

**A Better Reference Library.**

Sir,—Although the present quarters of the Engineers' Club may not be capacious enough to permit any material increase in shelf room, an effort should be made immediately to enlarge the existing reference library. In addition to the engineering journals, which are at present bound and preserved for reference, many more, some of them now on the Club's subscription list, should receive like treatment, since nowhere in the city, if not at the Engineers' Club, are technical publications running back farther than the current volume readily accessible to the practising engineer. If this step were taken forthwith, by the time the new quarters are available the nucleus of a reference library quite in keeping with them would have been formed.

Yours, C. R. Young.

**Greater Care in Selection of Papers.**

Sir,—Judging from the attendance at the different meetings of the Club during the past year, it was quite evident that the kind of papers before the Club at these different meetings was the drawing card. For instance, at a meeting where a paper or discussion, such as "Rail Sections," was before the meeting the lecture-room would be crowded and the discussion entered into by most of those present. On the other hand, a paper of interest to only a small section of the Club practically kills the meeting for that evening.

The papers, then, to be selected by the committee should be such as will appeal to not only the majority of the Club members, but also to the general public so far as possible. The discussion of engineering matters pertaining to this city or Province will bring the Club before the local and Provincial press, and, I believe, increase its professional standing.

Faithfully yours,  
Andrew F. Macallum.

**Engineering Law.**

Sir,—Replying to your letter of the 21st ult. regarding the Engineers' Club of Toronto, I may say it has occurred to me that, as many engineers have neither time or opportunity to acquaint themselves with the laws governing contracts, it would be both interesting and instructive to have a few addresses or papers given before the Club on this important subject. Could not some legal gentleman of reputation be procured to do this? In view of the litigation which has been going on at various places in Ontario with reference to the contracts between the municipalities and the Hydro-Electric Commission, I would suggest that the addresses or papers take up specially the powers and restrictions which municipalities have in the letting of contracts.

Trusting this suggestion may be of service, I am,

Yours very truly,  
O. W. Smith.

**Print the Papers.**

Sir,—One of the principal objects of an engineers' society is to present to the members papers on subjects of engineering interest. The interest is much greater when the paper arouses discussion, particularly when a number of the members are in a position to discuss the subject fully.

Would it not be well, then, to have advance copies distributed to the members, say, two weeks before the paper is presented? It would put the members who are interested in a position to discuss the subject fully, and thus would add largely to their interest, and also to that of those who were wholly listeners.

Very truly yours,  
J. Morrow Oxley.

**Several Very Practical Suggestions.**

1. Prohibit smoking in the lecture hall before 10.30 p.m. The minority have rights that should be respected.
2. Discourage self-advertising by following more closely the rules of similar professional organizations respecting this matter.

3. Reserve the first meeting of each month for business, and the last meeting of the month for Toronto branch of Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

4. Provide proper racks for periodicals and unlock the bookcases.

5. New members elected who have not paid their dues should be requested to resign, otherwise their names to be posted at Club.

6. Publish a Club directory to contain list of members, past officers, etc., and constitutions.

Yours truly, Willis Chipman.

**Professional Loyalty.**

Sir,—A professional society to be successful must be aggressive. It must show in no uncertain way its unanimous disapproval of any direct or indirect reflection upon the ability of Canadian engineers. The loyalty which exists amongst the members of the other professional societies should be an object lesson for engineers.

In order to invite a thorough, frank and prepared discussion founded on experience, instead of a few vague and rambling remarks, the papers should be printed and a copy sent to each of the members at least two weeks ahead of its schedule time. These papers, with the discussion and a definite conclusion, where practicable, should be recorded and printed.

If these suggestions were considered, the Toronto Engineers' Society would make its presence felt, and also raise the profession to the dignity which it rightly deserves. It would also encourage the younger members to take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours truly, W. R. Worthington.

**Luncheons.**

Sir,—It has occurred to me that perhaps a modification of the methods adopted by the Canadian Club, if introduced into the management of the Engineers' Club, might prove helpful. Let us bring to Toronto during the coming winter, say, four outstanding engineers from the United States or elsewhere to address us on the big engineering problems of the day. A luncheon at McConkey's to cost 35 cents per member might precede the address. The Club would be advertised and its members individually helped. The visitors' expenses could be paid out of the treasury. These luncheons might supplant the annual dinner if thought advisable.

P. Gillespie.

**A SELECT COMMITTEE**

Sir—I would suggest that a select committee be appointed to consider the replies sent to the Canadian Engineer, and that they be instructed to prepare a series of resolutions, based upon these suggestions, and report to the Society at a November meeting.

Yours, S. B.

**ENGINEERING SOCIETIES.**

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