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In Charge of This Issue:

J. P. Ramsey, Jr., '25

DISCOURAGING JUNIOR FRESHMEN

THE action of the Institute authorities in debarring the so-called Junior Freshman Class this year came as a surprise to many students. Contemporary with the announcement that the total registration for the second term will show another decrease in the number of men attending Technology, the action has seemed somewhat sweeping in character to a few. Yet it is supported by contentions which are strong and logical in their essence.

Unfortunately, perhaps from the standpoint of the regular college curriculum, is the fact that there are some preparatory schools and many high school from which men are graduated in the fall as well as in June. It is only natural that these men should be desirous of completing their education as soon as possible. There is also the psychological factor involved, for if obliged to wait almost a year between the completion of their high school work and the beginning of their college studies many men lose interest in college or become wrapped up in the job they may have taken and its possibilities.

Needless to say, the arrangement of courses for Junior Freshmen is not an easy task, especially at Technology where there are so many different courses and three separate terms of work, the chance for conflicts consequently being very great.

The curriculum in the Junior Freshman Class has not been a kind one to the student. This can be shown from the fact that the percentage of men dropping out has been considerably higher than in the regular freshman class. The period of relaxation enjoyed by other freshman at the termination of their first year was only a time of continued hard work for these men, and their schedules were necessarily heavy.

The panacea would probably lie in the total abolishment of the Junior Freshman Class, although such action would adversely affect those men who are forced by conditions to get through college as early as possible or those more fortunate ones who have positions waiting for them. The majority, however, would be benefited by being regulars. And in spite of the psychological dissuasion mentioned above, most of these men would undoubtedly be better equipped for a technical education if they went to work during the year they would otherwise waste. The need for some practical experience in conjunction with any higher education is being more and more recognized.

Although it has not been decided to refuse admission to all future men desiring to enter in January, it is the apparent intention of the Institute to discourage men from entering at this time. It seems that such action is most reasonable to all concerned.

THE ROOMING SITUATION

By WALLACE M. ROSS

General Secretary Technology Christian Association

In the Directory of Officers and Students just issued, there are listed 2950 students. These students may be separated as follows:

Living at Home 1001—33.9 percent
Living in Boston 587—20.0 percent
Living in Cambridge 534—18.1 percent
Living in Suburbs 165—5.6 percent
Living in Fraternities 424—14.4 percent
Living in Dormitories 169—5.6 percent
Living Outside taking N-A 35—1.2 percent
Living Outside taking VI-A 35—1.2 percent
2950—100 percent

From the above we see that every third person at the Institute lives at home, that one out of every five coming from away lives in Boston, about the same proportion resides in Cambridge and about one in 20 only, can be accommodated in the dormitories. The number living in fraternities last term is a bit less than will be the case this term on account of the fact that some of the men bid have just now taken up residence in their houses. Twenty-six of the 32 fraternities in the State have houses capable of rooming

about 22 men per house or 19 percent of the student body.

The foregoing figures show that there are living in Boston and Cambridge and the suburbs (any place outside of Boston and Cambridge proper) 1288 students from away or 44 percent of the student body. The question is asked: "How many of these would live in the dormitories if they had the chance?" The Bursar's office, on November 8 had the following applications for the present dorms:

For 1924-25	290
For 1925-26	150
For 1926-27	81
For 1927-28	27
For 1928-29	9
For 1929-30	5
For 1930-31	2
	564

The new dormitory, now under construction and scheduled to be ready for occupancy next fall, will accommodate 80. A total of 249 men can therefore be housed in the five dormitories. To the 290 applications at present on file will be added those of the 120 Juniors, Sophomores and freshmen now in the dorms and some 190 others—judging from last spring's

numbers—making a total of 600 or 351 more than can be accommodated. Accurate information as to the real number who would wish to room in the dormitories if they thought they had any chance of getting in, can probably only be obtained as the result of the answering of a questionnaire by the entire student body, but it is probably safe to say that 1000 would wish to avail themselves of the privilege, the remainder preferring to remain in private homes on account of friendship with the family, more privacy and quiet and possibly lower rates. If our estimate is too large—say by 100—undoubtedly we could count on 100 of the 1001 now living at home applying for accommodations, especially as some of these men now commute daily from Pawtucket and Providence in Rhode Island (39 and 43 miles away), Brockton, Taunton and the Attleboro to the south of us; Framingham and Worcester (21 and 44 miles distant) to the west; Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, Newburyport, Gloucester and Salem to the north and even from Nashua in New Hampshire (39 miles away).

