

ARMOUR TECH NEWS

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

Don't miss the big scandal sheet coming out on Feb. 14. By a concerted effort, we have succeeded in gathering four pages of slander that will make W. Randolph (and Wells) Hearse fall right off his pedestal. Read this burlesque of the NEWS, out on St. Valentine's Day!

What's a Buck More or Less?

There's only one unpleasant thing about being on the staff of the NEWS. And that is that at the beginning of the semester we've got to go around and collect a dollar from each one of our subscribers. It's somewhat of a nuisance to both of us; not that it's so hard for us to accept your dollar, but simply that it's a tedious job getting them all.

Anyhow, it has to be done only once every semester, and then all you have to do is to sit back and receive your issue every week for sixteen or seventeen times. Not a bad bargain, is it? And furthermore, we'll promise to get your name into it just as often as we can!

Can The Freshmen Stand The Gaff?

At the Armour Institute of Technology competition necessarily begins the moment a man applies for admission as a freshman. About 750 applied last fall for admission as freshmen. Of these it was possible to accept only 250, due to lack of classroom facilities. These 250 men were considered to be the one-third of the body of applicants most likely to succeed as engineering students. This spring 150 men will graduate from this college after four years' work. Three-fifths of the number that enter as freshmen complete the course, or one-fifth of the number that apply for admission. This competition is selective. Only the ablest men are supposed to attain a degree, exemplifying the principle of the survival of the fittest.

When the freshman class starts the second semester the less capable members of the class are supposed to have been dropped by the process of "flunking out." The members who cannot keep up the pace have fallen below the class average, and failed in their work. This does not mean that the lower members are morons, but that for some reason they have not achieved the standard of work that the others have set. Perhaps they have not learned to study; perhaps outside affairs took their time; perhaps they were capable of better work but were not interested.

The men who have shown more than average ability, the men who have demonstrated a capacity for hard work and plenty of it, supply the material of which the remaining group is composed.

The average of the freshmen in the second semester is therefore supposed to be higher than the first because the better students are no longer held back by the poorer students. More work can be given, and a more personal type of instruction employed. Because of the raised standards, competition is even more keen during the second semester than the first.

The freshman, to hold the same relative position in his class the second semester that he had in his first, must now work harder than ever before. On the other hand, he is now acquainted with the work, and he now knows how to study, even if the competition is stiffer. The question we put to the freshmen is: "How will you succeed in the second lap?"

THE SLIPSTICK

Cleave to "The Slipstick"; let the Slipstick fly where it may.

OO-LA-LA

Such stately legs I've rarely seen, Nor back so strong and straight. I thrill to lay my hands upon Those arms that mine await.

And such artistic makeup, A figure worth a stare. So beautiful; so lovely Is this old antique chair.

A NEW VERSION

Collegiate: "Say, have you heard the story about the traveling salesman?"
Sophisticated: "Heard it? My good man, I'm the farmer's daughter."

Diary of a Physics Experiment

Preliminary Due 9/18/26
Preliminary Presented 9/18/26
Returned for Correction
Accepted X
Experiment Performed 9/18/26
Report Presented 1/23/27
Returned for Correction 1/24/27
Accepted 5/26/29

EASILY DISPOSED OF

Professor: "I don't see where we can put this lecturer for the night."
Dean: "Don't worry; he always brings his own bunk."

The Dean of the Law School at the esteemed University of Chicago was very busy, and very cross. The phone rang. "What is it?" he snapped. "Is this the city gas works?" a soft voice asked. "No, madam!" roared the dean; "this is the University Law School." Ah, she answered, in the silkiest of tones, "I didn't miss it so far after all."

JUST A MATTER OF PERSONALITIES

"I will—hic—have—hic—a dish—hic—of prunes," he announced gravely. "Yes, sir," said the waiter. "Stewed, sir?" "Thas-s-s-h-h-h none o' your business."

Latham, a mere chemical, was trying to persuade his rider to stay on the beam of his balance. Failing a number of times, he grinned a sickly smile and said: "This fool thing's always falling off; suppose it's the Prince of Wales model."

The recent calamities, the finals, proved that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Our favorite Scotch story is the one of the fellow who kept warm all winter with one bag of coal. Every time he felt cold he carried it up and down the stairs.

