

THE MAKING OF AN ENGINEER.

We each see this world from a different point, though all see the same general scene; the details and scope of view vary according to our particular position. Not only this, but each of us looks through a colored glass which gives a personal tint to the scene, colored by our personal temperament.

Then to have our thoughts coincident on this subject we must look through the same glass, or agree on the same definition of the word "engineer." Accepting Tredgold's in the broad sense of "One who is skilled in the application of the material and processes of nature to the uses of man," what a vast field is to be covered. Experiences of the age in which we live have shown that every other scientific field is tributary to him and his work.

A theory that was abstracted but yesterday is demonstrated to-day, and applied to the uses of man to-morrow by the engineer. The continually increasing number of new discoveries in both practice and theory daily increase the responsibility of the engineer.

Some of these discoveries burst upon us suddenly; others require the age of time for their application. This very change is illustrated daily, for the development of our manufacturing establishments has brought with it the importance and positive necessity of employing skilled engineers to conduct the technical affairs. Also from these industries we see the difference in the du-

ties of an engineer—we find the engineer of the user, and the engineer of the maker.

While at school and then in college the young engineer is unable to see before him what duties he may have to perform in life. Hence it is almost impossible for the scientific schools to turn out men who can take any and every problem that may confront them and work it out to its best uses. The experience for this must be accumulated slowly while at work. There may also be new practices that his education has never touched upon; necessarily it takes time for the development of new practices and theories, then their publication and adoption by the educational staff.

To the young man whose intentions are to become an engineer—C. E., E. E., or M. E.—I should say, he has the widest field that science presents to the ambitious and industrious mind wherein to acquire honor and wealth. However, he should never forget for one moment that success depends upon no one so much as it does upon himself. For although so great his field, it may be greatly narrowed by indolence and lack of application.

The most important thing in life is to make a good start, by carefully determining what one's capabilities best fit him for. Do not reckon on chance, but set your aim high. If Providence then sees fit to raise or lower it, we may follow.

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