There are a great many occasions in a man's business and social life when to be able to preside over a literary, scientific, political, or any kind of meeting would be a great convenience to himself and others. Any one is liable to be called upon to perform such a duty, yet it is a matter of fact that comparatively few possess the knowledge of parliamentary principles, which, besides power to control, clearness of mind, quickness of judgment and decision, is necessary to a good presiding officer. It is a very general opinion that this knowledge can be gained only by long experience. Such, however, is not the case, except in regard to some legislative bodies, or where a great deal of business, with the accompanying wrangling of opposing parties, must be transacted, requiring a very thorough familiarity with all the minute details of parliamentary rules. As an officer or member of the most common meetings, a good general knowledge of the principal kinds of motions is all that is necessary.

Let any one secure Robert's or Cushing's small manual of Rules of Order, and devote to it two or three hours, at odd moments, and he will be surprised to find how easy it is to acquire information which, when applied to the business of a meeting, will greatly facilitate its transaction, besides avoiding, by correct methods, any difficulties due to carelessness or misunderstanding. The class, society, and mass meetings at the Institute would be an excellent field for practice in this matter, and if a few will take the initiative, the results will be of great value.

The lack of interest in athletics at the Institute, much to be deplored as it is, can scarcely be considered unnatural. To be sure, a gymnasium is open to the students, in which they may practise if they wish; but here the Faculty's interest in the physical well-being of the students ceases. They offer no inducement to the students to take regular healthy exercise. The gymnasium is open; but it is too open and at the same time not open enough. Any one may do himself any amount of harm; there is no instructor to tell him what he needs, or restrain him from what he does not need; on the other hand the gymnasium is practically closed to those who feel their inability to judge of their own requirements, because of their inexperience in things of the sort. These latter are for the most part the very ones who need the exercise most, yet the ones whom the gymnasium almost entirely fails to benefit. Some of these go to other gymnasiums; but the greater part devote themselves entirely to brain work, and neglect the foundation of brain capacity, bodily health. The hours of work in preparation for recitations are carefully regulated, in theory, by the Faculty; but no arrangement is made in this scheme for an hour's active exercise.

There is a very general impression that an average of the men of the Institute, taken at their graduation, would show a smaller amount of health and strength than most of our first-rate colleges would give. Whether this feeling would be borne out by impartial statistics, we do not know; but if it be so or not, the responsibility resting on the Faculty is the same. One does not give a child fire-works to do with as he likes; but, though a gymnasium unwisely used is acknowledged to be a very dangerous thing, inexperienced students at the Institute are offered one without any sort of authorized or responsible instruction.

Any one making a drawing for The Tech will please apply to Mr. C. H. Woodbury, '86, for some standard paper for the purpose. Contributions of drawings should be addressed to Mr. Woodbury.

We beg leave to inform some of our exchanges that our title is The Tech, not “The Teach”; it is an abbreviation of Technology, and not an attempt at phonetic spelling.

The Sunday Herald of Dec. 7 copies from The Tech Mr. Rotch’s account of the Blue Hill Observatory. We are glad that the article was considered of interest to the public, but regret that the Herald omitted to state that it was written for The Tech.