

John W. Lieb

(A '87, M '92, F '13, member for life)

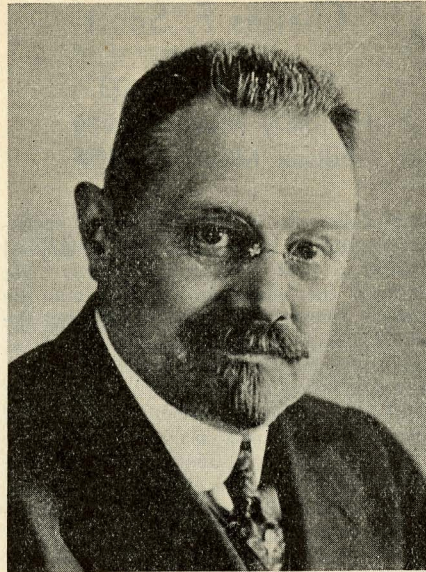
President 1904-05

Edison Medalist 1923

THE INSTITUTE'S Edison medal for 1923 was awarded John William Lieb "for the development and operation of electric central stations for illumination and power." That phrase well summarizes the guiding influence in Mr. Lieb's life.

He was born in Newark, N. J., in 1860, and graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology in 1880. In 1921 he received the honorary degree of doctor of engineering from that institution. Upon graduation he entered the employ of the Brush Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, but in 1881 transferred to the Edison Electric Light Company of New York, becoming assistant in the engineering department. The following year he became assistant to Mr. Edison and was engaged in experimental research, working with Mr. Edison in tests on the now famous Pearl Street station. In 1882 he was appointed the first electrician of the company.

In 1883 he went to Milan, Italy, to represent Mr. Edison in connection with the design, installation, and operation of the Milan Central Station. He later became technical director of the Società Generale Italiana di Elettricità Sistema Edison, and for his work in introducing the use of



electricity into Italy, was made Knight Commander of the Royal Order of the Crown of Italy, in which he was later promoted to a Grand Officer. He was also made an officer of the French Legion of Honor.

In 1892 Mr. Lieb returned to New York as assistant to the vice-president of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company.

He was later made vice-president and general manager of the company, and when the New York Edison Company was organized he became associate general manager and then appointed vice-president in general charge of operations. He later became general manager and upon the consolidation of the New York Edison Company with other utility companies in the New York Metropolitan area in 1928, Mr. Lieb became senior vice-president. He held this position at the time of his death, November 1, 1929.

For many years following 1900, Mr. Lieb also was president of the Electrical Testing Laboratories of New York. Mr. Lieb held office in several other utility companies. During the war, Mr. Lieb rendered valuable service as chairman of the national committee on gas and electric service.

Mr. Lieb took a prominent part in the work of many of the organizations in the electrical and allied field. He was a past-president of several such organizations. For the Institute, he has served on several committees as well as holding the presidency for one year. His work was recognized by many foreign societies and he was a member or honorary member of several of these.

Beside taking a part in the deliberations of foreign societies (he spoke 4 languages fluently) Mr. Lieb was an outstanding figure in the promotion of amity, peace, and good-will among the technical and engineering men of the world.

MAY 1934 Elec. Engrg.