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Students of Worcester Technical Institute

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THE THOMPSON FUND.

The disposition of the Thompson memorial fund is a problem that excites the lively interest, not only of the alumni, but of the undergraduates. No definite plan for its use has as yet been decided upon and, in fact, will not be until the executive committee of the Alumni Association agree upon a course of action and report at some future meeting of the Association. This committee have power to use this fund as they see fit, if we interpret correctly the motion passed at the June, 1889, meeting, but they will probably not decide the matter off-hand without consulting the wishes of those who contributed.

It is generally expected by those acquainted with the inside workings of Tech affairs that a strong effort will be made to divert this fund to the use of the school library. This new institution is at present in rather a weak condition and its financial resources are of the most uncertain description. With the new laboratories calling for a greatly increased expenditure for their maintenance and every department of school work demanding financial encouragement, the library is evidently to be dependent upon outside charity, to a large degree, for its equipment and support. It is thought by those in favor of this use of the fund that a substantial "memorial" will be furnished by the new books and that, also, the Institute will be strengthened in a department where strength is, at present, badly needed.

This Thompson fund, in the course of the next two years, if the subscription list be not in the meantime closed, will amount to two or three thousand dollars, and perhaps more, the exact amount depending upon the state of mind of several recently-graduated classes who have as yet subscribed a comparatively small sum. For the present year, for example, the class of '87 has pledged nothing while the class of '81 offers to go down into its pockets to the extent of $212.

To the vast majority of the alumni and the whole body of undergraduates,
is presented the question, Is strength as badly needed in the school library as it is in another feature of the Institute that exists only in the most heated flights of the imagination, namely, a gymnasium [which, everybody admits, is badly needed]? The sum of two or three thousand dollars would form a solid nucleus around which could be gathered, without a shadow of doubt, funds which would come from friends of the school and from citizens of Worcester who, we think, would be glad to show their interest in "our practical school," if properly appealed to. In the years 1885 and '86, when the W P I was advocating the opening of some sort of a subscription list for this purpose, wonders could have been worked with the sum of $2,000. At the present time, in view of the great development of bodily training in the past four or five years, it would be poor policy to erect a cheap building. A creditable edifice with the inscription "Thompson Gymnasium" over its portal would make a memorial that would indeed be worthy of the name.

Now is the time for the Tech authorities to show that they believe in athletics and are willing to make some sacrifices that the Institute may reach the plane of other schools in this respect. There never was a better opportunity for building a gymnasium [which, everybody admits, is badly needed]. If the funds for this purpose are not to be raised by subscription, how, in the present financial condition of the Institute, and barring lottery-ticket and unexpected-bequest methods, are they to come?

**COLLEGE PRESS TOPICS.**

**What is "Literary Matter"? Room for Improvement in the College Dailies.**

That much abused phrase, "literary matter," is ever ready on the average exchange editor's lips. Fully three-quarters of the college papers maintaining an exchange column keep up a continual howling to the effect that their contemporaries are light and gossipy in tone and lack something "solid." For goodness sake, what is "literary matter"? If it is the rot in the shape of the reprints from encyclopedias and the plagiarisms from magazines and daily newspapers that come every month from Southern and Western institutions of learning, then it is something to be avoided as one would the plague. Evidently the chief aim of these exponents of "solid" journalism is to make their friends happy by printing their effusions. Nobody imagines that these heavy-weight productions are read by anyone except the author, his admiring relatives, and those unhappines in the printing-office, who, in the nature of their business, have to endure all sorts of trials and tribulations. In the case of the monthlies published under the direction of the college societies, these essays and reviews are first read in society meetings, where the recognition of their excellence apparently justifies the college paper in printing them. Whatever excellence they may have possessed when delivered on the floor of a literary society, they lose all excellence when in print. Nobody cares what Charley Freshleigh, '93, thinks about the advisability of forming a trust in South American cacao nuts. What "F. M. G.," '90," writes in comment upon Blaine's foreign policy may stand out in letters of fire to the eyes of "F. M. G.," but it is not a matter of fact that the Secretary of State sits up nights to blast his eye-sight with these flames of genius. But let these same writers express opinions on live topics connected with their own or other colleges, keeping within the field which alone can be filled by the college paper,—a field which is large and broad enough if college editorial boards will only open their eyes and take in its fullest extent,—then their productions will find ready and sympathetic readers. Half of the college periodicals printed to-
day might as well confess that they use this "literary matter" for the purpose of "filling up" their columns. The use of it is a confession that they have no bright and original comments on newsy topics to offer. If they had, they would put them in.

* * *

Now that we are fairly started on this subject it might be well to continue, for these are matters of vital concern to the college press. It is hard to justify the use of what might be called these heavy methods of college journalism. If our Western contemporaries [and there are a few exchanges from Eastern colleges which are also included in this category] imagine that they are giving their columns a "high literary tone" by the use of such stilted methods, they are greatly mistaken. A high literary tone is shown just as much by the treatment of a subject, by the enterprise, brightness and originality displayed, as it is by the choice of subject. If then, these college writers discard local issues and give comment upon and advice to the world at large, they must not expect that their work will receive the attention and command the respect that it otherwise would. When an important question is commanding the attention and interest of a college, then is the time for the editor to send out his reporters to feel the student pulse. Then is the time when the editorial columns shall express fearlessly and independently the opinions which ought to influence faculties and boards of trustees in their deliberations. It ought to be possible for a college paper to print some real news and fresh comment and suggestion about its own college and students. Many are now doing that, but a great number go about it in such a slovenly way that the reporters of the professional press,—trained though they are in all the arts of newspaper ways and enjoying unusual facilities for serving up their matter, but still not in a position to employ half the advantages that are at the hand of the man in the very college itself,—are enabled, day after day and month after month, to present college news of which the college paper seems to have no conception. It is a curious satire on the abilities of our eastern college newspaper men that their college friends go to the New York and Boston papers to find out what the foot-ball elevens of their own college are doing or intending to do. Time and time again this past season the Boston Globe, the New York Herald, the World, and Sun, have "scooped" the Harvard, Yale, and Princeton papers on foot-ball news matters or have treated subjects of that nature so ably as to leave the college papers entirely out of sight.

* * *

What is the reason for this? It is due mostly to the ignorance, the want of ability, the disinclination to employ modern methods and the laziness of editorial boards. It is also due to "big head" and to false ideas of propriety. No managing editor wishes to give out assignments to the men under his control when he knows that they will sulk, imagine themselves overworked and make only a half-hearted attempt to write up their assignment, knowing well that the managing editor cannot threaten discharge from the paper to compel fulfilment of duty. In the humble opinion of the writer, the college daily paper which fully represents the best modern newspaper thought has yet to come. It will have an office that hums until midnight and until daylight, if necessary, with the work of a force of "bright young men" who have ability and are willing, yes, anxious, to make the sacrifices which thorough work demands. The most prominent thing in this model office will be the assignment book and in this the managing editor will detail the work to his staff and cover every department of college thought and deed. When a sudden turn of events rocks the college world to its centre, this paper will rise to the emergency and present the subject in every phase and detail. It will not be necessary then to go to the large city dailies to get the complete story of college occurrences.

* * *

There are a few things this model college daily will not do. It will not print book reviews when half a hundred newspapers and magazines are giving all that is required in that line. It will not attempt dramatic criticism when that field is already filled by city dailies. It will have independence enough to print all the news, no matter whom it injures or benefits. It will have the strength of character to present its own opinions unbiased by small jealousies and unhindered by personal obligations.
It will be enterprising, but not sensational. Above all, it will be original in its treatment of news matters. It will cut loose from antiquated and moss-covered methods that have prevailed ever since daily journalism was instituted at our colleges.

NINETY-ONE'S HUNTERS.

They Roam Around Barber's Crossing and the Lake Shore Looking for Foxes.

Account by First Victim.