HIGH SPEED VERSUS FRICTION

First Deaf Mute: "He was so very angry, was he?"
Second Deaf Mute: "He was so wild that the words he used almost blistered his fingers."

It was 3 A. M. when the tramp accosted the fraternity brother.

"Say, old feller, give us 50 cents for a night's lodging," he wheedled. "Nothin' doing!" "Aw, say, ya won't see me walk the streets all night?" "Certainly not; I'm going to bed pretty soon."

Many a chap during the last week thought of his pony as he hummed "I'll Get By Just as Long as I Have You."

So many have sent in the following problem taken from a classroom blackboard that we can acknowledge only the first copy received: Here goes:

Six farmers own in common a twenty-five-acre field. The price of eggs is 50 cents a dozen. If the distance between the two stations is given by $ax + \sin x$, calculate the most economical proportions to fence the field.

Hint: The farmers can row twice as fast as they can swim.

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

First Dumb Dora: "I hear these fraternity men are devils."
Second Co-Ed: "Yes; I've heard them called Helenics."

TRUE MODESTY

"You are the greatest inventor in the world."
"No, my boy; I have never been a reporter."

ONE OF THE HIGHER THINGS IN LIFE

S. E.: "What'cha taking up in college this year, bo?"
C. E.: "Women, mostly. I'm learning aviation."

Did you land that ideal program with four afternoons off and no classes before 10:30? If not, make your complaints to the office at once.

Book Reviews

By JOEL M. JACOBSON, '29

"The Spectacles of Mr. Cagliostro," by Harry Stephen Keeler, former student of Civil Engineering at Armour Tech, is the Dutton Mystery-of-the-Month for January. In this new thriller Mr. Keeler adds an insane asylum to his collection of Chinese laundrymen, ivory, apes and peacocks of "Sing Sing Nights," "Find the Clock," "Voice of the Seven Sparrows," etc. Mr. Keeler doesn't fake his lunatics. He met them in various Illinois asylums, interviewed them, dug their stories out of them, and, he says, "got to know their personalities and attitudes (better than any doctor could know them, for a patient invariably has a defense set up in the presence of a doctor.)" The volume is not exactly new; but is new for America, since it has been one of England's best sellers for a considerable period. This is the first time that it is being offered to the American public. Incidentally, as Vincent Starrett says, Mr. Keeler has written a pulse-quickenng tale.

LETTER-BOX

FLOOD OGDEN FIELD!

To the Letterbox: We have the facilities—why not make use of them? I received what I think was a valuable suggestion from a member of the faculty. It was to flood Ogden field during the winter and thus provide a place of recreation during the cold season. There is a hydrant on the corner of 33rd and Federal streets, and it would not be a difficult arrangement to have the Fire Department flood the field. A little sport in a free hour or at lunch time ought to go over "big."

BRAINS AND DAYBOOKS

By Glenn Frank (President of the University of Wisconsin)

I find myself growing more and more impatient with the day book and ledger credit system by which we admit people to schools, and by which we measure their brains after they are admitted.

I do not want to drag my technical professional interests into this column, which I consider a kind of comfortable chimney corner where we may talk over day by day our common interests that cut under all our varied professional interests. But I happen to be a schoolman. About one-fourth of us are going to school at any given time, and most of the other three-fourths have either been to school or have sons and daughters to be sent to school, so now and then I have a professional problem that seems of nearly universal interest.

It seems to me that common sense suggests that our day book and ledger credit system, both as it affects entrance requirements and as it affects the intellectual life of our sons and daughters in school, is nearly obsolete.

We should, I think, in the not too far distant future, set up at the gates of our schools and colleges, except in those highly technical and professional fields where particular subject matters are of paramount importance capacity requirements instead of credit requirements.

What a lad's mind is capable of doing is more important than what he knows of this or that subject.

The gods must laugh as they look down upon colleges excluding a capable student because he happens not to have had this or that number of hours of algebra, let us say.

Our whole educational system is loaded down with all sorts of book-keeping requirements that bear little if any vital relation to the actual educational needs of multiplied thousands of our sons and daughters.

