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The Technology Review

VOL. XVI

MAY, 1914

No. 5

UNDERGRADUATES AND ALUMNI

Closer relations created by vote of the Alumni Council—How to make Alumni Association more effective topic of discussion

At the thirty-fourth meeting of the Alumni Council, held April 27, at the Engineers Club, Boston, the chief interest centered in the report of the committee on the relations between the alumni advisory councils and undergraduate activities. The report itself was unusually illuminating, and it brought out some rather startling facts relative to undergraduate organizations which had not been heretofore understood. For this reason we print this report in the REVIEW in connection with this meeting.

Another topic that excited hardly less interest was—How can the Alumni Association render greater and more direct service to its members, the Institute and the community? This brought out a number of suggestions, the first coming from James P. Munroe, '82, who proposed that the Alumni Association initiate a movement to form a federation of the seventeen higher institutions of learning in Massachusetts for the purpose of coöperating with the Commonwealth, in a manner free from politics, to produce results which some hope to obtain by the establishment of a state university.

Mr. Munroe also thought very strongly that it would be a serious mistake if the dormitories were not ready for occu-

pancy by the students at the time that the educational buildings of the New Technology were finished. He thought it would be most unfortunate for the Institute if some of the fraternities were located on the grounds and some outside. This, in his opinion, would produce a cleavage between groups of students, and the effect would be unfortunate for the democratic spirit of Technology. He said that the housing of students was an alumni problem, and he suggested that a committee should be appointed to outline a plan for underwriting the expense of putting up these dormitories at once.

Another suggestion made was that the alumni could coöperate in the matter of finding employment for alumni. This was presented by Professor Spofford, '93; and Matthew Brush, '01, amplified it and felt that the alumni should provide means for bringing important men into touch with the larger positions that were vacant from time to time. He said that he himself knew of at least one very important job that was waiting for the right man, and in his opinion the Alumni Association was best fitted to bring the man and the place together.

Frederic H. Fay, '93, suggested the publication of a business directory of

Technology men in order that alumni might be of more use to one another in a business way.

Dean Burton seconded the remarks of Mr. Munroe in regard to dormitories, believing that it would be a calamity if Technology moved across the river and the dormitories were not ready for the students.

C. W. Eaton, '85, of Haverhill, moved that a committee be appointed to take up the problem of building dormitories, and it was voted that the President appoint such a committee at the next meeting.

William H. King, '94, thought that membership in the association could be increased if the Council was closely linked with representatives in each one of the local associations.

The resignation of John L. Batchelder, '90, as a member of the Advisory Council on Athletics, was read and accepted with an expression of thanks by the Council for his long, interested and active service.

I. W. Litchfield, '85, field manager, made a report of his recent visits to Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, New York City, and Providence, and announced the establishment of two new local alumni associations, one in Dayton, Ohio, and one in Bridgeport, Conn.

George B. Glidden, '93, made a report of progress on behalf of the committee on assemblies. This committee now has on the stocks an unusual entertainment, to take the place of the old pop concert, which will be held in Symphony Hall, Tuesday evening, June 9; and it will be largely devoted to initiating the senior class and welcoming them into the fold.

President Whiting introduced Mr. Roger Pierce, secretary of the Harvard Alumni Association, who described the field of operations of the organization he represents.

The report of the committee on relations between the alumni councils and undergraduate activities, which follows, was unanimously approved, and was signed by two alumni members and one undergraduate. The committee consisted of F. H. Hunter, '02; C. W. Gram, '09; A. C. Dorrance, '14.

In taking up the matters referred to it, your committee would remind the members of the Alumni Council of the change that has been brought about in undergraduate affairs in the last five years. This was brought to our attention at a special meeting of the Council a year ago; it was emphasized by Dean Burton at the last meeting of the Council, and was more strikingly shown by the presentation of an able report, drawn up by a committee of undergraduates on their own initiative, regarding the status and possibilities of the Technology Coöperative Society.

The students are showing a sense of responsibility, a businesslike grasp of affairs, and a public spirit, that mark a great advance over the loose methods formerly all too common at Technology, as at other colleges. The center of the student affairs is the Institute Committee, which serves as a governing body for all student affairs, and on which each activity is represented.

