tion for a career of activity in fields of high attainment and investigation.

With such an understanding of the university, the first step for the Institute to take toward a realization of that high ideal, would seem to be an elevation of the preparation for admission.

If, instead of devoting a year in acquiring the rudiments of chemistry, French, and in work in algebra and trigonometry, a thorough preparation in all this were required in every person coming to the Institute, he would thus be enabled to enter directly upon the work of his profession, and would thereby have at the end of his course an additional year for higher investigation in his chosen work.

This, of course, is not a new idea to those who have given the subject any thought.

It is not a result which could be attained in a moment, but by its adoption, it seems to us, we should be making a long stride in the right direction.

ONE of the most peculiar things about our strange and mysterious marking system is, the anomaly whereby a man may have "passed" an examination, according to an official report from the Secretary, and yet, in reality, has not. An examination-paper is marked "passed," if it receives more than sixty per cent and less than seventy-five. But what does the mark signify? The man receiving it is not conditioned, and yet, if he goes along with the happy feeling that he is all right, when about to graduate he is apt to find it all wrong, upon being informed that a long list of credits in all professional subjects is needed for him to obtain his degree.

We do not complain that the standard is kept so high, nor do we wish the marking-grade of "pass" abolished; only we think that the credit requirement should be explicitly stated in the catalogue, as it is in the case of the examinations at the end of the first year.

The matter is hardly worth the mention, and is generally understood among upper-class men; nevertheless, we think it would be well to have it clearly made known in the first place.

HE statement was made in the last number of The Tech, upon reliable information, as we thought, that the decrease in the size of the Freshman class, this year, was due to the fact that the standard of admission had been raised. Since then, we have been informed by the Secretary that our statement was erroneous, and, lest a wrong impression be conveyed, we take this occasion to correct it.

The decrease, in all probability, is due to the hard times, although, unlike the other colleges, the Institute has not hitherto felt them, as our freshman classes, for the preceding three years, have showed marked increases. This view is borne out by the small proportion of special students in the entering class.

WE have to repeat our call for literary contributions. The Tech is published by and for the students of the Institute, and it is not alone to the editorial board, but to them, also, that the success of the paper must be due. Contributions of any sort will receive a respectful consideration, and if at all suitable will be published. Items of local interest, alumni notes, and college news, are especially solicited. Articles should be written on one side of the paper only, and should always be accompanied by the author's name, though not necessarily for publication. Contributions intended for any number of The Tech must be in the box before the Wednesday night preceding publication.

HEREAFTER many of our college exchanges will be placed in the reading-room, for the benefit of the students. We trust this will be appreciated, as it gives all an opportunity to see what is going on at other colleges, and may serve to while away occasional spare moments. It is hoped that the papers will be carefully handled, and neither torn nor otherwise mutilated.

NOTICE.—Copies of No. 3, Vol. II, and No. 1, Vol. III., of The Tech will be bought at this office at the regular price.