

*Kerry M. Churn*  
*4/23/62*

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H.M.S. Eskimo,  
C/o J. Samuel White & Co. Ltd.,  
Cowes, I.O.W.  
U.K.

16th April, 1962.

Dear Miss Hibsham.

I gather from the March issue of the Institute Journal that there is a strong possibility of a merger of the A.I.E. and I.R.E.

I would very much welcome such an association but would like to point out a difficulty which the equivalent British Institutions labour under. There are two such Institutions, both of which are "chartered", that is to say that they both have a Charter from Her Majesty and are the recognized professional bodies in their own sphere of activity. As you probably know they are The Institution of Electrical Engineers and the British Institution of Radio Engineers. Now the fact of the matter is that while the Electrical Institution covers the whole field of Electrical Engineering i.e. Power, Supply, Distribution, Machines, Electronics, Communications, etc. etc. the Radio Institution covers only the Light Current side. The great majority of the members of both Institutions have received a general engineering training with an electrical bias and have since specialised in a variety of narrower fields. Nonetheless they are still basically all Electrical Engineers. It is most unlikely however that they will ever amalgamate while they are constituted as at present and the result is that they remain two rival organisations.

I am very glad to see that no such difficulty exists in the U.S.A. and that a merger is a very real possibility but I would make a very strong plea for retaining the name "Institute of Electrical Engineers" for the combined body. This combined body would then be the major professional association overlooking the whole field in the United States and any new branches of our ever-growing mystery could then be neatly fitted in without any further alteration of the title.

At the same time the general public would be gently educated into the conviction that the electromagnetic field is all one field and would know who to turn to for advice in that field.

Yours very sincerely,

*J. D. White*