

OBJECTS OF THE UNDERTAKING

The prime object of the treatise is to induce the best, most courageous, and most ambitious young students to undertake the systematic study of engineering, and to discourage the unfit, the timid, and the weaklings, who too often succeed in entering the freshman classes of our engineering institutions, but seldom manage to graduate. In many colleges, only 40 students graduate out of every 100 who enter. The unsuccessful endeavor to teach technics to the numerous unqualified students is exceedingly expensive, and constitutes a glaring violation of the first principles of economics.

The beneficial accomplishments to be attained include:

- A. A material reduction in the cost of teaching the lower classes in all schools of technics.
- B. The saving of a large amount of money that would be wasted by low-grade students in a course from which they are predestined to be dropped.
- C. The exclusion of incompetent men from technical institutions, and saving them from the disgrace and discouragement of being flunked out.
- D. The raising of the standard of education. Poor students invariably hold back the good ones. With the elimination of incompetent students, the curriculum may be improved to suit the capacity of bright and capable students. More and better courses may be given.
- E. Increasing the capacity of young engineers and enabling them to do better work. Colleges will graduate far-better-trained men than heretofore, thereby directly improving the engineering profession as a whole, and indirectly enhancing the progress and prosperity of our nation.

MODUS OPERANDI FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

The book is to be issued by the Editors, who will also secure world-wide reviews and compile therefrom folders that will give opinions of the profession and the press concerning the book and the project as a whole. They will distribute these folders among high-school and preparatory-school principals and vocational counsellors, the members of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, and the important public and private libraries. The Editors will also arrange for an annual series of lectures to high-school students on the Engineering Profession, to be given by leading engineers in all the great centers of population of the country during the next five or six years. These lectures will be designed to focus attention upon the book. Eventually the headquarters of the American Association of Engineers at Chicago will undertake the sale and distribution of the book and the control of the lecturing.

The measure of success of this movement will be gaged by the amount of publicity that is given to it and by how prominently the book is brought to the attention of the student youth of our country.