Research Notes: [American Plan, Westinghouse training program]

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Naturally, the more formal courses in the Westinghouse training program are planned for men. There is, however, no policy against admitting women, and women have gone through the courses in years past. The career of Miss Bertha Lamme is, of course, outstanding in the direction of what a woman can do in the engineering field.

One of the first women to graduate in electrical engineering was Miss Hilda Counts, who received her degree from the University of Colorado in 1919. Her interest developed in the direction of research engineering, and she was admitted to the Westinghouse Graduate Student Course, July 2, 1919. The course prepared for her was in the same direction as that given the boys, and included the winding of motors; the building of transformers; the insulation of coils; the layout and wiring of switchboards; the testing of transformers, motors, controllers, etc., for assignments each of from two weeks to a month.

Miss Counts, for her outstanding analytical ability, was selected by Mr. Lamme for the Engineering School, and later, for a position in the Research Department. Her work in all of her assignments placed her clearly in the upper half of her classes.

Inspired by her engineering education and her graduate training in the Westinghouse Educational and Research Departments, she later re-entered the University of Colorado as a graduate student, receiving an advanced degree, and from there, going to the Engineering Department of the Public Service Company of Colorado. Later, she married, and retired from active engineering work. Her address today is Mrs. A. L. Edgecomb, 921 Seventh Street, Boulder, Colo.

There are, scattered through our engineering departments, not only at East Pittsburgh, but at other plants as well, quite a number of young women engaged in various grades of intermediate technical work in the Research, Design, and Laboratory Departments. A number of them have done graduate work in mathematics and physics to equip themselves for these positions.

During the war period, more than one hundred young women took intensive courses in tracing and drafting, entering the engineering departments to replace men needed elsewhere. While, of course, time has brought other plans in the cases of the majority of these, nevertheless, today in our drafting rooms may be seen quite a number of the girls who entered the work in that way.

At the Westinghouse Club, all of the courses are open to the women, as well as to the men. The participation is principally in the more liberal and cultural courses. A visit to the Club during any evening this week would reveal quite a number of women, especially in the classes on art, literature, human nature, nature study, photography, German, and Spanish.

"Laminations" still continues in the bond of fraternity that exists among those who had the personal contact with, and training under Mr. Lamme. Formal meetings are infrequent, but the man who has participated in the personal training of Mr. Lamme, and is therefore eligible, is a marked man throughout the organization.