

ment are always behind the times. Experimenting men have not the time to write a book, and even if they had they are not willing to take the trouble over it till they have finished their investigations. But a short magazine article can always be written, and is generally upon the very latest developments. Magazine reading gives us the latest facts and methods, opens our minds and gives us subject for thought. We get ideas in magazines that we never get in lectures, and ideas of great value to us.

Another thing, and here, I think, the Society can help us wonderfully, and in a way we could not get in books or in years of thinking. I mean, that if we possessed in our library copies of plans and specifications, estimates and contract forms connected with engineering, also such original tables as Mr. Russel gave us last year, and also plans of culverts, small bridges, drains, sanitary appliances—in fact anything of that kind, it would be of great use to us.

There are yet ways in which the Society can help us. Many of us come here from the country, I know I did, not accustomed to associate with many other fellows, not accustomed to make our ideas known to others by writing or speaking, never having had to speak before an audience. Here is the place to learn to do this, here, where there are no strangers, and where we are all in the same position. It will be of great use to us in after life. Here also we are all together with one common aim, the only time in which we are. Here, gentlemen, we all meet on an equal footing; the first year has equal privileges with the third year, and though perhaps not so much can be expected of them, still we certainly shall expect them to take part in the discussions, and give us an occasional paper with the results of their own experience and observation.

Now let us run over the advantages of the Society to its members:

- 1st. It affords practice in thinking.
- 2nd. It tends to clearness of thought.
- 3rd. It tends to originality of thought.
- 4th. It widens our minds.
- 5th. It tends to make us more observant.
- 6th. It gives us opportunities of seeing the actual practice of engineering through the magazines.
- 7th. It can give us access to plans and forms and other things which in no other way we could get.
- 8th. It gives us practice in public speaking.

These are all I have mentioned. The next question is—How are we going to make the best of each of these possible advantages? Let us take them up one by one.