

TECH NEWS



VOL. I.—NO. 12

WORCESTER, MASS., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1909

PRICE THREE CENTS

An Appeal

The Track Team Management Wants Every Man to Make a Try

The candidates for the indoor track and relay teams are out practicing nightly on the Tech track, and they will remain out-of-doors as long as the weather is seasonable, for it has been proved by last year's experiences that work in the open air for a beginning is productive of good results. If it is possible, suitable indoor quarters will be secured later.

Now that football is over and the basket-ball practice is well under way, it is up to every Tech man interested in athletics to make a try for indoor track.

The old excuse will come up—inexperience, and "I know I can't do anything"—but how many fellows who are so certain they can't do anything, have ever really tried? Or, how many who have tried on a small scale have ever been pronounced hopeless by a competent coach?

Tech is fortunate this year in having the services of a track coach who knows his business from A to Z. He has a faculty of telling at a glance whether a man is of any use or not. It will cost you little trouble to come out once and let him look you over. His success with "green" men has been very encouraging and some of our best track men here are fellows who were the hardest to get out. It would be very strange indeed, if among a student body of 500, we haven't ten per cent. of men who can make good in track, if they will only give themselves a trial.

It is every man's duty—to himself and to the school—if he can possibly afford the time, to participate in some form of athletics. In track work a man fails or succeeds, entirely by his own efforts. His work speaks for itself. It is certainly the sport in which a technical man should indulge.

You know yourself that you have felt a certain amount of respect for a man who gets out and tries for a team, and still keeps at it, even when it is apparent that he has no chance to make good. That fellow is a known quantity and has done his duty. It is the unknown quantities, the fellows who have shirked the opportunity to test the powers with which nature has endowed them, who often kill interest in athletics and prevent teams from attaining their full strength. Athletic spirit isn't measured entirely by prompt payment of dues and by the attendance at games.

It is impossible for track athletics to damage a man's scholarship. Also the exercise he secures tends to help keep his head clear. This is evident, inasmuch as the practice required by the track man rarely consumes more than several minutes, and he can do his "stunt" at any time.

(Continued on page 4.)

MEETING OF THE WORCESTER CHEMICAL CLUB, NOV. 29, 1909

First speaker was Mr. Stanley D. White, 1910, on a "New Departure in Iron Paints." He gave a short sketch of corrosion in iron, its cause and prevention, the absorption of moisture by various pigments and paints, concluding with a short talk on carboxide, a new paint, which prevented rusting by chemical combination with the iron.

Next was a talk on the electrolytic production of hydrocarbons by Mr. H. K. Cummings (1910), describing the apparatus employed, materials necessary, and the precautions to be observed. This was followed by a history and description of the Gary, Ind., plant of the United States Steel Corporation by Mr. P. Kennedy (1910).

Mr. Lurier of Clark College next gave a short talk on the chemistry of proteids, and illustrated methods for their detection by color reactions. Mr. Lee (1911), the next speaker, concluded with an interesting descriptive talk on phosphorescence and fluorescence, showing experimentally, phenomena of each.

Mr. T. N. Carpenter of the Carnegie Institution, Nutrition Laboratory, in Boston will address the Worcester Chemical Club upon the laboratory and the work now in progress, Monday, Dec. 6th, at 8 p.m., in the Chemical Lecture Room. This promises to be a very interesting lecture upon the general subject of nutrition.

ONE OF OUR FACULTY.

Professor Edward L. Hancock holding the chair of Applied Mechanics in the Department of Mechanical Engineering resigned an assistant professorship at Purdue University to accept the position he now holds. He has had a teaching experience of ten years in mathematics, applied mechanics and strength of materials. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1898, receiving his M. S. degree in 1902. Upon graduation, he accepted the position of Superintendent of City Schools at Shullsburg, Wis., in which position he remained until 1906, when he taught mathematics for two years at the University of Wisconsin. Since 1902, he has been on the teaching force of the school of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University. He has in addition to his professional work as a teacher of engineering done considerable work as a consulting engineer. Professor Hancock is the author of a text-book on "Strength of Materials" and one on "Applied Mechanics for Engineers." He has published also on the following topics: Strength of materials subjected to combined stresses, Strength of materials in reverse torsion, Recovery of iron and steel from overstrain, Strength of rivet steel in shear while under tension, and Flat spots in car wheels. His consulting work has been largely along the lines of cement testing and the new steel concrete construction.

