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The Editor is always responsible for the opinions expressed in the editorial columns, and the Managing Editor for the matter which appears in the news columns.

Although communications may be published unsigned if so requested, the name of the writer must in every case be submitted to the editor. THE TECH assumes no responsibility, however, for the facts as stated nor for opinions expressed.

IN CHARGE THIS ISSUE

Henry C. Gayley '22 James D. Sarros '22

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1920

GET A WELL BALANCED SCHEDULE

IT the beginning of this term how many men will prepare a complete and well balanced schedule? How many of the undergraduates will plan a program which will include, not only the subjects listed under the various courses of study in the curriculum, but which will also embrace that equally important side of a Technology training, Institute activities?

The sermon of activities is one that every man in Technology has heard many times. It is a story that has been told again and again, by undergraduates, Alumni and Faculty. Still, it is a story which can not be too often repeated and a point which it is not possible to overemphasize.

The man who spends four years at Technology without taking an active part in the affairs which vitally concern his institution has not only been disloyal but he has cheated himself out of no small part of the benefits to be derived from a college training. All the scholastic honors one may gain cannot offset the lack of that training which could have been derived from a close acquaintance with one's fellow students, the development of responsibility, self reliance and initiative which comes only through a knowledge of men. An active part in the nonscholastic affairs of the Institute means the formation of friendships which will be remembered long after the memory has happily rid itself of the specifications for a standard ohm, the molecular weight of the elements and the second derivative of a jumble of letters, exponents and trigonometrical functions.

The activities are not only beneficial to those who engage in them but they are of great value to the Institute. Without its various student activities, Technology would be a factory turning out machines instead of men. As the leading engineering institution in America, Technology gives a man prestige in the engineering world. To everyone possessing a sense of fair play or a modicum of loyalty there comes a desire to give something in return for that which he received. There is a chance for everyone to make this return. In most cases it can be but a small part of that which is due, but, but at the very least it can be something.

The man who ignores the importance of that phase of Institute training which is not actually compulsory is not only a discredit to Technology, but in spite of all his selfishness of nature, he is too short sighted to obtain the maximum benefits from his four years spent at the Institute.

RENAME "SMITH HALL"

SINCE the opening of Technology's new buildings, room 10-250 has been called "Smith Hall." Now, however, when we are about to learn the identity of the one who has done more than anyone else to make it possible for us to have our present plant, it seems only right to rename "Smith Hall" with the real name of the hitherto anonymous benefactor.

We already have a "Lowell Court" and a "Dupont Court," and to them should be added "Smith Hall" rechristened with a name which should rank beside that of William Barton Rogers in the affections of every Technology man. It is true that we prefer to designate places by numbers but let us see to it that the name of one who has heaped such benefits upon our Alma Mater is written where none who reaps the harvest of his generosity can fail to see it.

THE WALKER DANCE

PROMINENT among the efforts to foster a better spirit among the undergraduates, have been the dances in Walker, given by the dormitories and the various clubs and societies of the Institute. These dances have met with such success that the Walker Memorial Committee is planning a series of formal dances to be given to the entire student body.

Those in charge of these dances will have rendered the Institute a great service in offering to the entire student body such an excellent opportunity to strengthen those ties which means such a great deal to every college man, Alumnus as well as undergraduate. A formal dance in Walker, while by no means novel, is certainly a departure from the custom adopted by the dormitories and societies. The change, as, no doubt, everyone will agree, is a most desirable one as far as the pleasure of those attending and the social standing of the Institute are concerned.

THE METRIC SYSTEM FOR AMERICA?

FOR some years there has been a movement in the United States to replace the systems of weights and measures now prescribed by law by the metric system. It is useless to tell any man with technical training the advantages of a system which permits the conversion of units by the simple hanging of a decimal point, and designates the magnitude of the unit by the same series of prefixes applied to any measure. The difficulty arises in the change.

The latest move of the advocates of the now all but universal metric system is to scatter pledges to promote its adoption among non-technical business and professional men as well as scientists.

The change which these men are working for is, however, too sudden to be brought about without a great deal of confusion since it necessitates the changing at one time not only all the tables, specifications and prices in use today but also the readjustment of the habits of a lifetime. The advisable plan to follow would be one which provided for a gradual conversion of our standards.

A SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE

IT looks very much as though soccer has come to stay at Technology. Starting under some of the greatest difficulties that ever handicapped any of the Institute's activities, the soccer team, composed of Technology men, enjoyed one of the most successful seasons ever experienced by an Institute team.

