



NEW INSTITUTE BUILDING NO. 8, LOOKING NORTH
Photograph taken March 12, 1915

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BUILDING OF WALKER MEMORIAL URGED

Lively discussion of the whole matter at the last Council meeting—Question of financing principal topic

The last meeting of the Alumni Council, held March 29, was again devoted to the matter of facilities for students on the new site, and the earnestness with which the matter was discussed was good evidence of the intention of the Alumni Council to do its part in furthering the Walker Memorial and the dormitories.

Jasper Whiting, '89, the salad orator, described in an amusing way how he negotiated with a Buddhist priest for a rare image of Buddha by virtue of his knowledge of the theory of probabilities.

Field Manager Litchfield, '85, reported that A. F. Bemis, '93, had visited the Technology associations at Indianapolis and St. Louis; Professor Gill, '84, had been the guest of the Detroit association; Messrs. Fisher, '05, and Litchfield, '85, had met with the Manchester club, and Henry A. Morss, '93, had addressed the Milwaukee club. He also spoke of the new enterprise of the Technology Club of Albany in giving a course of lectures in coöperation with the State Board of Education. Future meetings are to be held in Detroit, where Dr. MacLaurin will be the guest April 17. Messrs. Stevens, '68, Horn, '88, and Litchfield, '85, will visit Springfield and Hartford, and Professor Barton, '80, is to meet with the Technology Club of Hawaii; Howes, '03, is to speak to the Tech men at Youngstown, and at Syracuse later on in the season, and Emerson, '04, is to address Tech men at Atlanta, New Orleans, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Los Angeles on his way to the Coast; and on his return trip he will go north, visiting the various associations. Announcement was made of the special monthly dinners and registration arrangements of the Technology Club of

Northern California at San Francisco and of the hospitality committee at Seattle.

George B. Glidden, '93, made a report for the committee on assemblies saying that the committee had not planned to have any special celebration on the occasion of Tech night at the Pops this year. Some of the members expressed themselves as preferring a stuntless celebration; others thought that as this was the occasion when the graduates were welcomed to the Alumni Association, something should be made of it each year. By vote of the Council it was decided to have a special program.

The real business of the meeting was then brought forth by President Horn, who introduced Professor Tyler, chairman of the Walker Memorial Committee, with the request that he give a connected account of the Walker Memorial from the very beginning.

HISTORY OF THE WALKER MEMORIAL

Professor Tyler said that General Walker died in January, 1897. During the year the question of a suitable memorial to express the high regard and affection in which he was held by alumni was discussed at a meeting of the Class Secretaries Association, then recently formed, and this led to the appointment of a preliminary committee which reported at the next annual meeting of the Alumni Association, recommending that the alumni undertake to raise a fund of \$100,000 for a Walker Memorial Gymnasium. The following votes of the Alumni Association and the Corporation give the status of the Walker Memorial Committee:

December 30, 1899. *Voted*, "That the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association appoint a Walker Memorial Committee of nine members, which shall undertake by a subscription, the collection of a Walker Memorial Gymnasium Fund, to be applied by future agreement with the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology toward the cost of erecting and equipping a gymnasium as soon as may, in the judgment of the Corporation, be practicable."

December 29, 1899. *Voted*, That the Walker Memorial Gymnasium Committee be authorized to confer with the Corporation of the Institute, in behalf of the association, in regard to the purchase of suitable land for the gymnasium.

Voted, That it is the sense of the association that the Walker Memorial Gymnasium should include, if possible, provision for other social objects, with a view to the promotion among the students generally, of a closer attachment for each other and for the Institute.

VOTES OF THE CORPORATION

December 26, 1900. *Resolved*, That the President is authorized to state to the alumni that the Executive Committee will recommend that the Corporation set aside 10,000 square feet of the land on Trinity Place, corner of Stanhope street, or, if preferred, 48,000 feet on Garrison street, for a site for the Walker Memorial Building, on condition that \$100,000 is subscribed by July 1, 1901, for the erection of the building. The Executive Committee will also provide a suitable man to conduct a department of physical culture.

Resolved, That the Faculty of the Institute be requested to confer with representatives of the alumni and to submit to the Executive Committee a plan for the Walker Memorial building and for its use.

VOTES OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

December 26, 1900. *Voted*, That the Executive Committee be requested to tender the thanks of the association to the Corporation and Faculty of the Institute, for the provisional assignment of land and assurance of coöperation.

