The near approach of the annual examinations renders a word about our marking system not out of place. Under the present system, the student is never given his percentages, but instead he is informed that he has passed—supposing him to be so fortunate—with "credit" or with "honor," or that he has simply "passed." No system of marking—especially no system of which infrequent written examinations are the basis—is perfect. Rarely is the American student constituted like his German confrière, who conscientiously plods along toward an examination which may be two or three years distant. It seems, however, that a slight change in our present system would considerably increase its efficacy. We understand that the students' percentages are always made out, although for some occult reason they are kept from him. It would entail no additional labor, therefore, to substitute for these general terms "honor," "credit," and the rest, the actual and definite percentages. Let it be understood that a percentage falling between certain limits shows that a man has passed with honor; between certain other limits, that he has passed with credit, etc. We shall thus retain all the advantages of the present system, and at the same time gain greater precision in marking and more satisfactory indications of rank.

WANTED.—An office boy, and to learn the shoe business; graduate of High School, or Institute Technology preferred. Apply—

One of the daily papers has recently published the above advertisement; and at this time, when so many are about to leave the Institute, it brings up subjects which deserve our attention. Every man in the Institute who has any purpose in his young life must have asked himself what course he shall pursue after graduation.

In all schools and colleges there are doubtless those who are mistaken in the course they are taking: there are men at the Institute who would do better elsewhere; there are men at other colleges who would do better at the Institute. But (perhaps from natural egotism) we have always prided ourselves that the Institute has the minimum number of mistaken men. Partly because of the reputation of the school as a place for study, and partly on account of there being few ornamental branches taught here, the Institute men, we think, are exceptionally earnest in their work, and have definite plans. We think we are not putting it too strongly when we say that an Institute education is not the best preparation for the boot and shoe business, especially when such business is to be entered from the office-boy end. Neither is the position of office boy in any business well