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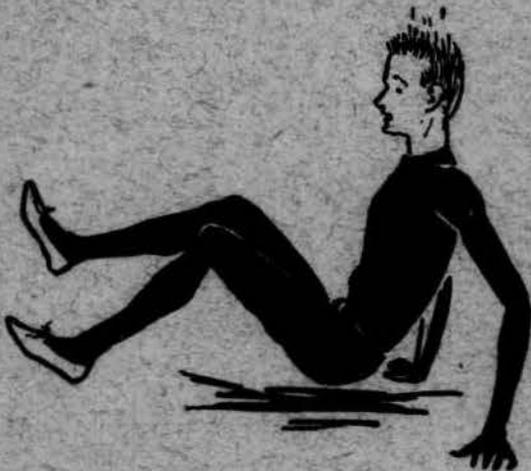
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The

# OPPI.



Vol. VI.

Tuesday, April 15, 1890.

No. 1.

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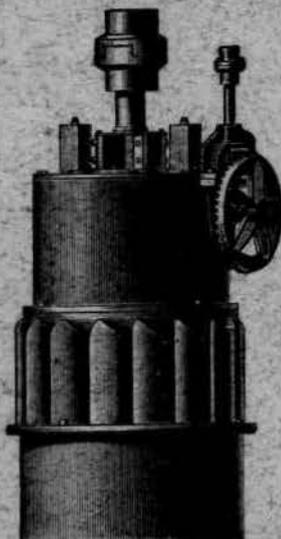
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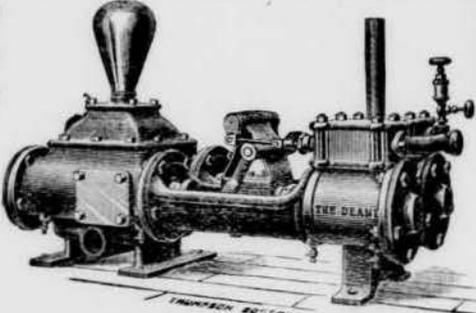
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# THE W P I

Vol. VI.

WORCESTER, APRIL 15, 1890.

No. 1.

## THE W P I.

Published on the 15th of each Month, during the School Year,  
and devoted to the interests of the Worcester  
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CHAS. HAMILTON, PRINTER, 311 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MASS.

A new year for the W P I begins with this issue. During the past year, under the able management of Editor Rice, the paper attained a standard in college journalism that might well be the envy of any similar institution in the country. It is our hope and aim to at least maintain this standard, though we make but one promise, and that is to print only such news as has a direct bearing on the Institute, its students and alumni. In regard to the scientific news about which we have heard more or less lately, we will state that we recognize the fact that a certain amount of scientific news, deduced from investigation at the Institute, would be a valuable addition to the paper and to any contributions in that line from Faculty or students we will gladly give a place in our columns.

Two well written articles appear in our columns this month, on practically the same subject; namely, on the class of German taught in the Institute. It is true that in every school and college in the country, where all the subjects are not elective, there is sure to be more or less dissatisfaction among the students in regard to some of them, and in some cases, more good solid work is done in thinking up schemes and arguments with which to assail the "senseless stuff" than would have been required to master it. As a rule though, this student has very little to say against the subject when once through with it. The reason is evident enough; he simply wants to get out of a little work while at school, not being able then to see the direct benefit of this special branch, but he afterwards finds that the knowledge of which he can make absolutely no use, or the mental drill from which he cannot realize some benefit was only a fancy with which to deceive himself. The present case, however, is quite the opposite. Each of the writers is on the side competent to judge, and is not advancing his views for his own benefit, but for the good of others. One, an alumnus, shows us very plainly how a change will aid us materially in after life, when following the professions for which the Institute fits us, and the other, still a member of the school, holds up the not-to-be-dis-

puted statement, that for some of us the work in the senior year will be much increased, because the course in German has been confined to such a narrow path. The lack of the chance for self interest alone, ought to be worthy of consideration and should add weight to the criticisms which our contributors have made. We realize that it would be no easy matter to map out a course which would fill all demands, but hope that our Faculty may see fit to make at least some change in this direction.

The Middlers had, or thought they had, so much cause to grumble about the examination papers of the Junior year, that the papers of this year have generally been quite conspicuous for their fairness. It is not because the tests have been made abnormally easy, but because they have been of a length approaching a measure of reason. Some of the long papers that have been specially constructed for us to butt our heads against, have more than done their duty. At best their most prominent field of usefulness seems to be to give the "phenom," who knows it all, a chance to show how much space he can cover in a given time.

To speak seriously, many students (good ones, too,) have gone under because of the discouragements attendant upon the semi-annual examinations, and not the least discouraging feature of them is the forty-horse power examination paper. We cannot see the use of a dozen problems if half the number will test a student as well. A few questions carefully chosen, together with the instructor's class-room mark (we mean

the record of those instructors who run a *daily* marking system), ought to be a sufficient test for any student.

Whatever may be said of examinations, however, they cannot compare with class-room work. It is the way a man grinds out his daily grist that ought to tell his story. No one will dispute that of two men, the better student is the one who does his average daily work well, rather than the man who loafs through the year and then succeeds in passing a brilliant examination. Yet our system of marking, no more than that of any other college, perhaps, admits of just that thing. What is worse, it allows of the roasting of a student who has been doing admittedly good average work throughout the term.

Time and time again men who have been doing good work in the class-room for five months have been conditioned on the work of five short hours, when the circumstances attending the examination were largely responsible for the failure. In some colleges, students who attain a certain standard in the class-room are exempt from a final examination, and it seems quite possible that a like plan here would be an incentive to more systematic and faithful daily work.

Can a system of marking that will allow the result of a five hours' test to nullify the satisfactory work of five months be considered perfect, and if not perfect, can a free expression of opinion on the subject by the students be considered out of place?

In a recent final examination given

the Seniors, the marks were raised ten per cent. in order to pass the men. If this glorious system of ours is all right, why was it not adhered to in this case and the men conditioned? If it is not all right, why is it not made satisfactory to a few of us, admitting that no system would satisfy everybody? Again, if the marks can be raised ten per cent. at the will of the instructor, would it not be quite as fair to ask that they be raised twenty or fifty per cent. in order to boost the whole class above the mark? We do not ask these questions to fill the paper, but because we believe they are worthy of an answer. It is said that students get only one side of a school problem in a college paper. If this be so, we wish to make an exception of this paper, and ask everyone who has the courage of his convictions to assist us in the discussion of topics that are of such vital importance to the school.

Any student of the W. P. I., who has a condition of more than six months standing in any of his studies, will have a star placed before his name in the catalogue. Such, in sum and substance, is the law whose fruits appeared for the first time in our catalogue for the present year.

At the first distribution of the catalogues it was to be plainly seen that most of the students were interested in noting just who the unfortunate ones were, and in commenting upon them to a greater or less extent. Here and there a student was to be seen gloating and chuckling in high glee over some friend or acquaintance who had received the distinction, but we remarked with

pleasure that the majority of the boys took anything but pleasure in it. There is probably not a student in the Institute who, after a little sober thought, would not gladly extend the hand of sympathy to his mate and feel truly sorry that such a system was in vogue. We do not wish to be considered fault-finders, but a few words against a system which, though some good may accrue to it, promises so much odium, we think ought to be said. In the first place, what is its object? Presumably to stimulate the student to make up his conditions at the earliest possible opportunity, and possibly to make him strive the harder to avoid the condition in the first place.

