

In Memoriam

William Elgin Wickenden

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With deep sorrow, the board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers records the death, on September 1, 1947, of William Elgin Wickenden, fifty-eighth president of the Institute, and an outstanding leader in engineering education and related fields.

He was born in Toledo, Ohio, on December 24, 1882, and received his degree of bachelor of science from Denison University in 1904. After one year as instructor in applied electricity at the Mechanics Institute, Rochester, N.Y., he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin as assistant in physics, becoming instructor in electrical engineering the next year. In 1909, he went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as assistant professor of electrical engineering, and was advanced to associate professor in 1914.

He was appointed personnel manager of the Western Electric Company, New York, N. Y., in 1918, and became assistant vice president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1921. During the period 1923-29, he served as director of the investigation of engineering education under the joint sponsorship of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education (now A.S.E.E.) and the Carnegie Corporation, and, in 1929, became president of the Case School of Applied Science. His retirement became effective on the day of his death.

He served as a member of several Institute committees, chairman of the Cleveland Section in 1936, vice president 1943-45, and president 1945-46. He was a member of and active in numerous other organizations, having served as vice president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, vice chairman of the American Council on Education, president of the Ohio College Association, chairman of the Ohio Regional Labor Board, and president of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. He received the Lamme Medal of the latter society in 1935. Between 1926 and 1933, he received eight doctor's degrees, including engineering, science, laws, and humane letters.

In both engineering education and scientific and engineering society activities, Doctor Wickenden was an inspiring leader. He was an outstanding speaker on a wide variety of subjects.

Resolved: That the board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers upon behalf of the membership expresses its keenest regret at the death of Doctor Wickenden and its highest appreciation of his inspiring leadership.

And be it further resolved that these resolutions be transmitted to members of his family.

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