

A. I. E. E. HEARS TALK ON MERCURY ARC RECTIFIERS

A talk on mercury arc rectifiers was given last Friday, January 22, at the meeting of the Armour Branch of the A. I. E. E. Mr. Cassidy of the Engineering Laboratories of the General Electric Co. was the speaker. He is now at work in the Chicago district on the installation and maintenance of rectification units.

He noted the difference between the various rectifiers now commercially used, such as the mercury arc, the Kenotron, the tungar, and the rotary converter. A short resume of the history of the mercury arc rectifier was made.

The principle of rectification was first discovered by Cooper Hewitt while experimenting with a mercury arc lamp. Glass was first used to encase the mercury vapor, but it was found that it would not stand up under the high temperatures of heavy loads. Steel tanks are now used for this purpose, and units have been made which will carry loads up to 6000 kilowatts.

For a long time there was no demand for these rectifiers, and their development stood still. But there were so many advantages, that this situation could not exist for long. Besides the advantages of elimination of commutators and brushes, it is found that, for rated loads and under, the mercury arc has a higher efficiency than the rotary converter. For this reason it is now fast replacing converted units on electrified railroads and in substations. The Illinois Central railroad was the first company to adopt this type of rectification on a large scale.

The A. I. E. E. plans a joint meeting with A. S. M. E. sometime in February.

Cash Prizes Offered in Steel Competition

For the purpose of continuing its program of encouraging an improvement in the aesthetics of steel bridge design, the American Institute of Steel Construction each year offers three cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 for the design placed first, second, and third in a competitive contest open to registered students of structural engineering and architecture in recognized technical schools of the United States and Canada.

The competition will consist of preliminary designs prepared within a period of nine hours under the supervision of a professor or instructor at the competitor's school. From these preliminary designs, a jury consisting of architects and consulting bridge engineers of national reputation will select ten drawings for final development. These final drawings must be delivered in ample time so as to be in the hands of the jury for final judgment.

The subject of the design is steel highway bridges. The problem may be solved by the use of any accepted type of steel bridge at the option of the designer.

Further information, for those interested, can be obtained from Professor Stevens of the civil engineering department.

Sophomore Meeting Makes Dance Plans

An important meeting for sophomores was held last Friday morning in the Assembly Hall.

L. Lynch, president of the sophomore class, opened the meeting by requesting that they decide whether they desired to have an independent sophomore informal dance, or whether they preferred to hold the dance jointly with the freshmen.

He explained, definitely, the purpose of each, and then called on Social Chairman, F. E. Halden to present some detailed information regarding the proposals.

The class vote favored holding the dance jointly with the freshmen.

If the Freshmen accept the proposition extended to them, it will be the first sophomore-freshman informal dance ever held in the history of Armour Institute.

REVIEWS

LYRIC AMERICA

By Alfred Kreymborg

Ten years after the Mayflower dropped its anchor in the bay at Plymouth, a poem was produced in America. The name of its author has slipped from record, but it was known as "New England's Annoyances" and is probably the first verse to be written by a colonist. Its crude style and homely subject-matter gives us the background of all the poetry composed in that period. Alfred Kreymborg has placed it on page one of "Lyric America".

Using this modest example as a starting point, Kreymborg proceeds to fill 609 pages with the best and most important American poems written up to and including the year 1929. He divides the works into nine parts, arranged chronologically. The poetry of each part shows exactly the trend and spirit of the times. In the judgment of the editor, Mr. Kreymborg, each poem in these nine parts has its own worth and place in the literature of America.

All the best works of the famous authors are found here: "Thanatopsis", Bryant; "Israfel", Poe; "Concord Hymn", Emerson; "The Day Is Done", Longfellow; "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking", Whitman; poems by the moderns, Frost; Vachel Lindsay; Undermyer; Amy Lowell; Sandburg; etc. (If any of your favorites have been left out, kindly remember that I am limited by our editor to 500 words.)

Some of the lesser poems composed by obscure poets are proof that in literature the little-known can be as fascinating as that which comes to us endorsed by everybody.

Before publishing "Lyric America", Kreymborg read two hundred volumes of poetry, criticisms, and anthologies. Should you decide after reading that his selection was not the best possible, consult the list which he has printed at the back of the book and edit your own anthology.

The wise reviewer who wishes his word to be respected will stay on the thick ice where the skating is safest when discussing poetry. He will not assume to know whether the selections are deserving of a place in an anthology of American poetry. Let it suffice to say that in "Lyric America" the majority of the poetry which make up its pages would be in any man's book. After these main luminaries have been selected it would be a matter of personal taste, and that, no one may discuss.

A good system for handling this volume and keep in the good graces

Philatelic Society Under Formation

Last Tuesday night at five o'clock ten Armour engineers assembled in the Electrical Lecture Room to organize an Armour Philatelic Society. The enthusiasm which the men displayed and their eagerness to put the new club on its feet as soon as possible proved that there is an interest in stamp collecting at Armour—and a very great interest at that.

