

## Current Comments

# ENGINEERING INSTITUTION JOINT COUNCIL

"Founded in 1962, E. I. J. C. aims to provide the whole engineering profession with a fully representative body, manifestly entitled to speak for all qualified engineers. Inevitably, this involves the assimilation of the varying standards of qualification established by a large number of qualifying bodies, the formulation of a syllabus embracing the whole body of knowledge common to engineers of whatever branch or speciality and, in all probability, the establishment of a single examining body for engineering.

Two further consequences of these developments have already begun to appear. One is a tendency towards an uniform pattern of membership grades or classes among the institutions associated with the joint Council; the other is the recognition of the importance of the 'learned society' functions of an engineering institution and of the place, those interested only in such functions should hold in the society.

These ideas are working like yeast in some of the older institutions; both the Mechanicals and the Electricals have recently proposed drastic changes in their membership structure."

*13 jealously professional independent professional institutions of U. K. have agreed to form an effective and purposeful organisation. Could we, in India, aim at similar achievement?—Editor.*

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The Council of Engineering Institutions has included compulsory paper on "The Engineer in Society" in syllabus of part 2 examination. This would seem to go a great deal further than the superficial contact with economics that some engineering graduates are already experiencing. Though the aim "is to *introduce* the student to the responsibilities of engineers as members of society" the student will be expected to show an analytical and comparative approach to all subject "not the uncritical learning of the words of writers on management, the details of legislation, or tables of statistics. What is important is ability in understanding and using information, and in communicating ideas to others."

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A limited company under the name of The Indian Institute of welding (without the need to write the word 'Ltd') was inaugurated. at Royal exchange hall though royalty has faded out same years ago.

We are interested in this inauguration. To us it is a 'namkaran' ceremony, as is celebrated for babies. One of our members, Rai Sahib Nanda Gopal Chatterjee took the initiative for developing the specialised trade of welding, in the year 1948. The council of the Association of Engineers whose avowed object among others, is to foster the interest of Indian Engineers, gave its blessing, It gave practical assistance by allowing its office, telephone, equipments etc, to be used by Rai Sahib's new venture, which was the Indian branch of the Institute of welding, London. There were difficulties for transmission of funds, To meet growing feeling for having an India-based organisation. Sri Birendra Nath Majumder, our Associate Member, took a bold step in this direction and did all spade work for the fomation of the India-based organisation. He is, without exaltation to our membership connection, the father of the Indian Institute Of welding. Messrs. D. S. Desai, V. Venkatesan, S. Basu, A. C. Sen, who are corporate members of this Association also helped, Sri Majumder. When I met him on the day of inauguration, it seemed he is the happiest man in the crowd and he is most congratulated, though typical of all selfless workers, he was sitting in one corner. Loaves and fishes or lime light is not the objective of a real worker and our Sri Majumder is one of such worker.

We watched with fostering interest the 'namkaran' ceremony of the institution which was born in our premises, nursed by our members in our premises. We wish the baby would pass over the crawling and teething trouble stage in our premises and when it crosses from a minor to adult, we would be the happiest to see the youth find its own abode. We would then bless from distance.

The brochure distributed during the inauguration ceremony, contained the history of the Institute, without references cited-above. If we ignore history. we forget culture. If we show ungratefulness where due, we are.....

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“Errors of systematic materialism may paralyse the energies and destroy the beauty of life”

—Thomas Huxley in Methods and Results

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