

MUSICAL CLUBS



For the past five years Gordon Erickson, present conductor of the clubs, has been a member of Armour Institute's faculty. Mr. Erickson's experience as a musical director began when he was yet a youth. At the age of sixteen he became director of his church choir. By the time he was eighteen years old, he was singing the bass roles of many of the great oratorios and cantatas. He wrote "Wave the Flag for Old Chicago" when a freshman at that University. In 1921 he became director of the Sunday Evening Club choir and in that capacity toured the United States with the group. He visited Europe with his school mate, John Schommer; received further instruction in the art of conducting from Frederick Stock, conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 1933 Mr. Erickson superceded Dr. Daniel Protheroe as director of the Armour Tech Musical Clubs.

The clubs this year are the largest they have ever been. The orchestra alone boasts forty-four members, which includes eight wood-winds, fourteen brass, two percussion, seventeen strings, two accordions and piano. The glee club membership has increased this year to a total of seventy-five—fourteen first tenors, twenty-one second tenors, twenty-four baritones, and sixteen basses.

The soloists of any musical organization always lend color and variety to programs—a necessary prerequisite for the success of the organization. And

so it is with the Armour Tech Musical Clubs. Their soloists deserve much credit for the splendid meritorious work they have accomplished during the past school year. . . . In the glee club the honors were shared by Richard Vandekieft and Thomas Yeakle, Jr., both of the class of '39, who were soloists in the first tenor and bass sections, respectively. They sang solo numbers both with and without glee club backgrounds and were heartily received at all concerts. A quartet was also developed for the Goodman Theatre Concert which included the following singers: R. Vandekieft, first tenor; R. Conger, second tenor; H. Bodnar, baritone, and R. Winblad, bass. . . . In the orchestra, the senior soloist was Adolph Rune, first violinist and concert meister. George Danforth, '40, captivated every audience before whom the clubs performed with his dazzling piano arrangements of both classical and popular selections. Peter Woods, a third-year cooperative student, received much praise for his beautiful oboe solos with orchestral accompaniment. Two members of the class of '41 broke loose to take prominent positions along with the above mentioned soloists. These men were Harold Doolittle, trumpet, and Elmer Ratzel, tuba and bass viol. Both proved to be not far from sensational in their concert appearances this year. Much will be expected from them in future years.

Armour Tech Musical Clubs Present Their Annual Concert
at the Goodman Theatre

