

Remarks by Henry Sturgis Drinker,
last surviving Founder at the Silver Jubilee of A.I.M.E., Wilkes Barre, May 16, 1921

"In looking back over sixty years of active membership in our organization, I am impressed with the wise program for its development announced in the circular dated April 1871, issued by Eckley B. Coxe, Richard P. Rothwell and Martin Coryell, who called the first meeting at Wilkes Barre, held in Mr. Rothwell's office on May 16, 1871. This notice stated that among the objects to be promoted by the Institute were ' the consideration of more economical systems of mining in our coal and metalliferous mines, improved methods of transportation above and below ground, unwatering and ventilating mines, the mechanical preparation of coal and other minerals, the various metallurgical processes, and, in fact, every question tending to the attainment of two great objects:

"First, the more economical production of the useful minerals and metals

"Second, the greater safety and welfare of those employed in those industries.'

"We, therefore, see that, from the date of its founding, the call for 'Safety First,' and the care of the safety and welfare of employees was a dominant note in the objects to be promoted.

"I look back to those early days of the Institute with love and gratitude to the able and distinguished men who led the movement. They were kind to, and considerate of, their younger brethren, and I owed much to their friendship and kindly consideration, and this was the case with all our younger brothers. There were giants in those days in our membership: David Thomas, the great ironmaster, the first president of the Institute; Eckley B. Coxe, Richard P. Rothwell, Martin Coryell, Doctor Raymond, Professor Blake of Yale, Professor Egleston of Columbia, dear old Gaujot, Anton Eilers, Professor Prime of Lafayette, Thomas McNair, Doctor Drown, Messrs. Pechin, Firmstone, Birkinbine, Hewitt, . Sterry Hunt, Fred Mercur. Dr. Raymond became, and was for many years, the Institute's directing mind. To him and to his kindly advice many an engineer who rose to name and fame could look back after with gratitude for kindly and efficient support and direction, and this was also given freely by all the fathers of the Institute. The Institute itself, as a body, through its papers and discussions and volumes, has been a potent aid and factor in the education and training of our American mining engineers. I know through all its history how our Institute has stood for the aid and encouragement of its younger members, and I can personally testify with a full heart to this.

"I am proud of the Institute, proud of its history and of its record of accomplishment, and of its growth covering our whole country, out of the small beginning at Wilkes-Barre in 1871."