would have been drunk anyhow by part of the class on that same evening. This, however, has not been rigidly demonstrated. But I truly believe that the influence of the whole thing was good, rather than evil, and that we did not go contrary to the spirit of a quotation, which the ministers at least ought to recognize and approve, "If meat cause my brother to offend, then I will eat no more meat as long as the world standeth."

H. S. Baker, '03.

That the "Kommer" supplies a long-felt need among the students is unquestioned by any one acquainted with the high educational requirements and the social life at the Institute. In the rapid development of the curriculum to its present degree of excellence, the fact that the brain not only absolutely demands a complete relaxation after continued strain, but that it also does better work, seems to have been overlooked. Whatever may be the professional opinion of the professors at the Institute, it is certain that the students are generally regarded by those of other colleges, and by the public at large, as "Grinds." An impartial observer cannot but notice the lack of "college spirit," so marked in other places. It has even been said in defence of this state of affairs that such a spirit is inconsistent with the nature of the work at the Institute.

Upon his arrival, however, President Pritchett saw this lack, and felt the need of increasing the problems of collegiate interest, and of bringing the students into more friendly personal relations with the professors.

In speaking upon this subject before a meeting of one of the professional societies, he described the efficient manner in which this need is met at German universities, namely, the "Kommer," and suggested its adoption at the Institute. This suggestion received the heartiest approval from those present, and was carried out by the Junior Class with greatest success.

One feature, however, had been overlooked, and its results have been most unexpected and lamentable. In accordance with the German custom, after refreshments, both beer and tobacco were placed at the disposal of any one present,—and this with the virtual sanction of the Faculty! Here was material for journalism. Our ambitious young reporters sent in to various papers articles appearing under such headlines as "Beer Dinners at Tech," "Free Beer for Tech Students," etc.; scareheads well calculated to attract attention, both of parents of prospective students, and of a community which prides itself on the high standard of its institutions of learning.

The opposition of public sentiment, in this country a controlling force, is sure to be aroused more or less deeply by the introduction of new customs. Like any other foreign custom which contains elements of real worth the "Kommer" should be Americanized and adapted to existing conditions. Its introduction was no more for the purpose of establishing drinking bouts than dueling, among the students. The great majority of those who would drink beer are undoubtedly strong enough in character to suffer no ill effects, but it is equally true that there are men—and this is the important point to bear in mind—who would be lead to form habits of evil consequences. Some students will continue to drink beer; but for the sake of the moral reputation of the Institute, and to prevent possible evil results to the few, beer should not be served with the sanction of the Faculty at student gatherings.

President Pritchett has taken the responsibility entirely upon his own shoulders, and has met the censure of press and public with a straightforwardness, which has strengthened his position with Faculty and students, and won him the respect of many outside.

This is a question, however, on which the students should take a decisive stand.

The standard of "Tech" is high; lift it higher! Tech should not copy but should rather adapt and improve existing conditions.

Two things should be determined upon at once: The "Kommer" must stay, we need it; beer must go, we do not need it.

F. B. C.

Is it advisable to introduce the custom of beer-drinking into our college social functions? This question fairly outlines the subject of the controversy which at present interests the Institute. It is a recognized fact that Technology is lacking in student social life, and that this want should be met. It appears necessary that refreshments of some sort should be served at the student gatherings. Should beer be officially catalogued among these refreshments? No one can assert that beer is essential; so the question turns upon advisability.

Since this "drinking of beer at Tech" is but the aping of German university customs, it is profitable to examine its effect upon German students. A German student is seldom under twenty-one years of age upon entering. In fact, the average is above this, for the German does not consider his education com-