One can hardly realize the advantages of a trip such as the miners take until he has made it. Together with Professor Richards and Professor Hofman, the students make a thorough study of mining methods and machinery; under the able guidance of these two professors they soon obtain the essential points of new apparatus and processes; they are invited guests at many places where other visitors are barely tolerated.

Besides this professional work which is not hard enough to be irksome and which is much too novel to be tedious, there are all the benefits of a vacation in interesting parts of the country. A party of Institute men is not slow to decide what pleasure there is in such an outing. The traveling and living expenses are reduced to a minimum.

The Tech wishes to heartily recommend the Summer Schools to all those eligible, as one of the best means to become familiar with the practical side of their professions, and at the same time to enjoy a very pleasant, benificial vacation.

We hear some complaint among the third-year men, and statements to the effect that their German is not so interesting and instructive as it should be. Knowing the large amount of time and care that Professor Van Daell has expended in arranging this course, and his sincerity in selecting the text-books used, we scarcely care to hazard an opinion in the matter, and a suggestion least of all. It is a question, perhaps, whether it is better with classes as little advanced in real knowledge of the language as these are, to spend the time on the hardest of German—two pages as a maximum lesson—where construction is most difficult, and strange words too crowded; where interest declines on account of the slight progress made, and smaller idioms are often lost sight of, through continual complications with the more involved; or whether it would be better to spend it on easier prose, where more pages could be covered and vocabulary and simple construction—of which, by the way, a surprising amount of ignorance is continually being exhibited—made predominant. On the one hand, we have gained a certain facility in construction; on the other, a more sustained interest, a wider range of vocabulary, and a greater certainty in expression. It is, however, to be stated and emphasized that in the first case, in the reading of Goethe and Heine, the student is familiarizing himself with the best that German literature affords, and gaining a knowledge of these authors and of the scenes in which they moved, which is certainly of the utmost value.

Here, then, the matter stands. Doubtless there are many other arguments on both sides of the question, but as The Tech is not going to decide the matter, these may be left for the reader to supplement. Meanwhile, the fact remains that an undoubtedly large number of the men have scarcely any interest whatever in their work in this department.

Ninety-Four held a class meeting on the 16th, for the purpose of considering the challenge of '95 to '94 for an athletic contest.

The subject was discussed at some length, those wishing to accept the challenge suggesting that tug-of-war and hammer throwing be added to the list of events. Those who were opposed to accepting the challenge gave as their reason that it was not customary for a lower class to challenge the class above them, and that as '95 showed undue forwardness, their communication should be ignored. But the principle reason advanced was that there already was a class championship in track athletics, and that this dual meeting would tend to decrease the interest in the already established class championship.

After some discussion on this point, it was voted to have the chair appoint a committee