

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf

Issue Date: Mar-1932

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 15, no. 5 (March, 1932), 22.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34913>

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

THE BOOKSHELF

THE USEFULNESS OF MATHEMATICS TO ENGINEERS

(*Engineering Experiment Station Circular No. 27*)

By P. W. OTT, Associate Professor of Mechanics

THIS circular, primarily intended for the enlightenment of those desiring to enter the profession of engineering, proves to be not only what one would expect—a comprehensive survey of the value of mathematics as a tool for the engineer in his work—but quite an interesting and entertaining piece of literature as well. An attaché of the State Department of Education writes: "I think that this booklet should be in the hands of every teacher of mathematics as well as the supervisors, principals, and superintendents of the state." We go him one better and say that every student of engineering should have a copy.

Some of the highlights of the study follow:

Arithmetic is the foundation for engineering education.

An outline of the "bob-tailed" method of multiplication and division, which every math student should know.

Descriptive geometry is one of the most important fundamental technical courses.

Trigonometry ranks second in the list of mathematical tools for the engineer.

Algebra is "a high-powered motor for arithmetic."

Calculus is a tool of considerable potential value, which is usually neglected and allowed to rust. It is essential in understanding the work of the last two years of college.

In closing Professor Ott says "When the fiery steed of mathematics is hitched to the block-wheeled cart of utility, every strap of the harness must be properly applied and still the cart will go more slowly and roughly than goes the steed alone."

Copies of this circular may be obtained at the Engineering Experiment Station, free of charge.—J. E. B.

STUDIES ARE NOT EVERYTHING

By MAX MCCONN

THIS is the Quiet Hour on Wed night but I do not have to study because Louis Cassone is filling me up with Ec History and Physography on Tue and Thur P M, and that is enough of study for I am paying him \$5 a week to make me pass. And Louis says he would think I would like Ec History because it is all about business and I am a business man . . . But that is because he is not a business man, for a real business man does not have to care about history and the factory system and poor laws which happened a long time ago, but what he has to worry about is how to make them sign on the dotted line in this day and generation."

Thus writes Bob Scott, freshman at dear old Higgins, in his diary (or as he says, dairy). Life at Higgins is to him one grand round of dances, activities, fraternities, and sports, with a necessary class attendance, from time to

time, at his lecture hours. Trying to stay in school because of a love for life at the Sigma Pi Pi house, he calmly dismisses all educational work with a "Studies Are Not Everything."

This amusing little satire on the benefits of higher education is a product of the pen of Max McConn, Dean of Lehigh University. In this position, as in his previous one at the University of Illinois, Dean McConn has had ample opportunity to study the college freshman.

Highly exaggerated, of course, it nevertheless touches perilously close at times to actual conditions. If you're looking for an amusing evening's reading we recommend "Studies Are Not Everything."—R. M. E.

INDIA: LAND OF THE BLACK PAGODA

By LOWELL THOMAS

STRANGE, weird things that no man may say,
Things humanity hides away. . . .
Cruel things that man may not name,
Naked here without fear or shame. . . .

Lowell Thomas quotes these lines of Laurence Hope because they seem to express the inexplicable mystery that shrouds and envelopes India. The book enlightens one on the multitude of problems which face India even though it isn't written for that purpose. Mr. Thomas starts with a description and explanation of the caste system. Then he drifts from city to city, constantly being attracted to some other place. He visits places rich in history and famous from the days of old: Delhi, which has been rebuilt seven times; Lucknow, "the only place in the world where the British flag flies night and day and is never furled"; or the Vale of Kashmir, described thus by an unknown poet:

"If on Earth there be a Heaven of bliss,
It is this, it is this, it is this."

The book is intensely interesting not only as one that takes you into peculiar and fascinating places but also as one that gives an insight into the deeper and more profound mysteries of that ancient cradle of the human race, India. —H. M. McF.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF ADULTS

By LOGAN CLENDENNING

THIS book is good for what does not ail you. It is so simple that it can be understood by anyone who can read. There is a chuckle in every paragraph and a corrective for fad-born phobias on every page. The M.D. author has read widely, observed intelligently, and produced a volume worthy of attention. He offers proof for his many theories, including these: that salt will not increase your blood pressure; that meat is harmless unless you eat more than you can pay for; that abstention from alcohol has never yet prolonged life, and that reducing is an indefensible and dangerous activity. —J. J. T.