

SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1902.

ADDRESS TO THE ENGINEERING SECTION
OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.*

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THIS Section has had sixty-six presidents, all different types of engineer. As each has had perfect freedom in choosing the subject for his address, and each has known of the rule† that presidential addresses are not subject to debate afterwards, and as, being an engineer, he has always been a man of originality, of course he has always chosen a subject outside his own work. An engineer knows that the great inventions, the great suggestions of change in any profession, come from outsiders. Lawyers seem like fish out of water when trying to act as law-makers. The radical change that some of us hope to see before we die in the construction of locomotives will certainly not come from a locomotive superintendent, who cannot imagine a locomotive which is not somehow a lineal descendant of the Rocket.

Hence it is that in almost every case the President of this Section has devoted a small or large part of his address to the subject of the education of engineers. I grant that every president has devoted his life to the education of one engineer—him-

* Given at the Belfast meeting.

† The Committees of Sections G and L have arranged a discussion on 'The Education of Engineers,' this address being regarded as opening the discussion. Thus the rule is not in force this year.

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

Science

16 (411)

Science **16** (411), 761-800.

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Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

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