

EDISON MEDAL FOR 1923 AWARDED TO JOHN W. LIEB

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The Edison Medal for the year 1923 has been awarded by the Edison Medal Committee of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to John William Lieb of New York, N. Y., "for the development and operation of electric central stations for illumination and power."

The Edison Medal was founded by the Edison Medal Association, composed of associates and friends of Mr. Thomas A. Edison, and is awarded annually by a committee consisting of twenty-four members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts."

Mr. Lieb was born in Newark, N. J., in 1860. He was granted an M. E. Degree by Stevens Institute of Technology, Class of 1880, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering in 1921. In 1880 he entered the employ of the Brush Electric Company of Cleveland as a draftsman and in 1881 became Assistant in the Engineering Department of the Edison Electric Light Company. In 1882 Mr. Lieb became Assistant to Mr. Edison and was engaged in experimental research. He then became Electrician of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of New York in charge of the installation and operation of the station at Pearl Street. This was pioneering of the nature of scientific research since precedents were lacking and many of the principles to be applied were but obscurely understood. In November 1882 Mr. Lieb went to Milan, Italy, to represent Mr. Edison in connection with the design, installation and operation of the Milan central station. He eventually became Technical Director of the Societa Generale Italiana di Elettricit  Sistema Edison, and from 1883 to 1894 was engaged with the Italian company in power station work and in the manufacture of lamps, dynamos, motors and other apparatus. It was under his direction at Milan that some of the earliest experiments were made in parallel operation of direct driven alternators, the operation of large synchronous motors in mill drive, and long distance transmission of high-tension alternating current by underground cables. In 1894 Mr. Lieb returned to New York as Assistant to the Vice-President of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, becoming Vice-President and General Manager. On the organization of the New York Edison Company he was made Associate General Manager and then appointed to his present position of Vice-President, in general charge of operating, also for the affiliated electric companies in the metropolitan district. It was in 1896 that an alternating-current substation converting to direct current was introduced using motor-generator sets. In 1898 rotary converters were in use in several substations. About the same time steam turbines were introduced in the generating stations in New York in a preliminary way, and plans for using superheated steam were canvassed. Since 1900 Mr. Lieb has also been President of the Electrical Testing Laboratories and his influence for scientific testing and investigation has been a contribution of much importance to progress in the use of electricity.

Mr. Lieb has taken a prominent part in the work of many of the organizations in the electrical and allied fields. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and was President in 1904-05, and has served on many Institute committees, notably the Edison Medal, Public Policy and Code of Principles of Professional Conduct. He is also a Past President of the National Electric Light Association, The Edison Pioneers, and The New York Electrical Society. He is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences and Member of The American Society of Military Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. Mr. Lieb's work has been recognized by many foreign societies. He is an Honorary Member of the Association of Italian Engineers and Architects and of the Association of Italian Railway Engineers. He is a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain and of the Associazione Elettrotecnica Italiana. During the war Mr. Lieb served as Chairman of the National Committee on Gas and Electric Service; Advisor to the Federal, New York State and Metropolitan Fuel Administrations, and Chairman of the Joint Fuel Committee representing the National Public Utility Association.

#### MEDALISTS

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The following men, whose pictures appear on the opposite page, have been recipients of the medal:

- 1909 Elihu Thomson. For Meritorious Achievement in Electrical Science, Engineering and Arts, as exemplified in his contributions thereto during the past thirty years.
- 1910 Frank J. Sprague. For Meritorious Achievement in Electrical Science, Engineering and Arts, as exemplified in his contributions thereto.
- 1911 George Westinghouse. For Meritorious Achievement in Connection with the Development of the Alternating Current System for Light and Power.
- 1912 William Stanley. For Meritorious Achievement in Invention and Development of Alternating Current Systems and Apparatus.
- 1913 Charles F. Brush For Meritorious Achievement in the Invention and Development of the Series Arc Lighting System.
- 1914 Alexander Graham Bell. For Meritorious Achievement in the Invention of the Telephone.
- 1916 Nikola Tesla. For Meritorious Achievement in his early original work in Polyphase and High-frequency Electrical Currents.

- 1917 John J. Carty. For his work in the Science and Art of Telephone Engineering.
- 1918 Benjamin G. Lamme. For Invention and Development of Electrical Machinery.
- 1919 W. L. R. Emmet. For Inventions and Developments of Electrical Apparatus and Prime Movers.
- 1920 Michael I. Pupin. For his work in Mathematical Physics and its application to the Electrical Transmission of Intelligence.
- 1921 Cummings C. Chesney. For early Developments in Alternating Current Transmission.
- 1922 Robert Andrews Millikan. For His experimental work in Electrical Science.