A GROUNDED CIVILIZATION

For many years, in fact for a century or more, the engineer worked in a world that required his constant effort to meet the requirements of civilization. He worked at full speed in the developing and producing of new devices which had an almost continuous market. So much time was taken in this process of development and manufacture for an eager and growing public that there was little time for the consideration of what effect all this creation had on the civilization in that part of the world in which he happened to live and work.

Just at the present time there is a period of decreased business activity, no longer is the public absorbing all the products of the energy of the engineer. Feverish activity is not necessary to supply the demand. There is now time for the engineer to consider the possible implications of his work in terms of the future of civilization. This is a new phase of engineering. Engineers are being asked to think in terms of long range obstacles to the growth of civilization.

Generally speaking, it is probable true that fraternities stand lower in scholarship than any other group in the institutions of higher learning in this country. Speaking of the reason for this, James Anderson Hawes, author of the book on college life, "Twenty Years Among the Twenty-Year-Olds," has recently said, "This condition is brought about in my opinion, because of the so-called "fraternity attitude". A man engaged in such a work must necessarily devote some time to them and accordingly less time to his own work. In the group, the results of reduced time for studies makes itself felt in a lower scholar standing for the body."

This inevitable tendency of the fraternities to want to be just a little above the average probably results in many joining fraternities, and when the standing of a house is judged by the activities of its members, it is only natural that men should participate in activities and that scholastic ratings should be lower. Everyday secular work has its place, but so do studies. A proper balance must be struck, and in my opinion the foregoing tendencies indicate that the fraternity men have lower scholastic ratings.