A laudable object, without a doubt. But do the results attained repay the harshness of the treatment? We have only appearances to judge from in this matter, but out of 78 names in the Senior and Middle classes 10 are starred; two of these, at least, are no longer members of the school, and are carrying off this little honor as their last one from the Institute. Here was a chance for charity. If it does not attain its object in a beneficial way, it surely attains one in another; that of wounding a fellow-creature's feelings and personal pride by proclaiming to the public at large that he is not on an equal footing with his fellow-students; that, to an uninformed public, he lacks the intellectual power of the average young man, or else is wilfully neglecting the opportunities afforded him. These facts probably interest the public very little, unless they happen to be acquainted with the individual, and in

that case they may use the little stigma in a way not at all in harmony with the good end it originally had in view. It is to be supposed that every student enters the Institute with the purpose of doing the best work he is capable of during the course. It is impossible for him to foresee the results of his endeavors, and if, later on, he is found deficient in a certain study does it seem quite right to humiliate him by publishing the fact? The subject may be one to which his mind is not adapted and, strive as he will, he cannot make it compare with his work in other lines. It cannot be that the Faculty would wish to cause a student to hang his head as he passes those on the street whom he supposes know of his case. It would be absurd to think so, but this is surely one of the prime effects of the system. It is about as absurd for the student to imagine that everyone knows his failing, but it is human nature, and for a while every whisper he hears, every glance directed toward him, he is confident, is a direct result of it. His relatives, also, are robbed of some of their pleasure by it, for where they formerly looked with pride upon his name as a student in such a noble institution, they must certainly feel a little discouraged when they note the distinction made between him and his classmates in the present catalogue. It is our earnest hope that these little darts have made their last appearance; that the standing of the students will be such that they will no longer be needed, or that the Faculty will devise some other means to attain their worthy end.

Following will be found the new regulations governing future athletic contests among the students. Stripped of the painful impression that the experience of last fall warranted us in assuming, that with the Faculty "regulation" means "restriction," it must be conceded that the new rules are sensible and just. The fee required for the physician's examination is merely nominal, and will not be considered by anyone who can tell a generous offer when he sees it. The committee, also, is especially acceptable, and we are now sure of an intelligent if not always favorable consideration of the subject of athletics from the student's standpoint. It would be rather hard, to be sure, to reconcile with true politeness the Faculty's abrupt action in the face of the association's prior petition for a more general committee of athletic government, but the sooner we learn to accept gracefully what we can't help, the better we will feel and appear.

#### THE NEW ATHLETIC RULES.

The following rules, referred by the Faculty committee on athletic government, have been adopted:—

First—That the standing committee, consisting of three members of the Faculty, be appointed, with whom the students may confer concerning sports and games, and whose duty it shall be to recommend to the faculty any action that may, in their judgment, be necessary in regard to such sports and games.

Second—That each and every student who proposes to engage in athletic contests must, at least once in each year in which he may thus engage, be examined by, and present to the athletic committee of the Faculty, before such contest, a certificate from either Dr. W. C. Stevens or Dr. L. F. Woodward of this city, in which it shall be stated that

in the judgment of the examiner the student is physically competent to engage in such contest, the expense of such examination to be borne by the student.

Third—That except the intercollegiate field-day now held, only two out-of-town athletic contests shall be engaged in annually, the time and place of such contests to be approved by the athletic committee of the faculty.

Fourth—It is hereby understood that no permission is to be given the students or any organization among them to join any intercollegiate or other athletic league or association except that of which the athletic association is already a member.

The committee of athletics appointed by the Faculty under these regulations consists of the president, Dr. Homer T. Fuller, and Drs. Kinnicutt and Eaton. It was voted by the Faculty that these regulations go into effect immediately.

In connection with the presentation of these rules, it was said that they would be subject to modifications, as seemed advisable, but that the rule concerning physical examinations would be strictly adhered to. It seems to us that the rule would have the same effect if a student were examined by his family physician, as some would, perhaps, prefer. The rule is a good one, however, and ought to be satisfactory. Modifications will undoubtedly be suggested when we have had a chance to see how the regulations effect our athletic interests.

### THE MYSTERIOUS HAND.

*It noiselessly flits through Boynton Hall.*

Nothing but a hand? That is all; an emaciated right hand, pale and wrinkled, and of a very suggestively clammy appearance. If there was anything more it might have the effect of spoiling the fascinating little mystery which now enshrouds it, and of robbing a few students of their fancied phantom of Boynton Hall. It is only within the last two years that the hand has been cultivating regular habits in manifesting itself, but in this time those students who have seen it, though they have said little about it, have been furnished with excellent food for day dreaming.

Its favorite haunt seems to be in the vicinity of Prof. Sinclair's room and was

first noticed there by members of the present senior class. Unlike most of the visitors from the other world, whom we have been told only appear in the dead hour of the night, it seems to have no objection to calling around any bright afternoon that offers one or two conditions. These are, first, that there is no exercise in the free drawing room, and second, that a recitation is to be conducted in Prof. Sinclair's room. These simple conditions having been favorable, the exercise would scarcely have commenced when the door leading into the free drawing room would slowly open just wide enough to allow the entrance of four fingers between it and the jamb, and here the fingers would come and remain until near the close of the exercise, when the door would be silently reclosed. As may be imagined the effect of these weird looking objects on those students who sat within easy reach of them was far from pleasant, and was many times the cause of their waking up to the statement, "Now show me the answer on a bit of paper," when they hadn't the least idea of what was being talked about. Unfair of the hand to be sure to thus ruin a student's chances of scoring a few points, but such was probably not its mission. What, then, is its mission? is it alone, or accompanied by a body? If so can it be the spirit of one of the departed benefactors of the Institute which periodically takes on a mantle of shriveled flesh in order that it may walk once more through old Boynton Hall as a human being to note the changes and take pleasure in seeing the progress made in science at the Institute, or is it some earthly creature whom curiosity leads to stoop to this method of satisfying his desires? We say "his" because the hand bears no resemblance to those possessed by the gentler sex, it also has very little in common with the one that tried to steal a lock of Taylor's hair at one of the drawing exercises last year, in fact it is a hand to be remembered when once seen. It prefers to be seen through a crack in the door on all occasions for no one tells of seeing it in any other position.

The last appearance of any note was during one of Prof. Sinclair's examinations, held in the free drawing room, when for fully two hours it remained at the door

leading to the model room. A slow movement of the door was the first thing that caught the student's eye and then came the fingers. It was bearable for the first ten minutes but for the next hundred or so it was next to impossible to focus any thoughts; projections, warped surfaces and traces were almost meaningless terms. What does that hand want? was the all-absorbing thought, and the only plausible answer was that it wanted to stay there, and there can be no doubt but that it fulfilled its wish. When the two hours were up it suddenly disappeared though not a sound was audible to give notice of its flight. Whether it shook off the flesh and again took its place on the skeleton in the model room, or whether a longer journey was before it, we do not know. At any rate it was gone, and those students who had seen it felt much relieved and once more tried to collect their scattered thoughts and apply them to the work before them.

Since that time nothing has been heard of it and we hope that if it does reappear, the student who sees it will act more kindly toward it and invite it inside. Once introduced, no doubt we would all be glad to give it a hearty welcome.

#### SKETCHES FROM MY NOTE-BOOK.

Some time ago I met an alumnus of this school, who said that graduates from some of the more recent classes are inclined to be chary of their praises of the Tech, when they are asked for information about it. This was no news to me because I have met a number of that class of graduates. I asked him what the reason was, and he replied that, while the men were satisfied with the education they received, they were not satisfied with the treatment given their respective classes. This is not the case with every class, by any means, but it is the case with too large a number. He noted several instances where some popular individual in the class had either been dropped just before graduation or else so badly "roasted," as the boys express it, that the ire of every man in the class was aroused. Just such things undoubtedly occur in other schools, but the classes here are so small, comparatively, that the students get

better acquainted with one another,—hence the stroke is felt by every man in the class. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that a man should be allowed to drift along through his senior year, even to the completion of his thesis, and then be informed without any warning, that he could not graduate. When such things occur, the alumni can hardly be expected to be profuse in their praise of the Tech.