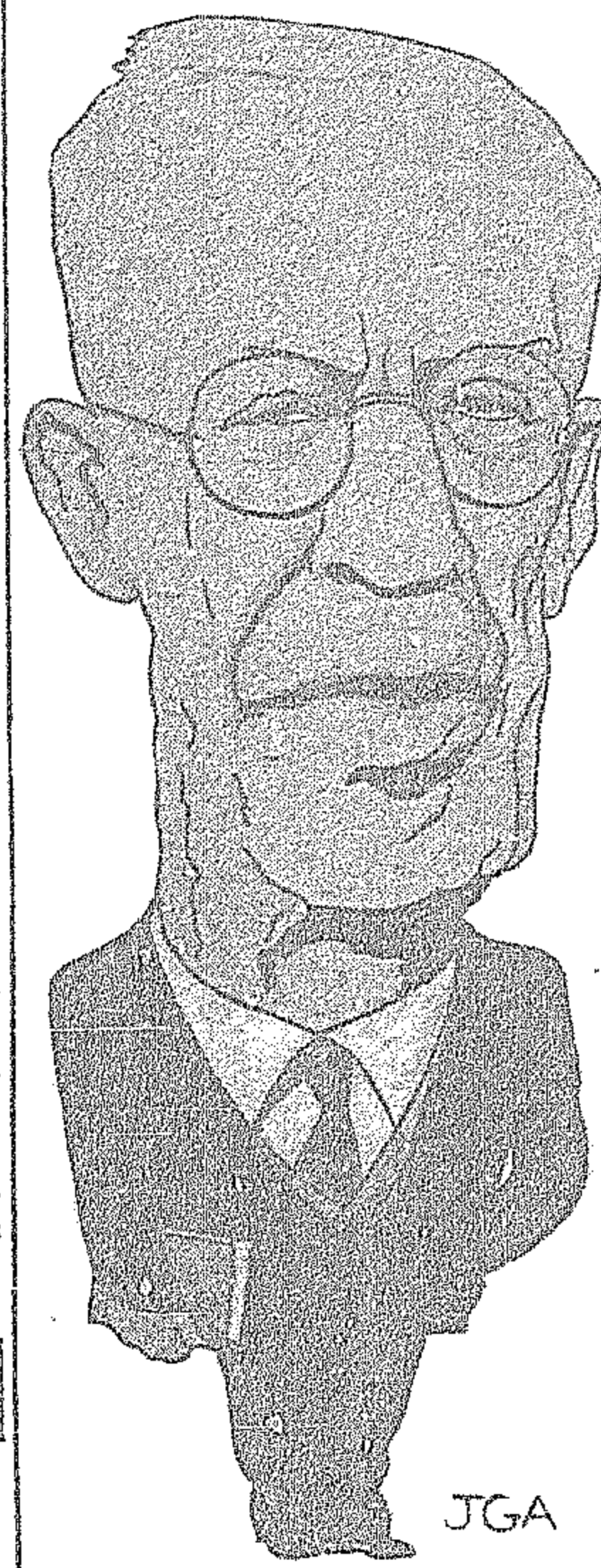
The economic waste of this is less important than the tragic waste of time and opportunity for students.

I repeat—we should have capacity requirements instead of credit requirements.

ASSEMBLY FEB. 21

A student assembly will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 10:30 a. m., the day before Washington's birthday. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. A. W. Palmer of Oak Park, Ill.

"PA"



ALFRED EDWARD PHILLIPS (Biography)

By T. J. LEARDI, '29

Alfred Edward Phillips, head of the Department of Civil Engineering was born at Rouses Point, N. Y., in 1863. He did not attend either grammar or high school, but went to private schools at Rouses Point, and public schools in Champlain, N. Y., and LaColle, Province of Quebec. In preparation for college, he was tutored by a clergyman, who had been trained in engineering. He entered Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1883, and graduated four years later with the degrees of A. B. and C. E. In his senior year he was elected to Sigma Xi, an honorary scientific fraternity. He also became a member of Phi Delta Theta. Professor Phillips, being a studious fellow, did not take a very active part in athletics. He played a little tennis and lacrosse, but was much more interested in his books, preferring to fit himself mentally for the problems which engineers are called upon to solve.

