

But there are sometimes greater and oftener overlooked advantages in the presentation of papers than in the receiving of them. In a recent circular of the American Society of Civil Engineers, it is stated in effect that the presentation of a paper of any merit is followed by a rise in the standing of the author, and often by more substantial professional advantages.

There are many engineers who have become known to us only by means of these papers, or their contributions to discussions, and whom we would recommend for engagements or consultations, solely because of the ability and activity of thought which they have shown by such means. A letter was shown me in New York a few days ago, in which it was incidentally stated by an engineer that he had procured the appointment of another to an important consulting position because of his reputation through his writings. A past president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, now meeting here, laid stress in conversation yesterday upon the rapidity with which young members often come to the front through their contributions to the Institute upon mining questions.

Papers and discussions contributed to our Society are therefore ready means by which we may not only add to the knowledge of our brother engineers, but by which we may very properly benefit ourselves.

*Secondly*, though in less degree, the Society is of advantage as a medium for gaining and giving information by means of personal intercourse. We become acquainted with each other at meetings such as this; we come to esteem each other, to take interest in each other, and thus to further each other's welfare as opportunities occur.

*A third* point of advantage is the standing which mere membership in the Society gives. It is not a small matter to a young engineer to have been deemed worthy by his brethren of being made an associate member, and it is really an honour for an older one to have been elected to full membership, especially in the later years of the Society's life, when qualifications have been so carefully scrutinized. Membership in any grade is pointed to as an evidence of good standing, and as entitling to confidence as an adviser upon engineering questions.

So much for the past and present; and now a word as to the future of the Society. If what I have said be correct, it obviously follows that we shall make better engineers of ourselves and of our brethren by each making the best contributions to the common stock of professional knowledge which his abilities and opportunities permit. And, generally, too, we shall accomplish this better by contributing through our own Society than through foreign or other societies to which any of us may belong.