Persons travelling on the snow in the Alps need take no lunch for morning excursions; there is usually a crust to sustain them.

Some time since one of the third-year Civils was heard to ask the professor if the men should use the level in the profile work soon to be done.

Mr. Smith, manager of the M. I. T. Lacrosse Club, thinks he will be obliged to resign his position, not having so much time to give to the affairs of the club, as he, this term, is taking a number of studies outside of his special branch.

Besides the great attention Mr. C., '84, is giving to the study of hydraulic engineering, he is constantly at work on his valuable invention which is soon to be patented. With so much to do it is hard for him to get the requisite amount of sleep.

The Senior Ball Committee for '83 is as follows: F. L. Smith, '84; T. W. Robinson, '84; C. B. Appleton, '84; C. R. Richards, '85; Redington Fiske, '85; J. P. Harding, '85; Chas. Wood, '86; A. T. Chase, '86; and C. F. Richardson, '86. The date has been fixed for Friday evening, May 4.

After a long delay, the fourth-year Mechanics were allowed to begin work in the machine shop. There is a general feeling that more time than it is possible to give during the last six weeks of the course could be profitably devoted to this branch of the shop instruction, which is of great practical importance to the mechanical engineer.

C. C. M. I. T.

The annual prize drill of the Cadets will be held in the large hall of the Charitable Mechanics Building, on Saturday, May 12, at 2 p. m. Dancing will follow the drill. In addition to the customary individual prizes, given by the officers, there will probably be a company prize, given by the class of '85. A committee has been appointed, and is at work making arrangements. The large hall offers good facilities for drill and dancing, and a very pleasant time is anticipated.

COLUMBIA College is to-day in an interesting and critical position. It thinks the time has come when, instead of being merely a metropolitan college, it should be expanded into the ideal, long-talked-of American University. Columbia bases her claim to this pre-eminence upon the undoubted advantages offered by New York in the way of museums, libraries, courts, and factories; and her trustees modestly ask for four million dollars to enable them to carry out their plans. Should this amount be forthcoming, they will at once endeavor to raise the college to the rank of a European university, and to offer not only what is generally understood as a "liberal education," but also that profounder instruction in special directions which it is the object of the true university to afford. It may be doubted, however, whether their efforts would be entirely successful, even if the money were at hand. The student who goes abroad for an education has in a sense all Europe for a teacher, and is developed quite as much by his surroundings as by his instruction in some special line. At best, Columbia would merely become a rival of the Johns Hopkins, which is the nearest approach to a European university that we are likely to have in America for some time to come.

The Harvard Athletic Committee will probably succeed in having Holmes Field transformed into athletic grounds worthy of the college. The plans of the committee provide for a quarter-mile track, foot and base ball grounds, and a grand stand, with dressing-rooms, baths, etc., and seating 1,500 persons. The total expense of the alterations will be between fifteen and sixteen thousand dollars. The college has advanced three thousand dollars, the students to find the remainder.