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A TALE OF WOE.

A month has passed away and the beautiful Saturday afternoons that have come and gone have been a source of irritation to every foot-ball player in the school. With an eleven in the field favored by the splendid weather we have had this fall, the debt caused solely by the rain and mud of last season would be entirely wiped out by this time, and the treasury would undoubtedly show a handsome balance. We have read with a sorrowful interest the accounts of football games participated in by our neighbors. Poor, misguided youths! Why do they persist in their short-sighted policy? Can they not see that their studies are suffering because of their interest in this branch of athletics? Do they not appreciate the fact that they are sacrificing the one golden opportunity of life, the chance to obtain an education, on the altar of sport? It is painful to record that they do not see these facts as we are compelled to see them, and they appear to be willing to continue in this state of blindness for some time to come. We have a smile of pity for the mentors of these young men, who thus permit their charges to continue in their demoralizing practices. Can it be that they are tolerating a game which they know takes time away from the students’ lessons? Alas! it is only too true.

Twelve months ago the surplus vitality of the school was expended on the foot-ball field, and superabundant spirits harmlessly found an outlet there. Within the past few weeks the foot-ball field has been the scene of an expenditure of surplus vitality, but a four-wheeled vehicle figured in the case, this time, and the superabundant spirits found their outlet under the protecting mantle of darkness. Some will think that this is not the better outlet of the two.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

It is doubtful if very many of the undergraduates understand the real importance and significance of the association of Tech alumni. To those who attended the annual reunion and banquet at the Bay State House last June the interest and enthusiasm which was man-
ifested was a great surprise. Throughout the whole business meeting and the post-prandial exercises there was exhibited an interest in the Institute in strong contrast to the carefulness and indifference that characterize meetings of the organizations in the very school itself. The Alumni Association has been steadily growing in size and influence. Its numbers are increased with every graduating class. It has now become a powerful factor in Tech life and deserves to be recognized as such.

At the present time the amount of money in the hands of the treasurer of the association reaches, in round numbers, the sum of $1,200. Nearly all of this belongs to the Thompson memorial fund, the disposition of which is a problem that will in all probability be settled at the next annual meeting. The executive committee of the association are the trustees of this fund but it is not probable that they will take any action with regard to its disposal until the matter has been thoroughly discussed by the members of the association.

An important piece of work to be done at the next meeting is the adoption of a constitution. A written constitution was brought in by a committee at the last meeting, but its weak points provoked such a long discussion that it was thought best to postpone its adoption one year. In the meantime printed copies are to be sent out to every alumnus for inspection and next June the ideas, suggestions and corrections are to be fused into one constitution which ought to meet every requirement.

The discussion which took place on the subject of the alumni being represented on the Board of Trustees was of considerable interest. It was the unanimous opinion of the association that it have representation on the Board, but it was not thought advisable to take any definite steps towards securing such representation. As one speaker put it, time alone will decide.

AN APPEAL.

The present management of the W P I has issued five numbers and, as yet, no request for contributions has been made, in the columns of the paper, of either the undergraduates or the alumni. Past experience has not justified us in making this request. Although the columns of the first four volumes have frequently urged that the school show its interest by furnishing literary matter, it is a fact that the voluntary contributions received and printed have been ridiculously small in number. Ever since the paper was started, in 1885, the entire burden of the preparation of each month’s issue has fallen on the board of editors. Without much hope of changing this order of things, we would like to say that the columns of the W P I are as free to the school as the pure air and the sunshine. Be you undergraduate or alumnus, teacher or student, subscriber or non-subscriber, you will always get a fair hearing here.

The attitude of the undergraduates toward the paper is rather peculiar. Their energies seem to be expended in freely-expressed criticism of its policy, in wondering why certain things are not “jumped on” or why pet schemes of theirs are not boomed. Sometimes a student, bolder than his fellows, com-
municates the material for a possible item of common interest. In rare cases some daring individual ventures an opinion which is printed over the signature of "Junior," "Athlete," "Pro Bono Publico," etc. Where are the "corridor croakers," who, at a safe distance, are so forward in their criticisms of men and measures connected with the Institute? Let the W P I spread before a waiting constituency these opinions which are of such vital interest. Shall it be said that these critics are lacking the "sand" necessary to put down in black and white views which they do not hesitate to express in private?

The W P I asks for contributions because it wants new ideas, new thoughts, new suggestions. It is easy enough to fill the paper with matter. Since the first number of this volume, the work of editing has been a work of constant abridgment and condensation. Matter enough to fill a dozen extra columns has been thrown away with every issue. The resort to a smaller size of type and the use of four extra pages in the April and July numbers seem to hardly stem the press of news. But we want the school paper to be as much brighter and better as these new ideas and new suggestions will undoubtedly make it.

To the alumni especially would the W P I appeal. The disposition of the Thompson memorial fund, the Alumni Association, the athletic problem, the strong and weak points of the Institute's training, all these topics can be most profitably discussed in these columns. If the Tech is to keep up with the march of progress, its graduates must give it the benefit of their advice and the fruits of their experience. At the alumni dinner last June, Dr. Kinnicutt made a strong appeal to the alumni to visit the school and give suggestions concerning the work. The W P I supplements this appeal with an offer to put these suggestions into type.

TOO GREAT A HANDICAP.
The Mechanics and the Chemists Have Every Advantage: Give the Civils a Chance.

Is our Civil Engineering department keeping pace with the other departments at the Worcester Tech? No Why? It is handicapped. Fortune has smiled upon the Institute but the civils could not catch her eye. She has allowed herself to be wooed mechanically, she has shown herself susceptible to mere physical perfection and her heart has proven soluble to the chemists, while the faint-hearted civils have been standing out in the cold, trying to keep themselves warm in a home-made mantle of modesty. So while the other departments were aided and abetted, the Civil Engineering department had to help itself; while they received energy from without it had to draw on its own potential; while their strength was duly increased for their loads it had to cut down its factor of safety; in short, while the other heads of departments have been reinforced by assistant instructors, Prof. White has had to struggle manfully with two men's work, at the peril of his health and with unavoidable loss to his classes. This is our plaint, and our only one. Everything else is all right with us. We have good quarters, good instruments, and an able, painstaking, practical professor. Why has he not an assistant? Obviously for one of these two supposed reasons: either because he does not need one, or because of the expense.

With regard to the financial practicability of increasing the corps of instructors we have no knowledge, and in view of our ignorance on this point we do not presume to criticise what some of the civils have considered a possible delinquency on the part of our Board of Trustees. On the contrary, from the failure of the Board to appoint such an assistant, we infer that it is judged unwise or impracticable to increase
current expenses. If so, it is not for us to murmur. While good men are bridging our financial depression we may not shake the cable nor clamor too loudly for rapid transit. We will soon be tided over; the present want will be supplied and new wants will present themselves, will trouble for awhile and then be satisfied. Current expenses can neither be decreased nor kept constant; if they were, the school would retrogress, that is, relatively to other schools. Such a state of affairs cannot be; that's axiomatic. It follows, then, that expenses must be increased, and in these rapid days the increments are frequent. During the past few years they have followed one another at short intervals; who knows how soon we may have another? Perhaps, then, we are none too early in urging the claim of the department of Civil Engineering, which we will respectfully endeavor to do by pointing out its need.

It needs more leisure for the head of the department, time for him to read and keep generally well posted, to take notes, measure up important structures, study unusual engineering conditions, and sometimes to travel, to meet and mingle with business men, especially with other engineers. Do you suppose that civil engineering is a dead letter profession; that it was invented centuries ago and that all a professor has to do is to close his eyes and make his pupils repeat a formula for laying pyramidal stone that may have been found on an Egyptian mummy? He has more onerous duties. Civil engineering that can even be classed with the engineering of the present is little over thirty years old. Its correct practice is a question of the day, and always will be, so long as safety, convenience and economy continue to be influential factors in the world's progress.