Directors' Meeting

Financial Conditions are the Best in Years

The last meeting of the Board of Directors was one of the most satisfactory within the remembrance of the present school body. Reports on the payment of athletic dues showed that the two upper classes had responded in full, and while the sophomores and freshmen have still some money uncollected, assurances were given which guaranteed their complete assessments at an early date.

The directors who had decided at a previous meeting that they would appropriate no money until they had the cash in hand, then felt justified in considering the estimates presented by the managements of the track and basket-ball teams. Both Managers Reamy and Worthen asked for more money than has ever before been given either sport, and they not only got it, but on motion of Professor Conant they were given a little extra as "leeway." It was announced that there would be more than enough to treat the baseball team generously and wipe out the present deficiency in the treasury. For the first time there will be a surplus in the treasury at the end of the present year.

It was stated that it was not thought, with any kind of luck, that either the basket-ball or track teams would use the amount appropriated, and in the case of track, it was estimated that a large amount would be returned at the end of the year. Thus, as far as finances are concerned the prospects are of the brightest, and support from the alumni can thus be asked, because of proper support shown by the student body.

Arrangements were made for the return of all football supplies belonging to the Athletic Association, and every man who has any article or articles out, is expected to return same to the management as soon as possible.

Permission was given manager Reamy of the track team to make application for re-admission into the N. E. A. A.

An approximate report of the football season showed that it had been quite successful, financially. Almost \$300 was realized from the Holy Cross game, which reduced expenditures appreciably. The season cost well under \$500.

CALENDAR.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 1.

5.00 p.m. Glee Club meets Y. M. C. A.

FRIDAY, Dec. 3.

5.00 p.m. Colloquium meeting.

8.00 p.m. A. I. E. E. meeting.

MONDAY, Dec. 6.

5.00 p.m. Orchestra rehearsal.

EVERY DAY.

Basket-ball practice, track practice.

A TECH CALENDAR.

For some years the Y. M. C. A. has published a small red book, which has been of great value to the students at Tech. Now we find it entering a new field, in an attempt to fill another great need.

Within a few weeks a Tech calendar will be on sale. It will be a "winner." The cover will have a Tech seal and the words "Worcester Polytechnic Institute" embossed in gold. There will be six sheets with about fourteen half tone plates. These will include pictures of Institute buildings, fraternity houses, and the athletic teams. The whole will be bound with grey and crimson cording.

The price will be remarkably low, only fifty cents. You'll want one for your room, and for a Christmas present, they "can't be beat." The first edition should go quickly, so be ready to snatch one at least for December 25.

R. G. Gold '10 and L. H. Treadwell '12 are responsible.



The next regular meeting of the W. P. I. Branch A. I. E. E. will be held on Friday evening, Dec. 3d, in the Electrical Engineering Lecture Room at eight o'clock. Mr. J. W. Corning, electrical engineer for the Boston Elevated Railway Company, will give a talk on "Electrical Features of the Boston Elevated Railway System," which promises to be one of the most interesting and instructive lectures of the year.

ELECTRICAL DATA.

The Electrical Department is revising and adding to a collection of photographs and blue-prints of electrical apparatus and installations. These pictures and prints will be classified according to subject and placed in loose-leaf books, which will be filed permanently in the library of the department. It is the desire to obtain any photographs or blue-prints which may be of interest to electrical engineering students, and it is hoped that members of the alumni and friends of the Institute who have or can obtain photographs of this nature, will send them to the Electrical Department. Unmounted prints are preferable.

R. W. Woodward, '06, has resigned as estimating engineer for the International Sprinkler Company, and has accepted a position as inspector of sprinklered risks for Edward E. Hall & Company, with headquarters at 45 Cedar Street, New York city.

The Glider Club, a new departure of the Amherst Aero Club, has bought a gliding machine in New York. The first trial will be made in private, after which an official test will be held this week.

TECH NEWS

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by

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[The Tech News welcomes communications
upon pertinent subjects at any time, but does not
hold itself responsible for the opinions therein
expressed.]

All material should be in before Monday
noon at the latest in order to have it appear in
the week's issue.

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"Since the facts show that the best young men of to-day are going into business and the technical profession, it is not at all remarkable to me that the most difficult problem which college presidents are called upon to solve at the present time is how to keep their young men from killing one another in the game of football. Since they are not offering their lads any real work to do, and are not giving them courses of study which have a vital connection with any career they are likely to enter upon, it is not at all strange that the boys go in for sports which seem to them to have, and probably do have, a greater tonic effect upon their minds and characters than anything that goes on in the class-rooms."—James C. Cannon, vice-president Fourth National Bank, New York city.

