VACATION is over, and we find the editorial pen and scissors again in requisition. Upon our table the familiar faces of many of our exchanges have already appeared, and each day brings additions to the number. To each and all we give a hearty greeting, with our best wishes for their success the coming year.

During the past year there has been considerable discussion in the columns of the college press in regard to the benefit of the usual exchange department.

Some of the best papers have suppressed the column, and declare they have no space nor inclination for bandying compliments, nor do they intend to give opportunity for personal pique or college rivalry to show itself in the denunciatory criticism so often seen in this column. The majority of college papers, on the other hand, retain the department, and claim that if rightly conducted it is always of particular interest to the editors of other papers, and usually is found interesting by the general reader.

In a former issue of our paper the sentiments of the management in regard to this matter were fully expressed, and we need only repeat our opinion that a well-conducted exchange column is an advantage to the college paper, and that it is the intention of the present editors of THE TECH to make this column as much a feature of the paper as any other department.

The Century for October contains an article by President Francis A. Walker, upon "The Growth of the United States," starting the statistics of the United States at the time of the first census ninety years ago. President Walker compares the then existing condition of the country with its condition at later periods, as shown by the census statistics at intervals of thirty years. Taking up in succession the fourth census in 1820, the seventh in 1850, and the tenth in 1880, the growth of the republic in territory, population, the arts, and in all directions tending toward the higher civilization, is clearly shown. The article is written in a manner which proves the author's entire familiarity with the subject, and it will be found of particular interest to our students, both on account of its intrinsic value and the intimate connection of President Walker with the Institute.

The first number of The Wheelman, a monthly magazine devoted to bicycling, has come to hand, in a tasteful cover on which appropriately figure Pegasus and flying wheels. The prospectus states that "The year's issue will form a book of nine hundred pages which will be virtually an encyclopedia of historical, scientific, and practical information in regard to the bicycle." So far as one can judge by the first issue, the language of the prospectus seems justified, and we recommend the magazine to all interested in bicycling. The article on "Second Wind" is particularly interesting to college athletes.

Enterprising Sunday-School Teacher,—
"Frank, have you ever been baptized?"

Frank, — "Yes, 'm, last winter; but they said it didn't take."