

SCIENCE

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CONTENTS:

The Buffalo Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science:—

Address of the Vice-President before Section D.—Mechanical Science and Engineering: The Artistic Element in Engineering: FRANK O. MARVIN...321

Address of the Vice-President before Section E.—Geology and Geography: Geological Myths: B. K. EMERSON.....328

Section A.—Mathematics and Astronomy: E. B. FROST.....344

Section B.—Physics: W. S. FRANKLIN.....346

The Physiology of Color in Plants: D. T. MACDOUGAL.....350

Current Notes on Anthropology:—

Mortuary Ceremonies: The Psychology of Primitive Man: D. G. BRINTON.....351

Scientific Notes and News:—

Scientific Research and Commercial Success; The German Zoological Society; Reports on Engine Trials of 1896; General.....352

University and Educational News.....357

Discussion and Correspondence:—

The Lick Review of 'Mars': A. E. DOUGLASS. Commercial Mica in North Carolina: The Story of its Discovery: FREDERIC W. SIMONDS.....358

Scientific Literature:—

Williams' Manual of Lithology: M. E. WADSWORTH. American Linguistics: D. G. BRINTON. 361

Scientific Journals:

Psyche.....364

New Books.....364

THE BUFFALO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE ARTISTIC ELEMENT IN ENGINEERING.*

A FRIEND of the writer, a successful business man and much interested in things artistic, when informed of the choice of subject for this paper, gave expression to a feeling of surprise doubting if there was any relation between engineering and æsthetics.

One of the leading engineers of America once asked a professional brother what he did for recreation, and on being told of a modest interest in pictures and music likewise expressed surprise, saying, "You are the first engineer that I have ever known to be a musician." There was also an implication, though unintentional, of a diminished respect—perhaps on both sides.

These two incidents may be taken to typify in a general way the attitude that is held by the business world, on the one side, and the engineering fraternity, on the other, towards the relationship which it is proposed here to discuss.

That the artistic element is not recognized as it might or ought to be in the present American day is natural. The rapid development and growth of our land, the intensive study of science and the concentration of the efforts put forth to adapt it to everyday affairs, has exalted one phase of

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

*Address of the Vice-President before Section D.—Mechanical Science and Engineering.

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