Voted, That the Walker Memorial Committee be authorized to represent the Alumni Association in conference with the Faculty as to the plan for the Walker Memorial Building and for its use, in pursuance of the vote of the Corporation.

Voted, That the Executive Committee be requested to authorize the transfer of funds collected by the Walker Memorial Committee to the Treasurer of the Institute, to be applied towards the erection of the Walker Memorial Gymnasium, whenever the plans of the Corporation and Faculty for the character and organization of the same shall have been accepted by the Walker Memorial Committee.

"I think it very doubtful" said Dr. Tyler, "if any member of the committee dared to be confident of the success of this ambitious undertaking, as the largest efforts the alumni had made, up to that time, had been the raising of the Rogers' Scholarship Fund of \$5,000 (subsequently increased to \$10,000). The first appeal for funds was issued in May, 1899. At the alumni meeting in December the committee presented its first report, announcing 230 subscriptions, aggregating \$21,000. In view of increasing interest in social activities and welfare of students—an interest which President Pritchett, who had recently come to the Institute, strongly represented—it was voted at this time to be the sense of the association that the Walker Memorial Gymnasium should include, if possible, provision for other social objects, with a view to the promotion among the students generally of a closer attachment for each other and for the Institute. So far as I am aware, all subsequent subscriptions to the first \$21,000, and many of the instalments of that amount have been paid on this basis. The Corporation had voted to make provision for the conducting of a department of physical culture in connection with the proposed gymnasium.

"During the following year President Pritchett, in meeting alumni, presented the completion of the subscription as an urgent need, so that on June 4, 1901, a heavy broadside of telegrams and urgent messages brought us to \$93,000. The class of 1901, at its final meeting, subscribed \$5,000, and before the day was over the balance was secured.

"In November, 1901, a circular was issued by Colonel Livermore, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer and Dr. Pritchett—as a committee of the Corporation—inviting further contributions from outside sources towards a second hundred thousand for the completion of the Memorial for the threefold purpose of a social center for the student life, a place for physical instruction, and a gymnasium. The circular continued, after speaking of the need of physical education, 'The building is to serve, however, a still more important purpose, namely, that of a social center for student life and a place where students may come in contact with each other and with the alumni and members of the instructing staff. No other agency which can be set in motion will contribute so much towards the cultivation of students as men. . . . It is most desirable that this effort of the alumni be met half way by the friends of the Institute and the furtherance of this action be not long delayed. No other help could be offered to the Institute at this time which would contribute to the needs of the student life in so large a measure, or which would be so thoroughly appreciated by the alumni.'

"In December, 1901, there were reported 1809 subscriptions, amounting to more than \$101,000, and \$35,000 pledged towards the supplementary fund.

"In 1902, 10,000 square feet of land at the corner of Stanhope street and Trinity place was assigned to the Walker Memorial and plans were prepared by Professor E. B. Homer, of the architectural department, for a building of five floors. Soon after however, considerable uncertainty developed in regard to the future location of the Institute, and these plans were fortunately not carried out.

"The question of the future location remained open until the purchase of the Esplanade site, two years ago, and during all this interval it seemed impossible for anything whatever to be done in regard to the Walker Memorial, successive reports of the committee being confined mainly to statements of accumulated interest.

"President Maclaurin was keenly interested in the possibilities of the memorial, and in March, 1912, at the request of the Walker Memorial Committee, he appointed a special committee of five, including two members of the original Walker Memorial Committee, to work out a program of what the Walker Memorial ought to be. This committee, I may be pardoned for saying, did a very substantial amount of work, holding many meetings and conferences with different groups of people, alumni, instructing staff and undergraduates. Its members visited student unions at other institutions, and employed a traveling delegate. The results of the labors of this committee were presented to the Alumni Council in the spring of 1913, and published in the *TECHNOLOGY REVIEW* for June following.

"The essential features of the comprehensive recommendations of this committee may be summarized as follows:

"The Walker Memorial should be convenient of access, architecturally dignified, and located with reference to permanent use.

"It should be large enough to provide for a student body of 2,000, but not so large as to lose the attractiveness of intimacy.

"It should be primarily a social club for undergraduates, with incidental provision for Faculty and alumni, whose contact with the undergraduates would be valuable.

