

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1896.

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THE BUFFALO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE ARTISTIC ELEMENT IN ENGINEERING.*

A FRIEND of the writer, a successful business man and much interested in things artistic, when informed of the choice of subject for this paper, gave expression to a feeling of surprise doubting if there was any relation between engineering and æsthetics.

One of the leading engineers of America once asked a professional brother what he did for recreation, and on being told of a modest interest in pictures and music likewise expressed surprise, saying, "You are the first engineer that I have ever known to be a musician." There was also an implication, though unintentional, of a diminished respect—perhaps on both sides.

These two incidents may be taken to typify in a general way the attitude that is held by the business world, on the one side, and the engineering fraternity, on the other, towards the relationship which it is proposed here to discuss.

That the artistic element is not recognized as it might or ought to be in the present American day is natural. The rapid development and growth of our land, the intensive study of science and the concentration of the efforts put forth to adapt it to everyday affairs, has exalted one phase of

*Address of the Vice-President before Section D.—Mechanical Science and Engineering.

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