Not so, dear friend, with all technical schools. Ask an alumnus of W. P. I.

"The headlong rush for technical education, for the so-called practical education, may be carried to extremes. If it is well in war to encourage thinking bayonets, to educate the private soldier to be something more than a mere cog in the military machine, it is well in time of peace to educate the citizen of a republic to be something more than a mere cog in an industrial machine.

"Materialism and material success have their place, but they are not all nor the best of life. 'The garden of man's mind was not wholly intended for turnips and onions and cabbages. There is a place for the violet, the hawthorn and the rose.'

"The tendency of modern education is to develop the material, to fit a man to perform some special task so wonderfully well that the winning of a share of the world's goods shall follow as a matter of course. Yet after all, what is life worth if the man who exercises these functions is in every other mental process a shriveled paralytic?"—Ex-governor Guild.

The above statements from our former executive should cause Tech men to pause and ponder. In our specialization on the hill we too often forget the truths enunciated in the above quotation.

Culture does not mean loafing, but for Tech men a sacrifice. Development of

character, thought capacity, power to absorb and assimilate the ideas civilization is generating, usefulness to fellow man as well as self—all these are not "in the curriculum" of a technical school and the acquiring of them is not so easy as in a university. Tech men may acquire them if they "get away" for a certain period of each day from their text-books.

A week ago yesterday a number of fibre pipes used by the Worcester Electric Light Company for the construction of conduits were broken on Salisbury Street, near Humboldt Avenue. Some of the officials of the company complained to the president, saying that the disturbers were Tech men, and that the latter should square the matter with the foremen in charge of the construction.

Whether or not Tech men caused the trouble we don't know. But the fact remains that Tech men are blamed and, if possible, Tech men should interest themselves in the matter.

We strongly urge that if Tech men caused the trouble that they show their Tech spirit and manliness speedily to make adjustment. It must be remembered that the foreman is held responsible for the trouble until the guilty party is found. This means, perhaps, a loss for the foreman. Therefore, the greater urgency for settlement.

If Tech men did *not* do the mischief—and we hope they didn't—but if they know the real perpetrators, it is incumbent on Tech men to remove the stain of suspicion from themselves and notify the authorities in charge, so that proper placing of the blame may be fixed.

By all means, have the matter settled.

A GIFT.

Through the courtesy of John W. Higgins, W. P. I. '96, secretary and general manager of the Pressed Steel Company, Worcester, Mass., a complete exhibit of pressed and steel specialties has been presented to the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The exhibit will be used by Mr. John Jerneberg, instructor in forge practice and heat treatment of steel, in his course of lectures, and will be hung upon the walls of his lecture room. In addition to the above gift, Mr. John Higgins has kindly admitted the class in forge practice to the works of the company, of which he is general manager.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.

The thirtieth annual meeting of the society will be held in the Engineering Societies' Building, 29 West 39th Street, New York, December 7 to 10.

The entire social entertainment will be in charge of the members resident in and about New York, under the immediate direction of a local committee appointed by them, of which Mr. William D. Hoxie is chairman. For Wednesday afternoon, December 8, an excursion is planned which members and guests will be asked to attend in a body, and during the balance of the time there will be opportunities for smaller parties to visit places of interest. In the evening there will be a lecture for members and guests upon the subject of "Agricultural Machinery."

The professional papers assigned to the meeting are as follows: "Tests on a Venturi Meter for Boiler Feed," Charles M. Allen; "The Pitot Tube as a Steam Meter," George F. Gebhardt; "Efficiency Tests of Steam Nozzles," F. H. Sibley and T. S. Kemble; "An Electric Gas Meter," C. C. Thomas; "Tan Bark as a Boiler Fuel," David M. Myers; "Cooling Towers for Steam and Gas Power Plants," J. R. Bibbins; "Some Studies in Rolling Mill Engines," W. P. Caine; "An Experience with Leaky Vertical Fire Tube Boilers and the Best Form of Longitudinal Joint for Boilers," F. W. Dean; "Testing Suction Gas Producers with a Koerting Ejector," C. M. Garland and A. P. Kratz; "Bituminous Gas Producer," J. R. Bibbins; "The Bucyrus Locomotive Pile Driver," Walter Forris; "Line-shaft Efficiency, Mechanical and Economic," Henry Hess; "Pump Valves and Valve Areas and a Report on Cast-Iron Test Bars," A. F. Nagle.

In addition to the above papers there will be several valuable reports submitted by committees of the gas power section.

