the writer's practices in developing ideas, organizing material, constructing paragraphs, forming sentences, and selecting words. Moreover, as you read, you should ponder on the material, agree or disagree with the opinions expressed, and try to discover a parallel with your own thought or experience. Concentrated study should leave you with increased knowledge of the technique of writing and usually with new subject matter suggestions for your own compositions.

For the most part, the selections which will be printed are of the Comp. One level. The English Department and the Collegian staff have attempted to choose themes which will appeal to college readers.

If your theme grades have been low, perhaps it is because you do not know what goes into the making of a good theme. We hope that by reading these themes, you will pick up some useful hints which will help you to pull up your grades.

The Collegian staff is grateful for the cooperation of the English Department in helping to produce these fine writings.

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OUTSTANDING THEME OF THE WEEK

MANKIND AND THE ATOM

by Frank M. Ogureck

Did you ever stop for a moment and wonder what the size of an atom really is? Well, if you had, you would have been amazed at its infinitesimal smallness. This minute particle has never been seen, even with the aid of the most powerful microscopes, yet all matter in the universe is made up of atoms, either alone, or in an arrangement of several linked together in some way. There are about one hundred different kinds of atoms, and these are known as the basic elements. However, there are many thousands of combinations of these elements ranging from common table salt to the complex compounds that are contained in living cells.

The atom is made up of still smaller units. These are known as electrons, protons, and neutrons. The electron carries a negative charge of electricity, the proton, a positive charge, while the neutron is electrically neutral. These particles form a system that is analogous to the solar system. Electrons, which are the smallest of the three particles, revolve around a nucleus containing protons and neutrons. The atoms of the different elements contain a varrying number of electrons, protons, and neutrons.

Although the atom is minute, the forces binding its nucleus together are immense. This binding force is known as nuclear or atomic energy. The nuclei of most atoms are stable, but there are a few among the heavier and lighter elements that are unstable. The unstable nuclei of the heavier atoms tend to break up into smaller and more stable nuclei, and in doing so, release some of their binding energy in the form of radiation. Among the lighter elements the unstable nuclei can also be rearranged to form new nuclei in the process of this rearrangement, vast amounts of energy are released.

This second method of atomic reactions is evident in the sun and the stars. In the past decade man has succeeded in tapping this vast resevoir of energy in the form of nuclear and thermo-nuclear explosions. He has built bombs that contain an almost immeasurable amount of destructive power. Actually man has released only a fraction of a per cent of this limitless source of energy.

What about the future? Can this boundless energy be used for purposes other than the manufacture of bombs? Many scientists all over the world are working toward the answers to these questions. In the United States, England, and Russia, as well as in other countries ways of harnessing the power of the atom for peaceful uses are being studied. In the field of medicine the atom has already proved to be a boon to mankind. If a way can be found to utilize the full potential of the atom, man will have an unlimited source of power. I belive that if mankind learns to use this power for beneficial rather than destructive purposes, the future will indeed be very bright.