## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MARCH 13, 1914

WHEREAS, Silvanus P. Thompson has rendered service of fer-reaching value to the electrical science and arts by numerous contributions to their literature and bibliography, and also admirable service in securing general recognition of the previously little known work in the field of Electricity of men of other times, notably Petrus Peregrinus, Gilbert and Reis; and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers provides that by the unanimous vote of all the members of the Board of Directors, Honorary Members may be chosen from among those who have rendered acknowledged eminent services to electrical engineering or its allied sciences; it is

RESOLVED, that Silvanus P. Thompson, of London, England, be elected, in recognition of the achievements above related, to honorary membership in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Whereas, The and den deat in June 13, 1916, there pour honorary on unter, Dr Silvamis thelips pour, removes from the scientific words and electrical profession me of their most Distinguished ornament sian Whereas, Dr. Thompson in wod Tin Is his many or otathe achievements as a ochdar, concator o scientist and come from negle of the interry and list of one of the paral pronound first ops tematic Ish bodos in elemeal science and once of To his portant Technocal applications; to it Kes doed, That Her Board of Breating of Ma Am ancian Institute of Stechneal Engineers Kerely record their Deep sense at the great loss to the word of an intiring worker in its higher interests, an ac-Emplished scholar and an inep ving Further Resolved, That a sandally engrand copy of these Resolved to formand as to his family to when the formand in their breamond, where there by pally is entended in their breamond,

GINEERS TELEPHONE 4600 BRYANT

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

33 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET



NEW YORK

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MEMORIAL TO DR. SILVANUS P. THOMPSON ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INSTITUTE CLEVELAND, OHIO, JUNE 28th, 1916

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WHEREAS, the sudden death on June 13, 1916, of our Honorary Member, Silvanus Phillips Thompson, removes from the scientific world and the electrical profession one of their most distinguished ornaments; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson, in addition to his many notable achievements as a scholar, educator, scientist and inventor, did brilliant service in giving to the world the first systematic text-books on modern electrical science, and some of its important technical applications; be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers hereby record their deep sorrow at the loss to the world of an untiring worker in its higher interests, of an accomplished scholar and an inspiring personality; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the members of his family, to whom profound sympathy is extended in their bereavement.

July 24th, 1916.

Secretary.

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Rome in London on Tuesday, Jame 13, following a otroke of apoplery on the preciding lunday morning from which he did not accorder consciences prior to death. Dr. Thompson had hen greatly overworked once the begin ring of the war, and accently expressed a fear that the Stram was becoming too great to endure. His shaff at the Finsbury Technical College had been smith depleted, his two chief assistants and secretary; among others, having foined the colors, and he was also engaged on a though sevision of "The Electron Magneti"

Silvanue Phillips Thompson was born at Jork, on June 19, 1857, of Quater parents, to which sect he athered throughout lefe. This early edneation was received at Bootham School, Josh, a Quaker institution, and at I lounders' Institute, Intrefact. In 1869 at the age of 18 he received the degree of B.A. from London University; in 1875 The same in -Stitution to Fow we the degree of B. Sc. with first honors, and three yours bale the degree of Dr. Se., the owned of examination bring experimental serence He also allended beclures at the Royal School of Mines and was for a time at The university of New Delburg, After a short term as sevence master at the Booth am 5 chook, he was called to University College, Protot, as believes in experimental science and promoted to the chair of That bubyect in 1879. In 1885 he became frim copul of the City and guilts London Technical College at Imstury, occupying also the chair of Johnson or Thomson musthe holder of three honorary Degrees, that of M.D. (Königs long) confined in 1994; Ld. D. (Burn mykam) confined in 1909, and Dr. Sc. (Brotol) confined in 1912.

Through out his curies or Thompson was an active much y a large on um bis of seantific and similar bodies, and had hen gran, dent of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Inditation of Junior Engineers, The Physical Svesety of London, of the Optical and Ron Igen Sweeties, and rins one of the

He was a to sty the Royal Society, a Manager of the Royal Institution, a Senator of Remove University in which he also Let a chair, member of the Academies of Science of Stockholm and Bologna and of the American Philosophical Society. He a Portion official representative Dr. Thompson was present and took a prominent part at almost all international cleaneas fatherings on everings before ning with that held in Philosophia in 1884.

