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# SMOCK DAY IS CELEBRATED

By HERBERT H. SMITH, '30

Architecture is the oldest known profession. The temples and pyramids of ancient Egypt serve to remind us of some early work. Therefore, it is only natural that architecture should be rich in traditions and have many ceremonies observing them. The wearing of the smock, the insignia of the profession, is one of the outstanding of these. The Greeks of old went through a ceremony ordaining them with the privilege of wearing the cloak or mantle portraying their title or rank. Much in the same manner the newcomers in Architecture must be impressed with the importance of their rank among other professions. Accordingly each year here in the architectural school at Ohio State one day is set aside for this ceremony. After bestowing the right to wear the smock the architects usually climax this event with a very colorful dance in the evening. But this year there will be none because the Engineers' Council is



ARCHITECTS MARCHING TO BATTLE

putting on a dance which the architectural department believe better to get back of than to have one of their own.

At the last smock initiation, as at all initiations, there was the light side as well as the serious. The Sophomores were gathered together at the entrance to Brown Hall each wearing his orange smock and carrying his T square. The seniors wore their blue smocks while the juniors were in red. The group paused for a moment on the front steps while Mr. Haskett, the University photographer, took a couple of "shots." Then, as in the past, the sophomores were ordered to march, two by two, around the Administration Building displaying their new smocks and shouldering their T-squares. After marching to High Street, from Brown Hall, they turned south, and then turned in again at main entrance and started up the long walk. There on the grass of the oval several com-



PROFESSOR CHUBB EXPLAINS  
THE MEANING OF SMOCK DAY

panies of the R. O. T. C. were drilling. They clicked their heels as one and seemed almost complete master of their art. But as the "little orange army" came down the long walk the boys in blue drew up to attention and reviewed them as they marched past.

Upon their return to Brown Hall the ceremony went from the ridiculous back to the sublime. Lining up in single file alongside the huge capital which rests on the grass to the left of the entrance, they listened to a few words of introduction from Merrill Barber, president of the Architects' Club. Then Professor Chubb was introduced. He explained the significance of the orange color of the smocks which the sophomores were wearing. "Orange stands for endurance without which it is impossible to get very far," said Professor Chubb. Then he explained how the order of the smock could be taken as the sixth one and added to the five classical orders. In the course of his remarks, he took the opportunity to tell a little of his trip to Washington the week before in which he attended the *American Institute of Architects* convention during the first part of the week and the meeting of the Allied School of Architecture during the latter part. He also stressed the point of good scholarship.

In concluding, Prof. Chubb explained the

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THE FINAL TOUCH

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### SMOCK DAY

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ancient and honorable custom of kissing the acanthus leaf. Each new wearer of the orange must approach the acanthus leaf in front of the big capital, the architects' "Blarney stone," turn, give his full name and nick name, turn again and stoop to kiss the acanthus leaf. It is during the last of these procedures that the final touch is added. After this the full right to wear the official orange garb is theirs.