

MARTIN, THOMAS COMMERFORD.—

An electrical editor, author and association executive, born in London, England, July 22, 1856. His early education was received in the academy at Gravesend, England, and by private tutors; later he was a divinity student. Soon after he came to the United States he became associated with Thomas A. Edison in laboratory work and electrical development during 1877-79. He was editor of the "Electrical World" from 1883 to 1909, when he resigned to become secretary of the National Electric Light Association, which position he held about ten years. He was decorated by the French Government as Officier de l'Instruction Publique in 1907. He was a special expert on electrical matters for the United States Census office from 1900 to 1915.

Mr. Martin has been very actively associated with electrical engineering and related organizations. He was one of the founders and charter members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1884, serving as secretary, manager and vice-president and was its president in 1887-8. He was a member of the conference committee organized by the national engineering societies to expend the gift by Andrew Carnegie of \$1,500,000 for a united engineering building in New York. He was active in organizing the work of the Safety Institute of America and in the erection of the Robert Fulton monument. He is a charter member and past president of the New York Electrical Society and was recently elected its secretary; he is an honorary member and advisory secretary of the National Electric Light Association; life member of the Iron and Steel Institute (England); corresponding member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (England) and the Franklin Institute (Philadelphia); member of the Illuminating Engineering Society, Society for Promotion of Engineering Education, American Electrochemical Society, New York Academy of Sciences, National Civic Preservation Society; trustee, Engineering Preservation Society; Trustee, Engineering College of George Washington University; vice-president Edison Pioneers in 1919; president of Engineers Club of New York (1907-8).

As an editor and author, Mr. Martin's reputation is world wide. He is a fluent writer on topics of the broadest interest to the electrical industry. His editorials helped materially in stimulating electrical development. His annual report on the progress of the industry was always one of the leading features of N. E. L. A. conventions. Intimate association with the leading electrical men for over forty years led him to write several biographical books. The best known of these is "Edison, His Life and Inventions," published (with F. L. Dyer as co-author) in 1910. Another is "Inventions, Research and Writings of Nikola Tesla," published in 1903. The latest one, published in 1919, with S. L. Coles as co-author, is "The Story of Electricity." Mr. Martin has also written other books, among which was "The Electric Motor and Its Applications"; this appeared in 1886 and was the first American dissertation on this very useful machine. He has also been a contributor to the British, Americana and Chambers Encyclopedias.