

The Class of 1914

On a certain morning in the first days of September, in the year 1910, the residents in the neighborhood of Armour Institute of Technology, in the bustling city of Chicago, awoke to the realization that something was happening. The college, which had lain dormant during most of the summer, had assumed an air of alert activity. Steady streams of youths flowed in from the four directions to swell the current that already filled the halls of the main building. The throng as a whole, was cheerful and joyous, and many were the recognitions and hearty greetings—except for the newcomers. These massed together and stolidly followed directions, dodging as well as possible the earnest exhorters who assured them that their future happiness demanded immediate subscription to the Fulcrum, and Engineer, and Y. M. C. A.—much as freshmen had massed together and dodged such exhorters on every registration day from the founding of the college.

Diverse and many were the countries and states represented in the ensemble of those here drawn together for the first time. Future leaders were lost in the general shuffle of uncertain humanity, and future bosom friends passed without recognition.

A certain element among these unfamed freshmen were marked as being more at ease than their companions. These were the men from the last class of the Armour Scientific Academy, entering the college with the class of 1914. A few weeks later, when the announcement that the freshmen would meet and organize had brought over two hundred men to historic Science Hall, it was one of these, capable John Aberly, who was chosen as leader.

But many of the deeds of '14 have been the themes of other tales. How the skillful athletes quickly discovered themselves and, in feats of collective and individual prowess, won for the freshmen the baseball and basketball titles, and procured many berths on the Tech teams has been worthily recited. Permanence has been given too, to the brilliance of the social achievements throughout the years of '14's existence.

The archives of A. I. T. contain abundant evidence of '14's quick development of marked progressiveness. As individuals and as a whole the men of '14 have always showed a tendency to carry through movements intended to better the undergraduate life of the college. The perseverance that accomplished the reinstatement of track as a college sport, after two years of endeavor, is not easily forgotten. The Armour Rooters' Association, an organization that has already justified its existence, must credit its origin to '14's determination. And which Armour man cannot tell the tale of '14's foresighted establishment of a "year book fund," in the freshman year, that put strength into the fight for the re-establishment of the college annual, and resulted in the birth of the CYCLE? And now we may complete