But for this high standard of undergraduate action, some of the recommendations which follow would doubtless seem too radical, but your committee feels every confidence in the intention of the students to manage their affairs on a manly, straightforward basis. The formation of the Finance Committee, and the present councils for *The Tech* and the Show, by the Institute Committee, and the securing of loyal and capable alumni to serve on these boards gives strong proof of this aim. With counsel upon general lines of policy from more experienced men, they may well be trusted to manage in a creditable manner all those activities which are local to the Institute.

Your committee would note the existence of the following advisory councils, or boards, in which the alumni have a part:

The Advisory Council on Athletics.

The Advisory Council on the Tech Show.

The Finance Committee.

The Advisory Council on *The Tech*.

The Advisory Board of the Technology Christian Association.

The Advisory Council on the Musical Clubs.

Considering first the Advisory Board of the Christian Association:

This board was formed by the activity itself among those especially interested in its work. Its members are drawn from both alumni and Faculty. A paid worker, who is a college graduate with experience in religious work among students, is employed by the association. Funds are raised from time to time by appeal among the alumni, but your committee feels that such support should remain, as it now does, upon individual action. The wide range of ideas in regard to religion, to be found among such a general body as the alumni of the Institute, makes it improper for the Alumni Council to act as a body on religious matters. This is not at all a criticism of the Christian Association, which we think is doing a commendable work, and which will, doubtless, receive support from many alumni as individuals.

The advisory councils on the Tech Show and for *The Tech* were formed by the Institute Committee. At present they consist of two alumni members,

selected by the Institute Committee, and one undergraduate, who must be one of the seniors on the Institute Committee. The members are all chosen for one year at a time, and so far the alumni members have been reelected every year. These councils are responsible to the Institute Committee, and their decisions, if not agreeable to the activity affected, may be appealed to the committee. While this provision may sound radical to some of the members of the Alumni Council, it has in practice worked out well. Appeal from the advice of one of these councils has only once been taken, and in that case the Institute Committee turned down the activity and upheld the decision of the alumni advisers.

For the past few years the Alumni Council has gone through the motions of electing the alumni members of these councils, but as a matter of fact such election has had no bearing on the status of these councils. They were created by the undergraduates, and the members have been chosen by the undergraduates acting through the Institute Committee. However, as we have merely reelected the men already chosen by the students, no conflict has ever arisen.

Although the Finance Committee was organized by the Institute Committee on much the same basis as those other bodies, the situation of its alumni members is different in that the Alumni Council has never gone through the form of electing them. This committee consists of two alumni members and one undergraduate, a senior, all chosen by the Institute Committee, and the treasurers of all the recognized activities of the undergraduates. At its meetings these treasurers have to present full reports of the business affairs of their respective activities, not only as to their present financial condition, but also as to the probable income and expenditures. From time to time the Finance Committee audits the books of all the activities. The effect of these committee meetings has been to bring all student activities onto a business basis, and to prevent the contracting of bills beyond their means of payment. Principles of bookkeeping and business management have been learned here by many students.

While we shall later submit suggestions for changes in the organization of the councils we have mentioned, your committee is glad to report that they have been doing valuable work. The alumni who have served on them deserve warm praise for the loyalty and good judgment that they have shown.

In addition to the advisory bodies already referred to there has been organized, during the past year, an Advisory Council for the Musical Clubs. This council was organized by the activity itself and the members have been selected by the clubs. While, doubtless, in this particular case the results have been good, it seems to your committee that the principle of having an activity select its own advisers is less to be commended than if, as in the other cases referred to, the choice lay with the Institute Committee, which is a disinterested tribunal, representing the whole student body. If there is work for graduate advisers for the Musical Clubs we feel that they should be selected in the same manner as the other councils. All should be on the same basis.

So much for the present; for the future, your committee is of the opinion that the advisory councils could be improved and certain present weaknesses be avoided by the following changes, which we would recommend to the Alumni Council. They have already been laid before the Institute Committee and have received its indorsement.