A WARNING.

Freshman, wear that cap,
Without it be not seen;
For if you don't, some vagrant cow
Might bite you, you're so green.

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Mr. B. S. Brown, a graduate of the Civil Engineering Department in the class of 1905, has been elected an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Since graduation Mr. Brown has been engaged mainly on structural engineering work. He has been with the following companies: Eastern Bridge & Structural Company, Worcester; Purdy & Henderson, Boston; the General Fireproofing Company, Youngstown, Ohio. While with the last company he had charge of the designs and details of the structural reinforced concrete for the new Court House at New Orleans, La. From June, 1909, to date he has been in private practice as a structural engineer in Boston.

R. S. Haggard, formerly of 1910, is now at Granville, Ohio, attending a co-ed. school, Dennison University. Mr. Haggard has four eight o'clocks, with all but one afternoon off. His major study is sociology.

NEW SUPPLIES.

A new hot-wire ammeter has just been purchased from the Whitney Electrical Instrument Company. The meter is provided with a shunt giving it two ranges of from zero to ten, and zero to fifty amperes. The meter is designed to permit of its being left continuously in circuit without injury or error, and its indications are independent of frequency, wave form, or commercial variations of temperature. It can be used for both alternating and direct current measurements as an ammeter or as a millivoltmeter. The meter will be used in connection with the calibration stand in the general laboratory of the Electrical Department.

CHEMISTS ON VACATION.

There arose recently among the high and mighty ones on the editorial staff of the News a great discussion as to how the average Tech man spends his Thanksgiving vacation. To settle the point, it was handed out to the cub reporter as an assignment, and he was directed to conduct his investigation among the chemists, since they are famous for their skill and industry in strenuously doing nothing.

Now, it is a cardinal point in the newspaper business to get the news first and then confirm it if there is time. Well, the cub has a good nose for news, and the way he traced those chemists and ferreted out their doings would have surprised old Sherlock H. himself. At length he betook himself to an upper room, safe from intrusion, and pounded the old typewriter till he had over two columns of good copy. Then it occurred to him that since his story was not due for several hours, he had better confirm some of the reports just as a matter of form.

At this point trouble began. Chet Corbin had given a full account of his adventures in Boston over Sunday, but when the newspaper man next met him, this fact had slipped his mind and he launched out on a narrative of Thanksgiving down in New York, which left the reporter very much confused as to his real doings. Engine C. emphatically denied that he took Miss C—k down to Boston to the show, and offered to find six witnesses to prove that he divided all his spare time among the fair ones of S. Falls, who continue to admire the battle-scarred features of "our Patsy." Chris, erstwhile Chem. Club secretary, said that New Bedford's dusky queens saw nothing of him, as he was kept busy the entire recess standardizing 1.998N solutions for "fizzle chem." (Poor Dannie, no wonder they call you "Junior P.") Ken maintains vigorously that he did not break training, as he smoked less than half a box of his favorite "Manila Ropes." Wesson and Patch are out looking for the miscreant who told of their (alleged) fall from the water wagon. E. K. swore that he only spent one whole day plugging up Organic, and Red denies any knowledge of those frequent jaunts to Sterling Inn. Karl and Foley assured the reporter that they were not guilty of "scabbing" Sanitary Chem. during vacation, although rumor is persistent that they have been making a special determination of dissolved ozone in Salisbury Pond water. Crawsh and "Nookie" stated that conscientious scruples prevented them from playing cards, and so they whiled away the time shooting craps. As for Chace, the report was that he decamped for South America with '10's treasury, but up to the time of going to press this had not been verified. However, it is confidently expected that this will be denied by Lord Nelson as soon as he can be reached by wire or wireless. Truly, these chemists be strange mortals!

Mrs. Fallow—John writes that he had two examinations yesterday.

Hiram Fallow—Then I guess I better put on my Sunday clothes and take the afternoon train out there. The first thing we know them fool college doctors will be operating on him.—Judge.

THE SENIOR CIVIL, '10.

A hard-working man is the Civil,
A fact which most every one knows;
He "plugs" while Mechanics go "fussing,"
He "digs" while the Chemist "sees shows."
He knows of the pains of Framed Structures,
Hydraulics is one of his woes,
Scurrying,
Hurrying,
Worrying,
Through his school days he goes.

He's one of a large, happy party
That started the Soph'more year in,
But hardships have made the band dwindle,
To flunk any more would be sin.
A case of "survival of fittest"
"Tis said that this decrease has been.
Small expectation
Of graduation,
Too true that his chances are thin.

