

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio State Engineer

Title: Editorials

Issue Date: Mar-1932

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 15, no. 5 (March, 1932), 10.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34907>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 15, no. 5 \(March, 1932\)](#)

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL STAFF

ROBERT M. EWING, M. E. 4—Editor

Associate Editors

FRED H. TRIMMER, E. E. 3

EDWARD M. SCHOENBORN, Ch.E. 4

Assistant Editors

Harry Cooper, Ch.E. 2

Clarence N. Fisher, Ch.E. 2

John E. Batterson, M. E. 2

John Timberlake, E. E. 2

William B. Bucher, C. E. 2

Thorold Friedley, E. E. 2

Lester Woodford, M. E. 2

H. M. MacFarland, Jr., M. E. 2

BUSINESS STAFF

EDWARD R. BILLINGS, M. E. 4—Business Manager

Associate Business Managers

LEWIS H. MUSSMAN, M. E. 3

CHARLES TILTON, M. E. 2

Assistant Business Managers

ROBERT DERRY, C. E. 2

ROBERT CLEVINGER, E. E. 2

ADVISORY BOARD

DEAN E. A. HITCHCOCK

PROF. JOHN YOUNGER

ASST. PROF. SADA HARBARGER

Managing Board and one Representative from Each Departmental Student Society

VISUALIZATION

A RECENT editorial in one of our exchanges discussed the power of visualization as a natural asset to the engineer. The School of Mines and Metallurgy of the University of Missouri conducted an investigation recently which conclusively proved the usefulness of this ability and the value of its development by the engineering student.

According to this survey the subjects which help most to develop the power of visualization in the student are descriptive geometry, mechanical drawing, and machine design. Physics, graphic statics, and kinematics are not rated so high, while chemistry receives the least credit of all. Close application to the indicated subjects will develop a skill in visualization that will be increasingly useful as the young engineer takes over more and more of the work of his profession.

MATH AND THE ENGINEER

IN ANOTHER section of our magazine this month we have reviewed a little pamphlet published recently by the Engineering Experiment Station. It is Circular No. 27, entitled *The Usefulness of Mathematics to Engineers*, and was written by P. W. Ott, Associate Professor of Mechanics at Ohio State.

To us one of the significant things about this essay, for so it is, is the fact that it was first published in the OHIO STATE ENGINEER. It was from this source that the directors of the Experiment Station secured it for reprint.

The circular was mailed out this month as a supplement to the regular news bulletin of the Station and through this agency has reached 3250 people engaged in work of an engineering nature. In addition a great many copies have been distributed on the campus and 1750 were sent to Ohio high schools.

From all sides have come favorable comment as well as praise for Professor Ott's excellent treatment of this vital subject. The ENGINEER feels extremely gratified

to see this reprint of one of its articles reaching so many people; many more than it is possible to reach through our limited circulation. Finally we wish to add our word of praise to those already tendered to Professor Ott.

PROFITS

LAST month in our editorial on *laissez-faire* we advocated some form of social or economic control as the ultimate solution of our present economic dilemma. This time we intend to be more specific. Unemployment insurance has come up for discussion so often that the subject has been thoroughly covered. But what about the reinvestment of profits?

Most of the great fortunes of today were made possible through the ability of a man to reinvest his business profits in the business. This worked successfully during the nation's rapid growing period, but today enormous sums of capital are tied up in factories capable of producing many times the amount of goods we are able to consume and export. A man invests a large sum of money in an industrial concern, business is good, and his profits are large. Back they go into the business. It expands and next year his profits are larger still. Again they are reinvested. His personal fortune grows but always his profits go back into the business until now we have a serious case of over-capitalization. How much better it would have been had some of his profits been invested in a smaller concern that needed them.

With this condition brought forcibly to our attention, it seems as though it would be wise to regulate by some means the percentage of profits that could be reinvested in the same business.

Most campus organizations devote their energies to activities which will benefit only their members. This quarter the Radio Club is giving instruction in practical radio communication. The course is open to any O.S.U. student without charge and no previous knowledge is necessary.