

On this site—1876–1882—Thomas Alva Edison began his work of service for the world to illumine the path of progress and lighten labor for mankind. This tablet is placed by the Edison Pioneers to attest the gratitude of the industries he did so much to create.

As a state monument, the tablet was formally given into the custody of Governor George S. Silzer by John W. Lieb, vice-president of the New York Edison Company and first electrician of the original power generating station built by Edison in New York in 1882, who presided over the ceremonies. In accepting the tablet, Governor Silzer said in part:

This is historic ground, for it marks a step in the progress of the world.

Here, in enduring bronze, is recorded for all time the fact that on this spot Thomas Alva Edison, by his genius, his industry and his ability, made some of the greatest discoveries the world has ever known, and thus made this a better world and a happier place in which to live.

It is especially gratifying that this should take place in the lifetime of him whom we honor to-day, and that the inspiration should have come from those who here labored with him and who shared with him the thrill of discovery and achievement.

In an address following the dedication of the tablet Dr. John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton University, recalled a visit he had made to the first Edison laboratory when he was a student at Princeton.

In my memory there is a permanent deposit of awe and reverence, as I think of the new light that came into the world. . . . This new discovery of light led inevitably to the revolution of power as well, and a new source of energy became available for man.

This illustrates one of the general tendencies of nature, that light is in some mysterious manner invariably connected with power. And this is true not only of nature, and particularly of the interaction of the forces of electricity and magnetism, but it applies as well to the activities of the mind and the moral and spiritual strivings and ambitions of man. Wherever we find light there is also the potential of power.

Pointing to the scene of the first Edison laboratory, a few feet from the tablet, Mr. Lieb in his dedication address declared:

It was here that the master dreamed great dreams and saw great visions, and with courage undaunted and constant faith, with perseverance and determination, he pursued not "the tenor of his way," but the uphill road of the climb of an Alpine peak, overcoming obstacles and disappointments at every hand in order to bring his bold conceptions to a practical fruition.

On this spot many inventions were made, many attempts launched to wrest from nature her secrets and many ingenious combinations were devised to bring the new agent—electricity—into subjection and make it the

docile servant of man. From the beginning Edison saw that this new force would introduce a revolutionary economic factor into our lives. More than forty years ago he realized that the mere pressing of a button would place every man, woman and child in a new relation to their environment, vastly increasing the productive capacity, diminishing the drudgery and manual labor required in the home, lightening the way and lifting the load of mankind everywhere. The supreme confidence and indomitable spirit with which the goal was relentlessly pursued must remain for all time a cause for wonder and admiration.

Charles L. Clarke, president of the Edison Pioneers, spoke of the men who had worked so long with Edison and shared in his triumphs. Edwin W. Rice, Jr., chairman of the General Electric Company, declared that the discovery of the so-called "Edison effect" by Edison in his work on the incandescent lamp in 1883 together with other early Edison inventions paved the way for the modern radio art. Mr. Rice confessed that in the early years at Menlo Park he was "among the skeptics" but came to appreciate the inventor's genius. After reviewing the benefits which had come to mankind through a few of Edison's more important inventions outside of the electrical field, such as the telegraph instruments, the stock ticker, the typewriter, the electric pen, the mimeograph, the phonograph, the alkaline storage battery, the motion picture camera, and his contributions to the telephone and to the process of manufacturing portland cement, Mr. Rice said of his work in the electrical field:

Viewed from the standpoint of to-day, Edison's achievements of that early period appear almost miraculous. They have stood the test of forty years of the most extensive and intensive technical and commercial development of the electrical industry.

Samuel Insull, president of the Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago, closed the addresses. He was intimately associated with Mr. Edison for many years, first as his private secretary and confidential adviser and later directing his manufacturing enterprises.

#### THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science has continued for another year its support of the American Association table at the Naples Zoological Station. The sum of five hundred dollars was appropriated for the station for the year 1925 and a like sum has now been appropriated for 1926. Members of the association who desire to occupy the table should make application to the permanent secretary's office as soon as they make their decision and can

state the approximate period for which the use of the table is desired. Information regarding the station, which has recently been successfully reorganized, may be secured from the director, Dr. Reinhard Dohrn, Zoological Station, Naples, Italy. Appointments for the American Association table since the reorganization are as follows:

December 10, 1924, to February 1, 1925: Dr. E. J. Lund, University of Minnesota.

February 1, 1925, to April 15, 1925: Dr. Otto Glaser, Amherst College.

April 15, 1925, to June 30, 1925: Dr. A. R. Moore, Rutgers College.

June 30, 1925, to October 15, 1925: No appointments.

October 15, 1925, to February 1, 1926: Dr. E. Newton Harvey, Princeton University.

It is to be noted that the summer period of 1925 is still vacant and that no appointments have yet been made for periods later than February 1, 1926.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,  
*Permanent Secretary*

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOHN MASON CLARKE, New York State geologist and paleontologist, director of the New York State Museum and of the science division of the Department of Education, emeritus professor of geology at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, died at Albany on May 30, at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. WENDELL CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS, consulting aural surgeon to the New York Post-Graduate and Flushing Hospitals and aural surgeon to the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, New York City, was elected at the Atlantic City meeting president of the American Medical Association for 1926 to 1927. Dallas, Texas, was chosen as the place to hold the next annual meeting. Dr. Philip Marvel, of Atlantic City, was elected vice-president.

THE Willard Gibbs gold medal has been awarded by the Chicago section of the American Chemical Society to Dr. Moses Gomberg, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Michigan.

DR. JAMES PERRIN SMITH, professor of paleontology in Stanford University, should have been included in the list of members of the National Academy of Sciences elected on April 29.

AMBROSE SWASEY, founder of the Engineering Foundation, was the guest of honor at a dinner given on May 14 at the Union League Club, New York, by the present and former members of the foundation, the trustees of the United Engineering Society and the officers and directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of

Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Dr. Frank B. Jewett, a former vice-chairman of the foundation, made an address on "Permalloy cables for submarine telegraph."

THE Royal Horticultural Society, London, has awarded the Lindley gold medal to Albert C. Burrage, of Boston, president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and of the American Orchid Society, for his display of New England plants at the recent Chelsea show.

THE Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize for the period 1920-1924 to Sir Joseph Thomson, in recognition of his great discoveries in physical science; and the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize for the same period to Professor H. Stanley Allen, for his papers on the quantum and atomic theory.

WE learn from *Nature* that Wing Commander Harold E. Whittingham has been awarded the Chadwick gold medal and £100 prize for his work on sand-fly fever. The award is made under the provisions of the Chadwick Trust to such officer of the navy, army or air force medical service as shall during the preceding five years have "specially assisted in promoting the health of the men" of the service to which he belongs.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY ELLIS, managing director of John Brown and Company, Sheffield, a member of the council of the University of Sheffield and of the National Physical Laboratory, has been elected president of the British Institution of Civil Engineers.

LORD RONALDSHAY, president of the Royal Geographical Society, is about to resign that office, which he has held for the customary three years. At the anniversary general meeting of the society to be held on June 15, the council will propose that Dr. David G. Hogarth shall be elected his successor, Lord Ronaldshay becoming a trustee of the society in place of the late Lord Curzon of Kedleston.

THE Lawes Agricultural Trust Committee has appointed as its chairman Lord Clinton, in succession to Lord Bledisloe, who resigned on accepting the post of parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Deputy Minister of Fisheries.

SIDNEY D. WELLS, who has been with the Forest Products Laboratory of Madison, Wisconsin, since 1911, has resigned to take charge of the Paper Mill Laboratories, Inc., of Quincy, Illinois. The new laboratories are being organized by a group of strawboard manufacturers with mills in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Kansas.

E. A. SWENSON has resigned his position as in-