ning a year or two later. To say that he is equally fitted is simply to evade the point at issue. Either of the following suppositions seems to us reasonably possible: first, ill-health, caused by over-exertion in school, may permanently reduce his working power, or determine its decline at forty-five instead of fifty; or, second, if the body were equal to the strain, lack of comprehension of the preparatory work, due to mental immaturity, might equally impair subsequent productive power; how much more the hasty and mistaken choice of a life work, which only long and bitter experience would atone for, though not remedy.

H. H. C., in No. 13, seems to have strangely misapprehended our original proposition. The remedy we proposed was not an extension of the course. In many of his suggestions we cordially concur; but we preferred, for lack of time and space, not to consider any changes in other requirements, believing that the age qualification, to a certain extent, admits, nay, even demands, consideration by itself.

The criticism of "A Senior," though perhaps more just, seems to us rather extravagant. We laid little stress on our suggestion of travel or business. We deemed it the less eligible alternative proposed. But we reaffirm, with confidence, our faith in the educative capabilities of the former course for many, if not for every youth. Of course the young man of sixteen summers requires guidance and oversight here as in almost every other pursuit. With such assistance, the beneficial effects would surely be large. We admit certain obvious disadvantages of the plan, but claim, on the other hand, that its benefits are not less real because they are somewhat intangible to the utilitarian American critic, and, indeed, cannot be measured by a written or oral examination. It seems to us at least possible that one who sees nothing "more foolish for the average boy of sixteen" may ascribe his difficulty, partially at least, to weakness of mental vision.

In conclusion we will add a few words to our own views as already expressed. We believe most thoroughly that various advances in our standards are necessary in the near future, and we are even more fully convinced than before that the advantages of a simultaneous, though proportionately greater, advance in the age requirement would outweigh its evils. With this latter advance might diminish, or cease, the constant plea for relief from overwork, which seems to the writer unfounded and worthy of little consideration. With the two years left vacant in the life of the youth so rarely fortunate as to be fully qualified, mentally and physically, for entrance to the Institute at sixteen, he might most profitably lay a broad basis for his technical education by taking a liberal college course.

This, we may add, seems to us the best substitute here available for the German gymnasium and university system, and we have not cared to discuss what might be only ideally desirable. We believe that only good can come from careful, candid discussion, and our object will be attained if we have aroused interest in the question.

THE Tech printed some time ago the results of a canvass showing how ’86 had spent its first vacation and stating that of seventy individuals questioned forty-seven had been at work part or all of the time, the majority of these in occupations in some way connected with their professional studies. This plan of utilizing the summer in the direction of our future work might be adopted with advantage by nearly all; of course we do not wish or expect to be idle four months, and work of this kind answers the double purpose of resting us from school labor and affording opportunities for gaining a great deal of practical experience. References, good-natured or severe, are frequently made in newspapers and elsewhere to "fledgling graduates," who are sometimes too willing to oppose their judgment to that of older men with years of experience, not realizing to what extent theory must be modified in practice and how much care must be exercised in applying abstract principles to common affairs. Our work in the laboratories and shops may, besides laying the foundations for our stock of wisdom, make us more