LOUIS FERGUSON, 73;
A RETIRED EXECUTIVE

Aided Development of Public Utility Field in Chicago

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26—Louis A. Ferguson, who played a large part in the development of the Commonwealth Edison Company, a Chicago Public Utility, and made many contributions to the technique of the industry, died of intestinal influenza last night in a Rhinelander (Wis.) hospital. He was 73 years old.

Mr. Ferguson retired in 1935 as vice president in charge of engineering and construction for Commonwealth Edison. Born at Dorchester, Mass., Mr. Ferguson graduated in 1888 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and joined the old Chicago Edison Company, predecessor of Commonwealth Edison. In 1897 he became general superintendent, and in 1902 he was elected a vice president of the company.

Mr. Ferguson had held three of the outstanding honorary positions in the electrical field, having been president of the National Electric Light Association, [predecessor of the Edison Institute], of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, and of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Henry Butler and three sons: Louis A. Jr., Aruthur J. and Alan M. Ferguson.
Obituary

Alton Leslie Powell (A'18, F'30) supervising engineer lamp department General Elec-
tric Company, New York, N. Y., died August 21, 1943. He was born April 6, 1880, at Brooklyn, N. Y., and received the degree of electrical engineer at Columbia University in 1903. The same year he entered the test course at the Edison Lamp Works of General Electric Company at Harrison, N. J. From 1911 to 1924 he was assistant to the illuminating engineer. In 1924 he was sent to Europe as a special rep-
resentative of International General Elec-
tric Company working on illumination problems. He served as delegate of the United States Committee to the Interna-
tional commission on Illumination at Geneva in 1925 and member of the United States commission to the Paris Exposition, 1925. Returning to the United States in 1925 he became manager of the engineering department of the Edison Lamp Works. When the Edison and the National Lámp Works were consolidated in 1922 as the lamp department of General Electric, and the Harrison group transferred to Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, an eastern office of the engineering department was formed and Mr. Powell placed in charge. He also con-
ducted courses in Illumination at the Colum-
bia University School of Architecture, and the New York University College of Engineering and was the author of many papers and articles on lighting. He was a member of the AIEE board of examiners (chairman 1929-30) and of the committee on production and application of light transmission (1933-35), a past president of the Illuminating Engineering Society and a member of Sigma Xi.

Louis Aloysius Ferguson (A'09, M'12, F'12) retired vice-president, Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago, Ill., died August 25, 1940. He was born at Dunchase, Mass., August 18, 1887, and graduated in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1908, with the degree of bachelor of science. He entered the employ of the Chicago Edison Company in 1908 and the following year was appointed chief electrical engineer. In 1909 he was assigned to the contract department. and in 1917 was made general superintendent of the Chicago Edison Company and the Commonwealth Electric Company. He was elected second vice-president of the two companies in 1920, and when they con-
solidated as Commonwealth Edison Com-
pany in 1927, he continued in that position, becoming vice-president in 1934. He re-
tired December 31, 1935. He was a member of the Institute (1914-47), vice-president 1947-48, and president 1948-49, and was also a past president of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies and the former National Electric Light Association, and a member of the Illuminating Engineer-
ing Society and the Western Society of Engi-
ners.

Eldred Stiff (A'23, M'31) chief electrical engineer, power-plant department, Akeley-
shaped Norck Elektrisk and Brown Bowet, Oslo, Norway, died recently, ac-

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OBITUARY NOTICES
OBITUARY

Louis A. Ferguson

Louis A. Ferguson, electrical engineer and vice-president of the Commonwealth Edison Company for 33 years, died at Rhinelander, Wis., August 25, at the age of 73, from intestinal influenza. Mr. Ferguson, who served the utility industry in Chicago for 47 years, was an outstanding authority on utility system design, construction and operation. He was the first engineer to recommend three-phase alternating-current generation and transmission in conjunction with rotary converters to supply a direct-current distribution system and was an early advocate of promotional rates for electric service.

A native of Dorchester, Mass., and a graduate of M.I.T., Mr. Ferguson entered the employ of the Chicago Edison Co. in 1888. He served as assistant electrical engineer, construction department; electrical engineer of the company, general superintendent of both the Chicago Edison and Commonwealth Electric Co., and subsequently as second vice-president. He was elected second vice-president of Commonwealth Edison in 1907 and in 1914 vice-president in charge of contract, operating, construction and electrical departments. He retired in 1936.

At various times during his career Mr. Ferguson was president of the National Electric Light Association (predecessor of the present Edison Electric Institute), the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies.