intendence and direction of a professional man, soon finds out whether the latter thoroughly understands his position or not; and, if there is neglect and mismanagement, whether it is due to ignorance or shiftlessness. In the latter case, the work is sure to prove unsatisfactory, and as such reflects on the reputation and standing of the person in charge.

The attempting of any important work without such business capacity is thus extremely hazardous. With such facts in view, the acquirement of a thorough business knowledge and experience, is one of the first duties of an engineer or practical professional man. Such knowledge can only be acquired by actual experience and contact with business men in everyday life. The best and surest method of obtaining it is by securing such a position as will give the opportunity of observation together with the gradual intrusting of authority and widening of powers, till sufficient actual experience is gained, and confidence and ability acquired to enable the possessor to stand alone as a thoroughly competent manager.

We hope that readers of The Tech will not “skip” the “Noticeable Articles,” thinking they merely form an index of scientific papers or other references which they could not or would not find time to attend to. Most of the matter in this department consists of extracts from, and comments upon articles of general interest in the best magazines; and the suggestions made by the principal contributor, in regard to reading and thinking, mental or physical culture, will be appreciated by all those who manage to spare a few occasional hours for recreation of this kind.

Mr. Fred H. Newell, '85, has been elected to the Board of Editors of The Tech, his duties beginning with the next number. Mr. Newell has previously shown his interest in the paper, by the contribution of several articles, and is consequently received by his colaborers as a friend, rather than a newcomer.

### A French Lesson

'T was a bright and moonlight evening,
And we wandered on the shore,
Quite alone and unmolested,
As we oft had done before.

First we talked about my college,
(While she tried my heart to wrench
With sweet smiles and blushing glances,)
Then she chanced to speak of French.

"Decline un baiser, please," she murmured,
While closer to my side she drew;
'T was very wrong, I know, but yet,
I could not well decline; could you?

---

### Water Supply in Smaller Cities and Towns

Within the past ten or fifteen years a manifest increase of attention has been paid to the subject of water supply, especially in the New England States. A glance at the charters granted by the Legislatures of the several States to towns and private corporations, for the purpose of water supply, shows proof of this. People are beginning to realize the dangers of well-pollution arising in closely populated districts, and learning by the experience of their neighbors the convenience, security and cheapness of a system of public water supply. An example of its cheapness may be shown in the following manner: A majority of private companies furnish water at about $5.00 per faucet per year. Thus a householder can for the sum of $5.00 per year supply his house with an abundant supply of pure water. Should he choose to rely on his well, he still has the cost of keeping it, his cistern and pumps in repair, and this added to the interest on the cost of the well amounts, in the average, to about $15.00. Add to this the labor of pumping,—cannot the plying of a pump handle be estimated in dollars and cents?

The public nature of a water supply requires special legislative action for each particular case. The process in New England States is as follows: The town or company petitions the Legislature to be allowed to take water from certain definite localities to supply certain defi-