Then the engineer, be he professor or practitioner, must be a man of the hour. He must know what is going on. How is he to find out? Is it by watching the movements of an awkward squad of Juniors laying out their first “square triangle,” or by solving for unknowns in Wells' edition of Greenleaf? All that kind of work, together with much-needed instruction in adjusting instruments, might better be delegated to an assistant. The latter would have plenty to do; so would the professor.

Now it is not the purpose of this article to undertake to tell what are the duties of a professor of civil engineering, or a professor of anything else. We are not teachers. We have no pet plans of instruction. We profess no familiarity with the art of imparting knowledge. But as students who have taken pains, no matter how, to ascertain our future professional needs, permit us to mention a few of the subjects on which we would like instruction from our professor of civil engineering after we have run the gauntlet of his assistant. Besides general instructions and exercises in stereotomy, bridge building, the stability of earth and of masonry, and a cursory glance at a few other unimportant subjects, as at present, we wish also to consider water-works and sewerage systems with all their appurtenant works. We want to know about the different kinds of reservoir dams, whether of earth, masonry, frame or iron; about gate chambers, draw-off culverts, roll-ways; about grades for sewers, sizes of pipe, material for pipe; about grades for streets and the best cross-sections for different pavements in different places; about contract forms and specifications; how to make a bill of timber or of iron; how to make monthly estimates; how to handle contractors and boards of directors; where and how to use such simple mechanical contrivances as the hydraulic ram and the syphon; about railroad maintenance of way; how to test limes and cements; how to test lumber for soundness and old structures for decay, &c, &c.

These, and many others, we need to know. To be sure we can learn them in engineers' offices. That is how it has been done in the past. And, you may add, experience has shown that usually there is time enough to learn these various branches before the young engineer is called upon to use them. Certainly there is time enough. There has to be. He is not "called" to a responsible position till he knows how to fill it. Of necessity, the knowledge precedes the position as cause precedes effect. It behooves us, then, to seek for knowledge by the shortest way.

There are some things that must be learned in the office or on actual work, but it is a slow school and the less we have to learn there the better. It frequently hap-
pens that a man spends an entire season without learning from the work anything more than he learned the first week, and several seasons are spent and many engineers' offices patronized before the young aspirant for practical knowledge encounters practice in anything like a large proportion of the different kinds of work. Now, we claim that we can get the essential part of this valuable and costly information during practice time of the last half of our course at the Tech, if our professor has the time to teach it concisely.

Time to teach concisely means time to read about, consider, observe and investigate the best practice among competent engineers; time to cull, select, discriminate, and time to put the result of all this into the handiest form and most taking language. Some of these subjects are ably treated in books, but books are too formal. They must lead up to the discussion by a circuitous, perambulating preamble in order to make it comprehensible to uneducated readers; and then too often, after reaching the zenith of their usefulness, they sail wearily down to the horizon through the enervating ether of the integral calculus to delight the eye of the formula-eating theorists. No blame to the author. He must please many minds, but our professor has only to prepare his lectures or talks for us alone. He would furnish us with printed copies of his notes, properly headed and indexed. They would be notes enlivened by practical illustrations; in delivering them as lectures he would make them as interesting as possible, interspersing incidental professional pointers and memory-aiding anecdotes.

These notes, giving minute details, would stand us in better stead than anything usually found in engineers' offices, where the engineer is not always first-class nor always obliging. Of course, nothing can take the place of actual, responsible practice, but the foregoing merely aims to substitute better and more exhaustive teaching at school for what a subordinate may learn in an engineer's office.

The professor should be our consulting engineer, ready and willing to answer definitely all reasonable questions. To do this he should have leisure and opportunity to form his own independent opinions, so that he need not give second-hand information. For instance, if we asked for, say, different forms of cattle guards and which is the best, he could say: "The N. P. uses this, the New York Central uses that, &c.—but in this climate and under these circumstances I claim that this other is superior, and for this reason, &c."

Yes, gentlemen, give the civils a chance. They cannot draw indefinitely on their good reputation in the past. The department is laboring under a great disadvantage, yet you expect results that shall compare favorably with those at other schools.

At least two of the professors at Troy act as consulting engineers on work in New York and other States. A professor at Boston is expert engineer to the State R. R. Commission. We do not advocate the employment of professors as expert or consulting engineers; that work belongs to others and the professor's time belongs to his classes, which he should always be able to meet without the interference of outside private practice. But he should have time enough to give the upper classes the benefit of experienced observation, research, and deduction,—and that is several days a week more than he has at present.

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NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

A Month Passes Without a Single Foot-ball Game to Break the Monotony.

There is no foot-ball news this month.
No games have been played.
The restrictions of the Faculty have apparently killed all local interest in the sport. Not once within the past thirty days has a foot-ball been even seen on Dewey's field.

Additional criticisms on the new order of things are given below:

The Best Interest of the Tech would be Subserved by the Faculty's Hearty Encouragement.

My Dear * * *

It is with deep regret that I find myself again arrayed with the students as against the Faculty on a question concerning the interest of Alma Mater, but since you ask for my opinion it is briefly this:

That the best interest of the Tech would be subserved by a hearty encouragement on the part of the Faculty of foot-ball and other athletic sports.
Every member of the Faculty would perhaps be willing to sign his name to the above opinion, but it is evident that the majority have an idea of what constitutes "heartly encouragement" that differs widely from that held at the Boston Tech, Stevens and Troy and all the New England colleges. If the "heartly encouragement" this year has succeeded in crushing out foot-ball and has placed its stamp of disapproval on the very limited extent to which the game was played last season, it certainly differs in nature from that of the other educators of the country.

The position of the Faculty indicates some such opinion as this: the opportunities this institute affords are greater than can be seized in three years should the student work all the time. These students, however, evidently fail to appreciate these advantages and the shortness of the course as they wish to devote two hours a day and an occasional Saturday to foot-ball. Hence it becomes our painful duty to enforce the constant and uninterrupted work which they are not ready to perform.

If such be a fair statement, it is a most unjust opinion in so far as it has any general application. I have now become familiar with three of the best institutions of learning, which perhaps gives my verdict some force, which is, that there nowhere exists a class of students more thoroughly in earnest, more devoted to their regular work, more appreciative of the value of time than at the Worcester Polytechnic.

If such a class of men by a large majority ask for two hours a day and an occasional Saturday, it is safe to conclude that, consciously or unconsciously, they feel the need of so much relaxation and that they will be the better for it in the true sense of the word.

I now speak of the men as a body. Every individual case must of course be decided on its merits and, as is the case at Harvard, any student sacrificing his studies to athletics should be deprived of the privilege of playing. But for the sake of individual cases to sacrifice the chief interest and means of relaxation and exercise of the entire body of students is as unfair as it would be to stop all study because occasionally a man kills himself by overwork.

The best students in my class were on the foot-ball team. Goodell was the first man and played end rush. Camp played centre, Patterson and Cushman were half-backs, Rice was quarter, Jewett was end rush, and Lovell and Chadwick were guards on the class team. All of these, with perhaps one exception, have stood within the first twelve men on the rank list and five of them were within the first nine at the finals. Evidently these men, in a school where competition for first place is so fierce, could spare no more time than was absolutely essential from their books and they played several games out of town and in all played more games than any preceding team.

