from professional work, to the exclusion of subjects belonging to our own times and our own country. It is a significant and perhaps a humiliating fact, but nevertheless a fact, that many of our students know less of the political history of the United States than they do of that of some countries of Europe. The value to every citizen of a knowledge of his own country, and of the principles of political economy, can hardly be overestimated. A knowledge of business law, too, will be valuable to every one of our students when they, as engineers, chemists, architects, or business men, are called upon to take charge of practical enterprises. The want of instruction of this character has always been keenly felt by students of the Institute, and we may congratulate ourselves now that this want is beginning to be appreciated, and that the subjects referred to are placed in the hands of a gentleman qualified to teach them in a thorough and scientific manner.

G.

Cold Saw for Iron and Steel Rails.

Most of the rails made in the Cambria Works at Johnstown, Pa., are cut hot as they come from the rolls, as is the case in all manufactories; but small lots of special lengths are cut by means of a saw, made by Wm. Sellers & Co., of Philadelphia.

The saw is of hardened steel, and is capable of cutting through a steel rail 4" high in 1½ minutes, although the usual time is nearly 2 minutes. Following are the data concerning the saw and the engine which runs it:


Going as this saw does at an average speed of a little over 4.8 miles per minute, the metal of the rail escapes before it in a state of fusion.

W. N., '81.

M. I. T. A. C.

The in-door meeting of the Athletic Club last Saturday was attended by over five hundred people, and may be said to have been, with a few exceptions, a great success. Those exceptions, which consisted in a falling behind of the average record in two or three events, and an unavoidable delay in the carrying out of the programme, can certainly be excused by the excellence shown in the majority of the competitions, particularly the tugs of war and the pole vaulting. The order of events is as follows:


Heavy-Weight Tug of War (five minutes' time allowance). — 1st Tug: 1. Jamaica Athletic Association (H. R. Tarbell, Captain and Anchor; E. D. Palmer, I. S. Phinney, W. A. Barr), by 1 in.; 2. M. I. T. A. C. (D. Baker, Anchor; T. C. DuPont, Captain; F. H. Cutter, W. D. Fuller). In this the Jamaicas gained an inch on the drop, and neither side were able to gain any advantage during the tug.

Putting the Shot. — 1. F. O. Harriman, 29 ft. 6 in.; 2. D. A. Campbell, 28 ft. 4 in.

Heavy-Weight Tug of War. — 2d Tug: Resulted in a tie between the Jamaicas and the Institute. Tarbell, as usual, got about an inch better on the drop, and then, by some first-class sawing, got still more; but towards the last our men managed, by some frantic pulling, to make it a tie, when time was called.

Running High Kick. — 1. E. D. Dorchester, 8 ft. 5 in.; 2. J. K. Simpson, U. A. C.,