SOME time ago we gave some figures in regard to the libraries of the Institute. We desire in this connection to call attention to the fact that the Boston Public Library, with more than 400,000 volumes, is open to all members of the school, whether residents of the city or not. This is an advantage which, well used, will more than counterbalance the small size of our own libraries.

As this is the time when many of the students are making resolutions about their second term work, it may be fitting for us to propose a fit subject for consideration and resolve. It is the subject of Sunday work. We will not attempt to discuss the question from either of its several points of view; but we ask all to consider the matter and to decide for themselves, from the standpoint of economy of strength, whether it is expedient for them to deny themselves a day of rest one day in seven.

We are glad to hear of the proposed excursion of the mechanicals. Such trips may always be made instructive. Nothing can be more beneficial to a young mechanical engineer than a knowledge of the different mechanical processes of the arts. Isolated from a knowledge of practice, mere study of theory is useless. The action of the mechanicals in organizing a vacation excursion is to be commended. The Worcester Institute of Technology, the Sheffield Scientific School, and twenty manufacturing establishments or other places of interest are to be visited. Those who go will have an opportunity of visiting establishments nominally closed to the public. It is understood that all the proprietors yet heard from have signified their entire willingness to receive the party. The excursion is in the hands of the well-known Raymond, and will be accompanied by one of his agents. We wish mechanicals a good time.

Prof. Huxley, in his discourse given at the York meeting of the British Association, on "The Rise and Progress of Palæontology,"* sums up as follows:—

"The whole fabric of palæontology is based upon two propositions: the first is, that fossils are the remains of animals and plants; and the second is, that the stratified rocks in which they are found are sedimentary deposits: and each

* See Popular Science Monthly.