RELATING-TO-THE-MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DECEMBER • • 1928



THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW



ORNAMENTAL street lights in residential districts attract homebuilders —substantial citizens who demand distinction in their surroundings whose appreciation of beauty finds gratification in artistic design—to whom the decorative aspect of modern lighting is as desirable as its more practical advantages.

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December 1, 1928

Dear Alumni:

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The accompanying photo shows one of several H-P-M designs which are the outcome of this development. The machine consists of a long bed carrying the shaft-supporting fixtures; also a rolling pressure unit.

The shaft to be straightened is dropped on the end roller stands. The one at the left end is motor driven. The shaft is revolved until the hump is up. Supporting blocks are next moved up under the shaft either side of the bend. Finally the pressure unit is rolled into position.

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Yours for Tech. Buand

Howard F. MacMillin, Vice-Pres. in charge of Sales, The Hydraulic Press Mfg. Co.



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The TECHNOLOGY R E V I E W

Relating to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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THE TABULAR VIEW

S WE gather together for identification the contributors to the December Review, we see one newcomer and four whose names are already familiar to our readers. I HAVEN EMERSON has practiced medicine, and served as President of the Board of Health and Commissioner of the Department of Health in the City of New York. In the war he was a Colonel in the Medical Corps, was made an Officer in the Legion of Honor, and received from this government the Distinguished Service Medal. Since 1922 he has been Professor of Public Health Administration in Columbia University. **(**EDWIN B. WILSON was the author of that much-discussed article in The Review for last April, "The Use and Abuse of Statistics." Now the Professor of Vital Statistics in the Harvard School of Public Health, he is thoroughly qualified by experience to discuss the relationship between the sciences of physics and medicine, having served for five years as the Head of the Department of Physics at Technology. At the conference for teachers of college physics held at the Institute last summer under the auspices of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Dr. Wilson gave an address on the subject of this article. I H. E. LOBDELL, '17, is the Assistant Dean of Students at the Institute and Editor of the The Review. This is the fiftieth issue of the magazine since Professor Lobdell assumed the Editorship in 1922. He contributes to every issue, but it is only in those reviews of books signed "H. E. L." that it has heretofore been possible for the reader to identify his work. ¶ HARRY J. CARLSON, '92, is a member of the Technology Corporation and an architect practicing in Boston. He contributes reviews of books to The Review from time to time. I HENRY B. KANE, '24, is known to every reader by his drawings that have been appearing in The Review during the past year.

YEAR ago in November, The Review Editors began, on the covers of the magazine, the reproduction of a series of etchings, aquatints, and lithographs done by Technology men. The one chosen as the first of the series was the etching "W. I. Trade" by GEORGE C. WALES, '89, and nothing now gives The Editors more pleasure than to be able to present on this month's cover a lithograph by Mr. Wales entitled "Desdemona — New Bedford." Like most of his subjects the *Desdemona* was (and perhaps is) an actual ship; and followers of the sea say that even if she had never existed and the ship were to be built like the picture, she would ride as gracefully as Mr. Wales has made her ride here. ¶ The Editors are indebted to the Gallery of Charles E. Goodspeed and Company for the loan of the lithograph.

THE month of November is only a little more than half gone as this is being written, but already the November issue is out of print, in spite of the fact that the "print order" was the largest in the history of the magazine. Copies can now be obtained only from the dealers listed in the Table of Contents. The announce-(Concluded on page 78)



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THE TABULAR VIEW

(Continued from page 77)

ment of the Gaw single sleeve-valve automobile engine which was picked up in advance by the press associations attracted nation-wide attention and resulted in requests for more copies than could be supplied. Other features likewise attracted attention, particularly the article by DR. DONALD C. STOCKBARGER, '19, on ultraviolet therapy, and the story of science in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (Russia) by NIKOLAI BORDIN. Several of these items were quoted and summarized in newspapers, many of which were located far from the precincts of Boston and Cambridge, Mass. All this in turn swelled the demand.

THE difficulties with terminology in the sciences have always been a source of worry to editors, and from a letter that has reached us from one of our readers, a consulting electrical engineer in Boston, it appears that the question is a puzzling one for him. He refers to the article "Check the Sunbath" in our November issue:

In your last issue I noticed the use of the word "spectrogram" and simultaneously in a statement from my dentist use was made of the word "radiogram," the latter in substitution of the word "radiograph" used several years ago.

I assume that scientific good usage has decided on this form of word meaning pictures taken by certain processes, but in the case of the "radiogram" has good usage determined what change, if any, should be made in the same word meaning a message sent by radio, which is, of course, an entirely different thing?

All we can say is that we wish there were such a thing as "scientific good usage." The use of "spectrograph" to stand for the instrument which makes a "spectrogram" is in entire accord with best usage among the men who work with such things (spectrographers?), although Webster's dictionary permits the use of "spectrograph" to mean either the instrument or its product. As for "radiogram" we suggest that it is possible to explain the discrepancy between the two uses of the word by observing that perhaps "radiogram," the radio message, is only a form of "radio-telegram" corrupted for advertising purposes by one of the companies in the business. Frankly, we don't know. Coined words usually work out without difficulty when their use is restricted to those publications which deal exclusively with one particular science, but they may cause trouble for a magazine which is privileged to discuss every conceivable kind of science. A magazine which circulates exclusively among workers with x-rays and which takes all its material from that field need almost never worry about a misunderstanding in the use of "radiogram," for exam-ple; but a general magazine like The Review might easily find it desirable to use both meanings of the word on the same page. I The Engineering Standards Committee is now working on a list of standardized mathematical symbols; perhaps they will be able to do something for scientific words. The Review Editors invite further comment.

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