by a mining engineer; but is it not taking too much time from still more important subjects? It would be very good if a man could graduate here as an engineer of mines and also be a mechanical engineer. It would be equally good if he could also be a civil engineer, a lawyer, and, possibly, a surgeon. All these things would be useful to him, and good to know; but it is safe to say, that the man would have known more about mining if he had confined himself to that subject alone.

That many of the students here hold this idea, if the Faculty does not, is shown by the large number of special students, who are by no means only those who have fallen behind their regular classes. At all events, we think that, during the fourth and last year here, the time should be left free for strictly professional work, accompanied by outside reading, so that every student can better prepare himself for the profession which he is shortly to pursue.

It is about this time of the year that the editors find it difficult to find subjects for editorials. Everything in the college world is quiet, for there is vacation at most colleges during the Holidays. The foot-ball season is over, and the base-ball season not yet begun. All here are grinding hard for the semi-annuals, which are too painfully near, and class-dinners, glee club concerts, and other festivities will not come off until next term. In this state of affairs the editors are often at a loss about what to write. The particular office of the editorial pages of most college papers is to continually grumble about something or other; but it is giving our Faculty no less than its due, to say that at the Institute we have wonderfully few things to complain about.

If the senior class proposes to continue the idea, inaugurated by '85, of having some final class exercises before graduation, it would seem as though it were high time to take some action on the subject. Such an affair is not for a hasty preparation at the very last moment; at least, such officers as the historian, poet should be selected at once, for they require ample time in which to prepare their themes, especially since, next term, they will also be hard at work on their theses.

This custom is one that must be perpetuated. The class of '85 deserves all credit for having originated it. '86 should improve upon the performance of last year, and '87 can be trusted to make more improvements.

Year by year the thing will increase, until, at last, we shall have a regular class-day. We think that the Seniors should discuss this matter as soon as possible, so that preparations might be begun soon after the semi-annuals.

The new Western Alumni Association recently formed at Denver, Col., which we mentioned in our last issue, is an evidence that our Alma Mater is growing old. Enough of its children had now located west of the Mississippi to form quite a large Society. The membership list contains nearly forty names, of classes from '70 to '84, most of whom are residents of Colorado.

Such an association cannot fail to be a success, affording, as it will, a chance of meeting classmates and college friends who are too far away to attend the meetings of the M. I. T. Alumni Association in Boston. A registration-book is to be kept at Denver, and all Institute men are requested to register their names, permanent and city addresses, as well as the length of time which they expect to remain in Denver.

The list of semi-annual examinations has been posted. Regular exercises of the school are to be suspended Wednesday, Jan. 13th, and examinations begin next day and continue until Saturday, Jan. 23d. The exhibition drill of the battalion will take place at the gymnasium, Saturday, Jan. 9th. The next term begins Tuesday, Feb. 2d.

Articles intended for publication in The Tech must be in our mail-box before the Wednesday night preceding publication. All contributions must be accompanied by the name of the author.