treasurer of the institution, it has a beneficial effect not only upon the recipients, but also upon the donors. It binds more closely undergraduates and graduates, and causes the givers to feel that they have, personally, benefited the institution that has done so much for them, and in after years, when they may chance to revisit the scenes of their college days, it surely gives them more of a sense of fraternity and comradeship with those occupying the places they once filled. Let the class of '96, that has been so conspicuous for its unity and loyalty to Institute traditions, stand in the front rank of this movement as it has in similar directions in the past.

SOMEONE has said that the worst vice is advice. That much advised individual, the freshman, may well agree with this, but a word of advice on the results of his first term's work may be of service to him.

He who has safely completed the term and is beginning to feel that his work is not as difficult as he at first anticipated, and who is planning to work a little less harder during the coming months, should remember that there are victories more disastrous than defeats, and that an initial success is no guarantee of a final victory. More than one man has failed his finals, simply because he succeeded at the semies.

He who found more "F's" than "C's" on his report, and who is beginning to doubt the kindness of a Fate that permitted him to enter the Institute, should remember the words of Wendell Phillips: "What is defeat? Nothing but education; nothing but the first step to something better." His lack of success may have been due to a defective preparation, in which case increased study will remedy the deficiency; or it may have been caused by a failure to adapt himself to the system of instruction used here; in this case time will remove the difficulty. Whatever the trouble, if he came here determined to succeed he will do so.

NOW that the semiannual "trial" is over THE TECH is inclined to be skeptical as to its vaunted virtues. The regular work of the Institute has been suspended for three weeks, and the compensating gain seems very slight. Many students, perhaps all students to a greater or less extent, neglected certain subjects all through the term, knowing that a few hours' judicious "cramming" the day before the examination would almost surely suffice for the demands of the Faculty, and such methods certainly produced no results of lasting value. In other cases conscientious work during the term counted for nothing if the examiner chose to lead his trusting flock into the great unknown, where they perished miserably in vain attempts to wrestle with problems of nature previously unthought of by them. The main object of a technical education is, to be sure, the development of original force and the ability to apply one's knowledge in practical cases; but the most unfavorable time to make such applications is during the stress of the examination period when the mind is staggering under the weight of "crammed" facts.

There are, of course, some very obvious advantages in final examinations, not the least of which is the sense of proportion and the perception of the relation of the parts to the whole which arises from a legitimate review of the subject, but that there is an immense waste of energy, as they are now conducted, seems undeniable.

HAS been pointed out many times, one of the great advantages of the Institute training is the facility with which positions are obtained by its graduates. Examination of the Annual Catalogue, '95-'96, shows that out of the class graduating last year one hundred and eight men have obtained positions, eighteen are pursuing their studies further, and seven only are not reported as having occupations.