After graduation he went to Tennessee with the Cumberland Valley & Unaka R. R. Co., running a line of surveys across the Cumberland Mountains from Knoxville to the Atlantic Coast. In September, 1887, he went to Purdue University and there established their course in Civil Engineering. He remained there as head of the Civil Department until 1894. In the meanwhile, from 1888 to 1889 he was Assistant Engineer of the New York State Board of Health, engaged in examining the water supply of New York City. In 1895-96 he became Acting Professor of Bridge & Hydraulic Engineering at the University of Wisconsin. From 1896 until September, 1899, he was engaged in private practice in Indiana and Illinois in sewer work and water supply systems. He came to Armour in September, 1899, as Professor of Civil Engineering. In 1890, he received the degree of A. M. from Union College, and his Ph. D. in 1894. He is an honorary member of Tau Beta Pi, Chi Epsilon, and Tri-angel.

Professor Phillips is greatly interested in photography. He is also very fond of outdoor life, maintaining a summer home at Trout Lake, Wis., and spending several weeks each summer among the embryo civil engineers, fishing with them, and hiking through the woods. To the civil upper-classmen, he is known as "Pa," not only because he is the father of the Civil Engineering Department at Armour Tech, but also because of his fatherly interest in the C. E. students, who, in turn, respect him for his wisdom, his accomplishments, his kindly personality, and for his great store of up-to-the-minute knowledge on engineering subjects.

Misegades Tops List for Fame Chem. Award

The Schmier-Chemiker medal, the traveling trophy that is awarded to the Senior Chemical who decorates the lab, with his would-be product, has of late been kept in rapid circulation. In fact, there have been so many claimants to the award that many were not presented with the badge before it was voted to another man. It is rumored, however, that the badge is soon to become the permanent possession of "Sam" Misegades, who has twice won the honor (three times giving permanent ownership).

Among the Chemists to whom the honor has been awarded are: "Coach" Garbett, "Izzie" Klein, "Goeky" Marek and "Al" Stabovitz, the last named man giving Misegades the only serious competition. "Schnoopser" Yount made an attempt to garner the prize, but was disqualified for not having the required number of witnesses present.

32 Men "Flunk Out" As Many Doubtful

(Continued from page 1, col. 6) Civils and Architects, with Professors Stevens and Heald in the Civil Drafting Room, second floor, Mission Building.

Chemicals, with Professors Freud and Bentley in Room 3, fourth floor, Main Building.

Fire Protects, with Professor Finnegan and Mr. Holmes in Room H, third floor, Main Building.

After enrollment, Senior and Junior students should pay their fees in the Cashier's Office, receiving a registration receipt, and Sophomores should pay their fees in the Library.

Enrollment in Classes: The registration receipt must be shown to the instructor, as it entitles the student to enter classes. No student is allowed to enroll in a class without this receipt. As soon as a student has enrolled in all of his classes, he should make out a permanent program card and leave it, with class enrollment card, at the Office of the Deans. Blank program cards for this purpose may be obtained in the Office of the Deans.

F. P. E. Scholarship Students will register as directed, then receive an O. K. from Mr. Allison, after which they will obtain their receipts in the Dynamo Laboratory on the first floor.

Grades Mailed Out

Grades for the first semester's work were mailed to the students, or their parents, last Thursday, and, according to the Deans' Office, the student body still rates as "average," there being thirty-two students who were dropped because of poor scholarship, and another thirty-two placed on probation.

The enormous task of recording and compiling grades for 800 students, each getting ten or eleven marks, was accomplished in record time by the Deans' Office, all the grades being mailed by the second day after the last examination was finished.

Announcement for the removal of conditions in the first semester's work will be made shortly.

Ransel '30, Arch., Made "Engineer" Art Editor

Ransel, junior architect, has been appointed art editor of the "Armour Engineer."

Ransel's drawing of the huge testing machine at the Bureau of Standards, which is the largest of its kind in the world, having a capacity of 10,000,000 pounds in compression, appears on the cover of the January issue (distributed registration day). The staff of the "Engineer" is planning to have two more student drawings for the March and May issues, these drawings to be in connection with one of the articles appearing in these issues. The policy of having the cover design feature the subject matter of some article was adopted in 1926.

The appointment of F. H. Biegelow, C. G. Anderson and N. D. Bushling (all '30) as assistant editors of the "Engineer," has been approved by the Managing Board. It is expected that from these men will be chosen the appointees to major staff positions for next year's editorial department.

A constitution has been drawn up for the "Engineer" and it is expected to be adopted at a staff meeting the week of Feb. 4.