Among the many lives so sadly brought to a close in the recent terrible wreck of the steamship "City of Columbus" not one was more beloved than the subject of this sketch, and the news of his sudden death caused a shock which will not be readily forgotten by his friends. To the writer, who had so recently seen him in all the vigor of his manhood, he expressed his gratitude for success in the past and his hope for success in the future, but alas! how little he knew that he was so near the end of his life's journey! Mr. May was a graduate of the Institute in the class of 1874, and, during the years that he pursued his profession as engineer, had been connected with the New York & New England Railroad, the New York & Boston Inland Railroad, and the improved sewerage of the city of Boston. He had also testified as expert in several important cases in court. At the time of his death he was on his way to the South to make surveys on the Savannah River for the United States government. He died at the age of twenty-nine years.

C. F. R., '74.

Died at Lakewood, N. J., Jan. 17, 1874, James A. Field, '73, aged 36 years.

The class of '75, M. I. T., partook of its annual supper at Young's Hotel, last Friday evening, fourteen members participating. During the evening appropriate mention was made of the death of Frank A. May, who was a partial member of the class. These officers were elected: President, Thomas Hibbard; Vice-President, H. E. Stowe; Secretary and Treasurer, John Cabot; Class Historian, E. A. W. Hammatt.

The new four-cylinder engine which has been on trial on the Boston and Albany Railroad for a week past is said to be making a poor showing, because the grades are so heavy that the compounding arrangement won't work. When run as an ordinary double cylinder engine, it eats up more fuel than the heaviest engines on the road, and draws no more cars.

An electric headlight for locomotives was exhibited at Munich at the recent exhibition. The current is supplied by a dynamo placed on the top of the boiler behind the smoke stack, and driven by an independent engine. The lamp is arranged to turn automatically on curves, so as to light the track at all times. The light was visible at a distance of two and one half miles.

On the 25th and 26th of October, there fell at Hilo, Hawaii, 17,1/3 inches of rain in twenty-two hours, by rain-gauge.

M. Mermet recommends the use of nickel crucibles instead of silver in chemical manipulations. They are slightly attacked by melted potash; but silver itself is somewhat liable to this action. The first cost of nickel crucibles is much less than silver, and they have the great advantage of melting at a higher temperature.

We doubt if many persons know to what extent minerals and gems occur in the United States. There are eighty-eight minerals used as gems, twelve of which are found only in the States. Paris, Me., is the only place where systematic mining of precious stones is carried on; but they are gathered on the surface in many places, as sapphires in Montana, moss agate in Colorado, and rubies in New Mexico and Arizona, where they occur in the sand, and often on ant-hills. Tourmalines have been taken from Mt. Mica, Me., to the value of $58,000. Agate at Lake Superior. Hiddenite to the value of $75,000 has been taken from Stony Point, N. C. Rock crystal comes from various places, and is sold as "Lake George" or "Cape May" "diamonds." The clear crystal for optical purposes comes almost entirely from Brazil.