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INTRODUCTION TO AN ENGINEER
By MARIE MACARIO

Moonlight filtered down on an evening quite clear
To the plains in the vale of Mount Nittany;
As a State College girl,
Who was just sweet sixteen
Rushed up to her mom and hesitantly
Said, “Mother, my dear
I’ve wonderful news
For you on this evening so clear;
There’s a party tonight
And I’ve just got a date—
A blind date with a young engineer.”

Her mother gasped twice,
Turned pale as a sheet
And fell in her chair as though dead,
But was quickly revived
With a half glass of rum
And a quite careful blow on the head.
She then sat up straight
And cooled her hot brow
With a few applications of ice,
Cleared her throat and began
In an ominous tone
This motherly bit of advice:
“To you of all persons
Who has never done wrong,
Never known jealousy, hatred, or fear,
Oh, why should it be
You reach down in the bag
And pull out a poor, dumb engineer?
Didn’t you know,
Or haven’t you heard
This of all prospects is the one prospect drear:
To be left for an evening
Holding the bag—
Or worse, a poor dumb engineer!

“Imagine a man
Who could gaze at a water-fall
In the half-dusk of evening’s first hour,
And then sadly sigh,
Not for the beauty,
But for the waste of such beautiful power.
Imagine a person
Who has sunk down so low
That the grandeur of all Borealis
Are lost. As he claims,
They can all be explained
By a simple Maxwellian analysis.

“His brain is a mess
Of circuits and wires,
His heart but a cold turning gear,
So pity the girl
On a swell moonlit night
Alone with a dumb engineer;
For the moon in the sky
Was not made for love,
But for phase and total eclipses;
And the planets to move
In celestial orbits
Of slightly eccentric ellipses.

“Her soft vibrant voice
Which should thrill any man
Is merely a group of harmonics
Of an audio tone
Employed in a manner
That could all but predict supersonics.
And silvery reflections
From her eyes and her hair
That should set a true artist to gloating,
He will tell her at once
Could all be removed
By a transparent quarter-wave coating.

“With well seasoned food
She can’t tempt him at all;
His one-track mind can’t he halted.
When thoughts are on math
He’ll eat broken glass
Without noticing whether it’s salted.
Shakespeare or Poe
Is out of his line;
He knows nothing of art or great fictions
He only knows why
They place teeth on gears—
Because tooth is stronger than friction.

“If he even could add
Or perhaps multiply,
She’d forgive him for being a bore,
But two times two
By his trusty slide-rule
Is three-ninety-nine—call it four.

“And all values he uses
Are taken from curves,
So it seems from his very vague ranting.
Yet instead of becoming
An expert on those
He neglects the ones most enchanting.

“So the moon may shine down,
The sky may be clear,
And the stars may be bright overhead;
And my daughter may be
At her beautiful best—
She’d still be better off dead.

(Please turn to page 34)
The most important part of this picture is the FLAME

THE ENGINES of high-flying planes "breathe" in rarefied atmosphere by means of the turbosupercharger which supplies them with air.

The turbosupercharger—a small, high-speed turbine-type air compressor (see sketch below)—is driven by the energy in the exhaust flames from the plane's engines.

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INTRODUCTION . . .

(Continued from page 24)

So I'll think of you often
As evening wears on,
Expressing regrets with one bitter tear
For all of this beauty
Going to waste,
While you're out with a dumb engineer!"
At the Allenport, Pa., plant of the Pittsburgh Steel Company, newly perfected, weight saving tubular railway axles are being turned out on a straight production line. In the course of manufacture, they pass through giant Gas-fired furnaces for end heating in upset forging, for hardening and for drawing.

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