Though bot known for his work in the cleaneas field, Dr. Thompson was also an anthon to in optics, in which branch he was the discovered of "& trobic Circles", and fin "Optical Tables" Rave long hen a 5 tend and work of reference

also an anthony in optics, in which branch he was the brocoverer of "Strobic Circles", and his "optical Tables" have long hen a standard work of reference of monghis contributions to fundamental physical theory or as an application of Maxwell's electromagnetic throng of light to the emploration of the lating cruptals in their action on polarized by it, which from the proof that the displacements in a wave of light are peapertricular to the excelled plane of portang atron. He also so covered that the Reavy on that, and as uranium and of mium, have a superior capacity for the emission of Rintfin trays. His paper on "Ocean Telephony", presented at the Chicago (1893) International Electrical Congress, brought provincently before the world the prositional that yet greatly extending the eaunge of telephonic

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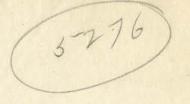
from neglect the names of these cleancal prioneers. From lune to Time Dr. Thompson I elighted friend's with the gift of brantiful letter books jonvately jonnter for presentative. Immy There are a bous lation of the Epiothe of Februs Peregrinus, which is Kand elluminated; Notes on Gelbrit's De Magnete"; Several regiments of articles and ad turner on Gelbert, and a reprint of Boules For Very rare tracts on electricity and magnetism. to a member of a book club, "Settle of DD Volumes", in which his little was "hagnetized of the Sette, he can buter at one of the dinners when a member presents to each fellow member a granter book written for the occasion, a little volume promited the chiowick and the "Gibbert y Colchester, In Elizatethan hagnetizer.

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fatin and was a member of the Gilbert Club a large share in the brans lation of "De deagnete"; what as issued under his care has also a high rank is a brantiful specimen of book-making. Among his other accomplishments over music and water-color Jam ling, of which latter work examples were hung at Royal it ead emy sich tims. The mas a collector of genels and ware 8 tones, and possessed a valuable ocentific library, lungely electrical, comprising about 13 ord lilles and including some Dare manus criple, among there bring his fourteenth century copies of the Eposoth of Debrus Veryrinus. A hundome cutoloque jounted at the Chromate Ones in 1914 gives an annotated list of nearly goo rare electrical books contained in The collection. Space permits only more on cution of Dr. Thompson leterary ability, which was of an order rarefly forms aming scientific, em ters; of his highly of exposition which astracted large Stilution, Physical Society and elsewhere; and of his in fluence as educator. It should be added that in this latter coprecty he has, as a Remator of the lenevers of fondon, him a force ful factor in reorganizations of the educational policy of that institution Dr. The orgon was the father of four daughters, one of whom is The is ife of Thomas Ermand Harvey, member of parliament, author, formerly deputy warden of Toynbee Hale and formment in Bontock traine welfare loverte.



## SILVANUS PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



(Prepared by Mr. W. D. Weaver.)

Dr. S. P. Thompson, Honorary Member of the Institute, died at his home in London, on Tuesday, June 13, 1916, following a stroke of apoplexy on the preceding Sunday morning, from which he did not recover consciousness prior to death. Dr. Thompson had been greatly overworked since the beginning of the war, and recently expressed a fear that the strain was becoming too great to endure. His staff at the Finsbury Technical College had been much depleted, his two chief assistants and secretary, among others, having joined the colors, and he was also engaged on a thorough revision of "The Electro-Magnet".

Silvanus Phillips Thompson was born at York, on June 19, 1851, of Quaker parents, to which sect he adhered throughout life. His early education was received at Bootham School, York, a quaker institution, and at Flounders' Institute, Pontrefact. In 1869 at the age of 18 he received the degree of B.A. from London University; in 1875 the same institution bestowed the degree of B.Sc. with first honors, and three years later the degree of Dr.Sc., the subject of examination being experimental science. He also attended lectures at the Royal School of Mines, and was for a time at the University of Heidelberg. After a short time as science master at the Bootham School, he was called to University College, Bristol, as lecturer in experimental science and promoted to the chair of that subject in 1879. In 1885 he became Principal of the City and Guilds London Technical College at Finsbury, occupying also the chair of physics. Dr. Thompson was the holder of three honorary degrees, that of M.D. (Königsberg) conferred in 1894; L.L.D. (Birmingham) conferred in 1909, and Dr.Sc. (Bristol) conferred in 1912.

Throughout his career, Dr. Thompson was an active member of a large number of scientific and similar bodies, and had been president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Institution of Junior Engineers, the Physical Society of London, of the Optical and Roentgen Societies, and was one of the founders and past-presidents of the British Illuminating Engineering Society. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Manager of the Royal Institution, a Senator of London University, in which he also held a chair, member of the Academies of Science of Stockholm and Bologne and of the American Philosophical Society. As a British official representative Dr. Thompson was present and took a prominent part at almost all international electrical meetings, beginning with that held in Philadelphia in 1884.

