THE KELVIN MEDAL

DR. ELIHU THOMSON, consulting engineer with the General Electric Company, has recently been awarded the Kelvin gold medal, one of the highest honors bestowed in recognition of scientific achievement. The medal, which was founded in 1914 by British and American engineers and is awarded triennially by the presidents of the representative British societies, has been awarded only once before, Dr. W. C. Unwin being the first recipient.

The *Electrical World* writes:

In technical and scientific circles Dr. Thomson has attained a position of eminence as a scientist, inventor and educator, especially because of his achievements in the field of electrical engineering. A Briton by birth, Dr. Thomson came to this country when five years of age and lived and was educated in Philadelphia. He began his research work while holding the professorship of chemistry and mechanics at the Central High School, from which he had previously graduated, and it was during this period that he laid the foundation of later inventions. In 1880 he resigned his chair at the Central High School to become head of the American Electric Company, which was subsequently reorganized at Lynn, Mass., and named the Thomson-Houston Electric Company. In 1892 the business was merged with the Edison General Electric Company to form the present General Electric Company, and since that time Dr. Thomson has been retained as consultant.

The seven hundred patents issued to him by the United States are a monument to his inventive work, which has extended to almost every field of electrical application. Dr. Thomson has previously been honored by scientific and professional societies and has served as president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and of the International Electrotechnical Commission. He was the first recipient of the Edison medal.

THE JOHN FRITZ GOLD MEDAL

THE JOHN FRITZ gold medal, the highest honor bestowed by the engineering profession in this country, has been awarded for 1924 to Ambrose Swasey, engineer, manufacturer and philanthropist of Cleveland, Ohio.

The award was made, according to the announcement, "for the building of great telescopes, the founding of the Engineering Foundation, and the invention and manufacture of fine machine tools, precision instruments and military and naval range finders."

The most notable of Mr. Swasey's many public benefactions was the establishment, through a gift of $500,000, of the Engineering Foundation as the joint research instrumentality of the four great national societies of civil, mining and metallurgical, mechanical and electrical engineers.

The medal was established in 1902 in honor of John Fritz, of Pittsburgh, pioneer in the American iron and steel industry, and is awarded annually for notable scientific or industrial achievement. Previous recipients have been Alexander Graham Bell, General George W. Goethals, Guglielmo Marconi, Sir Robert Hadfield, of London, and Eugene Schneider, of Paris, head of the Creusot Works.

Mr. Swasey was born at Exeter, N. H., on December 19, 1846, of New England lineage. He learned the machinist's trade in Hartford, Conn., afterwards removing to Chicago. Since the early eighties he has resided in Cleveland, where, with Worcester R. Warner, he established the Warner and Swasey Company, of which he is now vice-chairman.

Mr. Swasey is a past-president and honorary member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, having been one of its organizing members. He is an honorary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of several other engineering societies of America and Europe. He is an officer of the Legion of Honor of France and has received other honors at home and abroad.

Among the famous telescopes built under the direction of Mr. Swasey are the 36-inch Lick refractor at Mt. Hamilton, Calif., the 26-inch telescope of the Naval Observatory at Washington, the 40-inch telescope of the Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wis., and the 72-inch reflecting telescope of the Dominion Astronomical Observatory at Victoria, B. C.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE AUGUSTUS AND ALICE WALLER MEMORIAL

THE many friends of the late Professor and Mrs. Waller will be interested to know that at a representative meeting held at the Royal Society of Medicine on June 1, under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, it was resolved to establish a memorial to Professor and Mrs. Waller in recognition of their life-long devotion to physiological investigation. The memorial is to take the form of a fund to be used for the encouragement of scientific research. Its administration is to be entrusted to the council of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, where Dr. and Mrs. Waller were early associated and where their daughter is at present a lecturer in physics.

It is proposed, furthermore, to establish an additional memorial at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, where Dr. Waller was a lecturer in physiology for nineteen years. Here the memorial will take the form of a research room, to be called the "Waller Research Laboratory," in connection with the Physiological Department.