The cotton machinery in the mechanical engineering laboratory has lately been run for the practical experience of the fourth-year class, under the direction of gentlemen in the cotton business at Lowell.

It would be a great boon to all the Mechanics if an ice-water tank were placed in their drawing-room during the coming warm weather, as the lukewarm water from the faucets is not a particularly palatable beverage.

The person who, at a recent class supper, carried off, as a souvenir, part of the paraphernalia of one of the performers, would confer a great favor upon him by returning the same. The souvenir was presented to the performer, and therefore highly prized by him.

The fourth-year Mechanicals are having a course of talks by gentlemen not connected with the Institute, upon important practical subjects. Messrs. Hall, Mudge and Gowing speak about "Pumps"; Mr. Hill, of Hill, Clark & Co., about "Indicator Cards"; and it is hoped that Mr. J. C. Hoadley will be able to address the class upon some subject connected with his profession.

The problems which the Architects hung for judgment last week comprised designs for a grand staircase, school of architecture, porch to city house, and an exedra. On the whole it was one of the best exhibits of the year, some of the designs being exceptionally successful. The jury, consisting of Messrs. Rotch and Cabot, awarded a number of mentions on each problem.

The last boiler tests of the year took place at the shops Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The first day was devoted to the boilers, with calorimetric tests, and water, coal, air, temperature and pressure records. On the second day, observations on the boiler were made only to determine the water used by the Brown engine, from which cards were taken throughout the day.

Prominent among the happenings of the eventful week ending April 25 was the planting and dedication of the Sophomore class tree. Near the spot which had so lately resounded with the blazing eloquence of Daniel Pratt, Mr. Cushing, in a stentorian voice, courageously read the dedication ode:

"He spoke, and bowed; with muttering jaws,
The wondrous circle grinned applause."

The class president, as master of ceremonies, then consigned, with fitting allusion, the contributions of the several departments to the sacred cavity. Among them were the following: From the Biological laboratory, one defunct Rana palustris. From the Chemists, bottle hydrocyanic acid; the Civils, steel weight; Architects, T square; department of History, decorated plaque; Electricals, insulated wire; Mechanicals, supernumerary distender; the Institute, president's report, photographs, and papyrographs. It is to be regretted that the Freshman's doll baby did not arrive in time.

Each Sophomore then added his mite to the growing heap, swinging the shovel in true yeoman style; and with the singing of the class song, the impressive ceremony closed.

See, there it stands erect to heaven
All hail, fair tree of '87!

The following "narrations" are culled from the second-year physical geography department and are all warranted (?).

(1) Our esteemed professor once stood under a cascade in Switzerland, where the sun was so hot that (the cascade being quite high) all the water was evaporated before it reached the ground, and men were making hay on the very spot where the cascade should have fallen!

(2) In another locality in the Alps the wind blows so strongly that a cascade there is sometimes blown vertically upwards for several seconds, instead of falling down!

(3) A certain cañon in Colorado is so deep that when there is a general rain, the first intimation any one at the bottom of the cañon has of it is the increase in the size of the stream, the water having had time to fall into the cañon at its shallow extremity and flow all the way down it before the rain at that point has reached the bottom. Competition from other departments is now invited.