

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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Creators: Kleinmaier, Lee E.

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Culture and the Engineer

One of the outstanding shortcomings of the Engineering College curricula at Ohio State is the absence of cultural subjects. Perhaps this is generally true in the majority of the engineering colleges but needless to say it is a fault that can and should be corrected.

We note, with a great deal of interest, the announcement that the Industrial Engineering department is sponsoring a series of lectures by faculty men from the various colleges of the University. The lecturers have chosen such subjects as: "The Law and the Engineer," "Art and the Engineer," "The Books an Engineer Should Read," and "Germany at the Present Time." This, at least, is a start in the right direction.

Perhaps this important problem could be solved by the introduction of the oft proposed "five year plan." Glancing through the various curricula we find that there are few departments which offer more than twelve or fourteen hours of electives. This, then, is the extent of an engineer's cultural training.

The engineering student, who is taking what is equivalent to five years in four years, does not have the spare time in which the art student, who is taking cultural subjects, can utilize for the broadening of his cultural knowledge. The majority of educators agree that the well educated person is the one who has a *liberal* education. Could this not be obtained by more electives?

—L. E. K.