

The real meaning of ASHRAE



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Frankly, I am not greatly impressed by numbers. One hundred million people can be as wrong as they could be right or vice versa. If numbers alone counted India and China would be of greater significance in the world of today than is our own country.

ASHRAE is far more than the nearly twenty thousand people engaged in a more or less common activity using closely related engineering principles for the consummation of their individual goals.

First, ASHRAE is opportunity — to improve upon things as they are, to broaden the horizons of accomplishment and to insure more efficient and economical use of materials, energies, resources and efforts.

Second, it is figuratively a larger and more easily opened door for the man who has chosen engineering as a career and heating, refrigerating and air conditioning or ventilating as his field for activity.

Third, it is a challenge that we make the most of the inherent possibilities created by this now more broadly enveloping professional society.

Perhaps that sounds rather idealistic; you might have hoped that I would spell out in terms of specific things that would be personally rewarding to you. I do not think that to be the way that a professional society should function nor the way that an engineer should approach his membership in such an organization.

It requires no great study to realize that over the longer interval we must give in order to get and that, in the final sense, the more we give the more we get.

So let us approach the future of ASHRAE with the idea of how much we shall contribute as individuals to the possible progress of our Society, of our companies, of our associates and of ourselves.

Many of us know of the long hours put into the development of Standards, the furthering of the work of committees, the preparation of meetings papers and other lesser chores which may seem to go unrewarded and little noted. I do not think that they are ever purposeless or lacking in true effectiveness. The question is did we give enough to make the activities worthwhile?

As the first president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, I feel that my part presently is to expedite organizational phases of the new Society for the sooner we establish ASHRAE as an operating entity the sooner we may proceed to those broader accomplishments which I envision for 1959 and later years. Other days will present other problems but if we have built well the future will be all that you and I have hoped in even our most optimistic moments.