First: That the number of alumni on these councils be increased from two to three, the undergraduate member being retained as at present.

Second: That the alumni members be chosen one each year for a term of three years, and that at the expiration of their terms they be ineligible for immediate reelection.

Third: That the alumni members be chosen by the Alumni Council after a conference between a special nominating committee of the Council and the executive board of the Institute Committee or such other undergraduate body as the Institute Committee may determine.

Fourth: That a special nominating committee be chosen each year at the March meeting of the Alumni Council to confer with the Institute Committee or its representatives and then to report to the April meeting of the council a list of nominations for the vacancies in the advisory councils. That the council elect to fill the vacancies at its April meeting, and that the men elected sit with their respective advisory councils at all meetings during the remainder of the college year and that the actual terms of the advisers run with the college year, and that the undergraduate member be selected by the Institute Committee, as at present.

Fifth: That the present system of appeal to the Institute Committee be retained.

In support of these recommendations your committee would offer the following:

Under the present system, with but two alumni members, the removal or illness of a single old member, if coming soon after the selection of his colleague, would deprive a council of all knowledge of past experience and greatly handicap its efficiency. A council of three men would not suffer to any such extent by any expectable circumstance, and would be at all times stronger than with two men. The function of the undergraduate member being to present the feeling of the student body at large in regard to the activity to be advised, he is hardly to be counted on for the business experience and matured judgment that are the assets of the alumni members. His function, though real, is quite different from theirs.

An orderly system of rotation will bring men with fresh ideas and new impetus to the work and yet retain the valuable experience of former years. We also feel that under a system of definite rotation the alumni members will give more consistent service than if, as at present, they are elected for a year at a time but always urged to serve again, year after year. Also, we may mention, that with rotation as suggested, the number acquainted with undergraduate affairs will be increased and the student leaders, coming in contact with more of the enthusiastic and capable alumni will catch more of the Technology spirit than at present.

Under the present system of choice the tendency is to draft some men already taking an active part

in alumni work and thus increase his load, because the undergraduates cannot know more than a few of the most active alumni to choose from. The selection of the alumni members by the Alumni Council will, therefore, besides giving the advisers a stronger backing, open up a larger field for choice and insure the selection of men especially suited to the work, yet who, in most cases, are not now well known to the undergraduates. At the same time the conference with the undergraduates before making the nominations should prevent any feeling by the students that they are not consulted in the choice.

The best results in the selection of the alumni advisers, will, we feel, be obtained by having a special nominating committee chosen for this specific work, rather than by adding it to the duties of the regular nominating committee. The members of the regular committee are selected with a view to choosing the term members of the Corporation and the officers of the Alumni Association, rather than for their acquaintance with student affairs.

Your committee feels that the system of appeal to the Institute Committee is a perfectly proper one, inasmuch as these activities are local to the Institute, and are properly student interests. As the Institute Committee is made up of representatives of all activities as well as of the four classes at large, it would never be over prejudiced in favor of any particular activity, and its decision after hearing the arguments of the advisers, as well as those of the activity, would be quite certain to be rational. This system of appeal has worked to perfection in the past, and its continuance would be sure proof that the alumni were in no sense trying to run the undergraduate activities, only to give counsel and support.

Before leaving these councils, your committee would suggest that if at some future time it is thought well to have the new *Tech Monthly* recognized, the duties of the council to *The Tech* should be extended to include that publication also. Its name would then naturally be changed to "Council on Undergraduate Publications."

The Advisory Council on Athletics has purposely been reserved for separate considerations, as its history, its field of usefulness, and its authority differ essentially from those of the bodies already discussed in this report. This council was formed some fifteen years ago to improve the chaotic conditions under which athletics at the Institute were then existing. Although it has ostensibly been a work of the Alumni Association alone, it should be borne in mind that its formation was the result of a series of conferences in which the Corporation, Faculty, and the undergraduates, as well as the alumni, were represented. The work of forming the council was by general consent placed in the hands of the alumni, as it was unanimously felt that they were best fitted to handle the situation. By gradual development this council has come to exercise functions quite beyond the meaning of the word "advisory"; it is in fact, an executive body having general oversight of all athletic matters at the Institute; the Faculty has left to it all such questions; the Corporation has placed in its hands the funds for the equipment and maintenance of the athletic field,

and all funds raised for recognized branches of athletics go through its hands. It is the court for the settlement of all questions concerning athletic sports at the Institute and it is also consulted by Corporation and Faculty on many questions relating to health and physical training of the students.

