HINKING that it would be interesting to trace the rise and progress of our Institute by comparing the numbers of students that have entered its portals and gone out therefrom in the different years since the founding of the school, we have prepared the following statistics from the only available records, which consist of a complete file of the catalogues extending from the modest thirty-six page pamphlet of 1865-6, — issued just after the Institute was started, with ten officers of instruction and twenty-seven students, — to the modern and more elaborate affair, with whose glowing descriptions of present advantages all are familiar. As to these advantages, we may mention in passing the curious fact that at first each student was entitled to more than one third of an officer of instruction; whereas now the instructors have to be divided into much smaller portions in order to go around. However, we do not mean by this to detract in any way from the advantages aforesaid. We found our statistical researches a little more difficult than we had expected; but, by carefully comparing the lists from year to year, and checking names of "specials" appearing twice, we arrived at the results expressed graphically in Fig. 1. The vertical lines here represent successive years, and the height at which the upper curve cuts any one of these lines shows the whole number of students, regular and special, who entered the Institute during that year. The height at which the lower curve cuts the same ordinate represents the number of these students who appeared four years later as graduates.

The most striking peculiarity of these curves is their irregularity, showing that the attendance has not steadily increased, but that after 1872, when the number entering reached one hundred and fifty-six, there is a marked falling off, until in 1878 only sixty students were admitted. We are inclined to attribute this falling off rather to the "hard times" that prevailed during those years than to any change in the Institute itself. Another prominent feature is the relatively small number of entering students who graduate, the difference, denoted by the distance between the two curves, being the number of specials. The large number of unfortunates who drop out of the regular courses during the four years is evidence that to obtain a degree from the Institute of Technology is not an easy matter. The total number of young men and women who have been students here is found to be two thousand and twelve; and of these three hundred and five have graduated, — or a yearly average of twenty and one third. The largest graduating class was forty-two, in 1876, and the smallest, five, in 1869. The average number of the entering class is one