



# **The Elements of Machine Design, Vol. 2: Chiefly on Engine Details (Classic Reprint)**

*William Cawthorne Unwin*

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Excerpt from The Elements of Machine Design, Vol. 2: Chiefly on Engine Details

But it differs from mere collections of precedents or pocket-books in this, that the reasons for different arrangements or proportions are, as far as possible, discussed in connection with the examples given. In the less complicated cases fairly definite rules can be given based on scientific principles, as a guide to the practical engineer. In the more complicated cases, where conditions are too indefinite for any precise theory, at least an indication can be given of the extent to which approximate solutions are to be distrusted. It is not the object of machine science to reduce every problem of construction to a rule of thumb. Rather it furnishes limits within which a free judgment, based on experience, has to be used and alternatives amongst which choice is to be made.

It is another function of such a book as this to serve as a text-book for engineering students, furnishing a series of practical problems. By working through such problems a student becomes acquainted with the various requirements involved in machine construction, and the considerations which guide an engineer in designing machines.

It is with a view to students that some problems are treated here in a fairly complete and systematic way, although necessarily with less completeness than in special treatises on particular parts of engineering. Such special treatises are generally too detailed to be convenient for students' use, and to understand them a larger knowledge of practical details is required than a student has time to master. It was specially from an experience of the want of some account of valve gears better suited to students than the large and admirable monographs already published that the author was led to extend the chapters on that subject.

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