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CAMPUS NOTES

CERAMIC ENGINEERING

At a meeting of the Student Branch, American Ceramic Society, February 12, Prof. A. S. Watts, Prof. G. A. Bole and Prof. J. L. Carruthers reported the National Convention of the American Ceramic Society which was held in Chicago, February 4 to 9 inclusive. Professor Watts reported the Ohio State Ceramic Reunion in connection with the convention. One hundred and two graduates and ex-students of the ceramic department attended the convention and 78 attended the Reunion Banquet. A survey of present salaries discloses the fact that this group averages \$6086.00 per year, but Professor Watts pointed out that the men who are interested in the American Ceramic Society are the most progressive and wide awake of the entire alumni and the salary figure, which is based on about 25 per cent of the graduates of the department, would be lower if it included the men who have not kept posted on ceramic research and progress since they graduated. The initial salary for ceramic graduates has steadily increased to date. Sixty per cent of the men at the reunion are not in the field of ceramics which they expected to follow when they graduated, indicating that a student should not specialize too much in one field of ceramics during his university training, and that ceramic education should be general rather than specialized.

Professor Bole told of several important investigations reported at the convention and of the increased interest displayed by manufacturing groups in research, which is increasing the demand for men who have ability along research lines and especially for men with post-graduate training. Professor Bole was elected President of the American Ceramic Society.

Professor Carruthers reported several investigations of importance presented at the convention which have special value to ceramic students.

The Ohio State Student Branch of the American Ceramic Society is agitating the choice of an insignia to be worn by all members of Student Branches of the Society. President H. Z. Schofield appointed the following committee to handle this topic: J. L. Moser '30, E. C. Seabright '30, G. G. Bernard '30.

Ohio State Chapter of Keramos, Ceramic Student Honorary Society, has entered the contest sponsored by the Edgar Plastic Kaolin Company of Metuchen, N. J. for research on "The Development of a Superior Electrical Porcelain Body." This honorary society is composed of honor students from the junior and senior classes in Ceramic Engineering and includes the following men: W. C. Rueckel, president; H. Z. Schofield, vice president; W. F. Gaunder, secretary; E. W. Emrich; G. W. Gill; F. C. Henderson; G. W. Hofstetter; M. S. Lund; W. E. Palmer; C. Schwartzwalder; M. C. Trabue.

MARCH, 1929

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CERAMIC ENGINEERING PROFESSION

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On February 5, 1929, a reunion of ceramic graduates and ex-students of Ohio State University was held at Chicago, Illinois; in connection with the annual convention of the American Ceramic Society. One hundred and two were present. At a banquet in the evening, 78 were present, including 73 graduates and 5 ex-students. As this represents more than 25 per cent of the graduates of the graduates from this department, it furnished a basis for compilation of some very important data on the ceramic engineering profession, and this was obtained by questionnaires. The data obtained is as follows:

Distribution by classes: Prior to 1905, 10; 1906 to 1910, 7; 1911 to 1915, 9; 1916 to 1920, 19; 1921 to 1925, 19; 1926 to date, 14.

Distribution by industries: Metal enamels 2.5 per cent; glass 2.5 per cent; heavy clay products 10 per cent; refractories 17 per cent; terra cotta 17 per cent; whiteware 28 per cent; research 14 per cent; teachers 9 per cent.

Data on initial salaries of ceramic graduates: Average 1899 to 1905, \$640; 1905 to 1910, \$960; 1911 to 1915, \$1060; 1916 to 1920, \$1410; 1921 to 1925, \$1690; 1926 to date \$1810.

Data on present salaries of ceramic graduates: Average 1899 to 1905, \$7400; 1906 to 1910, \$8000; 1911 to 1915, \$6900; 1916 to 1920, \$5200; 1921 to 1925, \$4950; 1925 to date, \$2880.

The average salary of all men out 5 years or more is \$6086.00.

This value is interesting when compared with similar data obtained at a meeting about two years ago of 40 ceramic graduates from Ohio State University which indicated an average salary for men out 5 years or more of \$5691.00.

We must not overlook the fact that this data is obtained from men who are keeping in touch with research and development in their profession, and that the salaries paid these men is distinctly higher than that of the graduate who has been indifferent to progress since graduation. The ceramic engineer who is not in this progressive group should ask himself whether he can afford to continue this indifference.

Another very important analysis obtained through a questionnaire compiled at this reunion concerned the nature of ceramic instruction required to best equip the graduate. This disclosed the fact that 61 per cent of the graduates present are not now in the field of ceramics which they expected to follow when they graduated from the University. Of the 78 men present at the reunion, 6 have worked in 5 or more different branches of ceramic industry since graduation, 5 men have worked in 4 different branches of ceramics, 12 have worked in 3 different branches of ceramics,

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13 have worked in 2 different branches of ceramics, since graduation.

Thus we see, that to allow a student to specialize in his undergraduate courses would so limit his training that he would in a majority of cases not be equipped for the work that he has, by the general training given in the past, been able to succeed in, if the salary average may be considered an indication of success.

The present and proposed curriculum of the ceramic engineering department requires that the ceramic graduate shall have a working knowledge of at least three branches of ceramics and that he shall have fundamental knowledge of three additional branches. Fundamentals in general ceramics have been stressed in the past and will be in the future.

Analysis of the fact that 46 per cent of the men interviewed have worked in two or more fields does not signify that they failed to make good in the field originally chosen, but in many cases it indicates that the change was due to special inducements offered in some other field of ceramics. The market for men with ability and with broad training in ceramic engineering has steadily increased but the demand for men who are barely able to make passing grades is less each year. The fact that extra-curricular activities have caused a man to fail in his major purpose in college, is taken by most manufacturers to indicate a tendency on the part of the student to neglect his major duties for the social and recreational side of life. This attitude on the part of employers forces the ceramic engineering department to be more severe than ever in the granting of credit for ceramic courses and to demand equal severity from other departments which participate in the education of the future ceramic engineer. Only in this way can we hope to produce the quality of product demanded by the industries which we are endeavoring to serve.
