Class Secretaries (not in No. 9).—'72 C. Frank Allen, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. Harvey S. Chase, Secretary of Class of '83, sends us a circular, which is intended to elicit full information on '83 Class matters. Mr. Chase's address is 178 Lowell Street, Manchester, N. H.

W. B. Snow, '82, formerly assistant in mechanical engineering, has had charge of the classes in mechanical drawing at the Y. M. C. Association.

J. L. Kimball, '85, is with Walworth Manufacturing Co., of Boston.

J. M. Kimball, '85, is with New England Electric Light Co.

Redington Fiske, '85, has entered freight office of the Boston and Albany R. R.

At the University of Kansas, and, we believe, at one or two other places, students who obtain a term grade of ninety per cent in any studies are excused from final examinations in those studies. We would like to see this plan more extensively adopted. At the Institute, although many of our studies are marked upon our whole term's work, there is still room for improvement in this direction.

A New Degree.—Little Nell—"What do those letters B. A. after your name mean?"

Young Pilkins—"They mean Bachelor of Arts. I got them at college."

Little Nell—"That's what I thought. Wasn't it mean of them not to give you the other letters? Pa said he wondered you didn't get them." Young Pilkins (delighted)—"You mean the degree of M. A.?

Little Nell—"No, those were not the letters pa said."

Young Pilkins—"Not? Why, what was it he said?"

Little Nell—"He said he wondered you didn't get the G. B."—Pa. Call

Department Notes.

During the year 1883, 7,156 miles of railroad were constructed in the United States, making the entire length of the railroad system 121,528 miles. During 1882, 11,343 miles were built.

Juniors desiring to continue their constitutional and legal studies will do well to consult the column of "Latest Legal Decisions," in The Iron Age.

The Manufacturers' Gazette prints a letter from Mr. S. H. Woodbridge, of the Institute, in regard to moistening the air of a cotton mill. The same paper has described the rule presented to the Institute by the Mason Machine Company.

The following is taken from an article in the Iron Age. Between the years 1875 and 1881 a network of underground telegraph lines was laid in Germany, the entire length of wire amounting to 23,210 miles, and connecting Berlin with two hundred and twenty other places; there is now in process of construction in France a similar system which will aggregate 3,435 miles in length. These lines are more expensive to construct than overhead lines, but their cost of maintenance is almost nil, and they have other advantages, especially in freedom from atmospheric disturbances and safety in case of military invasion.

A student's collection of minerals, for the examination of students, has been placed in the mineralogical lecture-room. The Popular Science Monthly for April gave an account of the method of instruction in mineralogy at Harvard, to which we find ours is identical in many respects, but superior in others.

Mr. F. H. Newell, '85, gave the class in Historical Geology an interesting sketch of the petroleum fields in Pennsylvania, as a supplement to Prof. Niles's lectures. He also had several photographs of burning tanks, spouting wells, etc.

The boiler tests of the Senior Mechanicals lasted from March 24 to March 29 inclusive. During this term the two boilers were worked night and day, and all the coal and water used...