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Q.: 1. Why should there be a merger of AIEE and IRE?

A.: Because the two societies overlap significantly and it is difficult for two different independent societies to serve the needs of electrical and electronic engineers with optimum effectiveness. In 1912, when IRE was founded to represent the new technical field of radio engineering, the interests of AIEE were heavily concentrated in the generation transmission and utilization of electric power and in wire communication by telephone and telegraph. However, in the last half century the interests of both societies have broadened to include for example electronics for instrumentation control and other uses, digital and analog computers, nuclear power, satellite communications, magnetohydrodynamics and so on. Now there is great overlap, particularly in the new growing fields which are a source of strength and vigor to each society. Clearly a merger is indicated; unity gives strength and avoids wasteful duplication.

Q.: 2. How will the merger help me as an individual member?

A.: By making technical information available in the publications of one society instead of two, by providing few and better papers than the sum total provided by two societies, by reducing the duplication of section and national meetings.

Q.: 3. Is the idea of merger new?

A.: No, it has been discussed from time to time by both societies beginning as early as 1922 and continuing actively in the last decade. Most of the earlier moves ended in resolutions to study the matter further and with the turnover of leadership came to nothing. The present move is based upon the recognition that "the time is now", that a merger will never be easier, that action is what is needed.



Q.: 4. Is there a danger that the present action is hasty?

A.: Not in the opinion of many; any slower movement will probably be unproductive. For some months now the impending action has been described to members and their comments have been sought.

Q.: 5. Will members of AIEE and IRE automatically become members of the new society?

A.: Yes, the old societies have grades of membership that almost exactly correspond, except for some of the names. The new society IEEE will have the same grades of membership with some change of name from present AIEE practice (to avoid demotion of some present IRE members), and transfer will be automatic. It is expected that new membership certificates will be provided. Fellows of AIEE will become Fellows of IEEE, Members become Senior Members; Associates become Members; Affiliates become Associates. Honorary Members of AIEE become Honorary Members of IEEE.

Q.: 6. What about seniority?

A.: Seniority earned in either AIEE or IRE will carry over into IEEE.

Q.: 7. What will the dues be?

A.: It is expected that IEEE will be operated on the lower of the dues scales of the present societies. This will mean a reduction of dues for present AIEE members, and a large reduction for those who belong to both societies.

Q.: 8. What publications will IEEE have?

A.: This matter is under discussion. One proposal is to have two monthly publications, one containing tutorial papers of general technical interest, review papers, general abstracts and IEEE news, the other original technical papers of the highest quality.