Anyone who thinks that the students of the W. P. I. are dying of ennui ought to have been around during the vacation and witnessed the two successful fox-hunts that were perpetrated in the suburbs of Worcester at that time. Before going farther it might be well to qualify the word "successful." The writer does not mean to say that foxes are standing about in the woods waiting for Techs to come out and use them for targets. In fact, if the success of the hunts were measured by the amount of spoils, there would be no excuse for this article. It was not the fault of the men behind the guns but the game was otherwise engaged at the time. Every other feature, however, of the two tramps into the woods was carried through with such éclat that announcements of the formation of a Tech Gun Club will soon be sprung upon the readers of the W. P. I.

The first of the great hunts was begun at Barber's Crossing and the society of that town was stirred to its very centre when five of the Institute's finest alighted from the rear car, to avoid fare, and began to shoot imaginary animals. This hunt was an all-day affair and was confined to the vicinity of North Worcester, where some of the '91 men used to own a trap for clay-pigeon shooting.

It soon became evident that the game was not on exhibition that day, and the hunters were getting tired of sitting behind stone walls, waiting for something to happen along big enough to fire at, when one of the party conceived an idea. A raid was made on the building in which the trap was stored, the machine was brought out and spiked to the earth and the fun began. The hunters stood up in "blocks of five," dropped an ante into the box for the privilege of shooting [one cent ante, three cent limit] and proceeded to kill brick pigeons.

It is hard enough to project a point on to a stationary plane and have it strike where you want it, but it is nothing compared to projecting the contents of a gun so that they will strike a clay hemisphere that is cavorting through the air. After a time, however, the new men began to catch the idea and the men who had been there before occasionally let up a little and gave the fledglings a chance to win the ante.

After dinner, excitement ran high. A kingfisher flew past and lit on a tree on the wrong side of North Pond. The hunters, however, were satisfied with anything that could fly and proceeded to surround the pond. This manœuvre so rattled the bird that he flew within gunshot of one of the men and now his shape adorns his slayer's room. After bringing down this sky scraper, the excitement of killing clay birds became somewhat tame and the men decided that they had had fun enough for one day.

The second hunt, a week after, started out for a fox-hunt but developed into a hunt for crows at "Crow Reservation" at the Lake. There were lots of crows but, like the Salvation Army, they were "flying high" that day and only one responded to an urgent request to come down. This one's wings now ornament a studio in town. The south end of the Lake was also raided to see if there were any wild ducks that wanted to pose for the gun artists, but none appeared and the party returned to the city.

Account by Second Victim.

Several '91 men who had been planning to spend their vacation on the ice and had hoped to have good skating, although disappointed in this respect, were not to be deprived of their fun. Several of them owned guns and two or three others who were not so fortunate managed to borrow something that would shoot and, thus armed, the party set forth to kill everything that lived in the region of Barber's Crossing.

It was thought advisable to spend the forenoon in practice. Consequently a few clay pigeons were brought into use. All the pigeons were sprung from traps and after the first man had fired at them, one of the party was delegated to pick them up again. The second marksman shot at them after which they were again gathered up.
In this manner the whole party had some good practice. One or two of the pigeons were broken but the rest were as good as new and were laid carefully away for use at some future time. In the afternoon a kingfisher was unfortunate enough to fly within shooting distance of the party and the whole gang fired at it at the same time, and the poor bird was killed. A few days afterward the same party went out and returned with a big black crow as a result of the trip. And now several members of '91 contemplate the organization of a shooting club.

**Account by Third Victim.**

A party of Middlers whiled away part of the vacation by going on hunting excursions to Barber's Crossing and the Lake. Five fellows alighted from an empty freight car of a slowly-moving train that passed Barber's, on the first excursion. No sooner had they passed the corner of the Norton Emery Wheel Co.'s building when a large, red fox with long, bristling eyebrows and teeth filled with amalgam came slowly out of the woods, and shook hands with the leader of the party. After consultation it was decided to spare his life and a vote of thanks was passed to the fox for his kind and considerate behavior. The fox promised to visit the Tech during examination week and withdrew. At this point three of the party exhibited signs of fatigue, due to the weary ride in the cars and the exciting nature of the hunt. A bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup was accordingly passed around and everybody soon felt better. After four hours sleep with their backs propped up against logs, two of the hunters awoke and after much exertion aroused the remaining three. A few clay pigeons were found but they were indigestible and were abandoned. While the spokesman of the party was interviewing the conductor of No. 57 of the Boston and Maine, for the purpose of securing a free pass for the party back to Worcester, a small boy brought up a stuffed kingfisher which he had just found in his aunt's parlor, and sold it to the party for seventeen cents and a co-operative ticket.

The second hunt took place on the shores of Lake Quinsigamond. The same five fellows took their guns and, after much trouble, arrived at the Island House. Chicken sandwiches were ordered and the company left for home on the 6 o'clock dummy, much pleased with the result of the day's hunt. Conductor Higgins told them crow stories on the way up, but put the whole party off at Draper's Cement Pipe Works for non-payment of fare.

**HURRAH FOR THE PREP!**

Dust the Chapel Chairs: Ninety-Three's Apprentices Are Almost Here.

In a few days a motley collection of youths of all ages and sizes will rush hurry-scurry through the staid corridors of Boynton Hall, three-score and ten anxious faces will gaze imploringly at President Fuller as he reads the names of the successful applicants for admission, one-score and ten will file gleefully up into the chapel, the old organ will give a wheezy grunt of welcome, some hardened Middler will whisper, "Get onto their jags" and,—the Apprentice class of '93 will come into being.

Will they be young or old, short or tall, fat or lean? Will they be athletic or non-athletic? Will they have a base-ball pitcher among their number and will they furnish any important additions to the intercollegiate team? These are vital questions which will find an answer only on election day, as the newspapers say. "Election" day is hardly the proper word to use in designating the time when judgment is passed upon these would-be Techs. The Faculty do all the voting and the applicants, poor fellows! simply walk up to the altar of sacrifice. "Selection" would be a better term.

We know without any attempt at guessing that these youthful worshippers at John Boynton's shrine will come to Worcester with their eternal destiny written on their brows and their brains throbbing back and forth like the piston of a seven-hundred horse-power engine, in contemplation of the possibilities of a technical education. We know that they will be so child-like and bland. We know that they will be, oh! so green. They will come from all parts of this great and glorious country, from the ocean-lapped shores of Oregon, from the jaguar-tracked wilds of West Brookfield, from Pax—no, not so bad as that. Let us hope that Paxton and Millbury will kindly withhold their contributions this year.
A few of these fruits of high school and academy training will be extremely blasé in character. They will affect a wearied air in talking of their past "mashes" and the havoc they will create in Worcester maidens' breasts. The boldest will carry cigarettes and tutti-frutti chewing gum loose in their pockets and will wear the latest style in "gussie" hats and Plymouth Rock pants. The very ultra will have bottles of "stuff" in their lockers and will frequent pool-rooms and like dens of infamy. The "tough" Prep is an affliction which we all hope to be spared. But we have one consolation. He will, sure as fate, be given leave to withdraw at the end of June's sirocco-like blast of semi-annual examinations.

Then the member from the back counties! How he will swell around, just as if he had his hand on the lever that controls the universe! The pride of his town and the intimate friend of the district's representative at the General Court, how he will command the cynosure of all eyes! That is, he thinks he will. In the course of his swelled career, however, he will injure the sensibilities of some hard and horny Senior and then this old-timer will take our friend from the back county out into a vacant lot and give him a dreadful licking to pay for his impertinence. Sometimes there is a hitch in the programme and the Senior is the one who gets licked, but no matter,—the principle remains the same and everything goes.

