HOOVER DEMANDS HUMANISM FOR ENGINEERS

W e had better reduce the volume of science and applied science, we are pushing our young men in order to make room for some stimulation of their public relationships, some realization of their public obligation, said Herbert Hoover, the President before the American Engineering Council. He further said, "We cannot be turning men out of our universities mechanical machines devoted to some technical end of their affairs. If the engineer is going to take his part in the community, it is going to give expression to those things that he can express best, he must start with a sense of his public obligations as well as his professional knowledge."

Thus an engineer and one of Technology's most eminent graduates, a man of literary culture, a hardboiled technician and the training that creates this attitude. In deploring the hermit-like tendencies of the engineer, Mr. Hoover was not seeking an arrangement of technical science which epitomizes the narrowness of the prevalent conception in the technical profession that an engineer must keep himself free from participation in public service. The engineer with his precision of thought and analytical methods has a contribution to make in keeping "the lamp of public service and relation of light."

To accomplish this contribution the engineer needs more humanism, more stimulation to think along social lines, and a broader insight into the value of human relationships. With the intense technical training, he needs to be taught that human nature is natural for him to drop out of the trend of human affairs and to lose sight of the big picture. He needs to be taught that human existence is an impertinent need for the technical student to cultivate a humanitarian viewpoint and that he must be taught that human nature is a more attainable and efficient machine in the technical field. In this column we recently commented on the value of psychological analysis for the technical understanding of the human mind. This is a challenge to the engineer for wider attitudes in "human engineering," for a closer study of human nature, and a fuller recognition of public duties.

ON RECORDS

A NOther term has gone. Another record, good or bad, has sped homeward to fond parents. Some of us have been able to write home with pride. Far too many have indited long letters over the grimi atmosphere of booky sediments are expressed by this world to see. The majority of the Sons, darling Colonel Ango decides to resign his commission in the Technical profession that an engineer must keep himself free from participation in public service. The engineer with his precision of thought and analytical methods has a contribution to make in keeping "the lamp of public service and relation of light."

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