

## VII

### PROFESSIONS UTILIZED BY BUSINESS

*By H. S. PERSON*

THE nature of the responses to my first lecture, not only at the meeting last week but also during the days which have intervened, prompt me to review three or four of the major points.

I began by stating clearly that one's answer to the question whether business is a profession depends upon definitions of the words "profession" and "business." In my definition of "professional" I listed five criteria of professional status. My definition agreed essentially with the definitions, expressed or implied, of predecessor lecturers, and also with the definitions of authoritative dictionaries. Yet in discussion there has not infrequently been forgetfulness of the five criteria, and an assumption that professional status for an occupation is established by the fact that it is the principal activity of a large number of individuals. Several young men, graduates of one of our great schools of business administration, said to me they were quite shocked to be told that business is not a profession, that they had become accustomed to hearing it called a profession; yet they admitted that, tested by application of the five criteria, they doubted whether it is a profession.

The greatest confusion in discussion comes, I believe, from my brief and inadequate definition of the word "business." It is not an easy word to define, especially if one has a concept of business which makes it distinct from administration, management, commercial law, industrial medicine, accountancy, and so on. Please observe that my first lecture is entitled, "Is Business a Profession?" while my lec-