For several reasons the field of athletics calls for different treatment from the other undergraduate activities. The bearing of athletics upon both the health and the character of the student body is much more extensive than that of other activities. It involves relations with other colleges, relations often calling for mature judgment and extended experience in such affairs.

Whether we will or no, the athletics of any college form a considerable part of its publicity, and their conduct counts to an undue amount with those school-boys who may some day be students. Moreover, while the other activities we have been considering, can with proper management be self-supporting, or as in the case of the Show be even a source of revenue, athletics demand the expenditure of considerable sums of money, which, at the Institute, are not easily raised. While the work of the other activities can be fairly well predicted in advance, many details regarding athletics have to remain uncertain till time for the events, and must then be dealt with promptly. Also at present the Athletic Council is responsible for a certain portion of Mr. Kanaly's salary and some other desirable expenses which are on a different basis from the expenses of other activities. For all these reasons the Athletic Council calls for special experience as well as business judgment, and sympathetic understanding of the student view point in addition to loyal interest.

The council since its formation has accomplished a large work. Its members have given freely of their time, and have more than once lent their credit and given of their money to help out in the pinches. No one knows all that has been done by Major Briggs, Dr. Rockwell and their associates on this council; their long and loyal service deserves the highest esteem of all interested in the welfare of Technology. Handicapped by poor facilities and by a scantiness of funds that was often a dearth, they have labored through many years to direct the athletics of the Institute in rational and healthful channels, and to give the students the best that was possible with the means at their disposal.

The principle of graduate supervision in college athletics is finding favor more and more at other institutions, and the formation by our undergraduates of other advisory councils for their activities, shows an appreciation of the benefits which our Athletic Council has been to all concerned.

However, in spite of all that your committee finds to praise in the work of this council, there is a feeling among the undergraduates and there has been for some years past, that they have not been allowed sufficient share in arranging the details of their own athletics and too little understanding on their part of the actual conditions governing the council in its actions. While doubtless this condition is as much or more the fault of the students themselves, as it is of the council, yet the feeling is too strong

and too general to be wholly without cause. While other undergraduate activities have been reorganized and given new scope and energy by the students themselves in the last few years, the Athletic Association has remained a somewhat perfunctory body and the interest of the students in athletics has not been as general as we could wish. The very strength and efficiency of the council has probably been, in part, the cause of this situation. While some two years ago a step was taken to give the Athletic Association a real work to do by placing the details of disbursements in the hands of its treasurer, the students have not made as much as they might of this increase of responsibility.

That much would follow upon a fuller understanding by the students of the conditions limiting our athletics, is well shown by the work they have done since the announcement by the council, somewhat over a year ago, that the financial situation of athletics was serious. The holding of a "Tag Day" and the giving of two informal entertainments have brought in substantial sums for the support of athletics. Your committee firmly believes that an increased interest and a larger participation in athletics by the student body are desirable and can in some measure be achieved by a better all-round understanding, and a larger participation by the undergraduates in the management of such affairs.

At present the Athletic Council consists of three alumni chosen by the Alumni Council, one each year to serve for three years, three undergraduates chosen by the Athletic Association and a graduate treasurer chosen by the council itself. In practice the services of the alumni members of this council have been felt to be too valuable to lose and each man has been reelected at the expiration of his term. It would be unwise for reasons already given, to reorganize this council on a basis of entire rotation of membership, as already provided for the other councils, and yet some change is highly desirable. We therefore suggest that the alumni membership be increased to five, in reality but one more than at present, two of whom shall be elected by the Alumni Council, direct, for a term of four years, one being chosen each second year, and these men be eligible for reelection; the other three men to be chosen for three-year terms, as provided for the other councils and ineligible for immediate reelection to succeed themselves. The conference preceding the nomination of the three-year men for this council would naturally be with the Athletic Association, or its delegates, rather than with the Institute Committee. The three undergraduate members of this council should, we think, be retained, and their selection rest with the Athletic Association as at present.

