloting has been completed among the members of the Alumni Association for the election of officers and to see if the revised constitution and by-laws be substituted for the present constitution. The matter of the constitution is of great importance to every alumnus and copies of the revised form have been mailed to all members, together with the necessary ballots.

The polls closed in Boston on Sunday, Dec. 20. Only members of the Alumni Association who have not been connected with the Institute as students for at least five years were entitled to vote for term members of the Corporation.

The following officers were elected:—President, Edwin S. Webster 1888; vice-president, Frank E. Shepard 1887; secretary, Walter Humphreys 1897; executive committee, William S. Johnson 1889, Charles E. Park 1892; nominating committee, Harry W. Tyler 1884, Edward H. Huxley 1895, Frederick H. Hunter 1902; committee on school, Linwood O. Towne 1878; trustee of the Alumni fund and of the life membership fund, James P. Munroe 1882; for Advisory Council on athletics, Frank H. Briggs 1881; for corporation term members, Theodore W. Robinson 1884, Charles R. Richards 1888, Hollis French 1889, E. Laurence Hurd 1895, C. Whipple 1889, Walter B. Snow 1882.

A change in the by-laws provides for the election of term members of the corporation from candidates selected by the alumni. In accordance with this provision the nominating committee of the Alumni Asosciation submitted eight nominees from which five were selected.

A committee has been chosen to look after the management of the all-Technology reunion, June 7, 8, and 9, and work is now under way perfecting plans.

The annual alumni dinner, which will be held January 14, will unquestionably be the largest and most enthusiastic annual dinner that the association has ever held. The association has now outgrown any Boston hotel and it has been decided to hold the dinner at Horticultural Hall, which is an admirable arrangement for such an event, as a thousand people can be seated there comfortably.

The speakers will be Dr. Maclaurin, president-elect of the Institute; Dr. Noyes 1886, acting president; Governor Eben S. Draper 1878; Prof. Robert S. Woodward, president of the Carnegie Institute, and the Hon. Gifford Pinchot, chief forrester of the Department of Agriculture.

One important event will be selections by the Glee Club, which will also lead the singing—the singing tables being located adjacent to the Glee Club table. This will be the first introduction of Dr. Maclaurin to the alumni and it will be one of great evidence of a most important year.

## ALLEN IS WITNESS

At a hearing of the board of railroad comissioners recently on the protest of several residents of Hingham, Cohasset and Weymouth, against what they deemed to be unsafe curves on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad through these towns, Mr. C. Frank Allen, professor in railroad engineering at the Institute, told of his examinations of the track. A sharp curve in one section of the rail, he said, may be followed in the next section by a flat rail, which cannot fail to cause violent swaying of the car.

## CLOSE CONTESTS AT INDOOR MEET

### Indications Point Toward a Strenuous Evening on January Eight

### HALF MILE TO BE HOT

### Many Stars Entered in This Event and a Big Fight for the Cup is Promised

Hotly contested events with close finishes will be the order of the day in the coming annual indoor meet, to be held in the Gym on Jan. 8. The Gym will be open during the holidays and the track men will have opportunity to continue their training up to the day of the meet.

In the 35-yard dash nearly all the star sprinters of the Institute will be entered, and with such men as Capt. Carl Gram 1909, of the track team, W. J. Seligman, the sophomore flyer, K. D. Fernstrom 1910, S. E. Reed 1912, captain of the freshman relay, R. H. Gould 1911, and M. A. Oettinger 1912, close competition will be sure to be furnished. Seligman won this event last year, while K. D. Fernstrom and D. R. Stevens 1911, were the other point winners, now at the Institute.

In the 440-yard dash A. L. Moses 1909, who made his "T" in his freshman year on the varsity relay, will again appear. He has not run for three years, but should be able to make the other contestants hustle for a place. Gram, Fernstrom, Seligman and W. C. Salisbury, captain of this fall's winning sophomore relay, will be among the other contestants. Fernstrom scored second place to Blackburn 1908, in this event last year.

Many veterans will come to the mark in the 880. At present the race looks like a fight between P. D. White and W. C. Salisbury, both 1911, for first position. M. A. Oettinger, the freshman star of the fall meet, has been doing very creditable work in this event and may prove to be a dark horse. C. P. Eldred 1911, and J. D. Mackenzie 1911, have recently changed from long distance work to the half mile.

Eldred was among the point winners at the recent Princeton Intercollegiate cross-country run, and Mackenzie was captain of the winning 1911 cross-country team last spring. Both men should prove strong factors in the race. Besides these is H. Y. Frost 1909, who has scored several times at this distance since he has been at the Institute, and who recently came to the front by winning second place to White in the fall handicap. White won this event in the last indoor meet and Salisbury and Mackenzie took second and fourth places respectively.

Two men of the first water will strive for first honors in the mile run. They are H. H. Howland 1908, the past captain of the cross-country team, and L. O. Mills, the present captain. Both men placed well up to the front at Princeton, and a pretty exhibition may be looked for. W. T. Macreadie 1911, C. P. Eldred 1911, and J. N. Stephenson 1909, with L. O. Mills, who won the race, were the point winners last winter. Stephenson is a good consitent man. He also scored at Princeton and may be counted on to push the winner hard.

Unless Fernstrom enters the hurdles, it looks as though G. B. Cummings 1910, will have it all his own way in this event. The hurdles are at present one of the weakest points of the Institute track team. This meet will offer a good opportunity for any new man to try his mettle.