I was struck with your reference in your last editorial to Tom Brown at Worcester in comparison to Tom Brown at Rugby. I hope to see the time when the ranks of the Tech will contain men who can boast of the happy hours their fathers passed there, as well as those who are attracted by the rigor and excellence of the course. As it is, however, if the present policy be continued, there will be many a Tech who will think twice before he submits his son to a discipline of all work and no play.

Very truly yours,

J. Brace Chittenden.

Facts Which Should Have Some Weight.

To the Editor of the W P I:

It is now, of course, too late for any action of the Faculty to have any effect on foot-ball this season, but it can do no harm to again state some facts which should have some weight in their deliberations regarding a team next season.

While some may be inclined to the belief that the Faculty were influenced in their decisions by spite, the general opinion must be that, as a body, and with the facts as represented to them, they did what they considered best for the school. At the same time it is evident that these facts have been misrepresented to them, and an impartial and correct statement may serve to show them the error of their ways.

The arguments against foot-ball as stated by the Faculty are, briefly, as follows:— First, the expense of maintaining a team would be too great a drain upon the students' pockets. Second, going out of town would necessitate too much loss of time from school work. Third, the men are apt
to be corrupted by going out of town. Fourth, the game is brutal.

To the first, no better reply can be given than that of Penniman, '89, when he states the actual expense of the team which had to be borne by the students. It must be borne in mind that the $160 contributed for the team was for the purchase of uniforms now in possession of the school, and that the gate receipts paid the running expenses.

As to the second argument, little need be said in face of the fact that several students were granted leave of absence for a whole day (more than was lost by any man last year through foot-ball games) to attend a Y. M. C. A. meeting in Waltham. The Faculty might as well forbid joining the Y. M. C. A., for it is expensive and takes time away from school work.

Concerning the third argument, we have Mr. Walls's statement as regards the behavior of the men out of town.

When foot-ball was forbidden in Harvard, several years ago, there were good reasons for so doing. The game as played there was nothing but a slugging match, and some were seriously injured. But the game of to-day bears about as much resemblance to the game of then as a horse-trot does to a bull-fight.

I hope to see a more liberal feeling among the Faculty next year, and to see a team in the field next season which shall be a credit to the school, and by its success attract more attention to the school than any number of catalogues or advertisements, which, although a good means of bringing the school before the public, pale into insignificance when compared with a good foot-ball team.

No New nor Unexpected Features.

To the Editor of the W P I:—

The Tech athletic problem shows no new nor unexpected features. Probably no alumnus attributes the attitude of the Faculty to any but the best of intentions but the same body that past generations of students have criticised as being not exactly broad nor far-sighted in its methods of school government still has the key of the situation. So long as the present make-up of the Faculty stands, and the "ill-starred," primary methods in vogue are applied to the government of Tech students, the Athletic Association will see trouble.

The school success is something the healthy alumnus is proud of, and justly, too. He also is inclined to believe it is attained in spite of some handicapping due to inefficient training and government. The student is a hard working fellow usually and has some mild diversions during term time, such as flirtations, chapel exercises, "poker for matches," and Dr. **'s recitations. These, none will hold, are vigorous or manly. As a means of furnishing amusement or making athletes the association does not count, but as a means of making contented, patriotic students and sound-bodied, clear-headed men it has much to do. I believe in it. "Keep the pot a-bilin', sir."

Yours truly,

E. E. JOHNSON, '84.

Restrictions too Severe.

To the Editor of the W P I:—

I think it is a very good thing that the Worcester team is not in the Intercollegiate League. You cannot afford the time or the money for it. The newly acquired facilities, the greatly increased scope of the work in several departments, necessitates an amount of hard study on the part of students which could not be carried by members of an eleven which was at Dartmouth one week, Williams the next, Amherst, Hartford and Boston coming in for a day each also. Still it appears that the restriction against any games outside of Worcester is too severe, and a few rushes in Boston or Amherst would be a very good thing for the school as well as the athletic set. It would be a very bad thing for the students if this finest of sports were allowed to run down. I am very sure that the strict control the players are obliged to have over themselves physically cannot but help them mentally.

JOHN M. GOODELL, '88.

A Good Foot-ball Team of Great Service to Any College.

W. J. Duncan, '88: I am particularly sorry to learn the attitude of the Faculty toward foot-ball. I am sure many of the Faculty would be benefited if they would take a hand in the games themselves. A good foot-ball team, such as '88 or '89 had, is of great service to any college or institute, as it makes the institution more widely known and popularizes it in the student of to-day. The little time which it is possible
to take for the sport at the W. P. I. cannot be of possible detriment to the interests of the Institute proper. If every student would take a hand in the game, a much deeper attachment for the Institute would be formed and the interest of the alumni in the Institute would be increased.

--

RANDOM SHOTS.


Although not very musically inclined, as the saying goes, I am, nevertheless, a lover of music and nothing in the daily routine of school work affords me more enjoyment than the few minutes spent in singing some glorious old psalm tune at chapel every morning. I use the term "old" advisedly. There are two forms of age. One is the result of time, and the other, characterized by all the symptoms of senility that are found in the former, is the product of wear and tear, and frequent use. The latter form is found in this case. Even if the hymns were fresh at the start, which is untrue, they become preternaturally aged. The tunes which are in this manner going down to premature graves are about six in number. If my memory serves me rightly, the first stanza of the one most employed runs something like this:

"Let us with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, for he is kind,
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure."

The remaining stanzas repeat the last two lines and, by the time the final verse is reached, the thought is very firmly fixed in the mind and the most doubting unbeliever is convinced. Now, as I said before, I enjoy this greatly. But sometimes the thought steals over me, what a pleasant change a few new hymns would be! How the choir would whoop 'er up on something fresh! The effort of singing seems to be rather a mechanical one on the part of the older classmen and perhaps the daily recurrence of these much-abused tunes is largely the cause of it. The under classmen seem to get considerable sport in offering wagers that "Let us with a gladsome mind" will be sung on some particular morning. A '92 man offered to bet me fifty cents, the other morning, that the "old, familiar" would be sung, as usual. Of course I wasn't throwing fifty cents away, so I didn't take him up. After chapel I wished I had taken the wager. We sang another hymn. It was number nine.

* * * * *

And, after we had got really started on a list of new, fresh tunes, we might sing them a great deal better. The most obvious way to improve the singing would be to sing. Let everybody take a hand, and both feet, if necessary, and make an effort to obtain the greatest possible volume of sound. Another point. The choir doesn't lead the singing. It follows along after the school, like a calf at the end of a rope. It ought to have more confidence in itself and set its own pace. It might be a good idea to put the choir on the platform, facing the school. Then they could make their presence felt in grand style. Of course it is assumed that we have the same organ. We cannot hope for a new organ and the Salisbury Laboratories at one and the same time. That would be too much joy for one year. We can only ask for a gift to come at some future time from some friend of the school. Oh! my dear, kind, benevolent reader, are you the man? Have you the best interests of the Tech throbbing in your bosom? Then, for goodness sake, give us an organ, just a plain, common, everyday organ, and take away this old, moth-eaten, broken-winded imitation of a jews-harp. N. B. A piano would be better.

