ies, or rather enters upon the study of his profession. What could be more foolish than this for the average boy of sixteen, and especially for him who has the means to spend his time thus, thereby enhancing the danger of cultivating a taste for idleness, or a thirst for the exciting? for, say what you will, travelling is a pleasure, an entertainment, and though we may accidentally learn many things while travelling; yet the mind is not stimulated for study, becomes inert from want of exercise, and is not so ready to grapple with the difficulties of professional study as when fresh from the training that it has been receiving.

For this reason it would perhaps be better for a student not to enter even business life before coming to the Institute, though this would not be at all so detrimental in its effects, — indeed, with application might prove a benefit to him, but not generally speaking.

The true remedy, in the opinion of the writer, lies in the introduction of that system of education in vogue throughout Germany. There, there is an intermediate course between the preparatory schools of our country and the college, comprising, perhaps, two years each.

This is the gymnasium, and takes the place of our college. When a man has finished his course there, he is through with college life, good fellowship, societies, and all the pleasant but diverting attributes of our college life, and is ready to enter upon his professional studies in earnest. It is such men that we would like to have at the Institute, but until such a preparatory course is adopted, it will be difficult to reach other results than those now attained, which, though excellent, it is admitted, are, no doubt, susceptible of much improvement.

A SENIOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH: — As the time approaches for the annual examinations, a number of the students are considering the question, does it pay for us to continue our course as regular students; would it not be better for us to drop some subjects and pursue a special course? They say, we feel that four years is all we can afford to spend at the Institute, and that in that time we cannot do justice to all the studies required for a degree. Now, is there any ground for this view of the subject? I think that there is. The separation into courses commences at the beginning of the second year, making really three years for the professional work. A man starts upon these with the determination of remaining a regular. However, as the year progresses, he finds that, in order to accomplish this and conscientiously keep up his work, his hours at the Institute must be from 9 A. M. to 4.45 P. M., with possibly three quarters of an hour for lunch, and that all the rest of his time must be devoted to preparation. The Saturday half-holiday becomes a myth, and even a portion of Sunday is encroached upon.

If he does not devote much more of his time to his professional studies than is provided for in the Tabular View, his attention is called to the rate of progress of some other man, very likely a special, and he is told that he must do more work. In this state of things two course are open, either to slight some of his studies, or to become a special. In the latter case he forfeits his degree. In the former he relies upon the hope of being able to cram up the subjects for the examinations, and thus remain a regular in name, but in reality he is a special.

Can a man undergo this continuous strain for three years without its injuring his constitution, and had he not better become a special? Is there not reason for the belief that a regular student is expected to do more in the last three years of his course than is consistent with his health, if he does his work faithfully? Can young men, from seventeen to twenty-one, stand this entire devotion to intellectual pursuits, and even if by a judicious system of cramming, they succeed in getting through, have they not formed habits of slighting their work which will injure them in after life?

F. S. C.

We are in receipt of the Directory of the Association of the Class of '74 from Mr. Charles F. Read, Secretary.