

MILITARY



Many references have been made throughout the pages of this book concerning the many changes brought about in the regular school activities, whether scholastic, athletic or social, due to war-time necessities. A consideration of the various developments of the war has no doubt brought very forcibly to our attention the countless engineering feats produced, many of which seemed to border on the impossible, but a short time ago. Since we must admit that the outcome of the struggle shall depend to a great extent upon the engineering genius presented by either side, it is needless to say that A. I. T. has more than a passing interest in present day affairs. Throughout its history "Armour" has sought to place "first things first," and to this end the curriculum of former years has always been filled with technical subjects sufficient to keep our boys "out of mischief". The meager supply of athletics and "social engineering" were side lines indulged in by relatively few in a relatively small percentage of time (after working hours).

The summer of 1917 brought a somewhat different point of view to school officials, faculty and student body alike. The country was at war. It needed men. It needed young men. It needed healthy, strong, lively intelligent men, and perhaps most of all it needed engineers. On Thirty-third and Federal Streets, Chicago, is located an Institution, which is operated for the express purpose of turning out just this sort of material. Now a diamond, though ever so costly, will fail to fulfill its proper function unless properly cut and polished to fit its setting, and likewise our boys though they might stand in first rank as engineering students, required the rudiments of military discipline, etc. to make them of value to that cause to which they were willingly devoted. Consequently in the Spring of 1917 it was agreed by officials and student body to temporarily abandon athletics and devote as much time as possible to military drill. Lieutenant Bolte, an Armour graduate of 1915, called "tension" to the first squad of recruits that presented itself at Ogden Field for drill. Hour after hour was spent in drill, first with small squads and finally with the whole school. Even the faculty came out, about 20 strong, and though it is said that at times the joints cracked and muscles ached, it was never stated that they were not "game".