Hurrah for the Prep! He is all right; there is nothing the matter with him! Now when he gets here, let's make it just as pleasant for him as possible. For good-nature sake, don't fill him up with yarns that will prejudice him against the school or any of his teachers. Don't tell him that he will have to join the Y. M. C. A. in order to keep his personal mark in healthy repair. He will find out all these things as he grows older. Don't attempt to post him on the best church fairs and sociables. He will get there soon enough for practical purposes. It might be well to tell him, however, that he must join the Athletic Association, if he expects to retain his standing in the community. And if he fails to subscribe for the W P I, why, he might just as well not come to the Tech at all. The W P I offers him a hearty welcome and a promise of impartial treatment. Shake, '93; here is our "P".

A W P I writer asked a member of each class to talk about the Prep. "Why, certainly," said Henry Smithley, '90, "the Prep is the proper caper. I've been there myself and I know what I'm talking about. He will have a mighty hard time the first two or three weeks putting on belts, climbing up ladders and squirting oil into bearings, etc., but after that things get pretty easy. He can consider himself mighty lucky that he hasn't Professor Cutler here to tie him up on adverbs and English diagrams. I haven't the slightest doubt, though, but what he will get a strong dose of that, even if Professor C. isn't here. Yes, you can put me down in favor of the Prep. I hope there's a man in the coming class who can pitch, and several who can play foot-ball, too."

Charles Smithley, of the Middle class, said he hadn't given the subject much thought, but was inclined to think that the Prep would have to be tolerated, at all hazards. "I don't know why it is," said he, "but I don't seem to take much interest in Prep classes as they keep coming into the school. The dern little fellows make me sick a-jumping around up in the wood-room there when I'm trying to put a fine edge on a tool at the grindstone. They make me tired a-howling 'round out in the wash-room throwing soap about. I tell you, if I were Sibley Keyes, I wouldn't give the Preps any soap at all for they abuse its privileges excessively, not being accustomed to the use of that article. If I catch any tow-headed, sawdust-covered Prep using my towel, I'll break his neck. Put that down where they'll see it. No, I don't think there'll be any rushes between '93 and '92. Something in that line would be exciting, no mistake, and we would all be there to see it. Say, you ought to tell them to be careful when they monkey with the circular saw and the buzz planer. I've known Preps to get discouraged just because they lost a hand in the latter machine or because they mislaid seven or eight fingers sawing off lumber. But don't discourage them. No, let's treat 'em with brotherly kindness and all that, you know, for they haven't many friends in this world, and their prospects for the future are rather dark and uncertain."
Robert McSmith, '92, expressed surprise when informed that a new Prep class was about to enter the school. "I am glad of it, and I hope they'll enjoy themselves," he said. "I have no doubt but what they will be the usual healthy set of boys. No, I am not in favor of presenting each with a stick of candy and a box of bon-bons."

OTHER SCRIBES’ WORK.

The "Niagara Index" and the "Geneva Cabinet" Furnish Texts for Discussion.

The lack of space, rather than a disinclination to keep in touch with the student literature of sister institutions, has prevented the W P I from offering the usual criticism of exchanges during the last few months. Our "esteemed contemporaries," however, are always carefully read and pondered upon and their suggestions of common interest are carefully noted. The school has free access to these college periodicals, which are now kept on file in the library, and they will well repay careful reading. Nearly every prominent college in the Eastern and Middle States is represented, either by daily, weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly prints.

The effect which a neat typographical appearance produces upon the mind of the critic is very marked. We find almost invariably that papers printed neatly seldom receive harsh criticism. On the other hand, those college papers which are so unfortunate as to be dependent upon a back-numbered printing office are being continually "jumped upon." Good taste in selection of type, intelligent proof-reading and perfect press-work are undoubtedly large factors in the success of a paper, but they should not be allowed to blind one's eyes to a false literary style and a want of brightness and enterprise. It is well to be charitable with a poorly printed exchange. A constant sufferer from criticism of this nature is the Niagara Index. We have no defence to offer for this much abused sheet, but we are inclined to think that if it were printed in the style of the Brownian or the Tech, it would have ten-fold the interest and importance that it has now. It is published every two weeks and it certainly takes energy and skill to prepare its great variety of matter, which, we imagine, is of considerable local interest. We find many local topics discussed in it in a readable manner, which is commendable from the fact that there is not much in the athletic line at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels [Suspension Bridge, N. Y.] which is interesting and of intercollegiate importance. Of course, besides its wretched typographical appearance, it has a few faults. Its exchange editor has excellent ideas about his exchanges and uses good judgment in his criticisms, but he throws so much mud and indulges so frequently in slang and blackguardism that his opinions are of no weight whatever. A Missouri monthly lately laid this offering at the Index shrine:

The exchange editor of the Niagara Index still continues his abuse of those "ignorant (?)" writers in its contemporaries who have the temerity to criticise that rotten institution, commonly known as the Catholic Church, concerning the evil practices of which too much cannot be said. What enables him to obtain the inspiration which causes such torrents of vituperation to flow from his pen we are unable to imagine, unless it comes from the Evil One, whom he serves, or is caused by an overdose of his sacramental wine.

This is unkind, to say the least, and we cannot imagine why our Missouri friends give vent to such questionable remarks unless they are curtaining the notoriety of another Niagara torrent of "criticism" poured in their direction.

About two years ago there was presented in these columns a criticism of the Geneva Cabinet [Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa.] having particular reference to the custom of that paper in printing what it is pleased to call "choice extracts" or "gems of thought." These "gems" are culled from Presbyterian and other religious journals and the editor uses material of this nature, we suppose, for the purpose of giving his writings lofty moral associations. Indeed, at the time when the W P I took the Cabinet to task for this rather transparent means of grace, the exchange editor flew into a terrible rage, characterized the Worcester Tech as akin to a "state’s prison," and declared that it showed "exceedingly poor taste to criticise the moral tone of a college paper, especially if it is high." In the two years that have elapsed since this little episode, we have seen no reason for changing now the opinion which was then expressed. We condemn now, as we did then, not the moral tone of the Cabinet [Heaven forbid
that!] but its policy of using these artificial methods of hot-house Christianity. The moral standard of a publication is not raised by guiding the editorial shears around biblical quotations and choice extracts from sermons. Editor Shepard may have a fresh text daily at the head of his Mail and Express column but this cannot prevent his telegraph editor from serving up a highly immoral story of crime, if he is so inclined. What a paper really is and aims to be can be read in every department and in its treatment of every subject. It is not necessary to assume the garb of a monk in order to convey the impression of holiness. A priest's robe may hide a state of moral rottenness. This I-am-holier-than-thou principle which is exemplified not only in our contemporary from Geneva College but in other exchanges, is unworthy of a high conception of what is right and best. Be natural, esteemed Cabinet. Let us have originality, for that is appreciated at all times and in all places.

FOREIGN SCIENTIFIC WORKS.

A Recommendation that They Receive the Attention which Their Importance Demands.

The following letter, from a member of the class of '88, is of interest to the whole school and especially to the civil and mechanical engineers, touching as it does upon a subject directly affecting their chosen professions. It will bear careful reading:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE W P I:

There is a little matter I have several times thought of asking you to bring before the under graduates in the departments of civil and mechanical engineering which I would like to see discussed in the W P I. It relates to the use of foreign works in the outside reading of the students. The chemists are obliged to become familiar with the leading German journals of their specialty and part of their work is the preparation of abstracts from the same. While I was at the Institute I never saw a German or French engineering paper and had no conception of the valuable literature I was in ignorance of until I became acquainted with the foreign papers elsewhere.

