

Oliver Heaviside

Honorary Member 1918

May 13 4 29

○ OLIVER Heaviside, English scientist who has been recognized as one of the most eminent exponents of electrical science, particularly for his development of the electromagnetic theory, was elected to honorary membership in the Institution on February 14, 1918. Mr. Heaviside was born in England in 1848, and lived there until his death in 1925. His retiring character and desire to avoid society, partly due to almost complete deafness since childhood, has resulted in his name being unknown to the general public, but those who have come in contact with his work regard him as an illustrious successor to Wheatstone, Maxwell, and Kelvin. He lived alone in a cottage at Lower Warberry Torquay, England, in poverty, a pension of £200 a year having practically been

forced upon him. While he wrote papers of great value for the Philosophical Magazine of the Royal Society of London and for the *London Electrician*, for which he received but scant remuneration, these papers were difficult to read and little known. No pictures of him exist and few of his admirers ever met him. His writings, however, had considerable practical value, particularly his mathematical theory of the value of distributed self-induction in long distance telephony, a theory which was later used for practical application and to telephony, establishing a new epoch in this field. The Royal Society, of England, had elected him to fellowship.