

PUBLICATIONS

EDITORIAL

It is a dangerous business to ask an editor for a retrospect near the end of his term. It is nearly useless to expect from him an intelligible survey of progress made during the year. He will admit almost anything. He will brazenly avow that most of the material he has published has no justification for appearing in print anywhere. He will unblushingly confess that his journal cannot compete in format with a Borzoi volume. For the critics he has only a wry smile. He can match every editorial sin they have ferreted out with a dozen more heinous crimes; indeed, on the score of criticism his conversation is confined almost exclusively to an exchange of confidences with himself. Worse yet, he is quite likely to wax sentimental over the beauties of Goudy Bold, or drop a tear upon the editorial which was composed at the cost of so much sweat, yet which caused no perceptible dent in the cosmos. Retrospection is a dangerous business in May; it is much better undertaken in November.

To those who have been closely associated with the paper, the greatest pleasure afforded by *The Armour Engineer* has been the privilege of observing its growth. The predecessors of Volume XVII left an orderly inheritance. As a result of constant and well-directed effort by the pioneers who first went over the trail, the magazine has reached a stage in its growth where change is slow and sometimes nearly imperceptible to the idle spectator. The enjoyment of participation in the growth of *The Armour Engineer* has been heightened by the fineness of the steps by which the development of the magazine has proceeded.

The end of the year is a time for the payment of debts. The inanimate *Armour Engineer* comes to life here to express its debt of thanks to the men on the staff, who have made its publication possible. And magazine and staff unite in the payment of one more installment of our obligation to our good friends, Professor Peebles and Dean Monin, who, by their advice and encouragement, have made the difficult stretches of the road smoother and the whole of the journey more pleasant.