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# EDITORIAL

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## THOUGHTFUL PROFESSORS

We heard a senior student recently warmly praise the action of some professors who post their schedules in their offices. Every professor and instructor, we believe, should post his complete schedule outside his office door as an aid to students who seek him. It would be a very thoughtful act, and one which all would appreciate greatly. In addition, it would save a lot of time of those people around the office who have other things to do besides answering questions as to this or that person's whereabouts.

## BROADEN OUT

An engineer is generally looked upon as being a species of student that hibernates for four years with a stack of books and a slide rule. Our friends in the non-professional undergraduate schools probably have good reason for this impression. Their sole chance of meeting us—through a mutual participation in student activities—is hardly ever realized. If you don't believe this, consult the roster of any student enterprise and see how many engineers are engaged in it.

We take a morbid joy in discussing the great number of credit hours beneath which we are struggling and look upon this as a very good reason for not engaging in extra-curricular pursuits. On the contrary, this is the main reason why we should get into student activities. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." That proverb has appeared in these columns before, we think, but it can bear repetition. Any activity, while it may take a little of our time and perhaps a few drops of sweat, carries its own reward.

A large university like Ohio State presents numerous opportunities for a man to broaden himself. The work alone does not present all the benefits to be derived. Contacts are made which are invaluable. Usually one or more members of the faculty are interested in the activity and this gives the members of the organization an opportunity to become better acquainted with that au-

gust body. One also gains a new insight into campus affairs.

College is not all in the classroom.—M. L. A.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

One of the functions of The Ohio State Engineer is to draw the students of the College of Engineering more closely together. Exchange of ideas and opinions is one of the best ways of effecting this. The Ohio State Engineer, therefore, invites, and welcomes to its editorial columns any interesting comment, especially that which is concerned with the problems of the college.

## ORANGE GUIDONS

To the Editor of the Ohio State Engineer:

Passing in review, the orange guidons of the Signal Corps in the past have called attention to a unit different from the Infantry and the Field Artillery. This quarter, with the absence of the weekly reviews, the Signal Corps will not be well known.

The nature of the training in the Signal Corps is such that it is much less spectacular than that of the Infantry or Field Artillery. Consequently, it is somewhat of a mystery to sophomores and more so to freshmen. Enrollment in the Signal Corps unit has as prerequisites a year of freshman military science either in the Infantry or Field Artillery, and registration in Electrical Engineering or in Engineering Physics.

During the autumn quarter, a general study of telephone communication is taken up. This includes a study of the theory of telephony, telephone circuits, and the principles and operation of fundamental telephone apparatus. It is not a lecture course by any means. Much practical experience with army telephone apparatus is gained both in the field and in the laboratory. The work during the winter quarter consists of a course in telegraphy and code practice. General telegraph circuits and their combination with telephone circuits are studied. The laboratory work covers a very practical course in code sending and receiving. It is possible for a student with no previous knowledge of the radio telegraph code to acquire

a speed of ten words (of five characters each) per minute. This is the speed required of amateur radio operators.

The application of radio to army signal work is taken up in the spring quarter. This includes a study, with field practice, of army radio transformers and receivers, radio message procedure, and message center operation. The lectures and field practice, together with the weekly reviews, make the spring quarter an extremely busy one for the Signal Corps.

The spring quarter completes the required curricula in Military Science, but for those interested, an advanced course is available. The advanced course in the Signal Corps, as in other advanced military courses, includes a required six-weeks training camp. For the Signal Corps of Ohio State, this camp has been at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, on the shore of Lake Michigan about twenty-six miles north of Chicago. Our experience in training camp a year ago last summer is one of the highlights of our college life so far, and undoubtedly the fourteen other Ohio State men who were there received a similar impression.

Members of the advanced course are eligible to election in the Signal Corps's national honorary fraternity, Pi Tau Pi Sigma. Each year it has been the custom of this fraternity to present a "Sophomore Award Bar" to the best sophomore student in the Signal Corps unit.

