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BROOKLYN DAILY EA

DR. SHELDON HONORED

BY POLY ELECTRICALS

Eighty-one Old and Young Engineers Turned Out at Dinner to Professor.

CAME HERE 20 YEARS AGO.

He Looks Forward to the Time When Institute Can Give Degree of Doctor.

Under the auspices of the Polytechnic Institute Electrical Engineering Club a dinner was given at the Hotel Brevort, Manhattan, in honor of Dr. Sheldon, the distinguished head of the electrical engineering department of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. Professor Samuel Sheldon, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., D. Sc., on account of ill health, was compelled last year to obtain a leave of absence and take a trip to Europe. To welcome him back to Poly and to show their love and esteem for him, his pupils gave a typical college dinner. Eighty-one turned out to do him honor. Among the guests were President Atkinson and Professors Chittenden and Green of the faculty; Lewis B. Stillwell, president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and Ralph W. Pope, secretary of the latter society; Joseph P. Carlin, Charles E. Potts and other members of the Poly Alumni Association.

After a most delightful dinner, marked by much enthusiastic singing and cheering, a post-prandial programme was run off, with Vinton Smith presiding as toastmaster. In a few well-chosen words Mr. Smith voiced the sentiment of the guests toward Dr. Sheldon, and then introduced Dr. Atkinson, president of the Polytechnic, whose topic was "The Future of the Electrical Engineering Department." He called attention to the fact that this is Dr. Sheldon's twentieth year at Poly, and paid a glowing tribute to him for his unselfish zeal and efforts in promoting the interests of the Polytechnic, and said that all loved him for his class-room sympathy and help and honored him because his instruction was thorough, effectual and stimulative, and he was always moving on. After outlining the plans for an endowment fund, the speaker assured the men present that the electrical department would keep pace with the institute's progress, and also promised an additional professor to the department and a fifth year of advanced study. After complimenting Messrs. Kouwenhoven and Houseman for the energy, loyalty and ability which they carried on the work during Dr. Sheldon's absence, he concluded with an emphatic declaration of the Polytechnic's continued striving after a small school of scholarly and manly men who should be developed along broad cultural lines and well grounded on a firm scientific basis.

Joseph P. Carlin of the alumni association gave a very witty address, which he concluded by saying that the alumni were with Dr. Sheldon, and that they honored him because he had given the very best years of his life to the Polytechnic and at a considerable sacrifice, including health, and that they loved him for the loyalty and devotion to the interests of Poly, which caused him to decline the offer of the presidency of a larger institution.

Dr. Lewis B. Stillwell of the A. I. E. next spoke on "The Institute," the primary object of which he said is to promote the progress of the art of electrical engineering and its allied sciences, and to maintain a high professional standing among its members. "Dr. Sheldon has contributed in no small degree to the general uplift of the institute. He was the best president we ever had. I came to a full realization of the valuable attainments of Dr. Sheldon only five or six years ago, at Niagara Falls, when he gave a great speech on the 'Standardization of Engineering Education. I want to congratulate the Polytechnic on having as head of its electrical department a man who is successful, not only as a teacher but who has also taken a high rank among engineers."

Ralph W. Pope, secretary of the A. I. E., next spoke on "Sammy as I Know Him." His witty remarks and personal anecdotes and reminiscences of Dr. Sheldon kept the diners in almost one continual uproar. "The qualities in Sammy that endear him to me are his friendship, his loyalty, his magnetism, his enthusiasm and his breadth of view. He holds a unique position in the engineering profession, and in later years, when you look over the list of men you have met and known, Sammy Sheldon will stand out as one shining star."

Dr. Sheldon next responded to a call for a speech and made one of his characteristically earnest and eloquent impromptu addresses.

"Friends, colleagues children—children," he said, "twenty years ago I came to Poly with side whiskers, pompadour hair and shoes made in Germany. It rained every day from September until December. Discouraged amidst the chilly gloom, I thought I had no friends in town. To-night how different! Seated at this table I have basked in the rays of filial affection—the kind that gratifies a mother's heart irrespective of how her child behaves."

"When I came to Poly as head of the department of physics and electrical engineering our headquarters was one dreary room with four pieces of apparatus. Now, as I look back over twenty years I think of the epochs in our department. The first was the installation of the Edison service, enabling us to have real juice, which we found amusing, instructive and sometimes expensive. The next advance occurred when we were assigned more commodious quarters in the new building. A further advance was made when, after some students had complained of a lack of apparatus, instruments were imported from Germany and installed, making our laboratory equal to any of that time. The next step forward came in 1899 with the putting in of new shops and forges and a steam laboratory. This was a great epoch and we commenced to do great work. Since then our laboratories have been added to, and though we have less apparatus per experiment and perhaps per student than other institutions, ours is more efficiently utilized and a better power factor than others."

"Ten years ago we raised our standards on a par with some colleges and adopted ideals which we strove to realize. On Dr. Atkinson's entrance at Poly we raised our standards of admission until they were better than most and comparable with any. We started with two students in our department. Our former alumni, after going to other institutions and later into practice, came back to us and contributed to our equipment for our advance, and now are sending their sons to Poly. From nothing we have built up an alumni valued for the beautiful sentiment that you are with us, come back to us and help us. The attention of the alumni is deeply appreciated."

"Now, a word as to what we look for and hope for. Without financial assistance improved we hope to elevate our scholarships, until, in addition to our master's degree, we give a doctor degree. It is not so much the degree we want you to get, but we want you to get the instruction for which it stands. We want to develop the highest type of scientists—men able to pursue original research and who shall prove of great value to science and its workers. We want you to work with us in turning out the best type of men."

A RELIEF FUND BENEFIT.

The annual entertainment and reception of the New York Telegraphers' Society, for the benefit of the relief fund