Let's hope that the sun will shine
brighter,
Some day on this laboring man,
Who toils while the others are playing,
And on slumbers sweet puts a ban.
Some few of the chosen will finish,
For such is the ultimate plan;
But with zest,
All the rest
Will stay with 'em long as they can.
—Billy Aitch.

Professor (to class in Analyt.)—What is the surface generated by a circle revolving about an axis outside the circle?
Student (with hesitating pronunciation)—A torus.
Professor—When you say torus, you make a bull. (Groans from the class.)

FRANKLIN SQUARE

Week of Dec. 6th.

Mr. Wm. H. Turner's engagement next week will introduce that exceptional character actor in his latest play, "The Sporting Deacon." He needs little introduction to the theatre-goers of Worcester, having established himself firmly in "David Harum," his performance in that play being considered superior to Wm. H. Crane.

A \$75,000 stadium for his Carnegie Tech school students is the latest thing in sport accredited to Andrew Carnegie. The football team of the school has done good work this fall, as did the baseball nine last summer, and Mr. Carnegie is reported as being in a hopeful mood regarding the future of his school in athletics, as well as in studies. It is understood he has ordered plans drawn for the stadium.

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NEWS OF THE COLLEGES.

A thousand Iowa University students celebrating the football victory of Iowa over Ames stormed the Coldren Theatre and were ejected by the police. They stoned the building, breaking a number of windows. One student's face was split open by a policeman's club.

By the will of Levi I. Shoemaker of Wilkes-Barre, Yale obtains \$500,000 to be used in the medical department.

At Illinois the track men who have won the varsity letter two years in succession are awarded a blanket with the block "I" upon it.

Perhaps Harvard can find some consolation in the victory of her chess team over that of Yale. The final score was 8 to 6, and is the sixth consecutive victory for the crimson in this strenuous sport.

Colorado University undergraduates are demanding a daily publication for the institution.

The Syracuse University band has been put upon a permanent basis by the gift to each player selected of a scholarship valued at \$60 a year, the number of scholarships being limited to twenty.

The undergraduates of Columbia College and the Columbia schools of science are preparing a monster petition for the appointment of Prof. John Howard Van Amringe, the retiring dean of the college, as dean emeritus. The petition was prepared on rolls of parchment and it is expected that by Friday 500 names will have been signed thereto.

In his annual report, President Butler of Columbia University stated that during the year Columbia had received in gifts the large total of \$498,002.07.

In addition to repealing the rule requiring that four subjects be passed at preliminary entrance examinations to secure a preliminary certificate, the Yale College faculty has made the repeal so far retroactive as to apply to the entrance examinations of last June and September, in the case of candidates, who, in the opinion of the committee on admissions, are entitled to exemption from the old requirement.

At the last June examination alone there were about 200 preliminary candidates who passed in one or more subjects, but in less than the five subjects then required.

To check the persistent evil of Sunday absenteeism in Yale College the college faculty has adopted unanimously the plan submitted by the new undergraduate senior council. Hereafter papers allowing attendance at outside churches on Sunday will not be given, and Sunday absences away from the city will be granted only rarely and for exceptional reasons.

Parents, if they persist in asking that their sons be allowed Sunday absence, will have to face the contingency of the student's dismissal. The senior council has asked the faculty that the new rule be rigidly enforced. The evil of Sunday absenteeism has been particularly marked in the case of students living in New York city.

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AN APPEAL.

(Continued from page 1.)

Therefore, it is up to you fellows to show your capabilities. There is nothing that would please the coach more than to see anywhere from 50 to 100 men trying out. The manager of the track team will vouch for his ability to take care of them. There is never any doubt about whether a track man makes good. A veteran has no more chance than the "greenest" candidate, for the stop watch and the tape never lie, and if you show a better performance than the other chap, the place is yours.

This means you! Are you going to let that other fellow do all the work, all the time?

Said a sorrowful spook to his wid:
"You don't love me as much as you did!"

"You forget," said his frau,

"I can see through you now,
From the tips of your shoes to your lid."
—Life.

Notice! Tech Men!

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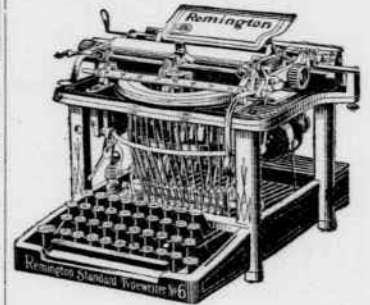
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