* * * * *

The policy pursued in the management of the Washburn Shops is eminently a progressive one, and the marked improvements which have been made there in the past few months ought to cause feelings of pride and admiration in every loyal Tech heart. Every time I go into the place I note the new machinery with considerable satisfaction, and I thank my lucky stars for having guided me into the mechanical engineering department, in which, I believe, you get the cream of the training that the Institute can give. Every time a new lathe is set up I have to go and inspect it and get Mr. Walls or Mr. Mitchell to explain its fine points. I must confess that my confidence in the progressive policy of the shop was considerably shaken when, last spring, that
precision lathe arrived and was set up in the tool-room. I couldn’t see then that it was of any earthly use except to show to visitors and as a strong Commencement-day attraction. Last Commencement day, by the way, my uncle came up to hear the thesis abstracts. I took him around the shop and gave him pointers on lathes and planers. When we stood opposite the precision lathe he asked me what it was and I told him that I made it. This tickled the old gentleman immensely, and the next morning, before he left for home, he made me a present of fifty dollars, as a reward for my ingenuity and skill. After I had spent the money, my conscience began to trouble me, and I had to write and tell him that I was only fooling when I said what I did. This, I think, is the only time that the lathe has been “used,” if we except a little drilling and counter sinking. The reason is, that there is no occasion for its use. It is built for fine and delicate work, and the Washburn Shops do not attempt fine and delicate work. That is about the size of it. If the shop paid $300 for this tool, it sunk into a hole $300 that could be used to far greater advantage. For instance, the money might be put to good use in furnishing the draughting-room with plush-covered mahogany stools for the use of the Senior mechanics, or in providing the writer of this with a seal-skin overcoat for use on cold, frosty winter mornings, as he goes up to take his weekly dose of “practice.” To state my honest opinion, though, I don’t think the shop would invest its money in such a lathe. I am strongly inclined to believe that it was a gift of somebody interested in the school and, in that case, I say let the good work go on. Heaven bless the generous-hearted giver, and may his tribe increase!

* * * * *

In conversation with an observant newspaper man of Boston, a short time ago, he asked me to question which has been repeated so many times, Why do so many of the graduates of your mechanical engineering department go into draughting rooms? I had to answer that it was the most promising place to which they could go, if they were unwilling to teach, to take up electrical work or to labor as common mechanics. He replied that he didn’t see any opportunities for advancement in a draughting-room unless a man proved himself unusually competent; that the pay received ($40 or $50 a month in most cases) was wholly out of proportion to the abilities of the graduates; that the work was too confined and thus injurious to health and that, finally, a man could make more money in actual work in a machine shop. He thought that Tech graduates ought to aim at getting into places of responsibility where they could control and command somebody, if even in a small way. Teaching was, in his opinion, the best opening. He further stated that the mastering of one thing was a great essential to success, and cited the case of the type-setters in the composing-room of his paper, who, ignorant though they were, comparatively speaking, earned twice the money of half the college-educated young men who sat in the editorial room and furnished them with “copy.”

* * * * *

“I think Prof. Kimball and his assistants deserve a word of thanks for their management of the physics department this fall,” a Senior recently said to me. “Last year, when we were having lectures on laboratory practice, we thought we would have the hardest possible time, when school began in September, in working from the notes we were then taking. But now we find that we get substantial assistance and it is a real pleasure to go into the laboratory and work. There used to be considerable fault found because no time was given for recitations, but I haven’t heard any such objections this year. And then the new apparatus has been brought forth and exhibited, which makes the subject much more interesting and easy of comprehension.”

A REBUKE FROM “SMITH.”

An Individual Whose Identity is Unknown Writes a Letter to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE W P I:

I will introduce myself and my subject to you by stating that my name is Smith and that I am a student at that renowned institution of learning known as the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, sometimes spoken of as the Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science, but more generally called the Tech.

I noticed in your issue of last month an
article which, though in part true, said some things which attack the hitherto unsailable position of the Smith family, and which merits from the members of said family their unmitigated rebuke. In the first sentence of the article the idea is put forth that the welfare of the school is endangered by the large and increasing influx of Smiths. Is there any instance on record in history where Smiths have swamped any enterprise? No, I defy any man to produce evidence to that effect! Take for instance the Smith Mfg. Co. Did you ever hear one slur cast on that company? I may safely assert that any enterprise in which no Smith is interested or involved goes on three legs. If you will look to see what men are connected with great enterprises, you will find that even if not directly connected, there are Smiths who are related to those who are. So I will say that on this point friends of the school may have no apprehension. We may need fire insurance, but not Smith insurance.

The article speaks of the family as great and glorious. This is a truth which needs no assertion, any more than that we should say “water is wet.” Perhaps the author thought that by saying the Smiths were great and glorious, people would believe they were mean and odious.

Perhaps I can give the writer some reason for the attraction of Smiths to the Worcester Tech. The early Smiths, as everybody knows, were the principal users of metal tools. These tools frequently required sharpening. For this grindstones were necessary. As a result grinding became a familiar occupation and finally a habit with the Smiths. Now it is well known that grinding is the pre-eminent thing at the Tech for students and at the shop we often hear of the Norton Emery Wheel Co., the Walker Twist Drill Grinder and other significant phrases, all of which indicate the importance of this subject. Now as like seeks like, what is more natural than that Smiths should be drawn involuntarily to this place, where the habit and custom of grinding is so extolled and rewarded? By this thorough course in grinding, graduates can tell in a minute, when they see a man with an axe to grind, whether it will pay them to grind the axe. I simply would show by this that Smiths do not come here to form a gigantic combination, although that would be very possible, but that they come here as a religious man would go to church, or a theatrical man would go to the theatre, because it is a congenial place for them. They do not wish to monopolize technical education. A minor point is that, generally speaking, the Smiths have not indulged in those hideous and heathenish gambols known as athletic sports. It is in this respect that they are preferred to the Joneses and Robinsons who play base-ball and foot-ball.

John Smith sounded the key-note when he said, “He who will not work shall not eat.” If the person couldn’t eat he would probably leave, so John might have said, “He who will not work shall leave.” As John was a representative man this utterance may be considered as endorsed by the rest of the family. Thus we see how it is that the Smiths expect to work and consequently displace the Joneses and Robinsons whose inclination is to have a good time. The Smiths are, however, opposed to monopoly, for they are a family of the people. Who ever heard of a king by the name of Smith who was cruel, oppressive, or unjust? They are sound, practical, original and inventive. Did not Sidney Smith remark one hot day that he would like to take off his flesh and sit in his bones? Would any but a Smith dare to advocate such a revolutionary idea? What great writers on political economy have had the temerity of Adam Smith in using violent metaphors? Yes, the Smiths are intrepid, illustrious, numerous, noted, renowned and great, but they don’t want the whole earth. They will be quite content with seventeighths of it. I cannot write all I would say on this vast subject, but I will refer you to a few books on the subject which may be enlightening. You will take great pleasure in reading:

How the Smiths have Influenced the World, The Scattered Rays of the Smith Family Focussed.
The Founding of America by John Smith, The Shakespeare-Smith Controversy, American Journal of the Smith Institute, Do Smiths Increase in an Arithmetical or in a Geometric Ratio?
Smith as Compared with Brown, Jones and Others. Sincerely yours, Smith.
WHO STOLE THE BUGGY?

Supt. Higgins’s Vehicle Dissected and the Parts Widely Distributed.

We are not in connection with Pinkerton’s Detective Bureau and are at present unable to say who did steal the buggy, but we have been given to understand that some startling evidence is known to certain members of the Faculty who are good at keeping secrets. But we have been assured that nothing will be done toward bringing the guilty to account for so heinous a crime so long as they refrain from further atrocities.

That is the way the matter stands at present and, since there is no immediate danger, we will take time to relate the story as told to us by a little bird.

