WITHDRAWALS.

ALTHOUGH this year's entering class surpasses all predecessors in size, the number who were requested to withdraw with the beginning of the second term is far below that of any former class. This has special significance in connection with the closer marking of the entrance examinations, for previously students were admitted who were really not qualified to attain, in their courses, the high standard required later, and when asked to withdraw they blamed the Faculty, not without some justice, for the leniency which placed them in that position. It is a poor rule that does not work both ways. The more exacting entrance requirements may shut out some who are capable of going through the Institute with credit, but in the long run is it not better to make the entrance markings correspond with those which are to follow.

EXAMINATIONS.

UPON reviewing this year's examinations and comparing them with those of the past, one is favorably impressed by the increased predominance of practical questions, problems an engineer has to meet, over the abstract, theoretical questions, whose conditions are generally never met with in practice. This may be, of course, simply a happy coincidence, but we hope not. Theoretical considerations are perfectly proper, indeed essential, but in examinations, unless they are subverted in favor of the practical, they will lead to an erroneous emphasis of the term's work.