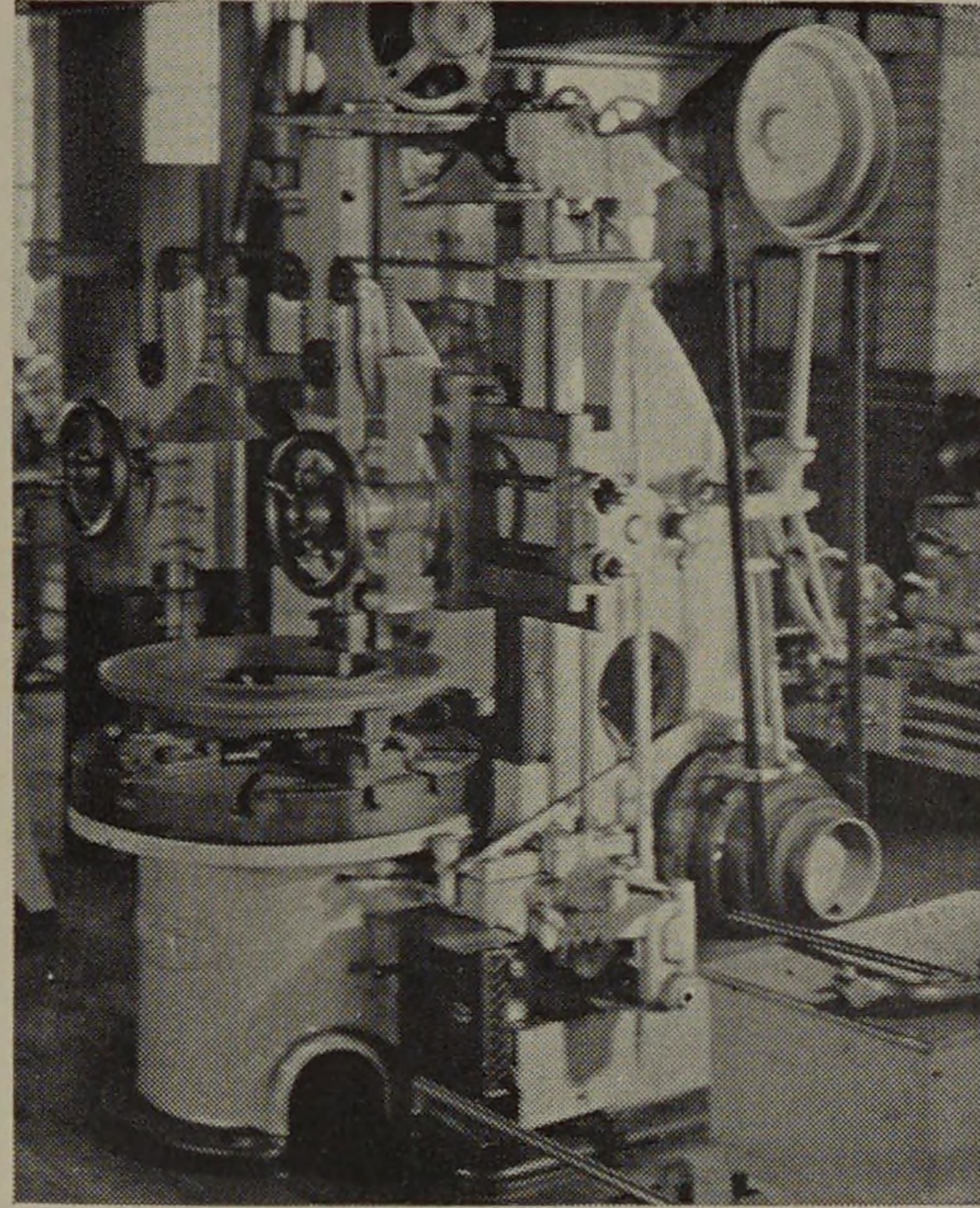


SHOPS

Is a thorough training in shopwork essential to the general education of the engineer? Not "shop methods," "production," "shop cost accounting," and glorified "mechanic arts," but the old-fashioned manual training in which the student acquires some technical skill and actual experience in the fabrication of machinery? Thirty years ago the answer was "Yes." Today, the answer is "No." Some educators favor the complete elimination of manual shopwork in every form, but the great majority believe that a limited and carefully chosen course is of great value, at least to those students interested in mechanical and electrical engineering. Coming as it does, during the most formative years of the student's course, namely the freshman, sophomore, and junior years, shopwork has a three-fold value. The first and most important is psychological, the second is recreational, and the third, professional. The majority of engineering students like shopwork, they enjoy "making things," they glory in getting into overalls and soiling their hands, they feel that they are "practical men." It is the only subject in the freshman and sophomore years which bears upon practice, all others being of an abstract nature. In other words, it "sells" them to the engineering profession. But for shopwork the freshman and sophomore students at Armour would have no let up in their intensive course of theoretical training. As it is the few hours devoted each week to this work are periods of mental relaxation and at the same time result in the acquirement of useful knowledge. Many an Armour graduate attributes his position in industry to his training in shop practice.



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