\* \* \*

I cannot think of anything that has recently befallen the school, that is so sincerely to be deplored as the apparent loss of interest in the Y. M. C. A. Possibly the interest is not lost, but if there is any it is about as useful for practical work as the latent heat stored up in ice. Anyone can give plenty of reasons why the Association is not doing the work that is to be expected of an organization of that name.

Possibly the lack of enthusiasm in other interests at the school this winter has had its effect on the Y. M. C. A. Whatever may be said, it must be acknowledged that the Faculty will in no wise be to blame if the Association does not prosper. They have made numerous efforts to assist in various ways, without wishing to interfere with an organization that belongs to the boys. They have given us rooms and their own assistance in the meetings. What more can be expected of them? On the other hand, the Athletic Association (composed of the same men), which can hardly claim the undivided support of the Faculty, is living with tremendous vigor. Who is at fault, then, for the lack of activity in the Y. M. C. A.? It seems to me that the explanation is found in the fact that the Association lacks an enthusiastic leadership. You can lead a horse to the well,—you don't need to make him drink because if he wants any water he will drink for himself. A competent leader in the Y. M. C. A. is necessary, not to do all the work, but to bring the men to the point where they want to work for themselves. The Association cannot live long after it begins to hold meetings from a sense of duty. It ought to thrive, however, simply on its merits, without any outside assistance.

\* \* \*

I heard Patti in Italian opera in Boston recently, in about the same unassuming

way that I lead my class,—by *proxy*. Speaking of Patti reminds me that the Faculty long ago prohibited the lighting of cigarettes on the Institute grounds. Yet Patti has written a letter to a manufacturer permitting the use of her name as a recommendation for a certain brand of his cigars, and I doubt if any one of the Faculty can show as distinguished a recommendation as that. This goes to show, what every candid man will admit, that there is a signal advantage in being a thoroughbred cigar of the right brand, over the humdrum existence that is a necessary adjunct of life as a Faculty man.

SEPLI.

### SPRING ATHLETICS.

The April vacation is over and with its close the season of spring athletics begins in earnest. The class series in base-ball; the cross-country runs; Tech field day, May 10; and finally the intercollegiate sports on May 28, will constitute the athletic programme of the spring, and will be the events in which Tech athletes must win their athletic honors if they win any at all.

Field athletics start the season under the most favorable circumstances and the recent rules of the Faculty have been received very favorably by most of the students. While the rules which put such a damper on the foot-ball enthusiasm of last fall are still retained and the attitude of the Faculty is still the same, the fact that there is an athletic committee made up of members of the Faculty, which is ready to confer with a like committee from the athletic association of the school, has given athletics for the spring just the encouragement needed for a successful season. The committee of the Faculty has introduced a very valuable rule in the one necessitating the taking of the physical examination and passing it successfully before one can become a member of any school athletic team. The committee has made provision for the taking of the examination and every one who can possibly find excuse for so doing should take it. The chance is one not met with often, and strange as it may seem, in this examination, the more there are conditioned the better it is for the athletic interests of the school.

\* \* \*

The cross-country runs will be a feature

of the spring sports which is almost new to most men in the school. If the two preliminary runs are held over a course of something like fifteen miles as it is the intention of the directors to have them, and it is made a condition that all runners to be eligible to start in the final run of May 3, must finish in these two runs, there will be very few competitors eligible to the final run. Cross-country running has been given a good deal of booming this spring and the monster meeting at New York on the 15th of March would undoubtedly have been the largest and most successful ever held in this country had the weather been favorable. The meeting, however, brought the sport into popular favor and the Senior and Junior team championships at Morris Park on the 26th of this month give promise of being the most successful runs yet seen in cross-country team championships. At its best the sport is very punishing work and is more a test of strength than skill in running and jumping, and to men who are unused to the work, two preliminary runs of about fifteen miles each and then a final one of eight miles, will be a task quite beyond the ability of some of the runners. It seems as if one or two preliminary runs of about eight miles each, perhaps over the course on which the Chatham Club held their run about a year ago, and then a final run of six or seven miles would be work enough. The course on which the championships will be held is only eight miles long and is wholly visible from the grand stand. The directors might make the runs more interesting by hiring the park for the final run and having the start and finish in front of the grand stand. The first half-mile could be around the track; then across the centre of the field over obstacles which the directors could provide; then out into the country for about six miles; then back across the centre of the park; with the final half-mile on the track. This would make a very pretty race and would be well worth seeing, especially if the run were a handicap, for with the handicaps properly made out, the final three-quarters of a mile would be in sight of the audience, and would bring the leaders well together at the end of the race where the finish could be seen from the grand stand.

\* \* \*

The mile walk seems to cause a

good deal of trouble among some of the members of the New England Intercollegiate Association. It has been contested but twice and at both meetings there has been dissatisfaction expressed at its result. At the first meeting of the association held in this city, two years ago, the event was contested for the first time. That year Amherst made a mistake and got her two-mile runner into the walk and after he had gone around the park twice and been ruled off four or five times, some of the college boys seemed much disgusted with the referee for insisting on the disqualification of the "walker" who had run his whole race well, but about whose hop-trot gait there could be no doubt. Last year there was no trouble at the time the race took place, but for some unknown reason the Executive Committee have voted to invite the officials of this year's meeting from the members of the Manhattan Athletic Club, with the expressed condition that Mr. Al. Copeland, last year's judge of walking, shall not serve again. Mr. Copeland is undoubtedly qualified to fill the position as well as it will be filled and performed his duty acceptably last year. Why the committee should thus blackball Mr. Copeland is a conundrum which can best be explained by the members of the committee who cast the vote. Such action without some good reason is certainly discourteous to say the least. The objection this year came from Brown and was based on the ruling of the referee with regard to an alleged walker from that university. The fact that Mr. Copeland ruled a man off the track for unfair walking is not a sufficient reason for the action of the committee.

## THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

### The Way it will be.

Examining Physician—(to tug-of-war captain). Do you whistle, pitch pennies, or light cigarettes on the grounds?

Applicant for certificate,—No, sir.

E. P. Well, you're an enterprising chap! How is your great grandmother's liver?

Ap. I don't know, sir. I wasn't expecting the question or I would have had a crib on it.

E. P. You are making some bad breaks, young man. I will give you one more

chance. Does your aunt use Pydia Linkam's Sherry Balsam?

Ap. Yes, sir. I think not.

E. P. That's better; that will do.

Ap. Shall I pass?

E. P. Yes,—out.

Ap. I have been chosen for the baseball team.

E. P. Any recent deaths in your family?

Ap. The last was my great grandfather's who died in '43.

E. P. Of what?

Ap. Old age.

E. P. Well you have probably inherited the disease, but the case is so remote that I will sign a permit to play three o' cat if you wish.

Ap. Thank you, I don't believe I could stand the strain. I beg pardon for presuming to exist.

Ap. Will you please see if I am strong enough to stir my stumps for the mile walk?

E. P. Any contagious disease in your family?

Ap. My uncle has boils.

E. P. Where?

Ap. On his hired man.

E. P. Debarred.

E. P. (to applicant.) Go right out, little boy, we don't keep picture cards.

Ap. Beg pardon, doncher know, but I want to be examined. I'm a Tech athlete and I'm a hustler, too; I'm going in for everything.

E. P. Oh, I see, I recognize you now. How do you like the wood-room? Won't you please stand up and use the floor for a foot-rest? A mahogany desk does not go with a fifty-cent examination. You are going to swipe everything, are you? How are your folks?

Ap. All sound.

E. P. And you?

Ap. Oh, I'm sound, too.