The high jump will be a close contest between R. H. Allen 1909, E. Stuart 1910, and the allround freshman star, P. W. Dalrymple. Allen and Stuart have both won their "T" in this event in intercollegiate competition, and Dalrymple won the event in the fall handicap and took first place in the three freshmen meets held during the fall.

(Continued on page 3.)

## ALCHEMISTS THE FIRST SEARCHERS

### First to Develope and Investigate Science of Metallurgy

### PROF. JENNINGS TALKS

### Took Names of Reagents From Knowledge of Astrology and Chemistry

Prof. W. L. Jennings of Worcester Tech was the speaker at the meeting of the Chemical Society, Monday evening. His subject was the "History of the Development of Chemistry from Alchemy."

Alchemy grew out of the desire to convert the baser metals into gold. All the early knowledge of chemistry came from the experiments of searchers for the "philosopher's stone," which was supposed to convert by miraculous molecular changes the base metals into gold. Alchemists also worked to find a universal remedy for disease.

We find the earliest reference to alchemists in the old Egyptian inscriptions, probably of a date of 2500 B. C., but the art was most flourishing from the fourth to the sixth century A. D.

The alchemists had to invent most of their processes and had but few of the reagents used in the modern science of chemistry. Acids were discovered in the search for a universal solvent.

The symbols and names used in the modern science show the influence of the early searchers more than their processes, which are still used. The connection of the science with astrology is interesting in this respect as is witnessed by the name lunar caustic for silver nitrate and saturnine colic for lead-poisoning.

The science obtained its first foothold in Greece, where the priests used their temples as laboratories whence the art achieved a certain dignity, being known as the "Holy Art of Alchemy."

At the time of the Rennaisance the knowledge of alchemy was spread broadcast, along with the other forms of Greek culture, but was soon debased and abused by conjurers and magicians who sought only to fool the public. The result of these abuses was to throw the art into disrepute until alchemists were prosecuted as public malefactors.

The modern custom of charging seigniorage on coins is another outgrowth of the custom which monarchs had of offering protection to alchemists who would alloy the coins and mingle the gold with baser metals.

The principles of alchemy bob up nowadays frequently, a plant being recently started in Chicago to make gold and silver. The scientist, Ramsey, claimed to be able to change copper into potassium, sodium and lithium by means of radium, but his claim has been refuted by Mme Curie, the discoverer of radium.

The meeting was well attended, as was warranted by the interest of the subject.

## TECH CLUB HEARS TALK

"Hunting Big Game in New Brunswick with Canoe and Camera," was the subject of an interesting talk before the members of the Technology Club last evening, by Mr. William Lyman Underwood, who claimed that there was more sport hunting with a camera than with a gun, and gave the advantages of the latter method. The lecture was remarkably illustrated by a number of excellent views. Not only did he show pictures of moose taken at a distance of fifteen feet, but he threw on the screen pictures showing his guide riding on the back of a cow moose in the water.

Mr. Underwood was recently elected an honorary member of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association.

## KNOX, 1910 WINS FENCING CONTEST

### Loring, '09, Captures Second Place From Two Other Contestants

### BOUTS HOT AND CLOSE

### Disappointment Expressed That Contests Rrought Out No New Material

H. G. Knox last evening proved himself the best fencer of the Institute team, at the bouts at the Gym. The second and fifth contests between Knox and E. Y. Loring 1909, and Knox and C. Coppinger 1911, were the two best of the tournament, the former going to Knox on form and the latter being almost a draw, Coppinger losing by only one point.

Loring secured a hold on second place by winning all his bouts, but the second, and Coppinger and Capt. Grubnau drew for third place.

The tournament did not bring out as many of the second string men as was expected, and very few attended the bouts, only about a score being present.

The summary follows:—

First bout—V. C. Grubnau 1909, tied C. Coppinger 1911.

Second bout—H. G. Knox 1910, defeated E. M. Loring 1909.

Third bout—H. G. Knox 1910, defeated Grubnau 1909.

Fourth bout—E. M. Loring 1909, defeated C. Coppinger 1911.

Fifth bout—H. G. Knox 1910, defeated C. Coppinger 1911.

Sixth bout—E. M. Loring 1909, defeated Grubnau 1909.

Referee—Lucien Fournon, coach.

Judges—Major Fred S. Wheeler, W. C. Towne.

Timer—M. S. Chapin 1910.

## TALBOT TO SPEAK

### "Science Teaching as a Career" the Subject

Prof. H. B. Talbot will deliver an address at the Girl's Latin School, on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 2:30 P. M. This address will be followed in the same room, by a meeting of the Section C of Chemical Education, before which the following papers will be delivered:—William H. Nichols, "The Efficiency and Deficiencies of the College-Trained Chemist when tested in the Technical Field;" Louis M. Dennis, "To what extent should College Training confer Practical Efficiency along Technical lines." Prof. Talbot is vice-president of Section C, and chairman of section of Chemical Education. The subject of his address will be, "Science Teaching as a Career."

On Saturday, Jan. 2, the following Institute men will deliver papers:—

W. C. Bray and G. M. J. Mackay, "Equilibrium in Solutions containing Copper and Iodine."

G. N. Nelson and C. A. Kraus, "The Potential of the Sodium Electrode."

Prof. Lewis will deliver an address to the Chemical Society on the Ionic Theory.

## CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

1:00 P. M.—Candidates for hockey team meet.

4:00 P. M.—Gym team meets at Gym.

THURSDAY, DEC. 24.

7:30 P. M.—Christmas Eve entertainment at the Union.