The selection of two men eligible for reelection by the Alumni Council alone would give an opportunity to continue such long term service by men especially fitted for this work and able and willing to keep on with the duties as some of the members of this council have been in the past, and would give the Athletic Council a measure of responsibility and permanence in the eyes of the Corporation and Faculty and preserve to it the best results of past experience in dealing with other colleges and associations.

The selection of three men for limited terms, after conference with the undergraduates, would bring an impetus of new blood to the council and at the same time give the students a feeling that their wishes were consulted in the selection of a majority of the alumni members, and would also make available a number of men already experienced in athletic affairs at the Institute, among whom men would doubtless be selected to fill the more permanent positions on the council when need arose.

While it is not the function of your committee to lay down any definite program for the work of this reorganized council, we would suggest for its consideration, when organized:

That one of the long term members be chosen as trustee of the Corporation funds and of such funds as have been and may be contributed by the alumni.

That the council should try to work out arrangements giving the Athletic Association a larger share in the details of management of athletics and the handling under suitable oversight, of funds raised by the undergraduates and of the receipts of all meets.

That the council should take up with the Institute Committee and the leaders of the Athletic Association, the possibility of reorganizing the association in a way to make it a more vital body than it has been in the past.

That a system be worked out for the selection of the managers for the various teams through competition along the lines of a Civil Service system.

In order, in case this report is adopted, to put the proposed system into working order this year, we would recommend that the terms of the present councils terminate with the close of the present school year, that a nominating committee be chosen at this, the April meeting of the Alumni Council to confer with the undergraduates and report at the May meeting a list of names for the full membership of all these advisory councils, with terms properly designated to start the proposed system of rotation. We would also recommend that the provision of ineligibility for reelection shall not take effect as regards the men chosen this year for the term of one year.

In the early meetings of our committee some reference was given to the need of a more general publicity among the graduates in regard to the student and especially athletics, and a more general attendance by the alumni at such affairs, but a committee has now been appointed to deal with this situation in all its branches. We have no specific recommendations to make but would heartily approve of this committee of publicity and commend all possible improvements in this direction.

While the foregoing report, if adopted, will terminate the services of all the alumni members of the various councils and boards we have discussed (excepting the board of the Christian Association), your committee would commend the loyal work which these alumni members have been doing on these councils and express the hope that many of these men will be selected for service in the new councils to carry over the valuable experience which they have already gained through past service.

M. I. T. Undergraduate Association

The first general meeting of the M. I. T. Undergraduate Association was held in Huntington Hall, April 9, to hear the report of the Institute Committee.

A. C. Dorrance, '14, president of the Institute Committee, presided and made a general report of the activities of the Institute Committee during the past year. Among other things he spoke of receiving money from the Tech Show, "Yish Ka Bible," and the 1914 *Technique*, amounting to about \$2,000, the larger part of which will be devoted to athletics. He told of the sub-committee of the Institute Committee which had been appointed to confer with alumni on the Walker Memorial in order to give the alumni the undergraduate point of view. One of the important accomplishments of the committee had been the drawing up of a uniform class constitution. One of the sub-committees was making an investigation of the Coöperative Society with a view of making some radical change, in coöperation with the Alumni Association. He also spoke of the splendid work of the Point System Committee and of the Union Committee.

P. H. Guething, '14, spoke on athletics, recalling the fact that the relay team had been beaten but once, and then by Harvard with its record-breaking team. The cross-country team had earned important laurels; the wrestling team had been undefeated after two years' career. He prophesied that athletics at the Institute would increase in prosperity with the opening of the field on the new Institute site.

There were also speeches by the editor-in-chief of *Technique*, and representatives of other activities.

The meeting was largely devoted to cheering and the singing of Tech songs.

Students Hear of Alumni Work

An important student convocation was held April 22, in Huntington Hall, to hear from Jasper Whiting, '89, president of the Alumni Association, something

about its purposes and its present and past activities.

