

*No English department 1925* *copy* *11/7/36*

Memorandum on "English" as it affects the Faculty of Engineering.

This memorandum is an attempt to state briefly the problem of "English" as it affects the Faculty of Engineering, because this is vital to a proper understanding of some of the problems which confront us. Experience shows that a considerable proportion of our students have a limited command of English, either written or spoken. Evidence of this is found in their essays, reports and examination papers. Inability to select and use words so that a definition, or a phrase of a specification, may be clearly expressed and the meaning not open to doubt, is also very noticeable. This can be ascribed partly to loose thinking, and partly to lack of facility of expression.

Engineers engaged in professional practice and those in charge of the personnel departments of our large industrial organizations, constantly stress the importance of a student acquiring a fuller knowledge of English. Our own graduates, after a few years' experience, not infrequently express a wish that the courses in English could be strengthened. The Faculty recognizes that there is great room for improvement, and during the past three or four years instruction has been given in the First and Second Years with the hope of effecting a change.

The problem is an extremely difficult one, the engineering student in general being what a doctor would describe as a "bad patient" when so-called "cultural courses" are prescribed. This does not mean that he is of a lower mentality than those in other faculties or professions, but that he is of a distinctly