time at Christmas, and that a petition would receive much more consideration now than if postponed till next December.

After all, what good does the Thanksgiving vacation ever do? Only those men who live in New England can go home, and they could go just as well if only one day were allowed. The majority stay in Boston,—the Freshmen to work up plates in mechanical drawing; the Sophomores to study Descrip; the Juniors to plug for a Heat examination; and the Seniors to do odd jobs in the way of problems and themes: not the ideal way of spending a vacation, surely. Now, if we had one day at Thanksgiving, and four days, or possibly a week, at Christmas, we would have some spare time in the holiday season, when everyone wishes for it, and we would get a real vacation, not the empty form of one.

This is the proper time to make an endeavor to change, and a very slight effort on the part of the undergraduates would, in all probability, effect the improvement desired. Now is the chance for some enterprising man to start a petition, and win for himself the thanks of Tech. men of this and future generations.

A GREAT deal has been said in our columns about "the hole in the ground" sometimes known as the "drill shed" or "shanty," or perhaps the " spacious drill hall." Whatever name we may give it, the reality, to our sorrow, always remains the same. Some of our predecessors have gone so far as to predict what we might expect in the near future, even looking up figures which would obtain certain shadowy results.

At the present we do not care to feel around in the dark; we merely look upon the reality. If you are of an inquiring nature, go on some rainy and close Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday morning to our gymnasium (pardon our using the term), at or near the hour of ten. Of all healthy and well-ventilated halls that you have ever had occasion to deal with, you will place this one at the very end of the list. Still, for three hours every week two or three hundred students go there to drill. If it is exercise, is it healthful exercise? Is it surprising that the Freshmen soon begin to show signs of fatigue? Imagine, the floor is one mass of dust, although the janitor sweeps up all he can; but these two or three hundred students march around that floor, stir up the dust, become heated, and fill their lungs with that vile air. This is healthful exercise!

We accept the present condition of affairs, and will not speak of the best remedy; viz., tearing down the "spacious hall." But better ventilation is possible. At present if the windows are opened, being so low, a direct draft is caused. To overcome this there ought to be, at least, two or three scuttles cut in the roof, to allow the foul air to escape. We are a silent and long-suffering people, but now look for a change. There might be one objection to this scheme,—the people in the immediate neighborhood might object to the dust thus caused; but luckily our prevailing winds are from the east.

WE sometimes wonder, when we consider the large proportion of Institute students that board in Boston, why it is that in so few cases lodging houses are hired and wholly occupied by students. Though not one of the most economical, it is certainly one of the most agreeable plans for alleviating the miseries of boarding house life. Where the experiment has been tried, it has, so far as we know, been successful, and those who have shared in it, have found in it a common profit and an uncommon pleasure.

The prevailing custom of taking things as we find them, without hope of improvement, and the disinclination to embark in an undertaking that requires much effort to make it a success, have made most of us "rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of"; but to those who have tried it, there is a fascination in this independent style of living which is not to be found in any other.