The Junior Dinner.

Young's Hotel last Friday evening was the scene of a festive gathering. Ninety-three members of the Class of '99 assembled for their Junior Dinner and passed a most enjoyable evening. After an excellent menu had been disposed of, President Blake made a short address, dealing with the affairs and history of the class. Mr. Hammond, as toastmaster, then told a few good stories, of which he seemed to have an inexhaustible supply, and introduced Mr. Haven Sawyer, who told of the delights and drawbacks of "The Engineering Courses." Messrs. Addicks, Babcock, Case, Hazeltine, Hamlen and Palmer gave several mandolin and guitar selections, which were greatly appreciated. "Junior Week" was Mr. Hamilton's subject, and he gave some facts in regard to the history and growth of this annual festive time, after which, in response to "Athletics," Mr. Burch told of what '99 had done in that direction. Mr. Emery made a great hit by rendering several very clever little songs, as did also Mr. Caldwell with his numerous puns under the title "Vignettes." Mr. Stebbins called up the good points of many of the members of "Our Faculty," and Mr. Robinson gave some good advice in a very sensible talk on "Our Duties as Seniors." "The Scientific Course" was represented by Mr. Corse, who told, among other things, of the great musical ability of the members of Course V. Mr. Adams next sang a number of popular songs in a very catchy way and was obliged to respond to numerous encores. Mr. Renshaw gave a short account of the progress of "Technique," and announced that the price of the book would be one dollar. "Holidays" received careful attention from Mr. Patch, who told in a general way how they should be spent, and also lamented the mutual distrust which exists between the more and the less studious classes of men. A very clever and interesting little dialect sketch was then given by Mr. Vogt, called, "A Negro's Idea of Electricity."

After some music on banjeaurine and guitar by Messrs. Addicks and White, Mr. White told of the many advantages and joys of "The Artistic Course," and pitied all of the unfortunate who had not chosen Course IV. Mr. Shumaker anticipated the future a little by giving a few "Hints for Household Happiness," and showed a remarkable familiarity with the causes of domestic unhappiness and their remedies, after which the toast list was completed by renderings of a quartette composed of Messrs. Pierce, Adams, Page, and Johnson. Several extemporaneous speeches were made by Messrs. Baily, Morse, and Page; songs were sung; class and Institute cheers were given, and the most successful dinner yet recorded in the history of '99 was ended.

Communications.

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

To the Editors of The Tech:—

Very early in my course at the Institute, I found that many of the instructors in the purely technical subjects are in the habit of lecturing on the advance lesson as if they really expect to clear up some of the troublesome points. At first I tried to follow faithfully, but I soon found that if a single minor fact were overlooked or misunderstood the clew to the whole explanation perhaps was gone, and the remainder of the discussion, if not wholly lost, was much impaired. In short, I found myself thrown more and more upon the text-book, and now depend almost wholly upon it. This method has the disadvantage that much time is often wasted in trying to master difficulties which have already been discussed in the classroom.

I do not believe that the average student is prepared to derive the full benefit from a lecture until he has had a chance to read over in his reference book the subject under consideration, find for himself the knotty points, and know what he wants to get from the lecture. It does seem as if this fact must force itself upon the instructor when he sees before him a roomful of yawning and bored-looking students, of whom a