

**The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University**  
**Ohio State Engineer**

**Title:** Editorial

**Issue Date:** Feb-1930

**Publisher:** Ohio State University, College of Engineering

**Citation:** Ohio State Engineer, vol. 13, no. 4 (February, 1930), 14, 30.

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34674>

**Appears in Collections:** [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 13, no. 4 \(February, 1930\)](#)

# EDITORIAL

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## PERSONALITY RATING

Probably one of the most difficult characteristics that an engineer could be asked to rate accurately in round numbers is that intangible thing known as personality; yet each year the various engineering departments have had requests from the representatives of industrial concerns, for "personality ratings" in connection with the employment of prospective graduates.

It is difficult enough to rate intelligence accurately and fairly, as an "A" may cover a multitude of sins, but scholastic rating has, at least, the advantage of a definite system. Personality rating, however, seems to have successfully eluded all attempts at standardization.

In the electrical engineering department the latest method used is somewhat of a cooperative system, that is, each student rates his fellow students on the following six characteristics:

- Reliability
- Industry
- Initiative
- Leadership
- Likability
- Judgment

The points thus obtained are summarized for each student by the department, and he is classed according to the final rating, in one of three groups: high, middle, or low third of the class.

It would be difficult to say whether or not this is the best and fairest system to use; but it seems to be the method by which our personality is judged wherever we may go. The difficulty in rating personality by any method seems to be that due to the lack of a standard we are likely to compare the personality of another with our own. Also, there is the question as to whether or not each of us has two personalities; the first being the impression of our personality as made on

other people, and the second being the personality of ourselves as we really are. —T. A. K.

## MENTAL HYSTERESIS

Conscientious engineers who are wondering how much they will remember of the immense amount of engineering knowledge to which they have been exposed, will be very much relieved to hear of, or rather be reminded of, this phenomenon which we have heard referred to as "mental hysteresis." We say "reminded of" because all of us have, to a more or less degree, experienced the fact that if we make a sufficiently urgent demand upon our memory for certain knowledge, apparently forgotten, this knowledge will return to us, providing of course, it has at some previous time been impressed with enough force.

Because of the close analogy of this mental process to a similar effect known in electromagnetic circuits as "magnetic hysteresis" the term "mental hysteresis" is the most adequate expression we have ever heard to describe this mental phenomenon. An engineer, hearing the term for the first time, will understand what is referred to without further explanation. We have heard the term used now and then by Professor Puchstein of the electrical engineering department, and he has assured us that we will experience the effect of "mental hysteresis" after having been graduated, provided that we build up the proper "field" while in college.

In the case of magnetic hysteresis it is interesting to note that the harder the iron used in the circuit, the more noticeable will be the hysteretic effect. However, we do not know whether this same rule also applies to our mental apparatus in the case of "mental hysteresis." Someone might write a thesis on that. —T. A. K.

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## EDITORIALS

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**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
GETS NEW CHAIRMAN**

After serving the electrical engineering department as chairman since its organization 32 years ago, Professor F. C. Caldwell is now retiring as head of the department, and is being succeeded by Professor E. E. Dreese.

Professor Caldwell submitted his resignation to the department nearly two years ago, desiring to be relieved of the duties of department manager which involved a great deal of executive work and did not allow much time for study and research work. Professor Caldwell will remain with the department, however, and will teach electrical engineering subjects and engage in research work.

Professor Dreese, who is giving up a position as chief engineer at the Lincoln Electric Company to become head of the electrical engineering department, has an E.E. degree from the University of Michigan. We feel that the department is fortunate in being able to obtain the services of so capable a man as Professor Dreese, and, speaking for the student electrical engineers, we are sure that he will be given the utmost cooperation.

—T. A. K.

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