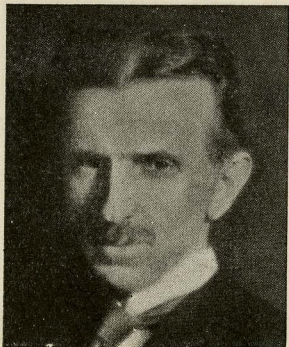


NIKOLA TESLA



**Nikola Tesla**

(A'88, F'17, member for life)

**Edison Medalist 1916**

IN THE days when a commercial rivalry existed between the supporters of the a-c and d-c systems, Nikola Tesla invented independently the polyphase a-c system and built the first small polyphase motor, inaugurating a new epoch in the electrical industry. His other discoveries and inventions are many, principally connected

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with apparatus for the use and transmission of power, such as the polyphase generator and transformer, oscillation transformer, revolving field generator, and split-phase motor, as well as high-frequency machines and coils, Tesla tubes, lamp and other high-potential high-frequency apparatus. Mr. Tesla was born in Smiljan, Lika, a borderland region of Austria-Hungary, and was educated at the Polytechnical School in Gratz and at the University of Prague. His electrical career began in 1881 when he was 24, at Budapest, where he made his first electrical invention, a telephone repeater, and conceived his idea of the rotating magnetic field. He came to the United States in 1884 and became a naturalized citizen. At first he was employed at the Edison works, and later by the Westinghouse Company, which purchased his patents on the polyphase a-c system and manufactured the motor. In 1890 he left the Westinghouse organization and began experimenting with high-potential, high-frequency alternating currents. In the last few years he has been working on a method to derive power in large amounts without regard to location.