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## Shadows and Straws

“THE MAKING OF THE PROFESSIONS” is the title of an article by Edward Alsworth Ross, of the University of Wisconsin, in the October number of the *International Journal of Ethics*. It is a notable contribution to the literature of the professional relation and a significant witness to the fact that the subject is being more and more studied by the growing group of scholars and thinkers who, not led astray by factors of personal profit, are able to approach the problem of the professional relation on the one basis which justifies its existence—its service to society—for on what other basis can any human institution survive?

“The patron of the artisan or tradesman,” says Mr. Ross, “is presumed to be competent to look out for his interests. For him *caveat emptor* has been the rule. Bad wares he can reject and poor service he can refuse to pay for. Since the one party is in no need of special protection, the other party has not been subjected to any special restraints. But the patron of a calling which involves the use of highly technical knowledge, since he is not qualified to judge the worth of the service he receives, is in a position of extreme dependence. The patient cannot pronounce upon his doctor’s treatment. The client cannot test the value of the advice his counsel gives or know whether his cause is properly presented. The student cannot plumb his teacher’s learning, the reader gauge the editor’s disinterestedness, nor the creditor verify the audit of the public accountant. One will hesitate to commit one’s dearest interests to such men unless one has ground for believing them to be worthy of trust. There is need, therefore, that callings of this confidential

character be restricted to men of honor acting with reference to a high standard. The means of bringing this to pass is to elevate the calling into a profession.

“The expert cannot raise the tone of his calling unless he is shielded from the withering competition of bunglers, quacks, and charlatans. So the first step toward creating a profession is the exclusion of the unfit. This is sought by forbidding the practice of the profession to all save those who have been licensed by some board, institution, or organization authorized to examine and pass upon the proficiency and character of applicants. Along with this goes often the power to expel from the profession the practitioner whose conduct is such as to bring it into disrepute.

“It is not enough to bar out unworthy persons. It is necessary that the calling attain a standing and dignity which will attract to it men of good breeding and high spirit, for it is such men who will contribute most to set and fix an exacting standard of professional conduct. To this end the law generally accords the calling some official recognition.”

WE THINK THIS is the answer to those who have at times contended that professional bodies, such as the Institute, for example, should abolish all rules and regulations and let membership rest entirely upon each member’s conception of his obligations. The truth is that restraints are made necessary only because the world is still fairly full of men who would just as lief plunder a profession as anything else; and to secure business by breaking the commandments upon which the whole profession rests and upon the observance of which, by a majority, its very existence depends, is even worse than plunder, for

## INSTITUTE BUSINESS—OBITUARY—NEWS NOTES

requested to petition the Court of the District of Columbia to appoint Mr. Wm. R. Mead to fill the present vacancy.

### Committee Reports

The Committee received and considered at length a large number of annual reports of standing and subcommittees, giving particular attention to reports of the Committees on Contracts and Specifications and on Chapters. The latter, which contained the Committee's final revision of the By-laws was considered eminently satisfactory by the Executive Committee, with the exception of a few minor changes in phraseology.

### New Members

The Committee examined and acted upon fifty-nine applications for membership. Announcement of elections will be made in the December Journal.

### Nominations

Members of the New York and Cleveland Chapters have duly placed in nomination the name of Abram Garfield, of Cleveland, Ohio, to be voted upon as a Director at the next Convention.

Members of the Illinois and Cleveland Chapters have duly placed in nomination the name of Robert D. Kohn, of New York City, to be voted upon as a Director at the next Convention.

## Obituary

### George M. Anderson

Admitted to the Institute in 1899.  
Died at Cincinnati, Ohio, October 4, 1916.

Mr. Anderson was born in 1869, the son of Larz and Emma Mendenhall Anderson. He was educated at Columbia University and later studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Paris. Upon his return to the United States he entered the office of Samuel Hannaford & Sons, of Cincinnati, later associating himself with Mr. A. O. Elzner, under the firm name of Elzner & Anderson. The partnership was still in existence at the time of Mr. Anderson's death, and he was also serving as the president of the Cincinnati Chapter.

### Charles Kirchhoff

Elected to the Institute in 1914.  
Died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 21, 1916.

### John Lavalle

Elected to the Institute in 1901.  
Died at Boston, Massachusetts, June 13, 1916.

### Invitation Issued by the Illinois Chapter, American Institute of Architects, to the Members of Other Chapters Passing through Chicago en route to the Convention

As the larger part of the delegates to the Convention will, no doubt, pass through Chicago en route to Minneapolis, the Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has arranged for their entertainment on Tuesday, December 5, 1916. A Reception Committee from the Illinois Chapter will be at the Art Institute after 10 o'clock Tuesday morning to receive the registration of all delegates and members arriving.

Members and delegates are requested to signify their intention of accepting the hospitality of the Chapter, either by registering with the Reception Committee at the Art Institute as early as possible, or by telephoning to Mr. Krug at the same place.

At 10.45 the Chapter has arranged transportation from the Art Institute for all delegates who wish to attend the exhibition which the Underwriters' Laboratories have arranged for visiting members, which will consist of tests on fire-doors, fire-windows, sprinkler systems, and fire-extinguisher systems. Those not wishing to attend this exhibition may find it of interest to look through the galleries of the Art Institute which will be open at that time.

The Chapter has arranged to bring back the members from the Underwriters' Laboratories to the Art Institute where the Chapter will entertain at luncheon at 1 o'clock. All members and their families are cordially invited to attend this luncheon.

The remainder of the afternoon will be given over to the informal entertainment of the Chapter's guests by members of the Chapter.

The Underwriters' Laboratories are but ten minutes from the center of the city.

### An Invitation to Visit the Lumber Region of the North Woods

An informal invitation has been extended to delegates and their families to visit the great lumber regions of the north woods. The Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company will arrange a specially conducted visit, leaving Minneapolis right after the banquet, arriving at Virginia the next morning, with a visit to the mills there and at Cloquet, arriving at Duluth the same evening where the guests may entrain for either Minneapolis or Chicago.