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## THE FREE LANCE.

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**T**OO much can not be said on the importance of engineering societies to the student who is pursuing a course in engineering, and who intends to follow that vocation after leaving college.

In most of the technical institutions of merit, some such student organization exists, and the results attained in them are certainly most gratifying. They afford the widest scope for investigation in each of the various branches of engineering, whether it be civil, electrical, mechanical, mining or chemistry; not considering the vast unexplored field which time alone can develop.

We have here in our own institution ample facilities for carrying on this branch of work. Our two student societies, though fairly successful, should be but the forerunners of a more extended and vigorous movement in this direction.

Each department should have a society that will bring out the best effort of all its members. To be a success the societies must be interesting and instructive, and they can be made so if every man takes part in bringing this about.

Perhaps some would say, that studies and other duties leave too little time to prepare a paper for discussion. If this be true, in all probability arrangements could be made to have a certain time allowed from the regular schedule for this purpose.

In one sense the engineering society is the link which binds the scientific with the practical truths. While it is said, "Science is, like virtue, its own exceeding great reward," still it is the application of the truths of science, to practice which is demanding so much attention at the present time. In the discussion of the engineering problems of the day, in the review of the leading scientific and engineering journals, in original research, in the discussions themselves, much valuable information and training is secured. The principles taken up in daily recitation are more easily understood after having seen and discussed their action in actual every day use. Then too, a valuable habit is acquired, that of reading up and keeping posted on what is being done in the engineering world, a habit which will prove most useful after leaving college. No inelastic curriculum restricts the range of investigation but on the other hand the utmost freedom exists. Will there not then be a stronger incentive to make the engineering societies what they rightly deserve to be, a success?