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Official News Organ of the Undergraduates of M. I. T.

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ORIENTATING ENGINEERS

CONVINCED that undergraduates of engineering institutions do not receive all the practical experience that they should before they venture to practice what they have learned, John E. Aldred established in 1923 the Aldred Lecture Course at the Institute.

This afternoon, Philip H. Gladsden, Vice-President of the United Gas Improvement Company, will present the first of this season's lectures. That the engineer's responsibility to society, admittedly a broad and comprehensive subject, will be discussed from an engineer's point of view, is convincing enough evidence of the lecture's import.

Aldred's purpose was to bring to the student body, especially to the Seniors and Graduate Students, men from the larger industrial plants of the United States, who should present in informal lectures the problems which confront men of industry. To succeed in an engineering career it is essential not only to have a knowledge of the theories behind scientific principles, but also a knowledge of the practical application of those theories.

It is obvious that the Aldred lectures may be a decided benefit to the potential engineer. An outline of all that the industrial world holds in store for the young and inexperienced graduate, and a frank discussion of the opportunities of which he may avail himself, is of value to every member of the Senior and the Graduate classes.

FORENSIC MISFORTUNE

IT IS unfortunate, but probably no less true, that the reported demise of the Debating Society will cause very little regret among the student body in general. It is doubly unfortunate that an organization which has active and highly successful counterparts in nearly every American college should be unable to muster enough strength to make its continuance seem desirable in the eyes of the Administration.

It would be easy to construe that the Debating Society is merely another case of a struggling worthwhile activity lulled to sleep by undergraduate apathy. In this case, however, the fault seems to have been not more with the student body than with the organization itself. That is the impression conveyed to an outside observer. The Society apparently has no definite program, and it practically never appeared in the columns of THE TECH.

Debating is a prominent college activity. It tends to develop clearness of thought and ease of expression, and it encourages an intelligent interest in topics of the day. A school of the size of Technology should have no difficulty in supporting an active debating club. An active organization is necessary, however, and this can only be obtained if the individual members show interest in it.

Many Uses of X-Rays Discussed In December Technology Review

Institute Graduate Writes Of Problems Facing Radio Commission

Politics, not engineering and legal considerations, influence the Federal Radio Commission, declares Harold E. Richmond in the December issue of the Technology Review. Mr. Richmond, a graduate of the Institute, is well qualified to discuss radio problems, for he is a prominent figure in the radio field, and is at present Treasurer of the General Radio Company in Cambridge.

annual business of a few million dollars to one of a billion.

President Compton Writes on X-rays: President Compton has contributed to this issue a particularly interesting article, "The Anatomy of X-Rays," a lucid explanation of the workings of X-rays together with the story of their discovery.

In an article, "Amerikanismus," the way Americans look to German eyes is discussed by Hunter Rouse, a former editor of THE TECH, and now the holder of a Travelling Fellowship in Hydraulics. He strikes the attitude of the great mass of Germans to our country in the answer he received from his chambermaid to a sudden question as to what she thought of America.

like to work there—but live in Germany."

Comparing the conditions under which the German mind had to function before the war, and what it faces now, the writer showed the reasons for the German attitude towards the United States and, incidentally, why Americans come in for so much criticism, not only from Germany, but from other European countries.

"Through Versailles, political revolution, inflation of currency, a decade and more of reparations payment with tremendous taxation and millions of inhabitants without employment, the country has been reduced to almost a shadow of the old empire."

Papers Criticize America

Giving the public what it wants is the practice of critics and publications in Germany as here. Newspapers and magazines cite instances at every opportunity of this or that scientist or engineer who in one way or another is directing an American project.

That American civilization places too much emphasis on the material side of life and has missed much that is beautiful and good is true, and the writer says at the close, "America is already the arrogant possessor of one half the apple of greatness, yet blind to the fact that the other half is missing."

Other features of the December Technology Review include "The Trend of Affairs," "The Institute Gazette," and "Adversaria." As usual, the magazine is profusely illustrated, and this number contains an exceedingly good etching, "Castles in Steel," done by Otto Kuhler.

BOOK LIST

SAILING AND FISHING

The Book of the Gloucester Fishermen; by James B. Connolly. The John Day Co. \$2.50.

"Gloucester Fishermen," a quite new type of sea romance, brings appreciation of the fishermen whom few people know. The book is a collection of stories of the live heroes of Gloucester. The tales are genuinely thrilling, for surely, no mariners of old ever experienced greater adventures of sailing and racing and fishing.

The value of the book, however, is somewhat cheapened by a careless method of expression, a little roughness, a lack of subtlety, perhaps. The style of a book of adventure is necessarily vigorous and often startling, but it does not require deviation from accepted form.

But aside from the deficiencies of its composition, the book has decided appeal through its substance alone. It contains innumerable good yarns that are really entertaining reading, at the same time providing a novel kind of sea story.

Six Articles In The November T. E. N.

Engineers Discuss Production Of Sulphur and Making Of Linoleum

Six articles on such varied subjects as the manufacture of linoleum, the production of sulphur, municipal health service, and anti-freeze solutions for automobiles make up the featured contents of the December issue of the Tech Engineering News, which appeared on the stands yesterday.

Major Joel I. Connolly '16 leads the issue with an article on the first page entitled "The Engineer Guards the Health of the City." He says that "The sanitary engineer of a city is one of the most important cogs in the vast array of machinery which adapts man's urban surroundings to his needs."

Suppression of Noise

Among the specific problems which the sanitary engineer must meet, Major Connolly lists the suppression of unnecessary noise due to loud speakers, and the prevention of illness and death from large mechanical refrigeration machines in apartment buildings and apartment hotels.

A resume of the history of sulphur production and the various methods used is given by W. L. Whitehead '13. The first sulphur deposits discovered in the United States were found in Louisiana. "Modern Linoleum Manufacture" is the title of an article by M. E. Wade of the Armstrong Cork Company. It tells how a young Englishman, Frederick Walton, experimented with the skin that forms on the top of an open can of paint, by mixing it with ground cork and pressing it into a burlap back.

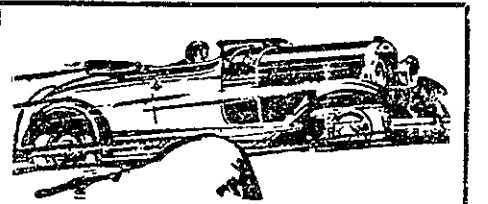
Various authorities have found that a business depression tends to increase greatly the number of students in educational institutions of every sort.

THE EDITORIAL SPECULUM

The Spectator noticed in the local papers recently that a certain Dr. Drury, rector of St. Paul's school, Concord, N. H., recommends the founding of a society for the prevention of going to college. Dr. Drury, he takes it, has never heard of that excellent body, the College Entrance Examination Board and its worthy efforts in that field.

Not only does the Spectator find in existence plenty of societies for the prevention of entering college but also a competent number for the prevention of continuing in college. These societies are, no doubt, merely trying to be helpful. They wish to save us the vain struggle to "satisfy that parental pride which in turn is engendered by fear of relatives and neighbors."

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