A Query.

In looking over the editorial of the last issue of THE TECH, one question which naturally presents itself is, should not the Institute own and rent dormitories to its students?

In considering this question let us look candidly at the objections which probably would be presented by the Institute and others. It is likely that the strongest objection to furnishing dormitories would be the expense of building or procuring sufficient accommodations. Would it not be money well invested? Would not the rent paid by the students afford good interest on the money invested? Is it to be supposed that other institutions in the country furnish rooms simply for the accommodation of the pupils, and do not expect to gain enough from them, not only to cover the interest of money expended, but in time to repay the capital? More than this, would not the number of students be increased? Perhaps it is not generally known with how much difficulty students can find suitable rooms at reasonable prices and at a convenient distance from the Institute. The difficulty exists, and has more or less weight with persons wishing to come to the Institute. Should this be a hindrance? Would it not be an advantage to the Institute to put it aside? The falling off of students cannot be claimed as a reason for doing nothing in this matter. On the other hand, the Institute seems to be increasing in favor and its numbers swelling year by year.

Another objection to students rooming in dormitories is, that it tends to detract the pupils from their work and to give greater opportunities for hazing. How do facts show in regard to this? Do not the colleges that have dormitories maintain as good a standing as those that have not? The matter of hazing need not be taken into account in an institution where there is so little class feeling and so much mutual confidence as there is here.

Let us look for a minute at the advantages aside from those mentioned at the beginning. The aim in founding our school paper was stated to be “to afford a means of more general intercourse among the students.” The lack of intercourse arises from the lack of dormitory life. Is this not true to a certain extent? Would it not be not only pleasanter but more profitable if the members of the same class at least could come in contact with and know each other? May we not hope that the “intercourse” among the students may be, at a time not far in the future, inter se, and not alone by means of the printed column.

H. ’86.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: We were all much interested in the TECH’s little piece to us last week. Most of us can read, but those who cannot, got somebody to read to them. Their were a few words which we didn’t know what they meant, because we have not come to them yet in Grammar, But we liked it ever so much. In the grammar class we are studying the nineteenth century. we suppose that, as the school has been going nineteen years, each class has a century. They had just enough centuries to go round — didn’t they? what will the next fresh-Men do, because there isn’t any more centuries? But no matter, perhaps somebody will invent one before they need it. We don’t think that the nineteenth century is half as much fun as Latin for in that We learned that Scipio was the first man who shaved (P. S. we don’t shave yet.) and that Hephaestus fell off the roof of the heavens And when he struck on the earth it made him lame. We here that last year a fresh-Man asked for a piece of “indignation tubing” in the laboratory and everybody laughed. We don’t see what made them laugh any more than we see why they laughed when one of us asked the man in the drawing laboratory for a peace of vanilla paper, but they All did laugh and real hard too. one day one of our fellows was putting a notice up on a door about a pen, some style of graphic pen I think, and a senior came along and told him there was a bully tin board downstairs for such things and when the fellow went down, there wasn’t any tin board there at all, but just a common wooden one.