DECENTRALIZATION

THE HUMAN EQUATION

DURING the last fifty years enormous strides have been made in the development of electrical power transmission. It has become, in a very real sense, a practical reality which is invaluable to modern industrial welfare. In general, it is helping to mold the industrial world in two important ways, both of which are related.

Formerly the major operations of a manufacturing plant were all grouped about the source of power. Power towers and shafts was the general rule. Were the plants to have served all over again, to make a long transmission belt or an entirely separate private power would be the solution. With the advent of cheap electrical power, however, the inside waste of such a system has been fairly well eliminated. Autumn is here, and although there have not been tiresquately advertised, and various scattered parts of the plan carry their motive power in the form of an electric motor, such natural and central forces have been proved in advance to be most desirable.

2.

HINTS

IT'S a day of experiment and change. We of today cannot say whether this change will bring lasting happiness or decline, but most certainly it will lead to a new world. The changes which are arising from any change are things of orientation. Men find themselves in a new world, and so far no one can be a seer. The very fact that the people of the three higher classes are now learning by what is the recommendation of the future, and the only sure way is to examine what is the best way.

The value of each tradition lies in the manner and the spirit of their enforcement. If the students of Technology are to be taught that these rules should be enforced because they are a wholesome part of Technology Life, they will serve to form a cohesive, loyal class. If they are made a penance that freshmen must pay because they are freshmen, the rules had better be abandoned altogether.

VISION AND REVISION

BUDGETS COST MONEY—TO PURCHASE

CONSIDERABLE clausor is raised each year among the undergraduates about the revision of textbooks written by members of the faculty, necessitating the purchase of new books. It immediately occurs to the student that the books are revised every few years, from the present year's notes and averaged for the assigned problems. Under no circumstances is it practical to limit the de centralization of industry to the technical point of view; it is in the human equation that the problems arise.

The real reason for frequent new editions is the feeling among the faculty that the book is being gradually improved, and that improvement is justification for a revision. For the past five years the text books on elec trical technology have been enlarged and changed, the present copy containing approximately twice as much material as that of five years ago. The changes for the most part are the result of research. Each year the instructors find parts of the text that are inadequate, and as a result new material is included in the following edition.

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Moreover, in the physics department, since this series of problem books on electricity was indeed, several standard textbooks were tried without much success. It was found more beneficial to tailor the problems to suit the methods of the traditional instructors. The incorporation of fundamental principles of electricity remain the same, the manner of presentation has been changed, and the result has been that the students are getting more for their money.

Those who suspect the professors of getting richer on the money earned by the sale of books every year should consider that they are doing their best to make themselves as useful as possible to the students. If students realize that a new book is designed to fulfill their needs better than the previous one, then they will not be so critical of the shouts of the calamity-criers will be quieted. But that will not save the pain in our pocket books.