The meeting was well attended, and it proved to be an interesting one for the students, who are now being brought into closer touch with the Alumni Association.

Mr. Whiting described the organization and the part the Council plays in it. He said that the purpose of the Alumni Association was to make the somewhat intangible thing called Tech spirit a power for good in advancing the interests of Technology and of Tech men. He referred to the close relation between the undergraduates and the alumni, and urged every man, as soon as he was graduated, to identify himself with the local alumni association wherever he might locate.

President MacLaurin Postpones Trip

In accordance with long-fixed plans, President MacLaurin had prepared to make a trip across the continent, the last of April, to visit the alumni associations on the Pacific Coast, stopping en route at St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, and at Minneapolis on his return trip.

Elaborate preparations had been made by the local associations for his reception, but unfortunately press of matters connected with the new Institute buildings came up during April, and were so imperative in their demands upon his time, that he was reluctantly obliged to cancel all the arrangements. This has been a great disappointment to him as well as to the members of the associations he had intended to visit.

It is also a source of regret to the Alumni Council, who had been planning for this trip for some time. It is hoped, however, that the visit has only been postponed, and that he will be able to make the trip at another time.

If you haven't paid your Alumni Association dues, do it now. Every dollar is spent to advance the interests of the Institute and its Alumni. It is *doing* things and is making the university world sit up and take notice.

NEW YORK CLUB CELEBRATION

Re-opening of club house celebrated by a big dinner—Everybody happy and enthusiastic over the bright prospects for the future

The opening of the refitted and rejuvenated club house of the New York Technology Club, 17 Gramercy Park, was an event of much moment to the club and to Technology interests in general. This organization has now a national significance, for the facilities which can be offered to members include all the comforts and most of the luxuries that go to make up club life, and the house will soon become a rendezvous for Technology men from all over the country whenever they visit New York. The spirit of the New York club has ever been one of helpfulness to the Institute and its interests, and this recent exhibition of enterprise means more in this direction than can now be estimated.

The re-opening of the club house was marked by proper ceremonies, which included a banquet on Saturday, April 18. During the day, a large number of members visited the club to inspect it and to try out its new facilities.

Probably the most important change has been made in the basement, which is now devoted wholly to culinary purposes. The whole basement has been entirely refitted and remodeled. It is clean and wholesome, and is provided with every-

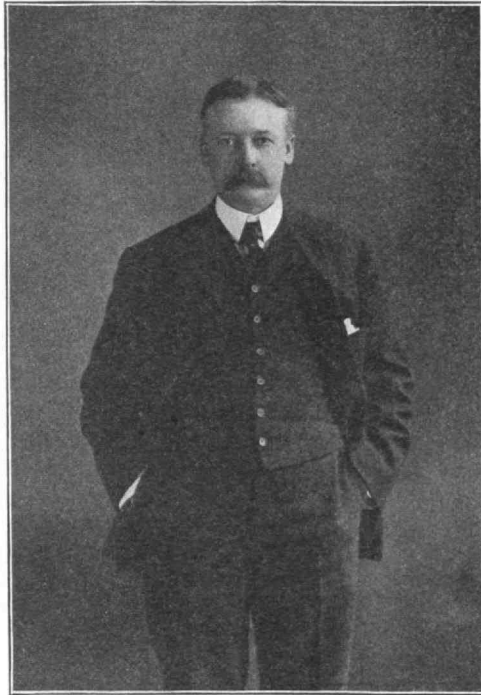
thing needed to maintain a metropolitan club. Most important of all it has very large cold rooms.

The most popular room in the house proved to be the stein room, the walls of which are laid out in rectangular panels, each space having hooks to hold a pipe and a "bowl." This room offers an opportunity for special decoration, and I. B. Hazelton, '97, one of the enthusiastic members of the club and a well-known artist of New York, has agreed to make decorations for this room. One of the features decided on is a broad, white panel at one end of the room, which will contain the "Stein Song."

In the entrance hall a mosaic floor has been laid, the desk and telephone booths being on the left under the stairs, and on the right of the hall an entrance leads to the stein room.

