This fact rather interferes with his claim to originality, but we are nevertheless only too happy to record it, hoping that it may serve as an incentive for others to go and do likewise.

A recent editorial in The Tech on the subject of a distinctly Tech. song, seems to have struck the right note, and to have stirred some at least to activity. A certain club at the Institute authorizes the announcement that they will give twenty-five dollars toward forming a fund which shall be given as a prize to the person handing in the best Tech. poem. If a sufficient sum can be raised, a portion of it might be given for acceptable music, instead of borrowing something which would fit the meter. Of course the poem must not contain any grinds, which would lose piquancy with the lapse of time, nor should it be too long. It is hardly possible that anything can be done this year now, but next fall we hope to see the matter brought to a focus, and the Institute equipped with as good a song as any other college.

One of the departments of the average college paper, as it is ordinarily conducted, we are not disposed to regard with any great favor. We refer particularly to the exchange column. Leaving out the fact that it seems rather presumptuous for one college paper to criticise and suggest improvements to another, and admitting that the exchange columns of one or two of our contemporaries are really good and valuable, it is, nevertheless, a fact that many of the criticisms are written merely to fill up a space for which it would be difficult to find other matter, or else to revenge some slight received from the exchange editor of another paper. Frequently, we should say, that very biting criticisms are inspired by a jealousy or hard feeling between two colleges. We do not think it will be denied by any one that such criticisms are of but small, if any, value. To be of real value, the exchange column should be edited by one of the most careful and conservative of the editors; but we should say that this is but seldom done, as we judge from the perusal of many exchange columns that the editors of those papers think that any one can run this department. Many papers whose standard is otherwise high have exchange columns which are unworthy of the paper. It is impossible for the editor of one college paper to appreciate the difficulties of another, as they are probably entirely different from his own. For example, we cannot understand it at all when we learn that one of the greatest hardships of an editor of the — — is reading the large number of contributions that are sent in. It is likewise inexplicable to us why some papers seem to be always in financial difficulties. We recognize that there must be a different atmosphere about the students of those colleges. Again, an editor cannot correctly interpret the feelings of the men of another college in regard to what sort of a college paper they want; so that his criticism, which might be a good one from his point of view, fails in its application elsewhere. We consider that the best exchange columns are those of the Lits. In these are published a few clippings from their exchanges, and perhaps a few words of praise, but seldom, if ever, of fault-finding. As it is universally recognized that the Lits. are the best literary productions of our colleges, we wonder that the course which they have unanimously pursued in regard to literary criticisms has not been more followed.

It seems unnecessary that there should be such an epidemic of mumps at the Institute. In the public schools, scholars who are ill with this complaint are not allowed to attend recitations until entirely well. At the Institute there is no such rule, the Faculty probably supposing the students old enough to have discretion in such matters. It is a curious fact, however, that persons having a contagious disease underestimate the danger of its contagion, and carelessly expose others. This has been done in a most