

## DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING

Abnormal social and economic conditions have had their influence on the engineering professions, and on the fire insurance business, which is the major field of employment for fire protection engineers. During the past few months, improvement in general conditions and marked improvement in the affairs of the insurance companies are most encouraging. Ordinarily our graduates enter the employ of rating and inspection bureaus; a smaller number are engaged by insurance companies immediately after leaving school. In general, the companies recruit their engineering staffs from the bureaus. During the past few years when conditions were least favorable, practically all graduates of the department were employed; this fortunate condition, in the case of the more recent graduates, was due mainly to the scholarship plan. With better times, it is assumed that promotions and salary increases will be more rapid.

Beginning about thirty years ago there has been a continual increase in the tendency of the inspection bureaus to require that their inspectors shall have sound engineering training. Few men without such training are now on the inspection staffs. In nineteen states of the Middle West, inspectors who are Armour graduates are conspicuous by reason of their number and their good records. In the insurance companies, which are the primary organizations on which the whole elaborate structure of the business is based, there is a definite tendency to look to their engineer-



*Joseph B. Finnegan*

ing staffs for men who are to be promoted to positions of executive responsibility.

We regret the loss of one member of our faculty but we are fortunate in his successor. At the end of the first semester Charles P. Holmes, Assistant Professor of Fire Insurance, resigned from the faculty on account of a great increase in his duties as engineer for the Western Actuarial Bureau. During the past eight years Professor Holmes has been one of the most competent members of the Institute's staff. He has been succeeded by Kent H. Parker, who graduated from Armour in 1928 and received the degree of Fire Protection Engineer in 1933. He has had valuable experience with the General Inspection Bureau in Minnesota, with the Kentucky Actuarial Bureau, and with the Western Actuarial Bureau.