Having read with considerable interest and profit Dr. Corlett's article in the June issue of *The Production Engineer*, it is with some reluctance that I question the truth of one of his statements. In the context of the professional training of the University graduate he states that "a postgraduate apprenticeship of the order of two years, spent in the industry of his choice, would provide him with more applied knowledge (supported by a firm basis of theory) than he could obtain in the time in any other way".

There are many, both in industry and in technical education, of whom I am one, who think that the sandwich-type course ("interleaved" might be a better description) in which the "firm basis of theory" is developed hand-in-hand with planned industrial experience is much more likely to help the student to acquire the applied knowledge of which Dr. Corlett writes, than is a two-year postgraduate apprenticeship.

That the three-year University course followed by a two-year postgraduate apprenticeship is a way—even, perhaps, a good way—for some to obtain education in the engineering profession is not questioned. For a few, it might even be the better way; but for the many a sandwich course has several advantages and is much to be preferred.

Despite the foregoing I would like to express my appreciation of Dr. Corlett's article, particularly his reference to the need for specialist short courses of a postgraduate character. This is a service to industry that many colleges are now providing and in which considerable developments are taking place.

**Dr. Corlett comments**:

I am in full agreement with Mr. Butler's comments, but my reason for making such a bald statement with regard to University students was that I was considering University training within the concept of the three-year full-time courses in force at present.

Whether such an arrangement should be modified is a big subject in itself, but I do believe that the experience now being gained by the C.A.T.'s in the running of these interleaved courses will have a profound effect on all aspects of practical training. Not the least important factor in the effective conjunction of theory and practice is the control exercised by the Colleges over what is taught and how it is taught in the factories. Practical professional training is a big subject which is receiving more and more attention. I am sure that the result will be beneficial both for the Institution and for industry.

**Correspondence**

I write as Chairman of the Board of Governors of Brunel College. We have been searching for some months, by advertising, for a man to fill the post of Head of the Department of Production Engineering, without success. Generally speaking, we have not been able to obtain that combination of practical experience in the field, allied with an academic background, which we consider to be necessary in a candidate who fills such a post. This is understandable because the subject, relative to others such as mechanical engineering, physics, chemistry, biology, etc., is new, and most young men who have trained in the field have done so, not with an eye to teaching, but to work in industry.

It seemed to me of very great importance to the national economy that suitable men should be found to fill posts such as this, and I believe there is some difficulty in general in the technical colleges, and the C.A.T.'s in particular, similar to that which we have experienced.

We have decided at Brunel that, searching as we are for somebody with a good university degree in either mechanical engineering or physics, who has had at least five years' experience of production engineering in industry, we shall have to give up the idea of also allying this with previous teaching experience. Thus we have reached a stage in our search where we want to attract a man at as low an age of about 30, or up to about 50, with a good university background and sound practical experience. It seems to us that a post with an initial salary of around £2,500, that offers plenty of scope for research work, and much better holidays than are normally available in industry, might attract some men who, up until now, have not even considered a change to teaching post. There must be a very large number of young men in industry who have some inclination towards teaching but have not got the experience, and who shrink from applying on the assumption that they would not be considered because of this lack of teaching experience. In Brunel, however, we are prepared to provide training in this latter respect and thereby we hope to stimulate the number of applications of a kind we have not so far received.

The task of making this important point clear in a simple advertisement is very great. I very much hope, therefore, that you will assist us, and the whole field of teaching of Production Engineering, by publicising this letter.