Sophomore students in Electrical Engineering will do well to take advantage of the opportunities offered them in the Signal Corps, and will find Lieutenant William Mack an able instructor.

—Theodore A. Koch, '30

#### FIVE-YEAR COURSES

The department of architecture hopes to offer, next year, five-year courses in architecture and architectural engineering. The plans for this change in curricula are being submitted to the authorities and their official sanction is all that is necessary to complete the transaction. The extra year will not be crowded with technical subjects but rather will be filled with the more cultural branches of learning such as philosophy, history, psychology, and political science. The education of the engineer heretofore has been too completely technical with no chance to broaden out, even if desired. If a man knows nothing but his own work he is likely to miss many of the finer experiences of life. He is also not always able to meet other people on their own plane.

Five-year courses in architecture are already part of the curricula of some of the large eastern schools. It is the hope of many architects and professors that the five-year courses will be introduced into all schools in the near future.

—R. M. E.

#### POWER PLANT'S WASTE USED FOR A GARDEN

Cucumbers are the unusual by-product of a power plant supplying most of Berlin's electric current. When the directors of the municipal electric station at Klingenberg, Germany, sought a way of utilizing the waste heat from their turbines, they hit upon the idea of using it to warm greenhouses.

—*Popular Science.*

#### KEEPING UP WITH AVIATION

By ROBERT M. EWING, '32

Attendance at the National Air Races and Aeronautical Exposition held at Cleveland, Ohio, August 24 to September 2, 1929, was estimated at from 300,000 to 350,000. The exposition was held in Cleveland's \$10,000,000 Public Auditorium which affords with its annex 200,000 square feet of space. The Air Races were held at Cleveland's municipal airport where more than \$50,000 had been spent on the air race construction program. Safe anchorage for 1,000 planes was provided. The program, which opened with the woman's cross country race from Santa Monica, Calif., won by Mrs. Thaden, was the most extended and complete ever projected in this country, and included some of the most famous fliers of the world who spoke or stunted or raced. The race held at the field, which was open to any type of plane, was won by a Whirlwind powered low-wing Travel-Air monoplane, this ship even beating the crack army planes.

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One of the newest sports and one which gives promise of being a very popular one is that of gliding and soaring. This sport, which is taught in schools in Germany, and for which there are a few schools in the United States, requires great skill and knowledge of aerodynamics if the pilot is to get very far in the pursuit of it. Gliding is different from soaring in several ways. In gliding the machine is towed until it rises into the air or is shot from a huge rubber band, the aim of the pilot being to lengthen its glide to a landing as much as possible. In soaring, after the take-off, the pilot not only lengthens his landing but takes advantage of wind currents which he must be able to find to keep his ship in the air for a long time. German pilots in soaring gliders have stayed up as long as nineteen hours with no motive power other than that necessary for the take-off and furnished independently of the soarer, merely by riding the ascending air currents formed around hills and sand dunes.

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The Curtiss-Robertson Company has added another plane to its line—the "Thrush," a five-place ship, mate to the three-place "Robin," and powered with either the Challenger or the Whirlwind J-5. It will be remembered that the "Robin" is the present holder of the refueling endurance record.

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Many of us have noticed the aeroplane which passes over the campus each morning at 8:15. It is the Transcontinental Air Transport Company's morning plane leaving Columbus for Waynoka, Okla., where its passengers will transfer to a train on the next stage of the air-rail route across the continent. This service was inaugurated July 8, 1929, with Columbus as one of the air terminals.

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The largest land plane in America has recently been tested and found successful. It is the new Fokker F-32, a four-motored, 32-passenger monoplane with accommodations for a radio man, two pilots, and a steward. The plane will hold sixteen berths for night flying and will perform on any two of its motors. It is to be used on the transcontinental service of the Western Air Express.