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VOL. XI	APRIL, 1926
No. 2	
Contents	
Comment	45
Necrology	46
The Relations of the Chief Executive to His Principal Associate Executives An Analysis by H. S. Person	47
Scientific Business Forecasting I. By J. L. Stone II. By S. L. Kedenski	52
Personnel Activities of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad By W. W. Bates	62
Success By Frederick Winslow Taylor	68
Preserving Ideals in Solving Practical Problems By C. L. Barnum	77
Trends in General Administration By J. O. McKinsey	79
Production Incentives at the Curtis Publishing Company By Walter D. Fuller	80
Balancing Manufacturing and Distribution By Henry S. Dennison	81
Scientific Marketing of a Perishable Product By Charles F. Adams	82
News of the Sections and Student Branches	84
Reviews	87

Management Week

October 25 to 30, 1926

"Progress in Waste Elimination"

Comment

IN A recent letter acknowledging election to membership in the Taylor Society—from a prominent student of social problems—we were pleased to read the following sentence: "Certainly, I now feel the Taylor Society to be the most valuable of the societies dealing with social questions in the larger sense." This was appraisal of an unexpected nature, for the primary objective of the Society is the promotion of better *methods* of management, and the long run emphasis has been on technique.

HOWEVER, there are times, and the present is one of them, when promotion of a technique requires its examination from the point of view of its adaptability to evolving industrial conditions and ideals. A technique may admittedly be effective but the question may be raised whether it meets the demands of industrial ethics. Therefore of late the Taylor Society, as basic to the promotion of certain principles and methods of management, has fearlessly given time in its meetings for open-forum consideration of developing industrial conditions, developing industrial ideals as evidenced in new theories and practices, and the bearing of the technique on these and on fundamental and enduring social values generally.

THE objective of the Taylor Society is promotion of that better management which is characterized by utilization of engineering methods in the solution of management problems; scientific investigation of conditions and scientific construction of methods of action required by the conditions. Management is a function of organized joint effort for livelihood. Livelihood is the most fundamental of individual problems, and, because livelihood efforts are now cooperative, one of the most fundamental of social problems. The best management methods, methods which will not be obsolete as soon as they have been acquired generally, cannot be discovered and promoted without sincere effort to make them consistent with developing patterns of thinking and of conduct, and without inquiring into the emerging ideals and habits with which they must be consistent.

THERE has recently come to our attention a book which illustrates Taylor Society contributions to technique, and the fact that contributions if fundamental will eventually have influence even