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THOS. J. JOHNSTON, Chairman.
GANO DUNN. CECIL P. POOLE.

RALPH W. POPE, Editor.

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Transfers

RECENT circulars distributed by committees have elicited replies indicating that certain unsuccessful applicants for transfer to the grade of Member are dissatisfied with the results. In a general way it may be stated that these applicants have not submitted proper records of their engineering experience. One of the important qualifications of an engineer is that he should be able to prepare specifications or reports of his proposed work, or of investigations in behalf of a client. He should be able to judge of his own qualifications, and specify the important work he has done, and for which he was responsible. Many applicants rely upon their references to give this information, and this is frequently done. The intention is, however, that the applicant should personally record not only his electrical engineering experience, but indicate the periods of time occupied in carrying out the work. The requirements of the Constitution are simple, and if the applicant can comply

with them he is in a certain sense more competent from his own knowledge to determine his qualifications than is the Board of Examiners which depends chiefly upon the records placed before it. The impression that appears to have prevailed in the past—that the decision of the Board was a mere perfunctory proceeding, has gradually been replaced by a belief that it is too rigid in its interpretation of the Constitution. If Associates will indulge in a serious contemplation of their records before filing their applications, they will in most cases avoid delay and annoyance, and greatly facilitate the work of the Board of Examiners.

Science Abstracts

ONE of the early undertakings of the Institute was a general index to current electrical literature. There were a few members who had commenced the preparation of such an index, for their personal use, but soon realized that it was a serious task and suggested that it was a proper function for the Institute. The work was begun and carried on through publication in the monthly issues of the TRANSACTIONS. It was, however, too much of a burden for the voluntary individual efforts of a single person, and it was abandoned. Experience showed that it was needed very much by a few engineers, but a large number either cared little for it or preferred to depend upon their individual efforts. Since that time others have begun similar publications. The best of these is known as Science Abstracts, which is issued in two series of monthly parts, covering the fields of Physics and Electrical Engineering. Its publication was begun in 1898 under the auspices of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, with the cooperation of other learned societies. Through an arrangement made in 1902, members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers have been permitted to subscribe for this publication at a reduced rate. If its value were more generally appreciated, no doubt the number of