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In Charge of This Issue:

J. P. Ramsey, Jr. '25

THE THEORY OF FINALS

WITHOUT putting an ear to the ground we are able to hear ominous rumblings from our contemporaries at Columbia. There is a moot question before the authorities of that college which will have a great bearing on methods of other colleges. It is the question of exempting certain students, with comparatively high standing, from final exams. By way of explanation, the plan had its source among the students who sent it to the faculty for approval, and now it remains to be ratified by the entire student body to insure its adoption. The motive for this action was based on a desire to provide a greater incentive to study regularly throughout the term, and secondly because cribbing at finals was so common that the examinations were not an actual test.

The primary argument against this plan is that the final examinations are as much a part of a given course as are the lectures or recitations. This theory is founded on the belief that a final is the instrument essential to tie together all the loose ends, that it is necessary for a comprehensive grasp of subject, in that the student is compelled to organize, systematize, and view objectively the course as a whole, or as a subject and not as a lesson. This is not to be construed as a plea for cramming, but rather as a plan for converging thought that would otherwise trickle off and pass out of use. Furthermore, in subjects in which a positive expression of opinion, based upon a critical analysis, is pre-eminently the essential part of the course, it is thought that the opinion is best displayed in three hours of writing rather than in a series of short and disjointed recitations.

On the other hand it is the opinion of many that with this exemption as a prize there will be sufficient incentive to make students work more evenly throughout the term, and since that is admitted on both sides to be a desirable condition, it may be accepted as valid. The question hinges on whether we need any more incentives. If we are fond of tradition we will listen to tales of men coming here to work and not to play, and the sop will be rejected. If we are more accustomed to listening to the tales of men who "learned" a course in a night we will admit that there is room for several incentives and perhaps a revision of policy.

To attempt to formulate any plan which would be general in its scope we believe would be futile because of the wide divergence in subject matter and methods of presentation. But because it is neither feasible nor desirable in some courses or subjects is little reason why it could not be used to advantage in other departments. The department head could well be the arbiter within his own sphere. In the final analysis it is only the opinion of the ultimate instructor which determines a student's status and with the sanction of the department head there is little reason why men who have passed through a tri-weekly recitation creditably should not be recommended for exemption.

Moreover it frequently happens that a student who has established a record of proficiency in one subject, could use the time to far better advantage on another in which the sledding has not been so smooth. Our crowded examination schedule makes this a very real advantage. An extra afternoon or day might be just enough to permit a review sufficiently comprehensive to enable a student to pass, and to redeem himself, in the face of odds.

CENTRAL STATION WORK SUBJECT OF LECTURER

(Continued from Page 1)

went on, are largely dependent on a knowledge of the character of the load, which is generally expressed in terms of the "load factor," which is the average load for a period of time divided by the maximum. Further necessary information is obtained from the "duration curve," which shows the distribution of the load between its maximum and minimum points.

Shows Many Slides

Next were discussed types of prime movers, and it was pointed out that the steam turbine was best for generating work, as it could be built in very large sizes, and is easily connected to the electrical units. In regard to number of units in a station, Mr. Lieb said that the larger central stations use as large units as possible, and as many of them as are needed to supply the power de-

mand, and provide sufficient spare apparatus to take care of shut-down for repairs.

Slides were shown of the old Edison Pearl St. plant, and another old station, in Milan, Italy. Other slides were shown which illustrated the great improvement in water rates of steam turbines. Many load curves were shown and explained, including one which depicted the service supplied by the New York Edison Company, from the opening of the Pearl Street station, up to the present time. The sudden rise in load due to thunderstorms coming up was pointed out also.

The last part of the lecture dealt with the costs of central station operation, and their relation to present day living costs. Figures were also given showing the enormous amount of power supplied by the central stations of New York City. In concluding, Mr. Lieb emphasized the great opportunities for engineers in the field of central station work, and the great variety of applications of science which are made in this type of work.

Liquor and a Citizen's Duty

By Capt. Elliot Snow, U.S.N.

Editor's Note.—The following article is an open letter sent to us by Capt. Snow of the Technology unit of the Construction Corps of the U.S. Navy. Owing to the nature of the subject it is being featured in the hope that it will be more widely read and arouse more interest than if it appeared as a ordinary communication.

To the Editor of THE TECH:—
In referring to prohibition and the treaty that is now being negotiated with Great Britain, the President of the United States in his recent message closed his statement on this subject with the following words:

"Free government has no greater menace than disrespect for authority and continual violation of law. It is the duty of a citizen not only to observe the law but to let it be known that he is opposed to its violation."

The fact that several organizations in Philadelphia—one of these being the junior class at the University of Pennsylvania—have already publicly announced their intention of observing the enforcing act of the Eighteenth Amendment, merits most hearty commendation, can be wisely followed and cannot, I believe, be given too wide publicity.