E. P. Well, this half-dollar isn't sound, it's *plugged!* Bismarck, allow this Prep to take a short walk out.

## A SUGGESTION.

The Pol Econ Club was formed during the last half-year, but did not accomplish any work until after the mid-year examina-

tions. The subjects which have been taken up, while coming under Political Economy, are such as bear directly on the live questions of the day. That the investigation of these questions is interesting as well as of the greatest value to the future citizens of this country, is beyond doubt. In spite of the great good arising from the study of these subjects, considerable comment has been heard on the method of managing the club. As it is now carried on, the work is given out the same as in the class-room, and the meetings are conducted the same as regular recitations. Would it not be more conducive to interest in the subjects and the club, to let the members have some share in the management? Would it not be more inviting to new men if not conducted in just the same way as an everyday recitation?

ONE WHO IS INTERESTED.

### THE BERKELEY ATHLETIC CLUB HANDICAP MEETING.

The Berkeley Athletic Club of New York City is arranging a novel meeting for May 17. The list of members of the club contains a large number of celebrated ex-college athletes, and several of the most prominent of these have conceived the idea of giving an open handicap meeting a week or two before the regular championship meets of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association in order to bring as many of the college athletes into the competition as possible. With this idea the Berkeley Athletic Club has arranged the meeting of May 17, and its success is already assured. The chairman of the games committee is Mr. Wendell Baker, whose experience in athletic work and consequent knowledge of everything necessary to the success of such a meeting, is too well known to need mention. The committee have arranged the following list of events for competition:—

1. 100-yard run—scratch.
2. 220-yard run—handicap.
3. 600-yard run—handicap.
4.  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile run—handicap.
5. 2-mile run—handicap.

6. 120-yard hurdle—scratch.
7. 220-yard hurdle—handicap.
8. 2-mile bicycle—handicap.
9. 3-mile team bicycle race. Team of 3 men.
10. Running high-jump—scratch.
11. Running broad-jump—handicap.
12. Putting 16-lb. shot—handicap.
13. Tug-of-war. 650 lbs. limit.

The prizes are to be three in number in each event and will be of unusual excellence. The club or college scoring the most points will receive an elegant banner, points to count as follows: first, five; second, two; and third, one. The members of the winning tug-of-war team and also the members of the winning bicycle team will all receive prizes, and the club or college entering these winning teams will receive a banner. Two of the four handicap runs are at odd distances, thus placing all competitors on more equal terms than at standard events. It is the wish of the Berkeley Club to have the New England Intercollegiate Athletic Association represented at this meeting. Although five of the eight members of the N. E. I. A. A. are members of the larger Intercollegiate Athletic Association they seldom send competitors to the championship meeting of the larger association, and outside of the New England colleges our own association has comparatively very little reputation from an athletic point of view. Dartmouth, Amherst, Williams, Trinity and Brown have been members of the larger association for a number of years but outside of the great victory of Wells in the mile run at the Berkeley Oval last May, the victories of their representatives have been very few and far between. The meeting of May 17 affords an excellent opportunity for the N. E. I. A. A. to make a good showing. In the handicap events its representatives stand an excellent chance of winning and the games coming at the time they do would find all of its athletes in the best of condition. It would also give them a chance to test themselves against the college champions and at the same time have a chance to win. Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia will send their full teams to this meeting and there is no reason why the whole eight members of the N. E. I. A. A. should not be represented by two or three of their best

men, if not by all of their athletes. Of last year's men alone Dartmouth has Humphreys, Rowe, Williams, Scruton, and Perkins; Amherst has Raley, Ludington, Wells, Delabarre, and Houghton; Williams has Campbell and Nichols; Trinity has Bulkeley and McCook; Wesleyan has Slayback; while Worcester has Taylor, Allen, and White. Any of these men would stand good chances of winning at such a meeting as is to be given the 17th of May at the Berkeley Oval and with the addition of the men in the class of '93 all the above mentioned colleges could make a good showing. The meeting is certainly worthy of the approval of the N. E. I. A. A. and it is to be hoped that the several colleges which make up its membership will take hold of the matter and send their representatives to the meeting, thus doing their share toward making the meeting the success that is merited by the enterprise of the Berkeley Athletic Club.

### A TECH'S WHITE ELEPHANT.

**He Calls On His Cheek to Help Him Out of a Dilemma.**

"Oh! I knew none of the boys would get onto it."

This was the remark over which two of the Seniors were seen shaking hands in one of the corridors the other day. But they forgot to shake with the grocer who bore the brunt of the racket, and he unconsciously used their little story in keeping customers good natured while trading with him. It appears that one of these sage seniors received notice from two of his out-of-town female friends that they intended to accept the invitation he had extended them to visit the city and would arrive the following day. That evening he busied himself with a borrowed flat-iron and a wet cloth in eliminating the bags from the knees of his best trowsers, and in practicing tying a knot in his necktie like the one that Hyde used to wear.

The pants looked pretty good when he had finished, but the necktie business was a failure. He tried to exterminate a pimple which bloomed quite conspicuously on his chin, but in the morning the pimple was to all appearances alive and well and was later seen with him at the depot as he sailed

along between his two friends. The other senior, who was seen shaking hands with our friend, now appeared and took charge of one of the fair damsels.

All places of interest were visited, and of course the Tech came in for a good share of their attention. How great they must have appeared in the eyes of these country maidens as they stalked proudly through the different rooms.

"These are nothing but the Middlers—free drawing—what's that? Well, I guess we did; last year; eh, 'Mick?' (mechanic) Smell anything? H<sub>2</sub>S, that's nothing.—That's Dr. Fuller's voice you hear, in mineralogy.—Eh? Oh no, not since we were Middlers." These were a few of the snatches caught as they passed along.

A very pleasant day was thus spent and when train time arrived Mick saw his charge safely aboard, but the other fellow had so interested both himself and his companion in one of his latest "coast of Maine" yarns that they arrived at the depot just time enough to see the last train of the evening cruelly separate the two dear girls. Mick whistled Hymn 44 with considerable energy and was requested to leave the ladies' room or discontinue the disturbance. The young lady and a few regrets were turned over to him by his friend, who, not wishing to intrude longer, bowed himself out.

Here was a nice dilemma for Mick; short of time, short of money, and lacking in accommodations. But a larger part of the verdauncy which he had brought with him on his entrance to the school had been well worn off and he decided on action.

Inside of half an hour he was at the house of the West-side grocer, with whose family he was on very poor terms, and, indeed, only slightly acquainted. Mrs. Grocer and her husband were out riding, but Mick and his lady decided to await their return. He made himself quite at home with the grocer's family, appearing utterly unconscious of the amount of cheek he was bringing into play. He is not a talkative fellow naturally, and, after one or two unsuccessful attempts to introduce some uninteresting subjects he gave up, and "Mum was the word." It was near midnight when the grocer's wife returned, but it appeared about a week to the weary

waiters, none of whom had opened their mouths, except to yawn, for the last two hours. What persuasive force Mick brought to bear on the good woman to help him out of his difficulty is not known; suffice it to say that she finally took pity on the girl and consented to her remaining over night. At six o'clock the next morning Mick called at the house and the goozey pair shuffled off in the direction of the Union Depot.

### A CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

#### The Non-Practicability of our German in Business Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE W P I.

The article which appeared in the School Journal several months ago, with reference to the importance of an acquaintance with foreign technical literature, was of interest to me because I have had occasion frequently since graduation to consult foreign engineering works,—at the present time being obliged to do so daily—and it is in this connection that I desire to say a word in regard to the manner in which the modern languages, French and German, are taught—or rather were taught several years ago—at the Institute. I am aware the course in modern languages is at best a short one, but it nevertheless seems to me that provision should be made in some way to enable the student to acquire a vocabulary of mechanical or engineering terms during the course.

