

A MESSAGE OF IMPORTANCE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE S.P.E.E.

BY

DR. J. A. L. WADDELL

Gentlemen:

Will you permit me, as one of the score of remaining charter members of our national educational organization, to make you a suggestion that, if adopted, would indubitably redound vastly to the advantage of yourselves, your students, and the entire engineering profession? I am assuming that your answer to this question will be in the affirmative; hence I shall proceed to tell you about what I have in mind.

Last May the American Association of Engineers issued a treatise entitled "Vocational Guidance in Engineering Lines." It provides an immense fund of information that should be invaluable for both teachers and students of engineering in all its branches, as well as for engineers in general. As its contents should be known to every American engineer, both young and old, it could be advantageously adopted as a textbook in technical schools, especially in view of the fine character of the English used throughout the work. It should be read and re-read by students and young engineers, and should be consulted whenever any question arises concerning the engineering profession.

In making these broad, sweeping statements, I know whereof I speak; for it was primarily due to my efforts as Chairman of the Committee on Technical Education of the A.A.E. that the numerous chapters were elicited and edited, and that the undertaking was financed and materialized.

My duties did not end with placing the book upon the market; because I am still working constantly to have it brought methodically once a year to the notice of the students in practically all the high schools and other preparatory schools of the U.S.A., in order that it may accomplish its worthy and vitally important purpose. All concerned in the undertaking are striving hard to find effective ways to put the treatise into circulation.

As you professors of engineering and your students should be among the first to benefit from the publication and wide distribution of our book, I ask that you "do your bit" to aid our altruistic cause. You may ask in what manner you can serve. If so, I should reply as follows:

- First.* Buy a copy of the book from The Mack Printing Company of Easton, Pa., \$2.50 postpaid.
- Second.* Read it from cover to cover, and keep it for your personal library.
- Third.* Review it in as many newspapers or periodicals as you can.
- Fourth.* Recommend each public library in your city and its vicinity to purchase one or more copies for the use of the young men of the district.
- Fifth.* Speak to your friends and neighbors about the treatise, and recommend its perusal by the parents or guardians of any of their young acquaintances who contemplate studying for technical careers.
- Sixth.* Join the Lecture Group in your city, and do your share of the annual lecturing.
- Seventh.* Use your influence to have the treatise adopted as a textbook in your institution for the courses on "The Engineering Profession" and "Technical English."
- Eighth.* Think up possible ways and means of helping the project to become a great success, and notify our headquarters at Chicago thereof—in other words, put your heart into the work of aiding in the accomplishment of this important, philanthropic undertaking.

As before stated, the book is for sale by The Mack Printing Company of Easton, Pa. The price for single copies postpaid is \$2.50; but when five or more copies can be shipped in bulk, the charge is reduced to \$2.00 per copy.

The reviews are rapidly coming in; and from some of them I excerpt the following for your special benefit, in order to convince you of the world-wide approval that our absolutely altruistic enterprise is receiving.

In conclusion, I once more earnestly request your hearty coöperation in our undertaking. The amount of benefit that it can be made to accomplish for both our profession and our country is simply incalculable—it depends entirely upon how wholeheartedly American engineers and teachers of engineering are willing to work, in order to secure a wide distribution and use of the treatise.

Respectfully and faithfully yours,

J. A. L. WADDELL

Consulting Engineer.