Teaching Engineering—a Real Man’s Work

"Why are you satisfied to spend your days here when you might be doing bigger and more remunerative work with us?" said the man to whom he spoke.

The speaker was the Vice President of a big corporation, and he was addressing a great chemist.

The man to whom he spoke looked from the study window out over a well-loved campus for several moments before he replied. Finally his answer came, "I guess it's because I am more interested in helping to make men than I would be in just making things."

This thing of building men is one of the most fascinating vocations known. The pleasure that grows out of watching men develop, out of seeing them make effective use of the fundamentals that have been so carefully given to them—it is doubtless far more pleasurable to me than the mere pleasure of mechanical success.

The teacher honors himself in the usefulness of his students. And the teacher of engineering, especially. His laboratory and his materials are in the minds of men. He shows them the right and constructive use of the senses and the memory in storing and mastering information. He trains the judgment and the will to analyze and to decide. Little by little he develops the man, the ability to turn decision into accomplishment, the quality that always marks the successful engineer, who is a man who gets things done.

Westinghouse, and every engineering business, must acknowledge a deep obligation to those teachers whose training and interest have been an inspiration and a sure foundation for the individual successes that are constantly being recorded. And nothing that men or events may do can ever deprive the teacher of his rightful share of such triumphs!