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29 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET
NEW YORK

MAY 1, 1919

Mr. F.L. Hutchinson, Secretary
American Institute of Electrical Engineers,
33 West 39th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

I have examined a recent volume of "Science Abstracts" as you requested; and find that it covers some 116 journals, society proceedings, etc. This number is that of the 1917 list; it includes certain German publications that are undoubtedly not being indexed at present.

About eighty of these magazines indexed cover fields in which the electrical engineer is interested, although some of these seldom have any technical articles.

It is difficult to determine how thoroughly these papers are covered, but it seems safe to assume that little matter of permanent value is overlooked. The abstracting seems good. All abstracts are signed, diagrams are used when needed and the reviews are long enough to give good summaries of the articles. An author index is provided, which is useful, and a classified subject index which is exasperatingly hard to use.

Whether "Science Abstracts" can be considered adequate or not, depends upon one's conception of the needs of an electrical engineer. It probably covers the field in a narrow sense, but it does not include many articles in collateral branches which interest electrical workers. The number of magazines is entirely too small to be considered satisfactory.

As you know, I believe that indexes are much more needed than abstracts. The cost of indexing is much less than the cost of abstracting, so that a larger number of periodicals can be covered for the same expenditure. It would be unwise to start another abstract service when so good a one exists. Any efforts of that kind should go to strengthen the existing activity.

Yours very truly,

Harrison W. Craver
Director