

IN MEMORIAM
EDWIN WOODWORTH HAMLIN

The sudden death of Dr. Edwin Woodworth Hamlin on April 27, 1948 terminated his career as a teacher and as an engineer at the height of his productivity. After eight years as Professor of Electrical Engineering and two years as Director of the Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory at the University of Texas, he left the campus in August, 1947 to accept a teaching and research position at Cornell University. However, his usefulness to the University of Texas was not entirely lost as he was retained as Consulting Engineer for the Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory and until the time of his death, he participated actively in its research activities.

At Cornell University, he was Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the Microwave Astronomy Research Project sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. At the time of his death he was participating generously in the activities of his professional societies. He had served as the secretary of the papers committee for the National Meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers held in New York City in February, 1948 and was secretary of the Electrical Engineering Section of the American Society for Engineering Education, which held its National Meeting in Austin in June, 1948.

The first draft of the textbook which he had written with Dr. R. A. Galbraith had just been placed in the hand of the publishers. Two technical papers of which he was co-author had just been accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers, and are due to appear shortly.

Although born in New York City on July 21, 1905, Dr. Hamlin considered himself a native of Connecticut. His father, George E. Hamlin, was formerly Chief Engineer of the Connecticut State Highway Department and his grammar and high school education was obtained in the Hartford Public Schools. On June 21, 1931, he married Virna Doris Gunther of

Wethersfield, Connecticut and their two children, Lucinda Gunther and Elizabeth Ann are now 13 and 9, respectively.

Dr. Hamlin's life work was that of a teacher with his time divided between four schools. After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering with high honor at Union College in 1926, he continued on as instructor in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics until 1935. During this time he continued his graduate studies, and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering in 1932.

In 1935 he went to the University of Kansas as Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and in 1937 was made Associate Professor. In 1939 he came to the University of Texas as Professor of Electrical Engineering and in 1947 he moved to Cornell.

Probably the most outstanding characteristic, which Dr. Hamlin had as a teacher, was his thoroughness. His teaching notes were always kept up to date and represented as complete a treatment of the classroom material as could be found anywhere. He took no steps in the development of the teaching material for granted, and was satisfied only after he had verified each item for himself. His own intense interest in his subject stimulated the interest of his students, and this enthusiasm, once engendered, remained permanently.

Although primarily a teacher, Dr. Hamlin was not without contact with industries. During the summers of 1926 and 1941, he worked with the General Electric Company at Schenectady, New York in the research department and in the radio transmitter engineering group. For the summer of 1928, he was meter tester for Hartford Electric Light Company and during the summers of 1930 and 1931, he did surveying work for the Connecticut State Highway Department. During the summer of 1938, he worked as engineer for Bell Telephone Laboratories on Type K Carrier Terminal Systems.

Dr. Hamlin was a member of four professional societies and three honorary societies (available from the Office of the General Faculty upon request). He gave freely of his time to both the national organizations and the student sections. For the American Institute of Electrical

Engineers, he was counselor of the University of Kansas Student Branch from 1936 to 1939, a member of the Executive Board of the Kansas City Section in 1937 and 1938, and a member of the National Committee of Communication from 1943 to 1944. On the University of Texas campus, he was counselor for Eta Kappa Nu and institutional representative of the Institute of Radio Engineers. He also assisted in organizing an Engineering Faculty Seminar at the University of Texas and participated actively in its meetings.

Under Dr. Hamlin's direction, the Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory began a study of microwave radio propagation close to the earth's surface. This work was started under the Office of Scientific Research and Development, shortly before the end of the war. On a peacetime basis, the work was conducted under the sponsorship of the Office of Naval Research. Under Dr. Hamlin's guidance, research measurements of the angle-of-arrival of 3.2-centimeter waves went forward rapidly and significant achievements were made in this hitherto unexplored field. Dr. Hamlin was reticent to claim any personal credit for the research developments. He encouraged his Staff members in their work and made them realize the importance of their contribution to the research program.

In the passing of Dr. Hamlin, the University of Texas, Cornell University and the electrical engineering profession have lost an outstanding figure whose professional standards and diligent devotion to the advancement of science have endeared him to all who knew him.

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