

has intrenched himself legally. The medical profession did not enjoy the high standing it now has until legally it was protected from the men who otherwise would bring the profession into disrepute. The architects are working hard to obtain legislation to make architecture a closed profession, beginning with the passage of the license law for architects in Illinois in 1897. Now many of the States have similar laws, the greater number of which were passed the present year. Engineers, myself among the number, were opposed to legislation to license engineers, but conditions in the State of Illinois became so intolerable on account of the monopoly given to architects that we obtained this year the passage of a law to license structural engineers.

We attempted to have the lien law amended to protect engineers, for at the present time they are not protected. Architects are so protected, their society seeing to this item some years ago. The fight, however, for the license law was so strenuous that the lien law was not fought for hard enough, but we hope it will be looked after in the next session of the legislature. The next piece of legislation to be attended to is one fixing the status of sanitary engineers or the plumbers will get ahead and obtain control of the design and construction of sanitary work. A bill in the interests of the plumbers was prepared to be presented to the legislature at the session just closed which would have given plumbers a practical control of matters properly belonging to sanitary engineers. Not for the purpose of making a closed profession of sanitary engineering, but to prevent injustice to such engineers because of legislation which may be secured by men in other lines of work it will no doubt be necessary to have examinations and licenses for them.

However, a better way will be to secure a law requiring the registration of professional engineers with an examining board qualified to examine men in different specialties so that the word "engineer" will possess a dignity comparable with the titles of the other learned and honorable professions, which stand high in the esteem of the public. Not only must the modern engineering society see that legislation is secured to protect and elevate the engineering profession, but it must also carefully look after proposed legislation to the end that no laws will get on the statute books which work harm to the people of the state. That is, as citizens, we must protect fellow-citizens whose lack of knowledge of technical affairs leaves them at the mercy of special interests.

The fifth method is proper publicity. What is it? Proper publicity depends upon changing ideas and advances in civilization. That is, methods of publicity in one generation which are perfectly proper may be improper in a succeeding generation. The advertising methods of the live, wideawake business man may be considered coarse and unbecoming for the professional man. They are usually so considered. Is this idea a survival of a generation past? Is it, as many young men claim, a fetish worshipped by professional men for the purpose of helping older men maintain their pre-eminence and hold the young man back. The question must be answered individually just now, for the engineer, no matter how decently he may conduct his business, is frequently partly a professional man and partly a business man. When he is employed in a confidential manner and given a fee he is a professional man. When he is on a regular payroll he is a technical employee. When he assumes the direction of work he may be said to be a business man. Throughout his life the technically educated man, the engineer, is at times a professional man,

a technical employee and a business man. He must do some publicity work, and societies should not be hide-bound in what is to be considered proper means of publicity to be employed by individual members. It should be enough for the societies if the members remain decent and bring no discredit on the work of the technical men.

The societies heretofore have concerned themselves with the publicity work of individuals. What is now a crying need is publicity work of a proper sort by the societies for the benefit of the membership, and, incidentally, of the technically educated men not members of any societies. Through proper publicity work all technical men not members will want to become members. Incidentally, the work of technical men will be so placed before the public that there will be an increase of good material in the ranks. Proper publicity should have the effect of sifting out desirable men from those not so desirable. It is due to improper publicity work that we have complaints to-day that there are too many unfit men now enrolled as engineers. These men, no matter how unsuited they may be to the work of the engineer, have a place somewhere in this world where they can fit in, and it should be a part of the duty of the engineering society of the future to find the hole into which these misshapen pegs may fit.

WINNIPEG AQUEDUCT CONTRACT PROTESTED.

Ten contracting firms who unsuccessfully tendered upon the construction of nine and a half miles of reinforced concrete pipe for the Greater Winnipeg Water District, threatened to obtain an injunction restraining the Board from letting the formal contract to the Winnipeg Aqueduct Construction Co., and as a result the Board have agreed not to let the contract before investigating the whole matter. The contractors allege that the engineer called for tenders upon his own specifications, permitting each contractor, however, to tender upon alternative designs. Only two contractors tendered upon their own alternative designs and the contract was awarded to the Winnipeg Aqueduct Construction Co. upon a "lock-joint" design. This company is said to have tendered jointly with the Canadian Lock Joint Pipe Co., of Regina, Sask.

Some of the other contractors allege that they had been told by the chief engineer of the water board not to figure on a lock-joint pipe, but it is stated that the conversation was misunderstood. In explaining to the Board his preference for the lock-joint tender, the chief engineer is reported as having stated that the lock-joint pipe is preferable to any other and also cheaper than the specifications that he had originated. His only reason for not having specified lock-joint pipe in his own specifications was that there would not have been any competition, as the manufacturers of the lock-joint pipe hold all the patents on this type of construction. His own design, while inferior, brought in the element of competition.

The Winnipeg Aqueduct Construction Co. were not the lowest tenderers on the engineer's design.

The complaints are to be put in writing and all the tenderers are invited to be present at the next regular meeting of the Board. The Tom Sharpe Construction Co., one of the unsuccessful tenderers, allege that they were furnished with inaccurate specifications, and that their tender cannot be rightly compared with other tenders on account of their having been furnished with incomplete plans.