The Summer School of Metallurgy.

Just before Commencement Day last June, the students of the Mining Course at the Institute received circulars which began as follows:

CIRCULAR TO METALLURGICAL SUMMER SCHOOL.

BOSTON, June 1, 1891.

The objects of this school are to spread the good report and reputation of the Institute of Technology and to benefit the members of the school. Anything that will add to these results may be advocated. Anything that may detract from them must be avoided.

Then followed directions about trains, and the signatures of Professors Richards and Hofman, who had charge of the Summer School.

It is the plan of the Mining Department to have the Summer School at some mines one year, and at some metallurgical center the next. This year, Pittsburg, Penn., was the headquarters of the school, and the work done was the study of the iron and steel industries of that city and its vicinity. Besides this, short excursions were made to the coke region, lead, silver and aluminum works, and to various other industrial establishments.


We left Boston for New York via the Fall River Line on Wednesday night, June 3d. Arriving in New York the next morning, we rode across the city in a big express wagon, each of us sitting on his own baggage, to South Ferry, and took the boat for Constable's Hook, N. J., where we visited the smelting and refining works of the Orford Copper Co. Here we saw several kinds of furnaces and processes in working order; the methods being carefully explained to us by the managers, who gave us the "freedom of the works." At noon we were treated to an impromptu lunch in the laboratory of the Company.

In the afternoon, we visited the Bergenport Chemical Works near by, where all the sulphuric acid used by the Standard Oil Company is made. No previous arrangement in regard to our visit had been made with the manager of these works, and he said, as we asked for admittance, "There isn't much to see here." But when we left him, we had seen one of the neatest and best arranged works visited on the whole trip. The lead work of the great acid chambers and their connections is considered to be unexcelled in this country.

On the way back to the city, we drew lots for two "trophies" obtained by Professor Richards at the copper works. Palmer drew a miniature copper ingot, and Sweetser a small copper bowl. Both articles were oxidized and colored with the beautiful reds peculiar to copper.

Thursday night we took the train for Bethlehem, Penn., and put up at the old Sun Inn. This ancient tavern, with its old pictures in the office, and many other buildings near it, are full of interest. The Moravian Seminary for girls, surrounded by a twelve-foot wall, has a peculiar charm, too.

The next forenoon was spent at the immense plant of the Bethlehem Iron Works. Anthracite coal is used in the blast furnaces here, and it was on account of this peculiarity that we made Bethlehem one of our stopping-places. We had an excellent chance to see the "insides" of a blast furnace that was being repaired. After dinner we spent a couple of hours at the Lehigh Zinc and Iron Works, and then were free to go where we pleased. Most of us went up to Lehigh University to see how it compared with Tech.; in the way of grounds, it is far ahead, but the cold-blooded way in which the marks of every student are posted in the corridors made us grateful that our reports come sealed.

We left Bethlehem Saturday morning and arrived in Pittsburg at midnight. As we filed