

Our constitution states that "The objects of this Society shall be (a) the encouragement of original research in the science of engineering ; (b) the preservation of such research ; (c) the dissemination of such research among its members ; and (d) the cultivation of a spirit of mutual assistance among the members of the Society in the practise of the profession of engineering."

Now, while these may have been the primary objects of the Society, they are not now the sole purpose of this institution.

This Society may, by its educational influence and solicitation of papers, encourage original research by graduates ; but such research by students is, from the present state of the science, our undeveloped minds, and the extent of our studies here, inadvisable. A greater benefit to the undergraduate members is the free, voluntary, and interested thought, practised in preparing a paper, in discussing it, or in reading an engineering or architectural article.

Here among the students original research, so far as the benefit to the science itself is concerned, would be too much like the small boy hunting through a menagerie for a rare animal not known to the owners of the show ; he might find a shylikulie, but Professor Chapman would surprise him by giving its real name, its family relation and history, from away back in the rocky past.

Yet original research, even by the students, is not to be despised, for it strengthens his reasoning and fixes the practice of independent thought, and the result of his efforts firmly within his mind.

What we need here is not so much originality as the seeing of new or old thoughts in new aspects and interesting forms.

We have in our course of study thoughts, reasonings, and facts, assorted, classified, and concise. Their very conciseness has deprived them of their beauty and attractiveness, and cut them down until but the framework or bones remain.

A part of the effective work of this Society is the shaking up of these dry bones into form, that we may see the better their use and relation to one another, and their actual necessity to support the flesh of detailed practice ; the muscles of clear and active thought, the steady stride of ability, the full, sleek coat of sound sense from wide knowledge, and the spirit of courage and success, that will win the full measure of the meal of approbation, and of the oat whose kernel is golden.

As the veterinary student, reading by the help of the bones of his subject, is improved and encouraged by the sight of and acquaintance with his living subject ; so we like to see our subject in life-like form, inspecting him from all sides and becoming used to his disposition and habits, that

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