

3-29-35

Elihu Thomson, 82 Today, Gets German Medal

Inventor To Be Honored by Engineers at Two Lunch- eons, Here and in Berlin

He Won't Attend Either

Health Keeps Him Home, Colleague to Take Award

The eighty-second birthday of Elihu Thomson, noted inventor and authority on electricity, will be observed today by the board of directors of the General Electric Company at a luncheon meeting at the Ritz-Carlton, Madison Avenue and Forty-sixth Street, at which the medal of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, considered the outstanding award of the German engineering profession, will be awarded to him.

Professor Thomson's health will not permit him to leave his home at Swampscott, Mass., and in his absence the award will be accepted for him by E. W. Rice jr., former president and now honorary chairman of the board of General Electric, with whom he was associated in founding the Thomson-Houston Electric Company, the parent corporation of General Electric.

The medal will be the first German honorary medal or degree presented to an American since the formation of the National Socialist government in Germany. It has been conferred on but five non-Germans, only one of whom was an American—the late Dr. Calvin W. Rice. The presentation will be made by Baron Kurt von Tappeleskirch, German Consul General in Boston.

The citation on the medal will be: "On Elihu Thomson, the great pioneer in the realm of engineering, the inventor and research scientist, the promoter of co-operation among engineers, there is conferred, on the anniversary of his eighty-second birthday, the V. D. I. medal of honor."

Among those who attended the luncheon are A. Rehbock, representing the engineering profession in Germany; Ralph E. Flanders, president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; C. E. Davis, secretary of the A. S. M. E.; F. R. Hart and E. S. Webster, members of the executive committee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; A. L. Rohrer, former electrical superintendent of the General Electric Company and for many years an associate of Dr. Thomson, and Nelson W. Darling, manager of the General Electric plant at Lynn, Mass.

While the testimonial is being held in New York, a similar luncheon in honor of Professor Thomson will be held in Berlin under the auspices of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, which will have as its guests William E. Dodd, American Ambassador to Germany; Douglas Jenkins, American Consul General in Berlin, and many German officials and internationally known engineers.

Professor Thomson has won more than seven hundred patents in the United States for electrical devices. He was a pioneer in the development of arc lighting and wireless telegraphy, and was instrumental in perfecting alternating current distribution.