Tech. Grads. in Difficulties.

The following clipping from the Gold Creek News, Gold Creek, Nev., relating to C. S. Newhall, and W. P. Anderson, Jr., both of Course III., '96, may be of interest:

Chas. S. Newhall had a new experience the other day. Mr. Newhall for a time, when not playing the banjo and singing college songs at night, was in the field during the day on the staff of Colonel Maxson. The snow was deep, so deep that a plan was being seriously discussed for splicing Billy Anderson's legs to keep his head above the drifts. Newhall and Anderson were college chums together, and now are Gold Creek's only reliable assayers. In his own case Newhall thought he had solved the problem on scientific principles. With considerable ingenuity, that does great credit to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of which he is a graduate, he constructed a pair of snowshoes out of barrel staves. They don't wear showshoes in Boston, but when one is located in the West he soon shakes off the effeminacy of the Hub. Newhall's scheme was a great success. The improvised barrel staves worked like the proverbial charm. He walked placidly along, towering over the heads of his toiling co-laborers. But there came a time when Newhall wanted to go along a steep place on the mountain. There was nothing wrong about that; other men have done the same thing. He intended to throw out a pick that he was carrying as a sort of guy rope to anchor him to the mountain. The metaphor may be a little mixed, but this is nothing to what happened shortly afterward. The snowshoes, following the lines of least resistance, started down the mountain. Newhall went with them. In fact, he couldn't very well do otherwise. Faster and faster they went, with a uniformly accelerated velocity. Now it often occurs in this country, that a steep slope at the bottom of a gulch forms an acute angle with the opposite hill-side, and the present case was no exception to the general rule. Newhall knew this as well as any one else, and he had already begun to reflect on the exigencies of the situation. But what could he do? He had one side and two angles, and could make his calculations all right, but this didn't affect the result. He was in for it just the same, as the man said that jumped into the river. The snowshoes failed to make the rise on the opposite side, but started to tunnel through the bank. They came to a sudden stop. It was not so with Newhall. He went on and planted himself head first in the snow, with the improvised barrel staves dangling from his feet in the air like angels' wings.

A New Method of Driving an Induction Coil.

Since the induction coil has come into prominence through the discovery of the X-rays of Roentgen, considerable attention has been turned toward devising some means of operating it from ordinary lighting or power circuits of 110, 220, or 500 volts. For such voltages all known forms of circuit breaker have proved failures on account of the arc formed. The problem has been successfully solved by Messrs. Norton and Lawrence, of the Physical department of the Institute, who have devised the following method:

A condenser of considerable capacity is first connected to the mains and charged. It is then disconnected and discharged through the primary coil. The charging and discharging of the condensers is effected by means of a commutator. In this way the only current passing through the coil is from the condenser. The commutator is on the shaft of a small fan motor. The sparking on the commutator is very slight, and the amount of power taken from the mains is small. The discharge obtained from the coil is eminently fitted for driving X-ray tubes, giving an intensity far exceeding that from the ordinary form of induction coil or static machine.

With this apparatus the time required for exposure has been greatly reduced. A good negative of a hand was obtained in five seconds, and one of a purse in one second. Moreover, the apparatus is of such simplicity that the skill of the average physician is ample to operate it successfully.

College bred men in the United States number only one-fifth of one per cent, or one in five hundred of the whole population. They have furnished 30 per cent of our congressmen, 50 per cent of our senators, 60 per cent of our presidents, and over 70 per cent of our supreme court judges.