During the past three months, I have often attended the meetings of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and have been much impressed by the eagerness with which all the foreign works of magnitude were discussed and the familiarity with which the current technical literature of Germany, Austria, and France which an engineer must have in order to be "in the swim." I have several times talked with the editors of the two most famous journals of civil engineering in America about this literature, and their unanimous opinion is that it is of the greatest value. The railroad work abroad is inferior to ours, the bridge work is very different in its details, but in other respects we are more or less behind our transatlantic friends. The works in the French and German languages are never translated until they are several years old and, for some unexplained reason, the best books are never translated. Ask one of the engineers of the German-American Engineers Club what is the best work of reference in civil engineering and you will invariably be told: von Waldegg's "Handbuch der Ingenieurwissenschaften," a work which is a veritable encyclopedia in which an answer to almost any question in theory or practice can be found, which gives the latest methods of American construction with the same fulness that is employed in describing German or French works. How many of the students at the Institute ever heard of this work? How many ever saw a number of Les Annales des Ponts et Chaussées, the leading engineering publication in the world? Journals like the Organ für die Fortschritte des Eisenbahnwesens, the Wochenschrift des Oester. Ingenieur und Architekten-Vereines, the Zeitschrift für Transportwesen und Straßenbau, Annalen für Gewerbe und Bauwesen, hold the same place among engineers that Annalen der Chemie, Annales de Chemie, Die Berichte, Die Zeitschrift für Analyt. Chemie, have among chemists.

I have noticed in your paper that the Institute possessed a reading-room now and I venture to call your attention to the fact that a few foreign technical journals in it would tend to foster an acquaintance with a very rich literature which our students are overlooking, an acquaintance which, once made, would never be given up willingly. Yours very truly,

JOHN M. GOODELL.

New York, December 23, 1889.

It must be confessed that Tech students, with the exception of the chemists, have no acquaintance with foreign scientific literature. Some of them even go so far as to
question the advisability of spending as much time upon the study of German and French as the course of study at the Institute demands. They find no occasion for the exercise of their knowledge of these languages and hastily conclude that study in that direction is misapplied. Now if our knowledge of German is worth anything, its worth must be demonstrated in some such way as this. Tech students find it a serious problem to maintain their class standing and at the same time keep in touch with the best American and English scientific papers, to say nothing of the German. Very few indulge in little more than a superficial reading of current reviews in the world of science. Even if a copy of the Organ für die Fortschritte des Eisenbahnes- sens were on file in the school library, we do not think the mechanical engineers in the several classes would form in line to consult it. They would shrink from the laborious mental effort required to decipher its pages. And it certainly would be a laborious effort, if class-work in German is any criterion. Ought the students to consult these periodicals? is a different question. Whether or not this consultation could be advantageously made a feature of regular school work is another question, which latter the W P I does not assume to decide.

PROSPECTIVE PREPS.

They Hover Around the Premises and Make Themselves Conspicuous.

Prospective Preps are beginning to hover around the premises and seem to find the shop the most interesting department of the school. Doubtless they have learned intuitively that no whistling is allowed in Boynton Hall and like to infest the shop, because they can let off a little surplus wind without being pounced on and frightened out of a year's growth. Besides, the notices in the shop are much more entertaining than those on the bulletin boards at the Hall, which announce this, that, and the other thing for sale or to let. The regulations for students in the department of mechanics is a most instructive and widely read composition. Had it not been framed and covered with glass it would long ago have become extinct.

We say long, for we do not know the date of its publication, but we infer from certain passages which evidently are extinct, and others which are dead letters, and from the fact that the glass transmits light only feebly, that many sands of time must have passed over it. It may have outlived its usefulness, but it still retains a monopoly or scarcity value, as brother Walker would say. It is a sort of old landmark and seldom an alumnus will pass through the boiler room without looking at it. The absence of the familiar Straight Line engine is also noticed, but that is doing more efficient work, shaking up the floor beams in the new mechanical laboratory, than it did in its old location as a toy for the Preps. The next class of Preps will have an old wash-sink, however, to roost on, jump over, and run around during the frisky, leisure moments of washing-up time. There is one diversion of which they should be warned and that is, imitation of Senior tactics on practice days. These consist chiefly of a large amount of noise, generally caused by the mouths and lungs of the coaches of the class "nine" and "eleven," mixed in with considerable hilarity and muscular activity of the less favored members of the division. If the door to the washroom is left open so that cool air comes in contact with the contents, about the same result is reached that occurs when one uncorks a soda bottle. At first there is a sort of wail of discontent which gradually increases in ardor until finally pandemonium seems to be let loose and a violent explosion occurs. This is sometimes accompanied by a shower of soap or a shower of water, perhaps both, and frequently in the midst of all this the light suddenly is lost to view and damp cloths pervade the atmosphere, often entwining about the head of some unfortunate. Occasionally the buoyant spirits overflow in song, but this is apt to degenerate into a discordant howl, which sometimes reaches the ears of the Faculty and causes those sedate gentlemen to rejoice that with '90 departs the last of the Mohicans. But noise is not the only thing which is noticeable at the Tech. If a visit is made to the basement of Boynton Hall where the fifty-cent lockers are located, just before recitation time, a busy hum as of studious school-children greets the ear. Scattered about on the settees, in delightful abandon, are the authors of this penetrating buzz, some in positions more
easy than graceful, others in attitudes positively excruciating. All are bent to one task; however: the preparation of the next recitation and a more studious and brilliant set of men it would be hard to find. As one listens, a conglomeration of fragmentary German, disjointed angles, lines and figures, mixed with a copious supply of x, y and z, and cemented together with "How did you do this problem?", "How did you translate this?", "What answer have you for the twentieth example?" assails the ear and impresses one with the great intellect and learning of the assembly. Then up three flights and to the left one may hear other sounds of a radically different character, if it is just before ten o'clock. They are vastly improved if listened to through a partition, as the partition acts as a kind of sieve to remove those larger pieces of sound which invariably injure the drum of the ear. A journey to the tower and a halt under the flag-staff just as the bell strikes will give one a good idea of how sounds the knell for a lost soul. This, with the foghorn on Washburn and Moe's building, and the steam piano on one of the city churches, generally makes the weary Prep turn in his bed to dream of some hideous fantasy. They all sound well, at a distance, though, but unless one can speedily become accustomed to such things, a little cotton in the ears or a remote residence will have a beneficial effect.

**ORNAMENTATION NEEDED.**

How Each Graduating Class Might Keep Its Memory Green at Boynton Hall.

The W P I would like to call the attention of its readers to a pleasant custom, in vogue in many schools, that, for some reason, has never been taken up at the Tech. It is that of the presentation to the school, before graduation, something in the way of a bust or picture, the gift to be placed in a suitable position in one of the rooms. In schools where the custom prevails, the presentation is usually accompanied by a more or less public exercise, appropriate to the man whose likeness is given to the school.

It seems hardly necessary to argue the appropriateness of such a custom. The only possible objection that could be made is, that the practice adds another item of expense. But in a class of thirty or forty the individual expense is so small that it might easily be ignored.

On the other hand, the beneficial effects of such a practice at the Tech would be very marked, both in increasing the attractiveness of the rooms and in increasing the students' interest in the Institute. The Senior course in English, also, would doubtless be doubly attractive if we could see more statesmen and authors standing about on pedestals or hanging on the walls in frames. At present the ornamentation of the rooms is limited to the oil portraits in the chapel and a few pictures of American authors, all in one recitation room.

There may be some men in school who never notice such things, and could not even tell in which room the pictures are hung, but there are more of us who do notice them and who would take a lively interest in their accumulation. A student can learn a great deal from his environment if he only keeps his eyes open, but he can't help getting tremendously tired, once in a while, of plain, whitewashed walls with blackboard dados that remind one of a bereaved person's *mouchoir*.

Already nineteen classes have graduated from Boynton Hall, yet there is scarcely a thing about the premises that particularly identifies any one of them with the school. An exception should of course be made to the fringe of maples that are lined up like a last year's foot-ball eleven along the brow of the campus. These trees are of no more interest to a stranger than the other trees on the grounds, but the way the graduates flock around their respective shoots at commencement time, to give the old Tech yell, is evidence enough of the interest taken by the men in anything that connects them in a personal way with the school.

