From The Tech, April 23, 1884:

Eighty-four's course is almost finished. In little more than a month the last '34 class within instruction will all have gone, and the members of this class who have worked together side by side for four years will disperse among them, probably never meet again.

It is true that the Institute affords less amusement and social intercourse than do other colleges, but the student goes away and thinks that every graduate will return. Learning is the only master with more favor than he does now as a student bound in its absorbing work, just as the dweller under the shadow of the high mountain does not realize its height or its beauty until he has left the shore, and sailing out into the great open sea, looks upon the mountains looming up store grandly as he vanishes from it.

The Margaret Cheney Reading Room

The Lowell Free courses gave opportunities for chemical instruction as well as in 1866. In this year and during each succeeding one, all a few earnest women have sought the scientific culture they desired. This work of the Lowell courses the men were able to supplement by attention upon the classes of the Institute. In 1873, however, the professor's private laboratory was opened for quantitative analysis to the most promising of these women, and, as the quality of their work in this branch of chemistry removed all doubt as to the ability of women for advanced scientific study, a separate laboratory was provided in the following year, to secure for the steadily increasing number of applicants enlarged facilities for work, as well as to supply the long-felt want for special accommodations. For the Women's Laboratory to meet fully this latter necessity was impossible; in fact, we do the young ladies now at the Institute remember this time of poverty, when they were forced either to wander through halls and corridors with their wraps over their arms, or to appropriate the seats of library chairs for hooks and bags. But these things are of the past, they belong to the dark ages, a new era has dawned, is here now upon us.

The proposed "new building" pointed to the possibility of a millennium of the long-desired hope—a ladies' private reading-room. When it was decided that a special room should be set apart, it was the happy thought of Mr. Ross of the Corporation to name it in memory of Margaret Cheney, who had just died, and who had been long connected to the Institute. Miss Cheney, the daughter of Mr. Seth Cheney, the artist, was one of the class which entered the Lowell Free course of '73-'74, and for each year till her death, with the exception of those spent in travel, was an earnest and enthusiastic student. Had she continued at the Institute a few months longer, she would have completed the work of the chemical course.

To those who knew Margaret Cheney, the form of the memorial suggested by Mr. Ross was only fitting one; while to those of us who have since heard something of her character, her approach is apparent.

For the permanent use of the room as a women's study the government of the Institute has accepted the sum of $1,000, subscribed by personal friends of Miss Cheney; the immediate family generously contributed funds for furnishing the room, while other friends have kindly helped fill the bookcase and cover the walls. Although the room does not invite luxuriant ease, the women students can now find, under the benign protection of Diana, seclusion and retirement for furnishing the room, while other friends have kindly helped fill the bookcase and cover the walls. Although the room does not invite luxuriant ease, the women students can now find, under the benign protection of Diana, seclusion and retirement; a new era has dawned, is here now upon us.

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