This last year, as in the last few years, the Room Registry Department of the Technology Christian Association has attempted to assist these 1288 men in receiving rooms. How the Department has succeeded can best be realized by the fact that it had available at the opening of the Institute year last fall 1587 rooms accommodating 2416 students and 845 of the 1288 desiring lodging availed themselves of these accommodations. The remainder occupied the same room as the year before, were assisted by friends or found their rooms themselves. As accommodations for some 1500 odd students were not taken, it can be readily seen that there was no shortage of rooms although situated

(Continued on Page 4)

"SWEET LAVENDER" AT THE SELWYN THEATER

A company of London players is now doing "Sweet Lavender" at the Selwyn Theater. It is a play of the type that so pleased the folks of a generation or so ago. The story is that of the love of a rich swain for a poor maid and the final triumph of their true love over all obstacles in its way. The acting of the company is a treat. All the parts are done with finish and care that make many of our own pieces look rather weak. Anthony Gordon as Dick Phenyl is a lovable old reprobate that in spite of a first instinctive dislike wins your sympathy and admiration in the end. Of the ladies it is hard to say which one is the best for the parts are so different but surely the most likable was Alice Moffat as Minnie Giffilian. The action of the play dragged a bit at the beginning but later picked up. All in all it is a delightful light piece of English acting very well done. P.K.B.

"WHISPERING WIRES" OFFERS REAL THRILLS

One of the best mystery plays that has ever come to Boston is now playing at the Plymouth Theater. Each scene has thrills that cause you to grasp your seat and hold your breath. It is a story of a millionaire who has made his money only by fighting, and in so doing he makes many enemies. Early in the play he receives two threats. The play is the working out of these threats. Yvette, the little French maid, and Jackson, one of the detectives, present the necessary comedy to break the tension. Jackson finds the most interesting part of the job his contact with Yvette, and she is attracted to him. The acting is very clever, and the play portrays many types of human nature. Kate McLaurin presents a very complicated plot in the narrow scope of three scenes and two hours and a half. K.X.D.

Play Directory

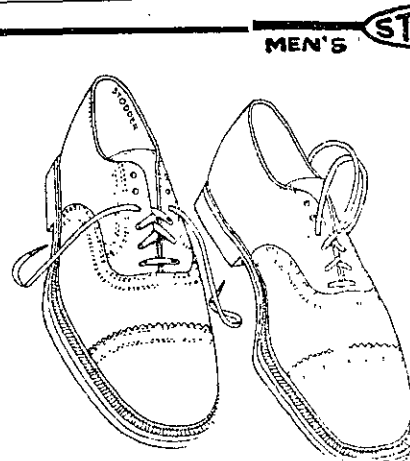
BOSTON OPERA HOUSE: Moscow Art Theater.
COLONIAL: "Helen of Troy, N.Y." Last week.
COPLEY: "Lady Frederick." Jewett Players.
HOLLIS: "So This Is London." Very good comedy, last week.
PLYMOUTH: "Whispering Wires." Mystery.
ST. JAMES: "Lombardi, Ltd." Boston Stock Co.
SELWYN: "Sweet Lavender." English comedy.
SHUBERT: "The Perfect Lady." Reviewed soon.
TREMONT: "Lollipop." Musical comedy with Ada May.
WILBUR: "The Lady in Ermine." Last week.

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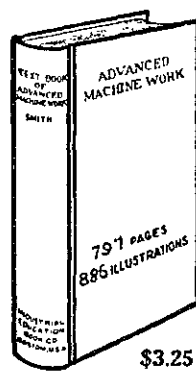
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