

## HARRY PFANNENSTIEHL

Harry Pfannenstiehl, a member of the Technical Staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories, and of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, died suddenly on May 29, 1937, of heart trouble, from which he had suffered for several years. He was born in New York City on April 24, 1887. His father was Adolph L. and his mother, Anna N. (Dossen-



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bach) Pfannenstiehl, both of whom were born in Germany, but who had moved to the United States during their youth.

In March, 1911, he joined the Engineering Department of the Western Electric Company with whom he continued until 1925, when the Bell Telephone Laboratories was formed. He had been with the Laboratories continuously until his death, thus completing over twenty-six years with the Bell System.

In April, 1913, he was transferred by the Western Electric Company to their branch in Antwerp, Belgium, where he was employed for about a year and a half.

Since the World War, Mr. Pfannenstiehl had been engaged in a considerable number of special developments for the Western Electric Company and Bell Telephone Laboratories where the design of equipment has involved unusual problems with respect to ingenuity of operating mechanisms, choice of materials for dynamic properties, or extreme precision requirements. In the early developments of the printing telegraph, he played a very substantial part. He was principally responsible for the mechanics not only of telephoto transmitting and receiving machines of 1925, but also of the recent telephoto equipment used by the Associated Press.

To the commercializing of sound picture apparatus, he contributed by responsibility for much of the design of studio sound recording machines and of theater sound-projecting equipment. In this work he made a specialty of devices for driving the film uniformly; and many of the improvements in sound quality that have resulted from the recent perfection of these machines are attributable to his skill.

Mr. Pfannenstiehl contributed many papers to the scientific literature, several of which have been published in the *JOURNAL* of the Society.