

The Tech

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IN CHARGE OF THIS ISSUE

Ingram Lee.....W. W. Scripp

Friday, January 20, 1922

PROGRESSIVE SCIENCE

The old saying that a man is known by the company he keeps is undoubtedly as applicable to words and ideas as it is to the genus homo. For it is a fact that the words with which certain ideas are most closely associated are often the most effective indication of the true significance of those ideas. A case in point is furnished by the close juxtaposition in which the two words progress and science are generally encountered. If one were to search his entire vocabulary, though it rivalled Dr. Johnson's in its scope and extent, he could hardly find a more fitting word with which to express the essential attributes and ultimate significance of science, than the word progress.

Science and progress have become so evidently synonymous that to ponder unduly on that fact at this late day would be bordering slightly on the tautological. But whether the young student of science is as appreciative of this fact as he should be is another question. To those of an elder generation who have watched most of the modern sciences grow from freaks of the laboratory to the backbone and basis of our industrial system, the imperative necessity of accurate and timely information on all matters affecting the progress of science, has by now become quite obvious.

To the student, confronted with the stately edifice of learning and knowledge which the scientist has reared almost overnight, the idea that science is still in its infancy, that its greatest achievements lie in the future, is apt to be received with distrust, if not with suspicion.

But if ever there was need of forward looking men of science it is today, when the intellectual world is still gasping for breath after the startling disclosures made by investigators into the microcosmic world of the electron, and when even the reputable scientist is heard talking, in a whisper to be sure, but talking, nevertheless, of the transmutation of elements and kindred wonders of the sub-atomic world.

An appreciation of the necessity for accurate and timely knowledge of contemporaneous developments in science, and a position to acquire such knowledge, are two blessings which are not vouchsafed to the majority of the children of men. In the last particular however, at least, Tech men are especially fortunate. Realizing the innumerable advantages to be derived from such a course, the powers that be have taken great pains and spared no efforts to present some of the ablest men on the Faculty as lecturers in the course on Recent Developments in Science, with the result that when the Tech man drops into 10-250 of a Friday afternoon from 4 to 5, it is difficult, if not impossible, to conceive of any way in which he could more profitably invest his time.

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THE NUISANCE OF THE LECTURE ROOM

The fellow who persists in carrying on a conversation during an entire lecture hour is an intolerable nuisance. He disturbs the one who, through a misplaced courtesy, listens to him. He is a pest to those in front of him, on the sides of him, and in back of him within range of his voice, who, unlike Everett True, cannot help themselves. And finally, he disturbs the lecturer who cannot interrupt his speech to reprimand each individual case of monologomania.

A lecture is occasionally interesting, and as much as one may desire to listen to the lecturer, it is next to impossible to even approximate attention when there comes from a nearby seat the stirring information of what "she says . . . and I says . . . and then she says . . ." Throwing paper wads is bad; intentionally creaking chairs is bad; conversation during a lecture comes in a category which is far worse.

Suppose the lecture is not interesting. Is the blatant one so conceited that he believes his discourse to be more interesting? Let him be disillusioned. Seldom is his mellifluous sibilance pleasing to any other than himself. A hardship as great as being forced to listen to a nonsensical series of words is to have dinned upon the ear meaningless sounds of whispering, gruff and shrill.

If the lecture is uninteresting, the wisest course is not to obtrude one's thoughts upon helpless neighbors. Better to doze off and let others enjoy the soporific effects of the occasion. If a fellow sleeps noisily, someone will wake him. If he talks, the shutting up process is more difficult.

ARE YOU A SHIFTER?

Ancient Organization Takes Technology by Storm

DEAN TALBOT ACTIVE MEMBER

Are you a Shifter? This is a question that is asked of the busy student hurrying to and from classes in the most unexpected places. Are you a Shifter? This question has almost become a stock phrase in the corridors of the Institute and woe to him that cannot make known the fact of his membership. He is immediately hurried to the busy little (?) groups seen collecting at the door of the office of the Combined Societies room at noon or at the door of 10-250 at five o'clock. Are you a Shifter? The Brown bagger hears this hissed at him in the class room as his fruitful mind is dutifully contemplating higher problems. The Shifter organization has taken the Institute by storm and an air of mystery shrouds the corridors at the passing of each period. The insignia of the organization is to be seen throughout the buildings and yet nobody really knows what it is all about, so secret is the activity of the society carried on.

The organization itself is as old as the garden of Eden, according to the members, and was carried by the Romans of the Empire to England, from

(Continued on Page 4)

COMMUNICATION

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 19, 1922.

To the Editor of THE TECH:

I have let the heat under my collar cool off, but find that I still have a kick coming. This outburst on my part is caused by the method of the election of section leaders, as conducted by one of our class officers.