"It should not include the general dining hall or the general gymnasium, because these features, if adequately provided for, would interfere with the unity of purpose of the memorial and with its proper proportions. There should, however, be such a restaurant provision and such gymnasium facilities as would naturally go with a student club house—what one might call a gymnasium for recreation as distinguished from a gymnasium for physical culture and athletic organizations. It should also contain offices for numerous undergraduate activities, and a hall for dramatics and social gatherings.

"Membership should be compulsory, and the memorial, as a whole, approximately self-supporting."

Professor Tyler also spoke of the Cilley bequest which came to the Institute in 1905, yielding \$60,000 to the Institute, the income of which is to be used for furnishings and works of art for the Walker Memorial. The speaker went on to say that the matter of the Walker Memorial had remained dormant for ten years.

Since making the report in 1913, the committee had looked forward to its erection just as soon as land across the river was occupied. The memorial should be begun in ample time for occupancy in 1916. This memorial, undertaken in 1899, has been so much delayed as to have lost much of its original significance. There were 2,500 subscribers to the fund. Since that time 3,000 men have been graduated.

Professor Tyler said that he had certain ideas which he hoped would commend themselves to the Council. He would present them not as formal recommendations, but simply for the consideration of the audience. They would, he was sure, be approved by the Walker Memorial Committee. First, we should know the funds available; second, the size and cost of the buildings; third, the place to be allotted; and fourth, whether or not the Walker Memorial is to include the gymnasium and lunch room.

In speaking of the funds actually available to the committee, he said that on January 1, the Walker Memorial Fund amounted to \$151,000. The interest for this year would increase it by \$6,000. There were unpaid subscriptions from alumni amounting to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars, some of which would be collectable when the plans were ready. He had no information as to the subscriptions amounting to \$35,000, which were secured by the Corporation. Dr. Tyler thought there would be no serious difficulty in making the total fund \$200,000 with acceptable plans in hand. In reply to a question he said the Walker Memorial was to be substantially self-supporting.

ARCHITECT'S PLANS SHOWN

H. E. Kebbon, '12, was then called upon and spoke of the plans made by the architect for the proposed dormitories. Slides showing the dormitories of other institutions were presented, also the suggested room plans made by the Bemis committee in 1913. He then showed a plan indicating a new layout of the dormitories and gymnasium, which, it was explained, was merely a tentative one for purposes of discussion. The Walker Memorial is kept on the main axis of the student group of buildings, and the dormitories have been restudied in order to obtain courts opening toward the river as well as interior quadrangles. These were shown on each side of the Walker Memorial, and were connected with that building and each other by colonnades. The dormitories in front flank-

ing the Walker Memorial, will be built first so that the group along the water front will be complete from one end of the site to the other. The speaker then exhibited a slide showing a suggested dormitory unit with fresh air sleeping rooms, dressing rooms and studies; both suites and single rooms were provided. This unit is intended to accommodate 57 men, and its cost would be \$2,160 per student, allowing a building cost of 35 cents per cubic foot. It was decided, however, that 80 students must be accommodated in each of these units instead of 57, in order to come within the maximum to be expended per student. This, the speaker thought could be done by rearranging the interior.

Architect Bosworth, said that they had left as much space about the student buildings as possible; that is to say, the maximum amount of ground for the size of the dormitories. The drawings which he showed as lantern slides were merely tentative studies, but indicated some of the things that it is desired to accomplish. The student buildings should bear a family resemblance to the main educational group, and the Walker Memorial should dominate the student buildings. He suggested using the roofs for recreation and even for sleeping purposes. Pergolas were suggested on the roofs of the buildings, as they harmonize with the classical style of the architecture, and also soften the otherwise severe lines. Along the front of the memorial and connecting it with the student group would be a little colonnade. His conception of the Walker Memorial would carry a monumental note over to the student side from the larger educational group. The plan for the dormitories shown gave a very high average of sunshine for the whole group.

DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION

The discussion which followed was marked by absolute freedom and perfect frankness.

