We recently heard a clergyman, who is also quite well known as an author, describe the following series of remarkable transformations: “These waves of emotion sweep over the soul, and then roll onward into the dim future, where they are changed to light and crystallized.” Crystallized light is something of a novelty in physics.

The Fairbanks testing machine, described in a former issue of the Tech, has been refitted with a lever of equal arms for the testing of floor beams. The series of experiments which the Seniors, under the direction of Prof. Lanza, intend to perform this coming term is almost the first ever made on large specimens, and should be of great importance to all.

Exchanges.

The Amherst Student, in its last issue, begins a new régime in the treatment of its exchange columns, and will not continue the usual notices and short reviews of other papers. It says: “Why college papers should regularly devote a page or so to dealing out taffy that is often unmerited, or censure perhaps equally undeserved, to other members of the college press, is a matter we never thoroughly understood.” And for a time at least its intention is to make “this part of our publication a sort of Foreign Department, where the chief news from other colleges shall be as systematically given as are the events of our own in the local and editorial columns.” The Student’s idea is a good one, if the sole aim in conducting an exchange column is the benefit of the general readers of the paper; but if, as is usual, this department is regarded as of special interest to those outside the immediate confines of the college, and is conducted rather as a means of communication for the college press, its omission may be found to be a serious loss.

We acknowledge that as the department is often carried on, it is little more than a series of weak laudatory notices, which could as well be written without seeing the publication.

The absurdity of this course is recognized by the majority of papers, and hit at occasionally. We remember an instance in the Herald, something as follows: “The Yale Record comes to hand, this issue fully up to its own high standard: the editorials are strong, locals interesting, its witticisms pungent, and its typographical appearance pleasing. We prophesy a great future for this delightful periodical. We have not read it yet, but shall, this evening, after dinner!”

Now and then some unwary editor, thoroughly disgusted with this milk-and-water praise, launches out into a new field, and strikes right and left, regardless of justice or mercy. This, of course, is going to the other extreme, and is as much to be deplored as the taffy diet.

The true way, it seems to us, to conduct such a department is to regard it as the opportunity given the editors to express their opinions of other members of the college press fairly, and with an eye to more than mere praise or censure. It should be regarded as a sort of mutual-improvement corner, as well as a repository for the doings and humor of other colleges. No person who has had much to do with college journalism will deny that there is opportunity for vast improvement in such papers generally, and a need of all the work that could be done in such a department. This need of more work and more time is probably the secret of the mediocrity of most college papers. Students cannot give the best part of their time to writing; such work must be done at odd moments, or in the time taken from other things. We cannot speak for other institutions; but when, as in some of our own courses, the student is required to give thirty hours a week to work in the buildings, exclusive of preparation for recitations, etc., he may well be excused if he does not care to crowd in some hours’ work on literary matter, merely for the pleasure of seeing it sneered at and pulled to pieces by some other worn-out individual, whose exertions have had a bad effect on him.

We are happy to welcome our friend from