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#### CLUBS, SOCIETIES, AND AN EDITOR.

Again has our young contemporary, "The Mining Magazine," opened a vexed question. In its issue for May, Mr. F. Lynwood Garrison takes the editor, Mr. T. A. Rickard, to task for making caustic remarks about the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, which society is a close corporation, composed exclusively of professional men. Mr. Garrison, not without heat, advances the argument that since the Society was organized to promote reforms advocated editorially by Mr. Rickard, therefore Mr. Rickard, who is a prominent member of the Society himself, is unfair and inconsistent in commenting adversely upon such an "altruistic organization." "Moreover," says Mr. Garrison, "you would not venture to do such a thing of [sic] any social club in which you are a member, and it is hard to see much difference in propriety as regards the Mining and Metallurgical Society."

To these strictures Mr. Rickard replies in an editorial. First he points out that there is a great gulf fixed between a social club and an engineering association. The Mining and Metallurgical Society he had criticized because it adopted the exclusiveness of a social club. For the one, "carefully prescribed qualifications as to occupation, experience, and skill" are the essentials. For the other it is merely necessary that the candidate be "congenial to those already in the club." Mr. Rickard further sums up his position thus: "Any society arrogating national or international scope, any society claiming to include all the properly qualified practitioners, any society assuming the function of professional classification, is in the position of . . . a public functionary bound to act in accordance with prescribed rules, not a private person free to give vent to his own idiosyncrasies."

To this well expressed dictum we subscribe. The whole discussion has arisen because of several misconceptions. The Mining and Metallurgical Society of America was created to perform a function that could not be performed by that excellent institution, the American Institute of Mining Engineers. Like our own Canadian Mining Institute, the American Institute exists to represent primarily the industry of mining. Our own choice of name has been more fortunate. But in all important respects the two bodies are analogous. Both are heterogeneous aggregations of persons directly and indirectly interested in mining. The Canadian body is probably the more effective, as it concerns itself in legislation. But each is controlled by professional men of the highest rank. Both have rejected definitely any proposals tending towards exclusiveness. The usefulness of each is believed to depend upon well regulated inclusiveness.