

Armour Tech News

Student Publication of the
ARMOUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Published Weekly During the College Year



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\$2.00 Per Year Single Copies, 10 Cents Each

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Vol. VII MARCH 3, 1931 No. 4

"Like it, I will not build: better, I cannot."
—Michael Angelo.
Born, March 6, 1474.

A Word A Day

An engineer, although he may have a splendid working knowledge of engineering, will find himself distinctly at a disadvantage if he hasn't a command of the English language and a suitable vocabulary. In his work he will be finding himself repeatedly required and called upon to voice his plans and opinions, either by spoken or written word, to people expecting clear, concise, and unified language.

The organization of our civilization is such that ideas can only be expressed materially by mouth or pen and the engineer must take this into consideration. If he finds himself incapable of expressing himself in this manner, what chance has he to expect advancement or promotion from his employers, who will be probable hearers?

The world, it appears, judges not only upon the front and appearance that is put up, but also upon what is said and how it is said. These things and deeds are character criterion. Deficiencies in the foregoing attributes make the engineer decidedly inferior to the man who, although he may not be as intelligent, has the ability of expressing himself properly.

Of the two self expression constituents: a command of the English language and a vocabulary, the latter is more important, for it must be acquired by initiative, while the former is a matter of instruction. Before our book knowledge can be put into play a vocabulary is necessary.

An excellent method of increasing the stock of usable words is to look one up each day, study its definition and derivation and be sure as to its accepted use and pronunciation. Five minutes spent in this way each day will work wonders with a mediocre vocabulary. Continuance of this habit will soon give a certain pleasure or fun in finding and using these new found words.

Looking up a word a day will in time give an understanding of the correct use of long words, and the method of avoiding trite, meaningless ones in addition to knowing how to use common words. This does not mean, however, that one should develop an unwelcome egotistical attitude.

Consistency, perseverance, and patience are necessary to establish this or any other good habit. Being inconsistent, giving up with the end in view of becoming impatient will never make the reward attainable. Discouragement may enter when your acquaintances say, "Aw cut out the two-bit words"; but then you can smile and say, "It's much easier for these fellows to be critical than correct or encouraging."

E. W. C.

"The Slipstick"

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

We Were There Too

Well, Harve got pussional and told us all about his courses in Roman Law and Botany. . . . He even let on as to the significance of the oft-talked-about but little-known-of middle initial "T." . . . He does all of his columning, except for contributors. . . . Does not believe in stereotyped, well prepared speeches, but rather rambles along. . . . Says newspaper work is a great game, but don't get in it. Y'only get \$28 a week. . . . Likes to kill the copy reader who "cuts" the best part of his colyume. . . . Told us the story of the "Wake" and "Help, Help." . . . His wife used to call him the "Athletics Editor" of the Trib. . . . Engaged in a wit and wisdom contest with Jawn Schommer. . . . Relived his student daze with us. . . . Was extremely informal. . . . A great fella, Harve.

FOR THE BACKWARD READER

Eht tseggib stun, ti smees ot em
Era ton ni deddap sillec ro esrow.
Tub esoh, ekil uoy, ohw yllufepoh
Tcartxe emos esnes morf siht loof esrev.

Bob: "What's the difference between Cootville and Chicago?"

"Rob: "Well, in Chicago the crowd follows the fire engines to see where the fire is, but in Cootville the fire engines follows the crowd to see where the fire is."

"Oh, Ruth, I met Katherine the other day; hadn't seen her for years."

"Has she kept her girlish figure?"
"Kept it? She's doubled it!" —REM(not an ad.)

The Bongineer says that the successful man is one who knows what he wants, and leaves it alone.

No Standing Room

Landlady: "Why have you put your tea on a chair?"
Boarder: "It was so weak I thought it had better sit down." —Sliv.

UP TO MABEL'S

"Yes, sir, what can I do for you?" "Oh yes, from Armour. Graduating this year?" "That's nice. I suppose you've endured a hard grind these last four years, but it will pay in the end." "Now do you like these photos at \$75 the dozen, or do you prefer these at \$80?" "Yes, we have some at \$7.50." "Your name and address, please?" "All right, you will find the artist on the second floor."

"Yes sir, sit down right there, head up, chest out, chin in, smile." "No, not like that, wipe off that grin. Now, steady. Can't you be still?" "Now we'll have to take that one over. Steady, steady. Now turn around. Fine, you're through. Next gentleman!"

Co-ed: "But, father, what am I to do without a riding habit?"
Father: "Get into the walking habit."

Under Ether

Joe: "I'm going to the hospital tomorrow for an operation."

Pete: "Good luck to you; I hope everything comes out all right."

