Brown engine of forty horse-power has arrived and the counter-shafting is being put up in the machine shop. In the mechanical laboratory, which occupies the place of the old first-year laboratories, an eighty horse-power Porter-Allen engine is to drive the shaft which runs through a tunnel and supplies power for the new building.

The enthusiasm of the young miner is apt to be cooled by the revelation to him of the various abilities required to make a successful engineer. But his enthusiasm, if he is a man of pluck, will only give place to a firm determination to come up to his standard, which is indeed a much better quality. Nevertheless, we do not see how a miner can help being enthusiastic over his choice, for his life among the rocks and minerals, deposited on such a grand scale by Nature, is surely an ideal one. There is nothing of the artificial about it, and the very roughness of his life only serves to quicken his sensibilities.

Most of the classes have had various opportunities for studying the geological formations and structure about Boston,—notably the very marked “dikes” of Winter Hill and West Somerville, and the amygdaloid in the Brighton District.

Some of us had the pleasure of accompanying the Appalachian Mt. Club on its excursion to the “Purgatory” near Worcester; and some very good specimens of beryl were found, much to the surprise of the people about, who had not before known of its existence there.

The need has been felt and expressed of some instruction in mining law, and in the absence of this in our regular course we shall endeavor to publish in The Tech from time to time short articles on this subject, in the hope that this may in a measure cover the ground.

The Mining Review says that the distinction between abandonment and forfeiture is one of more practical consequence than is generally supposed. It is mainly a distinction arising from the intention of the owner of the mine. If a man fails to do annual work upon the mine or land to the value of one hundred dollars, it is liable to relocation, or is “jumpable”; but the property is not forfeited until it is relocated or “jumped,” and at any time before such relocation the owner can resume work on the lode, and such resumption of work, in good faith, before another has taken advantage of the default, cures the default, and the performance of one hundred dollars’ worth of work for the year of resumption keeps alive the owner’s title, no matter how many years have elapsed prior thereto without any work having been done.

But, if the owner abandoned the lode, that is, gave it up absolutely, leaving with the intention of entire abandonment, not intending to return to and to work upon it, or claim it as his property, such abandonment operates instantly as an extinguishment of all ownership on his part and throws the lode back to the unappropriated public domains, and any one may locate on it as if it had never before been claimed.

We notice with a great deal of pleasure that one room in the new building is to be set aside as a parlor and reading-room for the young lady students at the Institute. It will be known as the Margeret Cheney Memorial Room. Miss Cheney was one of the first young ladies who passed through the Institute; since then she has died. Her mother, Mrs. Edna Cheney, wishing to do something for the Institute in memory of her daughter, has decided to fit up this room for the use of the young lady students.

A long-felt want will now be filled; hitherto, the young ladies have had but a corner in the general reading-room where they might study and write between recitations. Of late, they have been as good as crowded from that, for the reading-room is filled from morning till night with more students than chairs, and the ladies’ corner does not seem to be recognized as such at all. Mrs. Cheney’s kindness could not have taken a more appropriate form, and it will be heartily appreciated by all the students of the Institute.