On the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 25th, some students, workmen, janitors, or members of the Faculty (it matters not who, so long as they were acquainted at the Tech) happened to meet down town on one of the street corners, of which there are several in the city, and feeling a little hilarious on account of its being so near the end of the week, proposed to go up to the Tech and see that everything was in order. The gang approached by the back way to avoid disturbing the monitors who had labored hard all the evening making up unexcused marks. The party had scarcely left West street when some one made the discovery that the door of the carriage house was open just enough to tantalize the most trustworthy robber. Now it is bad enough for the Institute to tolerate a livery stable and a lot of farm buildings on its otherwise beautiful grounds without having to pose as a target for amateur burglars and tramps. So thought the party whom the little bird saw and they proposed to show the negligent offender that such wanton carelessness was not to be overlooked. The door was rolled open, out came the buggy and started at a rapid pace over the hill toward Sunnyside. When well out in Bliss’s field, the goal-posts loomed up in sight of the marauders as a sort of ghostly reminder of past sports and of the more recent mistakes of the Faculty.

This settled the fate of the vehicle,—the goals needed ornamenting, else people would forget they were there. A monkey wrench turned up from somewhere and soon the buggy was dissolved into its elements. Here the “little bird” must have put in his assistance in spite of his declared innocence. A wheel was found hanging on top of each goal-post and the weight was so great that if the little bird didn’t carry them up, some one of the party must have been an adept at climbing posts. This may serve as a valuable clue to the discovery of the perpetrator. If so, we contribute it heartily; it is our chief wish that the guilty may be brought to justice.

On returning to the Tech the crowd was still shocked to find that a window had been left open in the shop, but, hoping that what they had already done would prove a sufficient lesson, they went away without molesting anything further.

In the morning Messrs. Hurley & Son were called out bright and early to account for the scarcity of buggy around the vicinity of Supt. Higgins’s écurie. Trusty scouting parties were sent out into the thick, damp fog, prospecting for the missing quadricycle. An occasional shout would proclaim the finding of a piece of buggy and, as the fog cleared, the fellows at the shop were treated to an open air, gymnastic exhibition, whereby, with the aid of considerable man and ladder, the wheels were rescued from the top of the goal-posts.

Before 10:30 A. M., a sufficient number of pieces had been collected to make quite a respectable looking buggy and with the help of one wheel, borrowed from another carriage, and at the expense of considerable energy on the part of the Hurley combination, the truant vehicle came home triumphantly. But the last wheel was still to be found. John went home for his rubber boots and returned to cut broad circles in the wet grass beyond Dewey’s field. The wheel at length appeared but it is still a general mystery as to where it really was found. It was hinted that it turned up near the home of the one who wished the most to find it; we are not up on this part of the story as our little bird left us without a hint about the fourth wheel.

There are many theories as to who were the miscreants. Some, of course, lay it to the boys, but John Hurley says none of them would be guilty of such an act. He has a theory, all his own, in which a jovial
meeting of the Norton Emery Wheel Company stockholders plays a prominent part. John is true blue if his theories are not always correct in detail, for when he was offered a considerable amount of money to ferret out the offenders, he absolutely refused to have anything to do with the matter nor did he propose to do it on the partnership basis. Its a chilly day when John gives any of the boys away.

Evidently the little episode is at an end. We hope it may not be repeated in any form for, although such things may appear rather funny at the time, they do no one good and certainly may cause trouble and annoyance.

FIELD-DAY AFTER-THOUGHTS.
A Chance for the Directors to Give Credit for New Records.

A handicap athletic meeting is a very difficult thing to arrange and for a first meet of the sort our directors were quite as successful as could be expected. But, as is the case in every set of games, all the details could not be provided for in a perfect manner and some of the complications which arose as a result of the handicapping could not be foreseen. In the first place the directors made a mistake in giving time handicaps in the middle distances and long runs. This is a style of handicapping which has long since passed out of use and is by far inferior to the distance method. One result of this way of racing was seen in the controversy concerning the two-mile run record. It was no doubt a wise provision of the directors, at the time it was made, by which every competitor who desired to try for a record was made to start with the scratch man, but after the sports were over it was easily seen that a great injustice had been done Wires in the two-mile run on account of it. The event in question was adopted by the association only last May and was one to which most of the competitors were unused, having been contested but once in the school, at which time the record was made. Stearns, who made the record last spring, was naturally scratch man. Wires was given 30 sec. start, which he accepted. After the race was over, a comparison of watches showed Wires a winner with his actual time 11 min. 42 sec., or 51 sec. ahead of the time in which Stearns ran the distance last spring. Stearns's actual time was 12 min. 3 sec., or 33 sec. faster than his own record. From these figures it is seen that Wires ran his two miles 17 sec. faster than Stearns's best time and still gets no credit for it at the hands of the Athletic Association. To Stearns great credit is certainly due for the persistent manner in which he has stuck to his distance, and that this state of affairs has been brought about is to be regretted. The fact still remains, however, that Wires has run two miles fairly and honestly, without any doubt, 17 sec. faster than any other member of our school and this fact is certainly worthy of consideration. There are several things to be considered before making a final decision on such a question. To those who say that if Wires had remained at the scratch with Stearns he would have been beaten as he was last spring, it can be answered that both men had equal chances under the circumstances that the race was run and as both beat the record and ran, each on his own judgment, the conditions were certainly equal. To those who say that Wires was not timed by Mr. Hurley, and therefore his time should not be accepted, it can be answered that, with reliable watches, which they all had, any one of Messrs. Morgan, Bigelow or Morse are capable of timing a two-mile run to as great a degree of accuracy as is necessary for acceptance by the directors. This leaves the matter to be decided on a question of merit and as there is no doubt that Wires has run two miles in 11 min. 42 sec., it seems as if the directors ought to take some action which would give him credit for his performance. By considering several technical points which are brought out in this special case the record should certainly go to Stearns, but our sports are to decide what men are capable of performing certain events in the ablest manner and if results fairly obtained show one performance better than another let every man be credited with what he has done. When both men meet next spring the question can be definitely settled and if both improve as they have since last spring an altogether new record will be made which will settle the question in the most satisfactory manner.
A Record for Fish.

By the above mode of reasoning Fish also deserves a school record in the running high-jump. In the spring of '88 the directors voted to allow any record made by a Tech man at the intercollegiate field meeting of that year. As a result of this provision Marshall holds the pole-vault record of 9 ft. 6 in., Camp the 16 lb. hammer record of 72 ft. 6 in., and Harriman the 2-mile bicycle record of 6 min. 51½ seconds. Allen held the 2:0-yards dash record for nearly a year. Bradford was the champion mile walker for the same period, with a record of 8 min. 14 seconds. Last spring Bradford walked a mile in 8 min. and 5 seconds, and, because he won the event, was credited as a Tech record breaker.

The directors neglected to make any provision last spring for the man who broke a Tech record but failed to win his event. It seems just as reasonable that the records made should stand as school records, if any were broken. As it happened only one school record was broken and that was by Fish in the running high-jump. He was tied for second place at 5 ft. 4 in. but lost in the jump-off. This is two inches better than Chadwick's record and on its merits should be credited to Fish. The directors will do well to consider these matters, as every encouragement ought to be given our men in record making. Neglect to recognize any performance of actual merit will tend to discourage new men. Of course some discretion must be used and a record should not be accepted if there is any reason to suppose that it was not fairly made, or that the one who made it did so under circumstances which were especially favorable to himself. In the two instances mentioned, however, it seems as if there can be no doubt in the mind of an impartial observer as to their performance.

FREE-HAND DRAWING.

Why is So Much Time Given to this Subject and Why is it Compulsory?

There is one thing in our course that is an enigma to most every man who goes through the school. That is, why so much time is given to free-hand drawing and especially why it is compulsory. It would be impossible to estimate the value of a thorough course in art to a man who wants it, but for many of us the time spent in the room, after work is begun requiring a degree of artistic talent, is in a great measure wasted.