E. W. Carlton, '32 acted as chairman for the first meeting and E. A. Svoboda, '34 as secretary. Carlton told of plans that could be put into effect when the club should become more firmly established. Conducting free and informal meetings to learn more about the hobby and to improve collections are two of the objectives.

Professor Teach and Mr. Kelly were also present, and each gave valuable suggestions for assuring success. It was decided to meet again at the same time on the following Monday evening, January 25, to continue organization.

REZAC LEADS ORCHESTRA

Members of the orchestra had a pleasant surprise at practice last Tuesday night when George Rezac, C. E., '29 visited school and conducted the practice. Mr. Rezac was orchestra leader when he attended Armour, and is a clever musician. According to Dr. Raymond he is the best xylophone player he has ever heard.

Professor Leigh introduced Mr. Rezac to the orchestra, and on Mr. Rezac rearranged the seating and had the orchestra try some new pieces.

of your physics instructors, or what have you, is to read only the poems which strike your fancy and to skip those which have not your interest, body and soul, after the first stanza. This method has its faults as too much depends on your mood at the time of reading. You will not have gone through all the poems in the book, but you will have followed the best possible principle where reading is concerned—enjoy yourself.

Colleges may come and colleges may go, but books on self-improvement have always existed and shall go on for ever. The latest one on the shelves of the Armour library is "What Your Voice Reveals" by Helen Hathaway. It is a book on voice culture.

Aspiring actors, salesmen, public speakers, teachers, and debutantes are spending good money to get the same advice about their speaking voices that you may have free of all charges.

This book is forty pages long and takes ten minutes to read. If after reading, you are convinced—you may start to work on your voice. Improvement will come to the diligent.

That your efforts will not be foolish is avowed by the author's own words: "It is only the exceptional person who realizes how he attracts or repels his fellow creatures by the tones of his voice."

By Harold Monger.

Professors Address High School Seniors

Several Armour professors spoke to senior students at various Chicago high schools last week, advising them about requirements and courses at technical colleges.

Doctor Raymond addressed a meeting of principals of the local high schools last Friday. The meeting was held in the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The addresses before the high school seniors concerned the general qualifications of technical college entrants. Questions concerning Armour Tech were answered in full.

Dean Penn spoke before 500 seniors of Tilden Tech last Tuesday, and Professor C. E. Paul before seniors of Lane Tech last Wednesday. Professor J. B. Finnegan spoke to the seniors of Crane Tech last Thursday, and on the same night Professor S. E. Winston talked before the seniors of Austin High School, and Mr. E. Kelly was at Deerfield Shields High School of Highland Park on Thursday to speak to the pupils.

Honorary Musicals Will Attend Opera

Pi Nu Epsilon, honorary musical fraternity, at a meeting held in the senior drafting room Friday decided to attend the opera this Saturday

New Books

Stephen Benet
Ballads and poems

Robert Frost
Collected poems

Alfred Kreymborg
Lyric America

E. S. Millay
The buck in the snow

E. A. Robinson
Glory of the nightingales

(Reviewed in this issue)

FRATERNITY NOTES

DELTA TAU DELTA

Lou Streh, who has been ill for the last two weeks, has again returned to school and we are all glad to see him in good health.

A Radio Dance will be held at the House next Tuesday night.

H. J. Prebensen, '27, visited the house last week.

BETA PSI

Brother John Even, F. P. E. '28, who has been residing at the Chapter house since graduation, has joined the ranks of the Lost Souls, and married. His bride is the former Miss Lucille Whimney of Peoria. They are now living in Chicago on the north side.

SIGMA KAPPA DELTA

Sigma Kappa Delta takes pleasure in announcing the pledging of Emmett H. Babcock, Ch. E. '35.

The ping-pong singles tournament has narrowed down to the finals with the two "Charles" (Charles Jens and Charles Hawes) as opponents.

The Annual Pledge Dance will be held February 6, 1932. The feature of this occasion will be a sketch, presented by the pledges.

Eat at the BOULEVARD CAFETERIA 31st and Michigan



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"I know my LUCKIES—my throat told me the first time I smoked one how kind they are. And it's been LUCKIES ever since. LUCKIES are the only cigarettes I can smoke before singing that do not give me a sore throat. Your improved Cellophane wrapper is great, too. That easy opening tab is a stroke of genius."

Lola Lane

"It's toasted"

Your Throat Protection—against irritation—against cough
And Moisture-Proof Cellophane Keeps that "Toasted" Flavor Ever Fresh

TUNE IN ON LUCKY STRIKE—60 modern minutes with the world's finest dance orchestras and Walter Winchell, whose gossip of today becomes the news of tomorrow, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening over N. B. C. networks.