

# BROTHER POTAMIAN

*Educator and  
Scientist*

BY

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PH.D.

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BROTHER POTAMIAN

(1847-1917)

Brother Potamian is one of the most outstanding figures in the history of Manhattan College, where he taught from 1896 until his death in 1917. Before coming to Manhattan he had been president of St. Joseph's College in London. He obtained his degree of Doctor of Science from the University of London and later received the same degree as an honorary award from Fordham and Villanova Universities.

On four occasions he represented the English government at international exhibitions: Vienna 1873, Philadelphia 1876, Paris 1889, and Chicago 1893. At the World's Fair in Chicago he was a member of the Jury of Awards. He counted among his friends some of the most distinguished scientists of his time such as Pupin, Lord Kelvin, Huxley, and Tyndall. He was well known by Cardinals Manning and Newman. He was always a welcome lecturer at the Catholic Summer School in Plattsburg and contributed frequently to popular and scientific magazines.

He was a recognized authority on the history of electricity. He had to call on all his knowledge in this field when he catalogued the most valuable collection of electrical books then in existence. In order that this library might be of use to electricians a critical annotation of each book had to be made. The fact that Brother Potamian was requested to do this is sufficient proof of the high esteem in which he was held. Even a cursory examination of his completed work reveals the infinite patience of the author, his mastery of ancient and modern languages as well as his vast amount of scholarly research.