not the result be most gratifying to the man himself, to his instructors because of his clearer brain, and to the nation because of the far reaching inheritance of health which is thus begun?

When we first decided, for the benefit of the students, to put our exchanges in the reading-room, we did so with the idea that they might afterward be collected and placed on file. This idea we have since found to be wholly visionary and fallacious, as events have proved. Life and Puck have usually, from some unknown cause, disappeared quite promptly from the tables soon after their appearance thereon, together with many of our best college exchanges. We like to have them read,—O yes,—but we only protest at the extent to which they are read, or, more correctly speaking, totally devoured. If our friends will only stop short at imbibing the contents of a paper, and then lay it down carefully on the table, in order that some one else may enjoy the same privilege, instead of proceeding thereafter to tear it in pieces, or use it as a weapon of warfare, or throw it playfully at a companion across the room, or any of those little things that tend to shorten its period of usefulness, it would be quite as agreeable all round.

Once or twice we have mildly remonstrated at the abuse to which our exchanges are subjected, and to show the extent of this abuse, we would state that out of about twenty which were placed on the tables not long since, only two were left to be collected before distributing a fresh supply, and these were so badly defaced as hardly to be recognized. Scarcely enough fragments are usually gathered up to keep from starvation that fabulous but omnivorous animal, the office goat, to which some of our humorous contemporaries frequently allude.

It is indeed gratifying to have our little favors appreciated, but we trust we are not indelicate in expressing, if we might be so bold, the wish that those who use the reading-room will hereafter exercise a little more moderation in their manner of reading The Tech’s papers, avoiding, if possible, tearing off the covers, making copious pencil-notes upon the margins, or even carrying them off by mistake. By regarding this little piece of advice, we are very sure they will be quite as likely to enjoy a continuance of our kindness—in this respect perhaps more so.

The great trials and the great opportunities of life come at most unexpected times; and he who keeps in the most constant training, is the one who holds the best chance of success. The athlete knows the hour and the manner of the trial for which he is preparing; but in the race of life, the man is often unaware of the stride he is taking. All he can do is to see that his condition shall be such that disadvantages shall not weigh him down, and that opportunities shall not pass without his being ready and able to grasp them. And this condition is brought about by the careful discharge of the duties, and the comprehensive hold of the occurrences, of each successive day, as the athlete’s body is trained by long-continued work with light weights and the daily plodding around the track.

For a number of years it has been the custom at the Institute to leave the choice of captain of the foot-ball eleven to the team. By this course there exists a period, lasting from the date of our return in September to the time when the team is chosen, during which our foot-ball men practice without a nominal head. Each one goes about his practice in any manner he sees fit; some do not even practice at all, very few train; and all this comes from the fact that there is no one who has the power to make them do the right thing. On account of this, we suggest to the Foot-Ball Association that they choose the captain of next fall before this term closes, so that as soon as the men return they can go into training under a recognized head.

All subscriptions to The Tech are now due, and we request subscribers who have not yet paid, to do so at once. All money should be delivered to the Treasurer, either personally or through the letter-rack, and receipts will be immediately sent.