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The Supply and Demand For Engineering Graduates

Abstracted from "The Supply and Demand—For Engineering Graduates," written by Prof. Wm. T. Magruder and published in the Ohio State Alumni Monthly, by Paul Crouch, E.E., '27.

The subject of "Supply and Demand" has probably as many angles and problems connected with it in education as in business. The supply of engineering graduates from The Ohio State University has varied from 125 in 1913-14 to 67 in 1918-19 and reached a maximum of 237 in 1922-23. In the seventeen years up to and including 1924-25, 2383 engineering degrees have been conferred by this university. The average is 140 for each year. This institution now confers about one thirty-fifth of all the engineering degrees given annually in the United States.

Now what about the demand? The National Industrial Conference Board finds fault with the engineering colleges because they are graduating annually only about eight thousand men, while the industries demand over forty thousand trained workers each year. Industry needs and is asking each year for an increasing number of men of proper training, good judgment for their years, and with a little of that uncommon thing called "common sense." What can be done to remedy the situation? It would seem that the principals and teachers of high schools and all persons who have anything to do with the guidance of young men, should try to open the minds of those who have shown a love of mathematics, of the physical sciences, and of accurate English to the fact that the demand for engineering college graduates is far in excess of the supply. Engineering students are also recruited from the ranks of industry. These have found that, because of their lack of an engineering education, they have reached the ceiling of their advancement in the kind of work they like, and they desire to "go to school" again at an engineering college. Their earnestness of purpose is a great tonic to the instructors as well as to the younger men of a class. The case of these men shows that an education is obtainable by any man who is mentally capable, physically able, and is willing to work for it. It is, therefore, the duty of everyone to encourage them and help them to supply the demands of the engineering industries and so cause them to better themselves and advance civilization. Almost 95 per cent of the present senior class in the College of Engineering are partly self-supporting and 25 per cent are entirely so. Just 50 per cent partly support themselves during college year.
