

MR. WURTS AND THE CARNEGIE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS



ALEXANDER JAY WURTS

Mr. Alexander Jay Wurts has received the first appointment to the faculty of the Carnegie Technical Schools as the head of the Department of Electrical Engineering. Mr. Wurts has received both a general and an engineering education and has been intimately connected with practical electrical development. The selection of an expert and engineer rather than a professional educator as the head of the electrical work indicates the definite practical aims which

underlie the Carnegie Technical Schools.

Alexander Jay Wurts was born in Carbondale, Pa., in 1862. He graduated from Yale University in 1883. He then took a post-graduate course at Stevens Institute of Technology, receiving the degree of M. E. This was followed by a special course in electrical engineering under Professor Kohlrausch, of the Polytechnium at Hanover, Germany.

In 1886 Mr. Wurts entered the apprenticeship course of the United States Electric Lighting Company, of Newark, N. J. Some time after he became manager of the Julian Storage Battery Company, of Camden. In 1887 he entered the employ of the Westinghouse Electric Company and became engaged in scientific research and the development of various types of apparatus, which position he held for ten years. During this time he invented the well known

Wurts lightning arrester and devised many appliances of a protective nature.

He was awarded the John Scott Medal by the city of Philadelphia, at the recommendation of the Franklin Institute for the discovery of the non-arcing metals.

In 1898 Mr. Wurts with his associates took up the development of the Nernst Lamp for Mr. Westinghouse. In three years, having carried this work to a state of great advancement, a large factory was established in Pittsburg of which Mr. Wurts was made manager.

Last year he resigned his position with the Nernst Lamp Com-

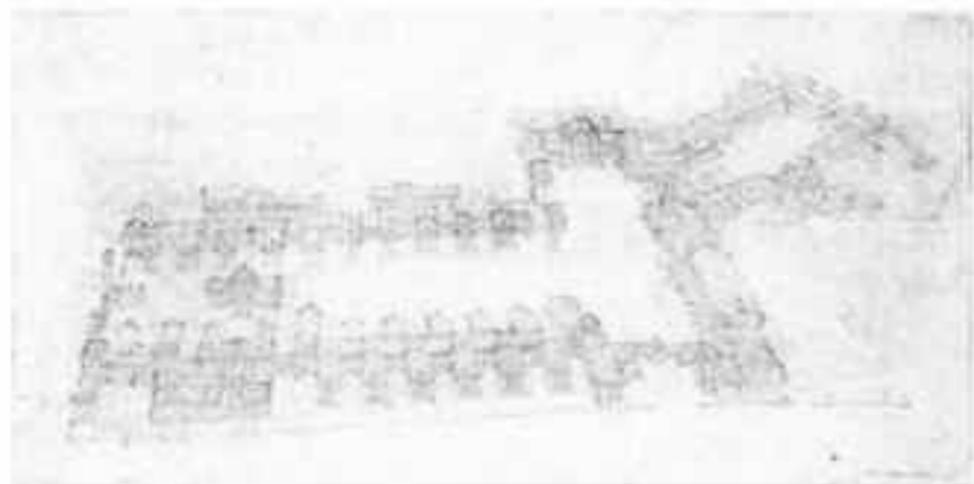


FIG. 1—THE COMPLETE PLAN OF THE CARNEGIE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, COVERING THIRTY-TWO ACRES OF GROUND. AT PRESENT ONLY THE LOWER LEFT-HAND GROUP IS BEING BUILT, AS SHOWN IN FIG. 2

pany, and returned to the Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Company, where he has been engaged upon some special development work.

About this time Mr. Wurts became connected with the Carnegie Technical Schools on the office staff of the director, and a portion of his time has been spent in preliminary work for the Carnegie schools and the remainder with the Electric company.

The training and associations which have surrounded Mr. Wurts have given him an acquaintance with electrical work, both theoretical and practical, and he has moreover had under his direction many young men. This has afforded him an excellent appreciation of the engineering field and also of the equipment and training which young men should receive in order to take up electrical work efficiently.