The mechanical engineers and the civils, and for that matter the chemists, as a rule, will not spend very much of their time after leaving the Institute, in reading the productions of Schiller, Göethe, Heine and the other standard writers, however much they may desire to do so, but will, if they wish to keep up at all with the times, be compelled to have a tolerable acquaintance with the foreign engineering works pertaining to their respective professions, and the point I wish to make is this: that the whole time should not be devoted to reading the works of the standard authors, but should be divided if possible, a part of the time being given to "*Das Lied von der Glocke*," "*Faust*" and the like, but at least an equal portion to some hand-book on engineering in the original German or French as the case might be, which might

perhaps be taken up in the class-room and studied like any other class-book, so that after leaving the Institute, a man on taking up a foreign engineering book, paper or magazine and glancing down a page might possibly see here and there a familiar word outside of a few conjunctions and prepositions, and be able to grind out at least the gist of the article in question if nothing more.

I desire to add a word more to express my appreciation of the pointed allusions made to the marking system, a few months ago in the W P I; for if anything can be characterized by the word execrable, the system of cooking up averages for the students of the W. P. I. certainly can.

A man who has taken an examination for any position under the U. S. Government, be it high or low, if he thinks he has been unfairly ranked, has the privilege of appearing before his "accusers," stating his grievance, going over his papers, and can ascertain wherein he is deficient; but there is no redress for a student at the Institute; he must take what he gets and be thankful that it is no worse.

Yours,

E. H. F.

Washington, D. C.,  
March 27, 1890.

### ANOTHER USE FOR THE BIG VAULT.

From almost every person who passes through the basement corridor of the Salisbury Laboratories comes the question; "What is that large brick vault used for?"

Some ingenious people have conceived of its being a store-room for gunpowder or dynamite. But of what use these explosives could be to the Institute we cannot see; besides, the constructors wisely planned for all the "blow ups" to take place in the little room on the roof, instead of blowing up the whole building, doubtless intending to gently remove the roof only.

Others have intimated that it would be a good place for acids. But why enclose them with brick walls and iron doors? They will not run away, nor explode, neither are they especially tempting to the thief.

We learn that the real object of this

vault is for the preservation of examination papers,—those things by which we would least wish to be remembered, and also for the temporary storage of chemistry fees and the like.

This is certainly a very convenient depository, and we are glad to know that it is rather a safe, than a cell for the unlucky student.

### A LABORATORY EPISODE.

#### How the Chemists Adjust Affairs of Honor.

It was one of those enervating April days which inscrutable fate had decreed as the time for chemists' practice. Within the precincts of Salisbury Laboratory, an almost deathly silence brooded. This unusual phenomenon was not due to the fact that the stalwart atom hustlers of '90 and '91 were engrossed in work. Oh no! But a base-ball game between the "Pelters" and "Batsmashers" was in progress on Dewey's field, and to witness the seductive sport, the chemists had gleefully ensconced themselves in the southwest windows while precipitations, filtrations and ebullitions were left to pursue the even or uneven tenor of their ways with all the felicity at their disposal.

The Batsmashers had just taken the field on the last inning, and intense excitement reigned in every bosom on the window sills.

At this interesting point a dire commotion from the direction of the corridor usurped for an instant the attention of the spectators, and all eyes were riveted upon the entrance.

Sounds of scuffling and stamping mingled with expressive interjections and broken invectives fell upon our ears, and soon a countenance, distorted with rage and livid, made its appearance at the door. It was Effervescing Lactone and we judged it the part of wisdom to be chary with our quizzing till his furor had somewhat abated.

But the Pelters and their opponents were forthwith forgotten and we quakingly gathered about the wrathful veteran to await developments.

We were not left long in suspense for soon some one volunteered the inquiry,—What is it Effie, Old Boy? Then he exploded. The infernal old slobberheels! the

squizzling pimp! the nauseating bubble! I'll disintegrate his brainless pate in *Aqua Fortis*. I'll lixivate, evaporate and incinerate his miserable carcass and scatter the undecomposable residue to the multifarious winds on the clock tower. I'll! I'll! and as his vituperation became more rapid and incoherent, he stalked excitedly back and forth through the laboratory, making great dents in the asphalt and endangering our glass ware and several commandments.

When his choler began to abate we plied him with questions, "Who was it?" "What did he do?" "Tell us all about it," followed each other in rapid succession. It was "Polymeric Twyerpipe," he muttered and he has accused me of cooking results. (This reply elicited no little surprise for Effie's culinary operations had heretofore been conducted with great success.) "This insult shall be revenged. The stain upon my character shall be washed out in blood." "Here Blastie," turning to Thio Blastlamp, "take this challenge to the base scandalizer and tell him that I desire to meet him at once on any grounds with any weapons."

Blastie dubiously took the challenge and departed to the balance room on his mission.

While he was gone we learned more particularly of the affair. "You see," said Effie, "I lent him my crucible and after he had weighed it he looked at my weight and found it nearly a gram and a quarter short. Upon my attributing this discrepancy to a borrowed fountain pen, he sneered, and called me a member of the bar."

Just then Blastlamp returned with an acceptance of the challenge which named wash bottles as the weapons and ten feet as the distance.

Polymeric soon came in and after taking a draught of distilled water to reinforce their energies the combatants took their positions.

At a signal from the seconds the duel commenced.

Effie inflated his cheeks for a destructive volley when his weapon burst deluging him with water not a drop of which reached his antagonist. He immediately grasped the situation and howled in a stentorian voice: "The execrable wretch! the insidious villain! He has sealed my wash bottle."

In the meantime Polymeric was deluging Effie from head to foot with a stream of  $\text{HNO}_3$ , for he had in the excitement seized the wrong wash bottle. Effie howled with pain as his clothes began to smoke and fall from his body; his seconds quickly lifted him into the sink and turned on the water. Just then the steps of the Prof. were heard approaching. The broken glass was whisked out of the way, a few old towels placed over Effie and every chemist hied to his desk as if nothing had occurred.

### GERMAN AGAIN.

#### An Appeal for the Introduction of Scientific German.

In the January number of the W P I a well written article appeared, which was signed by Mr. Goodell of '88. Its object was to impress upon the students, especially the mechanics and civils, the importance of keeping in pace with foreign scientific works as they appeared, and to cultivate a habit for referring to them in the discussion of scientific problems.

Now, in my estimation, Mr. Goodell has the right idea, and his letter I hope has received careful attention from the students. As a student in the Department of Chemistry, it is my desire to continue this theme a little further, and inquire just how the Tech student of to-day is being prepared for the easy and intelligent perusal of foreign periodicals. It is not my intention to criticise the course in German as it is now conducted, as far more capable minds than ours have planned it as they deemed best. But who can more thoroughly realize the benefits, or is better able to see where improvements could be made, than a student who has pursued the course in German and who is now applying it to technical work? German is taught to benefit the student and not to gratify the instructor; and if a student can see that he would be more greatly benefited by a slightly different method of instruction, then I claim he should at least be allowed to offer a suggestion.

The elementary work in the Junior year is indispensable, and cannot be improved upon. The translations from the great German writers are both instructive and interesting; but why devote all our time in

the class-room to the reading of classical German. Perhaps after we graduate our vocabulary of classical names will grant us hours of pleasure, as we peruse such works. What we want is an acquaintance with technical words, so when we are to make abstracts of German books in chemistry, we may be able to read without constant use of the dictionary. The first time the student is assigned to translate *Die Berlin Berichte*, or *Zeitschrift für Analytische Chemie*, or *Zeitschrift für Angewandte Chemie*, etc., he is appalled by the new words which he encounters; and in order to understand what he is reading he must commence all over again and master an entirely new vocabulary. Is this time profitably spent? Would it not be better to devote more time in the latter half of the Junior year and the Middle year to instruction in this line? A unanimous voice from the chemists answers, yes!

With such excellent sources of reference as we now have access to, and our efficient corps of instructors, it does seem that at least two hours a week might be profitably devoted to the reading of Technical German, and I am sure that in the end the student will feel that his knowledge of German is such that it is doing him a great deal of good.

A SENIOR CHEMIST.

