Some Leaders of the A. I. E. E.

Charles F. Scott, the sixteenth President of the Institute, was born at Athens, Ohio, September 19, 1864. He attended Ohio University in Athens and entered the Junior year at Ohio State University, Columbus, graduating A.B. in 1885. He took postgraduate work at Johns Hopkins University.

He began electrical work as wireman at the Baldwin Locomotive Works. In 1888 he was night assistant in the testing room of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. Later he was associated with Nikola Tesla in the development of his alternating-current motor. Subsequently he was made assistant electrician; in 1897, chief electrician and in 1904, consulting engineer. He proposed and took an active part in developing the Westinghouse Club, The Electric Journal and the Summer Conference for Engineering Teachers.

In 1911, he accepted the professorship of electrical engineering at the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, where he still continues.

Professor Scott was President of the Institute 1902-03. Upon his recommendation an active campaign for members was undertaken; the high-tension transmission committee was founded; section growth was stimulated (there was one active and one inactive section); and student branches were established. He advocated that the plans for a building for the Institute be extended to include other engineering societies and his advocacy of this idea at the annual dinner interested Mr. Carnegie, who was the honor guest. His gift of $1,500,000 followed and Professor Scott was chairman of the building committee representing the Engineering Societies and the Engineers’ Club. He was charter member of United Engineering Society. He was a member of the Institute Development Committee in 1919 and a representative of the Conference Committee of the four founder societies which formulated plans for Federated American Engineering Society, now American Engineering Council, on which he has held continuous appointment as an Institute representative.

In 1902 he was president of the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania. At the International Electrical Congress at St. Louis in 1904 he was chairman of the Power Transmission Section. During 1921-23 he was president of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. He proposed undertaking an active study of Engineering Education; plans were developed, a grant of $108,000 was secured from the Carnegie Foundation, a Board of Investigation and Coordination was formed, of which he was made Chairman, and a director and staff were appointed. This work is now well underway; there are active committees in a hundred colleges and in various engineering societies, and there are other cooperating agencies.