The Senior ball this year has proved a great success financially as well as socially. Not only is there no deficit, but the committee has a small surplus, which it has turned over to the next Senior ball committee.

The result of the competitive examination in Boston for the Rotch travelling scholarship was announced recently, one hundred and seventy-five being the standard. There were six candidates, and the highest rank, one hundred and fifty-six, was attained by Mr. Clarence H. Blackall, who was awarded the scholarship.

A majority of the Freshman class have replied to the circular from the registrar in regard to the choice of course, and the following is the result: civil engineering, 18; mechanical engineering, 41; mining engineering, 13; architecture, 8; chemistry, 8; medicine, 2; electrical engineering, 16; general courses, 3. These figures will be increased on the receipt of the remaining circulars, but are liable to change, as this choice is not final. An examination of the figures shows that the course in electricity gains nothing over last year, civil and mining engineering more than hold their own, while the great increase is in the direction of mechanical engineering.

The annual prize drill of the corps of cadets took place in Washington Hall of the Mechanics' Fair Building, on the tenth of the current month. The programme consisted of battalion drill, company drill for two flags presented by the Sophomore class, and an individual drill for medals. These were succeeded by dress parade, at which the prizes were awarded by President Walker, as follows: Company drill: first prize, Company B, Capt. Frank E. Shepard; second prize, Company A, Capt. Edward A. Haskell. Individual drill: first prize, Private C. B. Kendall, Company A; second prize, First Sergeant Walter Gleason. A special prize for those who had never drilled previous to this year was won by Private P. Bryant. The battalion was under the command of Major Locke, '86. Adjutant Underhill commanded the prize squad, and Quartermaster Barron acted as officer of the day.

Prof. Lanza gave a very pleasant reception to his fourth-year mechanics class at his house on the evening of May 2. Nearly all the members of the class were present, and, in addition, some of the professors and their wives. After a sumptuous collation singing was indulged in until a late hour. Prof Lanza has had several of these social gatherings this year, which evince the very cordial relations which exist between professor and students.

Saturday afternoon, May 24, is the date fixed for the '85 harbor excursion, and as the examinations all close Saturday A. M., a large party is expected. A steam yacht has been chartered, which will leave India Wharf at 2 o'clock and return by early bedtime. Permits to land at the various points of interest have been secured, while the entertainment on board will be furnished by the '85 orchestra and a caterer.

At the last meeting of the F. Y. T. the following officers were elected for 1884-85: President, A. R. McKim, '85; vice-president, Chas. F. Spring, '85; secretary, S. Williams, '85; treasurer, L. M. Thacher, '86; committee on eligibility, C. F. Spring, E. Worthington, Jr., and B. F. Goodnough. The annual supper will be held at the Quincy House, Thursday, May 22.

The Faculty have completed their work of the revision of the courses, and the changes are announced. They consist principally in classifying certain strictly professional subjects in each course, which all students of that course are required to take; in addition to these there are electives, between which the student may choose. The tendency of it all is to reduce the courses to a strictly professional basis, while more general subjects are left optional. While the changes do not make a course at the Institute by any means an easy one, still it relieves those courses where the pressure was formerly too great, and we trust we shall hear no more complaints of overwork. The course in mining has been most altered, and all the alterations have been for the better. It would be hard to improve upon the regular course with option I.

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