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### Ohio State Engineer

**Title:** Editorials

**Issue Date:** Apr-1936

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

**Citation:** Ohio State Engineer, vol. 19, no. 6 (April, 1936), 20.

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/35303>

**Appears in Collections:** [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 19, no. 6 \(April, 1936\)](#)

# THE OHIO STATE ENGINEER

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## Recognition for Young Engineers

The honorary electrical engineering society, Eta Kappa Nu, has just announced a plan of recognizing outstanding young electrical engineers for "meritorious service in the interests of their fellowmen." The achievements which will be considered in making the selections are very broad, giving considerable weight to the recommendations of the Committee on Professional Training of the Engineers' Council for Professional Development. Each candidate's career will be studied under three headings:

- (a) Achievements in his chosen professional work.
- (b) What he has done for his community, state or nation.
- (c) How he has shown his cultural development.

As far as practicable the young engineers' accomplishments of whatever kind will be examined for an application of basic engineering methods.

Members of Eta Kappa Nu, sections of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and heads of electrical engineering departments of American colleges and universities are eligible to propose candidates for this distinction. Nominees must have been graduated from a regular four year course in electrical engineering not more than 10 years on April 1, nor be more than 35 years of age. The men selected in 1936 will head what is contemplated will become an envied list of Outstanding Young American Electrical Engineers.

## Engineering Editorially

An interesting bit of editorial comment entitled "Technical Education" caught our eye the other day

while scanning the pages of a nearby small town daily. It read as follows:

"Any one of the engineering branches—civil, mechanical, electrical or mining—teaches straighter and better thinking in farming, business, or any other pursuit in life than do academic college courses.

An academic college course is supposed to lead in this respect, but it does not. It assumes too much respect for that which has been created rather than that which might be created. It limits itself too much to the known by studying only that which has been discovered. It excludes too much of what might be known, with a broader and less limited outlook upon the possibilities of life and its constant shift and change. An academic college course instills reactionary tendencies.

Many young men who intend going into business are making the same mistake in studying law as those who take academic college courses; for law, again, teaches an over-respect for that which is, rather than that which might be. Like other college courses, law is nothing but precedent.

Engineering, on the other hand, gives cause and effect through studies in methods and results, establishes the habit of straight thinking, and is creative as well as interpretative. College courses are mostly interpretative, seldom creative. An engineering course, therefore, is the best preparation for the young men entering upon life's activities."

The stand taken on this issue will doubtless find little opposition among the readers of an engineering publication. Whether the reasoning is sound logic or not is open to debate. But it does present one worth while idea, that engineering training is of definite value in any field of endeavor. And that the value lies to a great extent in the thought training, in forming habits of thinking that lead from cause to effect, that lead to advancement.