### OUR IMPROVEMENTS.

#### The Institute Grounds to Surpass any in the State.

Once more the Tech has thrown off its old mantle and taken on a new cloak. The improvements made last summer had but just presented themselves in their full glory, when now we see still others. These latter are, perhaps, not as important and expensive as the first, but they are more superficial and consequently recognized more quickly and by more people.

The grounds surrounding the school have always been fairly kept up, but the south end was rather rough and in a comparatively primitive state until this spring when the city took hold of its part of the much needed work. The old Jo Bill Road has assumed its more dignified title of Institute Road and has been extended beyond Boynton Street around the knoll at the south of

Boynton Hall. This addition consists of a very graceful curve or rather series of curves around to West Street. The hill has been smoothed over and levelled off, the stone walls taken down, the trees trimmed, and presents a very pleasing picture which the Preps ought to sketch when they are set free this spring.

Institute Road is not the only scene of improvement, however. West Street has also received considerable attention and the school grounds on this side have also been cleared up and greatly improved.

With these improvements it seems as if the good work begun a year ago was accomplished. There is one place, however, which ought to receive attention; it is not a great thing but yet is somewhat impressive. We refer to the space immediately behind the shop, which seems to be a trap for almost every kind of rubbish. Almost all shops have similar depositories, and, perhaps, they are necessary to a thriving business concern, but this hardly seems possible. If this place were kept clean and free from refuse there would be no spot on the Institute grounds to disturb the eye.

### OVER THE HILLS.

At their last meeting the athletic directors voted to hold two hare and hound runs and one cross-country run this spring. The first two will be held on the two Saturdays following vacation and the cross-country run on May third, just a year from the eight-mile run which the Chathams held last spring, and in which two of the Tech team won first and third prizes. This last run will be a handicap, open to all the classes. Several dark horses are expected to show up then, who with their five or six minute handicaps will carry off the prizes. Four prizes are offered and the first will probably be a pair of running shoes, a most appropriate prize just before Field Day. It is whispered that the shoes won that day will be "mascotized" and the winner will never lose a race while wearing them.

For the benefit of any timid ones, who may think it injurious to their health to enter these runs, be it said that the Athletic Committee of the Faculty have been consulted and they sanction these runs as a means of training for the Field Day. No "certificate" will be necessary for the prac-

tice runs. The distance will be between 8 and 10 miles, never over 10, and the pace will be slow in the first two. In the last somebody will have to "hump himself."

During the runs last year the monotony was often broken by a yell from some one ahead who had discovered Mother Earth of about the consistency of molasses, or when some ambitious hound tried a water leap and missed connections.

By the way, practice barking before runs and every time you see a little piece of paper set up a genuine howl. Everybody get an old pair of pants and tell your landlady you'll shovel her sidewalk the rest of the year if she will amputate them at the knee. The Preps will be permitted to wear overalls.

### NINETY-THREE'S BASE BALL.

The Preps are evidently very modest and retiring, especially when asked about their ability and willingness to engage in athletics and base ball, but each one is very willing to give a full and flattering account of the qualifications of his neighbor.

Base ball seems to be in high favor with the class and some of its members have played upon nines in the schools whence they came and have good records. For pitcher and catcher the "paralyzers" are not yet in good form, but some may be brought out if the men are carefully groomed. Kelley appears to be the one to whom all look as a good man in the box, but he has not been practicing for some time. Fletcher used to puzzle the batters out on the prairies and although his recollections of Wentworth's arcs are fresher than his "drop" and "inshoot," if the fates can consider that they have done sufficient drenching and condescend to send a little good weather, care in practice may find that the pitchers of '93 will do their work in a manner that will surprise some of the most respected of the higher classes.

If Kelley and Fletcher saw their fingers off or contract lock-jaw by mortising out the inside of their hands, lots more can twirl the horse-hide if need be. They are Stone, Hammond, Tatman and Phillips. A very promising catcher is M. F. Goodrich. Judging from the manner that he stood up before one of '92's razzle-dazzlers, it is safe to say that the pitcher, whoever he is to be,

will find good support; and no fear need be felt about that part of the nine. Besides Goodrich, Strong and Rawson seem to be the only ones that will let it be known that they were ever inside of a mask and pair of gloves. The outfielders are careful players and can easily take care of their part of the game. They are Hammond, Phillips, Coughlin and Rawson. So far the buzz planer has had quite a deal to do with the effectiveness of the first baseman, but if a railing is put around that machine so that Derby cannot stick his fingers into it when it is going, the first base will be well covered. With Tatman for third base, Strong for second base, Greenwood keeping guard of the ground between second and third, and Starbuck as a good all around substitute, a team ought to be pulled together that will make a good showing in the class games. No assumptions whatever of an exalting nature are made; on the contrary, most of the men seem to be afraid of the mighty ones of the older classes who walk around talking of "descript" and "calc." That is all wrong, pitch right in and don't be afraid. What if you are defeated? Other Prep classes have failed from no fault of theirs, as many more will fail. Possibly you will vanquish next year's and the two following years' classes. Try at any rate; "nothing venture, nothing gain."

[NOTE BY ED. Unlimited space in the W P I is given every year to the Prep class for the presentation of its base ball "colossi." Experience has shown that the crushing defeats given the upper classmen at that time *on paper* help much to heal their sorrows when the time is ripe for an actual encounter later in the season.]

### SPOILING THEIR APPEARANCE.

#### Books Made Unattractive by Unightly Covers and Labels.

System is a good thing in the right place, and there is hardly a place which does not need it; but we believe there is such a thing as carrying it too far, as, for instance, in cataloguing the library books. It is a grand, good thing to have a complete catalogue and to have a place for every book and to have every book in its place; yet is

it the wise thing to cover the books with black paper and paste a white tag on their backs? Books are, or ought to be, for use, and we believe that a book in its natural binding will be far more attractive to the student than one dressed in mourning. The Institute is not merely an institution for learning, but a place to create, in the young people there, a desire for learning and research, a liking for the study of those things which are before them; and in no way can this be better accomplished than by the aid of well-filled, attractive library shelves.

The additions in books are very acceptable and have been much needed. We have now a good start in the line of a library, but only a start; we shall need very many additions from time to time, and hundreds of books might well be placed upon our shelves now.

We were sorry to see the long and narrow pieces of white paper pasted on to the backs of so many books. It seems to disfigure them terribly and appears not to be needed. We call to mind the instance of the High School where probably ten times as many books are used daily, and there is not a book labeled or covered to our knowledge, and there is scarcely any trouble in finding the required book. Each book should have a place and if it does it will, as a general thing, be put back where it was found, after reading. To be sure a book may stray a few inches from its accustomed place, but if it is in its natural binding it is easily found, whereas if covered with dark paper it is very hard to get sight of. We are glad to notice in this connection that the encyclopædias and a few of the leather-bound volumes have escaped the white labels.

Another very good idea is that of pasting the names of the various magazines opposite their respective places upon the table. Valuable additions have been made in this line, especially in the departments of Chemistry and Physics.

A new set of German books has been placed upon the shelves of the Physical library recently.

As they take me higher and higher,  
Results lead me to say,  
How much I might acquire  
If they 'd shove me less each day!

### THE PREPS.

**What they have been doing and what they are going to do.**

All the "stick" work has been completed for some time and now most of the Preps are busy at work upon the pattern course. Some have finished nearly all the patterns, but Mr. Badger intends to add at least one more piece to the list. After these are finished each student is to make a door for his tool cupboard. Two drawing cases are to be made for C. H. Morgan, and this job has been assigned to the Preps. Mr. Badger had a number of boys plane off a lot of black walnut just before vacation. This is to be used for book-shelves, as one is to be made by each member. If time is left the class will build several roller-top desks. Oak has been chosen as the material.

