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(Continued from page 1.)

rightly, may also be benefited by the additional spur which will be imposed upon them to "make good." The past few years, in fact, have been rather demoralizing, because any young man, no matter how inefficient, has been able to get a good job.

The graduate from Course I should make up his mind that the best thing for him to do is to start at the bottom of the practical ladder. The Institute does not pretend to turn out engineers, but endeavors to give to graduates the foundation upon which they can build and become engineers.

The man who begins at the bottom, with a good concern, at small wages, and who sticks to his job, will find himself well settled and in a good permanent position by the time he reaches middle life, with ample prospects before him.

The man who begins too high and who does not learn his business from the bottom up, will be very likely to fluctuate from place to place and will be subject to many vicissitudes. One great trouble with most graduates is that they expect to advance too rapidly, and are unwilling to take the time and to show the patience necessary to thoroughly master any business and identify themselves with it.

The aim of a graduate of Course I may be either to practice as a consulting engineer or to connect himself with one of the large industrial establishments, or with some public work; and even if he wishes to become a consulting engineer, he should first devote himself to gaining practical experience either with some corporation, with some consulting engineer, or in some public work.

This period of experience should be long enough to give him a thorough grounding in the practical and theoretical aspects of the branch of the profession which he desires to pursue, and he should not start in on his own account, in general, before he has reached the age of thirty-five or forty.

Almost any of the fields in civil engineering offer brilliant prospects. Public works of greater magnitude than ever before are now being carried on. Questions of urban transportation, the water supply of our communities, the disposal of sewage—problems like these are being solved on a large scale, and the increasing growth of our cities guarantees the continuance of these conditions and a large demand for engineers in the future to carry on these works.

Our large corporations, too, realize more and more the value of the trained man. The structural engineer is in demand as never before, and extensive railroad improvements, in double-tracking, building new terminals, and in many other ways, will bring about in years to come an increasing demand for the services of the civil engineer. Administrative positions are also opening to him more and more.

The essential point for the graduate to bear in mind is this: first, that he should choose the branch of the profession in which he feels the most interest and for which he believes that his capabilities best fit him; second, he should be willing to go through a thorough apprenticeship in this branch, beginning at the bottom and advancing slowly and surely.

I think it may fairly be said that in the opinion of the engineering profession the Institute holds a very high rank as a training school. In competitive examinations for public positions in the past, Institute men have in general shown up a little better than the men from any other school.

In a recent competitive examination for an important position, an Institute man stood first, a Cornell man second, another Cornell man third and an Institute man fourth. The latter now holds the position, the first three having declined it.

The Civil Engineering department has turned out a large number of men who have become eminent in their profession. It would be invidious to mention names, but in the list are included consulting engineers, chief engineers of important railroads, railroad presidents and managers, chief engineers of some of the most important public works now being carried on, and men high in position with the great industrial corporations.

It should be borne in mind, however, that these men would have probably succeeded in life even if they had had no technical training. Success is due, primarily, to the man and not to the institution.

A degree from a reputable school is a great help to a man at the beginning of his career, especially if times are dull, positions hard to obtain, and if the man in question can secure also the personal endorsement of the teachers who knew him; but probably no collegiate degree is of any use to a man in his profession after he has been ten years out of school.

The college offers a man an opportunity to train himself in those mental, moral, and physical qualities which will bring him success. Let each student see to it that he avails himself of his opportunities to the utmost and success will then be within his grasp.

GEO. F. SWAIN.

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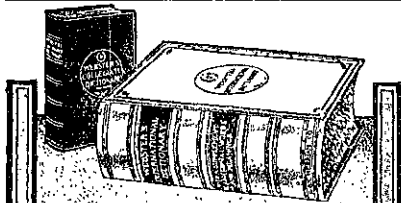
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