

engineering students it is a source of benefit, which cannot be gotten in any other way. The success which the first issue has attained, heralds the future life of the *Journal* without doubt, encouraging the members of the society to lift it to the top-most rank among college journals.

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BY a new arrangement which went into effect last commencement, the manner of granting class honors at this college has been changed. No mention of valedictorian is now made by the faculty; but a valedictorian may be elected by the class, if it chooses. Fifteen per cent. of the class may receive first honors, providing that many have averages of eighty-three, or above fifteen per cent have second honors, if they average seventy-eight, or above.

This arrangement eradicates a difficulty which in the past has at times seemed to be almost an evil. In case two students have averages which differ by only a small fraction of one per cent, it seems unjust to discriminate between them as to honors, especially where they have pursued different courses of study, and have been graded by different professors. It is known also that too often students look at honors in the wrong light; and as a result we have book worms. A student who works mechanically for honors, is selfish, conceited, and in most cases does not arrive at the clear understanding of his course,

which he should. In recitation it is one thing to give the author's statement, and it is quite another thing to give the same line of thought in your own language. Many students disdain to follow the language or order of the text; but prefer to give their own reasoning to arrive at the same principles as the author's; although they may sometimes fail partially, yet their recitations are worth far more than those of a book-worm.

In view of the fact that many students lose themselves in their headlong efforts to reach the one coveted goal, it seems just to remove that goal, and replace it by the present arrangement, which offers less inducement to working for mere grades, and removes to a greater distance the possibility of doing an injustice by a compulsory discrimination.

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AS we have now become somewhat settled, the question naturally arises, what is the outlook of the coming year? I think none will say that it is not far ahead of that of any previous year which this institution has seen.

Never before have we had such an influx of new students on the college side. The Preparatory Department has, we think, its usual number of students. The Senior class, though not as large as the class of '90, is larger than many Senior classes previous to 1890. Our old buildings have been transformed into new ones, and the new ones are constantly being better fitted for our use,