It seems that, to suit his convenience, these elections are conducted during the English periods. Since any semblance of course and section has been blasted in that department, such elections are unfair, because, first, the man elected may belong to a course and section already represented; and, second, the man so elected is often inaccessible and unknown to the men not in the same course and section. I think that the Physics period is more suitable, since it remedies the faults mentioned above.

Therefore, in the interest of fair play and equal representation, I suggest a new election and that a new method for future elections be adopted.

I wish to thank THE TECH for this opportunity to express myself.

LEO GROSSMAN '24.

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LEO GROSSMAN '24.



"Lord God of hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget, Lest we forget!" Thus did the professor of contemptible literature recite one of Ruddy's great poems. Drifting up through the ventilator from the room immediately below came the sweet strains of a "light fantastic" waltz, or as the Lounger has heard those who attend classes on the depreciation of music call it, a Valse.

When Robby's mob was in 10-275 the Lounger understands that the machine bellowed forth classics like "The game was called on Sunday," causing the attention of the class in 10-250 to be riveted on the astronomy picture to watch the ball snap across the sky. It is reported that when the music got beyond that point, and the picture showed no signs of changing in the least detail that the class became restless and demanded more action.

The result was that Robby has been shifted to his new location and is doing his best to furnish accompaniment for the poems which are being read. The Lounger recommends that if any student wishes a sample of the co-operation which the average ten copper movie house has between its musicians and its screen, he should attend one of the contempt lectures. Truly one acquires contempt for most everything including music at one of these classes. The results are remarkable in the extreme. One hears the sentimental work of one poet to tunes of the "Marche Funebre," and wonder of wonders, when the prof of the elevated location read "Leave but a kiss within the cup, and I'll not ask for wine," the instructor of the ground location came out with "How dry I am" and "One keg of beer." This course well shows the advantage of the Wagnerian hidden orchestra, for vegetation and other contributions can not reach the providers of discord.

NOTICES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Professor H. M. Goodwin, Ph. D., of the Physics Department, will give a public lecture next Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock in room 10-250. His subject is, "Visible and Invisible Light. The Production of Color and Fluorescence." Tickets may be obtained at the Information Office.

UNDERGRADUATE NOTICES

Winter Concert tickets will be on sale at 12 today. Dance orders are to be distributed at this time.

The Freshman Swimming Squad will meet upstairs in the Massachusetts Ave. Station at 1:30 o'clock on Saturday for the meet with English High which starts at 2:30.

Recent Developments in Science

The third lecture of the term will be given at 4 o'clock today in room 5-330 by W. Lyman Underwood of the Department of Biology and Public Health on the subject: "Our Enemies at Home."

There will be a meeting of the Harvard-Technology Chemical Club, Tuesday, January 24, 1922, at 8 o'clock American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 28 Newbury street, Boston. The speakers will be: Professor George L. Clark: "X-ray Studies of Inorganic Complexes." Mr. W. R. Hainsworth: "The Hydrogen Electrode at High Pressures."

Night Editor in Charge of the next issue of THE TECH is W. G. Pierce '24, Tel. Brookline 57710. All matters concerning the issue should be referred to him.

Choral Club rehearsal today at 7:30 o'clock in room 5-330.

The Regular Meeting of the T. C. A. cabinet will be held today at 5 o'clock in the T. C. A. office.

Williamette Starts Gym Fund

The class of '25 of Williamette University started the new year right by pledging a contribution of \$700 to a gym fund. It was hoped that they might be able to raise \$1000 at this first attempt, but such was not possible. However, it is expected that \$300 will be collected in the near future. This makes a good start toward a new gymnasium.

AT THE THEATRES

ST. JAMES: "Everyday." A comedy of crooked business and politics.

HOLLIS: "The Wandering Jew." A familiar legend made into a drama.

COPLEY: "The Cassilis Engagement." A comedy of the contrasts of English social life.

PLYMOUTH: "Dog Love." William Hodge in a play of dogs and men.

SELWYN: "Happy-Go-Lucky." O. P. Heggie stars in Ian Hay's comedy.

SHUBERT: "Irene." A musical comedy that made good the second time.

COLONIAL: "Tip-Top." The Duncan Sisters, the Six Brown Brothers, and, O yes, Fred Stone.

WILBUR: "Red Pepper." That good old team, McIntyre and Heath.

KEITH'S: Vaudeville. Gertrude Hoffman and her American ballet.

MAJESTIC: Vaudeville.

SYMPHONY HALL: Jan. 20, at 8:15, and Jan. 21, at 2:30. Traveltalk on the "Philippines" by Burton Holmes.

TREMONT: "Orphans of the Storm." A Griffith super-spectacle.

FENWAY: Thur., Fri., Sat. "Five Days to Live."

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