

I do not intend to inflict upon you a long historical sketch of the engineering works which have been commenced or completed during the past year, for the daily papers with their well written articles and photographic accompaniments bring these matters attractively to our notice, and the technical journals record them with such close detail and elaborate drawings that they are in everyone's mind or on our bookshelves as works of reference, far more valuable and with infinitely greater facility for reference than any words of mine would possess.

A few words to the students and young members of our Society may, however, be of some service, and, if devoid of any other merit, will, I promise you, possess the merit of brevity.

With such an institution as McGill College, the young men of to-day, especially those within easy reach of Montreal, possess advantages which their seniors educated in this country never had, and no more genuine or sincere assurance of the appreciation of the munificent donations which have made McGill College what it is can be given the donors than to see the lecture and experimental rooms and museums thronged with bright and earnest students making every possible effort to possess themselves of the wealth of knowledge so generously placed within their reach and so easily acquired with the assistance at their disposal.

A thorough grounding in the fundamental principles of any profession or calling is as necessary for the individual independence and stability which every man should strive to possess as a solid foundation is for the stability of a structure. This thorough grounding McGill College affords, with facilities which cannot be surpassed, and I would urge upon our students and young members to avail themselves of these advantages to the fullest extent possible.

Theory and a large portion of practice, especially in the results obtainable from the testing machines, here go hand in hand, and the earnest and painstaking young engineer almost at the commencement of his career may be in possession of information which others have picked up like crumbs here and there in the course of a lifetime, as failures of works or "accidents" have offered opportunities to careful students, for we are all students in engineering until the curtain falls in the last act of this existence.

The college course, however, will soon come to an end, and the young engineer must start out to make his way in the world. If he is well grounded, as we will assume, has a McGill diploma in his pocket, his trust in providence and his powder dry, he will be well equipped for doing so, and should move forward erect and with a firm and steady step, indicative of his honesty and firmness of purpose, and in due course he will no doubt secure an engagement on some public work, and his success will be in his own hands.