

character and ideals the future of the profession depends, to interest yourselves in these societies and see to it that only those who are eligible shall be admitted, for if the profession is to be an honored one, it must first merit that honor; and since the character of any body of men depends entirely on the character of its individual members, it follows that before the engineering profession can command the respect of the public, each individual member must merit that respect.

I have stated that the duties of the engineer to the public are largely educational. Many engineers when asked a question, reply correctly, and point out the misstatements and errors; but how many of us are good teachers? How many of us take the pains to make the real situation clear to the layman? Take as an illustration the almost daily statement that someone has invented a new motor or engine that will draw trains 150 or 200 miles an hour. The majority of engineers, if questioned regarding such a statement, would no doubt say that it is absurd, that they don't believe it, that such a thing has been tried a number of times without success, etc., but how many are there who take enough interest to set the public right, to explain that travel at any such speed is entirely a question of roadbed and right of way, that it is easy to construct a motor which will pull any train at these speeds, but that practical roadbed conditions prohibit it, and that the most perfect track ever built is so irregular that a train would be liable to be derailed at such a speed. It ought to be clear to every engineer, then, that in giving clear and concise explanations to the layman, he is doing a duty to the public and a service to his profession; and the more the public is enabled to understand the real facts the more discriminating it will become.

**His Duty to His Profession.**—It is perhaps superfluous to state that every man owes an everlasting debt to his parents who have toiled and provided for him when he was not able to provide for himself, and who are ever solicitous for his well-being. As a parallel to this it follows that every engineer is a debtor to his profession from which he receives countenance and profit. The principle of doing something for your fraternity is so well established, however, that it does not require very full discussion. It is found even among the lower animals. Yet there are those who pay no attention to the official society which represents the profession to which they belong. To those who do not interest themselves in the improvement of their profession, I would say that if the profession is poor and without honour, so are you, and if the profession does not prosper, neither do you.

There are many ways in which you can support, encourage and contribute to the dignity of your profession through the medium of its society. Even the mere attitude of the approval of the society's existence is of great value, but to give the public to understand that you believe in your society and follow its standards is much more important.

A more commonplace but none the less positive reason for supporting your society, is that you are making profit out of the art which it represents and which it is trying to improve and dignify. Your obligation is therefore definite. It is to your interest that the profession should be improved; and I need not ask whether or not it would be right to allow your fellow professionals to bring about this result and then for you to reap the benefit.