



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
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EDISON MEDAL AWARDED TO

ALEX DOW

The Edison Medal for 1936 has been awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Dr. Alex Dow, "for outstanding leadership in the development of the central station industry and its service to the public".

The Edison Medal was founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison, and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts" by a committee consisting of twenty-four members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The following eminent engineers and scientists have been recipients of the medal: Elihu Thomson, Frank J. Sprague, George Westinghouse, William Stanley, Charles F. Brush, Alexander Graham Bell, Nikola Tesla, John J. Carty, Benjamin G. Lamme, W. L. R. Emmet, Michael I. Pupin, Cummings C. Chesney, Robert A. Millikan, John W. Lieb, John White Howell, Harris J. Ryan, William D. Coolidge, Frank B. Jewett, Charles F. Scott, Frank Conrad, Edwin W. Rice, Jr., Bancroft Gherardi, A. E. Kennelly, Willis R. Whitney, and Lewis B. Stillwell.

The medal will be presented to Dr. Dow during the Winter Convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to be held in the Engineering Societies Building, New York, N.Y., January 25-29, 1937.

A biographical sketch of Dr. Dow is attached.

H. H. HENLINE

National Secretary

ALEX DOW (A'93, F'13, member for life) president, Detroit (Mich.) Edison Company, has been awarded the A.I.E.E. Edison Medal for 1936 "for outstanding leadership in the development of the central station industry and its service to the public." The medal, which was founded by friends and associates of the late Thomas A. Edison (A'84, M'84, HM'28) and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts," will be presented to Doctor Dow during the Institute's winter convention at New York, N.Y., January 25-29, 1937.

Doctor Dow was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1862, and although he is not a graduate of a technical school, he has received the honorary degrees of master of engineering (1911) and doctor of engineering (1924) from the University of Michigan and doctor of science (1935) from the University of Detroit.

During the period 1874-82, he was employed as junior clerk and stenographer in a railroad office and in the offices of a steamship company in Liverpool, England. In 1882 he came to the United States, and was employed in various departments of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Later he was transferred to the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company to take charge of local line and instrument maintenance, with some construction and experimental work on telephones. In 1888 he was employed by the Brush Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, as installation electrician in the Chicago (Ill.) office, becoming district engineer in that office in 1889. In 1893, he accepted the opportunity to design and supervise the construction of the original public lighting plant of the city of Detroit, and in 1896 he became vice-president and general manager of the Edison Illuminating Company of Detroit. This company was succeeded by the Detroit Edison Company in 1903, and Doctor Dow was retained as vice-president until 1913, when he was made president.

He became a naturalized citizen in 1895. Doctor Dow has been a leading pioneer in the United States in the engineering, rate making, and general operation of the electric light and power utility, and is given credit for both the engineering and financial success of his enterprises. He has supervised the design and construction of several generating stations of the Detroit Edison system, and he is called the father of the so-called "big" steam boiler in the United States, having installed 2,350-horsepower boilers at a time when 600- to 750- horsepower units were commonly considered large. He was the first to adopt the underfeed stoker for large installations, and much of the earlier development of this type of equipment was made in his power plants. In addition to his electric utility activities, Doctor Dow served the city of Detroit as the engineer member of the Board of Water Commissioners from 1916 to 1921, and again from 1925 to 1927.

He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (president 1928), American Society of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers (Great Britain), and the Detroit Engineering Society (charter member and past president). He has recently been elected an honorary member of both the A.S.M.E. and the A.S.C.E. For his paper "On the Schooling of Engineers" (published in the December 1934 issue of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, pages 1589-91), he was awarded the A.I.E.E. 1935 national prize for best paper in public relations.

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