GRADUATES’ LETTERS

Answers to Letters Sent to Representatives of Men.

To the Editor of The Tech:

The following statement may be of interest, as it shows how courses in mechanical engineering at the Institute has been of value to me.

While my business is a manufacturing one, part of it does not require so much actual mechanical engineering as many others do, but the training received at the Institute has aided largely in the formation of "mechanical" sense when necessary in making alterations or additions.

I feel that the greatest benefit derived from the course at Tech is the ability to think my own mechanical problems regardless of what is going on around me. The concentration of mind is of the utmost importance in handling many things simultaneously.

G. L. Gilmore.

Contracting is one of the kinds of work for which training and experience are in highest demand. For the contracting make the best equipment if a man is to give the fairest, most specialized. Frequently twenty or more contracts are on hand at the same time, and the work, will be found upon one job. Sometimes all of these are put under the supervision of a single man, and this is a big job. There is a growing (and prosperous) tendency to have men who are trained in engineering or architecture assume these duties. This tendency is in line with the trend toward a more thorough and technical management of large public works.

G. E. Walls.

To the Editor of The Tech:

I have asked a man to express my views upon the subject of "the mechanical engineering education of the student" and it is a subject on which I have thought a great deal.

It is rather difficult to determine exactly what the student is to learn, but one thing is certain. He must be given an understanding of the fundamentals of mechanical engineering. To this end seminars on mechanical engineering are being offered on a large scale.

In general these subjects are covered in the two years of course in technical engineering, and if a young man enters on university technical school, has already learned the field of reinforced concrete or other engineering subjects than is usually the case, and this will be the case to the extent of half of the course need not "make good" in his professional work because of the knowledge he is endowed with a fair amount of experience. Failure to get drawings finished on time is unduly pressing upon him the necessity of the design and construction of steam turbines.

Let us then do all in our power to cultivate the "nose job" student's proficiency in the drawing department. The student who can "see things mechanical", who likes "to see the wheels go round," make things with his own hands and particularly if he has a taste for mechanical drawing, I am sure that the course will be of great use to him. If the student has a practical mechanical interest, he can probably make the best use of the course.

J. C. Landers.

STEAM TURBINES

Fourth Year Option Deals with Design and Construction.

By PROF. C. E. Pageby.

The option of steam-turbine engineering was begun last year to meet a growing demand for instruction in the essentials of the design and construction of steam turbines. The subject is so recent and the methods that have been evolved in practice are so well understood, that no textbooks or other publications give only the fundamental principles with which the student is brought in touch, either of construction or supervision. The work of preparation of the option has been largely the result of cooperation between the (Continued on page 31).