FAILURE to heed this warning, which is posted conspicuously by the door of the General Library, has been causing much trouble of late to the Library Staff, the officers of the English Department, and to the students who have had themes assigned, with required readings in books that were absent and not accounted for. Examination of the shelves recently showed that over one hundred and forty books belonging to the English Department were lost, strayed or stolen. Almost every set of novels is imperfect, owing to losses of this kind, and Professor Bates says that every time he gives out a new assignment of reading he has to make a requisition on the Librarian for new books, to take the place of lost volumes.

What has happened to most of one hundred and forty odd volumes is illustrated probably by the case of "Kim." This book was purchased for the library in January, 1902. It had not been on the shelf twenty-four hours when it disappeared. It was found a few days ago in a Fraternity house, concealed under the cushion of a seat in the billiard-room. The borrower—whose absent-mindedness is shown by his failure to leave a receipt—had evidently placed the book in hiding while he played a game of billiards, and then, not seeing the book, never thought of it again. If he had followed the rules of the library, he would have been reminded by the receipt of one of those familiar yellow notices, and all the rest of the Institute would not have been deprived, by his carelessness, of the use of the book for a year.

It has been the policy of the Institute to make the use of the library as easy and as free from red tape as possible for every student, and this policy has worked well until within the last year or so. But recently the losses have been so numerous, especially in the English Department, as to have become a serious hindrance to the work of both professors and students. If this state of affairs continues, it is likely that greater restrictions will have to be placed upon the use of the library. This is a result that we should all regret, for the free access to the shelves of the libraries has always been one of the pleasant features of life at Tech.