James W. Rollins, '78, said that the report of the Walker Memorial Committee recommended that more money be secured from the alumni. He had in his hand literature issued in connection with the raising of the Alumni Fund in 1912. He referred to a paragraph from the circular letter signed by President Maclaurin and dated March 20, 1912, as follows: "The Walker Memorial has commended itself to the generosity of the alumni for years, and a considerable sum has been subscribed for its erection. Much

more, however, is needed to make this building a worthy memorial of the great President and the great humanist in whose honor it is to be built. It should comprise a complete equipment for social activities amongst our students, and it should contain, or be closely associated with, a gymnasium that is the best that can be devised for our special needs." The Alumni Association had appointed a committee to raise what is known as the Alumni Fund. On April 9, 1912, this committee sent out a circular asking for subscriptions, and on the basis of this appeal about \$500,000 was pledged. Mr. Rollins quoted a paragraph from this circular as follows: "It therefore remains for the alumni to provide for the equipment of the buildings, for laying out the grounds, for dormitories, for adequate facilities for athletics and for an enlarged Walker Memorial, including the gymnasium and a complete social center. Such a memorial will cost much more than the \$133,000 now on hand for this purpose." The circular was signed by the Fund Committee, consisting of Everett Morss, '85, chairman, James W. Rollins, '78, Edwin S. Webster, '88, Arthur T. Bradlee, '88, Frederic H. Fay, '93, and I. W. Litchfield, '85, secretary. This appeal was duly authorized, and definitely stated that part of the Fund was to be used for the Walker Memorial. The speaker said that he thought that as a matter of good faith, the Corporation should devote a fair proportion of the fund for this building. If this is not done he believed that any further appeal to the alumni for money would meet with but slight response. As a member of the Alumni Fund committee he believed that some part of the fund should be used for building the Walker Memorial.

Everett Morss, '85, stated that the circular referred to what the money was to be used for, but did not state how much was needed for the several desirable things mentioned. The list started out with the equipment and the laying out of the grounds, the dormitories coming next. He said that he would stand by the circular, but we couldn't do it all for a ten dollar bill. He thought that we had collected about \$250,000 so far on Alumni Fund pledges. If it costs \$500,000 for equipment and \$1,500 for laying out the grounds, the Alumni Fund money wouldn't go very far. He said that a number of persons who read the Alumni Fund circular referred to it as a "hazy dream." Even now it was not clear in his mind exactly what we ought to do. He believed that when we had something more than a hazy dream, we could go to the alumni

and get further support. Today we have nothing more definite to offer. He thought this was a bad time to bring the matter up in view of the disturbances here and abroad.

Professor W. K. Lewis, '05, asked Dr. Tyler to give the features of the Walker Memorial which he had mentioned in his report. In response to this question Dr. Tyler gave the following figures:

The figures indicate square feet. Living room, 3,500 (about half of it two stories); library, reading and writing room, 3,000; faculty and alumni, 3,000; billiards, games, etc., 3,500; grill and dining rooms, 2,800; kitchen, pantry, etc., 1,500; gymnasium, 3,000; bowling, 3,100; shooting galleries, 800; lavatory, 700; auditorium, 3,500 (two stories); student offices, 5,800; study and committee rooms, 2,000; sleeping rooms, 1,800; miscellaneous, 1,500. Dr. Tyler said that the committee would be glad to consider increasing the gymnasium from 3,000 to 5,000 square feet, postponing the building of the auditorium, and questioning the space given to billiards and games, bowling, shooting galleries and sleeping rooms.

Dr. Lewis made a motion that the recommendations of Dr. Tyler be accepted as the sense of the Council. This, however, was not seconded.

James P. Munroe, '82, said that Mr. Morss had referred to the matter as a "hazy dream." This undoubtedly was true, but it cannot be much longer. We have but about a year and a half to work in. The essentials in the order of their importance are: Lunch room, gymnasium, dormitories, Walker Memorial. The Alumni Association must quickly decide what part it is going to take in erecting these buildings. In his opinion, the Corporation was bound to provide the gymnasium and lunch room. Where they are to get the money to do it he did not know, but it must be done. As chairman of the committee on dormitories, he hoped that at the next meeting of the Council a plan would be submitted that would relieve the alumni of any burden from this quarter. There, therefore, remained for us to put our energies into planning and completing the Walker Memorial. The \$160,000 or \$170,000 on hand was not at all adequate. He believed with Mr. Rollins that the Corporation should appropriate a definite sum from the Alumni Fund for this purpose. He thought that we might then go to the alumni for more money to properly complete the memorial.

Jasper Whiting, '89, stated that in his mind the Walker Mem-