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*For the benefit of students THE TECH will be pleased to answer
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*Contributions are requested from all undergraduates, alumni, and
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OUR AMBITION AND ITS BEGINNING.

IF we graduate from Tech and know no more of our professors than we have gathered in the lecture rooms, we have failed in half the aim of our course of study. We have come here to follow Dr. Edward Everett Hale's advice to "Speak each day to one you know to be your superior." The tendency of the times here is to a closer and more democratic intercourse between the undergraduates and the professors than has ever before been possible. Every effort of those in power here is directed toward

furthering this end, and with the great assistance of Dr. Pritchett, Dean Burton, Dr. Tyler and Professor Bates, we have been able, in this issue, to start our efforts. Through such articles as we now present the students may be reached in an unofficial way, on their own territory and in their own paper. We hope that we shall be able in the coming months to publish such articles frequently and to make THE TECH a recognized medium through which the Faculty may talk to the men whom they have to teach not only to be engineers, but to be men.

AT ZURICH.

AT Zurich, any text-book whatever may be taken into an examination. The theory is that in future work a student will have these books at his command and that a knowledge of their proper use is of greater advantage than the memorizing of methods and formulæ. If the theory of the American examination system were carried out to the last degree, the libraries of the Institute would be deserted by the instructing staff, whose only use for a book would be to keep up with the absolute advance of their subject. This is, of course, absurd and impossible, but there are few of us who have not, at times, doubted the value of much of the material which we are called upon to memorize. Cannot the time spent in learning by heart what has already been put in print be spent to greater advantage otherwise? It is a great question. At Zurich they believe it can be. Do the Germans differ widely from the Americans? We are told that they do not. We have grafted many of their ideas