

PLACEMENT SERVICE ACTIVE

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The alumni Placement Service reports that from June 1936 to May 1937 it has secured employment for 147 men and that the average placement salaries are increasing steadily. Employer calls for skilled technical men in specialized lines are becoming more frequent. Due partially to lack of "experience cards" on file with the Placement Service many of the alumni are losing opportunities to better their positions.

Starting in a small way a few years ago, the Placement Service was coordinated and established by Stuart Seymour, '26. "Stu" laid the groundwork of cordial relationships with large industrial employers and throughout the depression was of inestimable value to both old and new graduates in finding suitable employment. During Seymour's tour of duty records were brought up to date thus making possible the present permanent records.

It became evident that this work required too much of any one man's time, and arrangements were made by the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association with the Institute so that Miss Theresa Dierkes, formerly of the Registrar's office was available to carry on this work as a full time job under the direction of Donald Clark, '29, who as a member of the faculty handles all alumni affairs for the Institute. Miss Dierkes coordinates and relays to interested alumni calls from employers which come directly to the placement office or through the faculty or alumni.

The mechanism of placement is as follows: The requirements of the employer are carefully analyzed with reference to education, experience, age, salary, and the like and a list of suitable alumni are submitted by the secretary to the faculty member who is most familiar with the type of work required by the employer. The faculty member selects from the list the most promising candidates for the position and these men are notified immediately by letter, telephone, or telegraph, as conditions dictate. In this way, alumni are not recommended to positions for which they are not qualified or in fields in which they are not interested. It is evident, therefore, that complete and up-to-date records should be submitted by alumni desiring change of employment.

Although attention has been focussed upon the placement of the more recent graduates who have not found a permanent place in the industrial scheme, it is understood that the Placement Service is now finding some difficulty in getting men to fill positions offered for experienced personnel for service not only in the West but in the Middle West and the East. Perhaps this will help to promote the enlargement of alumni chapters in other parts of the country, but more important still, it seems to show the high regard in which our alumni are held throughout the country.

Attention is also being directed toward obtaining summer employment for undergraduates and although noteworthy success has been obtained, alumni offering positions of this type are urged to communicate with the Placement Service.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS RATIONALIZED

This spring over 400 applicants for admission to the class of 1941 have taken the entrance examinations. Of these, about 180 came from schools outside the Los Angeles area, an increase of 65% over last year. While this increase is gratifying as a proof of the growing reputation of the Institute, it has presented an important problem to the Freshmen Registration Committee.

The Committee has felt for a number of years that the wisest choice among applicants for admission can be made only if the entrance examinations are supplemented by personal interviews. As long as the great majority of applicants came from the Los Angeles area, these interviews could be managed fairly easily in the spare time of the Committee members. But with the great increase recently in applications from all over the United States, a more extended system of interviewing became obviously necessary.

Consequently, early in May the Executive Council provided the funds to send three faculty members to all those schools having pupils who have passed the examinations for admission to the Institute. Professor Fogg is covering the west coast as far north as Vancouver; Professor Earnest Watson will cover the mountain states and the middle west as far as Minnesota; and Professor Carl Anderson will cover the trans-Mississippi and eastern area when he goes to Philadelphia to receive the Cresson Medal of the Franklin Institute.

In addition to interviewing applicants, these representatives will establish contacts with principals and teachers in cities where the Institute is known perhaps by reputation, but where there is little knowledge of its aims and ideals, especially with regard to maintaining a strong undergraduate school in science and engineering.

While there has not been sufficient time this year to arrange for meetings with the alumni, in the future the interviewers will also do all they can to meet with alumni groups in the cities they visit and encourage alumni cooperation in interesting the right type of student to enter the Institute.

COVER DESIGN

Our cover is by Harold Graham, ex '24, who has left the ranks of pure science and engineering to achieve note in the field of industrial design. After leaving Tech, Graham completed an art course at the Chouinard School of Art in Los Angeles, and studied for a year at Schule Reimann in Berlin under Carl Heubler. For the past two years, he has been on the art faculty at Scripps and is now associated with Millard Sheets, internationally known artist. From their Claremont studio have come many designs earning national recognition. A proponent of modern art, Graham's designs repeatedly add interest and charm to seasonal decorations at Bullocks, and the windows and interior displays designed and constructed for a national perfumer by the Graham-Sheets combine have toured the entire country and been widely acclaimed. All thanks to a busy Tech man who has whole-heartedly cooperated in making this first issue artistically successful.