

Dr. Samuel Sheldon's
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Dr. Samuel Sheldon, to whom the alumni and undergraduates of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, his friends and professional associates tendered a dinner on March 21 in commemoration of twenty-five years of service



DR. SAMUEL SHELDON

as a professor in electrical engineering, is well known in engineering circles. Through honesty of purpose and by persistent industry and enthusiastic aggressiveness he has attained success as an experimental physicist, electrical engineer and scientific writer. Born in Middlebury, Vt., in 1862, he received such education as the public schools afforded and entered Middlebury College in 1879, supporting himself while there by an endowment prize scholarship which he won and retained throughout the four years. As a student he excelled in mathe-

matics, physics and philosophy. His natural versatility resulted in his being popular with his college mates and enabled him to hold the position of organist of the college chapel choir and of the choir in St. Stephen's Church. He was graduated in 1883, with the degree of A.B., and remained at Middlebury two years as instructor in mathematics. In 1887 he received the degree of A.M. In the fall of 1885 he entered the University of Würzburg, Germany. During his first year he was selected by Professor Kohlrausch to assist in special investigations, among which was the classic determination of the ohm for the Bavarian government. During his last year he held the position of assistant in laboratory physics and was graduated in 1888 with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Returning to America, he was at once made first assistant in physics under Prof. John Trowbridge at Harvard University, where, in collaboration with that eminent physicist, he conducted many original investigations in magnetism, the results of which were embodied in papers presented before the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The next step in Dr. Sheldon's advancement was his call to the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn as professor of physics and as professor in the newly organized department of electrical engineering. These positions he has filled for a quarter of a century, with increasing credit to himself not only as a teacher but also as an administrator in organizing and managing the departments in his charge. Under his super-

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vision the shops, mechanical engineering, physical and electrical engineering laboratories were installed. Dr. Sheldon has frequently been called to give testimony in both the state and federal courts, and since 1903 he has been an expert of the Swiss Department of Justice and Police. He has also carried on an extensive consulting engineering practice embracing all branches of electrical engineering. His reports of experimental investigations to the Electro-Therapeutic Association constitute a valuable contribution to science and to the art relating to electrostatic machines. His textbook contributions have received well-merited recognition. He revised the fourth edition of Olmsted's College Philosophy, entitled "An Introduction to Natural Philosophy," in 1891, and since 1900 he has acted as critic for the D. Van Nostrand Company. He is the revising editor of, and contributor to, several sections of Foster's Electrical Engineers' Pocketbook. He is also editor of definitions pertaining to electricity in the new Standard Dictionary. Dr. Sheldon is also the senior author of "Dynamo-Electric Machinery," "Alternating-Current Machines" and "Electric Traction and Transmission Engineering." He is a fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and served on the board of managers for six years, as vice-president for two years, and as president for the year 1906-1907. He was chairman of the papers committee, 1902-1906; chairman of the standards committee, 1908; chairman of the library committee since 1910, besides co-operating on various other committees. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and president of its department of electricity, a fellow of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association, a member and past-president of the New York Electrical Society, and is a member of the American Physical Society, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the American Electrochemical Society and the American Electric Railway Association. The University of Pennsylvania and Middlebury College honored Dr. Sheldon with the degree of Doctor of Science in 1906 and in 1911, respectively.