Those entering upon their first year at Technology the meaning of the work before them is as yet unknown. It is true the tabular views of the four years show in a way that the studies to be followed at the Institute are radically different from those of other colleges. Indeed, to the stranger here the schedule of a third or fourth year man conveys hardly a concrete idea, so mysterious and, on the whole, so incomprehensible is it in its technicalities. The nature of the work, however, is not in itself the sole distinction between the Institute and colleges where academic work is pursued.

Its immediate purpose is different. As a rule when a man receives his degree from a college he is not fitted for any particular vocation. His time has been spent in acquiring what is commonly called a liberal education, an all-round development of mind and body. It is afterwards that he begins the study of law or medicine or whatever is to be his life work. On the other hand Technology starts a man upon the road he is to travel after his college days are past.

In order to accomplish this almost all the elements of a liberal education in anything but science are crowded from the curriculum. Competition in all branches of industry is keen and the demands upon the engineer or architect have steadily increased. As a result the first two years of Institute work is semi-professional and the last two almost entirely professional and technical, and the Technology graduate is recognized throughout the engineering world as splendidly equipped in his chosen line of work.