Now, '93, don't let the previous classes outdo you. Some very creditable work has been done in the past, but you can do as well if you only try. Another thing that ought to please some of the members of the class, is that most of you will be permitted to work for yourselves, provided you pay for the use of the machines and tools, and the cost price of the lumber used. What better time is there than now to make some lasting and useful souvenir of your Tech life? How about a desk on which you can grind out your geometry next year and write your class poem during the winter of '92 and '93. If the picture of your class is satisfactory, how appropriate it would be to make a neat frame for it, so it will not be lost in a year or two, and in later days you will be around kicking yourselves for not having more ambition in your infancy. Now is the time. Don't miss it, for it has no reversing gear, and once run through it is gone for good.

### THE SHOP.

**Lively times there while the most of us were enjoying our Vacation.**

While spiders were spinning their webs in the corridors and recitation rooms of Boynton and in a large portion of the Laboratories, the shop had the rush of a gun shop in war time. Yes, business is booming, with lots of orders to be filled. As a

rule orders come in just as fast as the goods are shipped.

The number of twist drill grinders that are ordered and the way the orders come in show that that machine is in great favor with the machinists of the country, and at present the orders are far in advance of the facilities of production.

The emery wheel truer for the Norton Emery Wheel Co. has been furnished, much to the satisfaction of those concerned.

Prof. Alden is having built an exhaust valve for his engine at the Laboratories. The work upon the two lathes that the Seniors are building is progressing somewhat slowly, but Mr. Walls has no doubt that they will be finished before commencement.

Up stairs in the wood room, work is by no means lacking. A full set of Willis Apparatus for experiments in weights and lifts is being built for Cornell University.

Elevator cars appear as quickly as mushrooms and disappear almost as suddenly. One of the largest elevators ever built at the Washburn Shops is being constructed for Sawyer & Chase, carriage makers, of Lynn, Mass. The car is to be 18 feet 6 inches long by 9 feet 6 inches wide. Another large freight elevator is for Charles Kimball, of Providence, R. I. This will be 16 feet long. Besides these, cars for Titus & Buckley, Lynn, Mass., D. Wilcox, Providence, R. I., and one for the Hope Building, Providence, are being built.

The demand for drawing-tables is as lively as ever; eight or ten unfilled orders are on the spindle.

Many of the students profited by the chance this vacation gives them to make up their extra practice. The majority of the workers are Juniors, and they seemed supremely happy as they sat beside an industrious lathe, eating an apple or whistling, and did not appear even to notice the boys that were out playing ball in the field across the road.

### CAMERA CLUB NOTES.

It was suggested at a recent meeting of the Tech Camera Club that it would not be a bad idea to have a lantern slide exhibit at the Laboratories in the evening before the intercollegiate sports. If some arrangement could be made with the Tech Banjo Club, a pleasant evening's entertainment

would doubtless be the result. This would be a fine opportunity to light up the entire building and ask the professors to assist in a general reception.

As the last exhibition of photographs proved so successful, it has been thought best to have a similar exhibition in June. Prizes will be offered, and a much larger and more interesting exhibit is expected.

The members of the club have been at work with their cameras and some soul-stirring pictures are the result. Rawson, '93, has a picture of the Preps, and Tracy has one of the Junior mechanics. Besides these there are numerous flash light pictures and a score or more new views of the Tech, which, by the way, has had to crawl through the muzzle of a camera a good many times since the completion of the new buildings.

#### A STUDENT'S VIEWS.

*Mr. Editor:*

For the past few months the conduct of students in the Free Drawing room has been almost anything but what it should be. There are a few men in every division who go there simply to have a good time at the expense of every one else who has any desire to do good work. These men carry things to such extremes that the Professor is able to do but little instructing. He has to stand and watch continually to see who it is that causes these disturbances, and he says himself that he can do nothing under such circumstances, that the boys might just as well stay at home so far as material benefit is concerned. When it comes to such a pass that a man, on raising his hand, is told that he must wait till some other time, that the Professor would be glad to help him if he could relax his vigilance long enough, then I think it is time for the diligent men to demand that the disturbing element be suppressed. We all know that the Professor's nerves are sometimes easily jarred, but boys, he is older than you are and may be laboring under difficulties which you do not understand or realize. At least his intentions are worthy the respect of every student.

Where will you find a Professor more obliging or willing to give any assistance that is required?

You may say—well free drawing amounts to nothing, time thrown away, etc., but I haven't the space here to argue the pros and cons; of one thing I am sure, and I think you will agree with me, the man who spends his time drawing with the intention of making something that he will prize in the future, never, in years to come, will begrudge the time thus spent.

JUNIOR.

#### BALLAD OF "YE TATTOOED DORG."

'Twas on the 26th of March, just spent,  
A well fed, well bred dorg did visit school;  
He was a gamey beast, with self content;  
His tail alone would bring ten cents the spool.  
His glossy coat, his ragged jaw's extent  
Bespoke a canine reared in luxury's couch.  
He would not give his name nor his descent,  
But only said "you see, I am no slouch."

The office first he sought, as if his eyes  
Were bent on taking in our finest sight.  
He made his bow, exclaimed, "Ah there, my  
size?"  
But at the kind "Good morning" turned in  
flight.

'Twixt you and me he showed that he was wise,  
Thus to escape a "chin" on "rocks," per-  
chance—  
All out of breath, in "Gladdy's" room he sighs  
"The coat don't make the dog—it is the pants!"

Alas, he jumped from stew-pan into fire,  
When he did seek an office call to cut—  
A den of fiends with no ambition higher—  
Of a most cruel joke he was the butt.  
Soon was the purp surrounded by a mob,  
Who heeded not the instructor's warning cry,  
But tattooed on his back with inky swab,  
This most artistic legend "W. P. I."

Oh, vicious boys, to fresco thus a thing,  
That erstwhile sought a "doctoring" to evade.  
And then to take him into choir to sing!  
Methinks that boys for better things were  
made.

But rescue came,—the dog, too fat to run,  
Was so completely stunned by singing tough,  
They dragged him out to bleach beneath the sun,  
And at last accounts he was seen ambling  
sadly home in the sougning night by the  
back way to avoid the crowd and of the  
Tech he says he's had enough.

### TECHNICALITIES.

'91 is at the bat.

'90 has settled her account with the paper and is *on* a bat.

The Preps had on their class colors March 17.

Lively games of scrub every noon. No certificates required for practice games.

It is said that the "S. B." in the new catalogue refers to a degree of the order of Smith Bros.

Information. "We don't generally want to get all the carbon out of this iron because we-er-we-er-can't."

A notice recently left on a door at the Laboratories:—"Set up the Erlenmeyer bath and put on my whiskey."

The Preps think it would be a pious scheme if they were taken every afternoon to see how a foundry looks.

There was no room for the Junior chemists this vacation; they must wait for summer to make up their practice.

There is great activity just now at the Laboratory, collecting coins—chiefly of the one cent variety.

The Junior mechanics are now in the Chemical Laboratory realizing what they paid their fees for last term.

#### PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Boys' size, 50 cts.

Men's size, \$3.00 and upwards.

We are glad to see that Pierce, '90, has so far recovered from his severe illness as to be able to continue his work.

One would think that the wood-room had resolved itself into an organ shop if one should enter it suddenly when the foreman is out of the room.

Division C of the Juniors, after a varied course in mathematics, have now returned to algebra and geometry, while the Mechanics are struggling with analyt.

Practice for the Juniors in the Physical Laboratory has been resumed after a long time, one-half of the division going into the Laboratory while the other has a "quiz."

Prep wants to know if pitching pennies is gambling. We should say decidedly so, and is very naughty unless you know how to pitch a winning game.

What was the cause of J. C.'s hiccoughs in the German recitation the other day, cider or what? It may have been a little "what."

Base ball is booming. '92 has bought supplies and had a game set for March 29, which would have been played but for the weather.

The Preps are doing lots of singing lately. Perhaps they intend to give a concert the night of the field sports.

