

Professor Alexander Gray

Professor of Electrical Engineering

March 9, 1882 — October 14, 1921

The Faculty of Cornell University desire to express their great sorrow at the death of their colleague Alexander Gray, to record their appreciation of his services to the University, and to extend their sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Professor Gray was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 9, 1882 and died in Ithaca on October 14, 1921. He graduated from Edinburgh University in Civil and Mechanical Engineering in 1903. On graduation, Edinburgh University awarded him a Whitworth Scholarship at McGill University, Montreal, where he spent two years, graduating in Electrical Engineering. After several years of practical work he returned to McGill University as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering. In 1915 Professor Gray was chosen to fill the position of head of the electrical engineering department of Sibley College, and at the time of his death he was Director of the School of Electrical Engineering in the College of Engineering.

From the very beginning of his work at Cornell, Professor Gray made a warm place for himself with both students and faculty. A man of fine personality, a charming companion and an exceptionally gifted teacher, he was quickly recognized as a great addition to the teaching staff of the College and to the social life of the community. His wide and unflinching interest in all matters pertaining to his profession and to the University, and his great desire to be helpful to all, made a combination of qualities found only in the true teacher.

Professor Gray contributed largely to the literature of electrical engineering. Though still a young man his books on electrical machine design and on other subjects had already made him well and favorably known to his profession, and had reflected much credit on the University. In 1918 he was the recipient from the Franklin Institute of the Howard A. Potts Medal for his paper on Modern Dynamo Electric Machinery. Professor Gray was a member of several national scientific and honorary societies, and was especially active in the work of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

In his death the profession of electrical engineering loses a brilliant engineer of great promise and a writer of established reputation; and the teaching profession loses a teacher of rare ability whose place will be difficult to fill.

Source: Faculty Records, p. 1253 Adopted by The Faculty of Cornell University November Ninth, Nineteen Hundred And Twenty-One

In Cornell University, 1915-1921

Director of The School Of Electrical Engineering, 1921

Cornell University Faculty Memorial Statement

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