Some such gift from each class as is mentioned in this article could not fail to arouse a like enthusiasm whenever the graduates visit the school, and the more important object attained, that of beautifying the rooms, would be gratifying to everyone who has occasion to use them. Such things are not essential, perhaps, in school rooms, but they are useful in many ways and their collection ought to be encouraged. Just about now, when everything is unusually quiet
and everything exciting expires the moment it catches sight of the Tech, one of the classes could make a mighty reputation for itself by inaugurating this custom, the following of which would be looked forward to by future classes as a red-letter day in their career at the Institute.

"FREE-HAND DRAWING."

Criticism of an Article in the November W P I under this Heading.

To the Editor of the W P I:—

Numerous appeals for contributions having appeared in the columns of your magazine, the writer has been casting about for some time in search of a subject of sufficient interest to your many readers; after reading the article in your November issue under the above title, the search was at an end, as this subject must certainly have the endorsement of your "Board" as being of sufficient interest to warrant publication. Permit the suggestion that articles of this character, attacking any method of instruction in use at the Institute, be published over the author's name, as your readers will then be in a better position to judge of the merits of an article; and should anyone deem an answer desirable, the motive for such an attack could be "guessed."

The writer of the November article is evidently not a draughtsman; and it does not seem possible that any graduate with one year's experience in the "world" could compile such an article and believe what he writes, consequently we will presume that he is an undergraduate.

The purport of his article is that all men are not artists and further, that some never can be, which is certainly true.

The trouble with his conclusion, that some, not being artists, should not be compelled to study free-hand drawing, lies in the fact that artists [meaning artists in the sense employed in his article] are not the only people to whom this knowledge is of use and advantage. Our friend will find, as he accumulates experience, that a knowledge of free-hand drawing [please note knowledge, not proficiency of execution, is the statement,] will be more or less advantageous to him through life; nor will he presume to say that he would be better off without this knowledge, simply because he cannot execute with proficiency, nor will he claim that proficiency of execution does not increase the value of knowledge of the principles; and he certainly cannot claim that a poor draughtsman can do even moderately well without a great deal of practice. Please understand the writer of this article to claim free-hand drawing to be of greater or less advantage directly to the graduates in all branches taught at the Institute.

Further than this it is indirectly valuable to each and every member of society that he possess a knowledge of at least the principles of free-hand drawing; were this knowledge possessed by all at the present time, we would not be subjected to the pitiable sight of a millionaire and philanthropist engaged in a most admirable work, assuming to himself the powers of a veritable artist and forcing upon a community, generally much better informed than he has shown himself to be, a work that will always carry with it the opprobrious epithet of "factory" so long as it stands.

One occurrence like this should be sufficient to convince everyone that the few hours spent at the Institute in free-hand drawing are not misapplied, and that the poor as well as the good "artists" should be served alike.

Chas. A. Earle, '82.

12 Crown St., Worcester.
January 8, 1890.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS.

_Pointers for Would-be Preps Who Fear the Entrance Examinations._

At this writing, many young men in the city are preparing for the entrance examinations on the twenty-first of this month. For their benefit the W P I has prepared a list of questions which may come handy in preparation for that eventful day. If they can answer these, they will no doubt be successful on the final papers.

1. Name, age and future home.
2. Are your parents large, healthy people, or the reverse. If the latter, how far reversed?
3. Are you married or unmarried? How many children have you, and what reasons have you for thinking that marriage is a failure?
4. Who recommended this school to you? What is his post-office address? Do you think he would accept a check for $100?
5. State, as accurately as you can, the present whereabouts of Dan McGinty.
6. Where did you get that hat?
7. Reasons for your existence and what you do if you had to go to work?
8. Is your name Smith? If so, you need not trouble to answer the remaining questions.
9. Are you from New York City? If so, is your family acquainted with Ward McAllister? Do you play frequently with the little McAllisters?
10. Had your father much of a reputation as a masher before marriage? Has your mother's sister a maiden aunt and would she accept a reasonable matrimonial offer?
11. Are your teeth filled and did you ever take gas? You may answer [vide Bill Nye] either, eyether, either or nyether.
12. Do you play billiards or pool? Explain the balk-line game. What are the advantages of Chicago pool over the common or scratch variety?
13. How many times have you attended church since birth? Do you belong to the Salvation Army?
14. How many pairs of pants can you wear at a time?
15. Do you drink? If so, what, and how often? Do you ask your friends up to have something, too?
16. Favorite brand of cigars?
17. Are you generally considered as a sort of "la-de-da" with the girls?
18. Have you ever been in close confinement, for ten or thirty days, or a longer period, at the expense of the State?
19. Do you favor local option? How many drug-stores do you think there are in Maine?
20. Is your stock of general information large? Who was George Washington?
21. Have you had any experience in wood or iron working establishments? If so, state wages received. Were they paid grudgingly?

Write only upon one side of the sheet and observe neatness and order. If you wish to erase a word, do not spit on the paper and rub with the fingers; it disfigures the general landscape.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.

The Annual Convention of the New England Association to Meet in February.

The annual convention of the New England Intercollegiate Athletic Association is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, at Boston, and, if the usual precedent is followed, it will be held at the Quincy House. This meeting is for the purpose of electing officers for the following year and transacting business of a general nature which may come within its scope. The time and place of the spring field-meeting is also decided at this convention. For the last two years this meeting has been held at Worcester and it is not probable that a different place will be decided upon for this year.

The present officers of the association are: President, Charles W. Porter, Amherst; first vice-president, Sam Sparhawk, Dartmouth; second vice-president, W. E. A. Bulkley, Trinity; secretary, E. G. Penniman, Worcester; treasurer, F. K. White, Williams; executive committee, Edwin Duffey, Amherst; F. M. Sackett, Brown; G. H. Moses, Dartmouth; T. A. Conover, Trinity; C. F. Eggleston, Wesleyan; E. Hopkins, Williams, and E. C. Rice, Worcester. President Porter and Secretary Penniman graduated from their respective institutions with the class of '89.

According to custom, the president of the association comes from the college that won the pennant the preceding year. Dartmouth will therefore be entitled to the presidency. A matter which will in all probability be brought before the convention is the question of accepting as a record the time which was made by the winner of last spring's 220-yard dash. Williams, of Dartmouth, won in the time of 23.2-5 sec., breaking the former record of 23.3-4 sec. Both the 220-yard dash and hurdle races were very much mixed up affairs. The course was supposed to be the regulation length but the phenomenal time made in the first 220-dash trial heat prompted a remeasurement and it was found to be short by 33 feet, 6 inches. A new scratch was made at the correct place, Before the next trial heat another measure.
ment was made and an error, which made the first course only 18 feet short, was thought to be found in the former measurement. Mr. Pike, the starter, accordingly trusted to this latter measurement and sent the men off from this new scratch. A careful measurement was afterward made and it was found that the distance was still 15 feet 6 inches short,—that the first measurement, by which 33 feet were found lacking, was the correct one.

The time of 23 2-5 seconds for the dash was accordingly made over a course some five yards short, as was also the hurdle record of 26 1-2 seconds. The latter, made by Humphreys of Dartmouth, compares so very favorably with that of A. F. Copland [26 2-5 seconds] as to cause doubts as to its genuineness. A course five yards short would cause a difference of about 3-5 of a second, which would make Humphreys's real time 27 1-10 seconds, a record which is probably much nearer the truth than the remarkable time of 26 1-2 seconds.

A SPIRIT OF LOYALTY.

It Ought to Dominate the Heart of Every Student Who Calls Himself a Tech.

It seems to the writer that our Institute is peculiarly situated as regards the sentiments of a large number of the young men who compose its present membership, and who in the future will be important factors in the reputation of the school. The "don't-care" attitude is what is referred to, as it has reference not only to the various organizations of the school, but also in having pride in helping the Faculty raise the dear old Tech to as high a standard as possible.

Some may laugh when they read "dear old Tech," but when they have gone among strangers, when they have cause to remember the hard lessons as well as the frolics in which they used occasionally to indulge, these words, "the dear old Tech," will come back to their minds with an emphasis little dreamed of now, perhaps, and with a sigh that Tech life is forever past.