Will you not, therefore, publish in THE TECH this letter, the three clippings, and copy of a letter that are herewith enclosed?

Equivalent resolutions made by the officers of the student governing body of the Mass. Inst. of Technology; by the various class officers; by the officers of student organizations, and by the student officers of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Units, if publicly announced and calmly observed, will go a long way toward centering and crystallizing public sentiment throughout all New England, and thence throughout the United States, to the necessity of paying heed to the words of President Coolidge in regard to prohibition.

In a cosmopolitan student body such as exists here at Technology, a most unusual opportunity is within the grasp of that part of the student body who are citizens of the United States to show their foreign classmates, by example, that they stand squarely behind the President of the United States on this question.

The question is not whether the "Volstead Act" is wise or unwise in its provisions, but the VITAL question IS whether or not the Constitution of the United States shall be conscientiously upheld, and a lawful enabling statute enacted thereunder shall be obeyed and not so flagrantly violated as to become a mere "scrap of paper."

Will you not let it be known through your columns that you are—as I am—

FALL CONCERT FRIDAY NIGHT WELL ATTENDED

(Continued from Page 1)

Musical Clubs would be disgusted and consequently the duo would be unable to go on the winter trip. Grant's most effective line of "patter" and his clever mannerisms both on the stage and at the piano at once took the audience by storm.

Dance Music Good

Although both the players may have appeared to have been affected with "Jazzmania" judging from the skill and intricacy of the playing as well as by some of the grotesque contortions experienced while accomplishing the same, their act proved to be the attraction of the evening and probably will do much toward making the winter trip successful. This was the first appearance of the duo at Technology since all other concerts given by the clubs this season have been staged out of town.

As a fitting finishing touch to the accomplishment of the clubs, the Dance Orchestra furnished the dancers who crowded the floor of main hall following the completion of the concert with the one thing without which all such affairs would lack their greatest attraction—good dance music. The crowd certainly presented a lively spectacle to the onlookers in the West Gallery, who, needless to say, felt exceedingly "out of it."

The clubs, with the exception of the concert at Reading this evening, have no further engagements until December 26 when they will commence their winter itinerary with a concert in Brooklyn. The program of the itinerary and the list of men going thereon will be published later.

Play Directory

COLONIAL: "Helen of Troy, N.Y." Opening tonight.

COPLEY: "The Brixton Burglary." English farce.

HOLLIS: "So This Is London." Cohan comedy.

PLYMOUTH: "The Love Child." From the French.

ST. JAMES: "East Is West." Comedy.

SELWYN: "The Song and Dance Man." George Cohan as lead.

SHUBERT: "Mary Jane McKane." Good musical show.

TREMONT: "Lollipop." Opening tonight.

WILBUR: "The Lady in Ermine." Very good music and all the rest.

opposed to the violation of the enforcing act of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and show by your deeds, as well as by your words, that your purpose is to do your duty to your country, as defined by the President in his first Message to Congress?

Your very truly,
ELLIOT SNOW
(Captain (CC), U.S.N.)

One of the clippings mentioned in the above letter related how the Junior Class at the University of Pennsylvania took a dry pledge to remain in force during the festivities of Junior Week. The other clipping contained an official statement of the Poor Richard Club to the effect that: "By orders of the Board of Directors and officers and the Banquet Committee a strict observance of the Eighteenth Amendment and its enforcing act will be required of all members and guests at the annual banquet." The copy referred to was of a letter sent by Capt. Snow to the President of the Junior Class at U. of P. commending the class for their action.

WALKER SCENE OF A.C.S. MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

ture anything synthetically and he occasioned much laughter when he asserted that the man who succeeds in making synthetic gold should be "taken out and shot at sunrise."

Meeting Opens at 8

The meeting followed a dinner of the society which was attended by about one hundred people, about ten percent of whom were women. The meal was served about 6:45 and was concluded at 7:30, when the tables were removed in order to prepare for the crowd which was expected to attend the meeting. The north hall was crowded to its capacity by the additional people who came after the dinner, a large number of whom were members of the Technology Chemical Society.

R. W. Neff Speaks

S. W. Wilder '91, President of the Merrimac Chemical Company, followed Mr. Bullard's address by a talk on the applications of chemistry. It is interesting to note that Mr. Wilder is a member of the first class to graduate from course X at the Institute. There was a time, he said, when the chemist was considered by the business man as an "unmitigated nuisance" but at the present time he is convinced, by the accomplishments of the chemist in the past, that a chemist is necessary to the successful completion of many industrial projects.

"Some Applied Chemistry I Have Known" was the subject of the next speaker, Robert W. Neff. Mr. Neff told in an amusing and instructive manner of his personal contact with chemistry and chemists, emphasizing the necessity of exactitude in research.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 with a vote of thanks to the speakers who had sacrificed their time to address the gathering.

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