

year courses. These options might be extended in some cases if funds were available, - for example, in providing facilities for study of aeronautics. Conversely, subjects first introduced as options in certain branches of engineering may eventually increase in importance to such an extent that they come to be regarded as essential for all students in those particular branches. This has happened recently in the case of an optional subject, - "Communications" - in the fourth year course in electrical engineering, and it would seem to be a logical process of adaptation of courses to the changing conditions of engineering practice. Other examples of options now offered are found in courses in industrial engineering and municipal engineering, in the departments of mechanical and civil engineering respectively.

Some twenty-five years ago a department of railway engineering was established in the Faculty. The work of students in the department included courses in the departments of civil and mechanical engineering, with lectures on special phases of railway work by lecturers employed by the railroads. After several years, the department was abolished. Had it fulfilled a distinct purpose, not capable of being served by other departments, means to continue it would probably have been found, as it was backed for a period of years by grants from the two large Canadian railroad companies. It was found, however, that graduates in civil or mechanical engineering were well qualified to go into railroad work, and acquire after graduation such specialized knowledge as had been included in the course of study of the department of railway engineering. The course was distinctly