

Editorially Speaking.....

AMONG the many plans that are expected to increase the pace of industrial development of this country, the system and methods of technological education must be given a prominent place. The main aim of training in technology is its useful application in some phase of industrial activity such as laboratory research, pilot plant work, process study, plant design, plant erection and trials, process control and plant management. Any growing chemical industry being active in all these phases will require all kinds of trained personnel and it devolves upon the technological institutions to provide such personnel which will be able to handle specific jobs in the whole set up.

While taking into account the varied needs of the industry, any system of technological training must also cater to the needs of different types of the students that are to be trained. It must also ensure that the training is completed within a reasonable time so that the trainee is free to engage himself in his chosen field as early as possible.

Diverse views continue to be held abroad on the systems and ways of imparting technological education. Restricting our consideration to chemical technology, a comparative study of the systems of training on the Continent of Europe, in U.K., in the U.S.A. and, we might add, in Russia, might prove very illuminating at any time and certainly profitable to us at this time. As a result of our long contacts with the British, many of us have come to know their methods of training. These are naturally held as models for adoption by us. More recent contacts with the U.S.A. have made some of us acquainted with the methods of training adopted over there. Such varied contacts are all to the good because a large field is then available to choose from.

Our sincere congratulations to "The College of Engineering and Technology, Bengal", which has now acquired the status of a University,—Jadavpur University—scheduled to come into existence on the 12th of March, 1956. It may not generally be known that the College of Technology, was the first institution in India to have a course in Chemical Engineering, introduced as early as 1921. In the 50 years of its existence, the College has made a remarkable contribution to technical education in this country, despite the chronic shortage of funds. It was only in the last ten years, that the munificent grants, both recurring and non-recurring, made by the Government of Bengal, as also by the Government of Indian Union, that have aided in putting this pioneering Institution on a financially sound basis. All credit to those whose devotion and sacrifice have made the Institution what it is today. We are sure that the Jadavpur University will carry on the noble tradition of the "Bengal Technical Institute" as it was originally known and "the College of Engineering and Technology, Bengal", and wish it every success.

This year we celebrated the 21st Anniversary of our Technological Association. The coming of age, was marked by a joyous event, in that our past "members" have taken the initiative to collect the necessary funds to build the long awaited gymkhana and common room. Under the able guidance of Shri Manubhai M. Shah, one of the distinguished members of our Alumni, a committee has been formed to collect the necessary funds. The response so far has been encouraging but more money is needed, but we have no doubt that the required amount will be collected and the building work would be undertaken at an early date.

Unlike his colleagues in the other professions—doctors, architects, lawyers, etc.,—the Chemical Engineer or Technologist is not conscious of his professional status, one of the reasons may be that it is a comparatively new profession, and despite the lip service paid to technologists, their status still remains rather obscure. We are of the view that with the doctors and lawyers, it should be made

compulsory, by legislation of course, for every Chemical Engineer or Technologist; to be a member of their respective professional organisations, bound by their code, in all their future career. These professional bodies should of course have the necessary charter, with powers comparable to those engaged by other professional organisations.