

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING



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The Department of Civil Engineering is now in a period of adjustment to the changes in curriculum that have been made this year in order to give a freshman course uniform for all departments. Because of this there has been some decrease in the work required and a resultant shifting of teachers, but next year the faculty will be back on a full schedule of departmental subjects.

The 25 gallon per minute water filtration and treatment plant which was installed by the Civil Engineering Department last year has been improved by the addition of reaction basin "flocculator," dry chemical feeding devices, and laboratory equipment. The graduate students in the Civil Engineering Department specializing in Municipal and Sanitary Engineering are writing a thesis based on research experiments on this plant and relating to coagulation and sedimentation. The work started last year on "The Effect of Artificial Turbidity in the Treatment of Waters of Low Turbidity" was continued

this year. The accuracy of results obtained has been increased by the installation of a carefully calibrated flow meter in the system.

A new plan was instituted this year to allow undergraduate students to become more familiar with the design and operation of water treatment plants. Small groups of students are instructed in the design and operation of the plant and then given an opportunity to operate the individual units and the complete system.

It is planned to start research work on the effect of increased reaction periods on settleability of floc in the fall of 1934.

The Department is planning a notable addition to its equipment for the course in astronomy. A glass disk seventeen inches in diameter has been purchased from the Corning Glass Works, and it may now be seen at the Planetarium. The offer of Professor Arthur Howe Carpenter to grind this disk for a reflector telescope has been accepted with the thanks of the Institute, and with due appreciation of the magnitude of the task. The work will probably take a year. Consideration is now being given to the mounting of the telescope. When completed it will be one of the large reflectors in the immediate Chicago area, and it will be a very important addition to our facilities.

The Armour branch of the Western Society of Engineers is having a very successful year. In addition to the usual lectures by prominent engineers, the Society has entered into joint meetings with other student sections with mutual benefit. Such meetings have been so successful that making them a feature of student engineering society activities seems worthy of consideration.