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## MEMOIRS OF DECEASED MEMBERS.

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### EDWARD CHRISTIAN DOBBELAAR.

Edward Christian Dobbelaar was born in New York, January 6, 1882, and died suddenly at Fort Lee, N. J., August 18, 1905. He was educated in the public schools of New Jersey. When he was sixteen years old he started as a helper in the engine-room of the New York *Sun*. Of an ambitious nature, he devoted all his spare moments to the study of physics, chemistry, and practical electrical engineering. He was graduated at the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, and at the time of his death was employed as assistant engineer and electrician by the *Sun* Publishing Company.

The manner of his death is as interesting as it was tragic. In attempting to save buildings near his home from destruction by fire, he tried to cut a high-pressure, electric light wire that was grounded in the branches of a tree overspreading the houses. Sparks were falling on the shingle roofs when he placed a ladder on rubber supports, and, mounting to the rung nearest the wire, clutched the wire with his left hand preparatory to severing the circuit with a pair of rubber-insulated pliers. The insulation of the wire must have been grossly defective, for no sooner had he touched it than the current grounded through his body. He fell heavily to the ground, unconscious, and died within a few seconds. The line-pressure was 2 500 volts.

Physically, Mr. Dobbelaar was of magnificent proportions, standing six feet five inches high, and weighing over two hundred pounds. He was extremely popular among those that knew him intimately. He was elected an Associate of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, September 25, 1903. He was a member of the Electrical Engineers' Association of New York, and of Edgewater Fire Company No. 1.

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