

John George Pertsch Jr.

1887 — August 23, 1928

Professor of Electrical Engineering

On 23 August 1928, Professor Pertsch saved from drowning a person struggling in the rough waters of Cayuga Lake. The effort proved too much for his strength, and he met his own death in a deed that was of a piece with his kindly, generous life.

John George Pertsch Jr. was born in Baltimore in 1887. He received from Cornell University in 1909 the degree of Mechanical Engineer. On graduating he was made an assistant in his college, and by successive promotions came to a professorship of Electrical Engineering. His whole academic life was spent in Cornell. He was a contributor to the journals of his profession and was a member of many learned societies.

In recording his death the Faculty wishes to bear witness to the fine qualities that made Professor Pertsch a valued and well-loved colleague. His students found him an admirably informed and wholly sympathetic teacher; few indeed of the teaching staff aroused a deeper response. His associates recognized in him a constant kindness and fair-mindedness, a straightforward manliness, a thoroughness in dealing with his subject, a steady industry, that well explained his popularity. In his death the University loses a teacher and scholar difficult to replace, and very many members of the faculty lose a true friend.

Source: Fac. Rec., p. 1559 Adopted by the Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University November, Nineteen Hundred And Twenty-Eight