I want to impress on '89 that our Association is open to all of its members, and we would be only too glad to welcome you. We have some men in our ranks—not rank men—who have only taken drill, so there is lots of show for you fellows who got black eyes in Chemistry and Physics. You can go right along here just as if nothing had "dropped"; so join us in September, and whoop her up for "Technology." Cordially yours,

Solomon Sturges.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:—

I desire through your columns to express to the officers and members of the Corps of Cadets, my great appreciation of their faithful efforts during the past few months to master the elementary principles of military tactics.

The exhibition drill of last Saturday was a gratifying result of close attention to details, and reflects much credit upon the corps.

Hobart Moore,
Military Instructor, Corps of Cadets, M. I. T.
January 7, 1889.

Noticeable Articles.

The following, from the Collegian, may be of interest to Course IX.:—

Oh! dewy, dewy was the room,
And dewy was the night,
When first I hailed these college halls
In a Senior's garb bedight.

But woeful would have been my case
Had I known what now I do,
That in this part of the universe
It's "Dewey" the whole day through.

The December number of the Nineteenth Century contains a paper on our Presidential election, by Sir Lyon Playfair, which is worthy of attentive study by every student of American politics. Sir Lyon is not only an eminent man of science and an active Liberal member of Parliament, but he has married an American wife, and his frequent visits to this country have made him well acquainted with our affairs. We do not believe he is right in thinking that it was the unlucky three R's—"Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion"—of Dr. Burchard that led to the defeat of Mr. Blaine in 1884; it was something deeper than that; but in other respects his views are full of instruction. He does full justice to Mr. Cleveland's "independence, honesty, and ability," but he is severe on the wholly unsuccessful "attempt to give a twist to the British lion's tail" by the treatment of the fisheries question, though he charitably allows room for a belief in a higher motive on the President's part; and he is severe, too, on the "cunning trap" laid for the British Minister. "It has been only owing," he says, "to the good sense of the American people that the threats of retaliation and annexation have been discounted at their proper value as electioneering cries."

But it is on the subject of free trade and protection that his article is most instructive, and we should think—speaking for our own part as an earnest opponent of the iniquitous protective system—that he would give any honest believer in that system much to ponder. He points out how the gigantic manufacturing combinations called "trusts"—"conspiracies," President Cleveland calls them—are one of its natural outgrowths, and how Protection lowers wages and concentrates profits among a few monopolists. "Protection itself," he says, "is necessarily the biggest of Trusts, because its effect is to keep the laborer poor in order to make the rich capitalist richer," and he points out how the highest wages are paid in the unprotected industries. By a most instructive comparative table he shows how much greater was the progress of the United States during ten years of a low than during ten of a high tariff, and, as has been often shown before, how the protective system shuts us out from competition with other nations in the great markets of the world. "A domestic market assures the conditions of national existence, while an export trade is necessary for industrial prosperity. A nation cannot buy without selling, or sell without buying." The glut of commodities produced by the limitation of markets causes the stoppage of many of the factories for three or four months in the year, because they produce in seven or eight months as much as is required for the consumption of twelve"; that is to say, the home consumption for the protected article is produced at too high a cost to compete with foreign products in the great market of the world. "The workingmen have been inclined to attribute