Though best known for his work in the electrical field, Dr. Thompson was also an authority in optics in which branch he was the discoverer of "strobic circles" and his "Optical Tables" have long been a standard work of reference. Among his contributions to fundamental physical theory was an application of Maxwell's electro-



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magnetic theory of light to the explanation of the behavior of tourmaline crystals in their action on scalenged light, which furnished a final proof that the displacements in a wave of light are perpendicular to the so-called plane of prolongation. He also discovered that the heavy metals, such as uranium and osmium, have a superior capacity for the emission of Roentgen rays. His paper on "Ocean Telephony", presented at the Chicago (1893) International Electrical Congress, brought prominently before the world the possibility of greatly extending the range of telephonic communication by means of compensating inductances.

As a writer of books, Dr. Thompson had to his credit a long list of works, some of which were epoch-making, both in substance and in method of exposition. The first systematic textbook on modern electricity was his "Elementary Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism", which is yet in later editions in large use throughout the world, having been translated into many languages. His Cantor Lectures of 1883 formed the first systematic treatment of the technics of modern applications, of electricity, and the following year appeared his monumental work "Dynamo-Electric Machinery". Only those who at the time were engaged in the study of electrotechnics can fully appreciate the value of this book to the students of the day and its phenomenal influence in advancing that branch of knowledge, on which information previously was hopelessly scattered in fragmentary form in scientific and other periodical publications in many languages. At the time of his death Dr. Thompson was rewriting "The Electro-Magnet". As illustrations of the author's thoroughness it may in this connection be mentioned that he had in course an investigation of the work of Charles Grafton Page, of Washington, on the induction coil, and intended to examine two unpublished Latin manuscripts on the magnet, one of the seventeenth century, by Sir Mathew Hale, and the other of the eighteenth century by Swedenborg. As Professor of Applied Science at the University of London he delivered in 1916 a series of lectures on "Historic Magnetism", which doubtless would have been drawn on largely in the revision of this book.

Other books from his pen are "Polyphase Electric Currents and Motors", "Light, Visible and Invisible", lives of "Philipp, Reis" and Faraday, and the authoritative life of Lord Kelvin, published in 1910, but begun during the lifetime of the great savant and partly completed with his assistance. The work on Reis and subsequent writings on Gilbert and Petrus Peregrinus were prompted by a worthy desire to rescue from neglect the names of these electrical pioneers. From time to time Dr. Thompson delighted friends with the gift of beautiful little books privately printed for presentation. Among these are a translation of the Epistle of Petrus Peregrinus, which is hand illuminated; Notes on Gilbert's "De Magnete"; several reprints of articles and addresses on Gilbert, and a reprint of Boyle's two very rare tracts (1675-6) on electricity and magnetism. As a member of a book club, "Sette of Odd Volumes", in which his title was "Magnetizer of the Sette", he contributed at



one of the dinners when a member presents to each fellow-member a printed book written for the occasion, a little volume from the Chiewick Press entitled "Gilbert of Colchester, An Elizabethan Magnetizer".

Dr. Thompson was granted a number of patents and in earlier years gave considerable time to practice as an electrical consultent. He was a linguist of rare ability and able to deliver public addresses in French, Italian and German. He was also a master of scholastic Latin and as a member of the Gilbert Club had a large share in the translation of "De Magnete", which as issued under his care has also a high rank as a beautiful specimen of book-making. Among his other accomplishments were music and water-color painting, of which latter work examples were hung at Royal Academy exhibitions. He was a collector of jewels and rare stones, and possessed a valuable scientific library, largely electrical, comprising about 13.000 titles and including some rare manuscripts, among these being two fourteenth century copies of the "Epistle of Petrus Peregrinus". A handsome catalogue printed at the Chiswick Press in 1914 gives an annotated list of nearly 900 rare electrical books contained in the collection.

SpaceSpermits only mere mention of Dr. Thompson's literary ability, which was of an order rarely found among scientific writers; of his lucidity of exposition which attracted large audiences to his popular scientific lectures at the Royal Institution, Physical Society and elsewhere; and of his wide influence as an educator. It should be added that in this latter capacity he has, as a Senator of the University, been a forceful factor in reorganof London izations of the educational policy of that institution.

Dr. Thompson was the father of four daughters, one of whom is the wife of Thomas Edmund Harvey, member of parliament, author, formerly deputy warden of Toynbee Hall and prominent in British social welfare work.