that many writers gained their first incentive towards a literary career through connection with a college paper. Therefore we take this opportunity to express the wish that Congress may see fit to pass the bill which is to be introduced for the reduction of postage on manuscript to third-class rates.

Architectural Society.

Mr. Blackall, one of Boston's foremost architects, spoke at the Smoke Talk held by the Architectural Society on Friday evening, at the Technology Club. Mr. Blackall is the designer of Tremont Temple and Frohman's Theatre, now building on the site of the old public library, and the first envoi of the Rotch Traveling Scholarship. He holds that art is the most important factor in preparation, and a well-rounded broad education is to be preferred to a knowledge of the more intricate constructive principles. The members of Option I. have been taking advantage of every opportunity since the talk to impress this statement on the men in the Engineering Option. Mr. Blackall's statement, which, he says, is seconded by Professor Swain, that the relation of angles and sides of triangles, addition, subtraction and the use of the slide rule are all the mathematics absolutely necessary, is novel to say the least. He gave as three necessary qualifications for success in the profession: first, the ability to criticize one's own work; second, a self assurance of being able to make it just right; and, finally, the dogged perseverance to work it out, being satisfied with nothing less than the very best one can do.

After refreshments were served, Mr. Blackall again entertained his audience with some very interesting stories of both a personal and a professional nature.

The glove and the mitten had a most terrible combat. It is needless to say that the mitten was worsted. — Ex.

Teachers' Relief Fund.

The Institute has recently received a gift of $50,000 from Mr. Augustus Lowell, which, according to the express wish of the donor, is to serve as a nucleus for a teacher's relief fund. The income of the fund, subject to whatever regulations the committee in charge may see fit to adopt from time to time, is to be used for the benefit of the teaching staff of the Institute, in cases of illness, retirement, or death.

The donor has requested that the fund shall have no personal designation, believing that thus others would sooner see fit to associate themselves with him in the good cause. The gift, the first provision of its kind in the history of the Institute, and coming as it does from a member of the executive committee of the corporation, will, it is hoped, serve to attract attention to the need of further endowments of this character.

The Institute has in recent years been amply provided for in the line of gifts for the purpose of aiding students. It is most fortunate that something has now been done in the opposite direction, for the aid of the instructing staff. In almost every other educational institution in the country the instructing staff is well provided for, and Mr. Lowell's generous gift is most timely in making up for a long-felt want.

It is evidently not the wish of the donor, nor would it be in harmony with the general practice of the Institute, to inaugurate any plan for pensioning at a certain age, or any definite schedule of advancement and of salaries. The Institute policy has rather been to make advancement depend solely upon individual merit. Any endowments, therefore, that may in the future be added to Mr. Lowell's gift will probably be used in much the same way as the present donation. They will constitute a general fund upon which drafts may be made according to the especial merits or needs of each case.