2. THE TECHNICAL BULLETIN AS A WRITER SEES IT

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The very title of this paper itself raises some interesting questions. Writers are diverse. They differ in education, training, experience, ability, and sympathy. The word sympathy is used here in its exact meaning of feeling with others. If writers are diverse, their viewpoints concerning technical bulletins are likely to be equally diverse. This topic may be developed so as to present a composite picture of the ideas of writers as a genus. On the other hand, it may be developed to show the diverse viewpoints of different writers as individuals. It is hoped that it may do both.

PERSONAL FACTORS

There are some considerations personal to the writer that must not be forgotten. These are (a) his impatience for publication, (b) his sense of ownership or kinship in his product, and (c) his own particular limitations. Some or all of these influences are sure to be factors in every publication.

IMPATIENCE

The writer of a technical bulletin presumably has spent months or even years attending to the numerous complex and oftentimes tedious details of the investigation upon which the publication is based. Many data have been assembled and interpreted. Certain important or possibly fundamental facts stand out. The investigator wishes to present these facts to the public as quickly as possible. He is impatient to do this for several reasons. The work has been done and he wishes to see the results in print. His mind is now centered on the next phase of the study, or on a new line which he is developing, and he wishes to be free from consideration of the old. In the third place, writing often is a laborious and uninteresting process to an investigator and he wishes to have it over as quickly as possible.

KINSHIP

A manuscript is a part of the very life of the writer. It is more than the product of his hand. It is the product of his mind, heart, and soul, because the best of his mind, heart, and soul have gone into

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