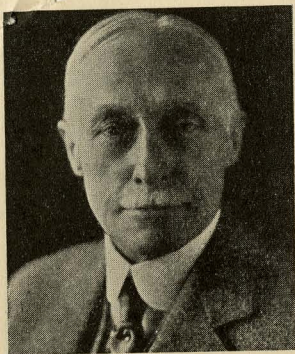


ELMER A. SPERRY



Elmer A. Sperry

(A'84, M'93, member for life)

John Fritz Medalist 1927

WHILE he had to his credit more than 400 patents, Elmer Ambrose Sperry is perhaps best known for his gyro-compass and ship stabilizer. Other inventions included his arc lamp, automatic current regulator, arc dynamo, motors, storage battery, high-intensity arc light, and searchlight. He was the originator of the first electric mining machinery and many new developments in the transportation line. Mr. Sperry was born at Cortland, N. Y., October 12, 1860. He was graduated from the State Normal School at Cortland and attended lectures at Cornell. The honorary degree of doctor of engineering was conferred upon him by Stevens Institute of Technology and Lehigh University, and doctor of science by Northwestern University. When he was only 19, he perfected one of the first electric arc lights and secured its practical adoption. Beginning in 1880, he organized numerous companies bearing his name to perfect and manufacture his inventions, one of the last being the Sperry Development Corporation, which he sold in 1929 to the Curtiss air interests. At the time of his death, June 16, 1930, he was the proprietor of Sperry Products, Inc. He was a charter member of the Institute and served as a member of the marine, research, Edison medal, and Lamme medal committees at various times. He was a member of a number of other societies, including the Electrochemical Society, of which he was a charter member, and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and was the recipient of several prizes and distinctions, both national and foreign.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

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