The first month of work is completed, and the regular order prevails in all the departments. The new arrangements are about perfected, and the students have become accustomed to the changes necessitated by the increase of numbers. It would seem a fitting time to compare the prospects of the Institute for the present year with the records of the years preceding. In such a comparison, abundant cause for satisfaction may be found by the government and all friends of the institution.

The growing popularity of its practical methods of instruction, and the increasing demand for young men who have received a thorough training for the scientific professions, are unmistakably shown by the increasing numbers in the entering classes for successive years, and the facility with which our graduates obtain responsible and remunerative positions.

The vigorous action of the authorities this year in erecting new buildings, establishing new courses, and engaging new and competent instructors, is greatly to be commended. The old buildings have proved inadequate to meet the requirements of the increased number of students; and the government, by the disposal of the land in Trinity Square, is enabled to begin the erection of a commodious building on the site of the old gymnasium. The plan includes the erection and equipment of a new gymnasium, and, it is to be hoped, better accommodations for shop work, as the present shops are greatly overcrowded.

The most important departure in the line of new courses is the establishment of a regular course in electrical engineering, of which we shall give full account in these columns hereafter. Many changes and improvements have been introduced in other courses which, with the aid of the new instructors, will prove greatly to the advantage of the students.

The total number of students at present in the Institute is 393, divided as follows: Regular students, fourth year, 22; third year, 30; second year, 64; first year, 119; special students, 105; school of mechanic arts, 53. The students of the last three years are divided in courses as follows: Course of civil engineering, 25; mechanical engineering, 37; mining, 24; architecture, 5; chemistry, 20; other courses, 5.

We regret to draw the conclusion, although it is doubtless true, that a large body of students cannot be free from authority long before a few among them commit some thoughtless action which brings discredit upon their Alma Mater. We are aware of the tendency of the press to exaggerate such disturbances: a song current at Amherst states that an unfortunate Sophomore was arrested for throwing a bean, and doubtless the local papers properly condemned student, college, and Faculty. Since, however, we cannot remedy this tendency to condemn, we should be even more mindful of