in its very midst, Technology certainly has an atmosphere as cultured as the Back Bay can give it,—one it would be extremely difficult to equal elsewhere in the country.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

To THE EDITORS OF THE TECH:—

There appears to exist considerable doubt in the minds of many of the men at the Institute as to the exact shades of Technology's colors. I believe the official announcement when they were chosen was that they should consist of "cardinal red and silver gray," but this definition allows a considerable difference to be observed among the flags at our football matches, and on other occasions where our colors are prominent, while all actually come within this definition. Now, what I would suggest is that the Institute Committee should decide just what shades we are in the future to go by, and, having decided, post the same in a glass case in Rogers Corridor, or some equally good place. If I have not made myself plain, I would suggest as a model the way the members of the Boston Athletic Association have their colors posted in the library of their clubhouse.

R. W.

To THE EDITORS OF THE TECH:—

Where can the spirit of fairness of one class toward another be better shown than at the cane rush? But '96, however, descended to the low, unsportsman-like trick of using barbed wire on the flagpole. It was no credit, therefore, to '96 that her flag waved unfought for, for no one cared to be all cut up in attempting to tear it down; '97 made a mute appeal to the fair-mindedness of the spectators by not attempting it although one '97 man did start the attempt, until throttled by at least seventy-five jubilant Sophs who nearly tore him to pieces in their wildness.

If '96 had put up her flag and guarded it successfully, it would have been a proud day for her; but never, never has any class but '96 been guilty of such an act! All honor, then, to the man who made the attempt, and may the ignominy of this unsportsman-like act follow '96 to the end. I am, respectfully, a sympathizer of '97.

C. A. M.

The Libraries of the Institute.

The Institute possesses what is known as a working library. Its thirty thousand volumes and many thousand pamphlets, periodicals, and papers have all a direct bearing upon Institute work, and have all been carefully selected from time to time, as their need has become apparent in the development of the courses.

The collection embraces the widest range of scientific work, and is divided into libraries whose distribution and general arrangement is at once unique and advantageous. The several departments have been arranged in the different buildings where they are most convenient for the various courses. Thus we have a distribution and location as follows:—

- Mining Library, Rogers, Room 9.
- Biological Library, Rogers, Room 13.
- Geological Library, Rogers, Room 14.
- General Library, Rogers, Room 15.
- Mathematical Library, Rogers, Room 34.
- Library of Political Science, English, and History, Rogers, Room 40.
- Physics Library, Walker, Room 15.
- Chemistry Library, Walker, Room 43.
- Architectural Library, Architectural, Room 32.
- Engineering Library, Engineering, Room 40.

It is furthermore characteristic of all the Institute libraries that they are accessible to all students. A student is at liberty to take any book from any library, provided that he conforms to simple and necessary regulations. The one rule set down is that the name of the borrower, the name of the book, and the date be written in the record book provided in every library, and that in most cases the book be returned the following day. It is obvious that such a simple regulation imposes a trust on the student, the violation of which produces serious embarrassment in the work of others. But, on the other hand, the advantages of such a free use of books as this regulation permits can but be of the greatest value. Taken all in all, the selection, arrangement, and manner of conducting the libraries could hardly be surpassed, as far as actual benefit to the students is concerned.