

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
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EDITORIAL

Engineers Awakening

At last the University has awakened to the fact that the Engineers' Council is a live and functioning body—worthy of all that is connected with the name Engineer. The Council has shown that it can do "big things in a big way." The "Round Up" was the first proof of this. The smoothness with which the whole affair was conducted, showed careful thought and attention to every detail.

There is an impression that engineers with their training in facts and figures, do not know how to be sociable or conduct social affairs. The Round Up once and for all dispersed this impression.

The most encouraging point is that the odd thousand who came to the Round Up, by their good turnout showed that students and faculty have confidence in the ability of the Council. This speaks well for an organization which is less than ten weeks old.

What Do We Lack?

Why do so small a percentage of the engineer graduates of our Universities become true engineers? Large numbers of them end up as draughtsmen, surveyors, and routine engineers, but the number of real engineers, men who do things, are small. It is strange when we consider what a thorough course engineering students receive. Few courses of study require as much hard work in preparation, and laboratories as the engineering courses. There must be something lacking in the student or the courses of training. Somehow the average engineering student at the end of four years of rigorous training lacks imagination and originality. These two qualities, we feel, are absolutely essential in any successful engineer.

The engineering student as a rule does just what is required of him, and goes no farther. When writing up reports on laboratory work, he does just what his instruction sheet requires. He describes what he has done and with the obtained data, computes the results which are called for. There he stops. The conclusions are hurriedly drawn, the discussions are rapidly gone over. Rarely are these given the consideration which is due to them. This same attitude prevails in all the courses. The student is content with "getting by." Consequently when the graduate engineer starts to work it takes years to develop initiative, originality, and imagination.

The reasons for this condition are two-fold: First, the student himself, due to his own immaturity, and lack of interest in many of his courses, and, second, the courses of study themselves.

The student engineer is usually young and inexperienced. His mind is very immature. He has not got the true perspective. He does not see the

bearing of each individual course of study on his future profession.

Some of the details and routine of certain courses do not seem to him to be of vital necessity. This trouble is being eliminated by requiring student engineers to spend summers doing work along engineering lines. The trouble with the courses of study is the amount of required work. In the later years of the engineers' course, the great quantity of required work makes it well nigh impossible for the student to give due thought to his work. He does not have the time or energy after doing what is required in the way of reports, problems, or the like, to thoroughly think over the work covered. He is not able to give enough time to look back over the work covered, think out what is proved, and what could be proved. As soon as one report or problem is done, he starts right in on the other work which he must get out. He is in one continual rush to get work done.

Would it not help the engineers to develop more imagination and originality if less quantity were required and better quality? Give him a chance to think.

The New Staff

With the publication of this issue, the Engineer changes hands and the new staff takes charge. The last year has been a very successful year for the Engineer. The next year we hope will be even more successful and that it will see the realization of many of the plans and hopes which the present staff failed to bring about.

The newly elected staff is:

L. C. Noland, Editor.
E. E. Eggert, Business Manager.
R. F. Stilwell, Advertising Manager.
J. H. Jefferson, Circulation Manager.
R. M. Dillon, College Editor.
J. Black, Alumni Editor.

The new staff will find that the time spent working on the Engineer is well worth while. This is for them an opportunity to get out of school, many things which are given in no courses of instruction. One gains an insight into journalism—something which will always be valuable. One is let into the mysteries which accompany the publication of a paper. One feels the influence which can be wielded by a journal. One's wits are sharpened and faculties of observation awakened. Work on a publication of this nature teaches one how to express opinions clearly and state ideas concisely. It gives one an insight into the human nature and is a course in the study of character. Finally, it gives one a sense of satisfaction in having done a little towards bettering the engineering profession by making more interested students.

Here's wishing the new staff a most successful and fruitful year. May the Engineer grow bigger and better.