THERE seems to be a lack of interest on the part of most of our daily papers, in the affairs of the Institute, compared with that shown in the doings of our sister colleges. These, as older institutions, receive considerable attention, while Technology notes are few and far between. If the Institute were unimportant in the college world, there would be no cause for complaint; but this is not the case. Its reputation is not confined to the United States; its prosperity is constantly being increased by generous bequests; its entering classes are the largest; its graduates, though as yet few in number, are becoming known in their professions. Nor can there be lack of news among us; there are societies, class, musical, athletic and secret, with other affairs common to all colleges, which, with the transactions of the Lowell Institute and Society of Arts, would surely furnish items of interest to friends of the Institute of Technology and to general readers.

FOR a number of years, the charter of the city of Boston has been brought to notice as needing improvement. In its present state, the result of constant additions made to meet the demands of the growing city, it is one of great complexity, which, from its peculiar nature, might be a dangerous power in the hands of a corrupt set of city officials. Its weak point is chiefly the manner in which those in the city’s service are selected, which is mainly by appointment by the city council or aldermen, very few being named by the mayor or voted for by the people. The result is the placing of responsibility upon boards or committees, instead of individuals, inviting carelessness and dishonesty, and causing, by lack of harmonious and economical management by the numerous independent departments, a high rate of taxation. Many similar cases have occurred, and during the last ten or fifteen years the subject of improvement in municipal government has received the attention of commissions in New York and Pennsylvania, and in a number of cities. The cause of the trouble seems to lie in this essential difference between city government and State or national rule, namely, the confounding, in the former, of legislative, executive, and judicial powers, which, in the latter, are always kept as distinct as possible, “that the government may be one of laws, not of men.”

A committee appointed for the purpose, in this city, has lately proposed to the common council a remedy for existing evils, consisting of a revision of the charter, including a simplification of the method of appointments, placing the responsibility upon the mayor, and thus allowing the people an opportunity to approve or condemn, at the polls, his course; a reduction in the amount of work required of the council, thus permitting business men, who would be specially interested in the city’s welfare, to take part in its government; and a separation of the three fundamental branches of government, now in such confusion. Starting thus anew, with a charter adapted to the needs of a large city, it is hoped that its affairs can be carried on more efficiently and more economically, reducing the high rate of taxation, which has increased in much greater proportion than the city’s population and assessed value of property.

THE attention of readers of The Tech is called to our advertisers. It is the intention to have the list include representative firms from each department of business in which students are buyers. Only thoroughly reliable firms will be found in our columns, and many of them make a specialty of student trade. They are the mainstay in the financial support of the paper, and to ask each student to do his individual mite towards patronizing them, or at least to give them a trial is not unreasonable. Every student who will do this is rendering the paper a substantial benefit.

The attention of Freshmen is particularly called to the above. Many are strangers in the city, and, having to choose places at which to buy, cannot make a mistake by selecting from among the firms who advertise in our columns.