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EDITORIAL

The Function of The Ohio State Engineer.
To the Engineering Students: This magazine is your forum—it is an open avenue for all sorts of discussions. If you have good ideas put them up in words and submit them for publication. Even if they seem to be radical “start the ball rolling” and promote discussions of them. The formulation of your ideas and substantiating them with sound argumentation will not only convince yourself and others, but it will also give rise to the habit of sound thought. These ideas need not be relative to technical matters but they may involve campus traditions, ideas of engineering courses, or the airing of any just grievances which you may have borne in college life. It is a great satisfaction, when the world in general seems to be concentrating some of her burdens on you individually, to “blow off” and pronounce to the public your grievances. This is a free country and free speech is yours. To be an engineering student does not mean to be docile to the extent of not defending your just opinions. It is highly desirable for this magazine to be made up largely of student contributions. The practice gained in making contributions will stand you in good stead after you start your professional practice. Another thing—the student body should criticize the magazine in order that it may progress and lay a firm foundation as it grows. These criticisms in all cases should be constructive rather than de-

structive. The evolution of all projects is attended with criticism, which form the guiding lines of expansion. Therefore to “spice” the publication, to aid in its digestion and palatability let the students make contributions, discuss timely topics influencing their welfare, air their opinions and make the publication their mouth-piece. *The Ohio State Engineer* is at your service.

To the Alumni: How often do your thoughts travel to the Ohio State University? How often do you think of those brisk, fall Saturday afternoons on Ohio Field when the Scarlet and Gray were battling with the Illini or one of the other Conference teams for gridiron supremacy? How often do you wonder where Dick, Pete, Slim, and Shorty are located now? Do you ever wonder if Magruder, Sherman, and Boyd are still engaged in moulding embryo engineers? Of course you do, every time your thoughts reflect on bygone days, and those periods of reflection occur more often as one grows older, Ohio State occupies an important position in those reflections. The Ohio State Engineer is your connecting link to your undergraduate days—by it you are kept posted on what is occurring on the campus and what the other alumni are doing.

Men are naturally modest about their accomplishments—granted. You are proud of some of the exploits and successes of your fellow alumni—granted. So, when you get news about your fel-

low alumni gather it together, send it to The Ohio State Engineer and let us all enjoy it. By this mutual effort, in the final analysis, all will have been represented. In gathering news concerning alumni do not confine yourselves solely to things concerning professional happenings. We are not a dried-up profession, we enjoy domesticity—so tell us of marriages, births of progeny and things affecting one's life. Aid us in gathering news for a big alumni section. We will give our best efforts. Won't you? The Ohio State Engineer is at your service.

Enthusiasm. The ultimate success of any enterprise must be consummated by the whole-hearted enthusiasm of those who attempt it. The seed of thought lies in a fertile mind where it germinates into a seedling. Under careful nurture, the plant forms and it is protected from destructive agents. It is nourished by the brain's vitality. Buds form, blossoms bloom, the fruit ripens, and the harvest is gathered. The harvest is the crown of success and the reward of faithful vigilance.

This process is not a passive but decidedly an active one. Conception may occur but procreation requires constant nourishment. One turn of the waterwheel may fracture the wheat grain, but a continuous rotation is necessary to pulverize the grain to a flour.

The growth of oak forests, the formation of coal measures, the deposition of ore bodies are all attended with long processes and constant application of forces. Human endeavor, whether it be scholastic, commercial, or political, requires constant attention to duty, with the ultimate aim always in mind.

When success is analyzed enthusiasm will always be found to have played an important part in its accomplishment. Enthusiasm is food and drink to success. Enthusiasm is a contagious malady of good. Enthusiasm is the dispeller of gloom and the soothing balm of raw feelings. Let us acquire enthusiasm and apply it to our everyday duties and see our contribution to service increase and use our attainments for the good of mankind.

In Appreciation. Many times during our existence in this world we are greatly impressed by the unselfish service rendered by a large number of our dear people. This has been recently experienced by the Editor. In response to the request for the preparing of material for this issue the Editor has on every occasion met with success. What was the explanation for this? It is explained in a few words—those approached were real servants of the community. The work required in the preparation of their articles con-

sumed hours. This expenditure of time was costly because busy men were sacrificing something to accomplish it—in short, it was a real sacrifice. There is another group which is no less deserving of merit—made up of those whose names will not be known. Their's was a silent sacrifice and very noble.

Permit the Editor, as spokesman of the staff and advisory board, to tender you all most grateful thanks—may your efforts not be in vain.

Student Engineering Societies. Every department of the Engineering College at The Ohio State University possesses some sort of a student organization. The function of these societies is to gather the students pursuing like courses into a closer bond. This is accomplished by having meetings, weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. These meetings are addressed by some person who is a specialist in their field or one who is interested in their welfare. These meetings are garnished with smokes and light refreshments.

Who attends these meetings? All Seniors and Juniors and a fair representation of Sophomores. Where are the Freshmen? We do not get them out. Why?—Because we make no effort to get them out. It is to be expected that the Freshmen would be naturally timid about coming to these meetings held by the various Engineering Societies. For that reason, if it is desirable to interest the Freshmen in these societies some steps must be taken, by each society, to reach those Freshmen who are and should be interested in some branch of Engineering.

It is our duty of service to see that definite steps are taken to arouse interest among the Freshmen Engineers. So—in these last few meetings held by the various societies let us make some definite plans for making a vigorous campaign next fall and let us not be satisfied until we obtain an attendance of 100% on the part of the Freshmen.

Lectures to Engineering Students. There exists a faculty committee whose duty it is to arrange for lectures to be given to the Engineering student body, by successful practicing engineers and scientists. The absence of these lectures during the second semester of 1918-1919 has been marked.

After the wonderful series of lectures given during the Congress of Human Engineering in the fall of 1916 we realize the great worth of these substantial talks.

It is to be hoped that such a thing will be repeated next year. It will certainly receive the whole-hearted support and enthusiasm of the student body.