Credit is due Captain D. J. Luykx, who besides piloting the team was called upon to do the greater part of the coaching. The entire team cannot be praised too highly, for through the untiring efforts of those who composed it Technology has benefited by the addition of a new activity.

UNSIGNED COMMUNICATIONS

IN apparent interest on the part of our readers in undergraduate affairs has manifested itself through the communications addressed to the editor of THE TECH. All letters intended for publication must be signed by the writer. If requested, the name of the writer will be withheld from publication, but no unsigned communications will be published unless the name of the writer is known to the editor.

AN APPRECIATION

Thanks are due H. E. Lobdell '17 for his aid and co-operation which made this issue possible.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AT TECHNOLOGY

President Walker's report was issued. It showed that the financial condition of Technology, while considerably improved during the year past was, nevertheless, such as to cause no little anxiety on the part of the Corporate Board. In view of the gravity of the situation a petition was sent by the Board to the House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts asking for a yearly appropriation extending over a period of six years.

At a meeting of the Technology orchestra a constitution was adopted and officers elected.

There was a meeting of the executive committee of the class of ninety-six. It was decided to begin Junior Week on April 14th. It was also planned to have the Junior Prom, the French and German plays and the Spring Concert during that week.

From the Boston Post

"TECH'S" GREAT WORK

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has marshalled its great resources to aid the industries of the country and has created a new division for this

purpose under the head of Dr. William H. Walker, a proven instructor of scholarly attainments and long-tried experiences.

This is a commendable movement sure to bring the institution on the Charles a national reputation. Already 120 of our largest industries have given both their approval and assured their assist-

ance. The need for such a training for young men goes without question, while its prospective value to enterprise, progress, and real accomplishments, is beyond even estimation. Business is more in need of strengthening influences than ever, and the development of practical efficiency is a prime necessity today since our new order of activities brings us more directly into competition for the world's market.

A more important step could not have been taken. The equipping of our young men for great commercial enterprises and the providing of such life opportunities is so full of wonderful promise that it is strange that such practical and thorough system of education has been delayed until this time.

There are no limits to the possibilities and President MacLaurin is entitled to the gratitude of the young men of the country as well as the congratulations of our captains of industry. It's a great work and must command all the best wishes of the nation for its continuous success.

From the Transcript

TECH'S "INDUSTRIAL SERVICE"

In company with an announcement of the choice of so strong a man as Dr. William H. Walker to be the directing executive of the new division for industrial service established by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it is good to know that all the terms and conditions governing the work which the division will do have been as wisely devised and determined. When the plan to create this division was first described, with its proposal to make certain of the Institute's services available to industrial corporations in return for the payment of an agreed retaining fee, there was a disposition expressed by some observers in Boston to view the idea slightly askance. In these editorial columns, for instance, the possibility that the plan might throw upon the Institute an undesirable weight of obligation toward the clients retaining it was made a subject of analytical comment. The conclusion reached here, however, was to this effect: That whereas the danger might be inevitable in the case of educational institution of a general nature, the service which Technology could fairly render were so specific and practical that they needed only to be clearly defined, in a legal contract drawn between the parties, in order to place the whole transaction upon a plane above reproach. What can now be most welcome received, therefore, is the assurance that the contracts offered by the Institute accomplish this object with every certainty.

President MacLaurin, after showing by means of a specimen contract how explicitly the commitments accepted by Technology are defined in the written agreement, declares in a memorandum which he has supplied to us,

The Technology plan, far from compromising the Institute by making it subservient to a group of corporations, actually frees it from all suspicion of obligation and leaves it free to devote all its efforts to "the realm of high and uncompromised usefulness which the school rightly embraces." Under the operation of the Technology plan the Institute may accept contributions from the great corporations, not as the object of charity or philanthropy but as an engineering institution giving value for payments received. . . . If the offer be accepted, the entire affair is placed on a business basis at the outset and all possibility of the company's exerting influence of any kind, by reason of the Institute being under some sort of obligation for the funds received, eliminated.

In one very real sense of the word it is important to say that Technology's present plan is only a continuation of a service which it has long performed for industries seeking its advice and assistance in the past, but a continuation with a proviso which more simply determines how that service shall be paid for. Of the need and value of the aid so given by Technology there has never been any question, even though administering it was in existence. With the practical issues solved, and every corporation given frankly to understand what services it may ask and not denied, surely there should be expected an excellent further increase of the Institute's contribution to the technical progress industry and so to the progress of the whole country.