

Freshmen Class History

It was a clear September morning; to be exact, it was Tuesday, September the eighth, nineteen fourteen, when the sleepy inhabitants of the neighborhood were reminded by the stream of youths who passed their doors that this was the day set for the commencement of another year's college work at Armour. It was on this memorable day the Freshmen of the "Class of '18" enrolled, and prepared for four years of activity here as a preliminary to their becoming shining lights in the engineering world.

The boys settled down to work very quickly, and after two weeks had passed we were ready to organize. Accordingly, we did not wait for an upper class to start us, as did the classes before us, but Nothelfer, one of our own number, arranged for the meeting. On September twenty-second the class of '18 came together for the first time, and elected for its officers; Beaumont, President; Bretting, Vice-President; Evans, Secretary, and Royce, Treasurer. Committees were appointed at once; the class colors, purple and gold, were selected at the meeting the following week; and class affairs were shortly well under way.

A few days later we were privileged to hear the opening address of the school year by President Gunsaulus. He warned us of the ease with which we might become a successful failure, and told us so forcibly of the tendencies which lead to that result that only the most heedless can drift in the wrong direction.

The first social event was the Y. M. C. A. Handshake, at which the Armourites were well entertained. All the privileges of the Hyde Park Department, the scene of the handshake, were extended, and we Freshmen could not help but feel at home.

Soon after this, a self-appointed committee of Freshman Decorators executed their first job, and it was a masterpiece. (Ask any Soph.) Even such an authority as Professor Reid declared the lettering on the girder to be perfect, and offered a grade of "A" to the artist, but the latter, it seems, was too bashful to claim his reward. Wilson, of the Social Committee, called his band together, and they decided that the Freshmen would keep the social ball rolling. Arrangements were accordingly made for the Freshman Mixer, the first dance of the year, which was held at the Oakland Music Hall on November sixth. The purpose of the dance was to bring the Freshmen into closer contact with each other, and in this it was decidedly successful. There were many rumors afloat as to what some mysterious individuals would do on this occasion, and although these individuals were seen in the streets surrounding the hall, and one was so careless as to be caught in the act of smuggling in a hydrogen sulphide generator in his vest pocket, affairs went off as per schedule with no interruptions.

The Freshman Smoker was staged next, and here, too, there was an abundance of rumors as to what a certain clan would do; but now, as before, these came to naught. The Soph(ists), even Dr. Scherger has no use for them, behaved very nicely; their only misdemeanor was the kidnapping episode.

The Freshmen showed themselves to be the coming Regular Armour Men by their turnout for Tech Night. Nearly all of the Freshmen were there to enjoy the good program that was offered, and we helped add to it with the Armour cheers.

We are in good practice with those yells, too, ready for the spring athletic work. Our Freshmen athletes are only just beginning to come to the front. Our boys let the baseball and track laurels slip away before they began to show their worth. In basketball we trimmed the Sophs, and played the final with the Juniors, who supply three members of the regular team. Although we have two stars in Sandroff and Cooper, and other good material, the Juniors managed to annex the inter-class title. The two men mentioned, however, are working with the varsity, and they never fail to make a good showing.