In union there is strength and in order to have an alumni thoroughly interested in its Alma Mater, the spirit of loyalty and pride must dominate the heart of every student while here. If the desired result is to be obtained, every student should first take an active interest in his class, being sure to be present at class meetings where an election or other matters may be brought up. If everyone leaves everything for somebody else to do, they mustn't grumble because it isn't done well, and surely, in the case of class action, nothing should be done unless it can be representative of that class. After class interest has been developed to a slight extent let us spread ourselves out a little and include the Athletic Association, the Camera Club or, if we have any talent in that direction, the musical organizations. If we are thus interested we shall soon be conscious of a firm grip which the Institute will have upon us, and we will be proud not only of its achievements in athletic contests and upon the ball field, but of the success of graduates who are making a name for themselves in chosen vocations. If we have a foot-ball or a base-ball team, let us help that along if not by playing at least by evincing some interest in the success of the team; and nothing helps men so much as to know that they have a loyal and interested body of constituents to cheer them on to victory.

Likening our Tech life to a tree, we may say that our studies and work form the trunk and branches, the most useful portion, but our remembrances of the foot-ball field, of the running track or of little trips with the banjo club or orchestra, form the leaves, the part most easily remembered, when we look back, for these serve to partially cover up the sterner characteristics of the course, as the leaves tend to hide from view the less pleasing but not less valuable part of the tree.

CHAPEL EXERCISES.


A young lady friend of a W P I writer has thought of a plan to greatly increase the interest of our chapel exercises. One evening, during the Christmas vacation, when the scribe was making his usual call, the conversation drifted to Tech matters and the W P I man enlarged upon the hard and unremitting toil required at our institution, exciting the warm sympathy of the fair damsel. Then they talked about German and the Salisbury Laboratories and things of that nature and finally conversation drifted
to religious topics and our chapel exercises were commented on. It was agreed that there was much room for improvement in this respect. The music was thought to be worthy of improvement and then the question arose, how could this be done?

"Your orchestra is still in existence, I believe," said our friend.

"Yes."

"Well, why don't they practise on psalm tunes and melodies of that nature and get so they can play them without any hesitation, then"—

"And then play the accompaniment while the school sings," interrupted the scribe.

"Yes, let the members of the orchestra have a prominent place on the platform, facing the school, where they can be seen, then let them exhibit their talents. There is considerable spare time, you say, now that the hour plan has been changed, and this would give them an opportunity for tuning their instruments and getting ready. And their playing need not be confined to the tunes in the chapel hymn-book. Nothing could be more appropriate than some grand old mass by some old master. Everybody would then enjoy chapel and the students would go about their work of the day with renewed energies and their hearts filled with noble, inspiring thoughts."

"How about secular tunes?"

"No, I wouldn't advise the daily use of such music, for it wouldn't be very appropriate for such an occasion. Once in a while, however, it might make a pleasant break in the usual routine for the orchestra to play a little secular music. 'Down Went McGinty' might be played every other day after examination week without straining the proprieties and I should think 'Where Did You Get That Hat?' would come in handy on some mornings. Of course each class would show preferences for certain airs. When the Preps are feeling particularly blue because of their work in the adverb and sawdust line, the orchestra might comfort them with 'Mamma's Baby Boy' or 'Sleep, Baby, Sleep, There Is Nothing To Fear.' This would greatly enliven your daily devotional exercises."

The enraptured listener was of the opinion that there were great possibilities in the scheme and determined to call the attention of the school to this novel idea.

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**HOW TO PLAY POLO.**

Rules to Guide Tech Skaters in Their Contests on Salisbury's Pond.

The Christmas recess proved a hollow mockery so far as anything in the skating line on Worcester ponds was concerned. There was no skating during the whole vacation, nor any sleighing either. In fact, the mercury hung around the "temperate" mark and everybody wore spring overcoats and summer underclothing. A foot-ball game between Tech and Harvard men was proposed for Christmas day, but the plan failed to materialize.

It looks at this writing as if the Tech Skating Club would not have a very prosperous season, but a northerner is liable to swoop down at any moment and cover Salisbury's pond with ice. A Middler has passed in the following polo rules, which may come handy when the interclass contests begin. They have been compiled from the best Canadian authorities on the subject:

**Rules for Polo on Ice.**

*Section 1.* A team shall consist of 7 men: 2 rushers, 2 half-backs, centre, cover-point and goal-tend.

*Section 2.* The referee shall be selected by captains. He shall have power to settle all disputes and his decisions on all matters shall be final. The referee shall also act as timekeeper.

*Section 3.* Before the game the captains shall toss for choice of goals.

*Section 4.* The goal posts must be 6 feet high and 6 feet apart. The ball should be of solid rubber.

*Section 5.* It shall be a foul play, (a) to touch the ball with the hands, when it is in play [Rem. The goal-tend may use any part of his body to stop the ball.] (b) to throw one's stick at the ball; (c) to hold or trip an opponent.

*Section 6.* If a ball goes off the ice it shall be brought out at right-angles and is in play as soon as it touches the ice.

*Section 7.* Play shall commence by a "cast" half-way between the goals. All players shall be on their own side before the ball is "casted."

*Section 8.* Teams shall change positions after each goal.
Section 9. The time of game shall be two half-hours, with ten minutes' rest between. In case of a tie, the play shall continue until one side scores.

Section 10. Goals must in all cases be won by knocking the ball with the stick through the goal from the front and not by kicking or pushing it through.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR PUPILS?
A Pertinent Question Asked of Teachers, with a Few Remarks on the Same.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE W P I:
If anything makes me vexed, it is the failure to be recognized in the class-room or on the street by the professors with whom I come in daily contact. I don't know whether I voice the prevailing sentiment or not, but I think there is much lacking in this respect. All through the Junior and Middle years I entered the classrooms of some professors [not all of them, by any means, are at fault in this matter] and, to all intents and purposes, I might just as well have come that morning from the North Pole, or some other equally remote place on the earth, so far as being known and recognized by the teacher in charge was concerned. A sample recitation in such a class is conducted something like this: The professor wishes an innocent youth on the back seat to recite. After a careful scrutiny of the "marking book," a name is pronounced which, apparently, belongs to the youth in question. Thereupon a meek-faced individual arises from his chair in the front row and makes a star flunk. Professor learns by continued scrutiny what seems to be the name of the man on the back seat and absent-mindedly puts a zero against a student in the middle row of seats who is sitting all unconscious of his ruin. I don't suppose things get as badly mixed up as this, but I don't see any reason to prevent such a contretemps. If I were a teacher in charge of a class of young men, I would make it my first duty to learn their names and to be able to recognize them instantly. If I had to sit up all night after my first day's experience with a new class, I think I would do it, for the sake of the little courtesy involved, to say nothing of my own satisfaction. It is decidedly unpleasant, after a whole year or two in contact with a teacher, to be addressed as "Mr. Er-er" or, "the next." And as for being intelligently recognized on the street or elsewhere and receiving a bow which shows that the professor really knows your name, well, that is something that is coming with the four years' course, I suppose, and the other things that would make school life more endurable. One or two of our professors might learn a lesson from Principal Roe of the High School in this city, who is able to call by the name each one of his seven or eight hundred pupils, or from President Walker of the Boston Tech, who greets with a pleasant bow and a cheery call of name the most obscure student under his charge.

A RINK MEETING.
If the Tech is to Have One This Winter, Now is the Time to Do Something.