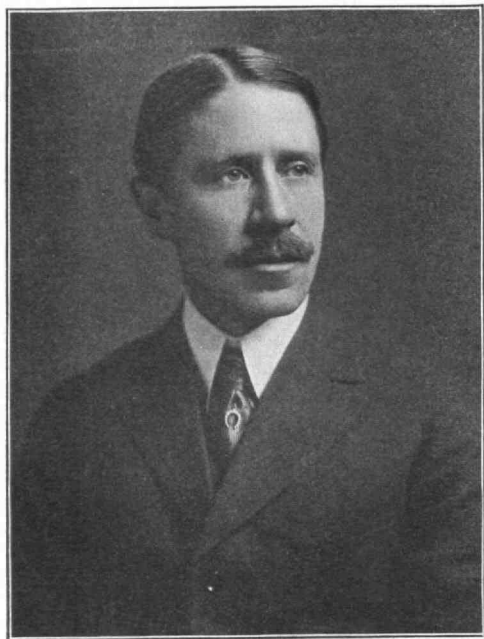
The lounge room has not been materially changed, except that it has been redecorated and a number of minor improvements have been made.

The dining room has been extended, and is now a large and commodious place. Just off the dining room and back of the stein room is an ample serving room con-



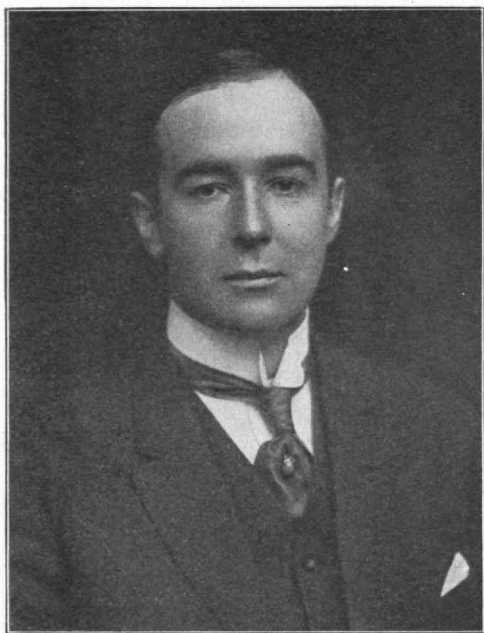
WALTER LARGE, '79

President Technology Club of New York



OSWALD HERING, '97

Who designed the interior arrangements of the club



R. H. HOWES, '03

Who did the construction work

nected with the kitchen below by a safety dumb-waiter and a stairway.

There was ample space for moving the open-air pavilion used as a summer dining room, back from the house to accommodate the extension to the dining room.

On the second floor all of the rooms have been redecorated. The billiard room has been enlarged and both pool tables placed in it. The smaller room which was used as a pool room has been made into a very comfortable card room.

The third floor has been entirely changed, and a new modern bathroom installed. On this floor there are now accommodations for seven guests.

The top floor, which is designed for the accommodation of men who live regularly at the club, has been ingeniously contrived to give the greatest amount of accommodation as well as comfort. There are six sleeping rooms on this floor, all opening from a comfortable lounge room. Here a new, modern bathroom has also been constructed.

All the fittings are of a substantial and practical sort, and the decorations and ar-

rangements are of such a character that the whole place is most home-like and attractive.

The dinner which commemorated the opening of the refitted house, was held Saturday night in the large dining room, about eighty guests being present.

The appreciation of the club was shown by the presentation of two commemorative cups to the men who were chiefly responsible for the actual work on the refitted club house: Oswald C. Hering, '97, and R. H. Howes, '03. The cups were presented in a short speech by Ben Hurd, '96, of the board of governors, former president of the Technology Club of New York.

Walter Large, '79, the new president, presided. Before introducing the speakers, President Large warned them that the speeches were to be limited to five minutes each. Lester Gardner, '98, had been appointed signal man, and was instructed to show a warning light just before the expiration of the time and a green light when the time was up. As a matter of fact Gardner possessed a whole