

ALUMNI

To the Graduating Class of 1926

It is my happy privilege to be permitted to address these words to the young men of Armour who are about to receive their diplomas in this, the most eventful year in the history of the Institute. Always at graduation time has been impressed on the new alumni that as they may succeed or fail, so will the measure of their Alma Mater be taken by the world. That precept will most surely be stressed at the coming Commencement, and at never so opportune a time.

The affiliation of the Institute with Northwestern University will have an effect far greater than any of us can realize, and that effect will be controlled to the greatest degree by the character and achievements of the men whom the new Institution will certify as being worthy. And in this period of transition, when both Armour and Northwestern are in the limelight of publicity, the certification of their graduates will receive closer scrutiny by the public than ever before.

It is, therefore, necessary to realize that the first duty a man owes to his Alma Mater is to prove to the world his right to the degree he shall have received. We are proud of the high standards set by our alumni, many of whom are conspicuously successful, not only in engineering, but also in financial, industrial and manufacturing fields. These men are looking to you to maintain, or advance, that standard which in itself is one of the many reasons why the impending affiliation was found desirable by Northwestern University.

It must also be borne in mind that the receiving of a diploma does not mean that the bond which has been for four years in the making should be severed, or that the contacts that have grown firm and strong should be lost. It should indicate rather a "Commencement" of a relationship founded on a mutual understanding and appreciation which should grow broader and deeper with the passing years.

There is something stalwart about the very word "Alumnus"—a connotation of the strength, uprightness and pride which should characterize those who are given that designation.

To be an Alumnus of a great institution of learning is to bear a hall-mark significant of steadfast purpose and success in endeavor, the acceptance of which constitutes an irrevocable pledge that the principles for which it stands shall never be laid aside and that it shall be kept bright and shining, reflecting the good name of the institution which gave it.

It is easy to lose sight of these things. In the fierce competition of life our first thoughts must be for ourselves and those dependent upon us for existence, and to some of us the realization of what our College years have meant, is long in coming. Nevertheless, as we do recognize them and so govern ourselves, we shall ultimately fulfill our obligation to the institution which will have made it possible for us to attain the degree of success that may be ours and to which we shall always owe more than we can ever pay.

Armour men of 1926, I bid you a hearty welcome into the Alumni Association and I hope you will join with us in standing together through the coming years for Armour, now and always!

ALLAN B. BENEDICT.