

ACTING PRESIDENT'S CAREER IS BRILLIANT

Professor Elihu Thomson Was Constructor of First Practical Dynamo—Has Legion of Honor Decoration

HOLDS HONARY DEGREE

The career of Professor Elihu Thomson, acting President of Technology, is marked throughout by unusual inventive ability, scholarship, and aptitude for teaching. He is credited with the construction of the first practical dynamo and his work in this connection with the growing General Electric Co., helped to spread his fame. Professor Thomson holds a prominent position in a number of technical societies and has been decorated by the French government as chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Mr. Thomson was born in Manchester, Eng., March 29, 1829, the son of Daniel and Mary A. (Rhodes) Thomson. He was brought to this country by his parents when he was 5 years of age. The Thomsons settled in Philadelphia, and there Elihu Thomson entered school when he was 7 years old. When he was 11 he was ready for high school, but as the age limit was 13 he was forced to wait two years. He turned his hand to mechanics, built models, dabbled in photography, evinced interest in everything that was baffling. One day a friend of the family gave him a book describing electrical experiments. Soon he had an electrical machine with a wine bottle for a cylinder, and followed his experiment with Leyden jars.

He made a Morse telegraph circuit, alone and unaided, insulating the wire with wrapping cord. Entering the high school he took the prescribed course, and his leisure time was devoted to experiments. In 1878 he was graduated, and the following six months were devoted to work in an analytical laboratory. Then he was called to assist in the chemical department of the high school. In 1878 he was made a full professor of chemistry and physics, when he was but 23 years old.

Always Eager to Experiment

During the winter of 1875 and the following spring he was instructor of chemistry in the Artisans' Night School, and the following winter he gave a series of lectures before the Franklin Institute.

Never did his duties weigh so heavily that he could not spare time to conduct experiments. He constructed during that time the first practical dynamo, which had several features to be found in dynamos subsequently constructed by other inventors. He constructed a pipe organ, with electro pneumatic key action, making all the parts himself. He found time for lathe work in metal, lens grinding and speculum work. He built a compound microscope and numerous electrical devices.

It was in a small machine shop at 313 Buttonwood street, Philadelphia, where the first dynamo was built, Mr. Thomson superintending the work and winding the armatures and field, the first lamps being hung in a bakery. Also late in that year he moved to New Britain to become electrician of the American Electric Company, which had secured control of the Thomson-Houston patents. In 1882 the organization was succeeded by the Thomson-Houston Electric Company, which established a plant in Lynn, and united with the Edison company in 1889 under the title of the General Electric Company, which is now the largest producer of electrical machinery in the world.

Universities Confer Degrees

As the company grew, so did the fame of Prof. Thomson spread. In the old world he became as well known among the men of genius as in this country. He is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Society of Arts, Franklin Institute, American Association for the Advancement of Science, past president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Institutions of Civil Engineers of London, Boston Commercial Club and other organizations. For his genius he was decorated in 1889 by the French government as chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

This honorary degree of master of arts was conferred upon him by Yale in 1890, and that of Ph. D. by Tufts in 1894. He has contributed to many scientific journals, and one of his earliest articles, "Electrical Welding," read before the Boston Society of Fine Arts in 1886, was translated into many languages.

APPLICATIONS DUE

The following communication has been received from the office of the Registrar in regard to the Scholarship applications for the coming year:

Scholarship applications (except for State and Cambridge awards) for the coming school year, should be filled at the Registrar's Office before Saturday, May 8th. Blanks may be obtained at Room 10-100.

Cambridge Scholarships application on the required form for this special scholarship must be filed in May or June. State Scholarships, application should be made to the State Board of Education before the first day of July on blanks to be obtained at the State House.

Members of the Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships

NAME	ROOM
Aydelotte, Prof. F	2-281
Burton, Prof. A. E.	3-110
Drisko, Prof. W. J. (chairman)	4-236
Howard, Prof. J. W.	1-251
Humphreys, Mr. W.	3-110
James, Prof. W. H.	3-433
Lyon, Prof. W. V.	4-210
Merrill, Prof. A. L.	3-105
Moore, Prof. C. L. E.	2-172
Phelan, Prof. J. W.	4-154

Williams, Prof. R. S. 2-314
(Consultation hours may be obtained at the Information Office.)
Walter Humphreys
Registrar.

CLASS OF 1911 REUNITE AT AN INFORMAL DINNER

An informal dinner was held in the faculty room of Walker last evening by the class of 1911. Covers were laid for six couples, Mr. O. B. Denison, secretary of the class presiding. It was the first reunion of the class since 1916. After the dinner, amusement was provided in the form of card playing, dancing, and music. "The dinner was held in order that the ladies might become more intimately acquainted," says Mr. Denison. "We have never had a dinner before where the ladies were invited."

COMPETITION OPENS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC EDITOR

All men who wish to enter competition for Photographic Editor of Technique 1922 should report at the Technique office, room 308, Walker Memorial, at one o'clock today.

T. C. A. PLACES STUDENTS AS DIRECTORS IN BOYS' WORK

Various Classes Show Interest in the Leadership

The T. C. A. has lately filled many positions in various boys' clubs and recreation centers in different parts of Greater Boston. The work is conducted by students of the Institute who act as leaders in the several forms of boys' activities carried on at these places.

B. A. Bray '22, is the director of the boys' work in the T. C. A. The following is a list of the students engaged in the work:—

- East End Union, Corner Main and Burleigh streets, Cambridge—Joseph Givner '21, Ernest Pauli '21, E. A. Stone '22, R. H. Damon '22, C. H. Chaisson '23, A. L. Johnson 2nd '22, J. D. Rockefeller '22.
- Morgan Memorial, 89 Shawmut Avenue, Boston—C. W. Shattuck '22, H. F. Brennan '23, W. V. Morgan '22.
- Dorchester House, 7 Gordon Place, Dorchester—C. P. Clapp '23.
- Margaret Fuller House, Y. W. C. A. Branch, Cambridge—A. W. Norton '21.
- Riverside Neighborhood House, Ballard Place, Cambridge—M. S. Dimock '22.
- Boston Y. M. C. A., 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston—G. S. Bromley '23, H. F. Stose '21.
- Cambridge Y. M. C. A., 820 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge—A. W. Maddock '23.
- Elizabeth Peabody House, 357 Charles street, Boston—G. E. Barnes '23, A. E. Few '21, R. E. Davidson '23.



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