

To the Schnectady Section

NEWS-BULLETIN

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As IEEE grows in size and scope the role of the Section becomes more important. This is true because, for most members, the Section is the point of personal contact with the organization. It is the place where every member can make some kind of contribution to the achievement of the purposes of IEEE, and share most directly in the many resulting opportunities inherent in the "advancement of the theory and practice."

The theory and practice of electrical and electronic engineering is advancing at a rate that calls for strenuous effort on the part of the Section to keep its programs abreast of the current requirements of its members. At the same time, it is no less the obligation of the individual member to take an active part in this effort, so that he in turn may thereby develop his own capacity to meet the present and future challenges of professional life.

The IEEE Section, with its specialty Group Chapters, is well organized to cope with its problem. By a critical examination, evaluation, and condensation of the literature of its own field, the Chapter can bring to the Section, through its publications and meetings, not only an awareness of new developments, but also an interpretation of their significance to the profession as a whole. This same organized critical examination of the publications of IEEE should result in feedback from the Chapters to the Editorial Board that can be of value in determining publication policy. The Section or the Chapter can arrange, in cooperation with the Region or Group, to bring meetings and conferences to its community, giving Section members a personal contact with leading authorities from the world-wide resources of IEEE.

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New concepts and tools of engineering analysis and design require the development of expanded programs of continuing education for engineers. Cooperating with local colleges and universities, the Section can play a significant part in such programs. This is not a new function in IEEE Section activity. The present need is, however, so pressing as to call for a new and dynamic attack on the problem.

The practice of engineering is itself today in need of research and development. IEEE should be in the forefront of the innovations in this area as well as in the more tangible aspects of its technology. Every member should be examining his personal professional development and thinking about how he can help his IEEE Section help him achieve it.

The intensive pursuit of our advancing technology need not in any way interfere with the enjoyment of the valuable by-products of our close personal association in the Section. In fact, it should make us more conscious of the opportunities the Section offers as a center for social life and the practice of the skills of cooperative accomplishment.