Mining and Chemistry.

Among the exchanges of The Tech are the Engineering and Mining Journal, the Mining Record, the Mining Review, and the Mining Gazette of Cañon, Colorado.

Extensive deposits of petroleum are said to exist in Venezuela. The oil is of good quality, and in many places reaches the surface; making wells unnecessary.

The work of excavation is still steadily going on at Hell Gate. An area of about five acres is already covered by the excavations, and the field of the next explosion is expected to be about nine acres. It will take about two years to complete the preparations for this final explosion.

In the year 1881 the mines of Colorado sent to New York nearly $20,000,000 in bullion.

Tests made with the Duryea revolving blowpipe furnace show excellent results in producing iron and steel directly from the ores. It is claimed that with this furnace the best grades of iron and steel can be produced at as low a cost as pig-iron with the blast furnace. The flux used is composed of feldspar and potash, mixed with common salt.

Comstock quotations are still falling.

The Arizona Star gives an interesting account of mining as carried on in former times by the Aztecs. Notched logs were used for ascending and descending the shafts, these logs being from twenty to thirty feet long, extending from level to level. The ore was carried in rawhide bags holding about half a bushel, which were rested on the back, being held in position by means of straps passing across the forehead. Water was carried out in the same way as the ore, in the rawhide bags. The ore was removed by building fires against the rock, and dislodging the calcined portions by stone hammers. The melting of the ore was effected with charcoal and bellows.

Prof. Ware was in the building last week.

Sporting Notes.

At a meeting of the Athletic Club, Jan. 5, a committee was appointed to revise several objectionable features in the constitution.

In the Union's games on the 26th, the Institute will probably be represented by two tug-of-war teams,—one military, from the Cadet corps, and one of six hundred pounds limit from men at large; two men in the seventy-five-yard dash, and one in the pole vaulting.

We understand that considerable doubt has been expressed as to the fairness of the hitch and kick in our last games. Mr. Ferris, U. A. C., who acted as judge, made no objection at the time; and certainly the method of hitting the pan was the same as the so-called hitch and kick practised by Boston athletes, although it is our impression that the rules of the N. A. A. A. prescribe a different way.

At the last meeting of the Athletic Club, it was decided that the executive committee should consist of the president and secretary of the club, and four other members, one from each class. The president and secretary of the club are to act respectively as chairman and secretary of the committee.

The tug-of-war team (under six hundred pounds) is composed of Haines, '84, captain; Hillyer, Sp., '84, anchor; Harriman, '83, and McFerren, '85. All these men have been doing good work under the training of Mr. Burris. Since beginning work they have reduced their aggregate weight from six hundred and twelve to five hundred and ninety-five pounds, and will do no more running if their weight remains below the limit.

Means, Sp. '82, has been under training for the seventy-five-yard dash.

A notice is to be posted, soon after the semiannual vacation, requesting all wishing to try for position on the ball nine to hand in their name and position to the secretary of the M. I. T. A. C. It is hoped that considerable interest will be shown in the nine this year.