THE CULTURAL VALUE OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION.*

At the very outset of this discussion is encountered a great difficulty. What is culture? The writer has been asking this of his friends. An answer has been sought for in the printed page where is recorded the best thought of the best minds. Great thoughts and lofty ideals have been disclosed, but nowhere has been found a satisfactory definition, a phrase or paragraph that succinctly and clearly sets forth the heart of the matter.

People often recognize, appreciate and reverence its possession without being able to fully analyze and set down its elements. There is something subtle and emotional about it that eludes a close pursuit.

The reason for this perhaps lies in its essential individual quality, in its being the result of a personal life, developed, it is true, on lines similar to those used in other lives, yet including something that pertains exclusively to the human unit that is different from all other units.

Nevertheless, there seem to be certain fundamental qualities which must be possessed before a man can be classed with cultured people, qualities which are only acquired after a considerable experience in

*Address of the President of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Buffalo meeting, June 29, 1901.
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