The Chemical (Quantitative) Library is kept in excellent condition. It has about 250 volumes, besides many of Prof. Wing's books. In this library many good books are to be found, such as "Fresenius's Zeitschrift," "Chemical News," "Annalen der Chemie," etc. In the Architectural Department there are 400 standard works. The department has also about 3,000 beautiful and valuable photographs, engravings, etc. For the mechanicals, there are 275 volumes owned by the Institute, and 400 belonging to Prof. Whitaker. Drawings, etc., they have almost without number. In the Geological Department there are about 175 volumes, some of which are included in the "Rogers Library." In this library are to be found sixteen volumes of the "Geology and Natural History of New York," many State surveys, and a goodly number of United States surveys by Hayden, Wheeler, King, and many other eminent geologists. The Mining Department has, we regret to say, no representative library; but many good books on metallurgy, etc., are to be had at any time.

We understand that Gen. Walker, our new president, has sent here several hundred volumes, some of which he intends to donate to the school. In conclusion, we would say that there are in the building, for students' use, about 5,000 volumes.

In our last issue a correspondent, in giving a description of Messrs. Kendall & Roberts's boiler shops, has been, perhaps, unnecessarily critical. The mechanical engineers were invited, as students of the Institute, to visit the works, and gain, by observation and questions, as much information as possible on boiler construction. The proprietors were kind enough to give them the opportunity, which others do not have, of examining the operations in detail and even to interrupt the work of the men by questions which were always pleasantly answered. While we do not doubt our correspondent relates facts as he saw them, we think it would have been more courteous to have passed over these minor detractions and have described instead some of the first-class work of the shops. For instance, the use of sharp punches, a matter often neglected elsewhere to the great detriment of the plates; also the great care in fitting the plates by accurately spacing the rivet-holes and thus avoiding the reckless use of the drift. Messers. Kendall & Roberts are a firm whose reputation for good work and good material has been long established, and the mechanical engineers should consider themselves fortunate in having been able to visit their works.

Contributions.

The Importance of a Liberal Education.

PROF. WILLIAM R. WARE, in a paper read before the Worcester Free Institute of Technology, clearly puts the distinction between the aims and objects of industrial schools on the one hand and classical colleges on the other. The primary object of an industrial school is to give the student such knowledge as will enable him to earn his own living early in life. A classical college, however, aims more exclusively to the abstract development of the mind, fitting a man to take the higher positions in the various walks of life, while the matter of dollars and cents knowledge is with him of secondary importance, as that is left for the professional schools after graduation.

The technical school takes neither one extreme position nor the other, but one between the two. It endeavors to give a course of training that will enable a student to gain a livelihood moderately early in life, and at the same time give him a more or less liberal education. This seems to define, with more or less accuracy, the position taken by our Institute.

As scientific students, the tendency with us is to attach too little importance to studies which do not bear directly upon our professional work. In doing so we make a great mistake. In order to take the higher positions, we must have enlightened ideas and broad views. It is not