

OBITUARY

Dr. S. Z. De Ferranti

DR. SEBASTIAN Z. DE FERRANTI, eminent engineer and inventor and past-president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain, died at his home in England, January 13. Dr. Ferranti, who was born in Liverpool, had been an outstanding figure in British electrical circles for a number of years. At an early age he showed a decided penchant for mechanics and while still a school-boy he started the building of his first dynamo. Continuing to direct his attention to the development of electrical devices, he had to his credit inventions in various lines which are among the most notable contributions to electrical art.

Working with Sir William Thomson, he invented an electrical alternator which created quite a stir among electrical men. About 1883 Sir Coutts Lindsay, president of the Grosvenor Gallery, decided to adopt the Gaulard & Gibbs transformer system of distribution, which was then coming into vogue. The system was highly successful and led to the taking on of a considerable extension of the plant, and Mr. Ferranti was selected to engineer these extensions.

The extension of the service ultimately made expedient the construction of a new plant at Deptford. It was here that Mr. Ferranti carried out some notable ideas in installation. In spite of many difficulties the undertaking was carried to a successful completion and the accomplishment remains a monument to his ability and zeal. Recently he had been interested in radio and had devoted much time and energy to this field of engineering. In 1910 he was elected president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain and in 1926 to honorary membership.

N.Y. Times 1/14/30

**DR. S. Z. DE FERRANTI,
INVENTOR, IS DEAD**

**Pioneer in Electrical Power Dis-
tribution Aided in Providing
Metallic Tungsten.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ZURICH, Jan. 13.—Dr. Sebastian Ziani, one of the pioneers in electrical power distribution, died here today at the age of 65.

In association with Sir William Siemens he developed an electric furnace producing metallic tungsten. In 1883 he invented a mercury electricity meter, which is now in almost universal use for measuring household supplies of electricity. He was among the first to project the transmission of electric power at high voltage.

Dr. Ferranti was born in Liverpool in 1864 and was educated at Hempstead School and St. Augustine's College. Even as a small boy he showed a decided bent for mechanics and while still a lad in school started construction of his first dynamo. At 17 he obtained his first position and in 1882, working with Sir William Thompson, invented an electrical alternator which created a sensation among electrical engineers.

When he was only 22, Dr. Ferranti began work on his idea of supplying London with electricity from a plant distant from the city, and in 1891 his scheme was perfected and a regular voltage of 10,000 was transmitted to the city.

The large Ferranti power plant at Hollinwood was started in 1895 and during the World War was used in the manufacture of shells.

Recently Dr. Ferranti had been much interested in the development of the radio and had devoted exhaustive study to the audio frequency transformers which he brought to a high degree of efficiency.

MRS. C. E. DEBELL