Four weeks ago last Friday the Rink was the scene of the second athletic entertainment given in the city this winter whose programme was made up of amateur events, and the large and enthusiastic audience present was ample evidence of the fact that legitimate sport is appreciated by the people of Worcester. At the meeting of the Chatham Athletic Club, given about the middle of November, the club made about $100, and this on one of the most miserable days of the year as far as the weather was concerned. This meeting put the Chatham Club on a firm financial footing and it starts the present year under especially favorable conditions. The meeting of the Worcester Boat Club was quite as successful and as a result a boat-house for the club will soon be in process of construction at the Lake. The competitors for both these meetings were nearly all local men, with the exception of one or two Boston athletes. Both programmes were very satisfactory to the audiences present. Exhibitions by well-known amateur champions were also a feature of each. At the Chatham Club meet, exhibitions by Thomas P. Connell and Ed. D. Lange were the attractive events of the evening and, at the tournament of the Boat Club, the extremely interesting exhibition of all-round jumping by Malcolm W. Ford, America's all-round champion, was the especial feature. At the time of the Chatham Club meeting
there was considerable talk of the Tech Association uniting with them later in the winter and giving a joint meeting. Such a meeting could not fail of being a success, both athletically and financially, and would put the Athletic Association on its feet again as far as its treasury is concerned. An interesting programme could easily be arranged and possibly some of the athletes of the other colleges of the N. E. I. A. A. might be induced to compete in such a set of games. The success of the two clubs just spoken of is good enough proof that Tech enterprise would be rewarded in a like manner, and it seems as if some kind of an athletic entertainment under the management of the Tech Athletic Association would not be an unwise undertaking.

VACATION SHOP—WORK.

A Good Time to Make Up Practice—Changes in the Wash-room.

But very few students took advantage of the opportunity of making up practice time during the Christmas vacation. Although there were about twenty-five names entered on the extra practice list, less than half that number made an appearance. The Seniors, of course, were in the majority, there being but three Middlers and two Juniors.

There was lots of work on hand and all those who worked were kept busy, but it was an excellent time to labor. Bad weather, no snow, no skating and, in fact, nothing going on. Those few who deprived themselves of a good old loaf at Christmas now have the satisfaction of knowing that they will not swell the ranks of the unhappy mortals who are sweating around under the classic shadows of the Washburn Shops during June and July, seeing how few hours work will be accepted for a hundred hours or so of extra practice.

During the vacation there were set up in the wash-room twenty new drawers and coat hooks for the use of the coming Preps. These were set in the place where the journeymen's old lockers stood, but thirty-two drawers and hooks in addition have been placed in the engine room for the use of the journeymen. These transformations were all under the personal supervision of Mr. Ezra Walls. And just think, too, the pillars supporting the wood-room floor were really washed, absolutely freed from the grease and dirt which has long rendered them so like members of the colored race! Now the long-hidden paint shines forth in such dazzling splendor that it blinds one to look at it.

The remodeling of the Prep room is slowly but surely advancing. The order of the benches is to be changed but the benches themselves, except a closet at each for the tools, will be the same as before.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

What We Are Likely to Find in the W P I and Daily Papers After Feb. 1.

When examinations are over it is supposed that a few of our number will be thrust roughly out into the world to seek work more congenial than that of studying. The W P I anticipates the rush in "want" advertisements that will undoubtedly come in a few weeks and limbers up the printing office with the following samples:

WANTED—Any kind of work after February 1st. Money no object, if the job is easy. Address, M. U. D., Tech Institute.

SITUATION WANTED—A bright boy, capable and willing, would like a place where good, faithful work would be appreciated. Home out of the city and have a widowed mother to support. Good at figures and algebra. Address JUNIOR, W. P. I.

SMART, pushing young fellow craves a chance to push a wheelbarrow, or something like that, for an honest living. References required. D. U. B. B., care Tech, this city.

NEWSPAPER MAN, of experience, wants a job on city daily. Can write editorials, football and other anti-faculty articles, shop notices, musical items and technicalities. Doesn't object to hard work, if some other fellow does it. Address SCRIBE, care The W P I, city.

BOOKS FOR SALE!—Chauvenet's Geometry, Ganot's Physics, Wentworth and Hill's Manual and others. Prices low, as subscriber wishes to make a hasty departure from the city. Address X. Y. Z., '92, this office.

MACHINIST, skilled in his trade, would like a situation. Can shift belts, run a screw machine and snare castings. Can tell hard oil from machine oil. Easy in disposition and willing to impart information. Refused recently an offer to go to Europe. Address YOU KNOW, Goatville.
WANTED - Being suddenly compelled, by reason of failing health, to leave school, the subscriber would like a soft place in a nice, kind, Christian family where he can loaf around and make himself generally useless until the Tech examinations in September. G., 13 Fire street, City.

SOMETHING DISCOURAGING.

Biblical Passages which Point to an Unsuccessful Outcome of Examinations.

Our religious editor has found the following biblical passages which may furnish hope and inspiration during examination week. It will be noticed that the weight of argument seems to be in favor of an unsuccessful ending of our semi-annual labors:—

The chief captain ** ** bad that he should be examined. [Acts xxiii., 24.]

Though they roar, yet can they not pass ** ** [Jer. vi., 22.]

I have no certain thing to write ** ** I have brought him forth before you ** ** that, after examination had, I have somewhat to write. [Acts xxv., 26.]

When thou passest, ** ** I will be with thee. [Isaiah xliii., 2.]

** ** I will pass over you. [Exodus xii., 13.]

For pass ** ** and see ** **. Consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. [Jer. ii., 10.]

Thou shalt not pass ** ** [Numbers xx., 18.]

But let a man examine himself ** ** [1 Cor. xi., 28.]

For I will pass ** ** ** ** [Exodus xii., 12.]

Examine yourselves ** ** ** ** ; prove your own selves. [2 Cor. xiii., 5.]

None shall pass through it for ever and ever. [Isaiah xxxiv., 10.]

The wicked shall no more pass through ** **; he is utterly cut off. [Nahum i., 15.]

And they went down after him ** ** and suffered not a man to pass. [Judges iii., 28.]

They which would pass ** ** cannot; neither can they pass that would come from thence. * [Luke xvi., 26.]

* Evidently has reference to those poor unfortunate who are to take the entrance examinations to the Prep class.

DID IT IN THEIR HEADS.

The Best Place to Test the Results of Mixing Ice, Snow and Steam.

"We are having a great time on the subject of Heat, in physics," a Middler remarked to a member of '90, one day last week. "You know we have to tell the resulting temperature when ice and water, or snow and steam, and things of that nature, are mixed. Well, a few of us fellows meet every other day or two and do them together, and this makes it very much easier, especially as we have our own peculiar methods of solving the problems. We met last night over at Blank's house and tried all the hard ones. We took a fifteen-pound block of ice, scooped out a big hole in it, poured in a quart of boiling water and noted the resulting temperature. Then we took a pail of snow and mixed it with water at 20° Centigrade. Then we got a lot of steam and mixed it with snow and chopped ice and noted results. I guess we did about twenty examples, all told."

"I should think you would have had trouble getting the ice and snow, this spring-like weather," the Senior said. "Did you go over to the ice-house?"

"Over to the ice-house!" remarked '91, in amazement. "Great Scott! we didn't really mix those things together. We did it in our heads. See? I thought you understood that."

CLASS ELECTIONS COMING.

The Senior Class to Elect the Officers Who Serve Until After Graduation.

The half-year ends January 21 and semi-annual class elections are to follow shortly after that date. The elections of the Senior class take on an added importance because of the fact that the officers elected continue in office until after graduation and represent the class at the exercises of class-day and commencement. No candidates for the important offices have as yet appeared in the field and it is expected that the election will pass off quietly, as it always does with Tech Seniors, without any wire-pulling or

BAY STATE HOUSE.

Under the new management this Hotel has been thoroughly reorganized and will be conducted on a First-Class Basis

In every particular. We solicit a trial of our hospitality.

DOUGLASS & BROWN, Proprietors.
other unpleasant features. The valedictorian, class orator, etc., are usually not chosen at this meeting. Last year the class-day parts were not assigned until sometime in March. The most that '89 did at the January meeting was to choose a commencement committee of five who talked up and decided upon the preliminary arrangements.