A student may cordially despise a certain study and at the same time, by constant grinding, acquire a facility in overcoming its difficulties. This is hardly the case with free-hand drawing. It is like making money,—some can and some can't. If a man desires an artistic result, something more than merely yearning for it is necessary.

Good drawing calls for talent much more than it does for hard work and a student soon finds that an honest desire to succeed and a phenomenal amount of application are of slight avail unless backed up by some taste for the subject.

Probably a majority of us come to the school without any previous training in drawing. In other respects the first term of our course is practically a review and the time spent in drawing is without doubt well spent, and is no more than is due the subject. If a student does not discover in that time that he can draw, he is sure to discover that he can't, and from the time he makes the discovery until he passes in his final view of Salisbury's ice-house, he is more or less at sea as to what he is trying to prove.

What, then, is the obvious result of bringing together for the same work a large class of fellows whose artistic calibre ranges from embryo Ross Turners down to men who couldn't draw flies? The standard of the work is lowered. This result is accomplished mainly through the division of the instructor's time by the size of the classes. Another cause is found in the fact that students who can't draw and don't want to draw are sure to be doing something else, and thus distract the attention of the instructor and those about them. When the time comes, at the end of the first half of the Junior year, to choose which course we wish to pursue, would it not, therefore, be to everybody's advantage if each were allowed to elect between free-hand drawing and some other subject? The result would be that those who feel that they are wasting their time could be doing something more to their taste, and those who elect drawing could be led by
their instructor to produce results to which we could point with pride, as we can to the productions of the draughting-room.

It would take good work, it is true, to counteract some of the mighty pictures that have been built in this department, but it could be done, and the results would in time furnish a basis for a permanent exhibit on the walls of the room, which in itself would be an incentive to better work.

THE Y. M. C. A.

A Brief Retrospect of the Convention Held Recently at Waltham.

The most delightful privilege of attending the convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, held at Waltham, Mass., was enjoyed by a few members of the Tech association in the latter part of October. Lack of space prevents our giving a detailed account, so that only a brief retrospect will be given with hints at general lines and salient points.

The attitude of the convention was preeminently one of encouragement. Reports of the work during last year indicated increased membership, greater efficiency of management, more numerous and well-equipped agencies for prosecution of Christian work, and more abundant harvests.

Various exponents of special lines of work discussed their particular branches and recommended action in certain directions.

The discussion upon "College Work," ably opened by Mr. Sanders, editor of the Intercollegian, was of particular interest. He showed that the growth of morality and nobler manliness, as well as the decline of brutal and depraving practices has been coincident with, and in a large measure due to, the development of the sentiment which prompts the formation of Y. M. C. A.'s in our colleges.

A concise history of the association and of the development of its resources was given with the aid of the stereopticon.

But not only was the past of the association dwelt upon. Determination was expressed to push the work along all lines with renewed energy and hopefulness, and to make the future successful.

Unquestionably, one of the most inspiring figures of the convention was that of Mr. H. M. Moore of Somerville. His untiring energy, whole-souled devotion and striking personality, will cause him to be long remembered by more than one delegate. By his ready tact and energetic arguments, aided by pungent witticisms, he annihilated in a single evening that great bugbear, "running expenses," thus leveling the "mountain of difficulties" to the ground.

Not least in the category of "good things" should be mentioned the royal hospitality extended to us by citizens of Waltham and the local association. We were comfortably domiciled and courteously treated by all. Our tour of inspection through the immense establishment of the American Watch Co., upon special invitation, was of exceeding interest.

In regard to the convention, as a whole, we all enthusiastically agreed that it had been a glorious time, and that our pleasure was only alloyed by the thought that every member of our own association could not be present.

A Delegate.

A FANCY SKETCH.

They Wanted to Sing Hymn No. 44 and So He Went Somewhere Else to Die.

One bright, sunshiny day of last June [the W'P I for July, 1917, will say] a sad and mournful incident happened at the school. An accident befell a member of the Middle class, S. Coriolanus Jaggis by name, by which he lost his life.

It seems that the deceased had decided to pay up his subscription to the school paper.

With this intention in mind, he rushed into the main entrance of Boynton Hall.

Without stopping to even take breath, he rapidly mounted the stairways leading to the office of the paper.

He hurried up as fast as possible, for he knew that the business manager was in need of his subscription, and he would not keep the dollar from him any longer than was necessary.

When our departed friend reached the top of the stairway, and was about to enter the sanctum, a terrible accident happened.

He burst a blood-vessel.

With a low moan he dropped fainting against the door.
With frightened faces the entire staff went to his assistance.
Tenderly they laid him on a soft pile of exchanges in the center of the room.
The foot-ball editor tried to stop the fast ebbing tide of blood with a copy of the *McMicken Review*.
Even this was of no avail. The pale pallor of death came on.
Suddenly the dying one opened his eyes and moved as if about to speak.
"I'm dying, fellows," he said huskily, "but before I go I wish you would sing something; it would remind me so much of home and mother."
Then the horse editor quietly stole into the chapel and gathered a crop of hymn-books.
With tear-stained faces the staff gathered round. "Let us sing hymn number forty-four," said the editor-in-chief.
"Hold on, fellows," said the dying man, "If you're going to sing that, I'm going to skip out."
With that remark he arose as if overcome with a great tired feeling and went into the mechanical drawing room to die.
[This is merely a fancy sketch and is intended to emphasize the fact that subscriptions to the W P I are overdue and that all remaining unpaid should be promptly paid now. Broken blood-vessels are few and far between and the management takes all risks of their occurrence.]

**PERSONALS.**

F. H. Brophy, '89, is back at the Tech as assistant in general chemistry.
E. L. Grimes and I. S. Lloyd, both of '87, are transitmen in the employ of Chappell & Burke, Rutland, Vt.
A. D. Risteen, '85, was elected a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the recent meeting at Toronto.
Geo. P. Tucker, of '87, and business manager of Vol. II. of the W P I, was married Nov. 6 to Elizabeth E. Stearns of Omaha, Neb.
Edward E. Johnson, '84, was married Oct. 24, at Willimantic, Conn., to Mary F. Lewis, a member of the class of '83 of the Normal School of this city. At home at 25 Abbott street, Worcester.

Geo. H. Burr, '86, was married last month to Mildred Morrison of Wichita, Kansas. Clarence W. Chadwick, '88, was best man. The wedding presents were numerous and costly. The wedding trip included a visit to New York and Boston and to Mr. Burr's old home in Florence.

W. W. Estes, '84, closed his engagement with the Providence & Worcester R. R. September 1st, and entered the employ of the Corliss Straight Engine Co., of Providence. Mr. Estes writes that the works are running full time on many large orders, and that some of the shops are running nights.
There are many compound engines being built at the present time and the tendency seems to be in that direction more and more. At the Fall River Iron Works there has lately been put in operation a triple-expansion, tandem, compound engine of about 650 horse-power. The steam passes successively through the three cylinders, which are in line and have a common piston-rod. There is also in process of construction a triple-expansion, four-cylinder compound engine. In this the steam passes through the two smaller cylinders, as in an ordinary compound engine, then into a pair of larger ones. Most of the engines built now are steam-jacketed and fitted with exhaust relief valves.

**TWO NEW LATHES.**

The Equipment of the Shop Increased and Improvements Made on the Third Floor.

The large increase in the amount of work has rendered necessary the addition of three more machines to the large number already in the shop. Besides the drill-press previously mentioned, two engine lathes, built by F. E. Reed of this city, have been bought and set up. These are 16-inch lathes and one of them has a tapering device attachment. The amount of room in the shop is getting very limited, and if work increases at its present rate, the room at the north end will have to be utilized.

