If there is one man in the Institute with whom the Lounger can sympathize, if there is one man for whom he can shed his tears, it is the "hard-up" man, the man who is "strapped." On every side and in all directions the Lounger can see the work of the "hard-up" man. It is the "hard-up" man who meets the subscription agent with a kindly eye; who planks down his little two dollars for The Tech—who subscribes five dollars for the football team, or promises to, at any rate. It is the "hard-up" man who buys a ticket to the Institute dinner, and keeps the drawing rooms supplied with thumb tacks; 'tis he who can and will be bled. The most willing subscriber, the most generous donator! That the Institute could exist without the "hard-up" man is very, very doubtful.

If there is any peculiarity in the mental get up or caliber of the "hard-up" man, the Lounger, after many observations, is unable to find it, but rather that he possesses such virtues as generosity, patriotism, and a love for the successful, together with a well-worn willingness to be bled; and right here the Lounger thinks is a very good place to say he wishes there were many, many more "hard-up" men in the Institute to-day.

That such successful associations and clubs as thrive at Tech. to-day, should owe their existence, almost their daily bread, to the I. O. U.'s and payments from men who are always strapped and yet always pay their debts and cancel their obligations with cash, is rather peculiar, and certainly has such a trace of Bohemianism in it that it rather bears witness to the success of this style of existence.

The Lounger has no idea of discouraging the "hard-up" man, on the contrary, he feels a strong liking for him; he wants to tell him he is doing nobly, that, by the liberality of his subscriptions, he is setting a splendid example for the man who has the "where-withal" and keeps it. Would that we were all "hard-up" men! How the subscription lists would swell!

It would be impossible for the first weeks of the term to pass without the manufacture and circulation of divers so-called Freshman chemistry jokes, and so we have the usual crop this term. The poor Freshman! From the moment he first enters the "lab." and, having secured his bag and inspected his drawer, is ready to break his first glassware, instructors and upper classmen dog his footsteps and hang on his slightest utterance. Small wonder that he sometimes gets rattled and requests various compounds and articles unknown in the present state of poverty of this Institution. But Mrs. Stinson—blessings on her!—is ever kind and obliging, and when she can help a man out with a powdered solution or an indignation tube she will. Let us not, however, while we appreciate the exquisite humor of the Freshman mistakes, forget that all of us err sometimes. It is not so very long since one of us—now a Senior—was heard to ask gravely what would happen if the substance under discussion were to be burned in a vacuum, and a Junior the other day in a moment of self-forgetfulness desired to know if the point of complete distillation of alcohol was to be determined by the taste or not.

The Lounger is in a most perplexed condition of mind. Yielding to his great thirst for knowledge he has permitted himself to read the different articles which have lately appeared in our various periodicals regarding higher education, and after a careful consideration of the Ideal American University from Professor Roger's standpoint, of the value of technological education as expounded by Professor Tyler, and the merits of the small college as set forth by President Gates of Amherst, the matter seems decidedly mixed. If this is so to one of his mental capacity, the Lounger is well aware how intricate it must seem to the average intellect, and so has decided to tersely define the Ideal American University from the modern standpoint.

The I. A. U. is an institution which embodies the following characteristics:

The graduate knows less on leaving than on entering. At present he knows it all at both times.

The student is enabled to take a college course for general culture, graduate work for mental improvement, and professional work for bread and butter in the space of four years.

The student shall maintain an athletic development in proportion to his mental and shall gain that knowledge of men which is to be only obtained by much time spent in outside amusement.

Thus shall be graduated a man at once cultured and broad-minded and ready to begin his profession at a reasonable age. These ideals are not in immediate prospect of realization.