Dollar Bill Says:—

The Russians are trying to Americanize their railroads, just as Americans have about decided to motor-bussize their own.

The only reason some families don't own a green elephant is that they have never been offered for a dollar down and seventy-five cents a week.

The w.k. Joe Collich had to give away his automatic lighter. He couldn't break himself of scratching it on the leg of his pants.

After all, golf is nothing more than a game of banker's croquet. Designed to reduce the abdomen and enlarge the vocabulary.

LIFE'S REAL MYSTERY

Instead of wasting time trying to discover where we came from and where we're going, why don't the scientists find out where we are—which is more important. —A1.

Advice is the most worthless commodity in the world. Those who might profit by it don't need it, and those who do need it won't profit by it—if they could, they would not need it.

YOU WOODEN THINK SO

"Anyhow, there's one advantage in having a wooden leg," said the veteran.

"What's that?" asked his friend.
"You can hold your socks up with thumbtacks." —Bloney.

A SQUARE MILE WAS A SQUARE MEAL

"Crop failures?" asked the old timer, "Yes, I've seen a few in my day. In 1860 the corn crop was almost nothing. We cooked some for dinner and my paw ate fifteen acres of it."

Confucius might well have said—"Every normal man has two ambitions. First, to own a home. Second, to own a car to get away from his home."

Well, that's that and who cares?

—Phil J.

LAZZARO

By Luigi Pirandello

Presented by the Goodman Repertory Co. "Lazzaro," one of the later of Pirandello's numerous plays, is a thought-provoking presentation of life as a most dismal deception. With bitter compassion, Pirandello creates in his characters unreal presumptions of the truth only that they may be forced to discard these beliefs as vain and illusory. His outlook is all the more despairing when we realize that the need for self-deception arises from intangible forces of destiny. The performers in "Lazzaro" are servants of the theme, subjecting, at all times, their own personalities to the idea.

Enjoyment of this play lies in the power of the observer to project himself into its conditions and to analyze his consequent reactions. Fortunately, these processes are not as studied nor as difficult as their description makes them appear. In fact, most of our interpretations of experience are formed by exactly such mental operations. So despite the instinctive suspicion and dread of the "heavy drama" in any sense, "Lazzaro" would be pleasurable fare for most of us.

There is appeal in its universality. What takes place in a small Italian village might just as well be transferred to the most American of communities. The characters would necessarily differ in outward appearance and station, but similar stimuli could well occur. Though of the reactions we can not be certain, it is highly probable that the basic sameness in human nature would result in similar response. Further, the dozen individuals concerned in portraying Pirandello's philosophy of life could be found in any group of humans.

With an abstract theme such as is found in this play, the utmost care must be exercised by the performers. Over-acting might easily turn it into a ghastly farce, while lack of sincerity would result in a miserable flattening. The performance of "Lazzaro" by the Goodman Repertory Company seemed, on the whole, to remain well-balanced; restrained where undue heroics might be easy, and strengthened at most points where interest might lag. Mervis did

NEW BOOKS

NON-TECHNICAL
I Remember
Opie Read

The Great Meadow
Elizabeth Madox Roberts

TECHNICAL
Man, the Problem Solver
Harold Benjamin

Introduction to the Mathematics
of Statistics
Robert Wilbur Burgess

Treatise on Leather Belting
George B. Haven

Crusades of Chemistry
J. N. Leonard

Linear Integral Equations
William Vernon Lovitt

Creative Chemistry
Edwin E. Slosson

An Introduction to the Geometry
of N Dimensions
D. M. J. Sommerville

much to maintain this condition. His handling of a highly emotional part was convincing without being "stagey"; sincere without the sacrifice of appeal. At no time did he step out of character. Robert Goldbraith was creditable though traces of inexperience were evident early in the play, his conduct as the height of his lines was reached more than compensated. Gladys Fervis, a recent importation of the company, worked hard and well. She perhaps overstepped a bit at the high spots but women are expected to do just that, on the stage or off. In general, considering the nature of the subject, the performance was better than a good one.

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Modjeski Honored For Bridge Design Skill

Exceptional skill of bridge design and construction won the Washington Award for Ralph Modjeski. The Washington Award is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an engineer.

The presentation of the award was made last Wednesday at a banquet of the Western Society of Engineers at the Palmer House. Elmer T. Howson, chairman of the committee, made the presentation of a bronze tablet.

Mr. R. Modjeski has spent most of his life in Chicago, starting his engineering career as a draftsman in one of the large downtown offices.

Among his accomplishments he won the John Fritz Medal. He is a member of the French Legion of Honor, and has two honorary degrees of Doctor of Engineering.

Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern Railroad, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner.

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