Mr. Lawrence will carry on a course in Shades and Shadows for three weeks, beginning June fifth, at the close of which a four-weeks' course in Orders is to be taken up under the instruction of Mr. Shedd. The course in Orders will consist of lectures, blackboard work, and drawing, and will occupy six hours daily. Professor Homer will also give two other courses, one in Design, corresponding to the regular second-year work and continuing six hours daily for four weeks beginning July twenty-second, and another in Architectural History occupying four hours each day through the same period.

It would be difficult to state the great value of the instruction given in this Summer School; but the advantages which are offered should be sufficiently manifest to secure a large attendance in each course.

LONG-ESTABLISHED college customs are dispensed with year after year to make way for the progressive ideas of the times. Following the general trend, Brown University has recently taken a step which will certainly reflect credit upon its alma mater, and will have an influence over other colleges. The problem of college commencements has long been under discussion, but never satisfactorily solved. Gradually the most obnoxious forms have been eliminated, and the more tedious exercises have been omitted, until at the present time but few radical changes are desirable. One which the class of Ninety-five of Brown has deemed it wise to make, is the abolishment of prize orations.

This step, which is of so great importance, and which will undoubtedly be watched with interest from all parts of the educational world, arises neither from a desire to differ from preceding classes, nor from a restless love of change. It is born of a firm and honest conviction that the present system is objectionable, and of a commendable wish to establish a permanent improvement. Moreover, this action, though distinctly radical, is supported by strong arguments, and, like a true revolution, is the product of ideas that have had a long and steady growth.

In the first place, it seems unfortunate that the last day of a college course should be taken up with a contest among the members of the graduating class for a prize. That on this day of all days, when friendship and good feeling should prevail, the bitterness of failure and of disappointment should mar the occasion. Again, from the point of view of the cultured audience which attends these exercises, the orations are incomplete, and almost boyish in their treatment of subjects; indeed, were it not for the sympathy which friends and relatives naturally feel toward the graduates, the orations would be intensely uninteresting. Finally, there is an opportunity for unfairness. An inveterate shirk, with an innate oratorical ability, may win high honors, while another man, rich in all the accomplishments of a scholar, may pass almost unnoticed.

Prize orations, however, cannot be abolished without a suitable substitute, and it is proposed that Brown shall adopt the method at present in vogue at Yale; namely, addresses by two or three prominent alumni. In this way the alumni and the University are brought into closer contact, while the objectionable features of commencement exercises as they now exist are removed. It is scarcely necessary here at Technology to adopt a reform of this character; yet, in the desire to advance the interests of our commencement season, it is wholly important that each class, as it approaches graduation, should be alive to every improvement which can be made possible.

It is with regret that The Tech notes in the Freshman Committee on the Prize Drills an assertion of self-interest which is altogether detrimental to effective work. Certain mem-