

TOWARD A BROADER EDUCATION

submitted to

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by

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SUMMARY

The leopard's nature-given spots enable it to live in harmony with its surroundings. Man, left to his own resources, by nature, must prepare himself for life. An engineering education enables him to make a living, but to live more fully and more successfully after graduation the engineering student should be allowed more opportunity for character developing background courses in the arts to supplement the extra-curricular activities. Such training would speed advancement once he took his position in industry.

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AN EXAMPLE IN NATURE

Dame nature has coddled the leopard. The oversized tabby is well prepared to make headway in his business, equipped as he is with the acute vision with which to spot the best course of action and the sharpened tools necessary for the successful completion of the activity pursued. But these are business matters and even super-puss prefers not to claw his way all the time. The purr-er would enjoy an occasional contented rumble as he lies at peace for a while with his similarly struggling jungle cohorts. So motherly nature fondles her pet and presents him with a coat of spots, blending smoothly with the nuggets of golden sunlight that sift through the colander of lush vegetation to spatter on the abyss of shade below. She makes this gift so that Mr. Silence may fit gracefully into his surroundings, thus permitting relaxation and greater deeds performed with less effort.

THE ANALOGY IN MAN

But man has intelligence of a higher order; man controls his own destiny; man prepares himself for the business of living. He must prepare himself to earn money in an industrialized world--ah, yes; but, just as surely, he must take those steps necessary to enable him to blend smoothly in business and society with his companion strugglers. This task of blending with others probably includes two related aspects, character training and social experience. Man needs these as the leopard needs its nature-given camouflage to live harmoniously.

AN ENGINEER'S PLEA

A college engineering education deposits a student into a good job with a mind filled with technical data and trained in its use. But the man who is promoted rapidly to executive positions requiring contacts with other men is he who is trained also to mesh easily into the machinery of the thoughts and methods of others. Two dozen engineering courses fall short here. I, therefor, plead for a two-sided college career. First, let there be more courses unrelated to mathematical and physical laws. English, the social sciences, philosophy, and art give a lift to the development of a man's soul and afford him perspective vision with which he may judge the relative importance of life's many facets. Let time be allowed the engineer to conscientiously investigate the lore of the past and the prophecies for the future. The relaxation of change would sharpen the mind for re-entrance into the technical and precise. Have you never heard the complaint of a dog chained to a wood stake or the lament of an engineer tied to a slip stick?

Gaus's law,
And Joule's--
Formulas--
Slide rules...

But an engineer has a soul
Apart from products and sums,
And a chord subdued within him
Unscientifically hums
Its own paean of boundless joy
When beauty and love softly strum...

Integrals--
Poor Fools!
Formulas--
Slide rules...

Grant the opportunity, o Dean, to escape for a few periods the everlasting slide. The influence of such training, coupled with the social experience gleaned from dipping into the extra-curricular stew, (we dip with your blessing), would place the engineering graduate not only in the business office but on the escalator, headed, step by large step, for the company's upper control regions.