



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

INCORPORATED

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES, INC.
463 WEST ST., NEW YORK 14, N. Y.

TELEPHONE:
CHELSEA 3-1000
EXTENSION 1940

July 30, 1946

Mr. Lloyd Espenschied
Bell Telephone Laboratories
463 West Street
New York 14, New York

Dear Mr. Espenschied:

Your letter of July twenty-fifth contains the kinds of analytical and constructive suggestions that it is a pleasure for an officer of the IRE to receive. The points you mention will be brought up for discussion at the next meeting of the Executive Committee which may be able to formulate something of a concrete nature for consideration by the Board.

By way of comment on the specific suggestions in your letter, you may be interested in the following:

1. We are hoping, among other ways, to improve our connection with the basic fields of science through the promotion of more of the conference type of meetings along the lines of the one recently held at Yale. As you may know, these meetings have no connection with the type to be held in Chicago next fall, which, also goes under the name of a Conference, but instead are quite small with less than two hundred persons participating. The object is to get together for informal, round table, type of discussion those people who are top-flight specialists in a particular field of radio, limiting the size of the meeting by restricting the scope of the discussion at any one meeting to a very narrow field, but having a sufficient number of meetings to insure a good coverage of the various fields.

It is my own belief, which, I am told, is shared by a number of people, that these Committee Conferences which the IRE has held are the most influential and beneficial meetings in their fields in all of the world today.

2. Much thought and discussion has been devoted to the topic of Student Branches, and to the possibility of joint IRE-AIEE branches. The Education Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor Bromwell, has brought in a report containing a number of detailed suggestions, and the policy of promoting the formation of Student Branches has been approved by the Board. The matter is now in the hands of the Constitution and Laws Committee which is attempting to frame appropriate legislation in time for Board action in the fall. It is expected that this can be done in such a way that Branches in any particular college will have the privilege of joint operation with AIEE, or any other Student Branches that may exist in the same college. In this connection, I would have to be convinced that the subject matter of interest to IRE and AIEE is actually any closer together, if as close, as that of the Physical Society, the Acoustical Society, the Optical Society, the Mathematical Society, or the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. Some of these are likewise considering the subject of Student Branches.

3. The statistics concerning the percentage of AIEE members interested in communications are of especial interest. It would be enlightening to know what fraction of the communications people in AIEE are likewise IRE members. A very rough "sampling" of prominent IRE members indicates that slightly less than half are also members of the AIEE. Almost all were, however, members of the Physical Society! I imagine that a similar poll taken in the Chicago area, for example, might have shown a different result. On my coming visits to the Sections, this is one of the points to which I want to give special attention; namely, the geographical distribution of interests of IRE members.

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Thanks again for your comments and for the emphasis they give to the importance of basic science. On this point I certainly agree wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Fred Llewellyn

F. B. Llewellyn