We would respectfully suggest that the Registrar enter the room for one or two mornings, and remind the students that, in order to stay there, loud talking must be banished; otherwise, the loud talker. A notice to this effect on the doors or walls would, we think, remind "all ye who enter here" that the first essential requirement of a reading-room or library is—quiet. In the fine library at Amherst College this rule is observed with great strictness, to the consequent advantage of all who use the place as it is meant to be used. We are convinced that it is simply thoughtlessness, in which all are more or less at fault, which is in our case to be overcome.

One of the various requirements for admission to the first-year class is that applicants shall have attained the mature age of sixteen. Probably few are excluded by this provision, but unquestionably many enter who fall but little over the line. As certain changes have recently been made in the preparation required, uniformly tending to raise the standard, it has seemed to us at least possible that a similar advance (of perhaps two years) in the age-limit, though entailing occasional hardship, would prove beneficial, both to the student and to the Institute.

As for the latter, the time may have been when it was imperative that all unnecessary obstacles be removed from the path of candidates, in order to maintain the existence of the school. But surely such a time is fast passing away, if not already past.

The case of the would-be student, however, admits of more argument. Many coming directly from high or other preparatory schools approach with more or less reluctance four years more of study, and look forward eagerly to their completion, and the practical pursuit of their respective professions. An enforced delay of two years before entering the Institute would be decidedly irksome, and might direct some elsewhere.

We can only regard this characteristic American haste to "get through" school as a grave evil. For why should the youth put away his books, and rush headlong into active life before he has reached man's estate legally or mentally? The doctor, the lawyer, the clergyman, seldom enter upon the practice of their respective professions under the age of twenty-four; and why should our graduates begin theirs at twenty or twenty-one? We believe, and wish it were more generally recognized, that the latter—the engineer, the architect, and the chemist—should be liberally educated, as well as the former. Perhaps, however, it is best that the man who must hasten to enter his profession young should not be debarred from making early preparation for it. Perhaps, taking things as they exist, the occasional hardship or loss involved by the proposed change would outweigh the incidental good. But even then, while we might not wish the applicant of tender sixteen absolutely refused, we would earnestly advise delay whenever practicable. It is by no means our wish to detract from the well-earned honor, not seldom attained by the younger men, in their work here as well as in after-life; but, writing after careful deliberation, we say, with confidence, that many a boy comes here fresh from the high school, too often with barely enough physical strength to carry him through the daily routine, so learns his lessons as to pass examinations more or less successfully, and in four years takes his degree, still a boy, though of larger growth, with little comprehensive grasp of the principles which he has learned, and less ability to apply them to the solution of the complex problems of practical life.

Either of two directions for self-improvement our subject might have followed by wise use of an extra two years.

First, he might have taken a liberal, classical, or literary course for four years, then in two more his scientific course at the Institute. He might still remain a book-worm, but one far more evenly and symmetrically developed than before.

Or, secondly, he might, on leaving the preparatory school, spend two years in travel or business, as circumstances might dictate; in