The students and journeymen are now busy on twist-drill grinders, elevators and miscellaneous work. Orders for four elevators, both passenger and freight, are as yet unfilled and the drill grinders keep several men busy. An order from Washington, D. C., calls for an engine lathe and a speed...
lathe with fixtures and special tools. The engine lathe will be furnished, however, by F. E. Reed. Another face lathe is also being finished for the wood-room. An order for an Automatic Dynamometer Valve is the most important of those for scientific instruments.

Upstairs in the wood-room we find the men busy on the elevators, and thirty-one drawing and model stands for the Friends' School of Wilmington, Del. The Preps' room looks lonely, being occupied only occasionally. The arrangements on the third floor have been changed very materially and now the gentlemen who wield the paint brush and hunt for the putty knife have a transparent den which protects them from wild, wicked Preps and other students. The south end of this third floor has been cut off by a partition and the work of the Preps, both that which illustrates waterlogged joints and that which is of value, has been stored there. This third floor is one of the most interesting places on Tech hill and we would recommend any visitor who is looking for sights to inspect it.

**AN INDOOR MEETING.**

**A Plan for Bettering the Financial Condition of the Athletic Association.**

The amateur athletic tournament to be held at the Rink next Tuesday gives every promise of being successful. The only event of this sort ever held before in the city was held in the Rink last March and was a big success. The Chatham Athletic Club has among its members several prominent Tech athletes, and with Thomas P. Conneff, the present five-mile champion of America, and winner of championships in England, Ireland and Canada, and Ed. D. Lange, who has won several American championships, and is probably the best known amateur in the country, its tournament can not fail to be interesting. It has been suggested that the Tech hold an indoor meeting this winter and the plan seems to be a very good one. Other colleges have such meetings, but it has never been done here in Worcester. At the present time a good series of events with close contests and honest sport will draw a large crowd, and there is no reason why the directors can not make arrangements for such a tournament. If arranged once before the season is over and before tourneys at the Rink have become too common, a neat sum of money can be made which would place our association on its feet as far as its finances are concerned and give us something to work with in the spring. With a little enterprise and push to start the matter success is assured. If the association does not want to hold a meeting on its own responsibility, there is no doubt but what the Chatham club would co-operate with it, and give another tournament on a somewhat broader scale, and divide the proceeds. Either plan is practicable and deserves consideration.

**THE POET SPEAKS.**

**A Song of Despair and a Search which Resulted Unsuccessfully.**

 Said J. I. S. in class one day, "There, I am going to talk on an equation that I found while coming up the walk. We'll take it down just as it stands and find out what it means; perhaps it is a string of points,—perhaps a string of beans."

Now I'm behind in analyt, I'm sure to get an E. I cannot crib a little bit; J. I. is on to me. My last resort: I searched that path where cribs galore abound. I only wanted analyt and this is what I found:—

A rusty nail, a chipmunk tail, a jokelet clipped from Life; a poker deck, a Musee check, a one-'n'half blade knife; a rootless hat, a mouldy cat, two swarms of fighting ants; a cigarette (not called for yet); a card: "Do you wear pants?" a girl, a pen, a Prof. White hen, a lab'atory bill; and things like these, up to my knees, before I reached the hill.

Not one equation did I find; I searched the place in vain; no more dependence will I place on J. I.'s path again. I have the satisfaction though (I'll try to make it do,) that you were led so easily to read this rank stuff through.

**A "BOOM" PROPOSED.**

**A Glee Club Would be All Right Provided It Didn't Ask to go Out of Town.**

Speaking of glee clubs, is there any reason why we shouldn't have one now? Two things are necessary,—i.e., thus, to wit, namely, viz.,—musical talent and an enthusiastic leadership. There is talent enough somewhere in the school although much of
it is never exhibited until the last chapel exercise in June calls forth the dusty hymn books containing "Homeward Bound." As for enthusiasm, well, it was almost annihilated when athletics were killed, to be sure, but "we are still the people and we shall be heard." We can't grovel through the entire winter as we are doing now. We couldn't all shout in the glee club, but we could all shout for it. We want something to boom. Let's boom the glee club.

**THE STAR COURSE.**

A New Regulation to Go into Effect with the Beginning of the New Year.

When the next issue of the school catalogue appears it will be noticed that asterisks are prefixed to the names of some of the undergraduates. The uninformed reader may look sorrowfully at the bottom of the page to learn when the death occurred and to wonder if the funeral was largely attended or if the floral offerings were numerous. He will be laboring under a misapprehension, however. The stars will signify that the man to whose name one is attached received a condition at some time during his course, failed to make it up before January 1st, 1890, and is therefore a non-graduate member of his class.

**TECH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.**

Worcester Business Firms Agree to Give Special Prices to Tech Students.

During the past month a Co-operative Society, similar in plan to those so successfully operated at the different colleges, has been started at the school under the management of M. W. Allen and E. C. Rice, of '90, and H. L. Dadmun, of '91. Membership in the Society is secured for the nominal fee of fifty cents, and the ticket entitles its owner to a considerable discount in student supplies from a large number of Worcester business firms. Already a large number of tickets has been sold and the success of the venture is assured.

**THE Q. T. V. DISBANDS.**

The Only Secret Society the Tech Ever Had Gives up the Ghost.

The Q. T. V. held a meeting the past month at the house of one of the members and formally voted to disband. Now there is nothing at the Tech of a secret society nature except the Improved Order of Buggy Removers and Pumpkin Destroyers.

**TECHNICALITIES.**

The latest Tech dish—Pumpkin pie.

Monthly market report: Buggy wheels are going up.

C. H. Dunbar, '91, has been elected to the Board of Editors.

Who will sign a petition to have the old hymn-books restored to the chapel?

The latest book—The Mystery of the Pumpkins; or, Who Stole the Buggy?

Complaint is made that the work in Junior German is being piled on too thick.

W. T. White, '90, refereed the Harvard-Penn. football game of Nov. 2, at Cambridge.

An enterprising Middler has reckoned that he has just seventy weeks more to remain in jail.

Isn't it almost time for another Prep class? The towels in the wash-room are few and far between.

The payment of chemistry fees on Nov. 1 spoiled many a promised trip to Boston for Saturday of that week.

The question, "Whither are we drifting?" can be answered by the Seniors: "To the Free Public Library."

Finger nails may be convenient standards for measurement in chemistry but it doesn't seem that they would be very accurate.

If Mr. Walls continues to furnish free samples of the new dirt-remover he will be ruined, from an economic point of view.

Seniors like grape sugar. They also evidently like the contents of some of the sample bottles of liquids, nice but naughty.

The foot-ball badges are very nice in their way, but some would like them better, had they been less showy and of better material.

The china mug used for drinking purposes in the basement has been re-enforced by two glasses. Exchanges please copy and credit.

In several colleges the class of '92 has chosen black silk mortar-boards for its
class hat. Why should not '92 of the W. P. I. do likewise?

The query, "Who was George Washington?" is answered every day in Boynton Hall to the satisfaction of large gatherings of knowledge-seekers.

The new stools for the draughting room were doubtless intended to be detainers, to keep the boys from roaming about the room, for the stool would stick closer than a brother.

These lectures on hydro-carbons are much enjoyed. It is nothing but fun to take notes when you think you are to sample the rock-candy and glucose bottles at the close of the hour.

The dentist excuse is being worked to death. Can't some one give us a new series of excuses which are reasonable on the face of them, and which will not necessitate an overstrain on our consciences?