The Seniors have noticed in their electrical practice that "sparking" is a loss of energy. Well, we thought it wasn't the lenten season that caused one or two of them to give their best girls the "razzle."

Brace up, some of you athletes. It is time to put on the harness in earnest, and keep it there until after May. We may not win the pennant, but we can get up the liveliest kind of a hustle for a place.

When you enter the Salisbury Laboratories and hear a weird noise like that of departed souls in pain, do not think it is haunted; it is only the electric motor in the workshop.

With base-ball assessments and the like, the boys are now wishing that the class treasurer were in the coöperative catalogue; a discount of ten per cent. would be quite an item.

The spring migration of birds has begun and all varieties of ducks, buzzards, crows, cuckoos, and "chippies" are warned to pass quietly by Boynton Hall while the monitors are getting their Sunday-school lessons.

The chemists ought to be excluded from the physical examinations. Anybody capable of carrying his body from Boynton Street to the top floor of the Laboratories, is strong enough to enter a half-hour tug.

We are very much afraid that certain of the professors will get into serious scraps with certain other professors if they are not more careful to dismiss the divisions on time, instead of making them five or ten minutes late to their next recitation.

Senior chemists were lately seen with the most beautifully frescoed hands, shading from pale yellow in the palm to dark é cru on the edge and outlined on the fingers with a deep fringe of red, giving a very tasty display of color.

Hastings, formerly of '91, was seen on the streets of Worcester during vacation by a W P I reporter. He was not alone,—the reporter was bashful, and consequently nothing was learned except that the ex-president still lives a happy life.

What is there on the lower floor of the Salisbury Laboratories that produces such a vile odor? Vivisection going on, or have the chemists all of last year's sewage for analysis? If it is the latter, let them hurry up about it. If the former—look out for the *Telegram* man.

What a pity that the handsome clock presented by C. M. Dyer could not remain in the Library where it was first set up. It was probably thought that the "Loud Conversation" mentioned in the inscription above the place would drown its cathedral chime.

Two consecutive hours of mathematics would be dull work under any instructor, no matter how agreeable. Division C, Juniors, through the kindness of Prof. Eaton, now have an informal discussion of the subject during one hour, thus passing the time most pleasantly.

The Junior civils had out-door practice for the first time on the 24th of March. It was amusing, to say the least, to hear one of them instructing Prof. White in the method of setting up a transit, telling him to "Let go of that, you'll knock it all off," without even looking up to see to whom he was talking.

A Middler recently told his landlady that he thought the chicken which was served for dinner was old enough to know better than to appear on the table. The good lady was inclined to be vicious, but remembered the bill that was owing her, and so forced a smile, along with the neck of the bird upon the young man.

The removal of Prof. White's family to his new house at Adams Square has taken away the temptation to throw Ganot's Physics at his hens. If his change of residence had taken place a year ago, the precocious Middler, who spanked his small boy under the impression that he was only an ordinary youth, might still be in school.

The last snow storm of the season offered a fine opportunity to do the meteor act down the perpendicular paths about the school.

The trees still bear the marks of the avalanche of boys, dogs, clumps and professors that hurled itself over the brink and wound itself about the trees at the bottom, as the mighty oak entwines itself about the tender vine.

That little piece of soap in the basement has departed. It will be sadly missed, for by dint of rolling on the floor and pounding on the wall, it had become so charged with sand and other extraneous matter that it made itself felt. Some philanthropic individual please bring another; we will swipe a Prep towel and again have a full equipment.

A Tech coming up Highland St. the other day after the ice storm was accosted by a small boy with the question, "Why don't you set that clock going?"

Now the fact is, the old clock has been going pretty well for several months, but like some of the other regulators of the Institute it gets "done up" once in a while. We can only say, as we have often said before, "Give it a rest."

There has been some question among the Senior Chemists as to which of their number is the best analytical chemist. To settle the question among themselves, they decided a few days since to take a vote on the matter. The result of the ballot was that H. E. Austin is the man, he receiving six of eight votes cast. We congratulate Mr. Austin on thus being the choice of his classmates.

It was funny to see the Preps come marching into chapel on the 17th of last month with such ludicrous expressions on their faces, for which there was no apparent reason. It was afterward learned that they expected to bring down the house with some little pieces of green ribbon to which each one had tied himself. But it was all lost; the general verdant appearance was not to be added to in this trifling manner.

The theory that it takes as long to put on the "finishing touch" as to make the entire structure has been well illustrated in the repairing of the shop chimney. It certainly could not have taken much longer to build the whole shop than it did to add about two feet of new chimney. Would it not be a better example for students to follow if such "odd jobs" were done promptly and

without delay as would be required by any enterprising business firm?

We noticed one of our ingenious Middlers busily at work inside the elevator at the top of the Salisbury Laboratories recently and on investigation found that he was fastening one end of a tape measure there. He was practicing Physics and had the problem before him to find by means of an Aneroid Barometer, the distance the elevator goes. He evidently thought that an ordinary tape was a much better instrument to use in such a case, and it apparently was, for he got excellent results.

At last a use has been found for the picturesque little electrical house at the foot of the hill. As the summer days approach, those taking free hand drawing begin to wonder how long it will be before the out-of-door sketching lessons will begin so they can take a little mid-day nap while Prof. Gladwin is teaching the rest of the class how to recognize the fine points in a stone wall or a stump. Until now wooden blocks have taken the place of houses and trees, but henceforth all students are advised to look with a critical eye at the electrical building, as that is said to be one of the first of our out-door attempts.

Much has already been said in regard to Prof. White's arduous labors and his pressing need of an assistant. One of our scribes thought the bill was filled one morning during the vacation as he saw a former Tech student instructing three half-frozen civils in their practice. The little delusion was dispelled on inquiry, however, for Mr.

Barnes was to act only during the Juniors' practice week, when Prof. White would be left again to attend to every little detail concerning each of his comparatively large classes.

A certain Middler who thinks he knows a little something about Sanitary Engineering, suggests that it would be a wise idea to have the supply of water in the *extreme* west end of the shop considerably increased. Perhaps those high in authority at the shop are not fully aware of the fact that a few more gallons of water per day from our high pressure service, would, if properly distributed, well repay the Institute for the additional dollar or two per year which the water commissioners of Worcester would probably deem it their duty to demand.

Is it not about time that we become better acquainted with our neighbors up at the Cadet School? To be sure we don't appear so well when on dress parade and we can't look so all-fired stuck on ourselves but we would like to be friends and be invited up to see you shoot your toy "peepers." In return we agree to show you John Hurley, Charlie Stonecutter and the rest of the Faculty, to say nothing of the lively bouts that we could arrange between you and the Preps,—three "sojers" to one Prep. Seriously Mr. Cadet, we would like to make your acquaintance. We acknowledge that you can cut us out on Main Street but we think we can swipe you at base-ball on Dewey's field. We await an invitation to tackle you at anything from pitching pennies to a general athletic contest.

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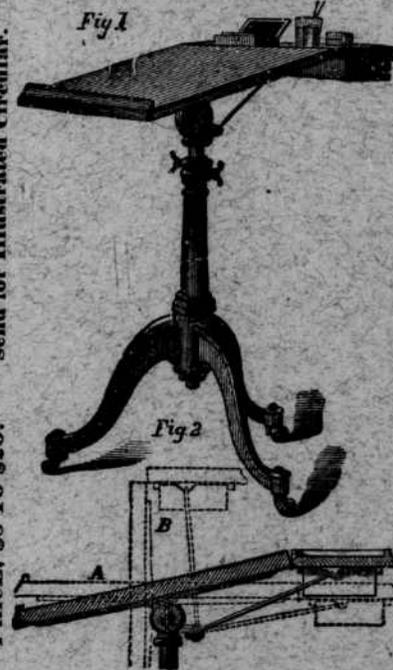
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