It is expected that '90's class-book committee will present its report at this meeting and it is understood that, for several reasons, the committee will recommend that it is inexpedient for the Senior class of this year to publish a class-book.

### ELEVATOR WORK

**Keeps the Shop Busy and the Workmen Are Not At Home to Callers.**

The elevator business is very good just now and it is not possible to keep pace with orders. The new orders consist of one from a large firm in Lynn which calls for one passenger and one freight elevator, and one from a Worcester party for one passenger elevator.

Six twist-drill grinders are in process of construction, one of which is to go to England. Besides these there are orders for sixteen common grinders, one of which is a special size.

Three machines, one a shaving machine, and two truing machines, are being built for the Norton Emery Wheel Co.

An order comes from Cornell University for a complete set of Willis apparatus. The two dynamos are growing slowly as are also the two new engine lathes, the beds of which are now being carefully prepared by Mr. Mitchell.

All this work requires steady application so that just now the workmen are not at home to callers.

### SPECIAL MEETING NECESSARY.

**The Athletic Association to Prepare for the N. E. I. A. A. Convention.**

According to the constitution the regular semi-annual meeting of the Athletic Association is not held until the second Friday of March. This is too late to meet the requirements of the New England Intercollegiate Athletic Association, of which the W. P. I. is a member. This holds its annual convention on the second Saturday of February and it will be necessary to call a special meeting of the local association sometime before this date to prepare for the general convention. The only important business which is likely to come before this meeting is the election of a man to represent the Tech upon the executive committee representing the colleges in the league. It may be advisable, too, to sanction the attendance of one or two delegates other than the office-holding representatives of the Tech.

### TECHNICALITIES.

Try Dr. Kinnicutt's grip remedy: pure, unadulterated S O₂.

Hurrah for '90! She is on the last lap and has a good lead.

Mr. Ezra Walls was in Worcester for a few days at Christmas.

A. W. Gilbert, '89, paid a flying visit to the Tech during vacation.

A beautifully-formed girl is like a galvanometer. She has a figure of merit.

"Some very exciting polo games" have been played on Salisbury's this winter.

The Juniors have dropped algebra for a while and taken up trigonometry in its place.

The Seniors have just finished a sheet showing the valve motion of the Straight Line engine.

John M. Goodell, '88, Fred. W. Spiers, '88, and Walter G. Wesson, '86, were at their Worcester homes Christmas time.

If we must have July and August in December and January, let us have a part of the summer vacation at the latter time.

The chapel organ must have the grip. Now if it could only have a relapse which would prove fatal, we would all be happy.

The Middlers have been doing more in projection, in their work of draughting, than has been customary with previous classes.

Seniors and theses sound well together, but Seniors and theses don't agree very considerably, for they associate only at the last minute.

[Continued on page 196.]
choosing from the floral kingdom, and the prices go all the way up to $1.75.

We are quite flattered with your approval of our judgment regarding the new Victoria Cloths.

They are marvels of the cotton weavers’ art, the patterns are exact copies of those found in the best French Flannels and cost only 12½c. a yard.

They have sold so rapidly that we were obliged to duplicate our orders to meet the increasing demands. They are unusually nice and attractive.

Do you care for a splendid $2 BLACK FAILLE Silk, when you can have it for $1.25? If you do, we will give it to you.

Another important item of news for you is that we have taken every yard of our Gera and Arnheim Suitings from the 50c. counter and have put them with our splendid line of 39c. goods.

These two styles are 36 inches wide; they were grand good value at 50c. and of course they are great bargains at 39c. We guarantee that they are all wool.

We have a very few left of the good bargain in all wool dress goods at 25c., 36-inch.

It’s a pretty pile of Gingham that graces one corner of our dress counters. They are in dainty sidebands, just as nice as they can be, selling for 10c. a yard, and the writer tells you frankly that they are really finer than what we are selling now for a good deal more.

Stockings! Why, yes, of course, “Our Special” is here in good solid winter weights, 3 pairs for a dollar, in sure black; nothing like them anywhere.

Fleece-lined that won’t crouch, 25c., and a special one, 37½c. Unbleached fleece-lined, 25c., awfully low for the quality.

Barnard. Sumner & Co.
Unexcused marks are beginning to accumulate fast, but, perchance, "la grippe" will remove all of them.

Would it not be very appropriate for some if "Homeward Bound" were sung in chapel the last day before the semi-annual examinations?

The library doesn't seem to be frequented as much as would be supposed. Probably one-half of the students don't know there is one and the other half are uninterested.

Cheer up, mechanics! In a few weeks the Preps will be here and then if you survive the inquisition, you shall have the exquisite enjoyment which accompanies a clean towel.

Next time, we would advise the tug-of-war men who contemplate competing with unsophisticated athletes to practise with a clothes-line and an old picket fence, with one hour pulls.

W. S. Putnam, '89, came from Wilmington, Del., to spend the holidays at his home in this city. At the present time there are eight Techs working for the Edgemoor Bridge Works of that place.

The Pol Econ club continues to flourish and new members are being added constantly. We hope it will live, if only to show that some organization besides that of the Faculty can exist at the Tech.

If starvation wages are offered to Techs for working in the shop during vacation time, is it not a sure indication of the valuation of their abilities which have been so carefully trained in this most advanced institution?

First cramming, second cribbing [that is, the manufacture of cribs,] third examinations. Is the moral or mental effect of having a crib in the head any worse than that of one in the vest pocket? No, neither is there any difference in the use of the same.

In the grand "making-up-time" contest which was held in the Washburn Shops during the Christmas vacation, Atkins, '91, came out first with a record of 110 hours. Savage, '92, and Taylor, '91, were close seconds with 104 3-4 and 104 1-4 hours respectively.

Ninety was promised, long ago, a lantern slide exhibition to be given under the auspices of the department of physics, and some inquiries have been made as to the date. Any information regarding this will receive kind attention.

An article in the Boston Post of Dec. 7 referring to new books, and to one especially in which all at the Institute will be interested, has come to our notice. "Essays in the Constitutional History of the United States" is composed of five papers written by graduates and former members of Johns Hopkins University, and of these the most important is by Prof. Edward P. Smith on the movement which looked toward the holding of a second constitutional convention for the purpose of revising the work of the convention of 1787. The Post says, "Mr. Smith has studied the subject thoroughly, and has brought together in a clear and compact narrative a multitude of facts which nowhere else can be found, except in numerous independent publications."

Charlie Stonecutter, mascot to the Washburn Shops, has developed into a "literary feller." At the close of his late business

---

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trip to Washington, where, it is understood, he had an audience with President Harrison, he sent a letter home addressed:

Mr. Sibley, Taunton Wellesly.
Machinist, Boynton Street,
Worcester, Mass.,

which read as follows:

Glendale M. D. Dec Monday 16 1889.

Dear friend Sibley,

I will write you a few Lines wishing you my best respects and Mr Walls and Mr Higgins I am on the Road back. send my respects to Mr. Moen and all of my friends. i want you to have that horse for a crismas present, when I return, sow i can go into the Junk Buiness,
good By sibley you now.

TWO DAYS LATE.

La grippe has no terrors for the editorial staff of the W P I, for it is possible to write in a sick-room. You can't set type in a sick-room, however, and a printing office with half its force disabled by the popular malady cannot be expected to do its work as quickly as it would under more favorable conditions.

The W P I is two days late this month and asks the kind indulgence of its readers for a delay caused by circumstances " quite beyond our control."

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For Precious and ornamental stones of North America in their natural state and cut, showing various forms of cutting,

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For Fine Leather goods, Pocket Books, Note Books, Card, Cigar and Cigarette Cases, Porte-Folios, Blotters, Pads and various articles for the library table richly mounted with gold and silver; Ivory articles for the toilet and library table, richly carved and Mounted in Gold and Silver, chased, etched, enameled and inlaid,

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