There ought to be a nursery somewhere near the bottom of Tech hill so that certain members of the Junior class could go in and play off their babyishness before they put in an appearance at the Tech.

A mechanic can do fine work in the shop but when it comes to the simple task of taking the wheels off a buggy with a monkey wrench, then a civil has to come forward and do the job. And he did it, too, you bet!

The only way by which we can account for the hilarity of the Seniors lately is that good hard cider grows not far from the library, an institution which is now much frequented by the class which should set a good example.

The authorities of Paris are careful to have no loose stones in the streets, and also stick down their pavements with fish-glue. If Tech authorities were as careful they might prevent the transmigration of much of their property.

First student: "Say, I've got five unexcused marks."

Second student: "How are you going to get them off?"

First student: "Oh, I'm going to pay my chemistry fees."

The other day the office cat was heard softly singing hymn number forty-four. But that's not strange at all. The strains of that hymn float through the chapel wall into the sanctum so often that the poor thing could not help catching on.

The red fire-alarm box on West street near the goal posts still holds its own, but the city has incurred a large additional expense by locating it there, for the street must be kept in a passable condition and stones do accumulate so fast there.

When you see a Tech sneaking about Lincoln Square with an axe under his arm and an old suit of clothes on, do not think that it is Jack the ripper looking for a new victim. It is only a Middler waiting for the Millstone hill procession to start.

When H—th, '91, usually a mascot in German, got up the other day and read about a "human stork with wings on its beak" the professor let fall a scalding tear into his inkstand as he set down "Musee" against the phenomenal linguist's name.

A professor recently made the significant remark that excuses tend to become of this form, "I was absent, because I wasn't here." We can readily believe this, for we are informed that one excuse book contains the excuse, which was signed, "I wasn't here."

Students who have recitations and lectures at the new building think it is easier to ride up three flights in the elevator and then walk down one than it is to walk up one flight, but they have not yet decided whether it is easier to ride up four and walk down two.

Prof.: "Didn't this equation trouble you?"

Student: "No, sir."

"That's funny. Did you work it out?"

"No, sir."

"Oh, I see. It didn't trouble you because you didn't trouble it."

The Camera Club held a meeting Saturday evening, Nov. 2, in one of the rooms at Salisbury. Professors Kimball, Smith and Phelon were elected honorary members. Photographer Fitton of this city was present and explained several technical points. Much interest was manifested.

When the members of Division A of the Seniors think of German, they feel like hiring somebody to kick them. Every mother's son of them paid a dollar and a half

[Continued on Page 148.]
We begin to feel the throb of the Holiday season. From far and near come letters of inquiry for delicate things for fancy work. Loving stitches will be taken for dear ones near at hand, or away in the distant states. Pretty things will be fashioned and stored away till the time comes, and then there will be the gladsomeness of the changing of kindly tokens.

Calls multiply for Fancy Plush for fancy uses.

We are more ready now than a week ago, so that all your wishes can be supplied.

Lovely Plush in all the Art Shades are in the greatest abundance now.

You ought to see the delicate colors and filmy fabric. Every possible want can be supplied, and at prices to fit into your purpose.

Fancy Plush at 35c a yard, and at 45c and 50c, 62c, 75c and $1, $1.25, $1.50, $2.00.

The very newest Art Shades are here, so that whatever of beauty your brain may conceive your fingers may fashion.

If you want to match these shades in Satin, we can meet that want at 25c, 37½c, 50c, or $1 a yard.

We have sold an immense lot of the excellent China Pongee Silks, of which we have talked from time to time.

Another large lot came yesterday, no better than what we had before, because nothing in Pongee can be better.

There are, though, several new colors in this lot not in what you saw before.

The new colors are specially desirable for house dress, tea gowns, or evening wear.

The great variety of shades enables you to give free rein to any possible twist of your fancy.

Regularly this time each year, we tell all our lady friends of our Peerless Seal Plush Sacques $25.

Changes may come in all other goods, prices may fall, mark-downs may be so plentiful that they cease to be important,

But:— THE PEERLESS Seal Plush Sacques stand ever at $25, and no less.

There is more real goodness in them for the money than in any other garment of the kind.

We have sold more of them, and we expect to sell more of them year after year than of any other Plush Garment made.

We have a bargain in long garments for you. It is what you will see everywhere at $17. We are selling it for $13.50 as a leader. Let's tell you what it is.

Cloth of lovely green beaver, neck, revers, cuffs and deep pocket laps heavily braided, the cloth excellent, the braid all wool, the making thorough and durable, the whole a good, stylish garment, $13.50 the price.

The very prettiest India Twill stripes, all wool, the stripings of bright colors, 37½c; they will please the most particular.

8½-inch Flannel Skirtings of lovely new shadings, $1.50 a yard. It takes 1 ½ yards to make a skirt. Nothing could be better for morning or invalid wrappers.

The best BLANKET ever you saw for $4 a pair.

If you want further information on anything in this column, or that you may want, write, and you will have full answer.
for a Whitney's German grammar at the beginning of the Middle year and used it not once during the entire term.

D-dm-n and D-ws-n, '91, are in close competition to see who will be farthest behind in shop practice at Thanksgiving. The former, as usual, has a slight lead.

One of the "phenoms" in the choir can actually sing hymn 44 in time with the organ. This is a near approach to the record that used to be made when the school could boast a glee club.

It is rumored that an effort is being made to discover the professor who persists in leaving his copies of Sporting Life, Town Topics and Beadle about on the library tables.

It may not be generally known that the transit which was broken last year, was again almost annihilated the first time it went out after being repaired. A case of chronic razzle-dazzle seems to have overcome the Middler civics.

The way a Junior would reckon it. Scene in a bakery. "Please, mum, how much are those buns?"

"Well, my little man, I'll give you six for five cents."

"Six for five? That's five for four, four for three, three for two, two for one and one for nothing. Please, mum, one of them is all I want." [P. S. This is rather aged but it goes.]

Mr. Editor: Why don't you strike for some humorous publications in the reading-room. An old, stale copy of Life which found its way there has been consulted more than all the other periodicals taken together. Yours truly, Junior. [Humorous! Great Scott! You have the American Journal of Psychology. What more do you want?—Ed.]

Every day, long after the mechanics recitation has been dismissed, the Senior chemists come straggling down from their lair on the top floor of Salisbury. It is rumored that they become so absorbed in their favorite science as to become utterly oblivious to the passage of time except as indicated by the fire-alarm whistles at five minutes past twelve.

When the wheels of a carriage go on a frolic, as did some at the Tech recently, and after deserting the body in a field go to climbing oak-trees and goal-posts and hiding in unheard-of places, we think that dislike for stagnation and longing for variation is indicated. When inanimate wheels thus get up a sensation, they seem to comment sneeringly on the abilities of the boys in the same line.

A Senior who has wrestled with some of the problems in Bowser's Mechanics thinks the following will serve for a fair sample:

A blind dog, running at the rate of 10 feet a second, emerges from a dark alley and is immediately struck by a sand-bag, weighing 600 lbs., which has just dropped from a balloon three miles high. Determine (a) the specific gravity of the dog, one second after the occurrence, and (b) the fluctuation in the market price of bologna.

This is the way it reads: Received of blankety blank blank five dollars "for chemicals and use of apparatus in labora-

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stories exclusive of breakage." Now some
of us poor fellows, who take free-hand
drawing this half, who do not see the busi-
ness side of a laboratory nor touch a chem-
ical, and who receive a board bill much
more frequently than a five-dollar bill,
think we have a right to a more definite
idea of what we are really paying for than
is contained in the above quotation.

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