Department Notes.

Twenty-four regulars and sixteen specials have this year entered the course in mechanical engineering, making the largest class ever entering that department. We hope the class will be divided, as neither the drawing-room nor the shops can properly accommodate them together. The drawing-room, at present, is a near approach to the famous Black Hole of Calcutta, in point of crowding and lack of ventilation. Another instructor is required by this department, and we understand that steps have been taken to secure one for the third-year class. Prof. Whitaker has placed the entire charge of the Seniors in the hands of Mr. Hollerith, who is a graduate of the Columbia School of Mines, and has lately been employed by the Census Bureau.

The Senior Mechanical Engineers last week visited the Fair, for the purpose of making some tests with a Silver & Gay dynamometer upon the power required to run a spinning frame, under the direction of their new instructor, Mr. Hollerith, who is beginning his work in an energetic and practical way which bids fair to win for him the respect and esteem of the students.

Germany and Russia are experimenting on flying machines for war use. The principle is that of the boy's kite, an inclined plane pressed against the air, the pressure being given by an engine and rotating fans. The difficulty is the weight of engines and fuel.

The South Boston Iron Works have built for their own use two ninety-foot lathes, said to be the largest and heaviest in the world. They are designed for boring out cannon, but are adapted for any heavy work. They were cast in sections of thirty feet each. The head stocks, face plates, and bed sections each weigh ten tons.

The mining laboratories have opened with the largest class ever entered, sixteen students being at work, eleven of whom have had special subjects assigned them mainly for thesis work. Students were allowed to choose their work, and in cases of conflicting choice, lots were drawn, resulting in the following assignments: Capen, jewellers' residue smelted for gold and silver; Richards, Calumet and Hoefn sand washed for copper; Tenny, same (new process); Stebbins, Vershire copper ore; Hardon, amalgamation and chlorination of gold ore; Tompkins, blende and galena ore worked for silver; Gustin and Leonard, pig-iron smelt; Willicutt, copper residue worked for gold, silver, and lead; Morse, Colorado silver ore worked by washing; Mansfield, refuse copper products of laboratory worked for refined copper. The first two students have already begun on their ores.

The Civils already miss Julia!

Come and see the new drawing tables.

All of the Civils of '84 have come back, with the exception of last year's class president Jarvis.

The civil engineers now have two large comfortable drawing-rooms; one of them being occupied by '83 and '84, and the other by '85. The total number of students in this department is thirty-three.

The drawing board belonging to Hayes, '83, was found in the C. E. room. Shall we send it to his farm in Ohio, or bequeath it to Cornell?

The senior Civils have been given the privilege of riding free over the Boston and Albany Railroad at any time to see the engineering works on the road.

By the acquisition of the services of Mr. Burton as instructor in topographical engineering, the civil engineers are provided with a complete corps of instructors. The course when first laid out was designed to embrace both civil and topographical engineering; but until now there has been no regular instructor in the latter branch, which is constantly growing in importance.